



WFP Benin Country Brief

Highlights

- The Government through the Ministry of primary and basic education, in partnership with WFP Benin country office has organized the second edition of the African Schools Meals Day.
- The third and last food deliveries for the 2016/17 school year started on 10 march 2017 for three weeks. WFP provided school meals to 101,297 children for 21 days instead of 55.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Benin 200721 (2015 – 2018)	16.1 m	8 m (50%)	- (1%)

*April - September 2017

GENDER MARKER **ZA** **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:

- (i) support to national integrated school meals approach;
- (ii) nutritional support for vulnerable groups; and
- (iii) 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 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: The Regional Director for West and Central Africa with WFP Programme staff in Porto-Novo



March 2017

Operational Updates

- The Ministry Primary and basic education of and Primary Education through the Directorate of School Canteens organized in partnership with WFP, the second edition of the African School Meals Day in Porto-Novo on 1 March 2017. This year's theme is: " School meals based on local production: investing in youth and children in order to benefit from the demographic dividend ".
- About 200 participants took part in the event. Among them, representatives of the Ministry of Primary and basic Education and the Ministry of Family, and of various stakeholders such as Catholic Relief Services and other NGOs, Parents' Associations, teachers, school cooks, local communities members, and schoolchildren.
- The third food deliveries are being conducted to assist 101,297 children in 562 schools for the last trimester of the school year. The available tonnage will cover only 21 out of 55 school days.
- A contribution of USD 2.5 million from the 2017 German multilateral funds was received to cover foods requirements for both schools meals and nutrition activities for the next six months.
- Following a request from the Government, the country office is planning to conduct capacity development activities for the Directorate of School feeding particularly in food procurement. This will enable timely delivery of food commodities in schools.



Credit: WFP/ David Adomahou

Caption: Benin's Government and WFP celebrate the 2nd edition of the African school Meals Day in Porto-Novo district, Southern region of Benin

Country Background & Strategy



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**

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

Donors

Germany through a multilateral fund, private donors