



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Benin Country Brief October – December 2025



In Numbers



18,000 people assisted

390,3 mt of food distributed

US\$ 12.7 million six-month net funding requirements
(Jan 2026–Jun 2026)

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 which have led to population displacements both towards and within Benin, with asylum seekers and refugees increasing from 3,357 at the end of 2022 to 30,540 in November 2025 (UNHCR), potentially reaching 40,000 by the end of the year. As of November, internally displaced persons (IDPs) numbered approximately 27,294, mainly in the *Atacora* and *Alibori* departments. This influx of nearly 58,000 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, 2021-2022) 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.

The Cadre Harmonisé results from November 2025 indicate that 191,108 people faced acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 and higher) between October and December 2025, including nearly 3,000 people in IPC phase 4.

Operational Updates

Emergency response

- Between October and December, WFP provided cash transfers to approximately 18,000 beneficiaries, including 3,788 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 2,440 children aged 6–23 months. In total, beneficiaries received 149,520,700 FCFA, of which 56,650,700 FCFA were allocated specifically to pregnant and breastfeeding women and children aged 6–23 months.

School feeding

- Regional visibility of WFP’s school feeding programme in Benin was enhanced through a documentary featuring Goodwill Ambassador Chef Abégan, highlighting school canteens as drivers of resilience and economic development, broadcast on [TV5 Monde Afrique’s Wari](#) programme to regional audiences nationwide.
- A series of visibility tools are being developed for the implementation of a mass communication campaign to promote nutritious local foods, particularly unpolished parboiled rice, in schools participating in the Integrated School Feeding and Nutrition Project and within communities.

Gender, Protection and CFM

- WFP conducted an Integrated Context Analysis and Risk Assessment (I-CARA) in the departments of *Atacora* and *Alibori*, with a report accompanied by a risk register.
- WFP also carried out activities as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against violence against women and girls, both at the country office level and across its three field offices.



Population: 13.7 million

Income Level: Lower middle

2022 Gender Inequality Index:
152 out of 170

2021 Human Development Index:
166 out of 191

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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\$) (Jan – Jun 2026)
26.4 million	12.7 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.

Communications and Advocacy

- WFP convened its technical and financial partners on 18 December 2025 in Cotonou for a high-level review of progress and upcoming priorities in WFP's work in Benin. Chaired by the Resident Representative and attended by UN Resident Coordinator Aminatou Sar, the meeting highlighted the concrete impact of WFP's programmes and the value of complementary partner contributions, with an emphasis on transparency and efficiency. Government and partner representatives reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration with WFP, expressed satisfaction with the results presented, and confirmed their readiness to strengthen joint efforts.
- Local media outlets were encouraged to learn more about WFP's interventions in the areas of school feeding, nutrition, support for smallholder farmers and emergency response through exhibitions organised on [World Food Day](#) and [World Humanitarian Day](#).
- A visual content collection was organised in Copargo to produce a documentary on the achievements of the Beyond Cotton project in Benin.

Donors

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

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