

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

GHANA

Assistance to Ivorian Refugees in Ghana

Project Number	200675
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	8,500
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	8,500
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	8,493

Project Approval Date	17 Mar 2014
Planned Start Date	01 Feb 2014
Actual Start Date	01 Feb 2014
Project End Date	30 Sep 2015
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	4,000
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	
Direct Support Costs	548,786
Food and Related Costs	1,682,523
Indirect Support Costs	156,472
Total Approved Budget	2,391,781

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	2,230
Planned Commodities in 2015	854
Actual Commodities in 2015	654

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Ghana is a lower middle-income country with a population of 24 million and an annual population growth rate of 2.4 percent. Ghana is also listed by FAO as a low-income food deficit country. It ranks 140 out of 188 countries in the 2015 UNDP Human Development Index Report. Agriculture is the basis of the economy, accounting for more than one-third of the GDP and about 55 percent of formal employment. Cash crops consist primarily of cocoa and cocoa products, which typically provide about one-third of export revenue. The gross national income (GNI) per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP) is USD 1,584. Countrywide, poverty has reduced from 58 to 29 percent since 1990.

Notable improvement in social protection programmes have contributed considerably to the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs). However, the outcomes have been mixed. Targets such as halving extreme poverty, halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water, universal primary education and gender parity in primary school have been attained. Some progress has been made in reducing HIV prevalence and increasing access to technology. However, slow progress has been made towards the targets of achieving full and productive employment, equal share of women in wage employment in non-agriculture sectors and women's involvement in governance; reducing under-5 and child mortality; reducing maternal mortality, and reversing the loss of environmental resources and improving sanitation.

In spite of some achievements towards halving poverty, food security still remains a challenge, especially in the deprived three northern regions. Northern, Upper East and Upper West together make up 70 percent of the poor at the national level. Food insecurity rates in these regions range from 20 percent to 37 percent of the population (WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment 2012). Over 45 percent of the population still lives on less than USD 1.25 per day. According to the WFP 'Follow-up Impact Assessment of the Global Financial Crisis' safety net programmes should be targeted to the most deprived areas of the country. This is especially important in light of Ghana's high current account and budget deficit, export dependency, aid dependency and low international reserves, which make the country vulnerable to external shocks.

In 2015, Ghana faced significant macroeconomic challenges and its fiscal and current account deficits remain very high. Economic growth declined to 3.5 percent in the third quarter of 2015, while inflation is on the rise. The annual average growth rate of Ghana over the last 5 years is 9.7 percent however over the last one year, the country's economy slowed down to an estimated 3.5 percent.

Malnutrition rates in these areas are also higher than the rest of the country except for the Central Region where malnutrition rates is comparable to the North. However, unlike the Central region, the three Northern regions are more vulnerable due to high poverty rates, high risk of aggravating factors such as floods, droughts and generally high food insecurity. Stunting rates in Northern (33.1 percent high), Upper and Upper West regions (22.2 percent medium), Central (22.0 percent) are above the national average of 18.8 percent and classified as 'serious' by the WHO in the Northern Region, but of low public health significance in the Upper East (14.4 percent, low) and nationally."

Marked disparities in national wealth have increased communities' vulnerability to further food insecurity and malnutrition.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP provided life-saving assistance to refugee populations and longer-term development assistance through a development programme to build resilience and strengthen safety nets. In 2015, WFP key activities were implemented through two projects: the Country Programme (CP) and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) which ended in September 2015. The programme contributed to MDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Through its CP, WFP supports the government in assisting poor, food-insecure households to sustainably meet their education, health and nutrition needs and build the resilience of vulnerable communities. The Country Programme is supporting increased enrolment and attendance in basic schools (primary one to junior high school form three) through school meals and rations to girls which serves as an incentive for them to remain in school. Malnourished children under 5, people living with HIV/AIDs and pregnant and lactating women also receive nutritional support. Through the cash for assets programme, WFP works to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities.

In addition, capacity support is provided to government to set up monitoring and evaluation systems for its school feeding programme and in the development of nutrition and school feeding policies and legislative framework. WFP's interventions of the Country Programme are aligned with thematic area one of the United Nation Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The PRRO aimed to meet the food and nutrition requirements of Ivorian refugees who fled political conflict. WFP provided food assistance to refugees whose main source of food was the WFP food rations.

Through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, the capacity of small holder farmers was developed to increase production and improve quality and access to both WFP and institutional markets such as the Home Grown School Feeding and Secondary Schools markets, as well as private sector.

WFP is working actively in the Nutrition, Health, Education, Agriculture and Social Protection Working Groups to ensure harmonization of WFP programmes with national development interventions. WFP hosts the Renewed Efforts to Address Child Hunger and under-Nutrition (REACH) and is also actively engaged in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) including efforts to address child stunting and malnutrition. WFP provides support through evidence creation, piloting of innovative strategies in high vulnerability areas and policy engagement. WFP worked with the government in the validation of the data collection and draft report of the Cost of Hunger Analysis (COHA).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	49,039	50,190	99,229
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	30,295	65,826	96,121
Number of adults	23,436	41,630	65,066
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	102,770	157,646	260,416
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	114,173	136,247	250,420
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	153,757	197,146	350,903

Project Type	Distribution (mt)					Total
	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	
Single Country PRRO	478	64	53	49	11	654
Country Programme	3,239	458	117	2,451	280	6,546
Total food distributed in 2015	3,717	522	169	2,501	291	7,200
Total food distributed in 2014	4,356	477	381	504	349	6,067
Total food distributed in 2013	7,801	514	579	1,225	515	10,634

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

PRRO 200675 was implemented to provide food assistance to Ivorian asylum seekers in Ghana, following post-election violence in March 2011. Initial assistance through an EMOP supported 17,750 asylum seekers. This number was reduced by a budget revision to 8,500 refugees who for fear of reprisals, refused to return to Cote d'Ivoire even after the return to democracy. The EMOP subsequently transitioned to a PRRO in January 2014 to February 2015, and was later extended to September 2015 following JAM recommendation to allow refugees to consolidate their livelihoods prior to stopping food assistance.

The project was designed as a joint WFP/UNHCR exit strategy with the objective of ensuring household food security for refugees to enable them to avoid negative coping mechanisms, whilst also strengthening their ability to provide for their food security needs. The strategy focused on transitioning to self-reliance, and is aligned to WFP Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 of the Strategic Results Framework 2014-2017 as per the approved project documents and log frame. Food assistance for the refugees was scaled down while livelihood skills training delivered by UNHCR was scaled up to enable refugees to provide for their household food needs, and to prepare them to exit food assistance as envisaged in the strategy.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

The PRRO beneficiaries were registered and lived in three refugee camps of Ampain in the Western; Egeikrom in the Central and Fetentaa in the Brong-Ahafo regions, and were provided with ration cards. Their profile indicated that they were mainly from the regions of Cote d'Ivoire that were deemed to be loyal followers of the deposed president Laurent Gbagbo. They continued to live in the refugee camps in Ghana in spite of Cote d'Ivoire's return to democratic rule, due to fear of reprisals from the government of the newly installed Alassane Ouattara from opposition party.

In collaboration with UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board, through a joint assessment, 15 percent of the refugee population were assessed to be more vulnerable, and were provided with full rations of the general food distribution (GFD) basket throughout the entire duration of the PRRO. The selection criteria for the more vulnerable included the elderly, terminally ill, people living with HIV who were unable to undertake any livelihoods or income-generation activities, and unaccompanied children. They received the full 100 percent rations.

The remaining 85 percent who were deemed to be less vulnerable received 40 percent of the full general food distribution basket from February 2015. The reduction in the rations for the less vulnerable was based on the expectation that families will engage in livelihood skills training and income-generation activities to supplement their food needs, as provided by UNHCR in this joint strategy. A small number of children with moderate acute malnutrition, 100, were targeted with Super Cereal plus to improve their nutritional status as part of MAM treatment.

Food was dispatched on a monthly basis to the camps following receipt of reports on the previous month's distributions, and an indication of existing stocks from the previous distributions for effective accounting of food commodities. The First-in First-out method was used to dispatch food commodities to ensure that food delivered was in good condition at all times. Distributions were done by UNHCR and the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS), using UNHCR's registration tools. Whenever possible, WFP ensured that food was delivered in the early part of the following month to limit the impacts of the delay in delivery, as the WFP food constituted the main stable source of food commodities for refugees.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	1,380	1,851	3,231	1,369	1,682	3,051	99.2%	90.9%	94.4%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	1,775	1,794	3,569	1,762	1,981	3,743	99.3%	110.4%	104.9%
Number of children below 5 years of age	789	911	1,700	779	920	1,699	98.7%	101.0%	99.9%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	3,944	4,556	8,500	3,910	4,583	8,493	99.1%	100.6%	99.9%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	3,944	4,556	8,500	4,052	4,410	8,462	102.7%	96.8%	99.6%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	3,944	4,556	8,500	3,910	4,583	8,493	99.1%	100.6%	99.9%
Refugees	3,944	4,556	8,500	3,910	4,583	8,493	99.1%	100.6%	99.9%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	25	25	50	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	25	25	50	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	60	53	87.6%
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	66	49	74.4%
Iodised Salt	7	11	157.9%
Rice	685	478	69.7%
Vegetable Oil	36	64	177.7%
Total for 2015	854	654	76.6%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	1,298	1,192	91.9%

'Story Worth Telling'

Aye Polou and her family of six are among 8,500 Ivorian refugees who have been in Fetentaa, in Ghana's Brong-Ahafo Region, since 2011 when they fled civil strife in Cote d'Ivoire. Over the past four years, they received food rations of rice, beans, iodized salt, vegetable oil and Supercereal, which is a blend of cereal, vitamins and minerals.

"Without a job and with young children to feed, my husband and I could not have survived without the food WFP gave us." In 2015, she and her husband enrolled in a livelihoods empowerment programme geared at making them more self-sufficient as the food assistance programme was due to end in September 2015 as per the exit strategy. Currently, Henri, Polou's husband, grows cassava and Polou has teamed up with six other women to process it into 'gari' and 'acheke', Ghanaian and Ivorian staple foods. Polou is still apprehensive about a future without food assistance. "The future in Ghana without WFP food looks scary, but I hope and pray that we will be able to survive."

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Gender equality was always upheld to ensure that there was equitable access to all available resources for both men and women in all three camps. Following sensitization of the refugee leaders on the need to uphold gender and protection issues in all the camps, modalities were put in place to ensure a balanced approach to meeting the needs of both genders. Female refugees were encouraged to be custodians of ration cards for their households - sixty percent ration card holders are women. They received food on behalf of their families, and ensured judicious use of the food rations.

As a result of this sensitization, there was equal participation of men and women in food management committees. All camps had equal gender representation in food management committees, with 50 to 60 percent being women. They all participated in trainings provided on the modalities of food distributions. The food distribution teams were made up of both men and women to promote cohesion, and enable men and women to work together in providing solutions to any issues that arose during food distributions.

The specific needs of both women and men during food distributions were taken into consideration during food distributions. Priority was given to vulnerable groups, and separate queues were formed for men and women to accommodate any sensitive situations that may occur.

Gender-themed committees were formed in all the camps, as channels for implementation of livelihood activities, for addressing issues of nutrition, and for the provision of education. It also served as a basis for assessing the gaps in livelihood skills. Income generation and livelihood activities were carefully selected to provide a balance of activities that both men and women could participate in. Men and women had equal access to funds for the establishment of income-generation projects.

Reporting templates and data collection tools were designed to solicit disaggregated information on food security. Similarly, all assessments solicited gender disaggregated information. Data collection employed methods and tools that allowed for the sharing of information devoid of intimidation. The PRRO end line survey solicited perspectives from both men and women on all outcomes, as well as on crosscutting indicators; these included issues relating to the improvement in gender equality and empowerment, the partnerships involved in the provision of food assistance, and protection and accountability to the refugees. The views of males and females were solicited separately to obtain information on the cross-cutting indicators.

A UN System gender audit undertaken in 2015 helped WFP to refine its approach to gender-related issues. A greater effort was made in obtaining and analyzing gender-related information from different perspectives, in addition to gender disaggregated data on outputs.

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)
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PRRO Endline Survey, Programme monitoring.	40			68
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PRRO endline survey 2015, Programme monitoring.	30			6
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PRRO endline survey collected prior to project end., WFP survey.	30			26
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Jan-2013, EMOP reports - Same beneficiaries and target areas, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Partner (UNHCR/NCS) reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PRRO endline survey, WFP survey.	50	50	50	56
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Programme monitoring.	50	50	50	89

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP put in place measures to ensure that protection issues were well addressed. All refugees were educated on the modalities and criteria for benefiting from food assistance. To ensure that all refugees knew the composition of the food basket and their rations, information on the rations was always displayed on the notice boards in the camps. Two categories of beneficiaries - vulnerable and less vulnerable - received different rations; these classifications were done jointly by WFP, UNHCR and other partners using criteria which included the terminally ill, unaccompanied children and the aged and physically challenged. All the refugees were educated on the criteria for selection and the reasons for receiving different rations. This education helped to prevent misunderstandings. Measures were put in place to ensure that refugees knew where and how to channel any concerns about the food distributions. This allowed for constant dialogue between WFP and the refugees on food rations and distributions.

All food distributions for the refugees were conducted on the camp premises, with the distribution points located at about 100 to 150 metres of the refugee shelters. This minimized or eliminated opportunities for refugees to encounter safety problems in collecting and transporting their food commodities from the distribution centre to their shelters.

An end line survey which was undertaken in September 2015, prior to the end of the PRRO, collected data on protection indicators, and also held focused group discussions with refugee groups and leaders. The views of men, women, boys and girls were sought. The findings indicated that there were no concerns with protection issues in all three camps in relation to food distributions. There were no records of safety issues related to the refugees travelling to the sites of distributions.

Refugees interviewed during food distributions to ascertain whether they had any problems with accessing the distribution sites indicated that they had no problems receiving their food rations, nor in participating in livelihood skills training programmes. Food distributions were held in the daylight, and presented no real opportunities for challenges or harassment.

Staff were present at distribution times to monitor distributions and be alert to any potential protection challenges, in collaboration with UNHCR protection officers. In the absence of WFP staff during non-distribution days, refugees were advised to refer any protection issues related to food distributions to WFP. Monthly distribution reports were designed to capture any protection issues related to food distributions.

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>
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: There was no baseline for this indicator, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: This indicator was not collected in 2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PRRO endline survey, WFP survey.	80	100	100	98
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: There was no baseline for this indicator, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Partners reports (UNHCR/NCS), Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	80	100	100	98
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: There was no baseline data for this indicator, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Partner reports (NCS Reports), Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	90	100	100	100
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: There was no baseline data for this indicator, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Partners reports (UNHCR/NCS), Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	90	100	100	100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: There was no baseline data for this indicator, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2015, Partner reports (UNHCR/NCS), Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	80	100	100	98
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: There was no baseline data for this indicator, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Partners reports (UNHCR/NCS), Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PRRO endline survey, WFP survey.	90	100	100	100

Outputs

Nine out of nine distributions were undertaken during the year. Food assistance was provided for 8,500 refugees residing in three camps during the period. Programme implementation was done in close collaboration with the UNHCR, who distributed food assistance through the National Catholic Secretariat, an NGO partner.

The programme was extended by 6 months from March to September 2015 to utilize existing resources, whilst also giving the refugees more time to undertake livelihood activities to improve their food security and prepare them for the ending of food assistance. While these resources were not enough to provide full rations to all beneficiaries for the period, it nevertheless enabled the more vulnerable refugees to receive full rations, while the majority of the refugees received reduced rations for most of the extension period.

During this final phase of implementing the joint UN exit strategy for the refugees, reduced rations comprising about 40 percent of the full GFD ration were provided to 85 percent of refugees deemed to be less vulnerable, while the remaining 15 percent deemed to be more vulnerable received 100 percent rations. The requisite food basket was provided for all the beneficiaries during the period.

In spite of delays experienced in international procurement of rice due to protracted lead times, and the refugees' preference for imported rice, a borrowing agreement was done with neighbouring countries to avert significant breaks and maintain the food pipeline for the refugees. Smallholder farmers supported under the Purchase for Progress (P4P) were also contracted to supply locally produced rice to support the refugee operation, and to maintain the food pipeline. This also promoted linkages of interventions across WFP programmes.

Prior to the end of the programme in September, and prior to presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire in October, the operation witnessed an increase in beneficiary numbers. The increase in numbers was mainly as a result of family reunion and reported insecurity in Cote d'Ivoire, which also resulted in additional food requirements. Further adjustments in rations were made to cater for an increase in the requirements.

Distribution and post-distribution monitoring ensured proper distribution processes, and reporting, by partners, as well as feedback from beneficiaries. Due to the relatively shorter nature of the programme, a proposed JAM planned for September was cancelled, in favour of a nutrition survey which provided information on the state of the refugee operation. The survey assessed the food security and nutrition of refugees, their coping mechanisms and livelihood opportunities, with particular attention to the food needs of the current refugees. This group still indicate an unwillingness to return to Cote d'Ivoire.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1: GFD				
Number of institutional sites assisted	site	3	3	100.0%
Number of timely food distributions as per planned distribution schedule	distribution	9	9	100.0%
SO 2: GFD				
Number of timely food distributions as per planned distribution schedule	distribution	9	9	100.0%

Outcomes

According to the previous year's 2014 survey, the 80 percent of the full rations received in 2014, which was expected to last for 30 days, actually lasted an average of 21 days. When the 40 percent of full rations was introduced for 85 percent of non-vulnerable refugees in 2015, the end-line survey of September 2015 indicated that the food lasted an average of 17 days. To mitigate these challenges and to ensure that refugees did not suffer additional challenges, WFP ensured that food dispatches were done in a timely manner. Generally, refugees adapted well to the reduced rations, and learnt how to utilize and get the most out of the commodities provided by WFP, while efforts to develop their livelihood skills were scaled up by UNHCR as per the agreed Exit Strategy.

Dietary diversity for both men and women showed an improvement over the baseline, however, the target was not met. This was as a result of a provision of the same food basket, the reduction in the rations, as well as the slow uptake of livelihood activities. However, the ongoing farming activities provided refugees with some options to the rice provided by WFP. Female headed households fared better than male-headed households in terms of percentages of poor food consumption. Even though they were both short of the targets, they showed a significant improvement over the baseline figures. A 50 percent reduction in food commodities meant a significant reduction in how long food would last.

Although improved food consumption for the period fell short of the project target, there was an improvement over the baseline. This improvement is significant, and is attributable to significant efforts in ensuring that incomes are generated. The green house cultivation of vegetables supplemented the diversity of the diets of households. This was also supplemented by the full rations received by the vulnerable members in the households.

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) improved for Egyeikrom and Fetentaa camps (5.5 and 4 out of 12 food groups for each camp). While it fell short of the expected target, they were better placed in terms of dietary diversification, especially considering the significant reductions in rations. The number of refugees with borderline food consumption increased significantly for both men and women.

The 2015 nutrition survey reports a general deterioration in the food security of refugees across all the three camps following the reduction in rations, which constituted the main food source of the refugees. This was explained by the delay in refugees establishing alternative incomes. Preliminary results from the December 2015 harvest will be available in January 2016, and is expected to boost the food security of the refugees. WFP supported the refugees with greenhouses to cultivate vegetables to supplement their incomes, while other partners supported some households to undertake other forms of agriculture to complement the assistance provided by WFP.

The anticipated scale up in income generation and livelihoods did not happen as quickly as expected. Various activities planned included farming, soap making, baking, hair dressing among others. While all these planned activities took off, there were delays, as well as a slowness in pace of implementation, thus affecting the output. This was due to a combination of factors including a slow uptake in skills training, language barriers preventing effective communication during trade between the refugees and the locals, and lack of start-up kits for trained refugees. Some challenges included inadequate training duration depriving refugees of necessary skills. A new partner was introduced to support the scale up in livelihood activities.

In spite of these challenges, the complementary activities on camp contributed to the modest gains made in the project outcomes. These complimentary activities included farming, carpentry, baking, hairdressing and soap-making among others.

A planned distribution of Supercereal plus to a small caseload of children under 5 was not implemented. This was due to the fact that additional procurement of the commodity was not done during the extension of the project, as the project did not receive additional funds, but utilized balances from ongoing procurements.

Some negative coping strategies were reported in all camps; these included borrowing, selling of assets, reducing the quantity and frequency of meals, survival sex, engaging in risky activities and sending children to work outside the home for money. The most used negative coping strategy in Fetentaa and Egyeikrom was reduced quantity (59 percent) and/or reduced frequency (82 percent) of meals which most (82 percent) of households respectively engaged in. In Ampain 70 percent of refugees reported reducing the frequency of meals.

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 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	6	3		4
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline Survey, WFP survey.	6	3		4
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	6	3		5
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline Survey, WFP survey.	4	21	21	37
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	1	5	5	8
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	11	53		30
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	15	77		46
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2015, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	5	24		16
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Apr-2014, WFP Survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	11	53	53	30
Strategic Objective 2: Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	6	3		4
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	6	3		4
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	6	3		5
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	4	21		37
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, Endline survey, WFP survey.	1	5		8
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	3	16		28
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	15	77		46
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	5	24		16
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Apr-2014, WFP survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	11	53		30

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Food assistance for the refugees was largely supported by donors due to limited funding from government. Even though the Ghana Refugee Act provided for the establishment of the Refugee Fund for the maintenance of refugees, this has not been put in place yet. WFP continues to engage with the Ghana Refugee Board for the establishment of the Refugee Fund as a means of providing further support to refugees as well as sustaining the gains made in the operation.

There was collaboration with government on all matters related to the well-being of the refugees during this period, as well as for the period beyond the September 2015. The joint UN exit strategy gave priority to the scale up of skills training, while food rations were reduced. This was part of preparatory measures towards a complete exit of food assistance, whilst also giving refugees all available opportunities to take up livelihood activities. Notices on the cessation of food assistance were made throughout the reporting period.

In line with the recommended actions of the exit strategy and the 2014 JAM, WFP in collaboration with UNHCR, the Ghana Refugee Board and other implementing partners, this period saw a diversification of livelihood activities which shifted the focus from skills training to agricultural activities as a means of livelihoods. WFP and partners advocated with the host communities for additional land for refugees to undertake extensive farming activities. UNHCR partnered with the Adventist Development Relief Agency in 2015 to scale up livelihoods activities for refugees. Resources in the form of land and livestock were easier to obtain and the results were tangible. Propagation of the agricultural activities will be easier to do beyond the project period. This diversification also eliminated challenges with start-up kits that characterized skills training. Additional land was negotiated from traditional rulers in neighboring communities to the camps for this purpose. Refugees were sensitized and encouraged to undertake agriculture, and were provided with seed capital to undertake poultry, piggy and fish farming.

WFP-initiated greenhouses project in the camps was to provide a source of continued livelihoods and serve as a means to supplement food consumption for the refugees. Language training in the local vernacular 'Twi' as well as English, were provided to refugees to promote local integration and facilitate trade with the locals.

UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board collaborated to facilitate permits for refugees who sought employment from the mainstream job market. About 50 percent of all households have undertaken some skills training, and are currently engaged in some form of livelihood activities.

The gains made will be maintained, while renewed and intensified efforts are made towards the redirection of interventions in order to make more gains in establishing livelihoods. Socio-economic data should be collected and analyzed periodically to track progress made by refugees towards attaining self-reliance. This will also provide clues on strategic actions required to empower refugees to be self-reliant. Promotion of joint UNHCR-WFP initiatives aimed at promotion of income-generating activities should be encouraged, especially for the benefit of youth.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

WFP implemented this PRRO with the UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board as the main partners, with the National Catholic Secretariat implementing food distributions. Funds for 2015 mainly came from the 2014 donation received from UNHCR, and a multilateral allocation (CERF). This enabled extension of the project from March to September 2015, for the provision of timely and much needed assistance at reduced rations, at a time when it was very critical. Responsibility for loading and transporting food commodities from hand over to the distribution points, and storage facilities at the extended delivery points was borne by UNHCR. UNHCR also managed the beneficiary data base and was responsible for distribution and monitoring.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL		102	68
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		169	419
Total:		271	487

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

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Super Cereal and fortified oil and rice were purchased from international sources. Even though local procurement had a shorter lead time with higher prices, a small consignment was purchased from P4P supported local farmers to avoid a pipeline break. Pulses and iodized salt were procured locally and delivered to the extended delivery points.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	17	0	0	
Rice	220	250	0	
Sum:	237	250	0	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

WFP cleared and transported food from WFP warehouses to receiving warehouses in operational areas, and UNHCR provided storage and transportation to the camps. A 3 percent contingency stock was always provided to address contingencies related to new arrivals and underweight bags. Partners' meetings were held to review implementation issues.

Post-Delivery Losses

Beans expected to weigh 50kg per bag often weighed much less, leading to additional requirements for distributions. The Procurement Unit was tasked to strengthen their inspections during procurement, while warehouse management training provided warehouse managers with the needed knowledge in good storage practices.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

The Ghana Refugee Board under the Ministry of Interior has overall responsibility for the refugee operation in Ghana. The main UN partners involved in providing support are WFP and UNHCR, with support to coordination from the Resident Coordinator's Office. WFP collaborated with UNHCR in the area of food storage, transportation, distribution and monitoring. UNHCR also provided funds for the feeding of refugees for most of 2014 and 2015. This led to an enhanced partnership with UNHCR in the implementation of the programme. With prior experience implementing food distributions under the EMOP to the refugees, and the previous year under the PRRO, NCS leveraged their immense experience during this implementation period. They undertook timely monthly distributions and reporting and general effective programme management. The UNFPA contributed by providing health and population related activities to the camps. ADRA facilitated the scale up of livelihood activities in all the camps.

WFP held monthly coordination meetings with UNHCR and NCS to address issues that arose from food distributions and to facilitate subsequent distributions. This partnership also provided advocacy on the need for refugees to participate in livelihood and skills training programmes. Sensitization on the duration of the PRRO and the timelines for the reduction of rations and cessation of food distributions were jointly done by the partners.

The annual JAM, which is usually undertaken in October each year with the partners including donors, was not undertaken in 2015 due to the PRRO coming to an end in September. The JAM would have assessed the status of the refugee situation, to determine the need for support for the refugees beyond the current phase of assistance which ended in September 2015. With the cessation of food assistance in September, and with the lack of donor support for the operation, the JAM was cancelled. WFP collaborated with UNHCR and NCS to undertake a nutrition survey in July. The survey obtained information on the status of nutrition and also solicited information on the food security situation of all the camps.

In spite of the challenges with obtaining additional funding for the PRRO, the partnership was instrumental in helping to achieve the programme objectives. Timely food distributions were held in all camps during the implementation period. The end line survey which was conducted before the end of food assistance was done in close collaboration with UNHCR. The gains made in improving food consumption and dietary diversity (despite the reduction in WFP food rations) was possible due to the effectiveness of the partnership.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	1			3

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)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP 2014 SPR Report, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline survey report, WFP survey.	1,259,901		1,153,178	1,259,901
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Previous Follow-up: Previous data was not collected in 2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline Survey, Programme monitoring.	1,259,901		1,153,178	1,259,901
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Latest Follow-up: Sep-2014, WFP Endline survey, WFP survey.	4			4
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP Partners report (UNHCR/NCS) reports, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP Endline Survey, WFP survey.	4		4	4
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2015, Partners (UNHCR/NCS) reports, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, WFP endline survey, WFP survey.	80		80	80

Lessons Learned

International procurement of rice was beset with protracted lead time challenges. A consignment of rice took seven months to arrive in country. There was the need to borrow from the region in order to maintain the food pipeline, while more lasting solutions were sought. More support in identifying loaning countries is required to ensure timely borrowing arrangements.

While local procurement of rice offered shorter lead times and timely distributions, the prices were much higher, reducing the actual quantities that are procured against the planned, as well as encountering challenges in obtaining approval.

Local procurement of rice was undertaken from small holder farmers supported by WFP under the P4P programme. While this was a good alternative in terms of lead time, stocks were often not available. WFP may consider providing additional processing equipment to the supplier smallholders to facilitate processing of paddy.

The expected weights of the various commodities often came up short. As a result, additional commodities were often needed in addition to the 3 percent contingency stock. Bags of rice and beans expected to weigh 50 kg often weighed an average of 40kg to 45kg. Different kinds of scales with varying calibrations were being used by different partners at different levels of the food assistance chain, and provided varying weights for the same commodities. A standardized set of scales would provide realistic information on the weights of the commodities.

While the use of cash may have been an acceptable option in providing refugees to options to other food commodities in addition to the WFP basket, the method of calculating the cash component using WFP guidelines rendered the cash values rather insignificant. This was often further compounded by inflation and other economic indicators, leading to refugees rejecting options for the inclusion of cash in the operation. For this project, a revision was done to re-programme the cash component back to food. Options of calculating cash values of commodities prevailing market prices, which also factors in inflation should be explored in future initiatives.

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	Rice		102	68
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01060-01	Beans		17	17
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01060-01	Rice		152	402
Total:				271	487