Operational Context

The Republic of Liberia 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 three percent are acutely malnourished.

The Government of the Republic of Liberia's National Development Plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023), aims to make the Republic of Liberia a middle-income country by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP's Country Strategic Plan 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
Income level: low income
2020 Human Development Index: 179 out of 191
Chronic malnutrition: 30 percent of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

1 083 487 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 9.7 m six months (September 2022 - February 2023) net funding requirements
269,540 people assisted
Between June and August 2022

Operational Updates

- 288,654 metric tons of commodities (vegetable oil, rice and pulses) were delivered to support both School Meals Programmes and Food Assistance for Assets Programmes. However, the delivery of the pulses was delayed due to the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the global market.

- In preparation for school reopenings, WFP resumed the delivery of food commodities to schools in both Maryland and Nimba. A total of 310.4 mt of assorted food commodities will be distributed to 52,164 pre-primary and primary school children, including 24,692 females, in public and community schools. The ration will cover a total of 38 feeding days between September and October 2022.

- In August 2022, WFP and its partners provided 15 charcoal producers with a one-month training on new technology approaches to improving charcoal production. This training was part of the joint UN programme “Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms”. It introduced the use of a metal kiln as opposed to the traditional earth kiln that requires intensive labour. As a result, participants are now able to properly use forest residues and agricultural wastes (including rice husks, coconut husks, dried palm bunches, and sugarcane straws) for economic production, which is a cleaner and environmentally friendly alternative to using the forest for charcoal production. This contributes to mitigating the devastating effects of deforestation and supports the Government of Liberia’s commitment to the Conference of Parties (CoP26) of the Nationally Determined Contributions.

- WFP Liberia enhanced the resilience of 231 rural dwellers, of whom 85 percent are women, to engage in income-generating activities, including agricultural activities. This initiative was a continuation of the multi-year rural women economic empowerment project which ended in 2021. The 231 beneficiaries were reached through capacity-strengthening activities (training, equipment) and cash for capital investment of their Village Savings Loan and Association.

- WFP also supported the formalization of two farmer groups, the Wellekama Rural Women association, and the Gbawaken Rural Women, into cooperatives. It provided them with hands-on trainings in business development and entrepreneurship, food safety and quality assurance, and harvest and post-harvest techniques.

- USD 53,000 were transferred to both groups, including USD 30,000 to increase their Village Savings and Loan Association investment capital.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2022 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.8 m</td>
<td>10.4 m</td>
<td>9.7 m</td>
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**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-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable schoolchildren, including take-home rations for 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 or other disruptions.

**Strategic Result 5:** Countries strengthened capacities

**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 and Monitoring**

- In collaboration with the Government and UN partner Agencies, WFP completed the field data collection and analysis of a Rapid Food Security, Livelihoods, Nutrition and Markets Assessment in all 15 counties. WFP focused the analysis on assessing the impact of the economic and food prices shock on the agricultural production, livelihoods, food security and nutritional status of households and communities.

- Preliminary findings highlight food insecurity for 47 percent of Liberian households and global acute malnutrition for children between 6 months and 59 months (7.1 percent, which is considered critical). Other findings on households show that 28 percent have low dietary diversity, consuming less than four of the seven food groups, 85 percent rely on markets to buy food as opposed to 10 percent on own production, and 23 percent are using crisis or emergency strategies.

- A general price increase was observed in July 2022, with 81 percent of markets experiencing price increases on cereals, 72 on other foods, and 45 percent on non-food items. The Republic of Liberia appears to be the country in the region with one of the highest costs of gasoline and fuel, with the price per gallon now exceeding the daily minimum wage for unskilled labourers and domestic labourers.

**Challenges**

- Limited funding opportunities for the Republic of Liberia affect WFP operations, as it impacts its ability to provide adequate and nutritious food to school children and reduces take-home rations of adolescent girls.

- Some delivery delays were experienced due to the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the global market. The commodity which should have been delivered by the end of April arrived by the close of August 2022.

**Donors**

Donors to WFP Liberia in 2022 include private donors and United Nations Agencies.