



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief August 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 1.25 per day). The country is recovering from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which ended in 2016. Around 3.2 million Sierra Leoneans are estimated to be food insecure with a proportion of 2.4 percent severely food insecure households; representing 170,210 individuals according to the September 2018 Food Security Monitoring System report. The country ranks 150 out of 160 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. Women’s literacy is 44 percent compared to men. About half of the adult population is illiterate and half of those leaving primary school are unable to read or write. WFP has been present in the country since 1968.



Population: 7.6 million

2018 Human Development Index: 184 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

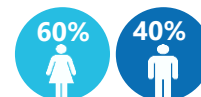
In Numbers

350 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.5 m six months (September 2019 – February 2020) net funding requirements

15,259 people assisted in August 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP provided technical support to the Office of National Security and the Freetown City Council to develop a digital, web-based Multi Indicator Rapid Assessment (MIRA) and registration tools to be used for flood response throughout the month of August.
- WFP provided food assistance to 961 flood- affected households in several communities in Bo, Kailahun, Kenema and Pujehun districts following flooding events between 6-8 August 2019.
- WFP took the lead in the UN Emergency Preparedness in relation to flooding.
- Data collection for the August 2019 Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) has been completed. Data cleaning is ongoing with preliminary results anticipated to be available in September 2019. The FSMS also included qualitative observations of the impact of 2019 erratic rainfall on sentinel sites, particularly on agricultural activities. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry conducted a crop assessment concurrently with the FSMS to provide update on agricultural production for 2019.
- Trainings have been completed for District Health Management Team (DHMT) staff in preparation for phase out of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme. However, training for stunting prevention have not commenced for DHMT staff, facility staff and community health workers. The process was put on hold to finalise the tools with the Government who takes the lead in implementation.

Contact info: Francis Boima (francis.boima@wfp.org)

Country Director: Housainou Taal

Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/SierraLeone

Main Photo: Credit: WFP/ Francis Boima

Caption Swamp cultivation in Port Loko district

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 312 implementation sites/Final distribution points constituting 88 percent of total planned 386 sites were monitored.

Challenges

WFP continues to follow up with the Government to fast-track signature of the pending memorandum of understanding (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 in 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.

Implementation of nutrition agriculture activities behind as a result of late disbursement of funds, resulted in delaying procurement and distribution of vegetative materials. To address this, a catch up plan has been developed with the partner Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC) Sierra Leone, which will be closely monitored to ensure that the project achieves its outputs.

Partnerships:

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

On 14 August, WFP formalized partnership with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for distribution of food assistance to households in rural areas affected by flooding. The partnership will run until 30 September 2019, providing operational flexibility to respond to possible future floods.

Also, WFP attended the launching of the USAID/Food AID Quality Review Phase II "Four Food Study" report on the treatment of MAM. The study was a joint partnership involving WFP, USAID, Tufts University and Project Peanut Butter. The ceremony was chaired by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation represented by the Directorate of Food and Nutrition.

Donors

In alphabetic order

Canada, ECOWAS, Ireland, Japan, Private Donors, Republic of Sierra Leone, UAE, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, UN Funds