



WFP Liberia

Country Brief

January 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Liberia suffered violent conflicts spanning from 1979 to 2003. As a result, national gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 90 percent between 1987 and 1995, one of the biggest economic collapses ever recorded in the world (Liberia PRS 2008). The Ebola Virus Disease outbreak (2014 to 2015) caused significant socio-economic disruptions. The World Bank estimates the outbreak could have cost Liberia as much as USD 234 million or 12 percent of its GDP.

Approximately 1 in 5 households in Liberia is food insecure, while 2 in 5 are marginally food secure (42 percent), and therefore quite vulnerable to falling into food insecurity as a result of a shock or hazard. Malnutrition of children aged 6-59 months is a persistent problem with 35.5 percent stunted, 4.8 percent thin for their weight (global acute malnutrition)-Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS) 2018.

Poverty affects more women than men as women in some instances tend to endure lower income earnings. Fifty-three percent of women compared to 74 percent of men are involved in gainful employment. Nationally, while over 68 percent of Liberians work in the informal sector, 80 to 85 percent of the population are unemployed, with women accounting for 94 percent (Central Bank of Liberia 2017).

The Government launched the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity & Development (PAPD) in 2018, as part of a national development plan to make Liberia middle-income country by 2030, aligning to the SDGs target. In July 2019, WFP realigned its focus to a four- and half-year Country strategic Plan, using a multifaceted Home-Grown School Feeding programme as a platform for linking agriculture, nutrition and education through an integrated approach to achieving the 2030 agenda. The aim is to support the Government of Liberia in its efforts to Improve food and nutrition security in vulnerable communities through resilience building and crises response activities that will promote production of nutritious foods; Increase farmers' income and enhance resilience to shocks; also promote access to basic education and human capital development. The CSP also focus on capacity strengthening of institutions at both national and local levels. WFP has been present in Liberia since 1968.



Population: **5 million**
(UNFPA 2019)

2018 Human Development Index: **176 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

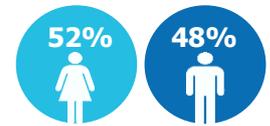
In Numbers

400 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$6.8 m six months (February-July 2020) net funding requirements

0.08 m people assisted

in January 2020



Operational Updates

- School Feeding Programme:**
 WFP continues to provide school feeding package to food and nutritionally vulnerable schoolchildren including take-home rations to adolescent girls in a way that relies on and stimulates local production with a focus on home-grown school Feeding (HGSF). As daily meal, 56,115 children (27,216 girls and 28,899 boys) received 102 mt of assorted food under the two categories (home grown - locally produced by smallholder farmers and conventional school feeding programmes).
- Food assistance for assets (FFA) creation:**
 Under the resilience building focused activity, WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and two International non-governmental organizations (Samaritans' Purse International-SP and Building Resources Across Communities-BRAC) in working with smallholder farmers to create a sustainable livelihood asset in Bong and Montserrado Counties. In Montserrado, WFP provided food assistance (126 mt) to 33 farmer groups representing 1,016 household heads and 5,080 beneficiaries; training provided to 40 farmers (58 percent women) on the establishment of market linkages, value addition and formation of farmers Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). The training aimed to assist farmers establish linkages with markets, post-harvest management of rice and vegetables and to form a Village Savings and Loan Association for sustainability.
- General food Distribution:**
 In continuation of emergency food assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) that started in December 2019, WFP distributed 298 mt of food to 9,363 (6,811 women and 2,552) PLHIVs on antiretroviral therapy (ART). The distribution was done in collaboration with the National Aids Control program (NACP). NACP is the Government of Liberia's agency responsible for the coordination of support to PLHIVs on ART.

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Main photo

Credit: BRAC Liberia

Caption: Vegetable production under the FFA activity in Montserrado.

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
13 m	1.6 m	6.8 m

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:

- 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: Crises Response

Activity:

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

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

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:

- 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

Challenges

WFP Liberia continues to have severe funding deficit, limiting its ability to deliver on the strategic outcomes under the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The six-month net funding requirements from February 2020 to July 2020 amounts to USD 7 million. As a result of funding deficit, WFP cannot fully implement all the activities earmarked in the CSP. As a coping mechanism, WFP is applying measures such as changes to transfer modalities of some of its activities and target areas where possible and engaging with donors through bilateral contacts.

Nutrition Stakeholders coordination

WFP participated in a two-day meeting (16-17 January 2019) on the validation of core nutrition actions known as multi-sectorial actions towards improving nutrition in Liberia. The meeting, organized by the the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Liberia with support from Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Under-Nutrition (REACH), identified and developed multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholders core nutrition actions to inform the national nutrition strategic plan for Liberia. The core actions focused on 11 main areas (crops/horticulture, food consumption, food fortification, processing and storage, management and prevention of malnutrition, infant and young child feeding, micronutrient supplementation, nutrition related disease prevention, social protection, Gender empowerment, wash and emergency and shocks).

Country Capacity Strengthening

WFP donated assorted agro-machines, vehicles, desktop computers, generators, motorized water pumps and other assets to the Ministry of Agriculture as part of its capacity strengthening support to the Government of Liberia. The donation is in line with WFP's support to smallholder farmers through food production and nutrition assistance, community resilience building, about enhancing local farmers ability to increase their food production. Under this arrangement, the agro-equipment will be placed and managed from decentralized locations for farmers to access through a pool approach, under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP field offices.

Donors

UN Peacebuilding Funds, Private Donors