

WFP Cote d'Ivoire Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

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

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



Prevalence of food insecurity:
12.8 % of the population

Chronic malnutrition: **21.6 % of children aged 24-59 months**

2016 Gender Inequality Index:
151st out of 155 countries

2016 Human Development Index:
171st out of 188 countries

Main
Photo

Credit: Marie Dasylyva
Caption: School-age boys on their way to school in northern Cote d'Ivoire.

In Numbers

448.19 mt of food assistance distributed in March 2018

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

US\$ 1.18 m six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements

129,000 people assisted in March 2018

49%

51%

Operational Updates

- Food assistance-for-assets (FFA) programme supporting asset creation and resilience strengthening of returnees and vulnerable host populations resumed in March. WFP registered 3,350 participants to be involved in FFA activities from March to June 2018. In exchange for their participation, 442.2 mt of food, including rice, oil, peas and specialised nutritious foods, will be distributed in April to cover the food needs of a family of six, reaching 20,100 beneficiaries in total.
- WFP, the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and partners marked on 1 March the third edition of the African Day of School Feeding by celebrating the importance of school meals in various sectors such as education, nutrition, health, agriculture and local development, and in reducing poverty. This year's theme was 'Realizing the African Child's Full potential through Effective Home-Grown School Feeding'.
- The international day of the girl child's education celebrated on 15 March for the second consecutive year in Abidjan marks the importance that the Government of Cote d'Ivoire gives to promoting gender equality in education. This day was an opportunity for the Ministry of Education of Cote d'Ivoire to present the challenges in girls' education, the main lines of interventions and to launch the national plan to accelerate the education of the girl child. WFP emphasized its engagement in this priority of the Government, and continues to provide economic incentives to 10,432 girls in upper grades to promote their enrolment and retention in school.
- The International Women's Day also marked the agenda in March. WFP Cote d'Ivoire empowers women to break the cycle of hunger and poverty, including women smallholder farmers, pregnant and lactating women and schoolgirls.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)		
18.03 m	8.07 m	1.18 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure children in targeted areas have access to adequate safe and nutritious food all year-round <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
9.55 m	7.04 m	0
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Children and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLW/G) in vulnerable communities have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2020 <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
1.89 m	0.33	0.093 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes		
Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have increased resilience to shocks and improved livelihoods to support food security and nutrition needs all year-round <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
6.25 m	0.70 m	1.08 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities		
Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions have strengthened capacities to develop and manage food security, nutrition and social protection policies and programmes in line with the national targets by 2020. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
0.33 m	0	TBD

WFP Country Activities

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

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

SO 3 3 – Provide asset creation activities to food-insecure smallholder farmers, to strengthen resilience to shocks and enhance food security.

4 – Provide technical support to strengthen the production, management and marketing capacities of smallholder farmers and their organizations.

5 – Provide capacity strengthening on productive safety nets, climate change adaptation, early warning, and food systems to targeted populations.

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

Monitoring

- Since the start of the 2017/18 school year, WFP completed more than 400 monitoring visits to monitor school meals activities in northern and western Cote d'Ivoire. March findings indicate that over 89 percent of children eat in school canteens with a good appreciation of the foods served.
- This month was marked by the visit of the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy and her delegation in northern Cote d'Ivoire where USDA/McGovern-Dole funded school meals programmes are implemented. The delegation visited schools and school storages where food commodities are stored and managed as well as the WFP-supported women smallholder farmer groups who provide part of their production to school canteens. The delegation showed great appreciation for the impact school meals programmes have on schoolchildren and the local communities, especially in promoting consumption of nutritious diversified school lunches.
- A recent monitoring visit in western Cote d'Ivoire (districts of Bolequin and Zouhan-Hounien) shows the evolution of the FFA activities initiated in 2017 on returnees and vulnerable host populations' livelihoods. Through fish ponds constructed, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes planted and poultry farms created in these localities, the participants were able to increase earning from selling their production. For example, the participants were able to sell their first band of 350 chicks for XOF 660,000 (USD 1,241). Lessons learned and challenges faced by the participants were documented to take into account in the next FFA phase.

Challenges

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

Donors

United States, Multilateral, Private donors.

