



WFP Cote d'Ivoire Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

Cote d'Ivoire is a middle-income country with an estimated population in 2018 of 25.1 million. Since 2012, the country has witnessed positive political, economic and security developments, enabling most refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their areas of origin. Despite favourable trends in the educational, social and nutritional status of the population compared to the aftermath of the crisis, deep socio-economic inequalities still linger.

WFP has been present in Cote d'Ivoire since 1969, and has been providing support according to the national context. WFP operations are currently focused on development interventions to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance education achievements and minimize gender inequalities. WFP activities are concentrated in northern and western rural areas which are particularly more vulnerable and food insecure.



Prevalence of food insecurity: 12.8 % of the population	Chronic malnutrition: 21.6 % of children aged 24-59 months
2016 Gender Inequality Index: 151st out of 155 countries	2016 Human Development Index: 171st out of 188 countries

In Numbers

583.92 mt of food assistance distributed in April 2018

3,350 returnees and vulnerable hosts registered to participate in livelihood activities from March to June 2018

US\$ 4.929 m six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements

145,849 people assisted in April 2018



Operational Updates

- This month was marked by the validation of the national 2018–2025 school feeding policy and 2018–2022 school feeding strategy on April 12. The vision of the new policy is that by 2025, all enrolled students in public schools will benefit from a hot nutritious school meal every school day. Moreover, WFP Cote d'Ivoire highlighted during the ceremony that since 1989, through this collaboration between WFP and the Government, more than one million schoolchildren have shared a hot meal.
- The food assistance for assets (FFA) programme supporting 3,350 returnees and vulnerable host participants resumed in March. The support is provided to assist the reintegration of returnees and to promote social cohesion in areas of return, as well as restore livelihoods and increase access to income. Food provided (221.10 mt) will meet the needs of 20,100 beneficiaries. The created assets included rehabilitated lowlands for rice cultivation, maize and cassava plantations, vegetable gardens, fish pond and poultry farms, which contributed to increasing the number of income-generating activities and led to improvements in livelihoods.
- The country office participated in a regional capacity-strengthening workshop on HIV and interventions in emergency settings to people living with HIV (PLHIV). This workshop, which reunited member agencies of the Joint United Nations Regional Team on HIV/AIDS (JURTA), government officials and civil society actors from over 12 West and Central African countries, allowed the participants to share their respective experiences and gain critical insights on how to integrate HIV into emergency preparedness and response, contingency planning and continuity of care in humanitarian crises.
- The WFP country office participated in the process of aligning the SDGs with the National Development Plan and prioritizing the targets of the various SDGs. This process will allow the Government to focus on these prioritized targets in order to boost progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)		
18.03 m	8.07 m	4.929 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure children in targeted areas have access to adequate safe and nutritious food all year-round <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
9.55 m	7.04 m	3.131 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Children and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLW/G) in vulnerable communities have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020 <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
1.89 m	0.33	0.335 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes		
Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have increased resilience to shocks and improved livelihoods to support food security and nutrition needs all year-round <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
6.25 m	0.70 m	1.462 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities		
Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions have strengthened capacities to develop and manage food security, nutrition and social protection policies and programmes in line with the national targets by 2020. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
0.33 m	0	TBD

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 1 – Provide daily nutritious school meals with a literacy component to children of school age in targeted public primary schools, with a focus on quarterly incentives (in-kind or cash-based) for girls in fifth and sixth grade to address disparities and encourage regular attendance and retention in school.

SO 2 2 – Provide nutritious food and support access to health services and nutrition education to pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G) and children aged 6-23 months to prevent malnutrition.

SO 3 3 – Provide asset creation activities to food-insecure smallholder farmers, to strengthen resilience to shocks and enhance food security.
4 – Provide technical support to strengthen the production, management and marketing capacities of smallholder farmers and their organizations.
5 – Provide capacity strengthening on productive safety nets, climate change adaptation, early warning, and food systems to targeted populations.

SO 4 6 – Provide capacity strengthening to national partners on policy development, programme planning and management of food security and nutrition programmes, including school meals programmes, national nutrition programmes, purchase for progress, vulnerability analysis and emergency preparedness.

- Preparation for the second phase of the technical assistance to women's farmer groups in northern Cote d'Ivoire is ongoing. For the new agricultural campaign, in addition to the ten sites from the first phase, two additional sites were identified to enhance cultivation of orange-fleshed sweet potato (rich in vitamin A). Nutrition-sensitive programming is integrated to improve nutrition and food security of the targeted communities.

Monitoring

- WFP completed 59 monitoring visits in April to monitor school meals activities and FFA activities, which represents 56 percent of the monthly plan.
- The WFP country office organized a joint mission with its partners AVSI (International NGO) and DCS (Government) on school meals activities. At the end of this joint mission, WFP, in collaboration with its partners, will develop an action plan to address the issues observed during the mission.

Challenges

- WFP's nutrition interventions are critically underfunded, which will affect nutrition interventions in support of pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months. Securing additional funding is critical given the high level of chronic malnutrition in Cote d'Ivoire.
- Lack of funding is preventing the planned support for vulnerable smallholder farmers to strengthen their resilience to shocks, particularly during the lean season.

Story Worth Telling

As part of WFP support to the national Integrated Program for Sustainable School Canteens (PIPSCS), ten women smallholder farmer groups' production, organizational and marketing capacities are strengthened in northern Cote d'Ivoire. Through enhanced agricultural practices, these smallholder women farmer groups produce nutritious, diversified, fresh and culturally appropriate food sourced locally for domestic consumption, supply to school canteens and sell surpluses at local markets.

These women smallholders confirmed how "WFP's technical support allowed us to triple our food production, which allowed us to increase our regular contribution to the school canteens". Moreover, the women smallholders added that "the maize milling transformation units provided by WFP reduced the time we spent milling our maize and rice, as well as the cost of milling them from neighboring villages". The milling units are also used as a source of income for the group members, because neighbors from surrounding villages also use these machines at a fixed price.

It is crucial for these women smallholders, however, in preparation of the second phase of this project, to have continued access to agricultural inputs for the next agricultural cycle, to water and to more processing units and storage facilities, in order to build on and sustain positive results seen so far.

Donors

United States, Multilateral, Private donors.

