



WFP Togo Country Brief

Highlights

- The fifth budget revision has been approved to extend the Development project (DEV 200304) for 15 months (from 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2018).
- Funds are needed to pursue capacity development activities in the school meals programme including trainings for members of school canteens committees.
- A total of 17 staff from local NGOs, the Ministry of Grassroots Development and PDCPlus project were trained on nutrition assessment, counselling and support, and on food hygiene.

WFP Assistance

Community Based School Feeding Programme DEV 200304 (March 12 – March 18)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	3.6 m	1.1 m (31%)	N/A

*April - September 2017

Capacity development forms the cornerstone of the project's objectives, which focuses on contributing to sustainable solutions for a nationally-owned school meals programme through: (i) increased institutional and human capital development at central and local levels related to policy and management of the school meals programme; and (ii) strengthened linkages between local agricultural production and school meals, by providing technical assistance to the Government and partners.

School meals is considered a safety net which can help alleviate extreme poverty and severe food insecurity in poor populations in rural and remote areas. School meals help increase school children enrolment and attendance rates, contributing to overall improvement in school performance.

In this context, the Government of Togo has requested WFP's expertise in the areas of school meals, procurement (including local purchase), and logistics to assist the Government in developing and leading a national school meals programme relying on local food purchases. WFP's support focuses on the five standards of the System Approach for Better Education Results (SABER). These standards include a policy framework, institutional capacity and coordination, financial capacity, design and implementation capacity, and community participation.

The school meals project contributes to WFP Strategic Objective 4 "Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger". The project is also aligned with the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2013-2017 through Strategic axis 3, "Human resources, social protection and employment development" and with Strategic priority 2 "Equitable and sustainable access by the poor to quality basic social services" of the 2014-2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Throughout the implementation of the capacity development activities and consultations with government authorities and officials at central, community as well as local levels, WFP continuously advocates for gender equality.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Bériname Badjaré.
Caption: School meals distribution in a school assisted by PDCPlus project with World Bank financial support and with technical assistance from WFP, Lomé.



March 2017

Operational updates

In March 2017, the country office mainly carried out the following two activities in collaboration of the Ministry of Grassroots Development:

- A joint evaluation mission on nutrition challenges from 6 to 13 March by WFP and the Government to assess the capacities and knowledge of the main stakeholders in the school meals programme and in nutrition. These include the women in charge of food preparation and distribution in schools, school canteens committees, parents' associations and staff of NGOs in charge of the monitoring of school meals activities.
- A training of 17 staff from local NGOs, PDCPlus project and the Ministry of Grassroots Development on food hygiene and nutrition assessment, counselling and support techniques during a workshop held from 28 to 30 March.

Challenges

Funding is the main challenge the project is facing. Resources are urgently needed to implement capacity strengthening activities planned under the fifth budget revision for a transition towards a nationally owned school meals programme.

Partnerships

The technical committee of the DEV 200304 is formed by the representatives of eight ministries (Rural Development, Education, Agriculture, Finance and Health among others) involved in school meals activities. The World Bank supports the Community-based Development and Social Safety Nets project, PDCPlus, while UNICEF is providing WASH material and techniques.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU: 2016 to 2018) was signed on 7 July 2016 by WFP and the Government of Togo. This MoU clarifies respective roles and responsibilities for WFP technical assistance in delivering sustainable school meals and social safety net programmes. WFP works in collaboration with other UN agencies including UNICEF, FAO, ILO and UNDP to provide technical assistance and capacity augmentation in delivering sustainable school meals, social protection and contribute to achieving zero hunger in the country.

Country Background & Strategy



The ranking for Togo on the UNDP Human Development Report has not improved in recent years, dropping from 152 to 166 between 2007 and 2014. However, after thirteen years of economic decline due to political crisis and donor disengagement, the economic status of Togo has improved since 2006.

The overall poverty rate decreased from 58.7 percent in 2011 to 55.1 percent in 2015 - "Questionnaire Unifié des Indicateurs de Base de Bien-être" (QUIBB 2015). In 2014, the results of Enquête Démographique et de Santé au Togo (EDST-III, Demographic and Health Survey) showed that more than 28 percent of children under 5 were suffering from chronic malnutrition and 6.5 percent from acute malnutrition (1.5 percent suffering from severe acute malnutrition and 5 percent from moderate acute malnutrition). The acute malnutrition rate still remains high, particularly in the regions of Kara (7.2 percent) and Savannah (11.2 percent).

The net enrollment rate for girls is 85 percent against 88 percent for boys. This disparity is more pronounced in the northern areas of the country (Savannah) where the net school enrollment rate of girls is below 64 percent against 71 percent for boys.

WFP has been present in Togo since 1968.

Population: **6.2 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **166 out of 188**

Income Level: **Least developed**

Chronic malnutrition: **28.0% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

Australia, private donors

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