



# WFP Liberia

## Country Brief

### February 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)

Income Level: **Low**

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

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

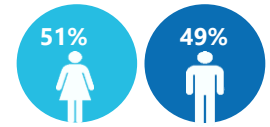
## In Numbers

**736 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 6 m** six months (March-August 2020) net funding requirements

**90,000 people** assisted

in February 2020



### Operational Updates

- School Feeding Programme:**  
 WFP is supporting the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education to implement school feeding activities in Nimba and Maryland counties. During this distribution circle, 79,961 children (38,432 girls and 41,529 boys) received 196 mt of assorted food as daily meals and take-home rations. Five hundred and sixty-nine adolescent girls out of 38,432 received take home rations of 7 mt.
- Food assistance for assets (FFA) creation:**  
 In close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP and partners are supporting smallholder farmers to create sustainable livelihood assets in Bong County. The support comes in the form of capacity strengthening and food assistance for lowland rice and vegetables farmers. WFP provided food assistance (210 mt of food items) to 3,840 participants (2,065 women and 1,775 men). The distribution was done using a digital platform used by WFP for proper beneficiary identification and management and accountability (SCOPE). In addition, Post-harvest management for lowland rice farmers was conducted as well as on-site training on production practices for vegetable farmers.
- General food Distribution:**  
 Under the emergency food assistance activity, WFP distributed 330 mt of food to 9,670 people (6,996 women and 2,674 men) living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapy (ART). the food was distributed in collaboration with the National Aids Control Program (NACP) and the county health teams. NACP is the Government of Liberia's agency responsible for the coordination of support to PLHIVs in Liberia.

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**Main photo**

**Credit:** WFP Liberia/Michael Vawah

**Caption:** Food distribution using SCOPE under the FFA activity in Bong.

**Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>13 m</b>	<b>1.6 m</b>	<b>6 m</b>

**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

**Inter-agency Collaboration**

WFP and FAO in collaboration with the Government of Liberia undertook a six-day (8-13 February) joint food security and market assessment mission to eight counties including Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba and Lofa. The mission conducted an analysis of current and previous year projected stocks, supply and demand levels of cash crops and food. Also, analyzed the availability of key commodities and their prices, assessed the impact of inflation on agricultural products in local markets and on the vulnerable and very poor households in Liberia and the cost and modes of transport to and from markets. Data analysis and report writing are ongoing and are expected to be completed in April 2020.

**Food Vulnerability Analysis**

WFP, in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Gender, Children and Social Protection, the National Disaster Management Agency and Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services are planning a Rapid Food Security Assessment. The assessment is intended to provide an updated understanding of the food security situation at the household level and assess the current market situation in Liberia. The assessment will also investigate issues of market access, availability and stability using innovative WFP tool: the Market Functionality Index which rates markets on eight dimensions: availability, price, resilience, competition, infrastructure, service, quality, access and protection. It also captures impact of recent shocks. A total of 62 technical staff of the government ministries and agencies were nominated by their respective principals to participate in this exercise. A week-long training including pilot testing of the tools is scheduled in March, followed by field data collection in April.

**Challenges**

WFP Liberia continues to have severe funding deficit, limiting its ability to deliver on the strategic outcomes of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The six-month net funding requirements from March to August 2020 amounts at USD 6 million. As a result of funding deficit, WFP cannot fully implement all the activities envisioned within 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.

**Donors**

UN Peacebuilding Fund, Private Donors