

# Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

## BENIN

### COUNTRY PROGRAMME BENIN 200721 (2015 - 2018)

Project Number	200721
Project Category	Country Programme

Project Approval Date	27 May 2015
Planned Start Date	01 Jul 2015
Actual Start Date	01 Jul 2015
Project End Date	30 Jun 2018
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	703,996
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	466,897
Direct Support Costs	4,315,909
Food and Related Costs	9,606,164
Indirect Support Costs	1,056,508
Total Approved Budget	16,149,474

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	13,293
Planned Commodities in 2015	1,262
Actual Commodities in 2015	1,162

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## Country Overview



## COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Benin is located on the West African coast, bordering Nigeria and Niger in the east, Togo in the west and Burkina Faso in the north with a total surface area of 114,763 square km. It has a total population of approximately 10 million, composed of 51.2 percent women and 17.4 percent children under 5.

Classified as a low income food deficit country (FAO 2014), with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 1,428 (UNDP 2013), Benin is ranked 165th out of 187 countries on the 2014 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI). Despite a continual improvement of the HDI, progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals has been relatively low, including the Goal 1 - halving extreme poverty and hunger which will not be achieved by 2015. As such, Benin's food and nutrition is classified as "serious" in the 2014 Global Hunger Index.

Although agriculture is the economy's key sector, structural problems in this sector persist, negatively affecting food security, nutrition and the trade balance. Recurrent floods, droughts and the impact of the global financial crisis and increases in commodity prices in the past years have exacerbated an already fragile nutritional situation of the most vulnerable regions.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) conducted in 2013 estimates that 11 percent of the population is moderately/severely food insecure and 34 percent have limited or poor food consumption. According to the most recent Integrated Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions results (EMICoV, 2014), 34 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition with multiple long-term and irreversible consequences on academic performance, learning capacity and adult productivity. This situation is particularly worrying the Northern part of the country, especially in the districts of Karimama and Malanville, where the prevalence rate of chronic malnutrition is over 35 percent while the Global Acute Malnutrition is around ten percent.

Over 70 percent of the population is illiterate. Though school enrolment rates are high, there are huge regional disparities, and reducing the dropout rate is a major challenge for the education system.

The situation of women remains challenging in terms of access to education, health and productive assets, as confirmed by the 2013 Gender Inequality Index in which the country is classified 134th out of 148 countries.

There has been progress in the fight against HIV - prevalence decreased from 2 percent in 2006 to 1.2 percent in 2014. However, women are especially affected, with a prevalence rate of 1.4 percent, including a peak of 2.2 percent in Cotonou.

## SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964, providing assistance to children enrolled in primary school, people living with HIV and vulnerable populations affected by emergencies such as floods, droughts, and the high food price crisis. WFP is also engaged in food security and market analysis, logistics and local food procurement support.

Since 2010, in partnership with the Government of Benin, WFP has been providing food assistance to children enrolled in rural public primary schools through its school meals programme. The school-feeding programme aims to support districts with high rates of food insecurity and where net enrolment rates are below the national average. WFP promoted community ownership of the canteens and contributed to the establishment of sustainable school canteens. This contributed to progress towards the universal primary education and Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3. WFP continued to provide technical assistance and support to the government in developing and implementing a policy and institutional framework for harmonized school feeding across the country.

WFP has also been providing assistance and relief to vulnerable populations affected by severe flooding throughout the country. Benin experienced severe flooding in September 2010 and August 2012 that affected several districts from north to south. WFP has been able to assist in response to these emergencies and has offered relief to these flood affected populations.

In 2014, WFP, along with its government counterparts, validated the Country Strategy Document 2014-2018 which defines three interlinked pillars for continued assistance: (i) strengthening food security through livelihood assets promotion; (ii) supporting human capital development through social protection and safety net programmes; and (iii) reinforcing national capacity for sustainable emergency preparedness and response.

This process led to the elaboration of the Country Programme whose objective is to support the Government of Benin in taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and which started in July 2015. The CP focuses on an integrated approach of school feeding, on nutrition support activities to vulnerable people and on resilience strengthening of vulnerable communities. While the school feeding component will cover most part of the national territory, the nutrition and resilience component will be particularly implemented in Karimama and Malanville districts, deemed the most vulnerable districts according to social indicators. These districts are as well defined as the convergence zone for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018, and where WFP will focus its nutrition and food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. As such and through these activities, the Country Office will contribute to respond to the objectives 1; 2; 3 and 6 of the UNDAF.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	4,285	3,925	8,210
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	52,532	44,499	97,031
Number of adults		2,170	2,170
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	56,817	50,594	107,411
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	55,071	44,689	99,760
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	78,670	66,971	145,641

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	786	53	155		17	1,011
Country Programme	898	64	82	100	18	1,162
Total food distributed in 2015	1,684	117	237	100	35	2,173
Total food distributed in 2014	2,154	147	452		42	2,795
Total food distributed in 2013	1,709	155	362	21	38	2,284

# Operational SPR

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

The three interlinked components of the Benin country programme aim to support the government to take up the Zero Hunger Challenge initiated by the General Secretary of the United Nations and in collaboration with national partners. More specifically, the country programme plans to:

- (i) support primary education in food-insecure areas and enhance government capacities to develop and manage a sustainable national school feeding programme;
- (ii) reduce undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, particularly among young children and pregnant and lactating women and;
- (iii) build and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable communities to natural disasters.

While the school feeding component will cover most of the national territory, components 2 and 3 of the programme will pay particular attention to Karimama and Malanville communes, deemed to be among the most vulnerable in the country according to social indicators. These communes are defined as the convergence zone for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018, and will be the focus for WFP nutrition and food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. The country programme is in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy and reflects recommendations from preceding comprehensive consultations with national partners and constitutes the roadmap for strengthening food and nutrition security in Benin for 2015-2018. In the communes of Karimama and Malanville, activities related to nutrition and food assistance for assets (FFA) will be linked: FFA will help to increase the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households, diversify diets and improve resilience to shocks. Nutrition sensitization will promote sound feeding practices and more nutritious meals. In the rest of the country, where the multi-sector approach to school feeding will be implemented, links with local producers will enhance the incomes of smallholder farmers.

The project contributed to WFP 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".

## Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

The third component which aims to enhance resilience of vulnerable households will also focus on the communes of Karimama and Malanville which are two disaster prone areas. While 2015 has been dedicated to preparation activities, the implementation of the programme is expected to start in 2016. To identify the most vulnerable communities, the Commune Development Plan together with a rapid assessment will be the main tools used.

[illegible]

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>									
Children receiving school meals	64,800	55,200	120,000	54,494	44,499	98,993	84.1%	80.6%	82.5%
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>									
Caretakers - Therapeutic Feeding		100	100		3	3		3.0%	3.0%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	1,569	1,449	3,018	1,569	1,449	3,018	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	754	696	1,450	754	696	1,450	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in targeted supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate acute malnutrition)		0	0		2,170	2,170		-	-
<b>ACT3 - Food Transfer-C3-FFA</b>									
Participants in Food For Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-

## Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>			
Beans	99	49	49.7%
Iodised Salt		18	
Maize	495	453	91.5%
Rice	495	443	89.5%
Split Peas		33	
Vegetable Oil	66	59	88.9%
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>91.3%</b>
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>			
Beans	0	0	-
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	75	75	100.5%
Maize	2	2	101.3%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	25	25	99.4%
Vegetable Oil	5	5	96.3%
<b>Sum</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100.2%</b>
<b>Total for 2015</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>92.1%</b>

## 'Story Worth Telling'

Her name is Fatoumata, and she lives in the district of Karimama which has the highest rate of global acute malnutrition in the country. She has given birth to six children, including twins who are not even a full year old. Due to climate change, the village where she lives was affected by floods and drought for the past year. Consequently, harvest was not sufficient to cover food and nutritional needs as well as other expenses of the households.

Despite multiple interventions carried out by community volunteers through nutritional advice and good feeding practices for young children and infants, the twins remained often sick and malnourished. Although the end of the year is usually a period in which nutrition conditions remain stable, the screening conducted in November together with the Ministry of Health showed a rather worrying situation. In this context, Fatoumata's three youngest children and herself were identified, screened and found to be malnourished.

Invited to receive food supplements, Fatoumata showed up early the morning of the distribution day. During the following field visit, Fatoumata told the monitoring assistant "I really appreciated your support, I was afraid for my twins but I am now confident to be able to face the coming months until the next harvest."



## Progress Towards Gender Equality

Women in Benin are more vulnerable to poverty than men; they have fewer salaried jobs and they account for only 13 percent of political decision-making bodies even though they constitute half of the electorate. The latest gender inequality index ranks Benin 134th of 148 countries. Women appear to have less access to education and technical training.

In the school feeding programme, specific attention has been paid to obtain gender parity in WFP-assisted primary schools. Sensitization helped to increase women's representation in parent-teacher association and school feeding committees to 40 percent in line with WFP's gender policy, which promotes the expansion of programmes that enable girls to attend school and that maximize women's participation in school activities. Furthermore, WFP ensured that the gender issue be included in the roadmap following the National School Feeding Forum including the reduction of disparity between boys and girls as one of the key action to undertake. However, most of the indicators related to the progress of gender equality were not measured during the reporting period due to the short time available. A thorough monitoring mission will be conducted during the second trimester of 2016.

Finally, within the preparation activities for the implementation of the food assistance for assets (FFA) interventions, WFP organized one workshop and one training on the three pronged approach. For each activity, approximately 40 percent of participants were women. Their participation was essential as FFA activities will be adapted to the needs of women, men, young people and elderly people, and WFP will ensure that women and men participate equally in identifying FFA activities and that they have equal access to the benefits.

Cross-cutting Indicators	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>
	Target Val			
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>				
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Field reports, Programme monitoring.	<b>50</b>			<b>28.42</b>
<b>Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Field monitoring reports, Programme monitoring.	<b>60</b>			<b>45</b>
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>				
<b>Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
Base value: Sep-2015, Field reports, Programme monitoring.	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>		
<b>Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
Base value: Sep-2015, Field report, Programme monitoring.	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>		
<b>Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
Base value: Sep-2015, Field report, Programme monitoring.	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>		

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Due to the short period of time elapsed and taking into account that distribution to beneficiaries started in November 2015, indicators of protection and accountability related to the school feeding components were not yet measured during the reporting period. The value of the indicators related to the proportion of people informed about the programme are based on a simple counting of the number of parents present during the awareness sessions. A thorough survey will be conducted during the next trimester to adjust these values. As for nutrition support, a post-delivery monitoring survey was conducted end of December. It confirmed that 99 percent of people were informed about the conditions and no safety issues reported while traveling to the distribution site.

Cross-cutting Indicators	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>
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>				
<b>Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
Base value: Aug-2015, Field reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Field reports, Programme monitoring.	<b>100</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>				
<b>Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	<b>100</b>			<b>99</b>
<b>Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	<b>100</b>			<b>100</b>

## Outputs

During the first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year, WFP provided food assistance through the school feeding programme to approximately 100,000 children in 569 schools starting from December. Emphasis has been placed on implementing the integrated approach of school feeding in 50 pilot schools. This means that within the 50 schools, links have been created between nutrition and hygiene sensitization including through the future installation of hand washing system and the creation of a school garden to diversify the diet. For this last component, the country office purchased 0,028 mt of seeds with the support of FAO. Agricultural tools were also purchased and will be distributed during the first trimester 2016. All the 50 pilot schools are monitored by mediators who can also provide useful advice. In addition, the country office together with the WFP Center of Excellence against Hunger based in Brazilia supported the government, particularly the Minister of Education in the organization of the second National School Feeding Forum held in November. This forum was attended by more than 200 participants including from Burundi to discuss the role of school feeding in the education system. Furthermore, staff from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Development has been trained on the management of a school feeding programme. Finally, the country office purchased about 564 mt of beans and maize locally. However, WFP did not manage to purchase food from small farmers associations as this is a process which requires specific procurement procedures which WFP hopes to implement in 2016.

Regarding the second component, to provide nutrition support to vulnerable people, 18 health centers were assisted instead of the 10 initially planned in order to reduce the distance between the living place and the distribution sites. Provision of nutrition counselling through health workers has started in December but will be mainly carried out during the first trimester, reason why the indicator related to this input has not yet been measured.

Although the implementation of FFA activities is expected to start in 2016, adequate preparation is essential to ensure the sustainability and appropriation of the assets created. Consequently, the country office started the roll out of the three pronged approach. Step one, which consists in an Integrated Context Analysis, had already been conducted through various surveys allowing WFP to identify Karimama and Malanville as zones prone to shocks. Secondly, the country office organized a workshop on the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) gathering more than 60 participants from the community to the national levels to define a roadmap for interventions in the region based on a SLP in a good and bad year. Finally, WFP organized a training for trainers on Community-based Participatory Planning (PCP) in a suburban hamlet of Malanville together with state technical services and local NGOs.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>				
<b>SO 3: Local Purchase</b>				
Number of smallholder farmers supported by WFP	Individual	0	0	-
Quantity of food purchased locally from pro-smallholder aggregation systems (expressed in MT)	mt	127	0	0.0%
Quantity of food purchased locally through Local and Regional purchases (expressed in MT)	mt	637	564	88.5%

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO 4: School Feeding</b>				
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	54,494	54,494	100.0%
Number of primary school children assisted by WFP	Individual	98,993	98,993	100.0%
Number of primary school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	44,499	44,499	100.0%
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	569	569	100.0%
Quantity of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer) distributed	mt	1	1	100.0%
Quantity of agricultural tools distributed	tool	1,500	0	0.0%
Quantity of kitchen utensils distributed (plates, spoons, cooking pots etc.)	utensil	950	0	0.0%
<b>SO 5: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities</b>				
Number of female government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (managerial)	individual	10	10	100.0%
Number of male government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (managerial)	individual	68	68	100.0%
Number of technical assistance projects conducted by WFP to strengthen the national capacity	project	1	1	100.0%
Technical Assistance: Number of technical assistance projects conducted by WFP to strengthen the national capacity	project	1	1	100.0%
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>				
<b>SO 4: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting</b>				
Proportion of men exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	50		
Proportion of men receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	50		
Proportion of targeted caregivers (male and female) receiving 3 key messages delivered through WFP supported messaging and counseling	%	100		
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	80		
Proportion of women receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	80		
<b>SO 4: Nutrition: Treatment of Acute Malnutrition</b>				
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	10	18	180.0%
Proportion of men exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	50		
Proportion of men receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	50		
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	80		
Proportion of women receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	80		

## Outcomes

Most of the outcome indicators related to the school feeding component will be measured at the end of the school year in order to allow adequate comparison with previous annual indicators, which are mainly measured during the same period. However, the country office was able to measure the enrollment rate which showed a significant increase from 5 to 10 percent, that is beyond the initial target set at 6 percent. This was mainly thanks to the sensitizations conducted by WFP in the zones of intervention before the beginning of the school year. Nevertheless, the gender ratio slightly remains the same compared to the baseline, WFP Benin will therefore intensify its efforts to promote girls access to school.

The indicator reporting on food purchased locally as a percentage of food distributed through the school feeding programme shows that 44 percent of the commodities were purchased locally meaning that this outcome will most probably be achieved in the coming months.

As for the nutrition component given that commodities have been delivered to beneficiaries at the beginning of December 2015, the field monitoring mission conducted end of that same month could only confirm the number of beneficiaries and how commodities have been used. The most common finding is that rations destined to the identified children, were shared by all the children of the household. In addition some households did not cook appropriately the CSB++. In response, WFP plans to organize more sessions of sensitization on the use and preparation of the CSB++.

Other indicators such as MAM treatment mortality rate will be measured during the first trimester 2016. As mentioned earlier in the report, implementation of the third component is expected to start in 2016. Therefore no indicators have yet been measured.

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>
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>				
<b>Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs</b>				
<b>Food purchased from aggregation systems in which smallholders are participating, as % of regional, national and local purchases</b>				
Base value: Jul-2015, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Pipeline, Programme monitoring.	10	0		0
<b>Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country</b>				
Base value: Dec-2014, pipeline report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, pipeline report, Programme monitoring.	50	22		44
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger</b>				
<b>Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
Base value: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6	5.4		10
<b>Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
Base value: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6	5		9.39
<b>Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
Base value: Dec-2014, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6	5		10.39
<b>Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Statistic report, Programme monitoring.	0.9			0.81
<b>NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index</b>				
Base value: Mar-2014, SABER analysis, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Mar-2014, SABER Analysis, Programme monitoring.	3	1		1
<b>Promotion rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
	77			
<b>Promotion rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
	77			
<b>Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
	85			
<b>Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
	85			
<b>Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
	85			
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>				
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger</b>				
<b>MAM treatment default rate (%)</b>				
	15			
<b>MAM treatment mortality rate (%)</b>				
	3			
<b>MAM treatment non-response rate (%)</b>				
	15			
<b>MAM treatment recovery rate (%)</b>				
	75			
<b>Proportion of children consuming a minimum acceptable diet</b>				
	70			
<b>Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)</b>				
	70			
<b>Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions</b>				
	66			

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

In November, the government with the support of WFP Benin organized the second edition of the National Forum of School Feeding. This key event highlighted the need to further develop school feeding in the education making the wish of the President "one school, one canteen" realistic.

Specific objectives of the forum were: (i) make an assessment, five years after the implementation of the recommendations of the first forum on school feeding in Benin, by identifying strengths weaknesses, threats and opportunities; (ii) Share innovative experiences of other countries in terms of multi-sectoral approach; (iii) Validate the implementation plan of the National School Food Policy (PNAS) realizing a multisector approach with a clear link between school feeding and local food production.

Outcomes of the forum included the elaboration of a number of recommendations such as the necessity to register School Feeding as a focus area in the Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction (CPRS IV) and to transform the Directorate of School Feeding into an Agency under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. Recommendations of the forum will be included in an action plan and should contribute to a better appropriation of the school feeding by the government.

In addition, WFP Benin along with a high-level delegation composed of the Ministry Education and the Deputy Director of the Finance Minister's office participated in the Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in Cape Verde organized by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger based in Brazil together with the Global Child Nutrition Forum. This forum aimed to: (i) build on the success of the Cape Verdean model for establishing a national school feeding programme using local production; (ii) explore opportunities for south-south collaboration in the implementation of school feeding; and (iii) improve the implementation plan of the National School Feeding Policy.

As a result, the participants agreed on a list of recommendations including on the necessity for the government to establish dedicated budget lines to ensure the sustainable allocation of sufficient resources to national school feeding programme.

Food Assistance for Assets activities are expected to start in 2016. However, preparation is the key for success. Through the implementation of the three pronged approach, WFP managed to carry out the last two steps. Concretely, this means the WFP conducted first a workshop with participants coming from regional and technical services together with representatives of communities (farmers, fishermen, youth and women) from Karimama and Malanville. The workshop aimed to elaborate a Seasonal Livelihood Calendar allowing to have a global overview of the challenges met during a good and a bad year. It is a consultative process to design an integrated multi-year, multi-sectorial operational plan using seasonal and gender lenses. The tool elaborated has been shared with the technical services and the Ministry of Development for appropriation and potential roll out in order regions of the country. The last step consisted in a Training of trainer on Participatory Community Planning. Participants from international and national NGOs together with local technical staff. WFP identified one community to conduct this exercise. The participants spent two days within the community to assess the situation and analyze opportunities for development.

## INPUTS

### Resource Inputs

Thanks to a substantial allocation of multilateral resources, WFP has been able to start its country programme on a healthy basis despite some delays in the distribution.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL		834	712
<b>Total:</b>		<b>834</b>	<b>712</b>

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

### Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Local purchases consisted mainly of maize and beans representing approximately 44 percent of the 834 mt purchased. To save time, the Country Office widely used the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) to purchase commodities especially for the nutrition component. In this frame, CSB++ and Plumpy Sup were purchased from the port of Lome and the CSB from the port of Cotonou. Commodities purchased will cover food needs until February.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	97	0	0	
Corn Soya Blend				75
Maize	497	0	0	
Ready To Use Supplementary Food				25
Rice	118	0	0	
Sugar	0	3	0	
Vegetable Oil				19
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>119</b>

## Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Except for heavy administrative procedures at the border between Benin and Togo, there were no major problems reported in secondary transport.

## Post-Delivery Losses

Slight post-delivery losses occurred with maize and rice. The post-delivery loss of maize was a result of long conservation of the commodity in the storage facility while the loss of rice resulted from transport conditions.

## MANAGEMENT

### Partnerships

The main objective of the country programme is to support the government in taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge. Partnership with the government is therefore the key for success. In this context, WFP is working hand in hand with the Ministry of Education through the Directorate of School Feeding. The integrated approach of school feeding newly implemented also requires the involvement of other ministries such as health, agriculture and finance in order to develop synergies around school feeding. The second forum on School Feeding represented a great opportunity to bring these ministries to work closer on this initiative.

During the first semester of the Country Programme implementation, WFP worked with local NGOs and UN Sister Agencies. Indeed, local NGOs played a crucial role in the installation of the School Feeding Management Committee in the 569 selected schools. The implementation of the national integrated approach of school feeding in the 50 pilot schools has also been developed thanks to key partnerships. FAO facilitated the purchase of seeds for the school garden while a local NGO has been recruited to conduct monitoring activities through mediators. WHO is also expected to play a major role for deworming activities.

During 2015, WFP Benin developed two joint programmes with UN sister agencies. The first one related to the prevention of chronic malnutrition with UNICEF and WHO in the convergence zone of the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) and the second one, with FAO and UNFPA, on strengthening food security and women communication and leadership skills in the Mono region.

Finally, the country office keeps on participating in thematic groups related to education, food security and climate change adaptation. These thematic groups also represent key opportunities to further develop partnership with local and international NGOs.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	3			3

Cross-cutting Indicators	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>
<b>ACT1 - Food Transfer-C1-School Feeding</b>				
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLA signed with NGOs, Programme monitoring.	3			3
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	100			100
<b>ACT2 - Food Transfer-C2-Nutrition</b>				
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>				
	2			
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>				
	100			

## Lessons Learned

Thanks to a substantial allocation of multilateral resources, the country office was able to start its planned activities during the first semester of the country programme. However, the very short time allowed for the use of funds (3 months) coupled to limited available staff have put the office under pressure to implement numerous activities and to achieve its goals in the last quarter 2015. WFP intends to improve its organization for a better coordination of activities and better communication flow between the units. The country office plans as well to set up a resource management working group for a better follow-up of the financial resources and planned interventions.



## OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

## Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Beans		97	97
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend		75	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Maize		497	497
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Ready To Use Supplementary		25	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice		118	118
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Sugar		3	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil		19	0
Total:				834	712