



WFP Benin Country Brief



Highlights

- The Government of Benin and WFP country office signed a four-year funds transfer agreement of XAF 27.2 billion, to implement school meals programme in 1,574 schools through an integrated approach.
- WFP in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistic and Applied Economics is conducting the third edition of the national survey on the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA).
- Training was given to the WFP's warehouse managers on store management in Lokossa by the logistic unit from 4 to 7 July 2017.

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%)	0.4 m (14%)

* August 2017 – January 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 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/Makeba
Caption: Official ceremony signature of fund transfers agreement between Government and WFP's CO in Cotonou.



July 2017

Operational Updates

- Data collection by the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics for Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) is ongoing, to try to understand the new dimensions of food insecurity and household survival strategies, with a view to better define and plan interventions in the next Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The design and implementation of this study is the result of a close partnership between the Government of Benin, WFP, FAO and civil society organizations.
- The signing ceremony of the funds transfer agreement between the Government of Benin and WFP took place on 20 July 2017 in the conference room of the Administrative Tours in Cotonou. The fund will be used for the implementation of the Integrated School Meals Programme in food-insecure and undernourished areas. The Government was represented by the Minister in charge of Maternal and Primary Education, Mr. Salimane Karimou.
- The Integrated School Meals Programme will start at the beginning of 2017/18 school year and will run until 31 December 2021. The Government of Benin will make available to WFP a total of XAF 27.2 billion for the next four school years. This contribution will make it possible to support 351,109 schoolchildren in 1,574 public primary schools in Benin with 42,807 mt of food.
- In preparation for scaling up of the WFP school meals programme, the country office logistics unit organized a training for all the warehouse managers in the Lokossa district from 4 to 7 July 2017.

Challenges

Since the 2017/18 school year is scheduled to begin on 18 September, all food commodities need to be purchased and delivered to schools before this date.



Credit: WFP/Guillaume Egbo.
Caption: training of the warehouse managers, Lokossa district, 4-7 July.

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 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