

Highlights

- On 2 May, a delegation from Saudi Arabia visited Benin for the donation ceremony of 30 tons of dates to WFP supported school meals programme.
- A total of 6,424 mt of food commodities are being delivered in Niger through the supply corridor of Benin.
- Food deliveries for the last quarter of the school year took place. WFP provides school meals to 101,297 children for 21 days instead of 55 during this last trimester.

WFP Benin Country Brief



Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Benin 200721 (2015 – 2018)	16.2 m	8 m (50%)	0.5 m (22%)

*June - November 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A CP 200721

The Country Programme supports the Government in taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It focuses on three main areas:

- support to national integrated school meals approach;
- nutritional support for vulnerable groups; and
- enhancement of community resilience in vulnerable and disaster-prone areas.

While the school meals activities are implemented nationwide, nutrition and resilience activities are concentrated mainly in the districts of Karimama and Malanville in North Benin, deemed the most vulnerable districts according to social indicators. These districts are also defined as the convergence zone for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014–2018.

School meals focuses on areas with high food insecurity and low enrolment or high dropout rates. It contributes to human capital development through: i) increased access to primary education and increased retention, especially among girls; ii) enhanced capacities to sustain a national school meals programme; and iii) a multi-sector approach that links education, local food production, nutrition and hygiene, and serves as an entry point for local development and as a safety net for vulnerable groups.

Nutrition activities cover: i) targeted supplementary feeding to reduce moderate acute malnutrition among children aged from 6 to 59 months and malnourished pregnant and nursing women; ii) a caregivers' ration for mothers accompanying severely malnourished or sick children aged from 6 to 59 months at therapeutic feeding centres to encourage adherence to treatment; and iii) blanket supplementary feeding for six months in lean seasons to prevent chronic malnutrition among children aged between 6–23 months.

In response to frequent floods and droughts which exacerbate the precarious food security and nutrition situation in the Northern part of the country, WFP works on: i) enhancing **community resilience** through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities to develop productive assets and improve agricultural production; and ii) providing training aimed at developing preparedness and response capacity.

WFP is taking FFA as an opportunity to use cash-based transfers (CBT) in the district of Malanville where assessments showed that the markets are well stocked throughout the year. WFP ensures that women and men participate equally in identifying FFA activities and that they have equal access to benefits.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/ David Adomahou
Caption: Delegation from Saudi Arabia with the national counterpart and WFP staff at Doké Hanzoum School in Plateau District.



May 2017

Operational Updates

Official ceremony for date donation in primary schools canteen's supported by WFP in Benin

A delegation from Saudi Arabia visited Benin from 1 to 3 May for the donation ceremony of 30 tons of dates to the Government of Benin through WFP. The dates have been distributed to 102,000 schoolchildren from public primary schools assisted by WFP.

Supply chain Activities

Benin supply corridor facilitated the delivery of 6,424 mt of rice, oil, lentils and CSB+ (SuperCereal) to Niger (Agadez, Diffa, Tahoua and Zinder in the northern region) in May 2017. It also delivered to WFP warehouses 230 mt of maize and beans purchased on the local market for the school meals programme.

Food delivery

Food deliveries for the last trimester have been carried out in 562 schools. The available tonnage is only covering 21 school days (out of 55) for 101,297 children.

Following a request from the Government, the country office is gearing up to support the implementation of the National Programme with government financial support. A total of 321,000 schoolchildren will be added to the current 102,000 people assisted by WFP, an increase from 562 to 2,136 schools. All the commodities will need to be purchased and delivered to the schools before the 2017/2018 school year begins.



Credit: WFP/David Adomahou.
Caption: Unloading of food at the port of Cotonou.



Benin's population is predominantly rural, 51.2 percent are women and 17.4 percent are children under the age of five. Over 36 percent of this population remains poor and life expectancy is 59.2 years. The population growth rate is 3.2 percent, among the highest in Africa.

Although agriculture is the economy's key sector, structural and natural disaster problems negatively affect food security, nutrition and the trade balance.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) conducted in 2013 estimated that 11 percent of the population is moderately and severely food insecure and 34 percent have limited or poor food consumption. According to the last Integrated Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions results (EMICoV, 2011), 32 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition. The HIV prevalence among adults is 1.2 percent according to UNAIDS (2013).

Although the 2013 national net enrolment rate is 98 percent (99.6 percent for boys and 96.3 percent for girls), Benin still has several rural districts with net enrolment rates below 60 percent, especially in the Northern part of the country.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.

Population: **9.9 million**

Chronic malnutrition: **34% of children between 6-59 months**

Income Level: **Least developed**

2016 Human Development Index: **167 out of 188**

Donors

Germany through a multilateral fund, private donors

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