



World Food Programme

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WFP Liberia

Country Brief

September 2022



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*). These figures are 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 (SDG). WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023 links food security, agriculture, nutrition, and education through an integrated approach aligned with broader national and international commitments. Key priorities include capacity strengthening of national and local institutions to address food and nutrition insecurity.

WFP has been present in the Republic of Liberia since 1968.

Population: **5 million**

2020 Human Development Index:
179 out of 191

Income level: **low income**

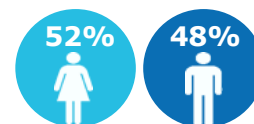
Chronic malnutrition: **30 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

22,925 mt of food distributed

USD 5.4 million six-month (October 2022 - March 2023) net funding requirements

39,275 people assisted
in September 2022



Operational Updates

- A total of 216 schools (185 in Nimba and 31 in Maryland) received food ration to cover 52,184 public primary school students.
- WFP also continued its livelihood programme activities and trained 15 people from six communities in Grand Cape Mount County to properly use forest residues and agricultural wastes (including rice and coconut husk, dried palm branches, and sugar cane straws) for economic production, which is a cleaner and an environmentally friendly alternative to charcoal production. Indeed, this contributes to the effective management of agricultural wastes and to the mitigation of the devastating effects of deforestation resulting from the current practice of using forest trees for charcoal production.
- The Deputy Regional Director conducted a joint mission with the West Africa Area Manager for The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints Charities, a long-term partner who has committed over 60 million USD to WFP. They visited two school feeding sites in Ganta, a War Affected Women Farmers' Cooperative in Bong, and livelihood project sites in Nimba. At the sites, they were able to see what WFP and partners are doing together to improve the lives of vulnerable smallholder farmers. They were also able to interact with project participants who need support with switching away from traditional farming tools and introducing some semi mechanised labour-saving tools such as tractors or power tillers.

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Main photo: Credit: © WFP/Vannette Tolbert

Caption: Students of Francis Nya Maweah Elementary School in Nimba rely on school meals to give them the energy they need to thrive.

Liberia Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
6.6 m	10.4 m	5.4 m

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, including Montserrado, with a focus on assessing the impact of the economic and food prices' shocks on the agricultural production, livelihoods, food security and nutritional status of households and communities.
- Preliminary findings highlighted that 47 percent of analysed Liberian households were food-insecure and 7.1 percent of children under five were facing global acute malnutrition (which is considered critical). Meanwhile, 28 percent of analysed households had low dietary diversity, consuming less than four of the seven food groups; 85 percent were relying on markets to buy food as opposed to 10 percent on their own product; and 23 percent were using crisis or emergency strategies.
- A general price increase was observed in August 2022, with 81 percent of markets experiencing price increases on cereals, 72 percent on other foods, and 45 percent on non-food items. The Republic of Liberia has some of the highest gasoline and fuel costs in the region, with the price per gallon now exceeding the daily minimum wage for unskilled and domestic labourers.
- WFP Liberia, in collaboration with the Government, regional organizations, including the Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), and UN partners, has planned to launch in October 2022 the training and workshop for the National Food Security analysis "Cadre Harmonisé".

Challenges

- Limited funding opportunities for the Republic of Liberia affect WFP operations, as they impact WFP's ability to provide adequate and nutritious food to school children and lead to the reduction of take-home rations for adolescent girls.

Some delivery delays were experienced due to bad road conditions in the southern part of the country.

Donors

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