



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief February 2019



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, WFP Liberia made the shift to a transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP). The T-ICSP focuses on school feeding, 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: **36% of children**
between 6-59 months

2017 Human Development Index:
181 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

Population: **4.7 million**

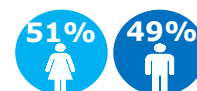
In Numbers

Funding outlook remained critically low for the country office as the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) resourcing is at 40 %.

277 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.5 m six months (March - August 2019) net funding requirements, for the remaining four months of the T-ICSP and two months of CSP.

68,680 people assisted
in February 2019



Operational Updates

•**Schoolchildren access to food:** WFP delivered 681 mt of food to provide daily meals to 91,269 schoolchildren (48,730 boys and 42,539 girls) and 4,000 monthly take-home-ration to girls. Also training on management of the programme at the school/community was provided to 1,600 key stakeholders (816 men and 784 women) including principals, cooks, feeding managers and parents teachers association (PTA) representatives.

•**Home-grown school feeding (HGSF):** WFP reached 20,573 beneficiaries (10,698 boys and 9,875 girls) in 62 schools under the HGSF/CBT (cash-based transfer) modality. The schools continued to purchase and utilize locally produced commodities including fresh food (cassava, plantain, eddoes and vegetables) from farmers for this programme. WFP extended field level agreements with the three community-based organizations (CBOs) to July following a mid-term evaluation.

•**Food assistance for assets creation (FFA):** Under the Japanese-funded small agriculture development project (SHAD-P), WFP completed the construction of a 200 mt capacity storage hub in Bong county to be used by smallholders' farmers. Agro-equipment will also be provided to add value to farm produce including rice.

•**Agriculture Promotion : "Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas"** – To initiate the implementation process and establish proper coordination mechanism, the joint peacebuilding fund (PBF) programme (JP) agencies (FAO, WFP and ILO) developed a joint action plan with key milestones such as engagement of key stakeholders (government line ministries, civil society groups and local authorities), assessment project targets and inception mission.

Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/ Johnson Kolubah

Caption: Locally Produced Food preparation for Home Grown School Feeding in Nimba County

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Liberia Transitional Interim Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total 2019 Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
13.4 m	10.5 m	4.5 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

WFP implemented a transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) since January 2018 with funding at 40 percent as at end of February 2019. This has critically affected WFP operations in Liberia resulting in the reduction of its operations especially beneficiaries targeting. People living with HIV/AIDS, TB patients, pregnant and lactating women and children suffering from malnutrition and stunting are the most affected. These groups have not received critical assistance due to funding deficit. The country office is anticipating implementation of a country strategic plan (CSP) beginning July 2019. An increase of funding support is critical to this strategic move.

Stakeholders Coordination

Nutrition: A multi-stakeholders' meeting for REACH (Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition) and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement coordination in the country was held. The Government of Liberia, through the Ministries of Health and Gender, Children and Social Protection together with civil society organizations and the United Nations in Liberia including the Office of the Resident Coordinator, WFP, FAO, WHO, and UNICEF participated. This stakeholders' consultations aimed at building consensus on the status of nutrition governance, perceived gaps and potential activities to be supported through REACH in 2019. As the Nutrition Pillar Lead in United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process, WFP organized and coordinated the event with support from the Office of United Nations Resident Coordinator.

School Feeding: WFP, Government of Liberia and partners set up a multi-sectoral task team to support school feeding SABER (System Approach for Better Education Results) for Liberia. The technical task team comprised of staff from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health, Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services and partners implementing school feeding in the country- ZOA, Mary's Meals, Save the Children and WFP. Documentations to support the diagnostics of the SABER exercise is scheduled for early March.

Donors (in alphabetic order)

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