

## Revision of the Benin country strategic plan (2024–2027) and corresponding budget decrease – For approval by vote by correspondence

	Current	Change	Revised
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1 January 2024– 31 December 2027</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>1 January 2024– 31 December 2027</b>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>2 476 500</b>	<b>3 819</b>	<b>2 480 319</b>
<b>(USD)</b>			
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>386 427 465</b>	<b>(205 057 289)</b>	<b>181 370 176</b>
Transfers	306 699 910	(170 302 022)	136 397 888
Implementation	35 364 109	(15 346 542)	20 017 567
Direct support costs	20 778 672	(6 890 334)	13 888 338
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>362 842 690</b>	<b>(192 538 898)</b>	<b>170 303 793</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	23 584 775	(12 518 392)	11 066 383

### Draft decision

The Board approves by vote by correspondence the revision of the Benin country strategic plan (2024–2027) and corresponding budget decrease to USD 181,370,176 as outlined in the present document.

### Rationale

1. This revision of the Benin country strategic plan (CSP) for 2024–2027 and the corresponding country portfolio budget is driven by two main factors: 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.
2. In September 2024, WFP in Benin transferred the school feeding programme to the Government. However, WFP will continue direct implementation in a few schools, thanks to funding received from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This revision is necessary to reformulate the structure of WFP's interventions in Benin.
3. A November 2024 Cadre Harmonisé<sup>1</sup> survey indicated that 583,765 people faced crisis level (phase 3) food insecurity, with 2.1 million considered to be in "stressed" (phase 2) conditions; these numbers are not expected to decrease significantly between June and August 2025, when 531,573 people are expected to be in phase 3. The latest multiple indicator cluster survey, conducted in 2023, indicated worsening nutrition status among children under 5, with national stunting prevalence at 36.5 percent and particularly high rates in the crisis affected northern departments of Atacora (46.4 percent) and Alibori (41.1 percent).

<sup>1</sup>Cadre Harmonisé. 2024. *Résultats de l'analyse de la situation actuelle et projetée de l'insécurité alimentaire aiguë*.

4. The deteriorating security situation in the north, due to the spillover effects from the Sahel crisis, led to the arrival of 23,256<sup>2</sup> refugees and asylum seekers by December 2024, along with 12,501<sup>3</sup> internally displaced persons by February 2024. This has put immense pressure on local resources and social services, exacerbating food insecurity, malnutrition and inequality and increasing vulnerability to shocks and stressors.

## Changes

### *Strategic orientation*

5. The strategic orientation of the CSP is adjusted to better align with government requests for enhanced WFP support for resilience building, nutrition and service delivery, while the provisions relating to crisis response remain unchanged.
6. To that end two CSP outcomes have been added:
  - CSP outcome 4, which focuses on building resilience in the face of shocks and improving livelihoods through a new activity (activity 6) on asset creation and support for smallholder farmers; and
  - CSP outcome 5, which enables the provision of on-demand logistics services to partners (activity 7).
7. In addition, under CSP outcome 2 a new activity 5 has been added to address malnutrition challenges. Activity 3 related to smallholder farmer support has been removed as a separate activity and incorporated under CSP outcome 4.
8. CSP outcome 3, dedicated to capacity strengthening, has been removed as a separate outcome and mainstreamed across work under the remaining outcomes.

### *Country strategic plan outcomes*

9. **CSP outcome 1:** WFP will remain a key partner to the Government in responding to the urgent food and nutrition needs of refugees and asylum seekers in the north of the country. While this revision does not include any major changes to CSP outcome 1, small adjustments in the methodology for beneficiary targeting have been made to ensure that assistance reaches those most affected by food insecurity.
10. **CSP outcome 2:** As a result of the handover of the school feeding programme, the coverage of CSP outcome 2 has been broadened beyond schools. The role of WFP is shifting from implementation to the provision of technical assistance as requested by the Government and other partners. WFP will continue to provide schoolchildren with nutritious and healthy meals in 1,092 schools selected jointly with the Government, a decrease in the number of children served from 1,400,000 to 268,000. In 160 of the covered schools, WFP will pilot programmatic approaches aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of the national school feeding programme, with the expectation that these approaches will in time be scaled up. Approaches to be piloted include cash-based transfers (CBTs) for school feeding, including as part of home-grown school feeding models. In addition technical assistance for the school feeding programme (in line with the handover) will be integrated into work under this CSP outcome; it was previously under CSP outcome 3 (now deleted).
11. In response to government requests, a new activity 5 and accompanying output 5 will add an integrated nutrition package for the prevention of malnutrition, targeting vulnerable people such as pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, children and nutritionally

<sup>2</sup>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa. 2025. *Overview – Forcibly displaced and stateless persons: December 2024*.

<sup>3</sup>International Organization for Migration. *Global Data Institute Displacement Tracking Matrix: Benin*.

at-risk populations. The package will include the provision of specialized nutritious foods, social and behaviour change activities and capacity strengthening to improve the overall dietary intake and health of these population groups, helping to reduce malnutrition rates and improve long-term health outcomes.

12. **CSP outcome 4:** Under newly added CSP outcome 4 and new activity 6, WFP will work to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers and food-insecure communities to natural and human-induced shocks in a more comprehensive way. This activity will incorporate the work previously carried out under activity 3 (CSP outcome 2) related to smallholder farmer support.
13. Activity 6 will include two main types of intervention. First, food-insecure households and communities will benefit from conditional transfers through asset creation activities designed to enhance their livelihoods and productivity and strengthen their resilience to shocks. WFP will ensure that activities respond to local needs and priorities and benefit the community as a whole through community-based participatory planning. Second, smallholder farmers will be provided with support designed to reduce post-harvest losses and with risk financing and management services such as insurance. To the extent possible, the farmers supported will be linked to schools through home-grown school feeding schemes.
14. **CSP outcome 5:** Through activity 7 under new CSP outcome 5, WFP aims to provide a wide range of on-demand services to support the activities of the Government and other partners, such as the procurement of food and other goods, logistics services, CBTs and facility management for common premises.

#### ***Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis***

15. Targeting will be vulnerability-based, in line with corporate guidelines and standards. The target populations are refugees, internally displaced persons and members of the host community, including children under 2, and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. Targeting will be carried out in collaboration with the Government through the Beninese civil protection agency.

#### ***Transfer modalities***

16. Depending on market functionality and beneficiary preferences, WFP will use in-kind food distributions or CBTs. Where markets are functioning, priority will be given to using and scaling up CBTs. Activity 1 will be adjusted to take into account the increased use of CBTs. The use of CBTs will be scaled up for the school feeding pilot, which will require enhanced assurance mechanisms and review of control mechanisms. The transfer values have been adjusted based on a revised minimum expenditure basket that covers the food basket. This has led to a slight decrease in transfer values.

#### ***Partnerships***

17. WFP will deepen partnerships with several key stakeholders to implement this revision. Collaboration with government ministries will be key, and WFP will ensure that interventions are aligned with national priorities and programmes. While the country office already has a strong funding base for this revision, it will continue to diversify its funding base to enable the implementation of the proposed activities.

#### ***Supply chain***

18. The handover process for the school feeding programme will involve a fundamental review of WFP's supply chain in Benin. Storage points have been reduced to reflect the decrease in food procurement. This may increase operating costs and reduce WFP's ability to pre-position food.

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

19. WFP will continue to ensure that the corporate minimum monitoring requirements are met in Benin, including in newly introduced activities. By the end of the second quarter of 2025, WFP will use SugarCRM to standardize the community feedback mechanism and process monitoring escalation. Given the evolving security situation and reduced access in some areas, third-party monitoring may have to be scaled up to cover the activities added under this revision. WFP will continue to use its mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping tools to collect information on food security remotely.

### ***Accountability to affected populations, protection mainstreaming and inclusion of persons with disabilities***

20. WFP is committed to ensuring that its programmes are safe and that it is accountable to affected people. Community feedback mechanisms have been established in all programme locations to collect beneficiary feedback and inform programme adjustments. The community engagement action plan developed in 2024 will be adjusted to include the new activities. WFP will work with partners to identify and mitigate potential risks for affected people, including with regard to violence against women and/or girls as well as sexual exploitation and abuse, ensuring that its activities do not cause harm or exacerbate community conflicts.

### ***Transition/handover strategy***

21. WFP support for enhancing resilience among communities will be developed in close collaboration with the Government and its ministries, including the newly established National Agency for Food and Nutrition; the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance, to ensure the sustainability of the programme. Where possible, across activities WFP will pilot initiatives that can be scaled up by the Government and will work directly through existing government programmes such as social protection programmes. For the school feeding programme, a detailed transition plan was developed in 2024 with clear benchmarks and timelines to facilitate handover. Under the plan, WFP will continue to provide technical assistance, ensuring the sustainability of the national programme. Particular attention will be paid to sustainable financing and support for evidence generation, with the aim of developing operational models that are more efficient, effective and sustainable.

### ***Risk management***

22. WFP will work with government partners and local security forces to monitor and mitigate the impact of security threats, particularly in the north, where the Sahel conflict is escalating. Funding diversification efforts will be pursued to mitigate financial risks, with an emphasis on diversifying the donor base to include non-traditional donors. The impact of supply chain disruption caused by floods will be mitigated through pre-positioning and advance planning.

### ***Social and environmental safeguards***

23. Efforts will be made to reduce any negative environmental impact of WFP operations, such as by reducing food waste and minimizing the carbon footprint of supply chains. Environmental and social risk screenings will be conducted, and mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce any potential harm to natural resources, ecosystems and communities, for example through the use of improved stoves in the school feeding programme.

**Beneficiary analysis**

<b>TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY</b>								
<b>CSP outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Modality</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Boys (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Girls (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Men (18+ years)</b>	<b>Women (18+ years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1	CBTs	Current	69 440	67 760	72 240	70 560	<b>280 000</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	(2 480)	(2 420)	(30 390)	25 290	<b>(10 000)</b>
			Revised	66 960	65 340	41 850	95 850	<b>270 000</b>
		Food	Current	29 760	29 040	30 960	30 240	<b>120 000</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	(12 360)	12 360	<b>-</b>
			Revised	29 760	29 040	18 600	42 600	<b>120 000</b>
		Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	2 232	2 178	1 395	3 195	<b>9 000</b>
			Revised	2 232	2 178	1 395	3 195	<b>9 000</b>
2	2	CBTs	Current	97 200	82 800	-	-	<b>180 000</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	(78 975)	(67 275)	-	-	<b>(146 250)</b>
			Revised	18 225	15 525	-	-	<b>33 750</b>
		Food	Current	1 019 250	868 250	-	-	<b>1 887 500</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	(227 475)	(193 775)	-	-	<b>(421 250)</b>
			Revised	791 775	674 475	-	-	<b>1 466 250</b>
		Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	750	750	<b>1 500</b>
			Revised	-	-	750	750	<b>1 500</b>
	3	Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	4 000	5 000	<b>9 000</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	(4 000)	(5 000)	<b>(9 000)</b>
			Revised	-	-	0	0	<b>0</b>
	5	Food	Current	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	68 369	151 134	-	157 670	<b>377 173</b>
			Revised	68 369	151 134	-	157 670	<b>377 173</b>
		Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
			Increase/ (decrease)	29 139	29 482	-	104 025	<b>162 646</b>
			Revised	29 139	29 482	-	104 025	<b>162 646</b>

**TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY**

CSP outcome	Activity	Modality	Period	Boys (0–18 years)	Girls (0–18 years)	Men (18+ years)	Women (18+ years)	Total
4	6	CBTs	Current	-	-	-	-	-
			Increase/ (decrease)	3 720	3 630	2 325	5 325	15 000
			Revised	3 720	3 630	2 325	5 325	15 000
		Food	Current	-	-	-	-	-
			Increase/ decrease	-	-	-	-	-
			Revised	-	-	-	-	-
		Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	-	-	-
			Increase/ (decrease)	6 240	6 210	5775	6 775	25 000
			Revised	6 240	6 210	5775	6 775	25 000
Total (without overlaps)			Current	1 215 650	1 047 850	107 200	105 800	2 476 500
			Increase/ (decrease)	(228 369)	(71 179)	(7 023)	310 390	3 819
			Revised	987 281	976 671	100 177	416 190	2 480 319

## Transfers

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY										
	CSP outcome 1		CSP outcome 2						CSP outcome 4	
	Activity 1		Activity 2		Activity 5				Activity 6	
Beneficiary type	Refugees/internally displaced persons/residents		Students		Children	Pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls	Children	Pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls	Children	
Modality	Food	CBTs	Food	CBTs	Food	Food	CBTs	CBTs	Food	CBTs
Maize	450	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	450	-
Rice	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beans	60	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	60	-
Yellow split peas	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vegetable oil	25	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Salt	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Small quantity lipid-based nutrient supplement	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Lipid-based nutrient supplement	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-
Total kcal/day	2 067	-	733	-	118	115	-	-	2 067	-
% kcal from protein	10.9	-	10.5	-	-	-	-	-	10.9	-
CBTs (USD/person/day)	-	0.5	-	0.119	-	-	0.26	0.8	-	4
Number of feeding days per year	90		175		360	360	360	360	75	75

**TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE**

	Current budget		Increase/(decrease)		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	183 686	130 041 312	(123 046)	(90 664 488)	60 641	39 376 823
Pulses	36 402	34 567 090	(24 609)	(23 999 418)	11 793	10 567 672
Oil and fats	12 190	24 927 402	(8 203)	(14 391 187)	3 987	10 536 215
Mixed and blended foods	-	-	2 951	11 167 516	2 951	11 167 516
Other	3 629	1 141 791	(2 461)	(815 873)	1 168	325 919
<b>Total (food)</b>	<b>235 907</b>	<b>190 677 595</b>	<b>(155 368)</b>	<b>(118 703 449)</b>	<b>80 539</b>	<b>71 974 146</b>
Cash-based transfers		20 783 242		5 714 543		26 497 785
<b>Total (food and cash-based transfers)</b>	<b>235 907</b>	<b>211 460 837</b>	<b>(155 368)</b>	<b>(112 989 906)</b>	<b>80 539</b>	<b>98 471 931</b>

## Cost breakdown

**TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)**

						Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	(803 708)	(185 460 484)	(3 686 567)	19 608 737	40 000	<b>(170 302 022)</b>
Implementation	176 184	(17 357 000)	(875 793)	2 703 159	6 908	<b>(15 346 542)</b>
Direct support costs						<b>(6 890 334)</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>(192 538 898)</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						<b>(12 518 392)</b>
<b>Total</b>						<b>(205 057 289)</b>



TABLE 5: OVERALL COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)						
						Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	20 205 073	94 954 227	1 589 851	19 608 737	40 000	<b>136 397 888</b>
Implementation	1 456 983	15 575 558	274 958	2 703 159	6 908	<b>20 017 567</b>
Direct support costs	2 093 177	9 377 865	133 977	2 278 482	4 837	<b>13 888 338</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23 755 233</b>	<b>119 907 650</b>	<b>1 998 786</b>	<b>24 590 378</b>	<b>51 745</b>	<b>170 303 793</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 544 090	7 793 997	129 921	1 598 375	-	<b>11 066 383</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 299 323</b>	<b>127 701 647</b>	<b>2 128 707</b>	<b>26 188 753</b>	<b>51 745</b>	<b>181 370 176</b>