In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food assistance distributed</td>
<td>152 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash-based transfers made</td>
<td>US$ 0.1 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six months (May-October 2019) net funding requirements</td>
<td>US$ 3.5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People assisted</td>
<td>77,441</td>
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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.

Operational Updates

- In support of the Government’s free quality school education initiative, WFP provided school meals to 66,300 primary schoolchildren in 11 vulnerable chiefdoms in Pujehun and Kambia districts.
- In collaboration with a financial service provider, WFP provided food assistance for asset (FFA) creation to 1,905 beneficiaries in the district of Pujehun as part of its cash for work initiative.
- As part of the resilience programme, WFP provided 65 mt of food to 8,210 farmers, in the Kenema district for their labour in rehabilitating inland valley swamp to ensure year-round cultivation.
- WFP, alongside the National Leprosy and TB control programme presented the finalised national nutritional care and support guidelines to stakeholders, in a one day workshop. Regional trainings of health and social service providers in use of guidelines for quality care and support to HIV and TB clients was also undertaken in all provinces.
- WFP conducted two regional training of 20 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry staff on market price monitoring in Bo and Makeni.
- The 2018 food security monitoring system (FSMS) was successfully distributed to government partners and stakeholders in the country. Overall the report concluded that the food security situation in Sierra Leone has improved since September 2015, with the proportion of the food insecure population decrasing from 49.8 percent to 43.7 percent. Similarly, at the national level, the proportion of severely food insecure households decreased from 8.6 percent in 2015 to 2.4 percent in 2018.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/ Victoria Kamara
Caption: beneficiaries receiving cash in Pujehun from Ecobank WFP cash partner
A total of 191 activities implementation sites were monitored against 453 sites planned for April, resulting in a 42 percent monitoring site achievement.

**Challenges:**

The country office is facing critical funding deficit which has affected all operational activities including nutrition and livelihood activities. This has 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.

The decrease of beneficiary numbers from March to April is attributed to the finalisation of temporary support to the Government school feeding programme whereby an additional 90,876 students were targeted for a two month period in the districts of Bonthe, Kailahun and Karene.

**Partnerships:**

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

WFP received contribution from the Government of Japan