

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

TOGO

Community - Based School Feeding Programme in Togo

Project Number	200304
Project Category	Development Project

Project Approval Date	04 May 2012
Planned Start Date	01 Mar 2012
Actual Start Date	01 Jun 2012
Project End Date	31 Dec 2015
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	677,568
Direct Support Costs	1,646,214
Indirect Support Costs	162,665
Total Approved Budget	2,486,447

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Togo is a Sub-Saharan West African country that shares borders with Ghana to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, and Benin to the east. It has an estimated population of 6.2 million inhabitants, with a demographic growth rate of about 2.8 percent with more than 60 percent under the age of 25 years.

Classified as a Least Developed Country (LCD) and Low Income Food Deficit Country (LIFDC), Togo ranks 166th out of 187 countries on the 2014 UNDP Human Development Report. The rank for Togo has not improved in recent years, dropping from 152 to 166 between 2007 and 2014.

After 13 years of economic decline due to political crisis and donor disengagement, the economic status of Togo has improved since 2006. However, it remains fragile and is always vulnerable to exogenous shocks. On April 25, 2015, President Faure Gnassingbe was re-elected with 59 percent of the votes for a third five-year term. Although the primary sector is still predominant in Togo's economy, there is still a strong potential for expansion and the country's very diverse climate opens the door to a wide range of crops. Real GDP growth reached 5.4 percent in 2013 and in 2014. Growth in 2014 was bolstered by strong agricultural yields, trade activities and, to a lesser extent, by private investments in the secondary sector

Togo's food and nutrition is classified as "serious" in the 2015 Global Hunger Index. There is no recent survey conducted on malnutrition but the last 2012 UNICEF Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey showed that acute malnutrition rate countrywide decreased to 4.9 percent but still remains high, particularly in the regions of Kara (5.3 percent) and Savannah (7.6 percent), according to. The 2012 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) revealed a stunting prevalence rate amounting around 30 percent nationwide with a high of 43 percent in the region of Savannah which is considered as the most vulnerable region of the country.

The national net enrolment is 83.9 percent but high disparities are noted between the regions. Furthermore, northern Togo has faced bad floods in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

Concerning the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Togo has achieved progress in universal primary education and the control of HIV/AIDS. However, the country will not be able to achieve six of the eight goals by the end of 2015.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP has been active in Togo since 1968 and resumed its activities in 2005 after a 10 year interruption. WFP implemented various operations in the most vulnerable regions of Togo to help improve the food security and nutritional status of the population. Through its operations in Togo, WFP has provided assistance to internally displaced people, refugees and vulnerable populations affected by flood emergencies and the high food price crisis. Additionally, in response to the Sahel crisis, WFP is actively involved in logistics and port operations in order to facilitate the transit of shipments to the affected countries in the Sahel region.

Within its social protection plans, the government has prioritized school feeding as a means to retain children and encourage enrolment in pre-school and primary schools. WFP's international expertise in the areas of school feeding, procurement (including local purchases) and logistics has been requested to assist the government in developing and leading a national school feeding programme relying on local purchases.

Through a school feeding project DEV 200304 started in May 2012, WFP focused its efforts on supporting the Government of Togo's capacity development for the future implementation of a sustainable school feeding programme. In collaboration with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger based in Brazil, the country office has been working with the Government of Togo to establish an appropriate institutional framework to manage the school feeding programme.

Recently, WFP has been supporting the national counterpart in conducting a survey on food security, nutrition and vulnerability of people living with HIV and Tuberculosis to make updated data available.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015			
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014			
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	1,640	3,332	4,972

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Total food distributed in 2015						
Total food distributed in 2014						
Total food distributed in 2013	206	11	31	7	2	257

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

Capacity development formed the cornerstone of project DEV 200304s objectives, which focused on contributing to sustainable solutions for a nationally-owned school feeding programme. The project DEV 200304, initially planned to close by the end of December 2013, was granted an extension in time from 1st January to 31 December 2014 and then from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

School feeding is considered to be a safety net which can help to alleviate extreme poverty and severe food insecurity on poor populations in rural and remoted areas. School feeding helps also increasing school children enrolment and attendance rates, contributing to overall improvement in school performance.

By linking school feeding with local production, agricultural and economic development have been further stimulated. School feeding standards, which were identified jointly by WFP and the World Bank, include a policy framework, institutional capacity and coordination, financial capacity, design and implementation, and community participation. Coordinating with the government and stakeholders, WFP was helping to find sustainable solutions for a nationally-owned school feeding programme through: (i) increasing institutional and human capital development at central and local levels related to policy and management of the school feeding programme; and (ii) strengthening linkages between local agricultural production and school meals, by providing technical assistance to the government and partners.

The school feeding project fits within WFPs strategic plan 2014-2017 and contributes to WFPs Strategic Objectives 3 "Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food nutrition needs", and 4 "Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger". The project is also aligned with the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2013-2017 through Strategic Axis 3, "Human resources, social protection and employment development."

The Project DEV 200304 is aligned to 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).

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

As this was solely a capacity development project for the Government of Togo and partners, no direct support to beneficiaries was provided.

'Story Worth Telling'

Mr. Pierre Agbekponou is the Deputy Coordinator of the PDCplus project financed by the World Bank in Togo. He is in charge of safety nets and monetary transfer components of this project. During the first session of the training of school canteens actors in Maritime region on school meals management and basic accounting, he confirmed that Togo is deeply committed to home grown school feeding. Mr Agbekponou recognized the importance of the partnership between WFP and the World Bank through PDCplus to support capacity development of the government and the members of local committees in charge of school canteens including the women in charge of preparing school meals. Regarding gaps in the school feeding area, at country level, representatives of local government, and other stakeholders as direct beneficiaries from the central and local levels could receive from WFP, training in basic accounting, logistics, quality control, procurement and monitoring and evaluation. The indirect beneficiaries composed of local communities and NGOs which will have the opportunity to be involved in canteens management and food production could also be trained to support school meals initiatives.

For Mr. Agbekponou, the implementation of the National School Feeding Policy will allow the government and all the partners to invest more technical and financial resources in the most vulnerable population and promote human capital development as defined by the SCAPE 2013-2017. According to the Deputy Coordinator of PDCplus, capacity development in which WFP has a comparative advantage is the cornerstone to develop school feeding in Togo and the lessons learns of various school feeding initiatives though GCNF events and regional school feeding workshops will contribute to support the development of locally-owned and sustainable school feeding programme in the country. He believes that PDCplus project, which reaches in 2015 only about 70,000 primary school students, could be extended to reach more students and serve as a safety net for the most vulnerable through partnership with WFP, the World Bank and other donors under the leadership of the government.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Throughout the implementation of the capacity development activities as per the project plan and during various meetings and consultations with government authorities and employees at central, community and local levels, WFP continuously advocated for gender equality. Over the past 12 months, WFP organized a total of three workshops to adopt strategic tools and guidance for school feeding programme management. For each workshop organized, WFP encouraged the designation of women participants to ensure gender parity. As a result of WFP advocacy for female participation, women's attendance has improved. During some workshops the representation of women was approximately 50 percent of participants. At the community levels, women were identified as main actors in charge of school meals preparation and distribution to school children. So they were actively involved in the formulation and the adoption of the school meals management and school diets guides.

The project strategy recognizes that women's engagement in school feeding, especially in rural areas, contributes to their sustainable economic empowerment and improves programme quality. Women's organizations composed of smallholder farmers, agricultural processors, traders, and women in charge of preparing school meals (femmes mamans) will continue to receive WFP support to improve methods for harvesting, product management and marketing.

Outputs

Throughout 2015, WFP has continuously advocated for the implementation of the roadmap which had been designed following the 2012 SABER assessment and updated in June 2014 after the study visit in Brazil. With this project, WFP Togo provided monitoring and evaluation tools including computerized material to regional structures of education to gather and analyze data collected from school canteens including data disaggregated by sex. This will help to ensure effective coordination of school feeding programmes at a national level, and ensure transparency and efficiency in the process. Other tools related to recipe, training modules and school feeding management are also provided by WFP to support the government officials, parent associations and women's organizations.

In 2015, the main results obtained from WFP technical assistance to the government and other partners are the: (i) establishment of an appropriate institutional framework for future school feeding programme management. (ii) establishment of a compendium of indicators to improve school feeding monitoring and evaluation activities at the national and local levels; (iii) the development of two guides related to menu preparation and beneficiaries targeting including school canteens management; (iv) training of staff from the Ministry of primary and secondary school involved in school feeding programmes on monitoring and evaluation database system utilization; (v) equipment of the regional offices of the Ministry of education with computers and database system and (vi) training of school canteens actors on school canteens development and management and on basic accounting.

With the support of WFP and the Centre of Excellence against hunger, Togo was represented at the school feeding regional workshop held in Dakar in April 2015 and at the 17th GCNF held in Sal Island (Cape Verde) in September 2015. The country delegation comprised of participants from ministries of education and community development prepared a report of Home Grown School Feeding in Togo. These events highlight the potential value of an integrated approach and the need to support the country in the development and implementation of a sustainable school feeding programme.

Furthermore, WFP together with a national expert assigned by the WFP Center of Excellence Against Hunger conducted a study cost / efficiency of the distribution operation of school meals in Togo led by PDCplus project. The report shared with all stakeholders gives precise indications on the outcomes / impacts on school meals and the performance indicators of the education system. It is also and above all an advocacy document which should help the government to take appropriate decisions on the adequate school feeding model that maximizes the benefits and minimizes costs.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of government counterparts trained in data collection and analysis on food and nutrition security	individual	82	81	98.8%
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (school feeding)	national programme	1	1	100.0%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	5	5	100.0%

Outcomes

While capacity development is a continuous process that requires lengthy engagement and does not easily translate into tangible results, WFP's dedicated efforts under the project DEV 200304 and the comprehensive package of activities implemented during the reporting year have meaningfully contributed to strengthen national school feeding capacities and to achieve Strategic Objective 4, (Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger) through different pathways.

The contribution of WFP to strengthening the school feeding knowledge-base, the studies and training supported through this development project enabled the government to have a harmonized tools for the follow-up and evaluation of schools with canteens, to have a guide of food recipes and a guide of targeting and management of school meals.

The end of project evaluation to determine progress measured with the national capacity index (NCI) for school feeding has not yet been carried out. NCI was developed in line with the SABER tool. The second budget revision of the project made in January 2015 has helped to extend the duration till 31st December 2015. Another SABER exercise needs to be planned for 2016 to determine the new NCI level.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
Base value: Dec-2012, SABER report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Apr-2014, NCI appraisal-workshop report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Apr-2014, NCI appraisal-workshop report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring.	2.6	1.4	1.8	1.8

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The project was led by the government, with implicit support from financial partners who have already expressed their willingness to support a national school feeding programme. The Government of Togo further allocated around 4 million USD to school feeding within the 2014 and 2015 budgets.

Capacity development is at the core of the project implementation. The government requested WFP support to the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework and the development of a sustainable school feeding programme based on multi-sectorial approach. In this frame, a total of 35 staff members from the Ministry of Education in charge of school feeding data collection and data analysis were trained in September 2015 on school feeding database management. From December 21st to December 31st 2015, more than 60 members of school feeding committees from 50 primary schools and from 05 national NGOs and PDCplus were trained on school canteens management technics and on basic accounting processes. The participants of this training were mostly women and men from the members of school committees, the women involved in school meals preparation and staff members from involved NGO.

With the support of the Regional bureau and the Centre of Excellence against Hunger (CoE), WFP Togo will assist the government to conduct a SABER exercise and to pursuit the training for school canteens actors. A national school feeding forum will be organized by the government with the support of WFP/CoE in order to draw the interest of political, financial and technical partners.

Finally, several activities will be implemented going forward including support to community stakeholders implementing school feeding activities. These include women in charge of preparing school meals, regional coordinators of education; technical experts, inspectors of education supervising monitoring and evaluation procedures and school directors in charge of tracking progress. WFP will also train members of farmers' organizations in post-harvest activities, including storage, transport, and supply chain management.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

The implementation of the project benefited from the substantial involvement of government departments through the focal points' active participation in the preparation and execution of capacity development activities. Eight ministries were involved including the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Rural Development, Crafts, Youth and Youth Employment; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing; Ministry of Social Action, Promotion of Women and Literacy; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Planning Development and Spatial Planning; Ministry of Environment; and Ministry of Economy and Finances.

The project DEV 200304 aimed to increase government capacity towards a nationally owned school feeding programme, so, ministries were the key partners. Through data collection, ICAT (Advice and technical support Institute or Institut de Conseil et d'Appui Technique) supported the mapping of producers and food processing organizations in Maritime, Plateau, Central, Kara and Savannah regions. NGOs were involved in consultations during the regional workshops organized to disseminate the National School Feeding Policy findings and the formulation of the guide for targeting, implementation and management of school feeding policy. They will always be invited to share their experience with WFP. INFA de Tove (Institut de formation agricole de Tove) which is under the Ministry of agriculture is the main partner of WFP and has conducted in 2015, the first training sessions for national school meals stakeholders.

Since April 2015, Togo has benefited from the Centre's technical support and expertise in decentralized management of school feeding, linkage with local production and procurement, and integration of school feeding activities with broader social safety net strategy. A national forum on school feeding is planned. WFP has applied its expertise to provide Togo with maps on food availability and crop seasonality, harvest frequency, and food distribution networks. Bilateral discussions have also been carried out with the Centre of Excellence for possible mobilization of funds through south-south cooperation with the Brazil government to support the new integrated approach to school feeding in Togo. Two consultants (one national and one international) have been funded by the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in 2015 to support capacity development of an integrated approach to school feeding in Togo and such assistance is expected to continue to support the government.

WFP developed a partnership with ECOWAS (ARAA), the World Bank, IFAD, UNICEF, FAO, and other United Nations agencies to support safety nets initiatives, nutritional education activities, minimum hygiene standards, and promote school gardens for learning purposes.

WFP Togo has undertaken consultation with PDCplus and the World Bank in 2015 to develop tripartite MoU to provide training to school feeding stakeholders in food quality control, hygiene, supply chain management and nutrition. WFP Country Office engaged negotiation with GIZ which is particularly interested in supporting smallholder farmers' associations and finance Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment and Nutrition Survey (CFSVA & NS).

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	1			

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Project report, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Financial report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Financial report, Programme monitoring.	250,000	0	12,000	28,000
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Dec-2013, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Project monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Project monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	3	0	1	4
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Project monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Project monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	80		70	85

Lessons Learned

In Togo, School Feeding National Policy is based on a multi-sectoral approach with a high priority on the development of local production and support to the local economy through working with agricultural producers in Togo. Based on previous experiences, WFP will emphasize the importance of school feeding as a community-owned initiative and will advocate for active participation of local communities in managing school feeding using nutrition-sensitive approaches and promoting hygienic food handling practices. Technical assistance will allow to promote representation of women in schools by requiring women hold at least three out of five decision-making positions in school management committees. Committees will give close attention to dropout rates for girls, gender-based violence in schools and other gender issues. Mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of school canteens were identified, including definition of indicators, collection and processing of data, and management and decision-making responsibilities. The challenge for the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system will be continuing the systems once the canteens are fully operational.

Through partnership, the current government project could be extended to reach more students and serve as a safety net for the most vulnerable especially in the drought prone and marginal north of the country. So, WFP will continue to provide technical support to the World Bank's Project (PDCplus) activities, focusing on challenges encountered and lessons learned.