



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Liberia Country Brief December 2018

**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 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.

The Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS) 2018 Report, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and supported by development partners, has determined that 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 aged 6-59 months is a persistent problem with 35.5 percent stunted, 4.8 percent thin for their weight (Global Acute Malnutrition), 15 percent underweight, and 3.7 percent overweight.

To improve infrastructure and social service delivery, the Government launched the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity & Development (PAPD) in late October, 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). The 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**

## In Numbers

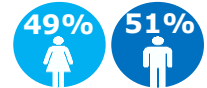
**Funding outlook for 2018 remained critically low** for the country office- the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan resourcing is at 38 %.

**558 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 24,800** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 6.3 m** six months (January - June 2019) net funding requirements, representing 22% of total.

**33,800 people assisted** in December 2018



## Operational Updates

**•Capacity Strengthening:** In continuation, and as part of the three pronged-approach for resilience building , WFP facilitated a workshop on seasonal livelihood planning (SLP) in Gbarnga, Bong County. The workshop brought together 45 participants (30 men and 15 women) from a pool of local civil society and community-based livelihood groups, Government, and representatives from agencies that invest in partnerships supporting multi-sectorial development initiatives. The seasonal livelihood programming (SLP) is part of a broader three-step process that strengthens the design, planning and implementation of longer-term resilience building programmes. It places people and partners at the centre of planning, using converging analyses, consultations, and consensus-building on actions required at three different levels. In March 2018, as part of the ground work for the resilience building process, WFP conducted the community based participatory planning (CBPP) exercise in Bong County.

**•Food assistance for assets creation (FFA):** Under the Japanese-funded Small Agriculture Development Project (SHAD-P), WFP distributed 521 mt of food to 2,415 vulnerable people (1,108 men and 1,307 women) for 85 percent work achievement in December.

The achievement includes development of 31 hectares of lowland asset, rehabilitation of 21 hectares of lowland, cultivation of 13 hectares of vegetables/legume, rehabilitation of 11 km road and construction of nine community structures.

### Main photo

**Credit:** WFP Liberia/ John Monibah

**Caption:** Food Distribution to Participants of Japanese funded Smallholder Agriculture Development Project in Suakoko, Bong County

**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	10.5 m	6.3 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.

**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:**

- 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.
- 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 mechanisms 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) funding is at 38 percent. This has critically affected WFP operations in Liberia resulting in the reduction in staffing and beneficiaries targeting, especially in groups such as People living with HIV/AIDS, TB patients, pregnant and lactating women and children suffering from malnutrition and stunting. These groups have not received critical assistance due to funding deficit. Activities aiming to strengthen capacities for managing food security and nutrition policies are also facing similar constraints.

**Donors (in alphabetic order)**

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