



WFP Liberia Country Brief

Highlights

- In line with the Joint Plan of Action (JPA) between WFP and the Ministry of Education, community and school-level training on the implementation of school meals programme were provided to 2,179 principals, parents-teacher associations (PTAs), cooks and other actors.
- SCOPE, the WFP's flagship system for transparent beneficiary identification and assistance management, was launched for the implementation of the food assistance for asset (FFA) creation activity under the Country Programme.

Country Programme CP 200395 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	85.5 m	51 m (60%)	15.6 m

*December 2017– May 2018

Strengthen Social Safety Nets:

Under the Country Programme, the School Meals Programme is aimed at increasing enrolment, improving attendance and retention as well as closing the boys/girls enrolment gender gap. Project activities include provision of daily school meals, monthly girls take home rations, capacity strengthening and support to school gardens. The Country Office commenced food distribution/delivery for school meals. The distribution is for 600 schools in nine of the fifteen counties for about 138,089 schoolchildren. The total of 1,948 mt of assorted food commodities is planned for delivery. The food will be distributed to schools over a period of four months.

In continuation of community/ school level training, the country office reached 2,179 school principals, food managers (school record keepers), cooks and Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) members of WFP supported schools. The training focused on the roles of these actors in the school meals programme implementation and management at the school and community level.

Credit: WFP/John Monibah
Caption: Launch of SCOPE biometry technology for beneficiary identification and assistance management in Bong County.

Main Photo



November 2017

Operational Updates

WFP Liberia launched SCOPE, WFP's system for beneficiary identity and assistance management. The system is being implemented for the food assistance for assets (FFA) creation, a Japanese-funded project in Bong County. The project seeks to assist 301 households with assets creation with a total of 1,505 beneficiaries.

Livelihoods Assets and Market Promotions

International visit under the UN Joint Programme Rural Women Economic Empowerment Project (JP-RWEE):

Ms. Azzurra Chiarini, Global Coordinator for JP-RWEE based at WFP headquarters, undertook a mission to the seven countries implementing the JP-RWEE. She arrived in Monrovia on 18 November 2017. In line with planned itinerary, Ms Chiarini in close coordination with the JP-RWEE Technical Advisory and the National Steering Committees held series of consultative meetings after which she travelled to Maryland County where she inspected RWEE-supported women's project at Gbawanken. The visit was done in collaboration with UN Agencies, Government of Liberia Ministries, technicians, and Local Government authorities. During the visit the team met with:

- The Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection along with principal deputies. Briefing on the purpose of the visit made and feedback provided on the roles played by the participating agencies and impact of the RWEE programme;
- The Minister of Agriculture and officials. they provided insight into the implementation of the programme. In response, Minister Wiles lauded the joint programme and shared Lessons learnt and success stories, especially its impact on the beneficiaries, further recommending the continuation of project;
- The UN Women Management. They were provided a synopsis of implementation issues and challenges;
- RC Yacoub of UNMIL together with WFP and UN Women CDs where the joint programme implementation was hailed by all.
- An acquaintance meeting was held with WFP Senior Management and operational briefs were provided.

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)