



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief July 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**

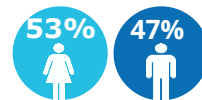
## In Numbers

**400 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

**60,176 people assisted**  
in July 2019



## Operational Updates

- WFP conducted a nutrition education training for 132 smallholder farmers from communities in Tonkolili, Pujehun and Kenema districts. The training focused on dietary diversity and food preparation and was aimed at addressing underlying factors that contribute to malnutrition, including food insecurity, poor knowledge on feeding and health care, and limited access to safe water and health services.
- A total of 345 Peripheral Health Units in Pujehun district received orientation from WFP to commence the stunting prevention programme in the district following a successful pilot in Moyamba district. Modules included beneficiary selection, admission and discharge criteria, food handling and management.
- WFP in collaboration with UNDP and district authorities conducted four participatory community consultations with key stakeholders across four chiefdoms (Lower and Upper Banta) in Moyamba district and Malen and Makpele in Pujehun district to guide the design of an innovative joint proposal to the United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF). WFP is the convening agency, and its role centres on providing livelihood support to vulnerable households affected by large-scale private sector land acquisitions, specifically oil-palm and mining (bauxite and rutile) operations.
- WFP convened an inter-agency emergency preparedness response coordination meeting with UN sister agencies as a key action to ensure UN operational readiness to respond to a potential flood or landslide event. The output of the consultation was an inter-agency flood/landslide/cholera response action plan, that will be presented to the Resident Coordinators Office for review and adoption.
- Work is ongoing at 57 Food for asset creation supported nutrition agriculture schemes in Kambia and Pujehun districts.

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Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/SierraLeone](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/SierraLeone)

**Main Photo:** Credit: WFP/ Francis Boima

**Caption:** FFA participants in Helebu transplanting rice seedlings

**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

In the reporting month of July, monitoring coverage was 78 percent (350 FDPs) against earlier planned 449 implementation sites to be monitored.

## Challenges:

WFP continues to follow up with the Government to fast-track signature of the pending MOU to formalize collaboration for implementation of the national school feeding programme. This process is heavily delayed and threatens timely implementation of this key safety net intervention (planned to start September 2019).

Poor roads network, exacerbated by heavy rains continue to affect food delivery especially in the south and east of the country. Light vehicles were used to reach some hard to reach communities.

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 a variety of partners including INGOs, NGOs, UN Agencies and Government line ministries.

In July, Nutrition unit held discussions with the District Health Management Team, Local Councils and implementing partners on the implementation of nutrition activities in complementing efforts of the Government in addressing malnutrition. An outcome of the meeting was a roadmap for the transition from treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition to stunting prevention.

## Donors

### In alphabetic order

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