



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

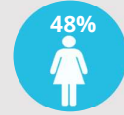
WFP Liberia Country Brief September-October 2023



In Numbers

75,654 people assisted.

in September/October 2023



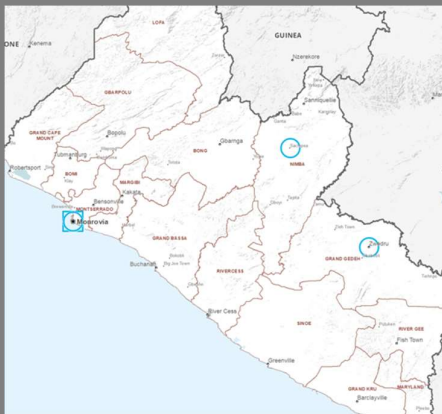
US\$ 81,900 cash-based transfers made

US\$1.3M six months (Nov 2023 – April 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Context

The Republic of Liberia faces a series of endogenous shocks, further exacerbated by the impact of price rises since 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 were expected to face acute levels of food insecurity in June – August 2023 (Cadre Harmonise, 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 2019-2026 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

2022 Human Development Index: 178 out of 191

Income Level: Low income

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

Operational Updates

- WFP continued to work with Farmers' Cooperatives and retailers who supplied locally produced food commodities to 178 schools for 42,999 schoolchildren through an innovative digital approach using the SCOPE platform for managing the beneficiaries and transfer data. Additionally, 2,600 vulnerable families of targeted schoolchildren were reached with take-home ration cash assistance. A total of US\$ 81,900 was transferred to these food insecure families to encourage them to continue to keep their children in school.
- The 750 participants (25 groups) in the asset creation initiative have cultivated 48.5 hectares of lowland in five counties (Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa and Nimba). Three out of the 25 groups (2 in Bong County and 1 in Nimba County) have started harvesting their rice; 1.5 mt of paddy has already been harvested by the 3 groups.
- Two hundred hectares of lowland rice production, cassava, and vegetable gardens have been planted by 2,981 participants from Maryland and Montserrado counties. Through participation in asset creation activities, the participants have restored and rehabilitated degraded land by building water control structures such as flood dykes and water channels to support agricultural activities. They have also received two cycles of US\$ 45 each to meet their immediate food needs.
- In September, the Health supply chain dispatched 76.46 cubic meters of commodities worth over US\$ 660,000 to over 90 facilities. WFP is currently in the transition phase to take over the management of the Central Medical Store. WFP should be assuming full responsibility, following a joint inventory in October.

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Photo Caption: Women farmers, working on the field, as part of the resilience activities County. WFP/Mamadou Jallow

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2026)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
141 million	39.5 percent
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Nov 2023 – April 2024)
19.1 million	1.3 million

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

- In September, findings from the market monitoring showed that the price of imported rice decreased by 2 percent due to inflation, artificial scarcity due to potential electoral violence and increased transportation costs related to access to imported rice from the capital city Monrovia. In addition, the Liberia dollar continued to depreciate by 0.5 percent. See [Liberia Market Price Monitoring September 2023](#)
- In October, findings show that food security and households' survival are continually threatened due to high prices of basic food and non-food commodities over time. For example, Liberia's second staple food, cassava price increased by **2 percent** nationally. The local currency continues to depreciate against the US\$, placing households' purchasing power in a state of vulnerability regarding basic food commodities. For example, daily hire wages for unskilled labour (US\$ 5.50/day) are still stable while the cost of living (US\$ 429) continues to soar which also leads to an increase in household vulnerability status. See [Liberia Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin October 2023](#)

Stories from the field

In post-war Liberia, amidst the challenges of COVID-19, climate shocks, and soaring food prices, WFP is working to transform lives by supporting 750 smallholder farmers, of whom 68 percent are women. WFP provides tools and extensive training, empowering farmers with sustainable agricultural practices.

Through direct purchases, WFP ensures a market for the farmers' produce, creating a cycle of support. Standing inside the beautiful Melekie Women Cooperate group farm gratefully shared, "WFP helped us develop our farm. They buy our produce and feed it to our children in school. Our kids are now happy to go to school. Thank you, WFP." This integrated approach not only nourishes the communities but also cultivates a resilient future despite past challenges.



Donors to WFP Liberia CSP 2019 - 2026

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.