



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief May 2019



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 150 out of 160 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. Women's literacy, standing at 44 percent remains much below men's literacy. Enrolment rate for primary education (year 1-6) decreased by 12 percent from 2015 to 2017. WFP has been present in the country since 1968.



Population: 7.6 million

2017 Human Development Index: 184 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

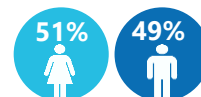
In Numbers

392 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.5 m six months (June-November 2019) net funding requirements, representing 13% of total

37,996 people assisted
in May 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP continued its support to the government Free Quality Education Initiative by providing school meals to 29,187 primary schoolchildren (49 percent men; 51 women) in 11 vulnerable chiefdoms in Pujehun and Kambia districts. Additionally, in contribution of the global WFP 'School Design Competition', WFP finalised the selection and submission of five student drawings to be judged by WFP headquarters.
- As part of the resilience programme, WFP provided food assistance for asset (FFA) creation to 1,144 beneficiaries in the districts of Kenema, Portloko, Kambia, Falaba, Koinadugu and Tonkolili, amounting to 113 mt.
- The country office hosted a mission from the WFP Regional Bureau to support the community based participatory planning component of the Japan Bilateral Project. A series of follow-up partner meetings and information gathering exercises were held to strengthen the programme.
- As part of the national Early Warning System and to strengthen national capacity in food security monitoring, WFP trained 20 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) staff in market price monitoring, using paperless data acquisition through the Open Data Kit Platform. The training involved MAF statisticians across the country, including senior statisticians at MAF headquarters.
- In May, WFP and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation reviewed the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment activities and developed a phase-out plan (towards December 2019) following the recommendation of the protracted relief and recovery operations (PRRO) evaluation. They prepared memorandum of understanding (MoUs) (national and districts) to carry out the phase-out while strengthening the government's capacities.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/ Victoria Kamara

Caption: beneficiaries receiving cash in Pujehun from Ecobank WFP cash partner

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28 m	4 m	3.5 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:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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.
- Provide MAM treatment, through targeted supplementary feeding and SBCC for children aged 6-59 months and for PLW.
- 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:

- Provide food assistance for assets (in-kind or cash transfer) including land rehabilitation and smallholder farmers and productive farming cooperatives.
- 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:

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

Monitoring

A total of 81 implementation sites were monitored against 147 sites planned for May, resulting in a 55 percent monitoring site achievement.

Challenges:

WFP is facing critical funding deficit which has affected all operational activities including nutrition and livelihood activities. This resulted in shorter contract period with partners thus affecting food distributions to vulnerable populations. The most affected areas of intervention 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:

In Sierra Leone, WFP collaborates with 20 partners including INGOs, NGOs UN Agencies and Government line ministries.

In May, WFP and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) signed six MOUs for the implementation of nutrition activities in complementing effort of the Government in addressing malnutrition.

Donors**In alphabetic order**

Canada, ECOWAS, Ireland, Japan, Private Sector, Republic of Sierra Leone, UAE, United Kingdom, UN Funds and Multilateral