



# WFP Benin Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP is in the process of purchasing food to provide school meals to 101,279 children, only for 21 days.
- From January 2017 onwards, the programme will experience severe funding constraints.

### WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Benin 200721 (2015 – 2018)	16.2 m	5 m (31%)	2.9 m (96%)

\*January 2017 – June 2017

**GENDER MARKER 2A** CP 200721

The Country Programme supports the Government in taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It focuses on three main areas:

- (i) support to national integrated school feeding approach;
- (ii) nutritional support for vulnerable groups; and
- (iii) enhancement of community resilience in vulnerable and disaster prone areas.

While the school feeding activities are implemented nationwide, nutrition and resilience activities are concentrated mainly in the districts of Karimama and Malanville in the north Benin, deemed the most vulnerable districts according to social indicators. These districts are also defined as the convergence zone for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014–2018.

**School feeding** focuses on areas with high food insecurity and low enrolment or high dropout rates. It will contribute to human capital development through: i) increased access to primary education and increased retention, especially among girls; ii) enhanced capacities to sustain a national school feeding programme; and iii) a multi-sector approach that links education, local food production, nutrition and hygiene and serves as an entry point for local development

and as a safety net for vulnerable groups.

**Nutrition** activities cover: i) targeted supplementary feeding to reduce moderate acute malnutrition among children under 5 and malnourished pregnant and nursing women; ii) a caregivers' ration for mothers accompanying severely malnourished or sick children under 5 at therapeutic feeding centres to encourage adherence to treatment; and iii) blanket supplementary feeding for six months in lean seasons to prevent chronic malnutrition among children aged 6–23 months.

In response to frequent floods and droughts which exacerbate the precarious food security and nutrition situation in the northern part of the country, WFP works on: i) enhancing **community resilience** through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities to develop productive assets and improve agricultural production; and ii) providing training aimed at reducing vulnerability to disasters.

WFP is taking FFA as an opportunity to use cash-based transfers (CBT) in the district of Malanville where assessments showed that the markets are well stocked throughout the year. WFP ensures that women and men participate equally in identifying FFA activities and that they have equal access to benefits.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/David Adomahou  
Caption: Participants to the training for the school feeding management committees in Bopa District, Department of Mono



December 2016

## Operational Updates

- Food is being procured to assist 101,279 children in 562 schools. The tonnage purchased will cover only 21 days in the first trimester of 2017.
- School feeding management committees have been set up and members trained on school meals management.
- **Fish farming to support the school meals programme:** Under the leadership of the headmaster and the technical support of a local NGO, the school community of Agbodjèdo located in the south of the country set up a fish pond where they raised catfish. After three months of raising fish, the community sold 615,000 FCFA (982 dollars) on the market. A portion of the income generated by this activity has been saved in a local bank and another part was used to enhance the school meals.

## Challenges

- The country office will face resources constraints from January onwards which risk reversing the gains made by WFP. Urgent funding is required to ensure the distribution of school meals until the end of the school year.

## Partnerships

- A staff from WFP Center of Excellence (CoE) was in Benin from 28 November to 1 December 2016. The purpose of this visit was to redefine the 2016-2017 roadmap for activities financially supported by WFP CoE.



Credit: WFP/Dieudonné Migan

Caption: Community members of Agbodjèdo school in the farm fish



Benin's population is predominantly rural, 51.2 percent are women and 17.4 percent are children under the age of five. Over 36 percent of this population remains poor and life expectancy is 59.2 years. The population growth rate is 3.2 percent, among the highest in Africa.

Although agriculture is the economy's key sector, structural and natural disaster problems negatively affect food security, nutrition and the trade balance.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) conducted in 2013 estimated that 11 percent of the population is moderately and severely food insecure and 34 percent have limited or poor food consumption. According to the last Integrated Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions results (EMICoV, 2011), 32 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition. The HIV prevalence among adults is 1.2 percent according to UNAIDS (2013).

Although the 2013 national net enrolment rate is 98 percent (99.6 percent for boys and 96.3 percent for girls), Benin still has several rural districts with net enrolment rates below 60 percent, especially in the Northern part of the country.

WFP has been present in Benin since 1964.

Population: **9.9 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **165 out of 188**

Income Level: **Least developed**

Chronic malnutrition: **34% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors

Germany through a multilateral fund, private donors

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