



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income and food-deficit country. Poverty levels are high, with 53 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (USD 1.90 per day). The country is recovering from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which ended in 2016. The economy is supported primarily by subsistence agriculture, which employs over 60 percent of the population and accounts for almost half of GDP. According to the 2015 Population and Housing Census, 49 percent of the economically active population are women, and slightly more women (52 percent) than men are engaged in agriculture. Gender inequalities have decreased, but remain significant in some sectors; Sierra Leone ranks 151 out of 159 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. About 51 percent of adult men and women are literate. Enrolment rate for primary education (year 1-6) stands at 72 percent, while completion with pass rate in all core subjects at the end of junior secondary school (year 7-9) was 47 percent in 2011. Attendance and enrolment of children beyond primary school remains low. WFP has been present in the country since 1968.



Population: **7 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
179 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: Francis Boima
Caption: Food and nutrition security implementation plan for 2018–2022 review meeting in Freetown

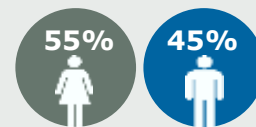
In Numbers

141.59 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 31,500 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 7,914,883 six months (April-Sept 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

4,907 people assisted
in March 2018



Operational Updates

- The livelihood unit signed implementation agreements with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food security in Bombali, Port Loko and Pujehun districts to rehabilitate or develop water control structures targeting 414 ha of Inland Valley Swamp ecologies for year-round production of rice. The partnership also targets cultivation of 41 ha for cultivation of nutritionally dense vegetables by women groups, as well as 330 homestead compost heaps.
- WFP participated in a meeting to review and update the national food and nutrition security implementation plan for 2018–2022 organised by the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) secretariat. The meeting brought together amongst others, staff from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the Ministry of Agriculture, WHO, UNICEF, universities, parliamentarians and NGOs. The plan provides a roadmap for nutrition stakeholders in addressing malnutrition and achieving zero hunger.
- WFP in collaboration with UNAIDS through a financial service provider (Ecobank) conducted cash transfers to 105 households headed by people living with HIV and those taking care of other vulnerable children (OVCs) in the Western Area and Makeni. The cash is expected to facilitate school attendance of the OVCs and enable female heads of household to attain vocational training to enhance their livelihoods. SCOPE platform was used to facilitate the cash transfer process.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
\$19,629,984	\$8.8m	7,914,883
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1 Crisis-affected population in targeted areas have met their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises. <i>Focus area: Crisis Response</i>		
\$875,012	\$555,014	352,808
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 2: Chronically food-insecure populations in targeted areas in Sierra Leone have met their basic food and nutrition needs all-year round. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
\$1,960,898	\$1,584,163	790,641
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Children and pregnant and lactating women in districts with the highest rates of stunting and acute malnutrition as well as malnourished people living with HIV/TB nationwide will have improved nutritional status by 2020 <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
\$10,384,704	\$1,730,325	4,187,152
Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes		
Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have improved livelihoods and resilience throughout the year. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
\$4,825,949	\$892,101	1,945,841
Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthen capacities		
Strategic Outcome 5: Capacities of national institutions are strengthened to address chronic food insecurity and improve rapid response capacities by 2019.		
\$1,583,421	\$415,357	638,441

SO 5

8 – Provide support to the Government to complete the institutional capacity

assessment for national school feeding activities (SABER) and to integrate key findings into national HGSF policies and systems.

9 – Provide technical assistance to national disaster management authority and MAFFS in priority areas.

Monitoring

- WFP continued to conduct distribution and post-distribution monitoring amongst assisted households to support informed, evidence-based decision-making and accountability for results. A total of 94 programme sites were monitored out of 194 planned sites. The presidential elections period which culminated in the halting of operations largely contributed to the low achievement.
- WFP staff were also trained on visualizing results from process monitoring surveys through electronic data collection (ONA) server.

Challenges

- Anticipated social unrest resulting from general elections affected WFP operations and distributions were temporarily halted throughout the country.

WFP Country Activities

- SO 1**
- 1 - Provide food assistance to vulnerable households affected by disasters or sudden onset emergencies.
 - 2 - Provide cash-based transfers to chronically food-insecure populations.
- SO 2**
- 3 - Deliver SBCC in combination with the provision of nutritious foods to targeted PLW and children age 6-23 months, and strengthen public-private partnerships in order to prevent stunting.
 - 4 - Provide MAM treatment, through targeted supplementary feeding and SBCC for children aged 6-59 months and for PLW.
 - 5 - Provide nutrition assessment counselling and support for malnourished people living with HIV/TB.
- SO 3**
- 6 - Provide food assistance for assets (in-kind or cash transfer) including land rehabilitation and smallholder farmers and productive farming cooperatives.
 - 7 - Provide training to farmer based organizations and strengthen market access for smallholder farmers.

Donors

Japan, Republic of Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, European Commission, Multilateral Canada, United Arab Emirates, South Africa



