



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Liberia Country Brief February 2022



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). Overall, 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 aligning with broader national and international commitments. Key priorities include capacity strengthening of national and local institutions to address food and nutrition insecurity.



Population: **5 million**

2020 Human Development Index
ranking: **175 out of 189**

Income level: **low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **30 percent**
of children aged 6-59 months

In Numbers

USD 10.7m six-month (March to August 2022)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP prepared for the resumption of emergency food assistance distributions to severely food insecure households in the southeast of Liberia, with food commodities dispatched from Monrovia to Maryland and Sinoe counties. The delivery of food assistance to the remaining half of beneficiaries (approximately 45,000 people), will continue in March and April 2022.
- WFP enhanced its collaboration with the Ministry of Education regarding beneficiary registration for the COVID-19 emergency food assistance project. The project supports food insecure school children and their families in Montserrado, Nimba and Maryland counties and is funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China. WFP is using its digital beneficiary information and transfer management platform (SCOPE), to track the transfer of entitlements to targeted beneficiaries. In February, dispatches of food commodities for prepositioning at WFP field offices in Maryland and Nimba counties continued, aiming to reduce gaps in implementation caused by the rainy season. 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.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, continued its support to the Ministry of Health, with the delivery of medical supplies to health facilities across Liberia. The collaboration aims to strengthen the national health supply chain operations, by supporting with the movement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies from the Central Medical Store in Monrovia to county depots, hospitals and clinics across the country. In February, WFP delivered 46 metric tons of medical items to 37 facilities, across 12 of Liberia's 15 counties. To further strengthen capacity, staff from WFP, the Central Medical Store and Samaritan's Purse held a workshop on 10 February to improve the storage, handling and transport of temperature sensitive products.
- WFP is facing serious funding shortfalls for its school feeding programme. USD 7.8 million is required (89 percent of the six-month funding requirements for school feeding) to provide hot school meals for 100,000 school children. The resources are vital in supporting children vulnerable to food insecurity and other factors. In many cases, the school meal is the only certain food children have access to daily and are a vital incentive for parents to enrol their children, especially girls, in school.

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Photo credit: ©WFP/John Monibah

Photo caption: Staff from WFP, the Central Medical Store and Samaritan's Purse discussing temperature sensitive logistics in Liberia.

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.3m	8.1m*	10.7m

* 2022 Available Contributions include a balance of USD 7.5 million carried over from previous years. A substantial amount of these funds was earmarked for the implementation of the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme which was completed in 2021 and the remaining balance will be returned to the Government of Liberia.

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

- To restore the livelihoods of its war-affected population, the Government of Liberia signed several concession agreements with multinational corporations during the last decades, to operate in the agricultural and mining sector of the economy. The joint UN programme on

Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, aims to prevent potential conflict drivers arising from concession operations, including environmental hazards, limited livelihood opportunities, gender inequality issues, and other injustices. In February, WFP conducted a livelihoods assessment to identify the needs of women and men in six communities affected by a palm oil concession in Maryland County. The assessment surveyed 72 community members and concession representatives through focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The findings will inform the design of future livelihood activities.

Stakeholder Collaboration

- In February, WFP sensitized county and local authorities regarding the resumption of its distribution of emergency food assistance to food insecure households in Maryland and Sinoe counties. Engagement with affected populations included public service announcements prepared for local radio stations that aimed to share information about WFP's assistance with the general public. Additionally, WFP and its cooperating partner will raise awareness with beneficiaries through community engagement meetings planned before each distribution.
- WFP closely engaged with partners including the Ministry of Education, school authorities, community-based organizations and beneficiaries to plan activities for the COVID-19 emergency food assistance project. Preparations aimed to ensure the smooth implementation of distributions to food insecure school children and their families in Montserrado, Nimba and Maryland counties.

Challenges

- WFP is currently facing an extremely difficult resourcing situation, impacting its ability to sustain 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 10.7 million (March to August 2022).

Donors

Donors to the WFP Liberia Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 include Government of Liberia, Canada, Multilateral Funds, People's Republic of China, Private Donors (MasterCard, Japan Association for WFP) and USA. Additional support has been provided by UNDP, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.