



## Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/country/liberia>

COUNTRY PROFILE				
 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Liberia</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">In Liberia, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Liberia and the results of Feed the Future's work there.</p>				
POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
<b>2.6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Million	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Number of people living in Feed the Future target regions (2013)	Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions	Percentage of population living in rural Liberia (World Bank, 2013)	Annual GDP growth; agriculture accounts for 39% of added value (World Bank, 2012)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
<b>41</b>	<b>\$737</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$1.4</b>
Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
Producers using new technology and practices with Feed the Future's help in FY14	New income earned by Feed the Future farmers in FY14 from agricultural product sales	Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY14 across Liberia	Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY14	New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY14

## Approach

Liberia is a West African nation recovering from civil war. Agriculture has accounted for approximately half of Liberia's gross domestic product (GDP) in the post-war period since 2003, and the majority of Liberians depend on agriculture for a living—women and children are particularly dependent on the sector.

Fourteen years of civil war devastated Liberia's human and institutional capacity, demolished the country's physical infrastructure, and fundamentally damaged productive agriculture. Real GDP declined by almost 66 percent between 1987 and 2005, though GDP has risen rapidly in recent years. Even so, Liberia continues to be one of the world's poorest countries.

Liberia relies heavily on food imports to meet domestic food needs for staples, vegetables, pulses, chicken, meat and condiments. Food insecurity is widespread, and children are especially vulnerable. Nearly 36 percent of children under 5 suffer from stunting, and 15 percent are underweight (Liberia Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey, 2010).

The causes of food insecurity can be traced to a lack of nutritious foods in local markets and low dietary diversity. Diarrheal diseases and parasites stemming from unsafe water and a lack of sanitation and hygiene further exacerbate poor nutrition.

Current agricultural productivity in Liberia is very low with a high rate of post-harvest losses, reaching up to 45 percent in some areas. Value chains are severely underdeveloped. Though the country is richly endowed with forests, soils and water resources, improving agricultural productivity and increasing resiliency in the face of climate change requires the implementation of sustainable management practices of these resources.

Notwithstanding these and other significant constraints, agriculture remains the mainstay of Liberian economic activity and a focus of development efforts.

*The recent outbreak of the Ebola virus in Liberia is providing additional challenges to food security in the country. The U.S. Government has provided [food assistance](#) support to meet immediate needs, and Feed the Future is complementing this work through medium- and long-term efforts that will help build agricultural resilience and help mitigate the impacts of future crises.*

## Strategy

Goal: Reduce prevalence of poverty in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

- 2011 baseline: 50 percent
- 2017 target: 40 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

Goal: Reduce prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in Feed the Future target regions by 14.3 percent.

- 2010 baseline: 42 percent
- 2017 target: 36 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Transform staple value chains (rice and cassava) to be more productive and profitable
- Develop value chains that provide income and dietary diversity (vegetables and goats)
- Improve the business environment
- Improve nutrition, particularly for women and children
- Build local capacity within the private and public sectors
- Improve agriculture education in community colleges

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted regions and value chains to maximize impact.

### Value Chains

- Rice
- Cassava
- Vegetables
- Goats

### Target Regions

- Rural populations in six counties along Liberia's main economic development corridors: Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Margibi

## Program Highlights

**Business Environment.** Feed the Future is helping improve the business environment in Liberia to unlock long-lasting, inclusive economic growth and encourage investment in agriculture. Liberia lacks legislation that is supportive of the agriculture sector, but the country has made some progress. It reinstated a duty waiver for the import of agricultural products and adopted the seed, fertilizer and pesticide regulations of the Economic Community of West African States, helping harmonize policies in the region to enable shared economic growth and trade. Feed the Future is also organizing multi-agency policy groups to facilitate action on policy initiatives that stimulate growth in the agriculture sector.

**Infrastructure.** The majority of roads in Liberia are unpaved and of those that are paved, most are damaged. This exacerbates the problems farmers face when transporting their goods to markets and contributes substantially to post-harvest losses. A U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program in the country, part of Feed the Future, is helping local construction firms, including rural microenterprises, rehabilitate roads. It's also providing research and development support to Liberia's Ministry of Public Works to design and implement road maintenance programs. Through this assistance, Feed the Future is helping build the capacity of Liberian counties and the government to provide for Liberia's infrastructure needs, both now and in the future.

**Gender Integration.** Feed the Future is building on and expanding the role of women in the rice, cassava, goat and vegetable value chains in Liberia, particularly by increasing women's knowledge and use of improved agricultural technologies and practices. For example, by facilitating women's access to improved rice planting, harvesting and threshing/drying practices, Feed the Future is helping women farmers improve production and processing. Feed the Future is also building the capacity of female and male extension agents to engage women in learning about healthy food purchases and consumption practices for better nutrition.

**Nutrition.** Feed the Future is focusing its nutrition activities in the Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties. These activities are designed to maximize health and nutrition investments that link vulnerable households to community services, while building the capacity of health care facility staff and community health volunteers who lead food distribution for pregnant or lactating mothers and children under the age of 2. Feed the Future's nutrition activities complement and are integrated into agriculture programs in the country.

**Youth.** Feed the Future investments in Liberia are encouraging the engagement, training and employment of youth, particularly in the peri-urban vegetable sector. Activities seek to create productive employment opportunities in agriculture that attract youth and provide future livelihoods. Feed the Future works with USAID's Food for Peace and U.S. Department of Agriculture programs to teach youth basic skills by cultivating school gardens, which have the dual benefit of providing supplemental food for school feeding programs and families in the community.

**Education.** To address Liberia's lack of agriculture programs that prepare future farmers for jobs in the sector, Feed the Future is helping the country finalize, approve and implement a national agriculture curriculum program, which three community colleges and the Booker T. Washington Institute are scheduled to adopt. Feed the Future helped develop syllabi and lesson plans for this program's first two semesters, which will start when schools in the country reopen.

**Scaling Innovations.** Feed the Future in Liberia is focusing on scaling technologies and practices that can benefit smallholder farmers, including:

- Urea deep placement (fertilizer)
- Mechanization (power tilling, milling, storage, etc.)
- Improved seed systems (vegetables, rice) and cutting (cassava) varieties and storage

## Results

### Results by the numbers

- More than **41,000 farmers and other producers** applied new technologies and management practices for the first time with Feed the Future's help last year.
- Producers applied improved technologies and management practices on more than **7,000 hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help last year.
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers increased the value of their agricultural product sales last year by more than **\$737,000**.
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$1.4 million** in new private investment in food and agriculture in Liberia.
- U.S. Government programs reached more than **16,900 children** under 5 years old to improve their nutrition.

### Key achievements in 2014

- Feed the Future rehabilitated 3,571 hectares of lowland rice and established 100 rice demonstration farms and 10 rice business hubs, which provide opportunities for farmers to earn additional income.
- Feed the Future helped a major industrial rice milling operation in the country renovate and expand its warehouse, procure a second rice milling line, and gain a steady supply of paddy rice by also helping boost local smallholder farmers' rice production and connecting them with the mill.
- Feed the Future distributed 11 high-yielding varieties of cassava to 40 commercial cassava nurseries that planted the cassava on 60 hectares of land for multiplication, which will benefit up to 25,000 cassava farmers. Feed the Future also supported 29 multi-product cassava processing facilities by sharing the cost of upgrades with the facility owners. Feed the Future purchased processing equipment while the owners invested in building structures to house the processing plants.
- Feed the Future constructed 10 demonstration rain shelters to show farmers how to grow vegetables during the rainy season.

- Feed the Future established 77 goat production intensification sites with 3,700 goats, helping Liberians improve goat production from an average of 1.5 kids per nanny in 2013 to 2 kids per nanny.

## What do you need to know about these results

These results reflect information from the U.S. Agency for International Development (including USAID's Office of Food for Peace), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps, U.S. African Development Foundation and U.S. Department of the Treasury (through the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system for FY14. For more information on the indicators above, please view our [FY14 Feed the Future progress report](#). All dollar amounts are in U.S. dollars.

## Opportunities

As part of the wider reconstruction efforts and in response to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program, the Government of Liberia's cross-sector national [Food Security and Nutrition Strategy](#) and Country Investment Plan were approved in September 2010.

*Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages.*

*If you're a [private sector](#) company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Liberia, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more, register your partnership ideas with us, and get connected to a partnership expert who can help address your interest.*

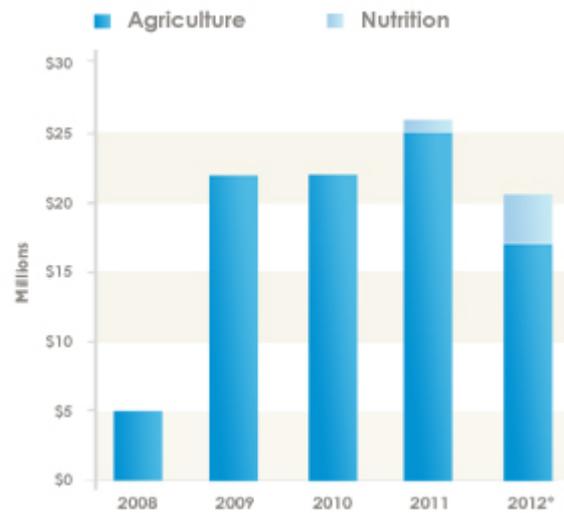
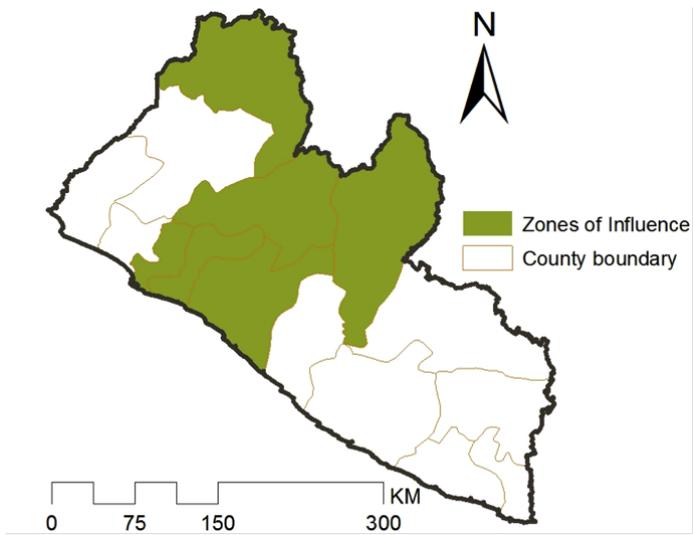
## Activities

Feed the Future supports the following programs, partnerships and organizations in Liberia.

- CGIAR
- [Enabling Agricultural Trade](#)
- [Farmer-to-Farmer Program](#)
- Feed the Future Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity
- [Food and Enterprise Development Program](#) (FED)
- [Food for Peace](#)
- [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#)
- [Health, Agriculture and Nutrition Development for Sustainability](#) (HANDS)
- Capacity Strengthening Activity:
  - Africa Rice
  - AVRDC - World Vegetable Center
  - Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural and Research Development (BHEARD)
  - Support to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)
- International Fertilizer Development Center
- [Liberian Agricultural Upgrading, Nutrition and Child Health](#) (LAUNCH)
- [Millennium Challenge Corporation Liberia Threshold Program](#)
- [Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services](#) (MEAS)
- [People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources](#) (PROSPER)
- [USDA Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programs](#)

## Target Regions

## Funding



\*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress and is not yet approved