



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief July 2021



Operational Context

Liberia is facing a series of endogenous shocks, further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, and largely driven by currency depreciation, declining external assistance, weak domestic revenue generation, and limited expenditure adjustments.

Food insecurity is widespread with an estimated 2.4 million people moderately or severely food insecure (Liberia Food Security Assessment, March 2021). The Cadre Harmonisé (CH) projects that 900,000 Liberians will be food insecure during the height of the lean season (June to August 2021), with 160,000 Liberians falling into the emergency category (CH phase 4). Moreover, 63 percent of the population are multidimensional poor (with women more affected), 30 percent of children aged 6-59 months are stunted, and 3 percent are acutely malnourished.

The Government of Liberia's national development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023), aims to make Liberia a middle-income country by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023 links food security, agriculture, nutrition, and education through an integrated approach. The CSP also focuses on capacity strengthening of institutions both at national and local levels.

To strategically assist the Government of Liberia's response to the COVID-19 crisis and address increasing humanitarian needs, WFP undertook a budget revision to its CSP, to scale up assistance from 175,000 to 2.2 million people. WFP supports the Government's COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP) to provide food assistance to 2.5 million vulnerable persons affected by the COVID-19 prevention measures.



Population: **5 million**

2019 Human Development Index ranking: **175 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

215 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3,647 cash-based transfers made

USD 3.6 m six months (August 2021 – January 2022) net funding requirements

91,389 people* assisted in July 2021

51%



49%



** 68,785 of these beneficiaries had previously already received part of their COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP) entitlement and received outstanding pulses in July 2021*

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP and partners continued the provision of staple food items to the most vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 preventive measures in Liberia under the Government-led COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP), with distributions assisting 69,290 beneficiaries (13,858 households) in three counties. Food assistance was provided to vulnerable households in communities in Bong and Lofa counties that had previously only received part of their COHFSP entitlement. In Grand Gedeh county, WFP and partners provided full rations to a welfare institution.
- As part of WFP's emergency food assistance in support of 91,305 severely food insecure beneficiaries (18,261 households) in four of Liberia's most food insecure counties (Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe), WFP and partners continued the distribution of two months' food assistance supporting 1,100 beneficiaries in Maryland county in July 2021.
- On 22 July 2021, WFP, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria signed a USD 1.4 million partnership agreement on the provision of health supply chain services in Liberia. On 30 July 2021, WFP launched the distribution of medical items from the Ministry of Health's Central Medical Store to county depots and hospitals across the country, with the first two trucks with health supplies being dispatched to the southeast of Liberia.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP provided on-site school feeding assistance to 13,044 vulnerable schoolchildren in Maryland county (6,321 girls and 6,723 boys). WFP also assisted 1,369 schoolchildren and their families (6,845 total beneficiaries) in Maryland county with family take-home rations to support households' food needs amidst a deteriorating food security situation in Liberia.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Michael Vawah

Caption: Farmers receiving agricultural training and tools under the joint UN programme on rural women economic empowerment in Grand Bassa county.

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
10.9 m	3.3 m	3.6 m

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 1:

- 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: Crisis Response

Activity 2:

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

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacity

Strategic Outcome 3: 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 3:

- 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

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 4:

- Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners

- Under the UN programme on rural women economic empowerment implemented jointly with FAO, IFAD and UN Women, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection trained 512 farmers (379 women and 133 men) in five targeted counties on cassava value chain development and business practices in July 2021. The farmers had previously received a training by WFP in February 2021 that led them to form farmer cooperatives. To further boost their agricultural production, the training participants received essential tools including rain suits and boots, cutlasses, shovels, water pumps and fertilizers.

Stakeholder Coordination

- In preparation for the resumption of the provision of daily hot school meals in Maryland and Nimba counties, WFP and the Ministry of Education carried out refresher trainings for 1,185 school principals, cooks, storeroom keepers, and parent teacher association representatives.

Challenges

- Seasonal challenges linked to bad and inaccessible roads severely hampered commodity movement throughout the country, delaying the transportation of food and medical items especially to the southeast of Liberia. WFP closely engaged with transporters to deploy suitable trucks to enable delivery despite these difficult conditions.
- WFP Liberia continues to face a critical funding gap of USD 3.6 million over the next six months (August 2021 to January 2022). Amidst the need to respond to high levels of food insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic, funding constraints severely impact WFP's ability to sustain its life-saving food assistance, school feeding and livelihood support, as well as any contribution to the socio-economic recovery efforts in Liberia. Without additional resources to cover the funding gap until January 2022, WFP will not be able to provide assistance to 165,000 planned beneficiaries in Liberia.

Donors

Top donors to WFP Liberia Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 include Canada, Government of Liberia, Private Donors (Mastercard) and USA. Additional support has been provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

- In July, WFP assisted 1,110 beneficiaries (222 households) in Maryland county through mobile money under the cash-based transfer pilot that aims to provide schoolchildren and their families with a monthly e-voucher or a mobile money transfer that allows them to purchase food at their local retailer, increasing their access to nutritious food while contributing to the local economy.