



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief June 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 CSP has a deficit of 92 %.

320 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 116,073 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.3 m six months (July-December 2019) net funding requirements

21,622 people assisted
in June 2019

Operational Updates

- **Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023:** The Liberia CSP has two focus areas: Resilience Building and Crisis Response. It has three activities and will contribute to three strategic outcomes, with each activity contributing to one strategic outcome. The CSP was approved by the WFP Executive Board in June and will come into effect 1 July 2019. It will serve as the framework for action to position WFP as a partner of choice and a frontline leader in the humanitarian, development and peace areas in Liberia.
- **Schoolchildren access to food:** WFP provided daily hot meals to 87,139 schoolchildren (40,943 girls and 46,196 boys) for 20 school days. In addition, 20,573 (9,875 girls and 10,698 boys-) received home-grown school feeding and 3,600 adolescent girls took home a family size ration comprising rice and vegetable oil for 30 days.
- **School Feeding Beneficiaries Management:** WFP embarked on the registration and authentication of beneficiaries of the monthly take-home rations into WFP's Corporate SCOPE system to enhance girls-take-home ration assistance transfer management. A total of 4,631 girls were registered in 176 schools. WFP will start conducting all girls take-home ration distributions through the SCOPE platform from next school year in September 2019.
- **Nutrition:** WFP in partnership with Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders finalized preparations for the conduct of an assessment on Vulnerability, Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood options for people affected by HIV/TB in Liberia. In this regard, a three-day workshop aimed at strengthening capacity of enumerators and supervisors was conducted for 40 representatives from government Ministries and Agencies and Civil Society organizations involved in HIV/TB-related programmes. The aim of the assessment is to provide an in-depth examination of the nutritional status, as well as livelihood/social protection, food security and vulnerability gaps of PLHIV/TB in Liberia.

Contact info: Kabeh Enders (kabeh.enders@wfp.org)

Country Director: Bienvenu Djossa

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

Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/ John Monibah

Caption: SCOPE registration & verification exercise for girls take home ration beneficiaries in Gbarpolu County

Liberia Transitional Interim Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total 2019 Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
19 m	3 m	3.3 m

*6-months Net Funding Requirements for the CSP. T-ICSP ends 30 June.

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 experienced serious funding challenges for the implementation of its Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP Jan 2018- Jun 2019) with a 12 percent funding deficit as at 30 June. The new CSP starts on 1 July with 92 percent deficits. This affected WFP's ability to conduct nutrition-related activities in the T-ICSP.

As a coping mechanism, WFP decided to increase the number of beneficiaries under the girl take home ration programme (GTHR) targeting 1,000 additional beneficiaries for CBT whilst assisting 3,000 beneficiaries through in-kind modality. This will bring the overall GTHR beneficiaries to 4,000 people starting from the upcoming school year in September 2019.

Partnership: Under the UN joint programme "Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas" (Peacebuilding Fund Project - PBF), Government of Liberia, FAO, ILO and WFP completed the project's initial assessment and inception workshop. These activities aimed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of partners and beneficiaries on the objectives and expected results. The implementation will be carried out in collaboration with the Government of Liberia through Ministries of Labour, Youth and Sports, Gender, and Agriculture. The project seeks to sustain peace by addressing two interlinked root causes of conflict: (1) Grievance over insufficient participation of young women and men in local dispute resolution; (2) Lack of employment and livelihoods opportunities for youth. The project targets 1,200 direct beneficiaries in Bong and Lofa Counties. The PBF is funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) through the 2019 Liberia Multi Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF).

Africa Day of school feeding Event: The Government of Liberia and partners (WFP, Mary's Meal, ZOA and Save The Children) celebrated the Africa Day of school feeding event on 28 June 2019 under the national theme: "Investing in home-grown school feeding for achieving zero hunger and sustaining inclusive education for all". This event showcased home grown school feeding as vital to creating economic growth.

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