



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Liberia Country Brief September 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

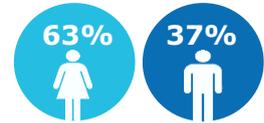
## In Numbers

145 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1,725 cash-based transfers made

USD 4.1 m six months (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements

6,135 people assisted  
in September 2021



## Operational Updates

- 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 5,560 beneficiaries (3,470 women and 2,090 men) in Sinoe County in September 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 September, WFP completed long distance deliveries of 19 metric tons of medical items to 13 of the country's 15 counties. In Montserrado County, WFP carried out last mile deliveries of 12 metric tons of health supplies to 55 health facilities. WFP also started the dispatch of medical items to health facilities in Margibi County in September 2021.
- In September, WFP assisted 575 beneficiaries (395 women and 180 men) in Maryland 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 local retailers, increasing their access to nutritious food while also contributing to the local economy. To inform the implementation of future cash-based transfer projects, WFP staff also carried out a lessons learned exercise and organized internal trainings on the cash-based transfer modality. To ensure that all targeted beneficiaries have unhindered access to WFP assistance, the lessons learned exercise presented key insights on the right transfer modality for each specific geographic area.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/ Vannette Tolbert

Caption: Farmers supported by WFP under the UN joint programme on rural women economic empowerment in their rice fields in Grand Bassa County.

## Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>10.9 m</b>	<b>21 m*</b>	<b>4.1 m</b>

\* 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 'Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion through the Promotion of Rural Employment Opportunities for Youth in Conflict-Prone Areas' programme, implemented jointly with FAO and ILO, WFP supported the installation of two market stalls at strategic locations in Bong and Lofa Counties to help preserve farmers' agricultural produce at the market. Further, WFP and partners trained eighty farmers in the two project counties to strengthen their capacity in settling land disputes and resolve other conflicts.

## Stakeholder Coordination

- In September, WFP, FAO, IFAD and other UN agencies supported the Government of Liberia's participation in the Food Systems Summit. To capture challenges and constraints in the local food system and find sustainable solutions with stakeholders from all of segments of Liberia's food system, WFP had previously supported the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare and organize the national Food Systems Summit dialogues in August 2021.

## Challenges

- To sustain its life-saving food assistance, school feeding and livelihood support, as well as contribute to the COVID-19 recovery efforts in Liberia, WFP Liberia requires a total of USD 4.1 million over the next six months (October 2021 to March 2022).
- WFP Liberia is currently facing a serious funding shortfall under its school feeding programme and requires USD 3.6 million over the next six months (October 2021 to March 2022) to be able to continue the provision of hot meals to 100,000 schoolchildren (82 percent of the six-month school feeding funding requirements). The pipeline break is imminent and will begin at the beginning of the academic school year in November. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a pronounced impact on the food security and nutritional wellbeing of the majority of Liberian households. Without additional resources, the 100,000 vulnerable schoolchildren targeted by WFP Liberia will not continue to receive their daily school meals, depriving them of their only certain meal of the day.

## 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.