



World Food Programme

WFP Guinea Country Brief

March 2020

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

The Guinean economy is dependent largely on mining and agriculture. However, low productivity, poor farming techniques and significant post-harvest losses undermine the agricultural sector, while poor road infrastructure hinders access to markets. Moreover, Guinea faces major socio-economic and political challenges. poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition rates are alarming, especially in rural areas. On average, 55 percent of the Guinean population lives below the poverty line and more than 21 percent of households are food insecure. The nutritional situation of children remains precarious; 6.1 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months suffer from global acute malnutrition (of whom 1.7 percent are severely affected) and 24.4 percent of children under 5 suffer from stunting. In addition, the present COVID-19 pandemic is likely to aggravate the already fragile situation in the country.

WFP targets vulnerable groups of people in the four regions of Guinea particularly in rural areas, in order to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance resilience and contribute to improve education achievements, all while contributing towards the achievement of SDG 2 and 17 and aligning with national priorities (PNDES 2016-2020) with a special focus on women and youth. The approach also aims to increase national ownership through institutional capacity strengthening. WFP has been present in Guinea since 1964.



Population: **13.4 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **174th out of 189**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **24.4% of children between 6-59 months**

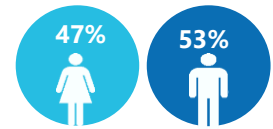
In Numbers

336 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 480,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 22.9 m six months (April-September 2020) net funding requirements

136,850 people assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

COVID-19 pandemic: Guinea recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 12 March 2020 leading to the closure of the airport and land borders, schools, public centres, mosques, churches, to prevent the spread of the virus. The President declared the state of emergency on 30 March. All inland travel has been severely limited since.

In this uncertain context, WFP Guinea has been adjusting its programmes and operations actively supporting the formulation of the Government's and the UN's contingency plans to assure that affected populations receive timely and effective life-saving assistance based on their particular needs whilst assuring their safety and dignity. The plan also aims to contain and prevent the spread of the covid-19 virus and mitigate its effect on livelihoods and food security of the population.

Smallholder Farmers: Through its integrated Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) and Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, WFP launched a new land rehabilitation activity covering **56.7 ha** arable lands to support **1,371 local smallholder farmers** and increase their rice productivity in the region of N'zérékoré, Faranah, Kankan and Boké.

Amongst them, **957** smallholder farmers will participate in the FFA activities for which they and their families (a total of 4,785 beneficiaries) will receive Cash Based Transfers (CBT) for a total amount of **USD 98,424**.

Nutrition: Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment and Prevention of chronic malnutrition (1,000 days project) activities have been ongoing.

School Feeding: Food for a total amount of **USD 480,000** was purchased to assist 30,000 schoolchildren with school meals. However, schools were closed on March 24 until further notice. WFP is presently taking mitigating measures for the remaining stock (246 mt).

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Main photo

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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.8 m	5.6 m	22.9 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure populations, including pre- and primary school-aged children, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year round

Focus area: Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of a crisis

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals to pre- and primary school children, including take home rations for girls prioritizing local purchase and strengthening partners' capacities
- Provide an integrated emergency food and nutrition assistance including SBCC and livelihood support to crisis-affected populations.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations including children, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs), HIV/TB antiretroviral therapy (ART) clients, people living with disability and orphans in Guinea, have improved nutritional status by 2030

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Support beneficiaries through the provision of specialized nutritious food and integrated programmes including SBCC, and strengthen partner's capacities to prevent and treat all forms of malnutrition

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Food insecure and climate-affected populations, including smallholder farmers, youth and women in targeted areas have improved their livelihood sources, have more efficient and inclusive value chains and resilient food systems by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide climate-resilient livelihood support to targeted groups to sustainably increase and diversify their role along the food value chain, strengthen access to markets including in relation to school meals/HGSF and improve food handling and processing

Strategic Result 5: Countries Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have enhanced capacities to manage food security and nutrition, social protection and disaster risk management systems by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Deliver capacity strengthening support to national institutions and other partners including through South-South Cooperation on the design and implementation of social protection, emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk management and supply chain systems

Funding

WFP's funding requirements has significantly increased in view of the COVID-19 context, which risks having devastating effects on the livelihoods and food security of the most vulnerable populations. Thus, the country office is undergoing a budget revision to urgently scale up its activities under SO2 and is approaching donors locally to mobilise fund and explore possibilities of using earmarked contributions.

Partnership

As part of its active engagement with institutional and private partners, WFP signed MoUs with the Ministry of Agriculture and a local development bank (Afriland). A detailed action plan is being finalised with the Ministry of Health.

Monitoring

Preparation for the launch of the Complaint Feedback Mechanism (CFM) is ongoing and community consultations will take place in April.

The sampling, timeline and budget for the planned baseline survey on FFA and SAMS programme activities have been approved. The CO made mitigating adjustments to prevent COVID-19 transmission and is working to introduce telephone data collection.

To assess food availability in the country and contribute to evidence-based food security strategies, WFP collects monthly food prices in 11 Guinean markets. As a direct consequence of COVID-19 and the closure of borders and ports, March findings shows scarcity of food in certain areas across the country and price increase in vegetable oil (Beyla), beans and maize (Nzérékoré). An increase of 5 percent in the price of local rice was also recorded in Macenta.

Challenges

Due to the parliamentary and referendum elections held in March causing political tension and government measures adapted to prevent COVID-19 transmission including closure of schools, WFP school feeding activities have been strongly disrupted and remain discontinued, thus affecting food assistance provided to schoolchildren.

Disruption of Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNFs) supply still affects nutrition activities.

Donors

Japan, Republic of Korea