



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Liberia
Country Brief
November 2019

In Numbers

US\$ 3 m six months (December 2019–May 2020) net funding requirements

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Context

Liberia suffered violent conflicts spanning from 1979 to 2003. As a result, national gross domestic product (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.

Approximately 1 in 5 households in Liberia is 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. 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)- Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS) 2018.

Poverty affects more women than men as women in some instances tend to endure lower income earnings. Fifty-three percent of women compared to 74 percent of men are involved in gainful employment. Nationally, while over 68 percent of Liberians work in the informal sector, 80 to 85 percent of the population are unemployed, with women accounting for 94 percent (Central Bank of Liberia 2017).

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 resilience building and crises response activities that will promote production of nutritious foods; Increase farmers' income and enhance resilience to shocks; also 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.



Population: **5 million**
(UNFPA 2019)

2019 Human Development Index: **176 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

Operational Updates

- School Feeding Programme:**
WFP is providing school feeding package to food and nutritionally vulnerable schoolchildren including take-home rations to adolescent girls in a way that relies on and stimulates local production with focus on Home-Grown school Feeding (HGSF). Under HGSF programme, 35,243 children (16,917 girls and 18,326 boys) in 62 schools received 46 mt of assorted food items as daily meals, produced by smallholder farmers. Under the conventional school feeding programme, WFP intends to deliver 248 mt of food items to 199 schools for 49,278 children (23,617 girls and 25,661 boys) in Nimba and Maryland Counties as daily hot meals, and to 4,000 adolescent girls as monthly take home rations for the months of November and December 2019.
- Food assistance for assets (FFA) creation:**
Under the resilience building focused activity, WFP supports smallholder farmers to create a sustainable livelihood asset in Bomi, Bong and Montserrado Counties. In continuation of this effort, WFP provided food assistance (92 mt of food items) to 961 farmers (434 women and 527 women) in Bomi county. Additionally, planned the delivery of 167 mt of assorted food commodities to 1,753 farmers (923 women and 830 men) in Bong County.
- 16 Days of Activism:**
WFP in Liberia commenced the celebration of activism under the theme: "Orange the Entire Liberia to promote gender equality to end sexual and gender-based violence. Under this theme, WFP initiated awareness campaigns in programme activities such as school feeding and resilience involving beneficiaries, participants and staff in Maryland and Nimba Counties. The celebration will continue in December 2019 where WFP will participate in the activities organized by the United Nations and the Government of Liberia.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP Liberia/Kabeh Enders

Caption: WFP staff poses in support of 2019 16 days of Activism theme

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18 m	0	3 m*

*Six-months net funding requirements as at 15 November 2019.

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 of 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

Activity:

- 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

Resource mobilization for the implementation of WFP's programmes in Liberia has been seriously challenged for a protracted period, running from the implementation of a Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) in 2018 in to a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in 2019. The resource situation is critical with an overall budget deficit of 93 percent for the CSP. The six-month net funding requirements from December 2019 to May 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 and engaging with donors through visit to programme activity sites such as home-grown school feeding in Nimba County.

Partnership

WFP hosted two missions: Cost Benefit Analysis and Mastercard Donor visits. The missions were intended to increase collaboration to enhance the implementation of school feeding in Liberia. Since 2012, Mastercard and WFP have partnered on the transformational power of school feeding. This has supported access to education, improved children's health, cognitive development, and future livelihoods earnings. The collaborative effort is helping Liberian communities to take important steps towards breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty for future generations. Liberia is no exception. Mastercard supports home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme in Liberia implemented by WFP and the Government. The donor mission was a joint exercise of a staff from Mastercard and two staff from WFP Headquarters) for the period from 25 to 27 November 2019. They visited schools benefiting from HGSF programme, smallholders' farmers including women groups that provide locally produced food to the schools, local government authorities and community people.

The Mastercard supported a Cost Benefit Analysis mission to review and analyze the two types of school feeding programmes (HGSF and conventional) implemented by WFP in Liberia. The two results showed a wide range of benefits to the individual and the nation. The HGSF programme showed a higher cost benefit.

Capacity Strengthening

WFP conducted a trainer of trainers (TOT) training for 20 persons (30 percent women), from three community-based organizations (CBOs) and Ministry of Education supporting the HGSF programme in Nimba County. The main aim was to provide hands-on training that enables the CBOs and Ministry of Education in the county to conduct step-down trainings for schools supported under the HGSF. The objectives were to establish a cadre of local trainers and to impart the needed skills sets for them to be able to deliver school level trainings around HGSF programme. The exercise is part of WFP's effort to strengthen capacity of the CBOs and the Ministry of Education. The training will also facilitate a more cost-effective skills transfer to school level actors managing the school feeding programme.

Donors

UN Peacebuilding Funds, Private Donors