



WFP Liberia Country Brief August 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Liberia suffered violent conflicts spanning almost three decades, 1979 to 2000 – a 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) August 2018 report, 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 2018, as part of a national development plan to make Liberia middle-income country by 2030, aligning to the SDGs target. In July 2019, WFP realigned its focus to a four- and half-year Country strategic Plan, using a multifaceted Home-Grown School Feeding programme as a platform for linking agriculture, nutrition and education through an integrated approach to achieving the 2030 agenda. The aim is to support the Government of Liberia in its efforts to Improve food and nutrition security in vulnerable communities through increased production and consumption of nutritious foods; Increase farmers' income and enhance resilience to shocks by promoting access of smallholders' production inputs and market opportunities; and Promote access to basic education and human capital development. The CSP also focus on capacity strengthening of institutions at both national and local levels. WFP has been present in Liberia since 1968.



Chronic malnutrition: **36% of children between 6-59 months**

Income Level: **Low**

2017 Human Development Index: **181 out of 189**

Population: **4.5 million**

Numbers

The resourcing level for the CSP is critical, funded at 7%.

US\$ 3 m six months (September 2019-February 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Government of Liberia signed and launched the WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Liberia for the period July 2019- December 2023. The Government confirmed its commitment to be part of the implementation and monitoring of the CSP given its embedded mechanism aiming at promoting food security, education, nutrition, health, and rural development.
- WFP's CSP for Liberia is designed around the home-grown school feeding programme as a multisectoral platform for the delivery of an interlinked set of activities covering agriculture, education, and nutrition, social protection, and peacebuilding. The response strategy is anchored in two strategic results: access to food (to SDG 2.1); and capacity strengthening (SDG 17.9), whilst directly contributing to the government's national development agenda- Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).
- Food assistance for assets:** Under the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF) sustaining peace joint programme, a two-day training of trainers' (TOT) workshop was conducted in Gbarnga, Bong County. 42 participants (36-men and 11-women) attending, representing the Government at both national and local levels, UN agencies, Civil Society and Youth Groups. The workshop aimed to acquaint and prepare stakeholders on the processes of Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) and define a common understanding of the CBPP tools and its value-adding elements.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/John Monibah

Caption: Peacebuilding Fund Project's workshop on community-based participatory planning

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (July 2019-2023)

Total 2019 Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
19 m	6 m	3 m

**Applies to T-ICSP (Jan to Jun 2019) and CSP from July 2019 onwards*

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure populations, including school-aged children in targeted areas, have access to adequate and nutritious food, including food produced locally, by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity:

- Provide an integrated, inclusive and gender-transformative school feeding package to food and nutritionally vulnerable school children including take-home rations to adolescent girls in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding).

Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises

Focus area: Crises Response

Activities:

- Provide an integrated emergency food and nutrition assistance package to vulnerable households affected by disasters and/or other disruptions.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National and sub-national institutions have strengthened capacities to design and manage food security and nutrition, social protection, emergency preparedness and response, and disaster risk management systems by 2030

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity:

- Provide capacity strengthening support to the Government and its partners to strengthen national coordination mechanisms, information management and monitoring systems for food security and nutrition, and disaster risk management

Challenges: The resourcing situation for the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) is critical with overall budget shortfall of 93 percent. Its current resource base is solely dependent on resources migrated from the Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP). The six- months Net Funding Requirements (NFR) has a deficit of 3 million representing 42 percent of the total 6.5 million six months (September - February 2020) requirement. This funding deficit will have 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.

• **Disaster Management and Capacity Strengthening:**

In preparation to support the government-led response to recent flooding in parts of the country, the UN Disaster Management Working Group (UNDMWG) has been engaging the Government of Liberia through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to plan for assistance to potential flood-affected communities.

- WFP is supporting the NDMA to strengthen capacities for mobile data collection and consolidation. This initiative started in 2018 as part of WFP’s support to the NDMA and has led to the latter using electronic gadgets for mobile data collection in 2019 as opposed to a paper-based data collection. This will limit delays in garnering data to inform the definition of future responses to those affected by disasters.

- **Stakeholders Coordination:** WFP participated in a workshop on effectiveness of country leadership on governance of nutrition and food security in West Africa and part of North Africa. The workshop focused on developing a regional food security and nutrition governance assessment tool to verify its suitability for the Liberian context. Six countries (including Liberia) out of the seventeen in the West and part of North Africa were selected for this test run. The tool presents three categories- Policy environment, Prevention and management framework and Concentration in favour of coordination, synergy, alignment, and effectiveness of food security and nutrition collective action.

- An integrated Context Analysis (ICA) inception meeting was held with stakeholders (UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture, LISCIS and NDMA). ICA is part of a three-step process that aims to strengthen the design, planning and implementation of longer-term resilience building programmes, developed in partnership and aligned to national and local priorities. This exercise will guide WFP Liberia in identifying priority areas to conduct Seasonal Livelihood Programming consultations to identify area-specific complementary and multisectoral programmes and set the foundations for joint effort with government and partners.

Donors: UN Funds (excl. CERF)