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SPR Reading Guidance



Support The Sustainable School Feeding Programme
Standard Project Report 2016

World Food Programme in Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of (CI)

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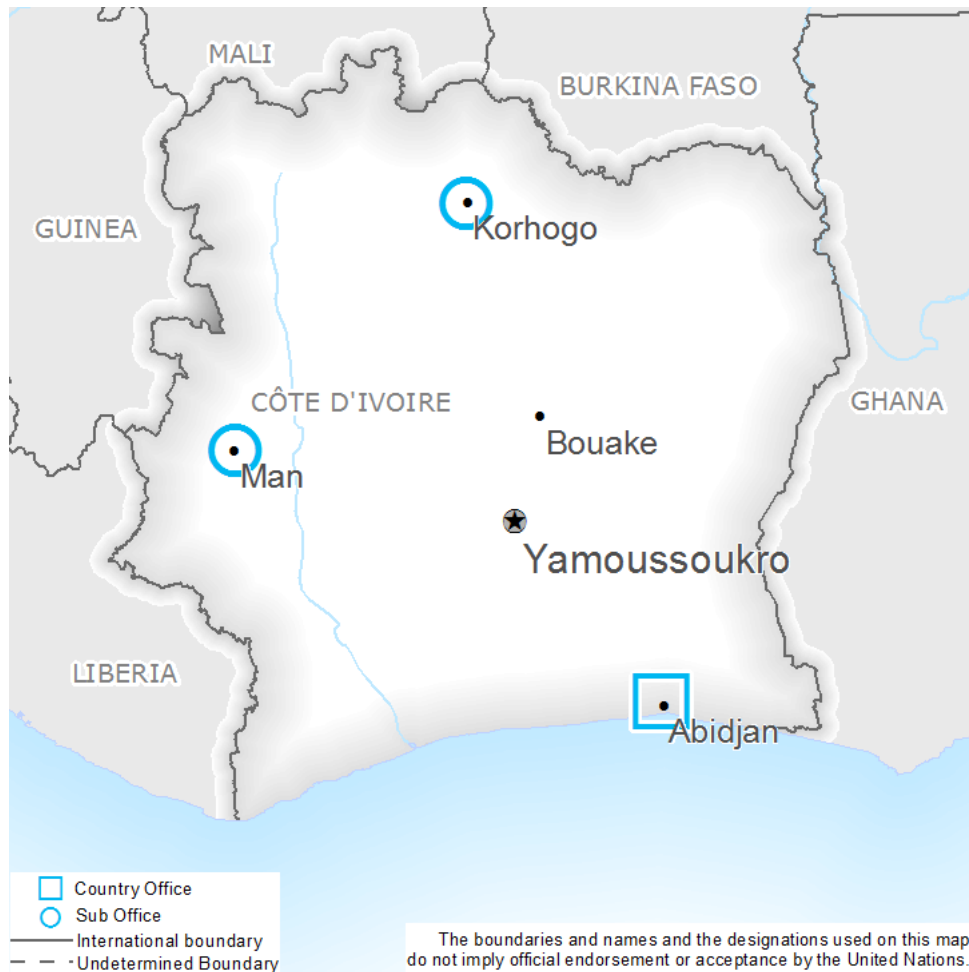
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

Côte d'Ivoire is a middle-income country and a leading producer of cocoa and coffee. Of its 23 million inhabitants, 50.3 percent live in rural areas. The country is recovering from a decade of conflict and a post-electoral crisis in 2010–2011 that caused major displacements, both internally and into neighbouring countries. The re-election of President Alassane Ouattara, peaceful referendum in support of a new constitution and legislative elections signaled a significant shift towards peace and stability. However, recent security incidents in parts of the country indicate persisting grievances yet to be resolved as evidenced by demonstrations and strikes held in various public sectors. Economically, the country is experiencing a robust gross domestic product (GDP) growth, an average 8.5 percent over the past five years. The sustained political, economic and security improvements of the last four years have enabled the spontaneous and voluntary repatriation of 250,000 Ivorian refugees and internally displaced people to their areas of origin and a shift from humanitarian interventions to recovery and development. However, social cohesion remains fragile in areas of return and displacement, and inter-communal conflicts still represent a risk, especially in northern, southwestern and western regions.

Despite the gains in political and economic stability, poverty and malnutrition rates remain high, with food insecurity lingering in the northern and western parts of the country. Poverty still affects nearly half of the population, while food insecurity affects 12.8 percent of the population. In the west, food insecurity reaches 23 percent as a consequence of the crisis and pressures exerted by a high concentration of repatriated refugees and displaced people. The October 2016 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted in the localities affected by displacement confirmed high levels of food insecurity – 50 percent among displaced and host populations – in the wake of the sudden eviction of thousands of families who had illegally occupied national protected forests. Food

security is a concern also in the return areas of the west and southwest, along the Guinean and Liberian borders. Twenty percent of the population, both returning Ivorian refugees and host populations, is food insecure as reported in the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted by WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in October 2016. In the north where food insecurity prevails at 16 percent, structural poverty affects people's access to food and recurrent climate shocks such as droughts affect food availability. Global acute malnutrition affects 4.2 percent of children aged between 6 to 59 months and reaches 8.9 percent in the northern regions of Poro, Tchologo and Bagoué. In addition, declining rainfall, in particular in the northern regions, has accelerated land degradation, and reduced the yields and incomes of smallholder farmers. This leads to rising food prices and increased vulnerability of poor households and communities, with reduced resilience of livelihoods. The north and west are classified as zones 'under pressure' for food insecurity.

The Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) conducted in 2014 revealed that the prevalence of stunting has decreased from 34 percent in 2006 to 29.8 percent in 2012, but despite a decreasing trend, this goes well beyond the 20 percent threshold of the World Health Organization (WHO). The national prevalence of acute malnutrition has stagnated at around 7 percent for over ten years. In 2012, it affected 7.5 percent of children under 5 and about 10 percent of women in reproductive age. Among people living with HIV, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition remains high, though it decreased from 28.7 percent in 2009 to 25.4 percent in 2015, in a context where the prevalence of HIV is estimated at 3.7 percent and the rate of clients that do not complete the anti-retroviral treatment is estimated at 21.36 percent [1].

Côte d'Ivoire is ranked 172 out of 188 in the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index and 151 out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index. Although gross enrolment at national level has increased from 85.7 percent to 95.4 percent in the last four years, there are significant disparities among regions and a significant proportion of Ivorian children do not have access to education. The quality of education remains a concern, especially in rural northern areas where enrolment is lowest. In addition, the recent Global Education Monitoring Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) highlights large disparities in education by wealth and gender. Low education attainment, particularly for girls, has far reaching consequences in perpetuating the cycle of poverty and malnutrition.

[1] DIPE, 2010.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

WFP interventions support government priorities including reducing poverty and food insecurity and improving access to and quality of education. They are aligned with the national strategy and the 2009–2015 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) – extended to 2016 –, and contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 (achieve zero hunger) and 17 (strengthen partnerships for the goals) through activities designed in consultation with the Government, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies and local communities. WFP presence in Abidjan allows a regular strategic interaction with various line ministries and coordinated actions to address vulnerable people's needs.

WFP works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to enhance capacities to conduct vulnerability analysis on food security. This includes providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the *Cadre Harmonisé*, a regional approach and framework on food security analysis to identify vulnerable areas and affected populations. The major challenges in the coordination of food security activities were and remain the establishment of an early warning system, which WFP and FAO will support the Government to establish in 2017.

In the nutrition sector, recognising that fighting malnutrition is a national priority that requires coordinated efforts across multiple sectors, WFP provided critical support for the development of the 2016–2020 Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition (MSNP), in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. WFP also provided financial and technical support to the Government in order to scale up nutrition interventions and strengthen government capacity. In particular, WFP continues to provide technical advice to operationalise the MSNP and develop a UN joint project to prevent chronic malnutrition at the local level through the *Communauté de Convergence* model, an integrated package of interventions based on the innovative principles of convergence and decentralisation. This is expected to be implemented through a pilot project in 2017. Regarding HIV/AIDS, WFP Côte d'Ivoire continues to provide technical assistance and coordination for policy dialogue to expand the coverage of social protection services and support the purchase of nutritional products for the Government and other partners.

In the education sector, WFP plays a key role in supporting the national school meals strategy and the Government's new education policy, through advocating to include the national school meals programme in the

ten-year National Plan for Education (2010–2025). In May 2016, the Government, with support from WFP, the World Bank and the Partnership for Child Development, hosted a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) workshop that resulted in the development of an action plan to reinforce government capacities in areas where weaknesses were identified. This included strengthening data collection and monitoring, and increasing local community mobilization for a sustainable national school meals programme. WFP activities are developed and implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the School Canteens Directorate, and designed in order to allow a gradual and sustainable hand-over of school meals activities to the Government. In particular, WFP school meals programme focuses on providing nutritious hot meals to students in rural and peri-urban areas, while developing government staff capacity and supporting local production by connecting schools to local markets.

Resilience strengthening and livelihood activities are also designed and implemented in close collaboration with the Government, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Agency in Support of Rural Development, in line with the National Development Plan and in support of the national Multi-sectorial Nutrition Strategy Plan (MNSP).

Assistance to displaced populations is implemented in partnership with relevant government bodies under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Cohesion.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

WFP responses in Côte d'Ivoire consist of life-saving interventions, as well as recovery and resilience strengthening initiatives to respond to the needs in priority zones across the country.

Through a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP provides food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations in the West and the North, in order to address the residual humanitarian needs of the 2010–2011 post-electoral crisis. Under the PRRO, WFP has gradually shifted from emergency to recovery and longer term assistance by restoring or creating productive assets to increase and diversify livelihoods, create alternative income-generating activities and strengthen vulnerable communities' resilience. WFP provides relief and recovery assistance to returning refugees and vulnerable households in the western region along Liberian and Guinean borders. In partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ivorian returnees receive a three-month return food package at entry points upon their arrival in the country. Resettlement and reintegration are facilitated through activities to create assets and restore livelihoods, and participants and their families receive cash or in-kind transfers in return for their participation in WFP food assistance for assets (FFA) programme. Most of WFP asset creation and livelihood activities focus in the west and southwestern districts of Montagnes and Bas-Sassandra. WFP activities support social cohesion. The PRRO further incorporates life-saving and livelihood responses to internally displaced populations and vulnerable host communities in the west and in the north-east of the country. In the west, assistance is provided to populations displaced following the Government's reclamation of Mont Peko natural reserve, which has led to loss of assets and harvest. In the north (Bounkani region), WFP provides life-saving assistance to people displaced by inter-communal conflicts, initially between local farmers and pastoralists, exacerbated by demographic pressure and climate change, in particular declining rainfalls. Nutrition activities targeting children aged from 6 to 59 months, pregnant and lactating women and people living with HIV are implemented in the Savanes (north) and Zanzan (north-east) districts. Nutrition support includes the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and prevention of chronic and acute malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months; nutrition support for malnourished pregnant and lactating women; and Food by Prescription rations for malnourished clients under anti-retroviral treatment (ART). In the context of the new country office policy shifting from direct assistance to technical and strategic support, WFP continued its efforts to transfer responsibilities through support to recipient non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the Global Fund, in particular through enhancing technical capacity on programme management, logistics and monitoring and evaluation techniques.

A Development project is implemented in the regions presenting the worst combined indicators of gross school enrolment and access rates, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition prevalence. The programme targets children living in rural areas and vulnerable households in Cavally and Bafing (west), Bagoue, Poro and Tchologo (north), and Gontougo and Bounkani (north-east). Under the school meals programme, children receive a daily hot lunch. Schools are also supported with equipment and cooking utensils to help meals preparation. WFP particularly focuses on capacity strengthening for Government and communities with the aim of increasing enrolment and retention rates, particularly among girls, in order to achieve universal basic education and to fully implement a sustainable national school meals programme. The school meals programme is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular with SDG 2 (achieve zero hunger), 4 (ensure quality education) and 17 (strengthen partnerships). Since 2016, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded McGovern-Dole

programme started supporting WFP school meals, as part of a five-year integrated programme that includes activities on school meals (as well as a nutrition component), capacity development for government and communities, and literacy improvement.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Compared to the previous year, the overall funding level of the country office significantly increased in 2016 due to the allocation of the McGovern-Dole grant. However, the confirmation of the McGovern-Dole contribution in the last quarter of the year did not allow the country office to implement the school meals activities covered by the grant. In 2016, apart from the McGovern-Dole contribution, the funding level of the country office decreased compared to the previous year. All activities were affected by the lack of funding, notably capacity development and augmentation activities, which were particularly important for the transition from relief to recovery and development interventions.

More than half of the contributions received by the country office were directed multilateral contributions, which were earmarked for specific activities, intervention areas or people. Due to these restrictions, the country office, together with the Government, had to prioritise some activities, such as nutrition and school meals outside of the McGovern-Dole grant. The restrictions also resulted in a lack of flexibility, such as in the choice between in-kind and cash transfer modalities. The main contributions were from the USA, both for the Development project and PRRO, and from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the PRRO. Under the PRRO, the US contribution allowed WFP and its partners to provide food packages to Ivorian returnees from Liberia and Guinea, and to implement food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. The CERF contribution allowed a rapid response to the humanitarian emergency in the western region, where populations were displaced following Government's recovery of the national protected forests that had been illegally occupied since the 2002 political crisis. The CERF enabled WFP to immediately assist vulnerable internally displaced people and host communities through general food distributions. The contribution received from the Global Fund, which was half of the contribution initially expected, enabled WFP to carry out part of the assistance to people living with HIV, as well as children and orphans of HIV/AIDS.

To respond to funding challenges, the country office recruited in the last quarter of the year a donor relations and partnership communications officer and a nutritionist with expertise in liaising with government partners in order to increase its visibility vis-à-vis the donor community and the Government. The nutritionist is particularly supporting the Government in the implementation of nutrition-related activities within the framework of its National Development Plan. This aims to reinforce the capacity of the country office to raise donor and partner awareness of WFP operations in Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, joining of a Junior Professional Officer, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), allowed the country office to strengthen its capacity on resilience and livelihoods.

During 2016, WFP successfully chaired the UN inter-agency task force responsible for the development of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS), which is the framework for the common inter-agency support services, in the areas of Procurement, Human Resources, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Administration and Finance. The implementation of the BOS should generate savings for WFP country office and other UN agencies in 2017.

Two budget revisions were undertaken in 2016. The PRRO was extended for one year in order to cover the needs of the Ivorian refugees expected to return to Côte d'Ivoire in 2017. A Country Programme covering 2017–2021 was also approved by the Executive Board as the new development framework for WFP programme in Cote d'Ivoire. The three components – nutrition, resilience and school meals – will contribute towards achieving the national priorities of the Government as reflected in the National Development Plan 2016–2020. In line with the gradual transition of WFP programmes to the new Country Strategic Plans, which will allow WFP to better contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and better reflect and integrate government and donor priorities, the country office has recently started the budget revision process.

Achievements at Country Level

WFP activities contributed in addressing government priorities to reduce poverty, improve food security, decrease malnutrition and promote universal and quality education. The recent security, political and economic improvements in the country, which is recovering from a decade of crisis, have enabled the return of Ivorian refugees who fled the country during the conflict. The regained stability has consequently allowed WFP to gradually shift the focus of its interventions from humanitarian and relief assistance to recovery and development.

Through the activities implemented under the PRRO WFP provided life-saving assistance to returnees, who were provided with a food package at entry points. WFP food assistance responded to returnees' immediate food needs,

and allowed them to stabilise their food consumption. At the same time, food assistance to extremely vulnerable host populations improved their food consumption and diversity. Relief interventions facilitated the integration of returning refugees within the receiving communities and reduced the risk of social conflicts between returnees and the local populations. Once minimum food security levels were restored, WFP was able to focus its operations on asset creation and income generating activities in order to promote a peaceful resettlement and reintegration of the returnee populations. Livelihood building or strengthening interventions were also carried out for vulnerable host populations to support community initiatives. Combined, general food distributions and food assistance for assets (FFA) activities contributed to strengthening the resilience of and promoting social cohesion between returnee populations and host communities.

WFP also responded to the immediate food needs of the displaced populations of Mount Peko where Government's recovery of illegally occupied natural reserves led to the displacement and subsequent loss of assets for 20,000 people. WFP support was also extended to host communities in an effort to promote a peaceful cohabitation. In 2017, funds permitting, FFA activities for both displaced people and host communities will be carried out in order to build assets and livelihoods and enable the displaced populations willing to stay to settle.

WFP school meals activities – implemented in coordination with the School Canteens Directorate – contributed to increasing children's enrolment and attendance rates. WFP continued to promote the gradual hand-over to a sustainable national school meals programme, through capacity strengthening of government staff and linking school meals activities to local farmer groups. The local producers (mainly women) received technical assistance and agricultural inputs to increase and diversify their production, part of which (i.e. one third) was allocated to school meals. It also allowed local producers to increase their income contributing to improved livelihoods. The activities will continue in 2017 through the McGovern-Dole programme. This multi-sectorial strategy – which feeds into the National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) – aims to have an integrated approach to nutrition and will respond to children's nutrition needs, diversifying their diets while increasing school enrolment and attendance. The MSNP will also ensure a better participatory process to address the needs of the different communities in a holistic manner.

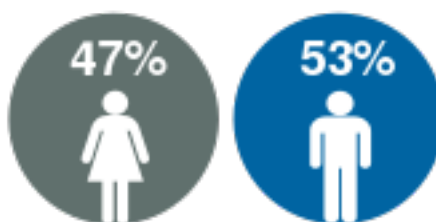
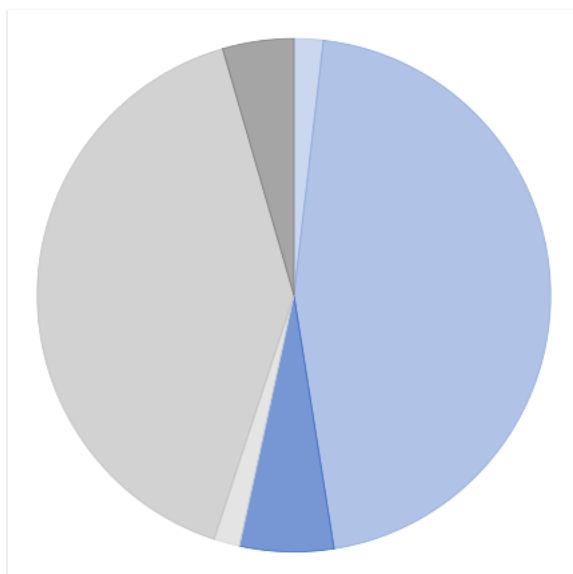


Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	8,532	7,584	16,116
Children (5-18 years)	212,418	188,300	400,718
Adults (18 years plus)	27,491	20,855	48,346
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	248,441	216,739	465,180

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	2,351	72	122	-	71	2,616
Single Country PRRO	3,627	335	348	458	0	4,767
Total Food Distributed in 2016	5,978	407	470	458	71	7,384



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	697,640	-	-
Total Distributed in 2016	697,640	-	-

Supply Chain

In 2016, the country office improved delivery times for PRRO activities, distributing twice faster than in the previous years. On average, in-kind food assistance was distributed to returnees within three months after arrival in country. The first life-saving assistance to the displaced populations of Mount Peko, in the West of the country, was delivered in one-week's time given the risk of a humanitarian emergency. This was made possible by WFP's choice to purchase part of the food locally.

WFP mostly relied on commercial trucks to transport and deliver food commodities to the cooperating partners' warehouses. Only a small quantity (5 percent of the total deliveries) and the non-food items – mainly for nutrition-related activities – were delivered to the warehouses using WFP trucks. Handling and cleaning activities in WFP warehouses were outsourced to local private companies.

Transporting small tonnages generated high costs that the country office aimed to reduce by rounding up the quantity to be delivered and by delivering on a bi-monthly basis in order to increase the total quantity to be transported.

Losses that occurred in WFP warehouses resulted mainly from overlong storage of food commodities. To reduce the losses, the expired food commodities were sold for animal feeding or soap making. Losses at WFP cooperating partner warehouses were often due to poor storage conditions, deteriorated packing materials and re-bagging. Training sessions on warehouse management and regular field visits to partner warehouses were conducted in order to reduce food losses.

For school meals activities, the country office was awarded in-kind contributions. The port of Abidjan was the main entry point for the in-kind donations, where food commodities were both received in containerised cargoes (47 percent) and chartered vessels (53 percent). WFP continued to share transport related costs with the Government, through the School Canteens Directorate (DCS). The DCS covered primary transport costs from WFP main warehouse while WFP paid the secondary transport costs from DCS delivery points up to schools. Transport activities for both WFP and DCS were performed by private transport companies. Food deliveries to schools were done on a quarterly basis in order to minimise transport costs, facilitate the distribution process and avoid shortfalls at school level.

The largest part of the food losses occurred during the transport of cargoes and chartered vessels from the port to WFP warehouses. However, the value of these losses was recovered from transporters, who had been sensitised on this aspect.

Despite the opening of a new warehouse in Korhogo in the north, one of the major challenges faced in 2016 for school meals activities was the limited storage capacity compared to the high quantity of food that was arriving at the same time. The issue was addressed by pre-positioning foods to DCS warehouses, which increased the efficiency and timelines of logistic activities.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Beans	147	172	319

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Corn Soya Blend	-	315	315
Rice	1,493	570	2,063
Vegetable Oil	8	100	109
Total	1,648	1,157	2,805
Percentage	58.7%	41.3%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Corn Soya Blend	95
Rice	1,425
Split Peas	168
Vegetable Oil	146
Total	1,833

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

At the end of 2015, Côte d'Ivoire country office conducted a decentralised external evaluation of its Development project. In response to the recommendations that emanated from the evaluation, the country office identified a number of actions to be undertaken in collaboration with the School Canteens Directorate. This included a study to identify the financial capability/contribution of local communities involved in the implementation of school meals activities and their capacity strengthening needs. The study, funded by the World Bank, aimed at identifying a better way to enable the hand-over towards a sustainable national school meals programme. The country office reflected several recommendations in the design of the Development project. In particular, WFP concentrated its response in the most food insecure areas and those with low enrolment rates, in order to maximise the efficiency and impact of its activities in line with the available resources. Take-home rations for girls were reprogrammed, in order to reduce the gap in school enrolment between girls and boys but were not distributed in 2016 due to lack of resources.

The evaluation also evidenced that the specific needs of agricultural groups nearby schools were not assessed, therefore smallholder producers indifferently benefited from WFP support, which limited the effectiveness and impact of the related activities. In the implementation of the new school meals programme, the country office plans to address this by profiling and targeting agricultural groups and addressing their assessed needs.

WFP also conducted various assessments and post-distribution monitoring exercises in 2016 to assess and evaluate food security levels for returnees, displaced populations and host communities, and adjust accordingly relief and recovery activities under the PRRO. A WFP-Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) was conducted to assess the situation of the refugee returnees who arrived in Côte d'Ivoire between 15 December 2015 to end of October 2016. An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was also conducted to assess the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities in the west of the country. The recommendations from both assessments were taken into consideration in the design of 2017 project activities. These include direct assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure groups, and activities to promote the reintegration of displaced populations, and support economic empowerment and asset creation for both IDPs and host communities while reinforcing synergies with the Government and other agencies.

Story Worth Telling

Virginie Bah, a 38-year-old woman from the Bloléquin village, in western Côte d'Ivoire, lost her husband during the post-electoral crisis of November 2010. After fleeing the country, she returned to Côte d'Ivoire from Liberia in January 2016.

When she arrived in Côte d'Ivoire with her children, she found out that her in-laws' house was occupied by others and that her own house was in ruins. She then decided to rehabilitate her house. WFP food assistance for assets (FFA) programme began at the same time, implemented through DRAO, a non-governmental organization. She participated in the trainings on agricultural practices and techniques and was able to acquire knowledge for the cultivation of manioc and maize that she would reproduce in her own field while receiving cash in exchange for her participation. Virginie was able to finalise the restoration of her home with the cash transfers that she received. During the lean season WFP provided in-kind transfers through the FFA programme which allowed her to cover food needs for herself and her children, while waiting for her own crops to grow.

"I think I am reintegrated now", she said. "This is why I would like to thank all the humanitarian organizations that have assisted us and continue supporting us, in particular WFP." Virginie hopes that WFP will soon be able to support income generating activities to ensure a sustainable reintegration in the community.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

The Ivorian Government views school meals as a major contribution to school retention as well as an important social safety net in fighting hunger and malnutrition. Aligned with national policies and contributing to WFP Strategic Objective 4 "Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger", the Development project responded to the Government's request for support in establishing a sustainable nationally owned school meals programme that aims to primarily use locally produced food by smallholder farmers nearby schools. WFP school meals programme complements the national school meals programme and government efforts to guarantee basic education for all children, while addressing their nutrition needs to positively impact children's learning abilities.

The specific objectives of the project are: to help ensure that primary schoolchildren enrol and remain in school, especially in rural areas and with particular attention to girls; to improve education and nutrition levels; and to strengthen government capacity for the sustainable management of its national school meals programme.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	765,000
Direct Support Costs	7,415,834
Food and Related Costs	33,438,838
Indirect Support Costs	3,124,028
Cash & Voucher and Related Costs	3,009,300
Total	47,753,000

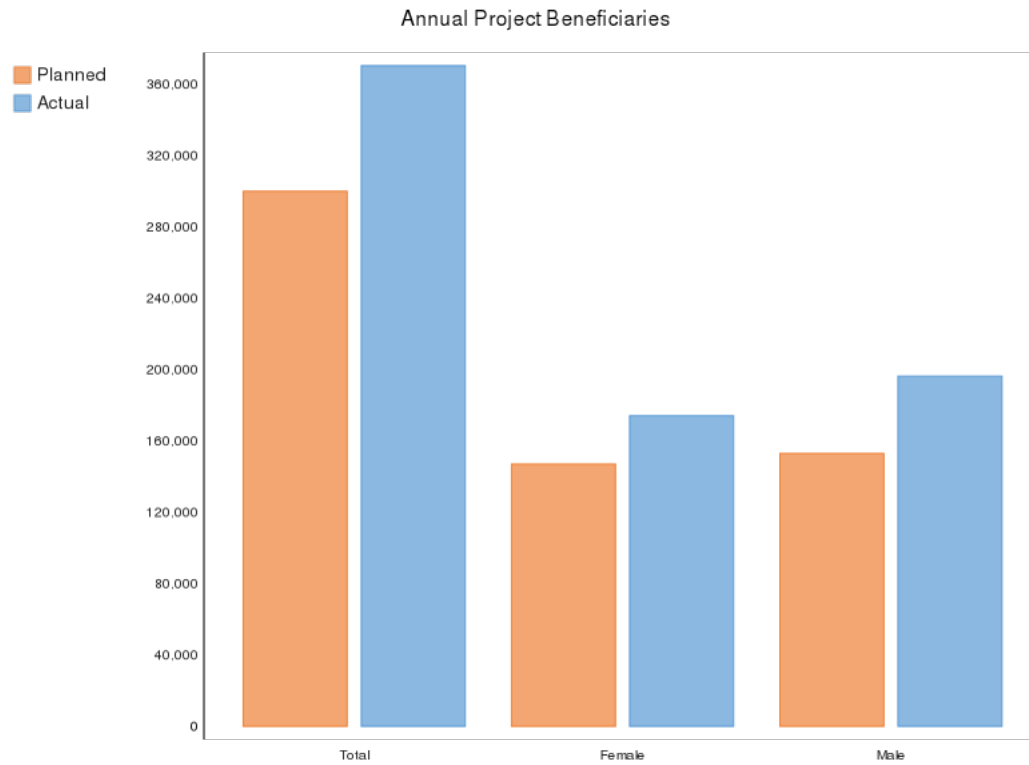
Project Activities

In 2016, WFP continued to provide critical support for the implementation of a sustainable national school meals programme. Firstly, by providing food to the school canteens, through the School Canteens Directorate (DCS), ensuring nutritious meals to 336,714 pupils. Secondly, by providing financial, technical and material resources to the Government for the implementation of a nationally owned school meals programme. In particular, the Government benefited from WFP expertise for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of school meals activities. Trainings were conducted to improve the knowledge of government staff on data collection and data quality control.

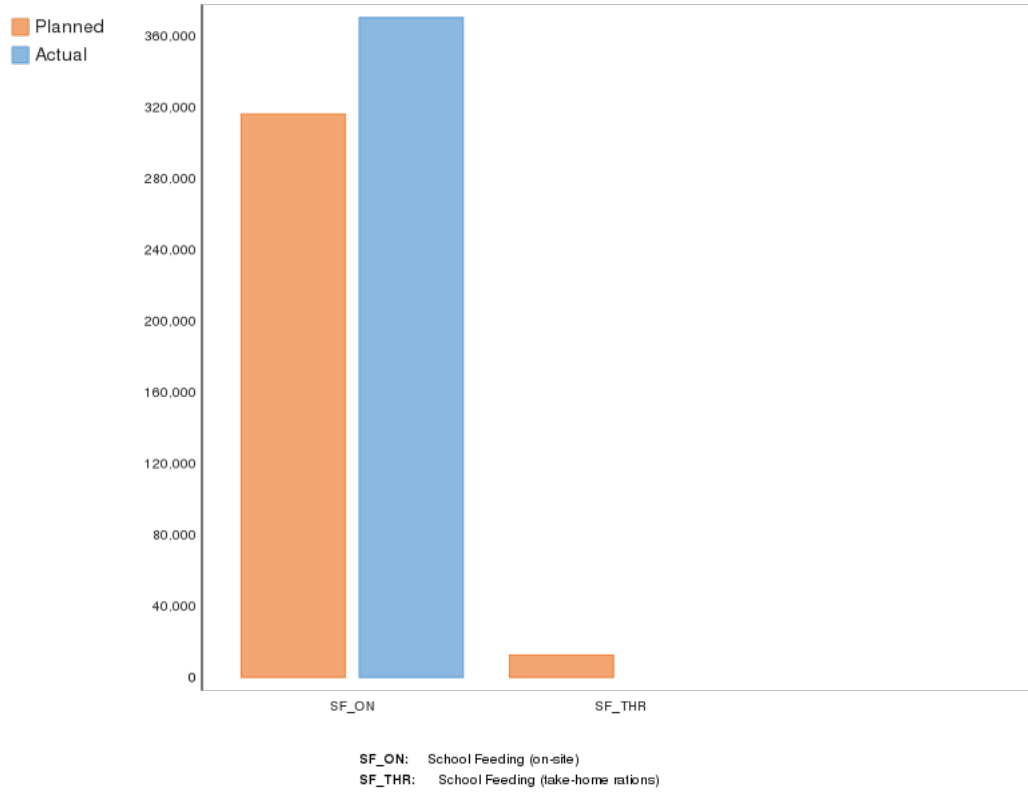
WFP continued to target seven departments, in the north and the west of the country (Cavally, Bafing, Bagoué, Poro, Tchologo, Bounkani and Gontougo), with more emphasis on schools in rural areas that show higher rates of malnutrition and food insecurity combined with low rates of school enrolment and attendance. WFP and the Government concentrated their activities on primary grades in public schools. The overall targeting of the project was deemed appropriate; therefore, WFP maintained the same targeting used in the 2015/16 school year which included 300,000 schoolchildren. At the beginning of the new school year, the number of schoolchildren was adjusted to 200,000, in line with the available resources. Of these 200,000, a total of 125,000 children are covered by the five-year McGovern-Dole grant.

In 2016, WFP ensured nutritious hot meals to children for 60 days (instead of 120) due to insufficient resources. The nutrition and take-home rations components of the programme were not implemented. The country office was awarded a McGovern-Dole grant in 2016 which enabled WFP to resume school meals during the new school year. The McGovern-Dole programme and the related five-year action plan were approved at the end of 2016 and included school meals to schoolchildren, take-home rations for girls, and support to women smallholder farmers

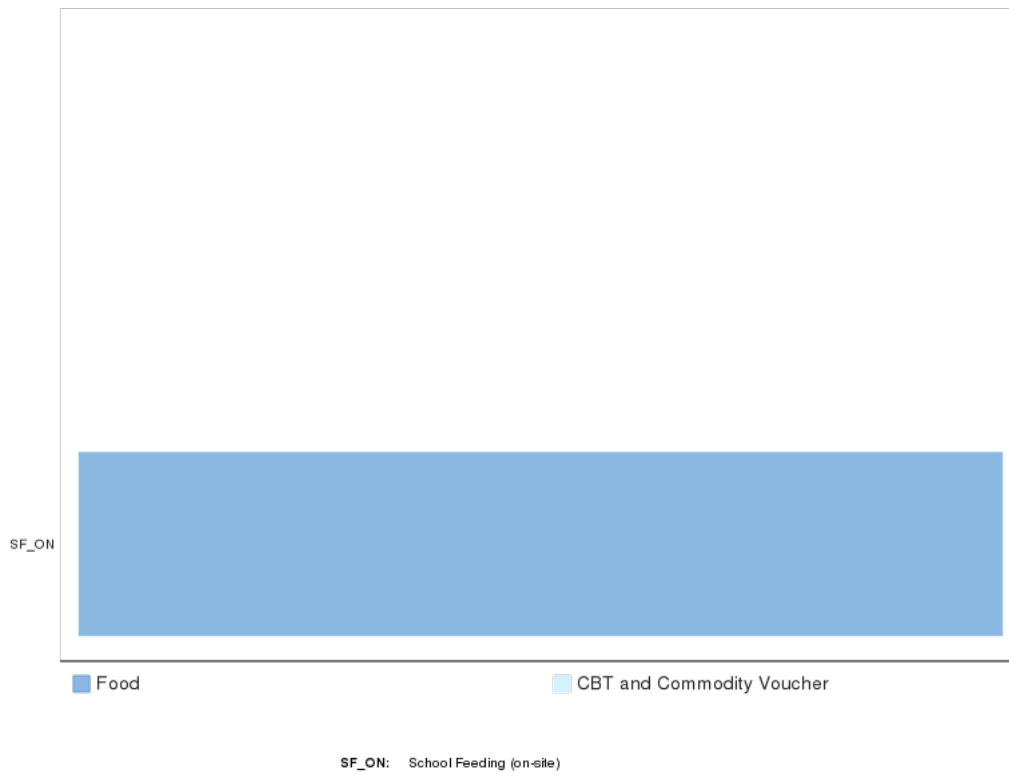
nearby schools. Several activities were carried out in 2016 to ensure a smooth implementation of the project in 2017. In particular, WFP started to sensitise relevant stakeholders on the McGovern-Dole programme, established the bodies in charge of the management of the project, and conducted baseline surveys. With the same purpose, WFP started to identify the 10,000 middle-school girls targeted for the dry rations. The 50 women producers groups that will be linked to school meals activities in 2017 were identified at the end of the year. The McGovern-Dole grant has also allowed to include literacy activities which will be implemented by the Italian non-governmental organization, AVSI.



Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



Modality of Transfer by Activity





Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Dried Fruits	608	1	0.2%
Iodised Salt	162	70	43.0%
Micronutrition Powder	1	-	-
Peas	972	-	-
Rice	6,360	2,351	37.0%
Split Peas	-	122	-
Vegetable Oil	324	72	22.2%
Total	8,426	2,616	31.0%



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	300,000	-	-
Total	300,000	-	-

Operational Partnerships

Through its Development project, WFP plays a key role in supporting the national school meals programme and the Government's new education policy. Activities are therefore developed and implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the School Canteens Directorate (DSC) in view of a gradual and sustainable hand-over to the Government. WFP and the DSC cooperate in several areas including: reception, management and distribution of food; storage and secondary transport of food commodities; monitoring of distributions; provision of trainings; and analysis and evaluation of the impact of school meals programmes.

WFP began at the end of 2016 to form partnerships with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Ministry of Agriculture in view of an integrated approach to nutrition. In the framework of this integrated multi-sectorial approach, a joint pilot project will be undertaken in 2017 in the northern region where school meals focus and where the activities will be implemented through a holistic approach linking education, food security, nutrition and resilience.

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.

Performance Monitoring

Côte d'Ivoire's country office strategy for monitoring and evaluation has been developed to guide and support programme activities, demonstrate the performance of operations, improve accountability to people affected and donors, ensure that projects are aligned with the outcome framework of WFP 2014–2017 Strategic Plan, and build

the capacity of staff, non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and government structures.

Data on process, outputs and outcomes were collected and transferred at the central level through the information channel. The use of the Country Office Tool for Managing Effectively (COMET) allowed the country office to record beneficiary figures in a systematic manner and to save time in terms of analysis. The centralisation of programme data supported better analysis, which also allowed the country office to make adjustments to the design and implementation of activities.

WFP supports the government, through the School Canteens Directorate (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 and all outcomes collected by gender. Information such as enrolment and retention rates in schools benefiting from school meals activities are reported by gender, in order to provide information on the boys/girls ratio. For this purpose, monitoring and evaluation surveys also contain gender sensitive questions. This allows WFP to adjust accordingly its activities to address the education gap between boys and girls.

The major challenge for monitoring remained the insufficient resources, including staff, dedicated to monitoring. To address this shortcoming, WFP relied on certain partners, including the DCS, to conduct monitoring activities, and reduce geographical dispersion of interventions. Nevertheless, WFP managed to collect baselines and follow-ups for almost all the outcome indicators, except for capacity development indicators, and the National Capacity Index (NCI). These indicators were supposed to be collected through workshops, together with government stakeholders. However, these workshops – except Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) workshop with the education stakeholders – did not take place due to lack of financial and technical means. WFP's challenge in this area remains the mobilization and training of actors capable of developing these national capacity assessment workshops on a regular basis and for the different sectors of intervention.

With support from the regional bureau in Dakar, SABER diagnostic was organized in Côte d'Ivoire in 2016. As a result, an action plan was developed to address government weaknesses in the five pillars of the diagnostic – political framework, financial capacity, institutional capacity and coordination, design and implementation, communities engagement. The Ivorian Government showed capacity strengthening needs in each of the five areas, with a focus on financial, and institutional capacity and coordination. In particular, the action plan foresees partners' support to advocate with government counterparts for an increase of the national budget allocated to school meals; to advocate for the line ministries to provide local authorities with a decentralised budget for school meals; establish a school meals working group; and mobilize human, material and financial resources, including through advocating with the private sector to guide Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) towards support for school meals.

At the end of the year, between September and December, monitoring missions of school meals covered by the five-year McGovern-Dole programme were conducted in order to present the project to school teachers, check the state of the infrastructures, and make the subsequent recommendations on the measures to undertake throughout 2017.

In 2016, Korogho sub-office facilitated the establishment of a platform for food security and nutrition, agriculture, and water, whose main objective is to create a synergy of actions and share experiences to ensure good monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation in the country. The platform brings together more than 50 actors and structures and is chaired by the Regional Directorate of Agriculture while the secretariat is led by the Regional Directorate of *Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural* (ANADER), the national agency for rural development.

Results/Outcomes

Under the Development project, WFP prioritised school meals over take-home rations and the provision of specialised nutritious foods due to lack of resources. School meals were provided to more students (representing 123 percent) than initially planned. This can be explained by the fact that assistance was provided over two school years, therefore taking into account new students. Inadequate resources also affected the level of food distributions, with only 31 percent of the planned food supplies distributed. WFP provided food assistance for 60 days instead of the 120 days planned. The provision of hot meals to pupils contributed to stabilising attendance and improving retention in school; the retention rate increased from 97 percent in 2015 to 98 percent in 2016. School canteens also helped to increase the enrolment rate in the targeted schools, which is higher than the national average. Although take-home rations were not distributed, WFP assistance has contributed to improving the girls/boys ratio. However, much efforts are still needed to reduce the gap between girls and boys.

WFP assistance combined with the contribution of the agricultural groups around schools has significantly improved the dietary diversity of students. The average number of school meals days per month where meals were diversified

increased from 5 to 11 in 2016.

WFP supported the construction of 60 improved stoves to help combat deforestation. These also contributed to reducing working hours for the women cooking school meals. Deworming activities were conducted for all schoolchildren in WFP-supported primary schools. In addition, WFP provided financial support to strengthen government capacity and promote a sustainable hand-over towards a nationally owned school meals programme.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

The Ivorian government promotes gender equality in its education policy for primary schoolchildren. WFP supported government efforts and, in line with its own gender policy, promoted gender parity in the enrolment and attendance in primary schools. WFP take-home rations to ensure that school girls enrol in and remain at school were planned in 2016 but were not implemented due to insufficient funding. However, it was noted that WFP assistance contributed to stabilising the girls and boys ratio. The McGovern-Dole grant will enable WFP to re-prioritise take-home rations; the process for the identification of the 10,000 middle-school girls that will receive the dry rations in 2017 has already started.

WFP highly values the importance of including women in the execution of the programme. In linking school meals to local production, WFP seeks to develop the capacity of both men and women farmers to provide food commodities to the programme. For this purpose, activities to support and empower women smallholder farmers nearby schools are planned in the approved McGovern-Dole action plan for 2017.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP involved the people targeted for assistance in the various stages of the project and consulted them on their needs and concerns.

At the beginning of the current school year, WFP started to inform and sensitise schoolchildren, parents and school authorities on the school meals programme. This was done through the School Canteens Directorate and school meals management committees. After the initial sensitisation phase, WFP conducted missions to monitor the implementation of activities and collect complaints and feedback from the schoolchildren. These visits represented the opportunity to assess programme knowledge and address concerns. Appropriate follow-up of these concerns was provided.

Data collection remained a challenge in 2016, especially due to insufficient resources to conduct an adequate number of monitoring missions. In 2017, to improve the quality of the data collected and better understand the needs of the people targeted for assistance, WFP plans to conduct monitoring missions outside of the schools, at the community level. This is in line with the integrated approach adopted by WFP that aims to link nutrition, school meals and resilience activities.

Teachers reported that school meals reduced protection risks and domestic accidents linked to the preparation of meals by girls at home. Eating in the school canteens allowed children to stay much of the day in a safe and protected environment, under the supervision of adult persons. This also increased the number of children staying in school after lunch and engaging in educational and recreational activities until they return home in the afternoon.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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Bledy Dieya, western Côte d'Ivoire, schoolchildren enjoying their meals.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	153,000	147,000	300,000	196,304	174,081	370,385	128.3%	118.4%	123.5%
By Age-group:									
Children (5-18 years)	153,000	147,000	300,000	196,304	174,081	370,385	128.3%	118.4%	123.5%
By Residence status:									
Residents	153,000	147,000	300,000	196,304	174,081	370,385	128.3%	118.4%	123.5%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)	316,200	-	316,200	370,385	-	370,385	117.1%	-	117.1%
School Feeding (take-home rations)	12,500	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	-

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)	316,200	-	316,200	370,385	-	370,385	117.1%	-	117.1%
School Feeding (take-home rations)	12,500	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	-

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	161,262	154,938	316,200	188,896	181,489	370,385	117.1%	117.1%	117.1%
Total participants	161,262	154,938	316,200	188,896	181,489	370,385	117.1%	117.1%	117.1%
Total beneficiaries	161,262	154,938	316,200	188,896	181,489	370,385	117.1%	117.1%	117.1%
School Feeding (take-home rations)									
Children receiving take-home rations in primary schools	-	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total participants	-	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total beneficiaries	-	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	-

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children				
Average number of schooldays per month on which multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Base value: 2015.03, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, EVALUATION DEV, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, WFP survey, EVALUATION MGD</i>	>12.80	5.00	5.00	11.00
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				
Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Base value: 2013.07, Secondary data, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	=85.00	96.07	97.60	97.70
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Base value: 2013.07, Secondary data, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	=85.00	95.97	97.60	98.20
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Base value: 2013.07, Secondary data, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	=85.00	93.18	97.60	98.30
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating Partner Report, Base value: 2013.12, WFP programme monitoring, Cooperating Partner Report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>6.00	3.00	2.00	9.60
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, WFP programme monitoring, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>6.00	3.00	4.00	8.00
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, WFP programme monitoring, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>6.00	3.00	0.00	10.90
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, WFP programme monitoring, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>95.00	95.00	98.50	98.50

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, Secondary data, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>96.00	96.00	99.00	98.80
Pass rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, Secondary data, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>50.00	50.00	79.80	83.10
Pass rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, Secondary data, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	>50.00	50.00	83.60	84.60
Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Cooperating partner report, Base value: 2013.12, Secondary data, Cooperating partner report, Previous Follow-up: 2015.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06, Secondary data, DCS REPORT</i>	=0.96	0.80	0.85	0.87
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
<i>CÔTE D'IVOIRE, Project End Target: 2015.12, Analysis</i>	=10.00	-	-	-

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO4: School Feeding (on-site)				
Number of children in WFP-assisted schools who received deworming treatment at least once during the year	individual	336,714	336,714	100.0%
Number of feeding days	instance	120	60	50.0%
Number of fuel or energy-efficient stoves distributed in WFP-assisted schools	stove	60	60	100.0%
Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	10	-	-
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (school feeding)	national programme	1	-	-
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	1,163	1,163	100.0%

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=60.00	-	-	-
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=20.00	-	-	-
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=20.00	-	-	-
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	>50.00	-	-	-
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	>60.00	-	-	-

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	>90.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	>90.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	>90.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding (take-home rations), Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	-	-	-

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2015.12</i>	=64,747.00	-
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	=1.00	2.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>COTE D'IVOIRE, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2016 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice	-	570
Private Donors	WPD-C-02961-11	Split Peas	-	72
Private Donors	WPD-C-02961-11	Vegetable Oil	-	18
USA	USA-C-01204-01	Rice	27	-
USA	USA-C-01204-01	Split Peas	450	-
USA	USA-C-01204-01	Vegetable Oil	90	-
		Total	567	660