



## World Food Programme gives cash, equipment to MoFA

### • To track COVID-19 impact

By Justice Agbenorsi

**T**HE World Food Programme (WFP) has presented equipment and funds totalling GHe1 million to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) to help track the impact of COVID-19 on food security in the country.

The equipment — which included laptops, mobile phones, tablets, internet modems, video conferencing facility, a large screen television, along with nose masks and hand sanitisers, among other personal protective equipment — were handed over to the ministry in Accra yesterday.

#### Donation

The WFP Representative and Country Director, Ms Rukia Yacoub, said the equipment would help the ministry to collect data remotely in its assessment exercise on food security.

"This assessment will help us know what is happening and inform social protection and other measures which are being taken to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable," Ms Yacoub stated.

She noted that the incomes of several citizens had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that there were a

myriad of concerns about people's ability to buy the food they need for themselves and their families.

"These items will enable enumerators to collect as much information as possible remotely while reducing human contact in line with the recommended COVID-19 preventive measures," she said.

#### Information

The WFP Ghana Country Director

added that the information gathered by the field personnel in the ministry would be used to develop monthly food security bulletins, which would be disseminated to partners in the food security and nutrition sector.

That, according to Ms Yacoub, would help in responding appropriately to the numerous requests for information on food security following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Ghana.

She further stated that apart from the rapid assessment, the WFP and other partners were planning to support the ministry to undertake a nationwide

comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis, adding that "this will provide more details on who the food insecure are, why they are food insecure and where they live".

#### Commendation

The Chief Director of MoFA, Mr Robert Patrick Ankobea, commended the WFP for leading by example through the donation, saying it came at a time when it was most needed.

He said data had become very essential in the agricultural sector, and that the equipment would facilitate the ministry's data gathering exercise on household security and market price data collection for at least one year.

Mr Ankobea added that COVID-19 had underscored the need for the country to focus on data in the agricultural sector, indicating that it would help in decision making, planning and policy formulation to ensure food stability in the country.



Ms Rukia Yacoub (left), WFP Representative and Country Director, handing over the equipment to Mr Robert Patrick Ankobea, Chief Director of MoFA