

Highlights

- After a two-year break, school's meals activities resumed since 18 September 2017, in the 1,574 schools of the National Integrated School Meals Programme.
- The recruitment process of NGOs for the monitoring of the school meals activities is ongoing for the Country Programme (CP 200721) and the Trust Fund project (TF 201090) school meals programme.
- The prepositioning of food commodities in the schools for both CP 200721 and TF 201090 is ongoing.



WFP Benin Country Brief



WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Benin 200721 (2015 – 2018)	13 m	8 m (61%)	2.2 m

* October 2017 – March 2018

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 to be 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 6 to 59 months and malnourished pregnant and lactating women; ii) a caregivers' ration for mothers accompanying severely malnourished or sick children 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 6 to 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: Restarting of SM programme at one of the PNASI schools in Ouidah District.



September 2017

Operational Updates

- Data collection by the National Institute of Statistic and Applied Economics for the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) is complete. A total of 1,500 households in 750 villages were surveyed and the data collection covered the period from 20 July to 23 August 2017. WFP received a support from an international consultant for data analysis that is being conducted by the National Institute of Statistic. The first results are expected for the end of September.
- Following the signing ceremony of the funds transfer agreement between the Government of Benin and WFP on 20 July 2017 in Cotonou, USD 5,583,999 were transferred to WFP as part of the first instalment for the implementation of school meals activities. This will cover 1,574 schools for the first semester of the 2017/18 school year. The second instalment is scheduled for March 2018.
- The country office, jointly with the National Directorate of school meals, has started preparations for the start of school meals activities in the 1,574 schools. After a two-year break, activities of the Government school meals programme resumed for 326,721 schoolchildren since the 18 September 2017.
- The selection process of the NGO in charge of monitoring the school meals programme and the involvement of communities in school canteens activities has come to an end. Five local NGO were selected to conduct this process with WFP. The training sections are scheduled from 5 to 7 October 2017.



Credit: WFP/ Makéba TCHIBOZO

Caption: Madame Alice MARTIN-DAIHIROU, CD ai, in visit at a PNASI school in Zê district

Country Background & Strategy



Benin population is predominantly rural, 51.2 percent are women and 17.4 percent are children 6 to 59 months. 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 6 to 59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition. The HIV prevalence among adults is 1.2 percent according to UNAIDS (2013).

Although the 2015 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 50 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