



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief April 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

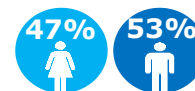
The Resourcing level is at 73 %.

326 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 70,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2 m six months (May - October 2019) net funding requirements

110,300 people assisted
in April 2019



Operational Updates

•**Schoolchildren access to food:** WFP distributed 326 mt of food to 87,139 schoolchildren (46,196 boys and 40,943 girls) as daily meals and 3,600 adolescent girls as monthly take-home-ration.

•**Home-grown school feeding (HGSF):** WFP reached 20,575 beneficiaries (10,690 boys and 9,875 girls) by providing a total of USD 70,000 to 62 schools under the HGSF/cash based-transfer (CBT) modality. In preparation of the start of CSP implementation in July, the country office commenced preparatory works for additional 15,000 beneficiaries in 64 schools to be able to meet the CSP target of 35,000 beneficiaries at the start of the CSP. Meanwhile, the schools continued to purchase and utilize locally produced commodities including fresh food items (cassava, plantain, eddoes and vegetables) from farmers for this programme.

•**Nutrition:** WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, planned an assessment that aimed to provide an in-depth examination of the nutritional status, livelihood/social protection, food security and vulnerability gaps of people living with HIV/TB in country. Technical Working Group, comprising of Government of Liberia, Civil Society and UN agencies, developed the draft concept note and tools. The recruitment process of international consultant to support the exercise is under way.

Under the leadership of WFP, other UN agencies and the Government of Liberia, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the 'United Nations Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition' (UN-REACH) worked on a plan to host a one-day nutrition awareness meeting with members of the House of Representatives of the 54th National Legislature on 3 May. The meeting discussions will focus on creating an enabling environment and identifying Champions to support Scaling Up Nutrition in Liberia.

Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/ Kabeh Enders

Caption: WFP supports Home-Grown School Feeding School in Nimba County.

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	2 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 HGSF) 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 has two months (May-June 2019) left for the implementation of a transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) and is only 73 percent funded as at end of April 2019. This has critically affected WFP operations in Liberia for the last one year, particularly its nutrition interventions. 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 facing challenges in the implementation of the country strategic plan (CSP) beginning July 2019 with a deficit of 27 percent of T-ICSP. An increase of funding support is critical to this strategic move to enable WFP provide support to people in critical need like those living with HIV/AIDs, pregnant and lactating women and children suffering from malnutrition and stunting and for better safety nets.

Stakeholders Coordination

Capacity Strengthening: WFP Provided training on distribution reporting to three community-based organizations and local ministry of education staff (26 persons – 5 women, 21men) who have monitoring, reporting and supervision responsibilities to the implementation of the HGSFP in Nimba County. In addition, one vehicle was loaned to the Ministry of Education to support the government monitoring role of the programme. The vehicle was provided in fulfilment of the Joint Plan of Action between WFP and the Ministry of Education.

The Government of Liberia represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and WFP signed Memorandum of Understanding for a year (April 2019-May 2020) to resume market price monitoring. WFP is providing technical and financial support. A refresher market price monitoring training workshop is scheduled in May and will bring together thirty LISGIS field staff (County Directors and Price Monitors) from all fifteen (15) counties in Liberia. The training is intended to equip LISGIS field staff with the necessary skills to manage, collect, aggregate and analyze price data for reporting and evidence-based decision making in the wake of rising inflation and increasing commodities prices.

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