



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief October 2021



Operational Context

Liberia currently faces a series of endogenous shocks, further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, that are largely driven by 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**

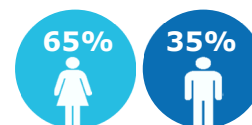
Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

17 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 6.5 m six months (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements

635 people assisted
in October 2021



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP and partners distributed a two-month food assistance to 635 severely food insecure beneficiaries (410 women and 225 men) in Sinoe County. This delivery of food assistance is part of the emergency response activity 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) that will continue over the next few months.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, WFP carried out last mile deliveries of 23 metric tons of health supplies from the Central Medical Store in Monrovia to 69 health facilities in Montserrado and Margibi counties.
- As part of its commitment to support the agricultural sector in Liberia, WFP handed over technical equipment, namely two tractors, two motorbikes, two power tillers, two rotary tillers, a destoner and a rice dryer, to the Ministry of Agriculture. The technical assistance will contribute to enhancing the local food system by strengthening the capacities of national and sub-national institutions and smallholder farmers.
- WFP is facing a serious funding shortfall under its school feeding programme in Liberia and requires USD 6.2 million (93 percent of the six-month school feeding funding requirements - November 2021 to April 2022) to be able to continue the provision of hot meals to 100,000 targeted schoolchildren. The pipeline break is imminent and will begin at the beginning of the academic school year in November 2021. 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 in Liberia will not receive their daily school meals, depriving them of their only certain meal of the day.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/ Vannette Tolbert

Caption: Participants of the livelihood assessment validation workshop organized by WFP in Ganta, Nimba County.

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	20.7 m*	6.5 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

Assessments

- WFP finalized its quarterly market monitoring report (July to September 2021) that regularly assesses changes and trends in 23 strategic markets across the 15 counties of Liberia. The market monitoring exercise found that poor road conditions resulted in higher transport costs and pressure on prices of basic commodities during the reporting period. Imported rice prices firmed at a high level because of high seasonal demand and hoarding. Gasoline and diesel prices continue their upward trend on the Liberian markets.

- Under the 'Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms' programme, implemented jointly with UNDP and UN Women, WFP carried out a workshop to validate the findings of a livelihood assessment that analysed the specific needs of communities that are affected by the activities of concession companies. The assessment contributed to identifying alternative livelihood interventions for communities in Grand Cape Mount, Maryland, Nimba and Sinoe counties under the joint UN project. The workshop took place on 14 October 2021 in Ganta, Nimba County, and was attended by other UN agency staff, development partners and key government officials from the Liberian Senate, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, National Bureau of Concession, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Land Authority, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and National Bureau of Concessions.
- In October, WFP started the reconciliation exercise of the cash-based transfer pilot that assisted 711 schoolchildren (562 girls and 149 boys) and their families in Nimba and Maryland counties with monthly e-vouchers or mobile money transfers that could be converted into selected food commodities at local retailer shops. Together with the previously conducted lessons learned exercise, the reconciliation will provide further insights on the use of the cash-based transfer modality and inform the implementation of future cash-based transfer projects.

Stakeholder Coordination

- Jointly with other UN agencies, WFP contributed to the drafting of the 2022 annual workplan of the UN gender thematic group that focuses on the implementation of the Liberia Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (2021-2025) in all UN activities.
- To mark the World Food Day (16 October), WFP contributed to joint activities with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and other NGO partners. To create awareness about the importance of nutritious and healthy food among the Liberian population, WFP participated in a radio talk show and supported the Ministry of Agriculture's visibility activities.

Challenges

- WFP Liberia requires a total of USD 6.5 million over the next six months (November 2021 to April 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.

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.