

WFP Benin Country Brief July – September 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 27,958 in August 2025 (UNHCR), potentially reaching 40,000 by the end of the year. As of June, internally displaced persons (IDPs) numbered 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 were 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**

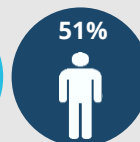
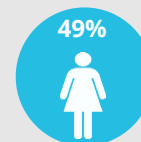
Income Level: **Lower middle**

2022 Gender Inequality Index:
152 out of 170

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

In Numbers

78,635 people assisted



617.7 mt of food distributed

US\$ 0.3 million in cash-based transfers distributed

US\$ 8.8 million six-month net funding requirements
(Nov 2025–Apr 2026)

Operational Updates

School Meals Programme

- During the third quarter, WFP Benin focused on closing the 2024–2025 school year by securing food stocks, finalizing management documents, and holding accountability assemblies.
- Ahead of the September 2025 school reopening, 617.7 mt of food were delivered to 319 schools for 62,294 students. The cash-based transfer program further expanded and now covers 80 schools, supporting nearly 20,000 children—48 percent girls—with over US\$ 202,000.
- In partnership with Choithram International Foundation, construction of kitchens, storage, and gardens advanced in 10 northern schools, and ten women's groups received economic empowerment training.
- A two-week mission from WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil is scheduled for October. This is part of the new strategic partnership involving France and WFP, focusing on low-carbon technologies, local procurement, and nutrition to strengthen Benin's school feeding programme.
- The Islamic Development Bank allocated €9.96 million over four years for the School Feeding, Nutrition, and Out-of-School Children Support Project (PAASEB). This funding will provide school meals to over 90,000 school-aged and out-of-school children from 333 schools across 45 communes in 11 departments.

Emergency response

- Between July and September, WFP provided cash transfers to around 14,000 beneficiaries including 4,600 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 3,900 children aged 6–23 months. An additional 174 households received support in coordination with UNICEF along with 50 households that received dignity kits through coordination with UNFPA.
- After establishing the cash working group coordinated by ABPC (National Civil Protection Agency) and led by WFP, training was provided to Beninese Red Cross volunteers on the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Additionally, facilitators from partner NGOs received training on sexual and reproductive health in emergency settings, in collaboration with UNFPA.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2027)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
181.4 million	74 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Nov – Apr 2026)
26.4 million	8.8 million

** CSP revision has been approved by the Executive Board. It reflects the transfer of the national school feeding programme to the Government of Benin and incorporates a new food systems and nutrition approach aligned with the Government of Benin's priorities*

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.

Nutrition

- Between 27-28 September, Benin hosted an International Conference on Nutrition led by the President of the Republic. WFP co-organized and led a panel on “The Intergenerational Burden of Malnutrition.” The conference mobilized nearly US\$ 450 million—surpassing its initial target—with major contributions from the World Bank, AfDB, and UNICEF.

Resilience and SAMS

- The African Development Bank approved the “Project to Strengthen Resilience and Climate Risk Management in the Agricultural Sector.” WFP will implement Component 2, enhancing resilience of farming communities in Atacora and Alibori, and strengthening local authorities’ climate risk management. Activities, costing €9 million, will be delivered through a tripartite agreement with the Bank and the Government of Benin.
- WFP conducted four Community Based Participatory Planning sessions in six villages of the communes of Tangiéta and Matéri to identify community needs. These activities are part of the joint resilience UNITE Gaabi Dounya project funded by the European Union.
- In Tangiéta (Sépounga and Porhoun) and Banikoara (Atabénou and Goumonri), WFP worked with the communities to establish market garden sites and reinforce earthworks by planting fruit trees and pigeon peas in rows.
- Cooperating partners’ staff (nutrition and value chain focal points and program officers) were trained in Banikoara, Malanville, Matéri, Ségnana and Tangiéta districts on capacity building for smallholder farmers’ organizations.
- A workshop was held to review the strategy and guide for managing the quality of food purchased by school canteen management committees.

Communications, Advocacy and Marketing

- WFP organized a [press coffee meeting](#) with local media to present WFP's interventions in Benin in line with the priorities of the new Country Strategic Plan.
- A field visit was organized to support local media gather and write stories on cash distribution to displaced populations in northern Benin, including joint [WFP/UNFPA](#) and [WFP/UNICEF](#) distributions in Malanville and Tangiéta.
- A field visit was organised with local media to facilitate media stories on the preparation of communities and cooperatives for the Back to school in September 2025.

Donors

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

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