



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Liberia Country Brief March 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). The figures are however, yet to be endorsed by the Government. 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**

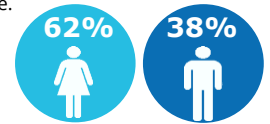
In Numbers

488* mt of food assistance distributed

USD 11.1 m six months (April – September 2022) net funding requirements

27,820* people assisted in March 2022

* Preliminary figures subject to change. COMET reconciliation is ongoing.



Operational Updates

- In March, WFP and partners resumed distributions of emergency food assistance to 3,058 severely food insecure households (15,290 individual beneficiaries), in the southeast of Liberia, in Maryland and Sinoe counties. The dispatch of food commodities from Monrovia to the southeast counties continued throughout the month, to complete the delivery of food assistance to the remaining beneficiaries in April 2022.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and implementation support from the National Food Assistance Agency, WFP resumed distributions of the COVID-19 emergency assistance to food insecure school children and their families, while progressing to complete the registration of all targeted households. In March, 2,506 households (12,530 beneficiaries) were assisted with two-months of food rations in Montserrado County. Amidst a deteriorating food security situation due to the prolonged impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, an estimated total of 276,250 food insecure Liberians in Montserrado, Nimba and Maryland counties will benefit from this two-month assistance. With multilateral funding, WFP will complement its in-kind food assistance in Montserrado County with cash-based transfers (CBTs) in April 2022.
- 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 in 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 March, WFP delivered 29 metric tons of medical items to 57 facilities, across six of Liberia's 15 counties.
- WFP is facing serious funding shortfall for its school feeding programme. USD 8 million is required (93 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 that are vulnerable to food insecurity and other factors. In many cases, WFP supported school meals are the only certain food children have access to daily and are a vital incentive for parents to enrol their children, especially girls, in school.

Contact info: Regina Hirsch (regina.hirsch@wfp.org)

Country Director: Aliou Diongue

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/liberia>

Photo credit: © WFP/Vannette Tolbert

Photo caption: A severely food insecure household in Maryland County, Liberia, receiving WFP emergency food assistance..

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.3 m	8.6 m*	11.1 m

* 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.

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 joint UN programme on Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, WFP and partners continued with peacebuilding activities, encouraging communities affected by concession activities to engage in alternative livelihood sources, producing and selling their own crops. Collaboration between communities, local authorities and concessionaires on the creation of

sustainable livelihood opportunities increased, as evidenced by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between concessionaires and affected populations.

Assessments and Monitoring

- To support the Government in enhancing the efficiency of food value chains in Liberia, WFP completed the field data collection and analysis of a food systems assessment in Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba counties with a focus on assessing the value chains of rice and pulses. Preliminary findings highlight smallholder farmers' limited access to finance in order to support production activities, and to market their produce for sale. Other findings show the link between rice processors and wholesalers is weak, leading to processors' dependence on institutional buyers such as WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture – rather than a diversified base, as well as a low supply of locally produced rice on retail markets.
- In March, WFP carried out monitoring activities of its emergency response, livelihood interventions and health supply chain activities across Maryland, Montserrado and River Gee counties. WFP also carried out a market and price monitoring exercise to assess changes and trends in local markets across Liberia. It is anticipated that the global increase in the price of petroleum products and food commodities will further impact the food security situation of vulnerable Liberians.

Stakeholder Collaboration

- On 1 March, to advocate for the African Day of School Feeding, WFP published communications materials to raise awareness about the importance of school meals - as the world's most widely used safety net, with a vital role in supporting education outcomes.

Challenges

- WFP and partners experienced several transport challenges, due to deteriorating road conditions resulting from an early start to the rainy season.
- WFP Liberia continues to face 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 11.1 million (April to September 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.