



WFP Liberia Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Liberia suffered violent conflicts spanning almost three decades, from 1979 to 2003: a military coup d'état in 1980, widespread violence during military rule (1980–1990), and two civil wars (1989–1996 and 1999–2003). Because of these conflicts, national GDP fell by 90 percent between 1987 and 1995, one of the biggest economic collapses ever recorded in the world (Liberia PRS 2008). In addition, an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak from mid-2014 to end-2015, caused significant socio-economic disruptions. The World Bank estimates that the outbreak could have cost Liberia as much as USD 234 million or 12 percent of the GDP. Although Liberia has reduced chronic malnutrition rates among children under 5 from “critical” to “serious”, according to WHO classification, 6 of Liberia’s 15 counties still have critical levels of chronic malnutrition. To improve infrastructure and social service delivery, the Government has embarked on a national plan to make Liberia a middle-income country by 2030. Liberia country office made the shift to a transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) beginning in January 2018. Activities under the T-ICSP focus on school meals, livelihood/resilience, nutrition intervention, capacity strengthening of national institutions, and supply chain services for development and humanitarian actors. WFP has been present in Liberia since 1968.



Population: **4.5 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
177 out of 188

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **32% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo Credit: Kabeh Enders/WFP Liberia
Caption: Melekie Town, Bong County during Community Based Preparatory Training session

Funding resources are critically low and the country office was not able to provide food assistance to the vulnerable populations in March.

USD 14.7 m six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements.

Operational Updates

Strategic Outcome 1, Activity 2

WFP Liberia completed the local procurement of 120 mt of rice and 16 mt vegetable oil for the use of girls’ take-home rations (THR). Distributions of THR will commence in April. Additionally, WFP is expecting 150 mt of rice from the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) by mid-April to complete the requirements for the targeted 4,000 adolescent girls in WFP-assisted schools. The combined amount of locally procured and GCMF commodities will complete the country office’s requirement for the rest of the school year (until June 2018) for the THR component. The country office is still in need of USD 2.2 million to meet the needs of the daily onsite meals to the targeted 120,000 beneficiaries for the remaining school year until June 2018.

Strategic Outcome 4, Activities 6 and 8

Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) Workshop: 26–31 March, WFP conducted CBPP training in Bong County. The CBPP is a community-level participatory exercise to identify needs and tailor programme responses to local requirements by ensuring prioritization and ownership by communities. It is dubbed the “bottom-up” approach. A core element of the activity was a two-set level session that featured 75 participants from both the training of trainers and practical community-based sessions. Bong County was used as a case study with support of WFP Regional Bureau Resilience Team and attended by stakeholders from the Government, civil society, NGOs and UN agencies that invest in livelihood development and resilience initiatives. Key outcomes: 50 agency-based technicians trained as facilitators and a Community Action Plan developed for Melekie community, Jorquelleh clan, Jorquelleh 3 district, Bong County.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Liberia Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 Jan.-31 Dec. 2018)		
29.4 m	4.6 m	14.7m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and other crisis- affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises across the country. Focus area: Crisis Response		
Strategic Outcome 2: School-aged children and populations affected by HIV/TB in targeted areas have Access to adequate, safe and nutritious food all year. Focus area: Root Causes		
15.1 m	0.6m	9.6m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations (pregnant and lactating women as well as and children) have reduced malnutrition, including reduced stunting rates in line with national targets by 2025. Focus area: Root Causes		
1.1m	0	0.6m
Strategic Result 3: – Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)		
Strategic Outcome 4: Food -insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods to better meet food security and nutrition needs by 2030. Focus area: Resilience Building		
5.8 m	4.0 m	2.8 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities		
Strategic Outcome 5: National and Sub-national institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2025. Focus area: Root Causes		
0.9 m	0	0.5 m
Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships		
Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year. Root causes		
6.5 m	0	3.3 m

WFP Country Activities

- SO 1** 1. Provide general food assistance to vulnerable households affected by disasters and/or other disruption
- SO 2** 2. Provide safe, adequate and nutritious school meals to targeted school age children and monthly take-home rations to adolescent girls
- 3. Provide food and nutritional support to targeted groups (PLHIV, TB patients) and their affected households
- SO 3** 4. Provide nutritious foods to households with PLW and children aged 6-23 months in counties with highest prevalence of stunting, and provide nutrition education and sensitization to different groups and stakeholders

- 5. Build, rehabilitate and maintain productive assets including climate adaptation measures for targeted smallholders
- 6. Provide communications and education promoting the agricultural sector to community members, including women, youth and schoolchildren
- SO 4** 7. Provide agricultural market support (including HGSP) to smallholder farmers
- 8. Support development and management of Community Food Reserves (CFRs) and other forms of insurance for rural women groups and smallholders
- 9. Provide support to strengthen coordination mechanisms and information management systems for the Government and its partners, and provide support for the implementation of the disaster management policy with focus on early warning system
- SO 5**
- SO 6** 10. Provide supply chain services to humanitarian and development partners

Monitoring

N/A

Challenges

- Three months into 2018, the country office funding outlook for the implementation of the T-ICSP is critically low and at crisis point for strategic objectives 2 and 4, leaving the other strategic objectives (1, 3 and 6) with no resource.
- Lack of funding resources has had negative effects on target beneficiaries and food distribution. The country office was unable to deliver food/cash to beneficiaries under planned activities 2, 3 and 4.

Partnerships

- **Human Security Trust Fund Symposium:** WFP and partners held a one-day symposium on 26 March 2018 to share information, achievements, impact and challenges among partners and beneficiaries as well as stakeholders in Government and development partners. This was a climax of the "Human Security Initiative in the Most Neglected Communities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties with the Integration of Efforts by the UN Country Team in Liberia", and with funding from the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. This was led by FAO in collaboration with WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and UN Women, with support from UNMIL.
- The project lasted four years: fostering social cohesion and peace building; strengthening agriculture-based livelihoods and enhancing food security; enhancing comprehensive prevention, management and response to sexual and gender-based violence as well as improve the safety and security of children; and strengthening health security.



Donors

USA, Japan, Multilateral, Liberia, and Switzerland