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**TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN  
DOCUMENTS**



**CÔTE D'IVOIRE TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
(YEAR 2018)**

<b>Duration</b> (starting date – end date)	<b>January 1 – December 31 2018</b>
<b>Total cost to WFP</b>	<b>USD 18,026,929</b>
<b>Gender and Age Marker Code *</b>	<b>2A</b>

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Côte d'Ivoire is a lower middle income country recovering from a decade of conflict and a post-electoral crisis in 2010/11 that caused major displacements into neighbouring countries. Subsequent political, economic and security improvements have enabled the return of refugees and internally displaced people to their areas of origin and a shift of interventions from relief to recovery and development.

Poverty affects 46.5 percent of the population, particularly in northern and northeastern areas. Food insecurity is greatest in northern and western rural areas, particularly among households headed by women. Poverty, food insecurity, inadequate nutrition practices and poor living conditions in the north contribute to the chronic malnutrition rate of 40 percent observed in northern regions. Recurrent climate shocks, variable rainfall and limited productive capacity exacerbate vulnerability and drive the need for recovery and social-protection services.

This Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) will support the Government of Cote d'Ivoire in achieving the following strategic outcomes:

- Food insecure children in targeted areas have access to adequate safe and nutritious food all year-round.
- Children and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLW/G) in vulnerable communities have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020.
- Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have increased resilience to shocks and improved livelihoods to better support food security and nutrition needs all year-round.
- 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.

These outcomes help address the Government's desire to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2), as expressed in strategic result 3 of the *Plan National de Développement* (PND).

The forthcoming Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) will consolidate relevant food security and nutrition elements of existing national policies, plans and strategies into a comprehensive national framework for achieving SGD 2. WFP will support the design and implementation of this framework.

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## 1. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

### 1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT

1. Cote d'Ivoire gained its independence in 1960. It is a lower middle income and a food deficit country with a population of 23.3 million in 2015. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita was USD 1399 in 2015. The country is ranked 172<sup>nd</sup> of 188 on the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report (HDR), and 151<sup>st</sup> out of 155 on the Gender Inequality Index. Cote d'Ivoire is gradually recovering from a decade of political turmoil culminating in the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis that caused massive internal displacements (IDPs) and thousands of Ivorian refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries. In 2015, President Alassane Ouattara was re-elected, further consolidating confidence in his administration. The positive evolution of the political, economic and security situation since 2012 has enabled the return of most of the refugees and IDPs to their areas of origin. The country has thus welcomed back a steady influx of approximately 300 000 refugees, many returning from Liberia.
2. The economy of Côte d'Ivoire is supported primarily by agriculture, animal and fishery resource sectors, industry, mining, as well as communication, transport and finance services. Poverty levels are high, with 46.3 percent of the population living below the Ivorian income poverty line (USD 1.22 per day)<sup>1</sup>, and at least 12.8 percent of the population is considered food insecure<sup>2</sup>.
3. In Cote d'Ivoire, 57.8 percent of the total unemployed population is made up of women.<sup>3</sup> This figure highlights the vast untapped potential for further accelerated economic growth, as well as the challenges that lie ahead to make said growth truly inclusive.
4. In 2016, 25 percent of women in Cote d'Ivoire were literate, as opposed to 54 percent of men. This education disparity prevents equal access to economic opportunities and social services. The overall literacy rate of 45 percent compares favourably with other African countries, but shows space for improvement. Girls represented 46.7 percent of primary school students in 2015, the result of a steady increase over the previous years. Approximately 1 446 000 children between the ages of 6 and 15 years were still outside of the school system in 2014.<sup>4</sup> Côte d'Ivoire has increased access to education since the end of the post-electoral crisis, but the education system faces challenges in retaining students and providing lasting learning achievements.

### 1.2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 2

#### ➤ Progress on SDG 2 targets

5. Cote d'Ivoire fell short of achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 – halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Poverty increased from 38.4 percent of the population living with less than USD 1.22 per day in 2002 to 48.9 percent in 2008. In 2015, poverty was at 46.3 percent which shows a slight decrease at the end of the MDG period.<sup>5</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> Prime Minister's Office. 2016. *Rapport d'état sur le système éducatif national (RESEN)*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>4</sup> Prime Minister's Office. 2016. *Rapport d'état sur le système éducatif national (RESEN)*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

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number of Ivorians not receiving the minimum daily calories rose steadily from 10.7 percent in 1991 to 14.7 percent in 2010, and has been declining ever since. In 2015 it was still at 13.3 percent.<sup>6</sup> These poverty and hunger figures show that significant efforts will be needed to achieve SDG 2 – ending hunger.

6. SDG 2 is addressed within the PND strategic result 3, which aims to modernize the agriculture sector for better productivity and competitiveness of agricultural products, food security and resilience. Furthermore, sectoral strategies elaborate national priorities and plans towards achieving SDG 2, such as the *Plan National Multisectoriel de Nutrition* (PNMN) (2016-2020), the national plan for education, the national agricultural investment programme, the national plan for health, and the school feeding and social protection strategies.

### **Access to food:**

7. The political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire had a negative impact on household food security. Between 2009 and 2015, the prevalence of rural food insecurity rose from 12.6 percent in 2009 to 15 percent in 2015. Notably the proportion of rural households in severe food insecurity increased from 2.5 percent in 2009 to 4.3 percent in 2015.
8. This situation could be explained by population movements and the disruption of agricultural activities and high poverty levels. In Cote d'Ivoire, poor households spend 50.2 percent of their income on food. For non-poor households this figure is only 40.7 percent, showing that in the event of a financial shock, poor households slip more easily into food insecurity. The problem of food access also affects rural household food security more than urban household food security. In rural areas, the incidence of poverty is 56.8 percent compared to 35.9 percent in urban areas. As a result, rural households spend 55 percent of their income on food, as opposed to only 39.1% in the case of non-poor households.<sup>7</sup>
9. Since 2012, the Government and partners have taken a number of actions to improve household food security, particularly in areas most affected by food insecurity, such as the west and the north. These projects and programmes include, among others: *Projet d'appui au secteur agricole en Cote d'Ivoire*, *Programme filières agricoles durables de Cote d'Ivoire*, *Projet de rehabilitation agricole et de réduction de la pauvreté*. These projects were aimed at increasing agricultural output, and improving food security. A 2015 assessment reported that food crop production had increased by 8 percent over the 2010 to 2015 period of the overarching *Programme National d'Investissement Agricole* (PNIA).<sup>8</sup>
10. According to analysis by the *Cadre Harmonisé*, a west African framework for analysing and identifying populations at risk of food insecurity, during the lean season, Cote d'Ivoire moved from 5 zones (west and northeast) under pressure in 2015 to 2 zones (west and north) under pressure in 2016, indicating slight improvements in the geographical spread of food insecurity.<sup>9</sup>

### **End malnutrition:**

11. In 2012, 8 percent of children under 5 in Cote d'Ivoire suffered from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). This represents an increase compared to the 2006 figure of 6.9 percent, and shows a worrying increase beyond the 10 percent warning threshold for GAM, such as in the north-eastern region of Zanzan with 11 percent GAM. In the same year, 29.8

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<sup>6</sup> Prime Minister's Office. 2015. *Bilan de la mise en œuvre des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD) en Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Agriculture. 2015. *Bilan de la mise en œuvre du PNIA*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Cote d'Ivoire*.

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percent of children under 5 in Cote d'Ivoire were stunted, a decrease from the 2006 figure of 34 percent, but still just below the 30 percent warning threshold for stunting.<sup>10</sup>

12. In 2012, stunting was particularly high in the north and north-east (39 percent), in the north-west (32 percent), and in the west (34 percent). The high prevalence of chronic malnutrition in the northern and western regions is strongly correlated with a lack of diversity in a diet based on tubers and cereals representing above 65 percent of daily calorie intake. High infectious disease prevalence (malaria, acute respiratory infection, HIV), poor access to basic health services, lack of clean drinking water, and inadequate hygiene and sanitation also play a significant role in Cote d'Ivoire's nutrition situation. Micronutrient deficiency is very pronounced among women of childbearing age (54 percent) and children with high prevalence of anaemia (75 percent). Undernutrition among these women of childbearing age and a lack of awareness on good nutrition practices contribute to high rates of low birth weight (14.8 percent).<sup>11</sup>

### **Smallholder productivity and incomes:**

13. The number of smallholder farmers in 2016 is estimated to make up 80 percent of agricultural producers.<sup>12</sup> In 2016, smallholders in the north and northeast regions remained particularly vulnerable to recurring shocks and to the challenges of the lean season. Declining rainfall in northern regions accelerated land degradation and reduced yields and incomes among smallholder farmers. 16 percent of agricultural households experienced food insecurity during the post-harvest season; during the lean season the figure was 18 percent.<sup>13</sup> A survey of rural households in February 2016 showed that 72 percent reported reductions in the number of daily meals, consumption of non-diversified diets and other food-related coping strategies.<sup>14</sup> Productive assets were depleted, and livelihoods were less resilient: a 2015 survey showed that households in rural areas spent 56 percent of their income on food, compared with 39 percent in urban areas, and that 50 percent of farmers were poor.<sup>15</sup>
14. Women smallholder farmers are among the most vulnerable population and are often less likely to have access to land, inputs (seeds, fertilizers, water and credit) and technical training. December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1998's law number 98 – 170 regarding access to rural land stipulates that any Ivorian national may own land. This law ensures equal access to land by Ivorian women and men. In practice, women are rarely land owners, particularly in rural areas, due to socio-cultural constraints. As a result, women own less than 10 percent of available land in Cote d'Ivoire.<sup>16</sup>

### **Sustainable food systems:**

15. The sustainability of food systems is threatened by climate change, exposure to natural disasters, land tenure issues, land and environmental degradation (i.e. soil erosion, deforestation) and population growth. Climate change will have a negative impact on biodiversity, access to water, agriculture and fisheries, threatening food production and

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<sup>10</sup> Government of Cote d'Ivoire. 2012. *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples 2011-2-12*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>11</sup> National Council of Nutrition, Permanent Technical Secretariat for Scaling Up Nutrition. 2015. *Analyse de la situation nutritionnelle de Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Agriculture. 2017. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>13</sup> WFP. 2013. *Evaluation de la sécurité alimentaire au nord et à l'ouest*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Agriculture. 2016. *Suivi de la saison agricole et de la vulnérabilité alimentaire*. Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>15</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Côte d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>16</sup> African Development Bank Group. 2015. *Profil genre pays: République de la Cote d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

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exerting an upward pressure on food prices. These factors can potentially accelerate urbanization and intensify conflicts over already scarce resources, and likely generate new humanitarian crises and population displacements.

16. In addition to this, agricultural productivity is constrained by poor water management, low levels of mechanization and management technologies, lack of access to inputs and low levels of public investment.<sup>17</sup>
17. The Ivorian Government developed the PNIA 2010-2015 to support sustainable and comprehensive development of the agricultural sector. PNIA aims to: improve access and use of agricultural inputs; increase mechanisation of agricultural production; increase training, consulting services and research; improve water management; and foster more sustainable agricultural production. These efforts are supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Plan (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WFP and other relevant organisations with the aim of reducing food insecurity and malnutrition, and increasing the sustainability of the food system.<sup>18</sup> These efforts contributed to a 15 percent increase on cash crop revenues between 2014 and 2015, and a 7 percent increase in food crops revenues over the same period.

➤ *Macro-economic environment*

18. In the decade leading up to 2011, Cote d'Ivoire's economy was strongly impacted by the 2010/11 post-electoral crisis. Economic growth averaged over 9 percent per year between 2012 and 2015, due in large part to agriculture, industry, services, domestic demand, and large increases of foreign and domestic investments. The main drivers of economic growth in 2016 were strong private investment in areas such as agriculture (with increased commodity prices), agribusiness, mining, light manufacturing, housing and services. The processing of raw materials expanded, including cocoa. The public sector invested in large infrastructure projects, particularly transport and energy.<sup>19</sup> Côte d'Ivoire's Gini coefficient decreased from 43 in 2008 to 41 in 2015, indicating a slight reduction in inequality. In recent years and looking to the near- and mid-term, Cote d'Ivoire's economy faces a number of challenges, particularly from climate change, desertification, fluctuating global commodity prices, poor education access, learning outcomes, and ethnic tensions.

➤ *Key cross-sectorial linkages*

19. Access to food and proper nutrition are basic determinants of positive outcomes in health, climate change, gender equity, education and other sectors. In turn, when issues in these sectors are addressed effectively, they support individuals and communities in achieving Zero Hunger and proper nutrition.
20. Achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2) is strongly linked with a number of other SDGs, namely those relating to poverty (SDG 1), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5) and ecological limits and degradation (SDGs 13, 14, and 15). While some progress has been made, Cote d'Ivoire must still improve considerably in order to achieve these goals.

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<sup>17</sup> FAO, 2016, Adapting irrigation to climate change.

<sup>18</sup> Prime Minister's Office. 2010. Programme National d'Investissement Agricole (PNIA 2010 – 2015). Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>19</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit's February 15, 2017 Cote d'Ivoire.

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21. **Health:** In Cote d'Ivoire, life expectancy is 54 years, maternal mortality is 614/100,000 live births and under-5 mortality is 92.6/1,000 births. Women and girls account for 49.1 percent of the population. The fertility rate is 5.0 children per woman,<sup>20</sup> and average household size is 5.8.<sup>21</sup> In 2012, only 14 percent of women used a contraceptive method to space or limit pregnancies. Each year, there are nearly 5,000 pregnancies among girls enrolled in school.<sup>22</sup>
22. HIV prevalence was estimated at 3.7 percent among 15 to 49 year olds in 2015, with the rate at 4.4 percent for women, and 2.7 percent for men.<sup>23</sup>
23. **Climate Change:** Climate change disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable people, especially women and children, and their livelihoods - as food insecurity is higher in the most fragile and degraded environments, which are more prone to natural disasters, recurrent shocks and crises. This further reduces the livelihood assets of affected populations and limits their production ability, which has a negative impact on their food security, nutrition and economic capacity.
24. Cote d'Ivoire's new law and regulations on 'the creation, management and financing of protected areas' is free of provisions that discriminate against women, and should increase women's participation in environmental activities. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests is providing financing and technical assistance to women in some agricultural activities, in the hope of reversing the trend toward increasing land and water degradation in the Niger River basin.
25. In response to climate change and the negative impact it has on food security, nutrition and livelihoods, Cote d'Ivoire has also committed to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), becoming a signatory of the initiative. The Government has also put in place a National Climate Change Programme to operationalize the country climate change reduction objectives.
26. **Gender Equality:** Only 14 percent of girls reach secondary school compared with 30 percent of boys. 6 percent of girls are enrolled in higher education and 23 percent in secondary education. The adult literacy rate is 45 percent, with only 25 percent among women.<sup>24</sup> Only 5 percent of women have access to land ownership in Côte d'Ivoire, while they are responsible for 75 percent of basic food production.<sup>25</sup>
27. Persisting gender inequality is influenced by the low enforcement of existing laws, insufficient integration of gender issues into policies, plans, development programs and budgets, the absence of a gender observatory to put in place indicators to measure the degree of gender equality in Cote d'Ivoire, and the generally low sensitivity of the population to gender discrimination and inequality.<sup>26</sup>
28. **Education:** Education quality is poor, especially in rural northern areas where enrolment is the lowest. Gross enrolment in primary schools has increased from 85.7 percent to 95.4 percent in the last four years, but there are significant disparities among regions. For

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<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. 2016. *Plan national de développement sanitaire 2016-2020*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of planning and economic development. 2015. *Enquête sur le niveau de vie des ménages en Côte d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>22</sup> African Development Bank Group. 2015. *Profil genre pays: République de la Côte d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>23</sup> African Development Bank Group. 2015. *Profil genre pays: République de la Côte d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>24</sup> Prime Minister's Office. 2016. *Rapport d'état sur le système éducatif national (RESEN)*. Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>25</sup> UNDP. 2016. *Africa Human Development Report*. New York, USA.

<sup>26</sup> African Development Bank Group. 2015. *Profil genre pays: République de la Côte d'Ivoire*. Cote d'Ivoire.

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example, gross enrolment in primary school in the north is 62.9 percent, whereas the country average is 95.5 percent, and 107.7 percent in the Abidjan zone. A recent survey found that 89 percent of first graders have poor reading skills, and pass rates in the first three grades are only 15 percent. Inadequate school buildings and scarcity of qualified teachers hinder the Government's implementation of its new mandatory enrolment policy for children aged 6 to 16.<sup>27</sup>

29. While WFP's work in Cote d'Ivoire aims to contribute to SDG2, it also supports the above SDGs through the strongly interlinked nature of the SDGs and the multi-sectoral approach of the WFP.

### **1.3. HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES**

30. The nationally led ZHSR, which is scheduled to take place from June 2017 to February 2018, is expected to bring forward the main gaps of the Ivorian food system, from issues of institutional capacity, to community, household and individual challenges such as the lack of access to food due to poverty, high food prices during the lean season, climate change causing reduced rainfall and soil erosion, and heavy land pressure. The ZHSR will integrate gender considerations during the review process and content development.

### **1.4. KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES**

#### *➤ Government priorities*

31. In 2016, the Government launched its PND (2016–2020) as a vehicle to transform the economy, strengthen human capital and improve social well-being. To achieve this, the Government will focus on actions that will move the country forward in five priority areas: 1) strengthened institutions and good governance; 2) human capital development and improved social well-being; 3) a modern agriculture sector leading to improved productivity, food security and resilience; 4) equitable improvement of infrastructure across the country and environment preservation; and 5) strengthened regional integration and international cooperation.
32. Furthermore, the Government affirmed its commitment to gender equality by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1995, and the African Union Heads of State and Government Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa in 2004.

#### *➤ United Nations and other partners*

33. Drawing on the SDGs, the objectives of the Cote d'Ivoire Government as expressed in the PND, the findings of the United Nations Secretary-General's report on cooperation with middle income countries, and the United Nations' comparative advantages in Cote d'Ivoire, the following three priorities have been identified:

- Strengthening governance and social cohesion;
- Development of human capital through equitable access to basic social services and social protection;
- Sustainable development through the promotion of public policies that guarantee sustainable production and consumption patterns and the fight against climate change.

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<sup>27</sup> Prime Minister's Office. 2016. *Rapport d'état sur le système éducatif national (RESEN)*. Cote d'Ivoire.



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## 2. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR WFP

### 2.1. WFP'S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

34. The 2015 evaluation of DEV 200465 confirmed the relevance of WFP's support for the national school meals programme because it aligned with government strategies and was designed in collaboration with education-sector partners.[1] However, recommendations were made to: i) enhance targeting to align programmes with available resources; ii) support a sustainable mechanism to subsidize families unable to pay the daily school meal cost of XOF 25 (USD 0.05) set by the Government; and iii) empower groups of women smallholder farmers near schools by connecting them with markets, providing tools and training them in accounting and agricultural methods with a view to improving the quality and diversity of production and hence increasing incomes. These recommendations informed the strategic orientation of the TICSP to enhance technical assistance for the national school meals programmes, which aims to promote equal access to quality education for girls and boys, and programmatically in the design of interventions for smallholder farmer groups, in particular women farmer groups.
35. Evidence gathered through post-distribution monitoring and various needs assessments, including the most recent Joint Assessment Mission (Oct 2016) and the rapid needs assessment of displaced populations (Sep 2016), confirm that female-headed households are more vulnerable to food insecurity in comparison to households headed by men. This understanding resulted in a prioritization of women for livelihoods and income generation projects in the ratio of 60:40. Notwithstanding, ongoing livelihoods needs analysis to profile smallholder farmer groups in rural areas will provide an in-depth understanding of challenges faced by women and men in rural agro-ecological zones and will inform the Zero Hunger Strategic Review and the design of the Country Strategic Plan.
36. WFP's experience in nutrition programming confirms that integrated approaches are more durable solutions for addressing the high levels of MAM and stunting observed in Cote d'Ivoire. Together with UNICEF and other nutrition partners, WFP provided critical support to the government in developing a multisectoral national nutrition plan that calls for joint actions across 15 ministries. Drawing on previous WFP experience in the West Africa region, WFP advocated for the *Communaute de Convergence* approach to tackle chronic malnutrition in a systemic and durable manner. To this effort, a joint pilot project comprising integrated actions by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), FAO and WFP in underway with the goal of reducing and preventing stunting.
37. WFP has shifted from direct nutritional support for people living with HIV/AIDS to HIV-sensitive programming. People infected or affected by HIV will be included in the various school feeding, nutrition and resilience programs. In addition, WFP continues to provide technical and policy support to the Government and local NGOs. A skills transfer on the programmatic and logistics management of food assistance by prescription is provided to NGO recipients of the Global Fund. Also, WFP provides logistical support to Alliance for the purchase and primary transportation of fortified foods and regularly assists and advises Alliance, the principal recipient of the Global Fund, in the planning and implementation of nutrition interventions. WFP will continue to coordinate policy dialogue and nutrition support where appropriate, which will enable re-assessment of different approaches to social protection for people living with HIV and AIDS.

### 2.2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP

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38. The following priorities for WFP Cote d'Ivoire were identified during the elaboration of the Country Programme (2017-2020):

- Help to prevent and reduce chronic malnutrition among children aged 6–23 months, improve access to health services for PLW/G, and enhance government capacities for implementing integrated nutrition programmes;
- Help to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to shocks in northern communities affected by climate change, and enhance government capacities to mitigate the effects of natural disasters;
- Encourage investments in human capital by increasing school enrolment and attendance, especially among girls, and working with the Government to develop a sustainable hand-over strategy.

### **2.3. STRATEGIC CHANGES**

39. Côte d'Ivoire is now classified as a lower middle income country with steady economic growth. Peace and stability have been restored by the stable government in place. However, security incidents in January and in May 2017 highlight a still fragile situation. Against this backdrop of economic growth and significant investments in various productive sectors, the environment in which WFP is operating has changed and calls for a shift from service delivery/aid provision to technical support in key areas of importance to the government. This includes nutrition, a school meals programme as a social safety net linked with local food production, sustainable food systems, and emergency preparedness and response.
40. WFP will transition to a gender-transformative approach, with the advancement of gender equality through the school meals, nutrition, resilience and capacity building programmes.

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## **3. WFP STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

### **3.1. DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS**

41. This Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan provides the framework for WFP's contribution to achieving national food and nutrition security targets. This plan will guide WFP's interventions and strategy during the final steps of the ZHSR, and the preparation of the CSP, both scheduled for 2018. Once completed the ZHSR will inform WFP's strategy for achieving SDG 2 in Côte d'Ivoire.
42. WFP Cote d'Ivoire's strategic orientation is in line with the current Country Programme, prioritizing activities related to school meals, nutrition and resilience building with SDG 2 "Zero Hunger" and SDG 17 "Partnerships for the goals" as its main focus. There will be strong cross-cutting of capacity development, technical support to the Government, institutions, partners and communities in areas of nutrition policies and programmes, a school meals programme, agricultural productivity and sustainable food systems (including supply chain and Purchase for Progress). Emergency preparedness and response capacities of the government will be further strengthened.
43. This strategic orientation will focus on gender equality, to address the particular needs and priorities of women, men, girls and boys, directly contributing to SDG 5 "Gender equality and women empowerment", and indirectly contributing to SDG 3 "Good health and well-

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being”, SDG 4 “Quality education”. This focus will be necessary to achieve all four strategic objectives.

44. The plan aims to contribute to the following strategic outcomes:

- Food insecure children in targeted areas have access to adequate safe and nutritious food all year-round.
- Children and PLW/G in vulnerable communities have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020.
- Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have increased resilience to shocks and improved livelihoods to better support food security and nutrition needs all year-round.
- 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.

### **3.2. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES, FOCUS AREAS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.2.1. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN TARGETED AREAS HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD ALL YEAR-ROUND**

➤ *Outcome description*

45. In line with WFP’s aim to support SDG 2, this strategic outcome aims to ensure adequate access to safe and nutritious food for children in vulnerable regions with low enrolment rates of girls and boys and high prevalence of chronic malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty throughout the year. To contribute to this, interventions under this strategic outcome intend to provide food assistance to school children and contribute to improved education indicators and gender equality.

46. In Cote d’Ivoire, according to the 2016 *Rapport d’État sur le Système Éducatif National* (RESEN) ‘for children attending school, the gender dimension produces only few disparities, contrary to regional and household standards of living factors, which are the most discriminating. Indeed, while disparities between boys and girls exist, they are relatively small. The true differentiation is due to the level of household wealth and geographical location’.<sup>28</sup> School meals, therefore, target both girls and boys equally with a meal to attract them to school. The literacy component also targets girls and boys for improved reading and writing skills.

47. For higher grades (grades 5 and 6), girls are specifically targeted with food assistance to address disparities and to improve attendance and retention rates.

48. This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 1 - Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1).

➤ *Focus Areas*

49. This strategic outcome will address the root causes of inadequate access to safe and nutritious food and low education indicators, particularly attendance and retention rates among girls, through the implementation of a school meals programme that is integrated with a literacy component.

➤ *Expected outputs*

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<sup>28</sup> Prime Minister’s Office. 2016. *Rapport d’état sur le système éducatif national (RESEN)*. Cote d’Ivoire.

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50. The following outputs of Strategic Outcome 1 directly support the achievement of SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition), SDG 4.1 (free, equitable and quality access to education) and SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

51. The outputs are:

- Targeted children (Tier 1) receive nutritious meals every day they attend school (output category A1) in order to meet basic food and nutrition needs (SDG 2) and increase school attendance (SDG4).
- Targeted children (Tier 1) receive literacy support (output category A1) in order to improve their reading skills (SDG 4).
- Targeted girls in grades 5 and 6 (Tier 1) receive food assistance (in-kind or cash-based) (output category A1) in order to improve attendance and retention in schools (SDG 5).
  
- *Key activities*

*Activity 1: Provide school meals with a literacy component to primary public school children, with a particular focus on incentives (in-kind or cash-based) for girls in fifth and sixth grade to encourage regular attendance and retention in school.*

52. School meals are a significant component of the Government’s social protection system, as documented in the 2012–2017 *Stratégie Nationale d’Alimentation Scolaire* (SNAS). They enhance food and nutrition security for the targeted population, and provide an incentive for children, especially girls, to enrol and stay in school. The literacy component of activity 1 ensures that while they are in school, children benefit from enhanced literacy teaching techniques.

53. WFP will prioritize schools with poor education outcomes and high gender disparities. Given the growing incidence of early pregnancy preventing girls in the fifth and sixth grades from completing their primary education, this group will be the beneficiaries of special incentives to improve school attendance.

54. WFP will provide one lunch per school day for 180,000 children to increase enrolment and attendance, particularly among girls, and address micronutrient deficiencies. WFP rations will provide a significant portion of daily energy requirements and complement community food contributions to school meals. In addition, literacy support will be provided to improve literacy capacities of primary school-aged children with the use of non-food items such as educational materials, mobile libraries, sports, games and arts events.

55. Take-home rations – in-kind or cash-based – will be provided for 15,000 girls in the fifth and sixth grades on a quarterly basis to encourage parents to keep them in school. Each girl will be provided with a quarterly incentive of 50 kg of rice or its cash value, provided that 80 percent school attendance is maintained.

56. WFP will support the development of social mechanisms for providing sustainable subsidies to guarantee access to school meals for school children from vulnerable households.

57. WFP will build on partnerships with the Directorate of School Canteen (DCS), the International Italian NGO Associazione Volontari per Il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF to carry out this activity.

### **3.2.2. 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**

- *Outcome description*

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58. In line with WFP's aim to support SDG2, target 2.2 (end all forms of malnutrition), this strategic outcome aims to help prevent and reduce chronic malnutrition among children aged 6–23 months, and improve access to health services for PLW/G, by 2020. In partnership with UNFPA, WFP will assist PLW/G to ensure that their specific needs are met.
59. WFP also seeks to enhance government capacities for implementing integrated nutrition programmes by providing technical support to the Ministry of Health, initially by supporting the development of the national nutrition strategy, and subsequently by supporting its implementation.
60. This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 2 – No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2).

➤ *Focus Areas*

61. This strategic outcome supports Government malnutrition prevention efforts (acute malnutrition and stunting) to address the root causes of malnutrition in vulnerable areas.

➤ *Expected outputs*

62. The following outputs of Strategic Outcome 2 directly support the achievement of SDGs 2.2 (end all forms of malnutrition), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and SDG 17.9 (enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals). Vulnerable women and children in rural communities will receive special nutritious foods through nutrition learning and rehabilitation groups, supported by the PNMN. The former encourage routine screening for acute malnutrition, behaviour change communications, instruction in the use of special nutritious foods and other services addressing malnutrition. WFP and its partners will promote the production and consumption of nutritious foods, and educate primary care givers, including women and men, in infant and young child-feeding and hygiene practices. Beneficiary numbers are established in consultation with the PNMN and based on implementation capacities.

63. The outputs are:

- Targeted children 6 – 23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (Tier 1) receive specialized nutritious food and cash transfers (output category A, B and E) as part of an integrated and complementary package of support in order to reduce and prevent stunting (SDG 3).
- Vulnerable targeted populations (Tier 3) benefit from improved coordination and management of nutrition policies, strategies and programmes (output category M) among national nutrition authorities (SR 2).

➤ *Key activities*

*Activity 2: Provide nutritious food and support access to health services and nutrition education to children 6-23 months and PLW/G for stunting prevention.*

64. Stunting is particularly high in the north, north-east, north-west, and western rural areas of Cote d'Ivoire. More specifically, the Ministry of Health has identified under-utilization of ante-natal and post-natal services at health centers as a cause of malnutrition among PLW/G. Also, a lack of awareness in proper nutrition practices is a main determinant of maternal and child undernutrition.

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65. Nutrition-specific interventions (provision of complementary feeding to children 6-23 months) and nutrition-sensitive interventions (support access to maternal health services and nutrition education) will be implemented, aiming for a synergistic impact on maternal and child undernutrition. Nutrition education will be based on essential nutrition actions, including IYCF, good hygiene practices, and the diet of PLW/G.
  66. During the lean season, 50,000 children aged 6–23 months in food-insecure northern communities with high global acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition rates will receive SuperCereal Plus or comparable products. WFP will also utilize conditional cash transfers as an initial learning programme to encourage food-insecure PLW/G in remote villages to participate in nutrition-sensitive activities. Nutrition education is planned before each nutritional supplementation session to raise awareness about essential actions in nutrition, feeding during pregnancy and breastfeeding, hygiene practices and the importance of respecting prenatal and postnatal consultations. Cash transfers to 2,000 PLW/G will cover the costs of quarterly consultations, transport and food, and a portion of the expenses incurred in obtaining prescription medicines.
  67. In addition, an innovative component will be introduced to provide nutrition support to children aged 3 to 5 years and mothers in cooperation with UNICEF. Based on a UNICEF study that identified challenges faced by repatriated refugee mothers, UNICEF has established safe early child development centres in areas with high return rates to empower women-headed households. WFP will support early child development by providing nutritious blended foods to children participating in the early child development programme. The intervention will contribute to multiple objectives including nutrition, education and economic empowerment for women, in cooperation with UNICEF and other partners. In addition, WFP will work with UNICEF to enhance the capacities of mothers on good nutritional practices including complementary feeding, good hygiene and food diversification along with the Ministry of Health’s recipe guide. This component will be linked with WFP’s livelihoods interventions to enable returning refugee mothers to participate in income-generating activities.
  68. Vulnerable rural communities will receive special nutritious foods through nutrition learning and rehabilitation groups, supported by the PNMN. The latter encourages routine screening for acute malnutrition, behaviour change communications, instruction in the use of special nutritious foods and other services addressing malnutrition. WFP and its partners will promote the production and consumption of nutritious foods, and educate beneficiaries in infant and young child-feeding and hygiene: this will be adapted to the needs of women, men, girls and boys.  
Nutrition prevention interventions (acute malnutrition and stunting) will be implemented through the United Nations joint project with UNICEF, FAO and WHO to better address underlying causes of malnutrition related to health, through UNICEF’s intervention (immunization, vitamin A, SRO), and strengthen women group capacity (awareness of good nutrition practices, screening for children under 5, agricultural equipment to increase productivity and diversification).

### **3.2.3. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: FOOD-INSECURE SMALLHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES IN TARGETED AREAS HAVE INCREASED RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS TO BETTER SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION NEEDS ALL YEAR-ROUND**

#### **➤ Outcome description**

69. In line with WFP’s aim to support SDG2, target 2.3 (agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers), this strategic outcome aims to support food-insecure smallholders and vulnerable communities in targeted areas to have increased resilience to

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shocks and improved livelihoods to better support food security and nutrition needs all year-round.

70. WFP will target communities in northern regions affected by adverse agro-ecological conditions, as well as vulnerable communities in the west. The lack of alternative income-generating opportunities exacerbates the vulnerability of these communities to the effects of climate change on food and cash crops. Activities will include asset creation and livelihood interventions to enhance their resilience, and support to smallholder's groups, especially women, to increase their capacity in agricultural practices in order to provide sufficient and nutritious products to home-grown school gardens.
71. This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 3 - Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3).

➤ *Focus Areas*

72. This strategic outcome will contribute to resilience building for food insecure communities in areas with a high vulnerability to shocks due to climate change, land degradation and food price volatility.

➤ *Expected outputs*

73. The outputs are:

- Targeted people (Tier 1) receive food/cash assistance (output category A2) in exchange for participation in food assistance for assets activities, in order to improve their productivity and food security (SR 3).
- Targeted households or community members (Tier 1) receive support in asset creation and rehabilitation (output category D) in order to enhance food security and nutrition (SR 3).
- Targeted food insecure smallholder farmers or community members (Tier 2) benefit from an increased access to critical tools and technical capacity (output category C) in order to enhance food production and transformation, access microfinance services, diversify income sources, and access markets (public and private) (SR 3).
- Food insecure populations in targeted areas (Tier 3) benefit from effective national coordination and management of food security and nutrition policies, strategies and programmes, (output category I) in order to improve their livelihoods (SR 3).
- Targeted women in agricultural groups (Tier 2) receive capacity strengthening and are empowered with increased financial and technical support (output category C) in order to enhance food production and increase incomes (SDG 5).

➤ *Key activities*

*Activity 3: Provide food assistance for asset creation or rehabilitation projects to food insecure smallholders that contribute to strengthening resilience to shocks and improving livelihoods, particularly for women.*

74. Resilience activities will support the national social-protection goal of improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable people. WFP will target communities in northern regions affected by agro-ecological conditions that limit cultivation by vulnerable households. The lack of alternative income-generating opportunities exacerbates the vulnerability of these communities to the effects of climate change on food and cash crops.
75. Women and girls often carry a disproportionate burden of those environmental hardships, including the responsibility for collecting water and firewood, working the land and using the natural resources, and caring for the children and family. Through asset creation and

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livelihood activities, and by using a gender-sensitive community-based participatory planning process, the hardships experienced by the most vulnerable can be identified and reduced. This will have a direct positive impact on their lives, and contribute to transforming unequal gender relations to promote shared power, control of resources and decision-making between women and men, and support for gender equality and women's empowerment.

76. WFP will support vulnerable people during the April–September lean season, when food is scarce and expensive. In areas with functioning markets, cash based transfers will assist 10,000 targeted participants, 60 percent of them women, and their households – 50,000 people in all. In remote villages disconnected from markets during the rainy season, WFP will provide in-kind food assistance from June to August for 3,000 participants and their households – 15,000 people in all.
77. The transfer modality of food will consist of 400 g rice, 50 g pulses and 30 g oil per person for 22 days and the cash transfer is 80 USD per participant and month, which is in line with the cost of the local food basket. WFP will identify and select a suitable partner to transfer the cash to the beneficiaries via their mobile phone or financial service providers through a dedicated beneficiary bank account or e-money. In-kind food will be distributed by identified cooperating partners, following WFP procedures.
78. In addition to food or cash assistance provided, FFA participants will also benefit from technical training and non-food inputs specific to the type of livelihoods projects. WFP will emphasize the importance of producing diversified crops for an improved diet and improved nutrition. Partnerships with other development partners will be strengthened to complement WFP's support e.g. with the Rome-based agencies (FAO and IFAD), UNICEF and UN Women and to coordinate programmes in the same areas targeting the same vulnerable people as well as enhancing government capacities at the national and decentralized levels.

*Activity 4: Provide capacity strengthening to smallholders on market access programmes, to strengthen links between local food production and public/private markets.*

79. WFP will focus its support to 50 women's production groups per year to increase their capacity in agricultural practices to provide sufficient and nutritious products to home-grown school gardens and local food production and markets.
80. The identification and selection of women's production groups will be based on established criteria (e.g. school canteen existing nearby, and minimum of 3 ha of land near a permanent water point) that has been developed by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant partners. The producer groups are designed to enhance the economic empowerment of women, who make up 80% of members, through enhanced agricultural knowledge, access to structured markets, and adult literacy.
81. Functional literacy and technical trainings will empower women through income generation and knowledge. In exchange of receiving support, producer groups are engaged through a formal agreement to allocate one third of their production to the local school canteens with the rest sold or used by the group members.
82. Women producer groups will also receive training from WFP in supply chain best practices such as post-harvest storage, and link them with food suppliers that will purchase surplus production.
83. The transfer modality will focus on increased access to critical tools (equipment and inputs) and technical capacity that will further enhance their food production and transformation, access microfinance services, diversify income sources, and access markets (public and private).
84. Sustainability is based on appropriation by local communities, notably women producer groups, and their contribution in supplying part of school canteen needs through local production of food commodities. WFP will strengthen its partnerships with the Rome-based



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agencies (FAO and IFAD) and AfDB to find synergies and work the Ministry of Agriculture for technical assistance.

*Activity 5: Provide capacity development and augmentation on productive safety nets, climate change adaptation, early warning, and food systems to targeted populations.*

85. WFP will provide training for vulnerable households and smallholder farmers to prevent, mitigate and prepare for shocks by early warning systems and by implementing climate change adaptation practices. Geographical areas that are vulnerable to climatic variations, and prone to droughts as well as high food insecurity, will be identified by the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), and the most vulnerable households will be targeted based on established criteria. Through a gender-sensitive focus group discussion that is adapted to the local context, the constraints, gaps and potential capacity development activities will be identified, and WFP will work with the Government and other stakeholders to strengthen the resilience of the targeted population.
86. To support the Government in enhancing its emergency preparedness and response capacities, WFP and its partners will provide technical support for the Ministry of Environment, in coordination with UNEP, UNDP and FAO.

#### **3.2.4. 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**

➤ *Outcome description*

87. Drawing on organizational expertise at headquarters, regional bureau and country office levels, WFP will continue to provide direct technical support to the Government, through line ministries, on various areas of priority to the Government. At present, these are provided through WFP staff partially seconded to ministries to support the development of policies or strategies, coordinate the implementation of action plans, and provide trainings at central and decentralized levels. In situations where WFP does not have a comparative advantage on a specific required expertise, WFP will facilitate the acquisition of such expertise in coordination with relevant authorities and partners (NGOs and UN).
88. WFP will build on UN Women's gender audits of relevant ministries to inform the integration of gender through all capacity strengthening to the Government will lead to institutional commitment and capacities for gender equality-grounded food and nutrition security policies, plans and programmes.

➤ *Focus Areas*

89. This outcome will address the root causes of Central Government and Local Government capacity constraints leading to improved design, planning and implementation of national food security and nutrition initiatives.

➤ *Expected outputs*

90. The outputs are:
  - Food insecure populations in targeted areas (Tier 3) benefit from improved national and sub-national coordination and management of food security and nutrition policies,

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strategies and programmes (output category I), including capacity strengthening on social and productive safety nets (SR 5).

- Members of NGOs, civil society and targeted communities (Tier 2) benefit from enhanced capacities (output category C) in order to manage and implement food security and nutrition activities (SR 5).
- Food insecure populations in targeted areas (Tier 3) benefit from strengthened partnerships and integrated programming (output category K) between UN agencies (SR 5).
  
- *Key activities*

*Activity 6: Provide capacity development and augmentation 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.*

91. WFP will continue to support the Government's integrated national social programmes by providing technical assistance to improve effectiveness and efficiency. In 2016, WFP contributed to the development of the Ministry of Health's National Multisector Nutrition Plan, and going forward, will support the plan's implementation.
92. The Government's PNMN coordinates food security and nutrition interventions by various stakeholders. Resilience building will be linked with the activities of the Government and other partners, building on WFP's technical support in developing the PNMN.
93. In consultation with the Ministry of Education, WFP will support the development of social mechanisms for providing sustainable subsidies to guarantee access to school meals for school children from vulnerable households.
94. WFP will provide capacity building to the Ministry of Education's *Direction des Cantines Scolaires*, in the areas of contracting and transport, warehousing, and general procurement best practice.
95. WFP will continue its partnerships with the Rome-based agencies, UNICEF and UN-Women with a view to coordinating programmes in the same areas and enhancing government capacities at the national and decentralized levels. This will be governed by the inter-agency "Strengthening resilience for food security and nutrition" framework and WFP's resilience policy. This includes the three-pronged approach whereby communities, government counterparts and partners jointly plan and design people-centred and context-specific resilience programmes addressing food insecurity and malnutrition.

### **3.3. TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES**

96. Over the past four years WFP and its United Nations partners have shifted from emergency response to programmes for recovery and development. This has involved extensive technical assistance and capacity development for the Government, particularly with regard to the formulation of policies and plans such as the PNMN and the 2015–2020 Social Protection Strategy, concurrent with assistance for populations affected by the post-electoral crisis.
97. During 2018, WFP will continue to design and deliver technical assistance and capacity development for the Government with regard to formulating gender-transformative policies and approaches to disaster risk reduction and mitigation. This will lead to a gradual hand-over to national counterparts, particularly for the flagship school meals programme. Where capacity gaps affecting nutrition and social-protection activities exist, WFP will provide operational support during the shift to government-led coordination and management.

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1. BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS

<b>Strategic Outcome</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Strategic Outcome 1	Activity 1. School meals	<b>88 200</b>	<b>91 800</b>	<b>180 000</b>
	Activity 1. In-kind take-home rations	10 000	0	10 000
	Activity 1. Cash-based transfers for take-home rations	5 000	0	5 000
Strategic Outcome 2	Activity 2. Cash-based transfers for prevention of chronic malnutrition among PLW/G	<b>2 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 000</b>
	Activity 2. Prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months	<b>24 500</b>	<b>25 500</b>	<b>50 000</b>
Strategic Outcome 3	Activity 3. In-kind assistance for asset creation	<b>9 000</b>	<b>6 000</b>	<b>15 000</b>
	Activity 3. Cash-based transfers for asset creation	<b>30 000</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>50 000</b>
<b>TOTAL (excluding overlap)</b>		<b>153 700</b>	<b>143 300</b>	<b>297 000</b>

98. WFP will continue to prioritize areas where school meals significantly improve education performance and reduce gender disparities. To improve enrolment and retention rates, primary school children will be given hot lunches. Girls in the fifth and sixth grades will be targeted and provided with take home rations to encourage retention and completion of primary education.
99. Given high levels of malnutrition, and the critical 1000 day window of opportunity for optimal child development, WFP will prioritize children and PLW/G for nutrition interventions. Northern communities will be targeted as they remain particularly vulnerable to malnutrition (acute and stunting).
100. Asset creation and livelihood interventions will target the same communities as school meals and nutrition to maximize synergies between the activities and to build resilience for food security and nutrition. These activities will be concentrated in northern and western rural areas of north and west, consistent with food security analyses for 2016. Priority will be given to women agricultural groups.
101. WFP will target Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and local NGOs will be targeted for training and augmentation in policy development and project planning and implementation for food security and nutrition programmes.

## 4.2. TRANSFERS

### 4.2.1. FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

Strategic Outcome	Strategic Outcome 1		Strategic Outcome 2		Strategic Outcome 3	
Activity	Activity 1- School meals		Activity 2 - Nutrition		Activity 3- Resilience	
Beneficiary type	School-aged children	School-aged children	Pregnant and lactating women	children aged 6-23 months	Vulnerable households	Vulnerable households
modality	food	cash	cash	food	food	cash
cereals	150				400	
pulses	30				50	
oil	10				25	
salt	5					
sugar	0					
Supercereal	0					
Supercereal Plus	0			200		
micronutrient powder	0.4					
Take-home ration	111 <sup>29</sup>					
total kcal/day	751			806	1 887	
% kcal from protein	10			16	9	
cash (US\$/person/day)	-	0.08	0.33	23	14	0.52
Number of feeding days	120			90	132	

Food type / cash-based transfer	Total (mt)	Total (US\$)
Cereals	5 038.80	2 952 030
Pulses	678.06	408 115
Oil and Fats	234.27	281 156
Mixed and Blended Foods	900.00	801 594
Other	107.47	58 630
<b>TOTAL (food)</b>	<b>6 958.595</b>	<b>4 501 525</b>
Cash-Based Transfers (US\$)	-	4 100 964
<b>TOTAL (food and CBT value – US\$)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8 602 489</b>

102. The school meals programme will continue to provide hot lunches, comprising of cereals, pulses, oil and iodized salt, complimented with produce from local communities when available. Girls in the fifth and sixth grades will be provided with a take-home ration

<sup>29</sup> The take-home ration is calculated at 50 kg per person for a household of five for 90 days.

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of 50 kilograms of rice or cash equivalent each trimester. During 2018, WFP's nutrition intervention will continue to provide 200 grams per day of SuperCereal Plus for children aged 6 to 23 months, and cash incentives for PLW/G to improve access to health services and cover their food and medicine needs.

103. During the lean season, WFP's Food Assistance for Assets programme provides food insecure smallholders with in-kind food. After the lean season, when food is more available, cash equivalent transfers allow beneficiaries to procure sufficient food on the local market to meet their food needs.

#### **4.2.2. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

104. 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) of this ICSP demonstrates WFP's commitment to capacity strengthening during 2018. WFP will strengthen gender competencies, so as to support gender transformative policy formulation, planning and programming, as needed to achieve food and nutrition security. WFP will also continue to promote south-south cooperation, with support to initiatives to further explore regional cooperation, and to study opportunities further afield in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere.

#### **4.3. SUPPLY CHAIN**

105. WFP will distribute in-kind food as well as cash-based transfers for strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3. In-kind food will be procured 10 percent locally and 90 percent internationally or regionally. Cash-based transfers will be applied when market conditions are likely to be favorable.
106. Abidjan Port is the primary entry point for international shipments. WFP's Abidjan warehouse is the first delivery point for all commodities (local / regional / international purchases) before their dispatching to the External Delivery Points (EDP). Secondary delivery points are Man sub-office for the western region which represents 6% of activities, Korhogo sub-office for northern region with 70% of activities, and Zanzan region with 24% of activities, which will be supplied from Abidjan warehouse.
107. The main challenge for the school feeding programme is the large amount of McGovern-Dole Grant goods arriving in a brief period, highlighting the limited capacity of WFP's Abidjan warehouse. This challenge is mitigated with agreements forwarding agents to hold the stock for 3 to 6 months. Arrangements are also made to preposition stock with the DCS in Abidjan, in Korhogo, and in Bouaké.
108. For FFA and nutrition activities, the main challenge lies in the small transport quantities of approximately 500 kilograms to one ton. This difficulty is mitigated by cumulating small quantities and transporting them in the usual 10 ton trucks.
109. WFP will conduct Supply Chain Assessments to better understand and address market access constraints for smallholder farmers.

#### **4.4. PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **School meals**

110. Activities for the school meals programme will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and DCS in view of gradual and sustainable

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hand-over to the Government. WFP and DCS cooperate in several areas including: reception, management and distribution of food, storage and secondary transport of food commodities; monitoring of distributions, provision of training, and analysis and evaluation of the impact of school meals programmes.

111. Beginning in 2016, WFP began to form partnerships with UNICEF, FAO, UN Women, IFAD, UNESCO and the Ministry of Agriculture in view of an integrated approach to nutrition.

112. WFP partnered with the Italian non-governmental organization, AVSI, for the implementation of literacy activities which aim at improving school children's reading skills through capacity strengthening of teachers.

### **Nutrition for children and PLW/G**

113. Activities for the children and PLW/G nutrition programme will be developed and implemented in collaboration with FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, the World Bank and the PNMN, and Conseil National de Nutrition (CNN).

### **Resilience**

114. Resilience building activities including asset creation and livelihood interventions, support to women farmer groups, will be planned and implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, decentralized Government, NGOs, UN agencies including FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UNEP, and UN Women.

### **Capacity Building**

115. Capacity building will be delivered to the Government, decentralized authorities and farmer's associations groups by UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector working in collaboration.

### **National women's machinery and gender equality committed and competent civil society organizations**

116. Given its commitment to gender-transformative country capacity strengthening, WFP will work with the *Cadre de Concertation sur le Genre*, presided by the Ministry for Women, Child Protection and Solidarity, UNFPA, UN Women, the United Nations Groupe Thématique Genre (GTG), Ivorian research institutes involved in gender research, and women networks such as the *Association pour la Promotion de la Santé de la Femme, de la Mère, de l'Enfant, et de la Famille*, and the *Réseau Ivoirien des Femmes Entrepreneurs*.

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## **5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION**

### **5.1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS**

117. The monitoring plan will be updated to reflect the four components of the ICSP. Plans will be prepared with operational partners for monitoring processes, outputs and outcomes. A mid-term review of the McGovern-Dole funded school meals programme is planned in 2018, in line with the agreed operational framework.

118. WFP will establish baseline data in the first quarter of 2018 and will report on results in accordance with the logical framework. The ICSP will continue post-distribution monitoring and will adjust implementation in the light of beneficiary feedback and changing context. WFP will apply gender-transformative monitoring throughout its activities.

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119. The ICSP will build on lessons learned from WFP's introduction of mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping technology to improve the geographic coverage and frequency of monitoring by using cost-effective mobile telephone systems to collect outcome data and beneficiary feedback. Findings will be compared with post-distribution monitoring interviews twice a year.
  120. To ensure efficient links between monitoring findings and decision-making, a matrix of recommendations will track implementation issues and guide monthly adjustments to the design of WFP's activities. WFP will use the corporate toolbox to monitor food prices and capture seasonal changes in areas of intervention where Cash-Based Transfers (CBTs) are provided. WFP's partnership with the Office d'aide à la commercialisation des produits vivriers will ensure regular and accurate monitoring of food prices.
  121. WFP supports the government, through the DCS, in the monitoring and evaluation process of school meals activities. In particular, WFP has put in place a database that the DCS uses to monitor related activities. The data collected and reported by the DCS and WFP are disaggregated by sex.

## **5.2. RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **➤ Contextual Risks**

122. The security situation in Cote d'Ivoire has improved significantly, although significant socio-economic inequalities and disparities persist, threatening the fragile peace. The presence of armed groups in neighbouring countries also poses a security threat. The Government has enhanced security measures since the Grand Bassam shootings in March 2016, but the risk of attacks remains.
123. National reconciliation among ethnic communities is a significant challenge for the Government, and there are continuing tensions over nationality and land tenure. WFP and its partners will continue to promote social cohesion by engaging with vulnerable people of different ethnic groups through joint sensitization campaigns in target areas. The inter-agency concept-of-operations plan will be updated regularly.
124. Unpredictable rainfall and shocks related to fluctuating cocoa and coffee prices on international markets could affect the food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups. Monitoring of local and international market prices should provide advance warning of price volatility and opportunities to mitigate its effects.
125. Resource mobilization is a challenge for countries such as Cote d'Ivoire that are on their way to achieving lower middle income status, where lack of inclusive growth and limited access to economic opportunities affect social and political stability. WFP's expertise in national priority areas such as nutrition and support for education, livelihoods and resilience-building should mitigate this risk by attracting direct funding from the Government and resources through the World Bank, AfDB and other donors.
126. In the event there should be inadequate integration, or opposition to advancing gender equality, the full implementation and successful achievement of the strategic objectives of the programme would be at significant risk.

### **➤ Programmatic Risks**

127. The risk that funds will be lost or transferred to the wrong persons during the cash-based transfer process will be mitigated by using mobile telephone companies to deliver cash transfers to beneficiaries, a mechanism that has worked well over the past four years.
128. The risk of inappropriate cash transfer value for food (too much or too little transferred due to food price volatility), for asset creation school, take-home rations and nutrition activities, will be mitigated by WFP continuing to partner with the Office d'aide à la

commercialisation des produits vivriers. This Government institution will assist WFP in gathering market data in programme areas with a view to maintaining accurate alignment of the value of cash transfers. Concerning the related issue of cash transfer effectiveness for food security and nutrition, WFP will analyse markets to select locations where CBTs offer comparative advantages over in-kind food.

129. Computer and connectivity risks will be mitigated by regular maintenance of power generators, network hardware and software, and personal computers.

➤ *Institutional Risks*

130. The risk of corruption affecting WFP activities, due to insufficient internal control in partner operations, will be mitigated by strengthened and better communicated internal control procedures. WFP will also conduct regular updates of internal procedures.

## 6. RESOURCES FOR RESULTS

### 6.1. COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET

<b>TABLE 5: COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET (US\$)</b>	
	<b>2018</b>
Strategic Outcome 1	9 555 127
Strategic Outcome 2	1 887 587
Strategic Outcome 3	6 254 455
Strategic Outcome 4	329 760
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18 026 929</b>

### 6.2. RESOURCING OUTLOOK

131. The one year Transitional CSP has an estimated budget of US\$ 18, 03 million covering four strategic outcomes. It is estimated that the TCSP will be 55% funded based on recent funding trends and confirmed multi-year contribution from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Under the McGovern-Dole Food for Education USDA programme, WFP Cote d'Ivoire has secured financial support for its School Meals Programme from 2016 to 2021 in support of 125,000 children annually. For 2018, Strategic Outcome 1 is 81% percent funded, while resource mobilization efforts are ongoing for the other components of the TCSP.

132. The Government has announced an annual contribution of USD 12 million to the 2017-2020 UNDAF. Resources will be programmed against a joint United Nations basket fund, and allocated to agencies based on priorities defined jointly by United Nations agencies and the Government. WFP expects to receive at least USD 3 million from these funds per year.



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133. In 2018, WFP Cote d'Ivoire will meet the corporate commitment of 13 percent of funds being allocated to gender activities.

### **6.3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY**

134. Resource mobilization remains a challenge for countries that are on their way to achieving middle income status but where lack of inclusive growth and limited access to economic opportunities affect social and political stability. WFP has built its reputation in Cote d'Ivoire as a strategic technical partner to the government in key national priority areas of education, nutrition, social protection and food systems. Hence, WFP will seek joint resource mobilization efforts within the UNDAF platform to advocate for resources from the Government and its financial development partners. In parallel, WFP will continue bilateral fund raising efforts with local traditional donors and seek partnerships with non-traditional donors and the private sector. With the support of the regional bureau, a resource mobilization strategy will be developed to identify new donors. WFP will seek private sector partnerships.

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**ANNEX I: SUMMARY OF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF [COTE  
D'IVOIRE]  
(TRANSITIONAL) INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (YEAR  
2018)**

*Note: RMP to provide specific guidance*

(See HQ validated logframe posted on SPA)

## ANNEX II: INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN

<b>WFP Strategic Results / SDG Targets</b>					<b>Total</b>
<b>WFP Strategic Outcomes</b>	<b>Strategic Outcome 1</b>	<b>Strategic Outcome 2</b>	<b>Strategic Outcome 3</b>	<b>Strategic Outcome 4</b>	
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Resilience</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	
<b>Transfer</b>	7 480 211	1 378 225	5 041 618	245800	14 109 855
<b>Implementation</b>	959 555	281 913	459 196	44 225	1 744 889
<b>Adjusted DSC (%)</b>	526 259	103 961	344 471	19162	992 853
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>8 930 025</b>	<b>1 764 100</b>	<b>5 845 285</b>	<b>308 187</b>	<b>16 847 597</b>
<b>ISC (7%)</b>	625 102	123 487	409 170	21 573	1 179 332
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 555 127</b>	<b>1 887 587</b>	<b>6 254 455</b>	<b>329 760</b>	<b>18 026 929</b>





# Cote d'Ivoire: Stunting Rates



## Legend

Districts

### Regions

**Stunting Rates**

- Below 5%
- 21 - 30
- 31 - 35
- 36 - 39

Source: EDSC 2011-2012

**Disclaimers:**

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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## ANNEX IV: ACRONYMS

[Note: Include acronyms for United Nations agencies, SDGs and UNDAF even if they appear only once in the document.]

AfDB	African Development Bank
AVSI	Associazione Volontari per Il Servizio Internazionale
CNN	Conseil National de Nutrition
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DCS	Direction des Cantines Scolaires
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDR	Human Development Report
HKI	Helen Keller International
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
PLW/G	Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls
PND	Plan National de Développement
PNIA	Programme National de Développement Agricole
PNMN	Plan National Multisectoriel de Nutrition
REDD+	Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
SNAS	Stratégie Nationale d'Alimentation Scolaire
UN	Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Plan
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
ZHSR	Zero Hunger Strategic Review

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