



# WFP Liberia Country Brief November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## 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 and Post-Harvest 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 in 2020, to scale up assistance from 175,000 to 2.2 million people (target).



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

**USD 7.1 m** six months (December 2021 – May 2022) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- WFP, with support from the Government of the People's Republic of China, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, prepared for the distribution of food commodities to food insecure schoolchildren and their families in Montserrado, Nimba and Maryland counties. The COVID-19 emergency food assistance will be crucial for the optimal growth and development of the young children, and it will reduce household expenditures given the unaffordability of food for most families due to pandemic-related economic hardships. Amidst a deteriorating food security situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 276,250 food insecure Liberians will benefit from this assistance. The first distributions will be delivered in December 2021.
- 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 delivered agricultural tools to smallholder farmers in Grant Cape Mount and Nimba counties for lowland cultivation of rice and vegetables. This technical support will create alternative livelihood opportunities as found in the April 2021 WFP livelihood assessment that analysed the specific needs of communities affected by the activities of concession companies.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, prepared for the second round of its Health Supply Chain last mile deliveries of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies from the Central Medical Store to health facilities across Liberia.
- WFP is presently facing a serious funding shortfall for its school feeding programme and requires USD 6.7 million (93 percent of the six-month school feeding funding requirements from December 2021 to May 2022) to continue the provision of hot school meals to 100,000 school children. The school feeding programme's funding shortfall started in November 2021, at the beginning of the 2020/2021 academic school year. Without additional resources, the 100,000 vulnerable schoolchildren 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:** WFP Liberia staff participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign organized jointly with other UN Agencies.

**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>20.7 m*</b>	<b>7.1 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

- In November, WFP carried out monitoring activities of its school feeding programme, livelihood interventions, and health supply chain activities in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Maryland and Nimba counties.
- WFP concluded an evaluation of selected retailers for its 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 utilized to purchase selected food commodities at local retailer shops. Together with an earlier review of the pilot, the retailer evaluation will provide further insights on the use of the cash-based transfer modality and inform the implementation of future cash-based transfer activities.

**Stakeholder Coordination**

- WFP, jointly with other United Nations agencies and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence international campaign, which runs from 25 November to 10 December 2021 under the theme, 'Orange the world: End violence against women now!'. This year marks the 30th global anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism globally and the 20th commemoration in Liberia. Gender equality, protection, and accountability to affected populations are cross-cutting issues that are integrated into all of WFP's work. In this framework, WFP carried out several awareness raising activities, including an essay and drawing contest for primary and junior high school students, and participation in local radio talk shows.

**Challenges**

- WFP is currently facing an extremely difficult resource situation to sustain its life-saving food assistance, school feeding, livelihood support, and contributions to the national COVID-19 recovery efforts in Liberia. WFP's six-month net funding requirements in Liberia amount to USD 7.1 million (December 2021 to May 2022).

**Donors**

Donors to the 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 UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.