



WFP Togo Country Brief

Highlights

- An extension of the Development project until December 2016 is approved. In this frame, WFP Country Office is currently developing a resource mobilization strategy and a communication plan.
- Prices of food staples have started decreasing due to newly harvested maize in the southern region of the country since last month, helping to improve the access of rural poor people to food.

WFP Assistance

Community Based School Feeding Programme DEV 200304 (March 12 – Dec. 16)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	2.9 m	1.1 m (39%)	-

*Project extension just approved. New requirements to be communicated in subsequent briefs.

Capacity development forms the cornerstone of the project's objectives, which focus on contributing to sustainable solutions for a nationally-owned school feeding programme through: (i) increased institutional and human capital development at central and local levels related to policy and management of the school feeding programme; and (ii) strengthened linkages between local agricultural production and school meals, by providing technical assistance to the Government and partners.

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

In this context, WFP's expertise in the areas of school feeding, procurement (including local purchase), and logistics has been requested to assist the Government in developing and leading a national school feeding programme relying on local food purchases. WFP's support focuses on the five standards identified in the Systematic Approach for Better Education Results exercise conducted in 2012. These standards include a policy framework, institutional capacity and coordination, financial capacity, design and implementation capacity, and community participation.

The school feeding project contributes to WFP Strategic Objective 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" - and with Strategic priority 2 - "Equitable and sustainable access by the poor to quality basic social services" - of the 2014-2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Throughout the implementation of the capacity development activities as per the project plan and during several meetings and consultations with government authorities and officials at central, community and local levels, WFP continuously advocated for gender equality.

Operational Updates

- WFP provided monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools, including information technology to gather and analyse data collected from school canteens to the regional education structures.
- In collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural Training (*INFA* – Tové) and the Ministry of Grassroots Development, 63 school feeding operators of the World Bank supported project (PDCplus) as well as facilitators of local NGOs operating in the Maritime region were trained on school feeding management and basic accounting. A total of 300 members of school canteens' committees and staff of NGOs in Plateaux, Centrale, Kara and Savanes regions are waiting to be trained.

Main Credit: WFP/Beriname Badjaré
Photo Caption: Participants at the workshop for the validation of the mapping of producers



September 2016

- The next training programme in collaboration with *INFA de Tové* will be extended to 626 cooks from the school meals programme originating from the five regions of the country. Other training modules in cooking techniques, hygiene and sanitation in the school environment will be added to the previous themes.
- A study on the vulnerability of people living with HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) on antiretroviral therapy (ART) or Directly Observed Therapy Short (DOTS) course treatments revealed that about 14 percent of ART clients, 19 percent of DOTS clients and 22 percent of co-infected AIDS and TB patients are suffering from acute malnutrition. To address the situation, WFP is working with the Ministry of Health to raise funds for the revision of the national nutritional guidelines for people living with HIV and implement a Food by Prescription project.

Challenges

All activities will be jeopardized if funding is not urgently secured. Additional funds are also needed for the second phase of the training of the members of the school canteens' committees in the northern regions.

Partnerships

The technical committee of the DEV is formed by the representatives of eight ministries (Rural Development, Education, Agriculture, Finance and Health among others) involved in school feeding activities. UN agencies and the World Bank support the PDCPlus, while UNICEF is providing WASH material and techniques. More than ten national NGOs are supervising the distribution of school meals in close collaboration with PDCPlus.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU: 2016 to 2018) was signed on 7 July by WFP and the Government of Togo. This MoU clarifies respective roles and responsibilities for WFP technical assistance in delivering sustainable school meals and social safety net programmes. WFP works in collaboration with other UN agencies including UNICEF, FAO and UNDP to provide technical assistance and capacity augmentation in delivering sustainable school meals, social protection and contribute in achieving Zero Hunger in the country.

Country Background & Strategy



The ranking for Togo on the UNDP Human Development Report has not improved in recent years, dropping from 152 to 166 between 2007 and 2014. However, after thirteen years of economic decline due to political crisis and donor disengagement, the economic status of Togo has improved since 2006.

The overall poverty rate decreased from 58.7 percent in 2011 to 55.1 percent in 2015 - "Questionnaire Unifié des Indicateurs de Base de Bien-être" (QUIBB 2015). According to the UNICEF Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) study held in July 2012 and October 2014, acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age decreased from 4.7 percent to 2.8 in Lomé and from 5.3 to 3.3 percent in Kara Region. But it increased in the Savannah Region passing from 7.6 percent in 2012 to 10.8 in 2014. The 2012 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) revealed a stunting prevalence rate amounting to 30 percent nationwide.

The net enrollment rate for girls is 85 percent against 88 percent for boys. This disparity is more pronounced in the northern areas of the country (Savannah) where the net enrollment rate of girls is below 64 percent against 71 percent for boys.

WFP has been present in Togo since 1968.

Population: **6.2 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **166 out of 188**

Income Level: **Least developed**

Chronic malnutrition: **29,7% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

Australia, private donors