



WFP Liberia Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP participated in the International World Refugees day held at the Little Wlebo Refugees camp. The Refugees leadership expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the WFP for the provision of food.
- In June, some 649 refugees participated in voluntary repatriation by UNCHR from the Little Wlebo and Bahn refugee camps to Côte d' Ivoire. In January 2017, the total number of Ivorian refugees in Liberia was 18, 529.
- The Liberia PRRO 200550, ended on 30 June 2017. The operational closure period of the PRRO will end on 30 July 2017.

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	48 m (56%)	-

*July– December 2017

Strengthen Social Safety Nets

- WFP Harper sub office (Maryland County) participated in an enlivened school garden harvest ceremony at the J. Blamo Toe School. 15 bags of cassava were harvested from the garden (each bag weighs 15 kg). Parents and school administration appreciated WFP for its technical support and encouragement that led to the improved production of the tuber crop. The harvested cassava will be sold and the money put in the school treasury while the remainder in the garden will be used to cook for students during school hours. The Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) and District Education Officer (DEO) participated in the harvest. The school pledged to utilize the acquired improved farming methods to increase land and production sizes.

School Meals Programme

- As the school year draws to closure, the provision of daily school meals to over 3,200 students benefiting under the Home Grown School Feeding programme ended on 30 June. The country office has been supporting the Government in 12 schools in two districts in Nimba County since the beginning of the 2016/17 schoolyear (in September 2016). While this programme has gained high appreciation at national, county, district, community and school levels, and there are expectations for continuation and scaling up, the country office does not currently have resources to continue activities when school activities resume in September 2017 for the 2017/18 school year.
- Under the conventional school meals programme, the country office completed the de-stoning of about 5.6 mt of locally produced rice and distributed the food as take-home-ration to girls in two districts in Maryland County.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/John Monibah
Caption: WFP's visit to smallholder farmers in Montserrado County, supported by WFP and a local IP (Sean Devereux Children's Edu. & Agric Program) under the Japanese food for Assets Project – June 2017

Ivorian Refugees: The Liberia refugee operation project, PRRO 200550, ended on 30 June 2017 following 54 months of operation mainly in camps in Nimba, Gedeh, and Maryland Counties. The end of the project entails that no distribution will be continued by WFP. The operational closure period of the PRRO started 30 June and ends 30 July 2017. During this period, the Country Office will be engaging in wrap up activities such as final monitoring, commodity and financial accounting and reporting.

Food Assistance for Refugees and Vulnerable Host Communities	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200550 (June 2014 – June 2017)	37 m	19 m (53%)	-

*July– December 2017



Operational Updates

Liberia Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report & Country Strategic Plan Finalization

Two WFP colleagues – Claudia Castelino, Programme Policy Officer (Policy & Programme Division, OSZ) and Matthew Dearborn, Programme Policy Consultant (Regional Bureau Dakar) - visited Liberia in late June to work with the lead research team from Subah-Belleh Associates to finalize the Liberia Strategic Review Report and conduct lessons learned on the Strategic Review process. They also conducted a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) formulation workshop which included discussions on national context, gaps and challenges, and priority actions. These sessions contributed to an initial design for the LRCO's strategic orientation.

Energy/electrical/solar plate assessment mission

An assessment for the installation of a solar system was conducted on the premises of three sub offices (Saclepea, Zwedru, and Harper) by electrical specialist Ryan Twitney (WFP South Africa). Purpose of his mission was to assess the power consumption level as well as determine or compare the cost of using the solar plates and that of using the generator; and then advise management on the best cost effective measure to adopt.

Nutrition: Nutritional support to populations affected by HIV and TB continued in all the 54 treatment sites across the country. Discussions has also started with Global Fund for Malaria, TB and HIV for possible funding of subsequent phases.

Country Background & Strategy



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). 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)