



WFP Liberia Country Brief September 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.



Numbers

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

US\$ 6 m six months (October 2019-March 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Programme Implementation Review and Planning: After the launching of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) by the Government of Liberia and WFP in August 2019, WFP conducted a two-day meeting (2-3 September 2019) to engage strategic partners in this new phase of WFP's presence in Liberia. The Government of Liberia, represented by local authorities from the ministries of Agriculture, Education, Health, Gender, Children and Social Protection and Internal Affairs, and Community-based organizations (CBOs) participated.

This forum provided the opportunity for the 57 participants to draw lessons from WFP's Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) concluded in June 2019 and reach consensus on implementation strategies of the CSP for better programming and partnership. Fifty-seven persons (13-women and 44-men) participated, of which 68 percent were local government authorities and CBOs.

Food assistance for assets (FFA) creation:

Under its resilience building efforts, WFP is supporting smallholder farmers to create sustainable livelihood assets in three counties (Bomi, Bong and Montserrado). Following inception activities (assessments - sites/beneficiaries selection and workshop on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders), in early September, WFP commenced the distribution of assorted agricultural tools and seeds to 957 farmers (601-women and 356-men) in low land rice and vegetable production in Montserrado County. The tools distribution exercise will also extend to Bong and Bomi counties in October.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/Kabeh Enders

Caption: WFP-supported smallholder farmers prepare lowland site for improved rice variety production in Bomi County

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

Population: **4.5 million**

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*	6 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 an 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-month Net Funding Requirements (NFR) from October 2019 to March 2020 amounts at US\$6 million. This funding deficit will have a negative effect on WFP operations in Liberia for the months ahead. As a coping mechanism, WFP will apply changes to transfer modalities of some of its activities where possible.

Nutrition:

Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Under-Nutrition (REACH), Liberia’s Scaling UP Nutrition (SUN) Movement,

Government of Liberia and partners conducted a multi-sectoral nutrition awareness-raising campaign in four counties (Bomi, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa). These awareness campaigns aimed to inform local government authorities and other stakeholders including civil society and women entrepreneurs on the nation-wide efforts of SUN in Liberia.

Each campaign was concluded with the establishment of coordination committee to enable the development of county specific actions and engagement at county, district and community levels. The committee is comprised of government ministries, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and local government in the county.

In addition, a documented mechanism for sharing best practices was generated. The role of the UN (WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO) in scaling up nutrition in Liberia, the importance of coordination and collaboration among all key stakeholders was emphasized.

The overall country nutrition situation with prominence on the stunting rate of 35.5 percent, in line with the 2018’s Comprehensive Food Security Nutrition Survey (CFSNS), and county-specific nutrition situation was also presented. As a result, a joined consensus was reached for counties to join forces to engage in food and nutrition security activities to improve nutrition situation in each county.

Partnerships

UN Joint Programme:

Under the Liberia Multi-partner trust fund Joint Programme “Sustaining Peace” project, WFP utilizes Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) tool to support communities develop Community Actions Plans (CAP). A four-day development process was conducted in Zorzor, Lofa County. The CAP for Zorzor was developed by the communities supported by WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture to be used for developmental tool for their communities. A total of 50 participants (13-women, 37-men) comprising community residents and local leaders participated in the exercise. The CBPP approach is a community driven and led planning process that emphasizes the participation of local communities, especially representatives of the different socio-economic groups, together with local leadership, technical staff from relevant sector and agencies. It also supports communities in classifying prioritized initiatives that would improve their development plan. The CBPP process involves communities at all stages of the development cycle (prioritization/ identification, implementation, providing resources, and monitoring & Evaluation).

Donors

UN Peacebuilding Funds