Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa) - 2017

Key data for Liberia

HANCI-Africa compares 45 African countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

**HUNGER REDUCTION COMMITMENT**

- **30th**

**NUTRITION COMMITMENT**

- **42nd**

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**Themes**

- $ Spending
- HRCI Hunger Reduction Commitment
- NCI Nutrition Commitment

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**Sub indices**

- $ Spending
- Policies
- Laws

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**Index**

- HANCI

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**Existing rates of:**

- **Wasting:** 5.6%
- **Stunting:** 32.1%
- **Proportion of population underweight:** 15.3%

*Source: Government of Liberia (DHS, 2013)*

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**Strong Performance**

- Spending on agriculture (10.5% of public spending in 2014) meets government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Liberia has devised a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- The Government of Liberia promotes complementary feeding practices.
- In Liberia, 95.9% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2013.
- In Liberia, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.

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**Areas for improvement**

- Liberia's spending in its health sector (2.7% of public spending in 2015) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- The Government of Liberia has not ensured tenure security for rural populations. Land titling is weak and land markets do not function well.
- In Liberia, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Liberia does not have a separate budget line for nutrition; this prevents transparency and accountability for spending.
- Even though Liberia has developed a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy and clear time-bound nutrition targets, a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism is still lacking.
- Policymakers in Liberia do not benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2013.
- The Government of Liberia has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for only 61% of children in 2015.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (16.9% in 2015) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Liberia, constitutional protection of the right to food is weak.
- Social safety nets in Liberia are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
# Key data for Liberia

## Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ Public spending on health as share of total public spending</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Joint 43rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Policies

- **Access to land (security of tenure)** | Weak | 2016 | 41st |
- **Access to agricultural research and extension services** | Moderate | 2013 | Joint 34th |
- **Civil registration system — coverage of live births** | 24.6% | 2013 | Joint 40th |
- **Functioning of social protection systems** | Weak | 2016 | Joint 21st |

### Laws

- **Level of constitutional protection of the right to food** | Weak | 2016 | Joint 29th |
- **Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights)** | In Law, not in Practice | 2014 | Joint 1st |
- **Equality of women’s economic rights** | In Law, not in Practice | 2014 | Joint 1st |
- **Constitutional right to social security** | Yes | 2006 | Joint 1st |

1 Possible scores are: $<75%$ of agri. spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Maputo Declaration) $>=75%$ & $<100%$ $>=100%$

2 Possible scores are: $<75%$ of health spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration) $>=75%$ & $<100%$ $>=100%$

3 Possible scores are: Very Weak/Weak Moderate Strong/Very Strong

4 Possible scores are: Not in Law In Law Not in Practice In Law & Practice

## Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Joint 33rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Policies

- **Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children** | 61% | 2015 | 30th |
- **Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)** | Yes | 2011 | Joint 1st |
- **Population with access to an improved water source** | 76.5% | 2015 | 25th |
- **Population with access to improved sanitation** | 16.9% | 2015 | 36th |
- **Health care visits for pregnant women** | 95.9% | 2013 | 10th |
- **Nutrition features in national development policy** | Moderate | 2012-2017 | 26th |
- **National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)** | Yes | 2017 | Joint 1st |
- **Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)** | No | 2017 | Joint 35th |
- **Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)** | Yes | 2016 | Joint 1st |
- **National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)** | No | 2013 | Joint 36th |

### Laws

- **ICMBS** | Not Enshrined in Law | 2016 | Joint 33rd |

1 Possible scores are: Very Weak/Weak Moderate Strong/Very Strong

2 Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law Few/Many Aspects Enshrined Fully enshrined.

* International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes