WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief
April 2020

In Numbers

- **152,393 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 0** cash-based transfers made
- **USD 7.3 m** six months (May 2020–October 2020) net funding requirement
- **18,067** people assisted in April 2020

Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income country marked 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.

Since the country registered its first COVID-19 in April 2020, cumulative confirmed positive cases stand at 914. The pandemic has led to the closure of schools, disruption of supply chain. Nutrition and livelihood activities have been affected by measures geared towards breaking the chain of transmission.

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 build upon the lessons learned.

Operational Updates

- Food transfers during the month of April included distributions to 7,416 children aged 6-59 months and 7,838 pregnant and lactating women under the stunting prevention programme, 2,162 participants of the food assistance for assets (FFA) activity and 651 individuals in quarantined homes and facilities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has not only interrupted the school feeding programme with the closure of schools, but also the nutrition and resilience building activities have been equally affected by restrictions such as social gathering prohibitions and lockdowns.
- International procurement is being delayed due to COVID-19 related shipping disruptions. Suspension of air traffic to Sierra Leone for a three-month period is also delaying receipt of air cargo.
- As individuals are being quarantined by the Ministry of Health in a bid to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and to break the chain of transmission, WFP has been delivering assorted food items to quarantined persons and caregivers at Yele and Gbonkolenen Chiefdoms, in Tonkolili district and Kenema district in support of the Government’s COVID-19 health and humanitarian response.
- WFP logistics team has completed the construction of a rubb hall at the 34 Military Hospital treatment centre for COVID-19 patients with 13 additional bed capacity to strengthen the absorption capacity of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in case of a surge.
- Meanwhile, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs distributed 12.25 mt of food assistance to 1,750 youths engaged in commercial agricultural activities across four districts (Kenema, Kono, Koinadugu, and Tonkolili). The project supports youth farms totalling over 1,000 acres, with the aim of creating crucial employment opportunities for youths through skills development trainings, securing access to land and building linkages to markets. Through the development of irrigated lowlands, assisted youths will be able to cultivate rice and vegetables throughout the year, improving their food security and increasing their incomes.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Mohamed Sawaneh
Caption: Food delivery to Street Child Quarantined centre
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>14 m</td>
<td>3 m</td>
<td>7.3 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** 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 deficit of USD 3.7 m 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 USD 3.6 m 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:

Monitoring of support to smallholder farmers is being facilitated through WhatsApp groups whereby the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry counterparts share updates and photos. To further augment monitoring, WFP has engaged 32 community agricultural “youth contractors” supporting implementation of the food assistance for asset project to support remote monitoring.

#### Challenges:

- Project monitoring is being constrained by total or partial lockdowns and other COVID-19 Infection Prevention Control (IPC) measures that discourage direct monitoring.

#### Partnerships:

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of Health for food assistance to households/individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- WFP signed a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) to support livelihood projects in six districts (Falaba, Kailahun, Kambia, Karene, Kono and Pujehun).
- Moreover, three addenda were made to the agreements signed with MAF in February 2020 to provide technical oversight for the adherence to improved agronomic practices and nutrition sensitive agriculture in Kenema, Tonkolili and Kambia districts.

### Donors

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