



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Liberia Country Brief May 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 for T-ICSP has a deficit of 14 %.

**358 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 85,600** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 5.3 m** six months (June-November 2019) net funding requirements representing 30% of total

**107,700 people assisted**  
in May 2019



## Operational Updates

- **Schoolchildren access to food:** WFP distributed 715 mt of food that was served to 87,139 schoolchildren (46,196 boys and 40,943 girls) as daily meals and provided to 3,600 adolescent girls as monthly take-home-rations for the period May-June 2019. This was the final distribution under the current school year ending in June. For the next school year, starting September 2019, WFP will digitize beneficiaries' management for the ration distribution to beneficiaries of girls take home rations through the WFP beneficiary registration/tracking platform - SCOPE. In June, a week-long training will be conducted on SCOPE operations management for WFP staff and partners from Government and NGOs.
- **Home-grown school feeding (HGSF):** Under the cash-based transfer arrangement, WFP provided USD 85,604 to 62 schools with a total of 20,573 schoolchildren (10,698 boys and 9,875 girls) for the purchase and utilization of locally produced food items (such as cassava, plantain, eddoes and vegetables) from farmers in this programme.
- **Nutrition:** 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) hosted a one-day nutrition awareness on 3 May under the theme: "Legislature Engagement for Scaling Up Nutrition". The one-day legislative engagement meeting focused on creating awareness on nutrition, presenting, discussing the nutrition-enabling environment, and identifying Nutrition Champions among Liberia's legislators to support Scaling Up Nutrition activities. It brought together 100 participants (82 men and 18 women) involving High Level officers (Ministers, technicians and specialist) from Government of Liberia, Development Partners and Civil Society engaging members of 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature on specific nutrition issues.

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**Main photo**

**Credit:** WFP Liberia/ John Monibah

**Caption:** Technical Training workshop in [field] practical session in a local market (Joint WFP & Govt Price Monitoring).

**Liberia Transitional Interim Strategic Plan (2018-2019)**

Total 2019 Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>18 m</b>	<b>3 m</b>	<b>5.3 m</b>

\*6-months Net Funding Requirements as of 20 May 2019.

**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 has only a month (June) for the implementation of T-ICSP and has 14 percent funding deficit as at end of May 2019. The country strategic plan (CSP) starts July 2019 with a funding deficit of 100 percent. This critical resourcing situation has a negative effect on WFP operations in Liberia for the months ahead. WFP is considering a change in the transfer modalities of some of its activities where possible. For example, reduction in the number of beneficiaries for take home rations from 1,000 girls to 595 for cash transfer (commodity voucher) and increasing number targeted for in-kind from 3,000 to 3,595 girls. For the next six months, WFP needs USD 5.3 million (June-November 2019) for its programme implementation.

**Capacity Strengthening:** WFP in collaboration with the Government conducted a Joint Price Monitoring Technical Training workshop for 30 price monitoring technicians from the 15 counties. The aim of the training was to facilitate experience-sharing and equip field-level staff of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) engaged in collection, analysis and reporting of market data. Twenty-three markets are currently being monitored for approximately 20 food commodities and other non-food items. This will also help to better communicate, improve contents of monthly market bulletins, and strengthen partnerships. Global high food prices prompted the Government in 2008 to sign an MOU with WFP for capacity support in undertaking monthly joint government-WFP market monitoring exercises in the context of food security monitoring.

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