Operational Context

The Republic of Liberia faces a series of endogenous shocks, further exacerbated by the impact of price rises due to the Ukraine crisis. This compounds an already challenging situation with the decline of external assistance, weak domestic revenue generation, and limited expenditure adjustments. Food insecurity is widespread; over 531,268 people are expected to face acute levels of food insecurity in June – August 2023 (Cadre Harmonisé, April 2023). 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 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 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.

Operational Updates

- Through WFP’s home-grown school feeding programme, 42,613 primary schoolchildren from 177 schools in Bong, Maryland, Montserrado and Nimba counties received daily school meals.

- The households’ registration for the distribution of take-home rations as part of the HGSF intervention is ongoing. One thousand households out of 4,150 targeted households were registered and received in May US$ 15 as a monthly cash-based transfer (CBT) ration through mobile money. WFP is partnering with Lone Star MTN to implement the CBT activity. The monthly cash assistance will incentivise parents to send their children to school as well as narrow the gap between girls and boys in accessing education.

- WFP completed the signing of field-level agreements with BRAC Liberia for the implementation of resilience and livelihood activities targeting 750 vulnerable households in five counties (Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa and Nimba). The activities will include agricultural asset creation and training sessions to receive cash assistance through value vouchers for three months. Training sessions will cover pre & post-harvest management, water control, and entrepreneurship skills.

- The distribution of health commodities has not yet resumed as the Central Medical Store needs to finalize its inventory and the Ministry of Health is compiling the requisitions from the health facilities. In the meantime, WFP has finalized its mitigation plan to ensure a timely distribution during the upcoming rainy season.

In Numbers

42,613 people assisted

US$ 134,848 cash-based transfers made

US$ 6.3 million six-month (June - November 2023) net funding requirements

Population: 5 million

2021 Human Development Index: 178 out of 191

Income Level: Low income

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

Contact info: Marcelle Rodriguez (marcelle.rodriguez@wfp.org)
Country Director: Aliou Diongue (aliou.diongue@wfp.org)
Further information: https://www.wfp.org/countries/liberia

Photo Caption: Marie receives a hot plate of garri and beans as part of the homegrown school feeding programme in Montserrado County. WFP/Marcelle Rodriguez
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106 million</td>
<td>53,728,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (June - November 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.1 million</td>
<td>6.3 million</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.

*Focus area: Crisis response*

**Activity 4:**
- Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners.

**Monitoring**

- A qualitative rapid assessment was conducted in three Liberian districts (Kailahun, Kenema and Pujehun) bordering Sierra Leone. WFP and IOM alongside community organisations, assessed livelihoods, conflict drivers and mitigation measures. Findings highlighted the fragile nature of peace in the targeted cross-border communities with distrust between community members and government officials, the weakness of peace mediation mechanisms, high youth unemployment and exclusion of women from peace-building mechanisms.

- Findings from the Market Monitoring conducted in May showed that prices of imported rice in Liberia increased again by 14 percent due to seasonal high demand and local currency depreciation. The price of cassava, cowpeas and palm oil also increased compared to the same period last year. See Liberia: Market Monitoring Bulletin, May 2023 - Liberia | ReliefWeb

- WFP successfully kicked off the Decentralised Evaluation of the CBT Pilot for the take-home-ration in the form of in-kind and cash to buy food for school children. The key objective of the evaluation was to keep students in school and help them concentrate on their learning. The Evaluation Reference Group and Evaluation Committee were established with members of the Government, UN agencies and the donor community.

**Challenges**

- The lean season corresponds to the time of year when household food stocks are at their annual low before the harvest. The beginning of the lean season also coincides with the beginning of the rainy season in Liberia, compounding difficulties as road and market access are restricted.

**Donors**

Canada, China, France, the Government of Liberia, Japan, The Global Fund, MasterCard Foundation, The Church of Latter-day Saints, The Rauch Family Foundation, UN Funds (PBF, UNTFHS, UN SDG Fund), the United States of America and WFP USA.