



WFP Ghana Country Brief

Highlights

- The national Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) report has been finalized under the leadership of the Minister of Planning; the report incorporates recommendations from government at technical and advisory levels, and non-governmental partners.
- The WFP Regional Director Mr. Abdou Dieng visited Ghana to meet and interact with staff and government partners on the Integrated Road Map, and support the country office to situate its role in the emerging national priorities for the upcoming Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

WFP Assistance

Ghana Country Programme CP 200247 (Jan 2012 – Dec 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	78 m	55.4 m (71%)	0

* October 2017 – March 2018

Support for Primary Education and Girl's Education: The programme provides capacity strengthening to the Ghana School Feeding Programme to improve the nutritional content of the meals, and to improve its operational performance. In line with the hand-over strategy agreed with the Government, schoolchildren assisted by WFP under the school meals programme have been handed over onto the national programme. A total of 30,000 girls in Junior High School from food-insecure areas receive take-home rations to improve gender parity in education.

Nutrition support for vulnerable groups: This focuses on prevention of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among children, leveraging the Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chain (ENVAC) programme, and uses commodity vouchers. The ENVAC supports smallholder farmers to produce quality crops to be used by food processors to produce specialised nutritious foods for use by women and children. The stunting prevention programme targets 32,000 pregnant and nursing women and 57,000 children aged 6-23 months for 2017. WFP also supports 3,000 people living with HIV and their households to promote anti-retroviral therapy (ART) adherence while also promoting Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission. This component also includes a small pilot on prevention of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-23 months using vouchers. In addition, 490 farmers and their households are targeted with nutrition-sensitive interventions under Capacity Development and Augmentation.

Resilience to climate shocks and support for livelihoods: The Country Programme also focuses on livelihood support targeting 98,725 people with food assistance for assets implemented through cash transfers.

How WFP targets its response: The country office operates a full cash-based transfer (CBT) operation, with the exception of 13 mt of Small-Quantity Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (SQ-LNS) currently being used in a stunting prevention pilot programme. The response also provides increased capacity strengthening to government to sustain ongoing programmes. In alignment with the full CBT operation, local processors are being supported to produce specialised nutritious foods for stunting prevention.

WFP prioritizes the Northern Savannah Ecological Zones (NSEZ), which have been assessed to have high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, and Eastern Region which has high HIV/AIDS prevalence.

Periodic commodity price monitoring is undertaken to check whether transfer values are still relevant and adjust them as necessary. Assessment tools are developed to reflect gender perspectives to enhance data collection and analysis.



Credit: WFP/Vera Boohene
Caption: During his first official visit to Ghana, WFP Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Mr. Abdou Dieng, pays a courtesy call to the Japanese Ambassador, H. E. Kaoru Yoshimura. Japan is a major donor to WFP Ghana.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Tomomi Kirino
Caption: Mr. Abdou Dieng meets with the Northern Regional Minister, Mr. Salifu Saeed, during a field visit to WFP programmes in Northern Ghana.



September 2017

Operational Updates

- The ZHSR report has been finalized by the Kufuor Foundation. Preparatory activities are being made with the J. A. Kufuor Foundation to launch the report in January 2018.
- Priority areas of focus for WFP Ghana, which are also in line with national priorities have been identified, and will be discussed with key implementing partners to determine the strengths and competencies that WFP can leverage to support the elimination of hunger by 2030.
- In response to a request from the Ministry of Development and Special Initiatives, WFP is coordinating a cross functional mission from HQ and the Regional Bureau to support the new ministry to map out its mandate to empower smallholder farmers, under the Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Programme (IPEP).
- A baseline survey is ongoing for the stunting prevention programme to ensure proper analysis and measurement of progress made in piloting the use of locally produced nutritional products in reducing micronutrient deficiencies and stunting prevention.
- Country office is working towards effective migration of resources from the current country programme to the Interim Country Strategic Plan (I-CSP) which starts in January 2018.
- The Regional Director Mr. Abdou Dieng in a meeting with the Ghana Minister of Finance, raised the issue of WFP yet to receive Government Counterpart Cash Contributions (GCCC) since 2009; this forms a significant part of the funding forecast for the Country Programme.

Partnerships

- WFP Ghana maintains an active collaboration with government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations Agencies, particularly the Rome-based Agencies, to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP participates in working groups in key sectors such as Education, Social Protection, Agriculture, Health and Nutrition. WFP also collaborates with the National Development Planning Commission to advocate for increased investment in nutrition using the Ghana Cost of Hunger Analysis.



Ghana is listed by FAO as a low-income food deficit country. Agriculture which used to be the basis of the economy, and accounted for over one-third of the GDP and about 55 percent of formal employment, currently accounts for a fifth of GDP. Cash crops consist primarily of cocoa and cocoa products, which typically provide about one-third of export revenue.

Ghana was the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to meet the MDG 1 target of halving extreme poverty by 2015 but food security remains a challenge, especially in the deprived three northern regions. Northern, Upper East and Upper West together make up 70 percent of the poor at the national level. Food insecurity rates in these regions range from 20 percent to 37 percent of the population (Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis 2012). Over 45 percent of the population still lives on less than USD 1.25 per day. Stunting rates in Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions are 33.1, 14.4 and 22.2 percent respectively. High food prices and marked disparities in national wealth have increased communities' vulnerability to further food insecurity and malnutrition.

WFP has been present in Ghana since 1963.

Population: **24 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
140 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

Top donors for DEV 200247: Canada, Japan, Private Donors, Multilateral, Saudi Arabia.