



World Food Programme

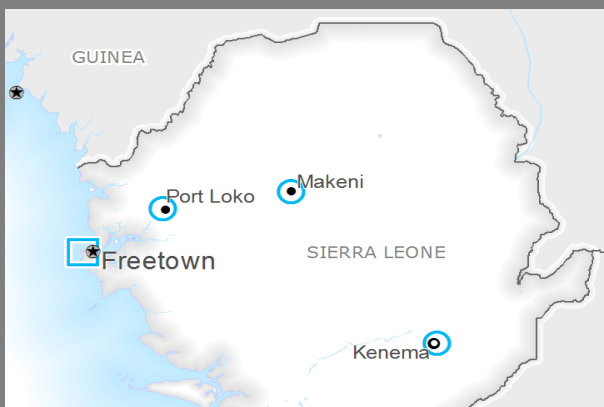
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief July 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

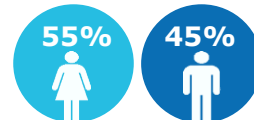
In Numbers

118.8 mt of food assistance distributed

\$ 0 cash based transfers made

\$7.9 m six months (January-June 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

7,197 people assisted in July 2018



Operational Updates

- In July, the pump price of petrol increased from US\$0.7 cent (Le6,000) to US\$0.9 cent (Le8,000) occasioned by the removal of government subsidy as part of IMF conditionality. Before the increase, there had been hikes in prices of basic foodstuff and other goods and services, coupled with the depreciation of the Leone against the US dollar because of inflation. This situation is likely to have increased vulnerability of a population half of which are food insecure. WFP is working in close collaboration with the Government, UN agencies and other partners to find long-term solutions to food insecurity and malnutrition.
- As WFP's Transitional Interim Country Strategy Plan (January-December 2018) ends, the country office defined its longer-term strategic orientations and set the way forward in preparing its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2022, with support from the Regional Bureau in Dakar and Headquarters. The CSP is a five-year plan that builds on the findings of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review which is an inclusive national process that analyses the challenges Sierra Leone faces in achieving SDG 2.
- To ensure that people living with HIV (PLHIV) on anti-retroviral therapy adhere to treatment and avoid relapse after graduating from the food support programme, WFP assessed PLHIV support groups engaged in agricultural activities, to identify opportunities for food for asset creation support to those exiting the Food by Prescription (FBP) programme.

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Main Photo : Credit : WFP/Francis Boima
Caption: Line of sight mission in Sierra Leone

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
15.8 m	8.8m	7.9 m

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.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- 1 - Provide food assistance to vulnerable households affected by disasters or sudden onset emergencies.

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.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- 2 - Provide cash-based transfers to chronically food-insecure populations.

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

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- 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.

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.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- 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.

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.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- 8 - Provide support to the Government to complete the institutional capacity assessment for national school feeding activities (SABER) and

Monitoring

- Monitoring coverage of implemented projects was 41 percent largely because of food deficits leading to delay or cancelation of planned distributions.

Challenges

- The country office is facing critical funding deficits of 45 percent which has affected all operational activities. The most affected include WFP support in stunting prevention, targeted supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months and support to people living with HIV/AIDS and TB clients. Only critical activities will be prioritized while resource mobilization efforts are being stepped up.

Partnerships:

- A new memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) to formalize the country office strategic partnership until 30 June 2019. The MoU has four main components of collaboration, which are closely aligned with the New Direction strategy:
 - Component 1: Strengthening agricultural statistics and information management through support to the food security monitoring system and market price monitoring early warning system.
 - Component 2: Strengthening the rice value chain through Facilitating Smallholder Access to Markets through the WFP Purchase for Progress Model and building linkages with private sector buyers, including leveraging the Purchasing Power of the National Integrated School Feeding Project.
 - Component 3: Support to Community Asset Creation Activities, Particularly Climate-Smart and Nutrition-Friendly Initiatives to Increase Resilience.
 - Component 4: Support to the Nutrition Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Donors

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