



## WFP Benin Country Brief April – June 2025

### Operational Context

Benin remains a relatively stable country with a culture of peaceful transition of power since 1990. Nonetheless, it faces the spill-over effects of the conflict in Central Sahel and organized transnational crimes. This has led to population displacements both towards and within Benin, with asylum seekers and refugees increasing from 3,357 at the end of 2022 to 27,887 in June 2025 (UNHCR), potentially reaching 40,000 by the end of the year. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) now number approximately 8 785, mainly in the *Atacora* and *Alibori* departments. This influx of nearly 40,000 forcibly displaced persons places immense pressure on already scarce food resources for host communities. Additionally, internal displacements disrupt agricultural production as people abandon their livelihoods for safety due to increased incursion of non-state armed groups, increasing malnutrition risks among vulnerable groups such as pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children.

Recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS, 2023) show worsening nutritional status among children under two, with stunting at 36.5 percent, severe stunting at 14.8 percent, underweight at 21 percent, and wasting at 8.3 percent. Post-COVID-19 and the onset of the Ukraine crisis have driven up staple food prices, with maize prices increasing by 45 percent and tubers by 20 percent.

The Cadre Harmonisé results from March 2025 indicate that more than 276 026 people are projected to face acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 and higher) from June to August 2025, with an additional 1.4 million people (10 percent of the population) in IPC phase 2 across 17 communes.



Population: **13.7 million**

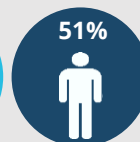
Income Level: **Lower middle**

2022 Gender Inequality Index:  
**152 out of 170**

2021 Human Development  
Index: **166 out of 191**

### In Numbers

**78,635** people assisted



**476.948 MT** of food distributed

**116,000 USD** in cash-based transfers distributed

**US\$ 2.3 million** six-month net funding requirements  
(July–December 2025)

### Operational Updates

#### School Meals Programme

- In the last quarter of the 2024–25 school year, 74,115 children received school meals amounting to nearly 477 tonnes of food. The cash transfer (CBT) programme was expanded to 60 new school canteens, reaching 16,031 children in 70 schools. Over \$72,700 was allocated to purchase nutritious foods such as parboiled rice, yellow corn, cowpeas, vegetables, and eggs.
- To support CBT operations, the country office continued working with the Data Assurance Team to improve payment reconciliation. A new automated dashboard is under development, and a review workshop is planned for August to guide next year's planning.
- Monitoring activities included a joint field visit to Toviklin and Djidja by the Dutch Embassy, WFP, UNICEF, and partners, which confirmed strong community engagement and coordination, while highlighting areas for improvement. Under the PAASEB project, technical meetings and a launch workshop in Cotonou helped clarify roles, procedures, and finalize the agreement and annual work plan.
- In the North, 10 schools were selected for the first year of implementation under the Choithram International Foundation's \$975,000 contribution. A new strategic partnership involving France, WFP Brazil, and WFP Benin is also underway, focusing on low-carbon technologies, local procurement, and nutrition to strengthen Benin's school feeding programme.

#### Capacity strengthening

- To support the sustainability of school feeding programmes, WFP, CRS, and ANAN held a capitalization workshop in May to review lessons learned from 2014–2023 and explore models for expanding school feeding to urban and peri-urban areas. The event gathered key stakeholders from government, partners, civil society, and academia.
- In line with Benin's commitments to the School Meals Coalition, a steering committee met to review and revise a study on sustainable financing strategies for school feeding.

#### Emergency response

- WFP provided cash transfers to 4,520 beneficiaries including 2,440 women in Alibori and Atacora, along with a financial top-up for 1,043 mothers of children aged 6 to 23 months and 2,014 pregnant or breastfeeding women. A total amount of \$116,000 was distributed.
- To strengthen national humanitarian response capacity, WFP organized Benin's first humanitarian workshop and led the creation of a cash working group under coordination from the ABPC, the national civil protection agency.

## WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2027)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
181.4 million	71.5 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jul - Dec 2025)
26.4 million	2.3 million

### SDG target 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** People affected by shocks in Benin can meet urgent food and nutrition needs before, during and after shocks, by 2027.

**Focus area:** *Crisis response.*

**Activity 1:** Provide food and nutrition assistance to shock-affected people, including school children, to meet their needs and technical assistance to national institutions and local actors to strengthen their emergency preparedness and response capacities.

### SDG target 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** School-age children and communities in Benin have access to affordable, nutritious diets and basic social services because of the leveraging of the school feeding programme as an entry point for the achievement of enhanced nutrition, health, and education outcomes, by 2027.

**Focus area :** *Root causes*

**Activity 2:** Provide nutritious school meals to schoolchildren through an integrated and inclusive programme that benefits the community.

**Activity 3:** Provide technical assistance to targeted food value chain actors to improve the availability of locally produced nutritious food products, especially for school canteens.

### SDG target 9: Capacity building

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Targeted institutions and systems in Benin have strengthened capacity to implement school feeding and other inclusive programmes to promote food security and nutrition, by 2027.

**Focus area :** *Root Causes*

**Activity 4:** Provide technical assistance to national institutions to enable them gradually to take operational ownership of the national school feeding programme.

**\*CSP Update:** WFP Benin is currently conducting a CSP Revision, for approval by the Executive Board, reflecting the transfer of the national school feeding programme to the Government of Benin, and the Government's request to enhance support for resilience building and nutrition programmes in light of the worsening food security and nutrition situation in the country.

## Nutrition

- To prevent the occurrence of malnutrition within households benefiting from the cash transfer and the top-up nutrition, 60 field agents of the cooperating partners involved in emergency operations benefited from a capacity strengthening during 3-day workshop. The training focused on early detection and management of moderate acute malnutrition in community settings.
- Nutrition activities including the screening of the nutritional status of schoolchildren in canteens as part of the Joint Integrated School Feeding and Nutrition Project (PiASN) and the training of cooks continued during the period from April to June.

## Resilience and SAMS

- Resilience activities were monitored at community sites in Sépounga, Porhoun, Atabénou, and Goumonri, while new sites in Banikoara and Matéri were identified with support from local stakeholders for upcoming interventions.
- WFP connected 51 cooperatives to 70 CBT schools, enabling the delivery of 66.44 MT of food across seven municipalities. Additionally, 21 farmer and processor organizations received 92 pieces of post-harvest equipment to improve handling of local crops.
- A technical mission to Brazil enabled national stakeholders to exchange knowledge on food and nutrition security, focusing on school feeding linked to local production and intersectoral collaboration.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP supported the strengthening of national capacities in the use of the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) methodology. WFP also conducted the baseline for the PiASN, implemented jointly with UNICEF and funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- Media coverage was facilitated for the Netherlands' field visit to Toviklin and Djidja, and for the donation of agricultural equipment worth over XOF 273 million to smallholder farmers, including national TV coverage.
- A visual content campaign was organized with local journalists to produce stories and videos highlighting the impact of resilience activities and WFP's support to women's groups in Atacora.

## Gender, Protection & CFM

- WFP trained 252 smallholder farmers and processors (77% women) from 55 agricultural cooperatives and associations in leadership, association management, education and financial inclusion
- WFP conducted an annual satisfaction survey of its community feedback mechanism among users of the various channels. The results will help WFP improve its response mechanisms and community engagement.

## Donors:

Donors to the WFP Benin Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027) include Australia, Brazil, Government of Benin, France, Germany, Choithrams Foundation, Denmark, Netherlands, The Rockefeller Foundation, Beyond Cotton, Japan, Luxembourg, Switzerland.

**Contact info:** Lisa Muszynski (lisa.muszynski@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Ali Ouattara

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/benin](http://www.wfp.org/countries/benin)