

Republic of Liberia



Participant in the Study Visit

Mr. Augustine Gordon Musah sits at the Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia from 2022, acting as the National Coordinator for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Prior to assuming this role, Mr Musah worked with MSF and Action Against Hunger as Nutrition Program Manager, coordinating the SUN Civil Society Alliance of Liberia. In his current role, Mr Musah is responsible for bringing together heads of relevant ministries, agencies, organizations, divisions in a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) and facilitating its meetings and working groups; ensuring the functionality of the National Nutrition Steering Committee which is headed by the Vice President; strategically leading stakeholders towards harmonizing efforts and bringing about measurable results in nutrition; and leading nutrition advocacy efforts for government spending on nutrition specific and sensitive programs.

Expectations for the Study Visit

I expect that the study visit will provide insight and technical support on how Liberia can shift from a fragmented/sectoral nutrition policies to a multisectoral/coherent national nutrition policy.

Nutrition Facts

Liberia is progressing in maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, with some encouraging trends observed. According to [SOFI 2025](#), stunting affected 26.9% of children under five years in 2024—a substantive reduction from the 34.6% rate observed in 2012. Wasting prevalence is 3.4%, lower than the Western Africa average of 6.5%.

However, challenges remain. The prevalence of overweight children under five was as high as 6.1% in 2024, with Liberia off course to prevent an increase in this figure as an important increase was noted from the 3.1% rate encountered in 2012. Anemia affected 42.5% of women aged 15 to 49 years in 2023, with a slight increase of the problem when compared to 2012 (40.8%). Low-birth-weight prevalence remains very high, with 19.9% of babies born with a low weight in 2020, with no change since 2012. The exclusive breastfeeding rate was 55.2% in 2023 for infants aged 0 to 5 months, indicating an important advancement since 2012 when this rate was estimated at 27.8%. Regarding diet-related non-communicable diseases, obesity affected 17.0% of the adult population in 2022.

Progress Towards Nutrition Integration

Liberia is focused on strengthening and sustaining its nutrition policy environment, enhancing capacities to scale up nutrition activities, increasing domestic financial resources dedicated to nutrition, and expanding human resources to support the efforts.

Building on the achievements of previous nutrition initiatives, Liberia is implementing the Liberia Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Costed Strategic Plan (LMNCSP) 2024–2028. This plan serves as a comprehensive framework aimed at coordinating multisectoral nutrition efforts, mobilizing resources, and scaling up interventions across key sectors such as health, agriculture, social protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene. The LMNCSP emphasizes alignment with the national development agenda, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and ensuring that nutrition interventions are costed, prioritized, and sustainably financed.

In 2022, Liberia made significant strides in strengthening its policy and advocacy environment, notably advancing the Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes through the House of Representatives. Efforts are currently underway to secure Senate approval, highlighting the country's commitment to protecting breastfeeding through effective legislation.

The SUN Secretariat, working alongside UN-Nutrition, conducted a comprehensive nationwide action mapping to identify nutrition stakeholders and ensure alignment of their activities at both national and subnational levels. Capacity building remains a priority, with Liberia Multisectoral and Multi-Stakeholder Platform actively advocating for increased government budget allocations to nutrition, demonstrating Liberia's dedication to scaling up integrated nutrition solutions

Governance structures have also been strengthened; in November 2022, the SUN Secretariat was revitalized and repositioned within the Office of the Vice-President, who now serves as the SUN National Convener and Chair of the Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee. Furthermore, coordination mechanisms at the subnational level are progressively evolving, ensuring nutrition actions are prioritized across regions.

**Liberia is an early member of the
Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.**

Engagement with the Healthy Diets Coalition

Liberia is warmly invited to join the Healthy Diets Coalition, bringing valuable insights from its emerging strategic nutrition plans. The country recently released its first Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Costed Strategic Plan (2024-2028), which includes integrating food safety, healthy diets, and lifestyle content into school curricula while raising community awareness of nutrition and noncommunicable disease prevention. Liberia has also advanced treatment of

severe acute malnutrition through initiatives like the Working to Improve Nutrition at Scale (WINS) project with UNICEF. Joining the Coalition would allow Liberia to share these achievements while also benefiting from peer-to-peer exchange with other countries on scaling nutrition systems in fragile contexts (and others). Membership involves no financial commitments, and we remain available for any clarifications.

2025 N4G Paris Commitments (as of April 2025)

- Enhanced domestic financing for nutrition specific interventions

Remaining Challenges

Liberia is making steady progress in addressing its nutrition challenges through strengthened policies, multisectoral coordination, and strategic planning. Nutrition remains a key focus within national development efforts, with targeted interventions aimed at improving outcomes for women and children despite ongoing challenges such as anemia and exclusive breastfeeding rates. Domestic financing for direct nutrition intervention still remains a key challenge. Liberia is heavily relying on donor funding to procure nutrition products (RUTF, F100, F75, RESOMAL, etc) to treat severe malnourished cases across the country. Meanwhile, the SUN is collaborating with C4N/GIZ to develop a resource mobilization strategy which will be launched in November 2025.