



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Liberia Country Brief November 2020

## In Numbers

1,269 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 12 m six months (December 2020 - May 2021) net funding requirements

98,395 people assisted  
in November 2020



WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

### Operational Context

Liberia currently faces a series of endogenous shocks, further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, and that are largely driven by currency depreciation, declining external assistance, weak domestic revenue generation, and limited expenditure adjustments.

Food insecurity is widespread with an estimated 1.6 million people moderately or severely food insecure. Moreover, 63 percent of the population are multidimensional poor (with women more affected), 30 percent of children aged 6-59 months are stunted, and 3 percent are acutely malnourished.

The Government of Liberia's national development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023), aims to make Liberia a middle-income country by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023, links food security, agriculture, nutrition and education through an integrated approach. The CSP also focuses on capacity strengthening of institutions both at national and local levels.

To strategically assist the Government of Liberia's response to the COVID-19 crisis and address increasing humanitarian needs, WFP undertook a budget revision to its CSP, to scale-up assistance from 175,000 to 2.2 million people (target). WFP supports the Government's COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP) to provide food assistance to 2.1 million vulnerable persons affected by the COVID-19 prevention measures. WFP has also increased its support to humanitarian and development partners through access to common services.



Population: 5 million

2019 Human Development Index: 176 out of 189

Income Level: Low-income

Chronic malnutrition: 30% of children between 6-59 months

### Operational Updates

- WFP continued to support the Government-led COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP) aimed at assisting the most vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 prevention measures in Liberia. In November, WFP and partners provided 1,269 mt of basic food commodities to 19,679 households (98,395 beneficiaries) in Montserrado County. While countrywide household enumerations are ongoing, WFP dispatched food commodities by road transport and through sea vessels to all 15 counties.
- Following contentious presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia experienced an increase of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire into the four bordering counties of Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland. On 09 to 19 November, WFP participated in a joint UN assessment mission with UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDSS, IOM, WHO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to determine possible response actions. As of 01 December 2020, a total of 18,124 new arrivals were reported by UNHCR. Currently residing in host communities and camps, the new arrival's initial food needs are being met by UNHCR, who have requested WFP's support with emergency food assistance for an additional two months to start. WFP is presently engaging with partners to mobilize the required resources.
- Following months of COVID-19-related school closures, WFP and the Ministry of Education drafted an agreement to support the resumption of school feeding activities in January 2021. It is planned to assist 90,000 school children in Maryland and Nimba counties with daily on-site school meals through locally procured food commodities. To sustain the provision of school meals through June 2021, WFP requires USD 5.6 million additional funding.
- With financial support from the private sector, WFP is currently preparing the launch of a cash-based transfer (CBT) pilot that will provide 1,000 school children and their families with a monthly commodity voucher or a mobile money transfer (with a monthly transfer value of USD 15), to support targeted beneficiaries' access to nutritious foods.

Contact info: Regina Hirsch (regina.hirsch@wfp.org)

Country Director: Karla Hershey

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/liberia>

Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Faya Sandouno

Caption: WFP and partners verifying the identity of beneficiaries before they receive food assistance through the COHFSP in Todee district, Liberia.

## Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirements (in USD)	2020 Total Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
49.4 m*	36 m	12 m

\* WFP Liberia is currently preparing a budget revision at a value of USD 7.7 million to scale-up assistance under Activities 2 and 4, which will increase the total CSP requirements from USD 89 million to USD 97 million. The budget increase is already taken into account in the six-month net funding requirements.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food-insecure populations, including school-aged children in targeted areas, have access to adequate and nutritious food, including food produced locally, by 2030.  
**Focus area:** Resilience Building

- Activity 1:**
- Provide an integrated, inclusive and gender-transformative school feeding package to food and nutritionally vulnerable school children including take-home rations of adolescent girls in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding).

**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 crises.  
**Focus area:** Crisis Response

- Activity 2:**
- Provide an integrated emergency food and nutrition assistance package to vulnerable households affected by disasters and/or other disruptions.

### Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacity

**Strategic Outcome 3:** National and sub-national institutions have strengthened capacities to design and manage food security and nutrition, social protection, emergency preparedness and response, and disaster risk management systems by 2030.  
**Focus area:** Resilience Building

- Activity 3:**
- Provide capacity strengthening support to the Government and its partners to strengthen national coordination mechanisms, information management and monitoring systems for food security and nutrition, and disaster risk management

### Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnerships

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year.  
**Focus area:** Crisis Response

- Activity 4:**
- Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners

## Operational Updates (continued)

- To accelerate the UN joint programme on rural women economic empowerment implemented in collaboration with FAO, IFAD and UN Women, WFP will deliver entrepreneurship training to 500 women farmers in the five rural counties of Grand Bassa, Margibi, Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe. Starting in January 2021, the capacity building will enhance the farmers knowledge on business development, management and marketing.

- On 25 November, WFP launched its awareness-raising activities under the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' campaign through joint interventions with other UN agencies, calling for a collective response and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in Liberia.

## Stakeholder Coordination

- To facilitate smooth delivery of the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme, WFP facilitated regular meetings with national and local authorities to ensure that the most vulnerable persons received the much-needed food assistance. WFP and partners conducted community engagement exercises throughout the targeted counties to inform community leaders and beneficiaries about the programme.
- On 10 November, WFP facilitated a meeting with key stakeholders of the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund 'Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through strengthened Land Governance and Dispute Resolution' to develop a coordinated activity implementation plan for 2021. The meeting was attended by representatives of the implementing UN agencies (UN Women and UNDP), Government counterparts (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Land Authority and National Bureau of Concessions) and WFP's cooperating partner VOSIEDA.

## Assessments

- WFP held consultations with the Government of Liberia on the Liberia Food Security Assessment (LFSA), which was concluded in September 2020. The LFSA report will be launched soon, and preliminary results informed the Liberia Cadre Harmonisé analysis in October and November 2020.

## Challenges

- The implementation of the COHFSP has experienced severe delays in the beneficiary registration process approved by the COHFSP Steering Committee, which are largely attributable to documented challenges with identification and verification of the most vulnerable households. WFP is working closely with the Government of Liberia and cooperating partners to speed up the food distribution across the country.
- Despite increased advocacy efforts, WFP Liberia faces a critical funding gap of USD 12 million during the next six months (December 2020 to May 2021), thereby limiting WFP's ability to provide life-saving food assistance, school feeding and livelihood support, as well as contribute to the socio-economic recovery efforts in Liberia amidst COVID-19.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Liberia in 2020 include: Canada, Government of Liberia, Private Donors (Mastercard), United States of America and UN Peacebuilding Fund.