



WFP Liberia Country Brief

Highlights

- Food distribution for school meals activities has ceased completely due to pipeline break.
- In an effort to strengthen capacities of the government counterparts, WFP conducted a five-day Mobile Data Collection training using Open Data Kit (ODK) for 20 central office staff of Ministry of Education (M&E and Education Management Information System-EMIS units). Participants received information on tools and techniques to gather data for project outcomes using innovative mobile data gathering tools. It also aimed at improving their skills in data collection methods and strengthening their monitoring capacities.

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	46.8 m (55%)	6.9 m (48%)

*April - September 2017

Strengthen Social Safety Nets (school meals, nutrition):

According to UNICEF's Liberia first global out-of-school ranking, nearly two thirds of Liberian children have never been in school and the country has the highest level of children missing out on primary education.

The school meals component provides daily hot meals to primary schoolchildren and take-home rations to girls in grades four to six from highly vulnerable households in the most food-insecure counties. WFP also works to enhance the monitoring and management capacities of the Ministry of Education at the central, county and district levels. However, the school meals programme is currently experiencing a complete funding shortage with no food distribution from February onwards.

The Ministry of Education (with support from development partners including WFP) is finalizing an Education Sector Plan that captures school meals as an important activity. The annual school meals budget in the draft plan is USD 20 million.

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)	36.6 m	20.1 m (55%)	0.1 m (23%)

*April - September 2017

Ivorian Refugees: WFP has been supporting refugees from Côte d'Ivoire in Liberia since 2010. The current Ivorian refugee population is 15,431. Repatriation resumed in December after the reduction of heavy rains and continued in early January 2017. It is expected that the current population will reduce to 7000-12,000 by June 2017, when reintegration options will be considered for the remaining refugees.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/John Monibah.
Caption: Rural women farmers at the organizational development capacity strengthening session Grand Bassa County under the RWEE project.



March 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP provided nutritious food items including parboiled rice, soya beans, SuperCereal, vegetable oil and salt to people affected by HIV and TB, to 54 ART sites across the country for the first three months (January to March) of implementation. 9,037 patients on anti-retroviral treatment, 473 HIV pregnant and nursing women and their affected household members of 946 and 126 multi-drug resistant TB patients were targeted to improve nutritional status and treatment adherence. Also, WFP participated in the proposal writing of the new global fund grant for HIV and TB.
- School Meals:** WFP held talks with the Ministry of Education (MoE) on funding shortfalls in the school meals programme. WFP and MoE also agreed on key activities for 2017, including the need for the Government to get involved in resource mobilization efforts and support the continuation of home-grown school meals pilot in 2017.
- The Livelihood Assets and Market Promotion:**
- WFP held the Organization Development Workshop in Grand Bassa County for women-headed household farmers of Rivercess, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties, which brought together 46 participants. The training aimed to increase women's capacities in good governance, application of by-laws and constitution, post-harvest handling and storage, financial management, business planning and marketing.
- WFP also facilitated the Community Food Reserve (CFR) training sessions for 40 women farmers from five selected CFRs from Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Bong Counties. The workshop focused on providing farmers with clear and current information on the benefits and operational modalities of Community Food Banks management including financial and institutional capacity, organization viability and sustainability, and food security and livelihood situation and challenges.
- Distribution of food, under the Japanese Food Assistance for Assets Project (JFAP), which is reaching over 17,000 asset beneficiaries and 86,662 indirect vulnerable people, has begun. This comprises 60,658 women in 10 counties.
- WFP completed construction of five drying floors in three counties (Lofa, three floors; Cape Mount, one floor; Gbarpolu, one floor) with funding from Irish Aid, under WFP P4P programme. The farmers stated that they critically needed the floors for their paddy processing activities. The support will enhance capacity of 230 smallholder farmers (about 1,200 indirect beneficiaries) to dry their paddy thus enhancing improved milling and better grain recovery.

Country Background & Strategy



Liberia suffered violent conflicts spanning almost 3 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's 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)**