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 2.2 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. 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.

In Numbers

137,238 mt of food distributed

USD 5.7 million six-month (November 2022 - April 2023) net funding requirements

45,330 people assisted in October 2022

Operational Updates

- WFP has completed the delivery of food rations to 185 schools in Nimba and the provision of daily onsite school feeding continued in the targeted 31 public and community primary schools in Maryland. Additionally, smallholder farmers, mostly women, were supported through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA). WFP distributed 10.38 mt of assorted commodities to 240 participants, including 196 women in Yarsonnoh, Konjah and Gohn Zodua, who rehabilitated about six hectares of lowland.

- WFP and the Ministry of Education identified new schools in Montserrado and Bong to participate in the new project funded by the Rauch Family Foundation which will be launched in January 2023. This project will provide onsite school meals to 11,000 schoolchildren and take-home rations to 1,600 participants respectively.

- WFP and Partners trained 35 participants, including 10 women, in the 17 targeted concession communities in Grand Cape Mount County. The training focused on capacity building, environmental hazards identification, water sampling and quality analysis, and environmental monitoring and mitigation under the Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms project.

- The Ministry of Agriculture has asked WFP to be an implementing partner in the Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) project. Therefore, WFP, in collaboration with FAO and the African Development Bank, supported the Ministry of Agriculture in completing part one of the 7th Call for Proposal to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Project to secure additional funding for this project.

- The Steering Committee asked WFP to use the remaining funds for home Grown School feeding activities. On 28 October, WFP presented a draft of the end-of-project report to the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme Steering Committee pertaining to the implementation of the food assistance component of the Government’s COVID-19 response. WFP will incorporate comments from the Steering Committee for endorsement and submission to the Government. It will also work with the Government on the development of a communication strategy aimed at disseminating the report to stakeholders.
**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>6.7 m</td>
<td>9.7 m</td>
<td>5.7 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

- The final report of the Rapid Food Security, Livelihoods, Nutrition, and Markets Assessment has been finalised and awaits endorsement from the government. Key findings indicate that an estimated 47 percent of households (2.2 million people) are food insecure, most of whom live in the Southeast region, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Bong. Nine in fifteen counties are above the national average (47 percent) and this condition disproportionately affects households living in rural areas (54 percent as opposed to 40 percent for those living in urban areas). Urban populations (Monrovia) are also becoming increasingly food insecure (45 percent). At the national level, 53 percent of households have inadequate food consumption, and dairy and pulses are infrequently consumed across the country.

- On 3 October 2022, WFP launched the training and workshop for the National Food Security analysis “Cadre Harmonisé” in collaboration with the government and other partners, including the Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, and FAO. The two-week training and workshop, which aimed to identify nutrition and food security risk zones in the country, were led by the Ministry of Agriculture with technical, logistical, and financial support from Action Against Hunger.

Regular school monitoring continued throughout October. Key highlights include the need for training school authorities, Parent-Teacher Association representatives and Ministry of Education County school feeding staff on school feeding management and reporting at the school level to improve programme quality, especially targeting schools that have experienced the annual rotation of school authorities as per the Ministry of Education’s policy.

**Challenges**

- Limited funding opportunities is still a major concern for WFP’s operations, as it continues to impact WFP’s ability to provide adequate and nutritious food to schoolchildren and leads to the reduction of take-home rations for adolescent girls.

- The completion of the food ration delivery to targeted schools was delayed due to logistical challenges and poor roads in most of the remote communities.

**Donors**

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