



# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief April 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## 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**

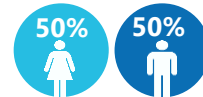
## In Numbers

**152 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 0.1 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 3.5 m** six months (May-October 2019) net funding requirements

**77,441 people assisted**  
in April 2019



## 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 decreasing 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

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)**

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>28 m</b>	<b>4 m</b>	<b>3.5 m</b>

**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 HGSP policies and systems.
- Provide technical assistance to national disaster management authority and MAFFS in priority areas.

**Monitoring**

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

**Donors****In alphabetic order**

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