



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief October 2018



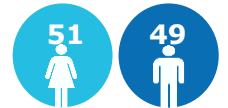
In Numbers

Funding outlook for 2018 remained critically low for the country office- the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan resourcing is at 29%.

US\$11 m six months (November 2018- April 2018) net funding requirements, representing 37% of total requirement

0.4 m people in need of assistance in October 2018

15, 000 people assisted in October 2018



Operational Updates

Food assistance for assets creation (FFA): Under the Japanese- funded Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SHAD-P), 18 of the total 36 hectares of lowland swamp were fully developed to full water control levels. Additionally, other connected FFA activities (5.3 km of community feeder roads, a 30-metre square fishpond and a renovated roof of public school) were undertaken by communities. A total of 721 farmers (383 males and 338 females) received 123 mt of assorted food commodities.

Capacity strengthening: WFP, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Samaritan's Purse conducted on-site trainings for 496 farmers from 13 communities on structure development, maintenance and water management of the lowlands under the Japanese Smallholders' Agriculture Development Project (SHAD-P).

Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF): WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Liberia (Ministry of Education), and three community-based organizations is implementing HGSF in 62 schools (20,000 school children) in Nimba County. Currently, 12 farmers groups (10 members each) have been linked to these schools and are now selling their surpluses to the schools directly.

Emergency Assistance: Under an Immediate Response (IR-EMOP) that targets 37,000 vulnerable flood-affected people, WFP has reached 32,144 with 117 mt of food and USD 201,575 cash assistance in 97 communities in Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Margibi and Bomi counties. Additionally, conducted nutrition education including importance of nutrition for infant and young child feeding (IYCF). A lesson learned exercise is ongoing to capture key lessons learnt to inform and improve future response.

Main photo

Credit: WFP/John Monibah

Caption: Students at Ylamba Public school in Nimba County eat locally produced food during lunch (recess) hour under the HGSF (Home Grown School Feeding)

Operational Context: Liberia suffered violent conflicts spanning almost three decades (1979 to 2003): widespread violence during military rule (1980-1990), and two civil wars (1989-1996 and 1999-2003). As a result, national 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 (EVD) 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.

According to the Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS) 2018 report, approximately 1 in 5 households in Liberia is food insecure (16 percent moderately food insecure and 2 percent severely food insecure), while 2 in 5 are marginally food secure (42 percent), and therefore quite vulnerable to falling in to food insecurity as a result of a shock or hazard. Food insecurity disproportionately affects rural areas (23 percent of rural households are food insecure, compared to 11 percent of urban households). Malnutrition of children less than 5 years is a persistent problem with 35.5 percent stunted, 4.8 percent thin for their weight (GAM), 15 percent underweight, and 3.7 percent overweight.

To improve infrastructure and social service delivery, the government in late October launched the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity & Development (PAPD) as part of a national development plan to make Liberia middle -income country by 2030, aligning to the SDGs target. In January 2018, the Liberia country office made the shift to a transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) to allow the time for planning and development of a full country strategy plan (2019-2023). This T-ICSP focuses on school meals, livelihood/resilience, nutrition, capacity strengthening of national institutions, and supply chain services for development and humanitarian actors. WFP has been present in Liberia since 1968.



Chronic malnutrition: **32% of children** between 6-59 months

2017 Human Development Index: **181 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Population: **4.7 million**

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Further information: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/liberia>

Liberia Transitional Interim Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

2018 Total Requirement (in USD)	2018 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
29.3 m	3.2 m	11 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and other crisis affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis across the country.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity:

- Provide general food assistance to vulnerable households affected by disasters and/or other disruptions.

Strategic Outcome 2: School aged children and populations affected by HIV/TB in targeted areas have access to adequate, safe and nutritious food all year round.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide safe, adequate and nutritious school meals to targeted school age children and monthly take-home rations to adolescent girls.
- Provide food and nutritional support to targeted groups (PLHIV, TB patients) and their affected households.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations (pregnant and lactating women as well as children) have reduced malnutrition, including reduced stunting rates in line with national targets by 2025.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious foods to households with children aged 6-23 months in counties with the highest prevalence of stunting and provide nutrition education and sensitization to different groups and stakeholders.
- Build, rehabilitate and maintain productive assets including climate adaptation measures for targeted smallholders.
- Provide communications and education promoting the agricultural sector to community members, including women, youth and school children.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods to better meet food security and nutrition needs by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide agricultural market support (including HGSP) to smallholder farmers.
- Support development and management of community Food Reserves (CFRs) and other forms of insurance for rural women groups and smallholders.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 5: National and sub-national institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2025.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity:

- Provide support to strengthen coordination mechanism and information management systems for the government and its partners and provide support for the implementation of the disaster management policy with focus on early warning system.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity:

- Provide supply chain services to humanitarian and development partners

Challenges

The Transitional Interim Country Strategic plan (T-ICSP) is facing a serious funding gap- only 29 percent funded. This has led to reduction in staffing and beneficiaries targeting in the school meals programme. There is no provision of food assistance to targeted groups such as People living with HIV/AIDS, TB patients, pregnant and lactating women and children suffering from malnutrition and stunting. The country office is engaging with Global Fund in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to mobilize funds for beneficiaries in this category. Activities aiming to strengthen capacities for managing food security and nutrition policies are also facing similar constraints.

Partnership

World Food Day: Celebration of the annual World Food Day in Liberia started on 16 October with MoA, FAO, and WFP participating in a joint press conference to underscore the relevance of the event. Participating organizations highlighted gains and achievements made in supporting the Government and people of Liberia toward achieving food security, fighting malnutrition, and enhancing capacity. WFP's Country Director Bienvenu Djossa emphasized the need for more concerted efforts against hunger and malnutrition. He cited the results of the Government of Liberia's 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey which revealed that 18 percent of the population are moderately or severely food insecure (an increase in 2 percent from 2013). Stunting in children aged 6-59 months stands at 35.5 percent nationally, a 4 percent increase since 2013, and above the sub-Saharan average of 31 percent.

Donors (in alphabetic order)

Ireland, Japan, Multilateral, UN Funds (excl. CERF), Private Donors,