



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief October 2019



Numbers

The resourcing level for the CSP is critical with 93% funding deficit.

US\$ 3 m six months (November 2019-April 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Capacity Strengthening: As part of its capacity strengthening initiatives, WFP, in conjunction with local government officials provided support to vulnerable farmers through food and nutrition assistance, building community resilience and enhancing their capacities to manage their food needs. WFP helped to strengthen food systems and empower people and communities to secure their food security and nutrition needs through livelihood assets and market creation activities. The interventions do enable vulnerable communities to develop key community farm assets increasing resilient agriculture practices for staple food production along the value chain. As part of this initiative, WFP in close collaboration with the ministries of agriculture and internal affairs started setting up agro-equipment pools in Bomi, Bong and Montserrado Counties. The equipment earmarked for the pools include power tillers, rice threshers, rice grain dryers, motorized water pumps and generators.

Food assistance for assets creation (FFA):

WFP supported smallholder farmers to create sustainable livelihood assets in three counties (Bomi, Bong and Montserrado). In continuation of tools distribution that commenced in September in Montserrado, WFP distributed assorted agricultural tools (667 diggers, 599 axes, 335 shovels and 221 cutlasses among others) and vegetable seeds including cabbage, egg plant and orka to 1,250 participants (650 men, 600 women). The participants are farmers engaged in lowland rice and vegetable production in Bomi County.

Challenges

Four months into the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), resource situation is critical with an overall funding deficit of 93 percent. Its resource base is dependent on resources migrated from the Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP). The six-month Net Funding Requirements (NFR) from November 2019 to April 2020 amounts at USD 3 million. This funding deficit is having a negative effect on the operations. As a coping mechanism, WFP is applying measures such as changes to transfer modalities of some of its activities and target areas where possible.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/John Monibah

Caption: Participants at the community-based participatory planning session in Lofa County aimed at developing a development action plan

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. It is implemented in 9 of the 15 counties in the north-central, western and south-eastern regions. 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**

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

Liberia Integrated Context Analysis

WFP facilitated two days Government of Liberia-led Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) Technical and Programmatic Consultations to validate results obtained during the ICA process. The ICA is part of a broader three-step process that strengthens the design, planning and implementation of longer-term resilience building programmes. It is developed in partnership with stakeholders and aligned to national and local priorities. It places people and partners at the centre of planning, using converging analyses, consultations, and consensus-building at three different levels. Key stakeholders (UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, government and civil society) participated. The consultations focused on food security, natural shocks, livelihoods, nutrition, land degradation and seasonality in Liberia. Partners are expected to articulate the recommendations including the utilization of data evidence to inform broad programmatic strategies to achieve lasting change in Liberia. Thanks to this ICA exercise, WFP will identify priority areas to conduct Seasonal Livelihood Programming to induce complementarity and set the foundations for joint effort with the Government of Liberia and partners.

UN Joint Programme/Peacebuilding Project: Under the peacebuilding fund project, WFP facilitated a practical session in Salayea, Lofa to help build strong social cohesion amongst different socio-economic groups, to produce an inclusive community-based action plan and to support, acquaint and prepare community stakeholders on the processes associated with community-based participatory plan (CBPP). Fifty people including 17 women participated in the week-long CBPP practical exercise. This was an inclusive community-driven process that comprised indoor and outdoor team-building activities to induce ownership among participants in defining a fit-for-purpose community action plan (CAP). Citizens (“Salayea City planners”) agreed to work towards mobilising the required resources for the implementation of the CAP. They resolved to increase joint farming, trade, and advocacy efforts utilizing the key strategies identified in the community to reach the desired outcome as one major way of eliminating crime, increasing food security and improving social service provisions.

Donors

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