



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief August 2021



Operational Context

Liberia currently faces a series of endogenous shocks, further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, and that are 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). 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 (target). WFP supported 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

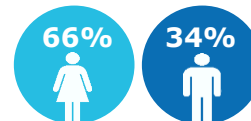
In Numbers

197 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3,930 cash-based transfers made

USD 4 m six months (September 2021 – February 2022) net funding requirements

105,145 people assisted
in August 2021



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP and partners completed the provision of food items to the most vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 preventive measures in Liberia. Reaching 65,485 beneficiaries (13,097 households) in two counties, this assistance was carried out as part of the Government-led COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP). The distributions in Margibi and Nimba counties targeted vulnerable households in communities that had previously received only a part of their COHFSP entitlement.
- 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 distributed two months' food assistance to 115 beneficiaries in Maryland county in August 2021. The delivery of assistance to targeted households will continue until the end of 2021.
- In partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, WFP supports the Ministry of Health to deliver health supplies from the Central Medical Store in Monrovia to county depots and hospitals across Liberia. In August, WFP delivered 50 metric tons of medical items to 10 of the country's 15 counties. Temperature-sensitive items were delivered to Grand Kru, Lofa and River Gee Counties by air through the partnership with Samaritan's Purse and Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- Following reports of outbreaks of Ebola virus and Marburg virus disease in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea respectively, WFP supported the Government of Liberia to prepare for a response in case of an outbreak in Liberia.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP provided on-site school feeding assistance to 38,295 vulnerable schoolchildren (19,806 girls and 18,489 boys) in the counties of Maryland and Nimba.
- In August, WFP assisted 1,250 beneficiaries (250 households) in Nimba county under the cash-based transfer pilot scheme that provides schoolchildren and their families with a monthly e-voucher or mobile money transfer. This assistance allows families to purchase food at their local retailers, increasing their access to nutritious food while also contributing to the local economy.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Vivens Nzabikiramo

Caption: Staff from WFP and the Central Medical Store verifying health supplies before dispatch to county depots and hospitals in Liberia.

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
10.9 m	21 m*	4 m

* 2021 Available Contributions include a balance of USD 15.4 million carried over from previous years. Most of these funds are earmarked for the implementation of the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme which was completed in August 2021.

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 'Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment' programme, implemented jointly with FAO, IFAD and UN Women, WFP procured and delivered agricultural equipment including rice mills, cassava grinders and power tillers to the five targeted counties (Grand Bassa, Margibi, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe) in August 2021. To ensure that the project communities will be able to effectively operate and repair their machines, WFP and partners provided technical training to the farmers.
- Under the 'Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms' programme, implemented jointly with UNDP and UN Women, WFP and partners trained 25 staff from different government entities (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, National Bureau of Concession, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Land Authority, and National Bureau of Concessions) on business, human rights and the principle of free, prior and informed consent to ensure the inclusion of local communities in concession awarding processes and minimize tension in concession areas.

Assessments

- In collaboration with the National Bureau of Concessions, WFP is carrying out a livelihood assessment in communities affected by concession companies to identify solutions to support sustainable livelihood activities and strengthen the resilience of these communities. The results of the assessment will be validated at a workshop in October that will be attended by key stakeholders including government counterparts, UN partners and representatives of the project communities.

Stakeholder Coordination

- To improve coordination and synergies with other UN agencies, WFP participated in meetings and working sessions to review the annual work plan for 2021 and develop the new one for 2022 under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020-2024).

Challenges

- Seasonal challenges linked to bad and inaccessible roads severely hampered commodity movement throughout the country. WFP closely engaged with transporters to deploy suitable trucks and dispatch temperature-sensitive health supplies via air transport to enable delivery despite difficult road conditions.
- WFP Liberia requires USD 4 million over the next six months (September 2021 to February 2022) to sustain its life-saving food assistance, school feeding and livelihood support, as well as contribute to the COVID-19 recovery efforts in Liberia. Without additional resources to cover the funding gap until February 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, People's Republic of China, Private Donors (MasterCard) and USA. Additional support has been provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.