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WFP Liberia Country Brief

Highlights

- Mr. Asif Bhuto, the new Deputy Country Director arrived in Monrovia in mid-September from his former duty station in New York.
- WFP and the Ministry of Education resumed school meals programme for four months of the 2017/18 academic year (September to December 2017). The school meals programme was suspended since February 2017 due to funding shortfalls. The resumption of the programme was made possible through the allocation of SRAC funding to Liberia.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200395 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017)	85.5 m	51 m (60%)	9.3 m

*October 2017– March 2018

Strengthen Social Safety Nets School Meals Programme:

Following four months of pipeline break in the last school year (March – June 2017), the country office received SRAC allocations for provision of daily school meals to 127,000 schoolchildren. However, this funding is only adequate to meet the programme requirements for four months in the 2017/18 school year. When SRAC funds were confirmed, the country office organized joint targeting and planning meetings with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and agreed on the counties and number of people to target. The decision was formalized in a Joint Action Plan between WFP and MOE. Four regional workshops were also organized to better inform school administrators and school meals focal persons (158 in total) in the nine school meal counties about the resumption of the programme. During the workshops, copies of the National School Meals Policy and the Code of Conduct were distributed to increase awareness of the roles of actors in the counties. Copies of the 2017/18 joint action plan MOE/WFP were also shared with participants.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/John Monibah
Caption: WFP-supported rice farmers in Fahn Seh town, Montserrado County, under the Japanese Food for assets Creations project, through Cooperating partner Emma Smith Foundation- July 2017



September 2017

Operational Updates

WFP and partners consider support for flood-affected residents in Margibi County: In September, Liberia received one of the highest amounts of rainfall thus resulting in flooding that affected about 14 communities in Margibi County. Building on the emergency preparedness expertise of WFP, the Government of Liberia invited the country office to attend a flood disaster management meeting aimed at conducting a rapid assessment of the situation to inform the design of appropriate assistance options for affected residents. The meeting was attended by government line ministries and agencies and partners including Ministries of Internal Affairs, Health, Public Works, Transport, General Services Agency as well as WHO, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, Liberian national Red Cross Society, Population Services International, OXFAM, Liberia Refugees Repatriation and Resettlement Commission and the press.

Country Background & Strategy



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Liberia has experienced significant challenges over the past decades, from 1979 to 2005: a military coup d'état in 1980, widespread violence during military rule (1980–1990), and two civil wars (1989–1996 and 1999–2003). As a result 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 the age of five from “critical” to “serious”, according to WHO classification, six of Liberia’s 15 counties still have critical levels of chronic malnutrition. In an effort to improve infrastructure and social service delivery, the Government has embarked on a national plan to make Liberia a middle-income country by 2030.

WFP Liberia’s Country Strategy (2013–2017) fully embraces the Government’s vision of a “hunger free Liberia”. Within this broad goal, the Country Strategy envisions safety nets as being central to all WFP interventions in Liberia. Through safety nets, WFP will help advance Liberia’s food and nutrition security agenda.

WFP has been present in Liberia since 1968.

Population: **4.5 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
177 out of 188

Global Acute Malnutrition: **2.8%**
Stunting: **36%**

Gender Inequality Index: **0.651**
(rank 146 out of 187)