

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

BENIN

Promotion of Sustainable School Feeding

Project Number	200045
Project Category	Development Project
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	117,230
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	100,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	98,383

Project Approval Date	10 Jun 2010
Planned Start Date	01 Jul 2010
Actual Start Date	01 Apr 2011
Project End Date	30 Jun 2015
Financial Closure Date	17 Mar 2016

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	316,625
Direct Support Costs	3,762,404
Food and Related Costs	10,401,076
Indirect Support Costs	1,013,607
Total Approved Budget	15,493,712

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	15,764
Planned Commodities in 2015	2,134
Actual Commodities in 2015	1,011

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Benin is located on the West African coast, bordering Nigeria and Niger in the east, Togo in the west and Burkina Faso in the north with a total surface area of 114,763 square km. It has a total population of approximately 10 million, composed of 51.2 percent women and 17.4 percent children under 5.

Classified as a low income food deficit country (FAO 2014), with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 1,428 (UNDP 2013), Benin is ranked 165th out of 187 countries on the 2014 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI). Despite a continual improvement of the HDI, progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals has been relatively low, including the Goal 1 - halving extreme poverty and hunger which will not be achieved by 2015. As such, Benin's food and nutrition is classified as "serious" in the 2014 Global Hunger Index.

Although agriculture is the economy's key sector, structural problems in this sector persist, negatively affecting food security, nutrition and the trade balance. Recurrent floods, droughts and the impact of the global financial crisis and increases in commodity prices in the past years have exacerbated an already fragile nutritional situation of the most vulnerable regions.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) conducted in 2013 estimates that 11 percent of the population is moderately/severely food insecure and 34 percent have limited or poor food consumption. According to the most recent Integrated Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions results (EMICoV, 2014), 34 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition with multiple long-term and irreversible consequences on academic performance, learning capacity and adult productivity. This situation is particularly worrying the Northern part of the country, especially in the districts of Karimama and Malanville, where the prevalence rate of chronic malnutrition is over 35 percent while the Global Acute Malnutrition is around ten percent.

Over 70 percent of the population is illiterate. Though school enrolment rates are high, there are huge regional disparities, and reducing the dropout rate is a major challenge for the education system.

The situation of women remains challenging in terms of access to education, health and productive assets, as confirmed by the 2013 Gender Inequality Index in which the country is classified 134th out of 148 countries.

There has been progress in the fight against HIV - prevalence decreased from 2 percent in 2006 to 1.2 percent in 2014. However, women are especially affected, with a prevalence rate of 1.4 percent, including a peak of 2.2 percent in Cotonou.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964, providing assistance to children enrolled in primary school, people living with HIV and vulnerable populations affected by emergencies such as floods, droughts, and the high food price crisis. WFP is also engaged in food security and market analysis, logistics and local food procurement support.

Since 2010, in partnership with the Government of Benin, WFP has been providing food assistance to children enrolled in rural public primary schools through its school meals programme. The school-feeding programme aims to support districts with high rates of food insecurity and where net enrolment rates are below the national average. WFP promoted community ownership of the canteens and contributed to the establishment of sustainable school canteens. This contributed to progress towards the universal primary education and Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3. WFP continued to provide technical assistance and support to the government in developing and implementing a policy and institutional framework for harmonized school feeding across the country.

WFP has also been providing assistance and relief to vulnerable populations affected by severe flooding throughout the country. Benin experienced severe flooding in September 2010 and August 2012 that affected several districts from north to south. WFP has been able to assist in response to these emergencies and has offered relief to these flood affected populations.

In 2014, WFP, along with its government counterparts, validated the Country Strategy Document 2014-2018 which defines three interlinked pillars for continued assistance: (i) strengthening food security through livelihood assets promotion; (ii) supporting human capital development through social protection and safety net programmes; and (iii) reinforcing national capacity for sustainable emergency preparedness and response.

This process led to the elaboration of the Country Programme whose objective is to support the Government of Benin in taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and which started in July 2015. The CP focuses on an integrated approach of school feeding, on nutrition support activities to vulnerable people and on resilience strengthening of vulnerable communities. While the school feeding component will cover most part of the national territory, the nutrition and resilience component will be particularly implemented in Karimama and Malanville districts, deemed the most vulnerable districts according to social indicators. These districts are as well defined as the convergence zone for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018, and where WFP will focus its nutrition and food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. As such and through these activities, the Country Office will contribute to respond to the objectives 1; 2; 3 and 6 of the UNDAF.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	4,285	3,925	8,210
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	52,532	44,499	97,031
Number of adults		2,170	2,170
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	56,817	50,594	107,411
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	55,071	44,689	99,760
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	78,670	66,971	145,641

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	786	53	155		17	1,011
Country Programme	898	64	82	100	18	1,162
Total food distributed in 2015	1,684	117	237	100	35	2,173
Total food distributed in 2014	2,154	147	452		42	2,795
Total food distributed in 2013	1,709	155	362	21	38	2,284

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

Following the diagnostic Systematic Approach for Better Education Results (SABER), conducted in March 2014 which revealed the latent status of Benin, it was recommended WFP's continued assistance to improve access to education and enable the government to consolidate its capacity for managing an expanded programme. Consequently, the project DEV 200045 was extended for one year until 30 June 2015 through a budget revision.

The project aims to increase access to education, enhance capacities to sustain a national school feeding programme, and stimulate agricultural and economic development by linking school feeding with local production. In addition, the project intends to increase enrolment and attendance rates while increasing the ratio of girls to boys enrolled. A further goal is to reduce school dropout rates in targeted districts. Generally, it provides a critical safety net for poorer families whose children benefit from nutritional support.

The project contributes to WFP Strategic Objectives 3 "Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food nutrition needs," and 4 "Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger." The project also responds to the fifth axes of the national Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction which underlines the need to strengthen the human capital. It provides a critical safety net for poorer families whose children benefit from nutritional support.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

The project was focused on children attending primary schools in 30 out of 77 districts in five out of the six administrative regions of the country. The beneficiary schools have been targeted on the basis of the results of the 2013 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment which indicated the zones where food insecurity persisted and where enrolment rates were among the lowest of the country. The project provided hot meals to 100,000 school children of which around 45,000 were girls.

Through the project, beneficiaries in primary schools received one hot meal per school day to stimulate attendance. Where primary school includes pre-primary schoolchildren, children under five also received school meals. The food basket was composed of cereals (maize and rice), pulses, vegetable oil and salt. Parents also contributed to the diversity of the meals with the provision of some specific ingredients such as fish and meat when available.

Due to the delay in the first food delivery to the schools for the previous school year in November 2014, schools had sufficient stocks to cover their food needs until end of February 2015. Therefore WFP proceeded with only one food delivery to cover the remaining months of the school year. However due to lack of rice in the stocks, the country office had to readjust the rations by distributing 100g of maize and 50 g of rice while planned rations was initially set at 75 g for both commodities. In this way, WFP managed to ensure the distribution of hot meals until the end of the school year.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	51,778	44,869	96,647	52,009	43,280	95,289	100.4%	96.5%	98.6%
Number of children below 5 years of age	1,822	1,531	3,353	1,507	1,587	3,094	82.7%	103.7%	92.3%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	53,600	46,400	100,000	53,516	44,867	98,383	99.8%	96.7%	98.4%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	53,600	46,400	100,000	55,071	44,689	99,760	102.7%	96.3%	99.8%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	50,926	44,074	95,000	52,792	42,437	95,229	103.7%	96.3%	100.2%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Children receiving school meals	53,600	46,400	100,000	53,516	44,867	98,383	99.8%	96.7%	98.4%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Iodised Salt	33	17	50.5%
Maize	829	526	63.4%
Rice	829	261	31.4%
Split Peas	332	155	46.7%
Vegetable Oil	111	53	47.9%
Total for 2015	2,134	1,011	47.4%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	3,919	2,795	71.3%
Total reported in 2013 SPR	2,046	2,056	100.5%
Total reported in 2012 SPR	2,915	1,728	59.3%
Total reported in 2011 SPR	3,379	1,100	32.6%
Total reported in 2010 SPR	1,005	59	5.8%

'Story Worth Telling'

The story of P8 was told to WFP staff by a teacher of the Primary school of Agbo-Ogoudo, newly included in the WFP school feeding beneficiaries. P8 refers to a father (Papa) who enrolled his 8 children in that school last school year, hence the name P8 (the Papa of the 8 children). During the second semester of the school year, the 8 children had to drop out of the school. One of the mothers explained that the family could not afford to continue sending the eight of them to school due to financial constraints. Since registration is free, the main issue was getting food to keep the children at school the whole day. The parents decided then to have the children working in their fields, despite their wish to be at school. When P8 heard that the school was integrated into WFP School feeding programme and that children would benefit from a daily hot meal, he did not hesitate to send back his children back to school.

Parents are increasingly concerned to provide their children with education opportunities but in the poor rural regions, vulnerable people need support to keep their children in school. The Prime Minister himself stressed the importance of education, and the role of school feeding has in order to attract children to school and allow them to participate and concentrate on learning.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

One of the key objectives of the project is to increase the ratio of girls to boys in schools. After four years of project implementation, it appears that the ratio in WFP attended schools has increased from 0.75 to 0.83 percent. In addition, the proportion of women in leadership positions in the school feeding management committee (SFMC) has continued to grow from 35 percent in 2013 to 40 percent in 2014. Through trainings and gender awareness activities at the community level, WFP continued to enable women to realize their potential for leadership. In addition, each SFMC made an effort to include at least one student-mother whose role is to sensitize parents on girl enrolment. Finally, WFP continued to support the government in the organization school enrolment campaign particularly towards girls.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	50	35	40	50

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

During the reporting period, there were no major challenges regarding protection. Awareness sessions were conducted in all targeted schools giving the opportunity for parents to understand the objectives of the project.

Outputs

During the 2014-2015 school year, WFP provided food assistance through the school feeding programme to 100,000 children in 485 schools. During the reporting period, the country office worked to support the Ministry of education, and particularly the Directorate of the School Feeding in the implementation the action plan developed following the SABER 2014 and the study tour conducted in Brazil. Two major activities included the elaboration of roadmap to put in practice the National School Feeding Policy adopted in October 2014, and the preparation of the National Forum of the School Feeding in November 2015.

Another key action was the elaboration of a model for an integrated approach to school feeding. This approach has emphasized the link between education, health, local production, nutrition and hygiene sensitization, using the school meals as a platform to promote multifaceted local development. Broad partnership with other organizations and the participation of local communities are also highlighted as a key pre-requisite necessary to ensure success in this approach.

The country office was unable to conduct the Training of farmers' organizations due to lack of funding. However, WFP will continue to work to materialize this activity as it remains a key solution to improve local purchase from small farmers' organizations and thus boost the local economy. This will also encourage farmer's families and the community as a whole to be further mobilized around the school canteens.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 3: Local Purchase				
Number of FOs trained in market access and post-harvest handling skills	farmer organization	3	0	0.0%
Quantity of food purchased locally through Local and Regional purchases (expressed in MT)	mt	829	0	0.0%
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (school feeding)	national programme	1	0	0.0%
Technical Assistance: Number of technical assistance projects conducted by WFP to strengthen the national capacity	project	0	1	-
SO 4: School Feeding				
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	485	485	100.0%
Quantity of agricultural tools distributed	tool	50	0	0.0%
Quantity of kitchen utensils distributed (plates, spoons, cooking pots etc.)	utensil	100	0	0.0%

Outcomes

Overall, despite the reduction of the rations, outcomes indicators are rather encouraging. Indeed, monitoring results indicate that WFP food assistance carried out together with the government and other partners contributed to increase enrolment slightly more for girls (5.49 percent) than boys (2.45 percent). This can be explained by the positive result of the campaign of sensitization, in the regions where WFP intervened and where the number of households keeping their daughters at home have significantly decreased over the past years. However, the global enrollment rate decreased from 5.2 in 2014 to 3.82 percent in 2015. This is mainly due to positive results achieved since the beginning of the project which has led to an already high level of school enrollment in the selected schools. The decrease of the dropout rate is also slightly more significant for girls than boys. Consequently the gender ratio has continued to progress up to 0.84 percent compared to 0.75 percent at the beginning of the project. Furthermore, the retention and the promotion rates also slightly improved for both girls and boys. There were no local purchases, consequently, the outcome indicator on food locally purchased as a percentage of food distributed to schools is now nul.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Pipeline report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Pipeline report, Programme monitoring.	60	72	22	0
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Average number of school days per month when multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring.	80	30		
Drop-out rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2014, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	9	13.07	8.69	8.8
Drop-out rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline value, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	9	12.96	9	8.27
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	6	3	5.2	3.82
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline value, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	6	1.87	5.4	2.45
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	6	5.2	5	5.49
Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline value, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	0.9	0.75	0.83	0.84
NCI: National Capacity Index				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Mar-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Mar-2014, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	2	1	1	1
Promotion rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2014, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	74	70	78.52	81.49
Promotion rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	72	68	76.29	80.41
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	85	70.35	90.89	92.91
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	85	57.3	90.59	92.05
Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jun-2010, Baseline study, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Monitoring report, Programme report, Programme monitoring.	85	64.07	90.74	92.48

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The roadmap developed to implement the National School Feeding Policy was used as a guide for the capacity development and handover activities. In the process, the country office relied on the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger to support the Ministry of Education through the Directorate of School Feeding. The aim was to strengthen the national capacity for a more sustainable school feeding programme as well as to reinforce the national ownership of the programme for instance in the fields of advocacy for resource mobilization or the link between local production and school meals.

Furthermore, WFP continued to assist the School Feeding Management Committees in the field. The objectives of these capacity building session is to support the committees in the various issues they met during the implementation of the activities of school canteens during the school year. Finally, the country office started to train the cooks providing advice on the way to prepare more nutritious meals and by offering a recipe booklet gathering local recipes.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

Thanks to the contribution of the government of Benin through the Fast Track Initiative initially funded by the World Bank, WFP Benin has been able to continue to implement school feeding distribution and capacity building activities despite some modifications in the rations.

Parent associations and communities also contributed to the school feeding programme by mobilizing small financial contributions which covered the costs of condiments, vegetables and fish to complement the rations given by WFP and to diversify the meals provided to children.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Private Donors		300	300
Total:		300	300

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

There was no purchase under the reporting period. Although, WFP initiated the process to purchase rice which will be used under the coming country programme.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Rice	0	300	0	
Sum:	0	300	0	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

There were no major problems reported in the secondary transport. The WFP logistics unit provided monthly support to field staff in the form of trainings which allowed them to anticipate potential problems. As a result, the quality of food was ensured and delivery times were met.

Post-Delivery Losses

There were only small post delivery losses due long conservation of maize and inadequate packaging for vegetable oil.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

WFP mainly worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Education through the Directorate of School Feeding and the Ministry of Planning and Development. WFP also received the support of the WFP Center of Excellence against Hunger. Given that the DEV 200045 was ending by June 2015, WFP Benin did not develop new partnerships but started new consultations in anticipation of the coming country programme which started in July 2015. For this reason, indicators related to partnership shows a negative trend.

However, WFP participates actively in the UNDAF Education Group together with UNESCO and UNICEF. The country office also takes part in the Education Thematic Group which gathers technical and financial partners, international and national. The objective of this working group is to exchange on best practices and to enhance coordination and collaboration among partners.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
	Target Val			
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Financial report, Programme monitoring.	950,000			0
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Jun-2013, Project report, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2014, Project report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Project report, Programme monitoring.	2	0	0	0
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, Project report, Programme monitoring.	100			0

Lessons Learned

Monitoring is the key for success of the school feeding programme. The programme suffers from the scarcity of funding, which had an impact in the implementation of the activities. Monitoring exercises were limited to few schools in few districts. The annual budget did not give room for a proper school feeding monitoring. The support of monitors is essential as they are the contacts between the schools and the country office, they provide useful advice based on the issues encountered during monitoring visits. Consequently, some schools could have achieved better results if they had been properly monitored. Based on this observation, WFP will definitely ensure in the coming country programme that monitoring assistants have adequate means to accomplish properly their tasks.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors			Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	
Private Donors	WPD-C-03028-01	Rice		300	300
Total:				300	300