



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

March 2020



Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income country market by food-deficit. Poverty levels are high, with 53 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (with less than USD 1.25 per day). The country is still socially and economically recovering from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which ended in 2016. Around 3.9 million Sierra Leoneans are estimated to be food insecure with a proportion of 4.6 percent severely food insecure households; representing 382,389 individuals according to the 2020 Food Security Monitoring System report. About half of the adult population is illiterate and half of those leaving primary school are unable to read or write. Women's literacy is 44 percent compared to men, and the country ranks 150 out of 160 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. WFP has been present in the country since 1968, helping to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition challenges among vulnerable groups. The launch of the CSP 2020 – 2024, in line with the new UNSDCF 2020-2023, is an opportunity for WFP Sierra Leone to re-strategize and build upon the lessons learned.



Population: 7.6 million

2019 Human Development Index: 181 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

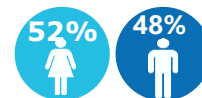
In Numbers

709.69 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 cash-based transfers made

USD 6 m six months (April 2020–September 2020) net funding requirement

188,158 people assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

- The World Food Programme has received the remaining 30,000 of a total of 57,000 bags of rice from the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) that was donated by the People's Republic of China for the implementation of the Government-funded school feeding programme in support of the Free Quality Education. This rice will be prepared as part of the hot lunches for more than 300,000 primary school children in seven additional districts including Bonthe, Bombali, Kailahun, Karene, Kenema, Kono, and Port Loko and is part of a USD 4.5 million budget allocation to school feeding activities.
- WFP and MBSSE staff held information sharing sessions with school authorities and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Government-funded national school feeding programme rolled out in the month of March.
- A total of six Peripheral Health Units (two staff per PHU) in the Kambia district received orientation from WFP in collaboration with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to commence the stunting prevention programme in the district following a successful pilot in the Moyamba district. Modules included; overview of stunting and its effects, beneficiary selection, admission and discharge criteria, food handling and management and Social Behaviour Change Communication in improving nutrition.
- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry distributed 86.83 mt of food assistance for assets (FFA) to 8,860 beneficiaries in the Kambia, Kenema, and Tonkolili districts to support Inland Valley Swamp development activities as a way of building food systems to enable these districts to meet their own food and nutritional needs.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

Caption: Lunch time at Ahmadiya primary school in the Kambia district

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
14 m	3 m	6 m

*6-months NFRs as of January 2020

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Sierra Leone are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

1. Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households and support their recovery needs.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic outcome 2: Primary schoolchildren in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

2. Provide nutritious school feeding to primary school children and support the implementation of an integrated school feeding programme.
3. Provide assistance to the Government-led national school feeding programme.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted districts – including children, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls – have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2025.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

4. Provide comprehensive malnutrition prevention support, including complementary food and nutrition messaging, while strengthening the capacity of peripheral health units and staff in the area of health and nutrition

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic outcome 4: Smallholder farmers and communities in targeted areas have resilient livelihoods that better meet their food security and nutrition needs by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

5. Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organizations and women's groups.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthen capacities

Strategic outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food security and nutrition programmes by 2024.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

6. Provide support to strengthen Government capacity in food security and nutrition - including in disaster management and response, school feeding and nutrition

Resourcing and Pipeline:

- WFP is facing a funding shortfall of US\$6,500,000 to provide food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations directly and indirectly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Without such funds, WFP's capacity to respond will be limited.
- WFP requires US\$2,500,000 to provide life-saving logistics and ICT common-services to support the national COVID-19 response. Without such support, response by partners will be slowed down.

Monitoring: The latest food security analysis shows a deterioration in food security in Sierra Leone compared to February 2019, with the total food insecure population increasing from 34 percent to 47.7 percent. This implies that almost half of the population of Sierra Leone (3,921,752) are not consuming sufficient nutritious diet to live a healthy life. The global socio-economic downturn impacted by the COVID-19 may exacerbate the already precarious food security situation in the country.

Challenges:

All schools were closed down indefinitely by the Government as part of the COVID-19 pandemic prevention measures. This interrupted the government-funded school feeding programme that commenced in March.

Other programmes have been equally affected by restrictions such as social gathering prohibitions and social distancing. Moreover, international procurement is being delayed due to Covid-19 related shipping disruptions. Suspension of air traffic to Sierra Leone for a 3-month period is also delaying receipt of air cargo.

Partnerships:

WFP has developed partnership agreement with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for food assistance to households/individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, an agreement was signed with Pure Heart Foundation for Cash Based Transfer (CBT) disbursements in Pujehun and Moyamba under the Peace Building Fund project.

Moreover, an memorandum of understanding was signed with the Kambia District Health Management Team for the implementation of Stunting Prevention Program targeting children six to -23 months and pregnant & lactating women and girls (PLWG) in the Gbinle and Dixon chiefdoms.

Donors

Japan, Private Sector, Republic of Sierra Leone, UN Funds, Peacebuilding Fund.