

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief May 2020



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 1,169. 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.



Population: 7.6 million

2018 Human Development Index:
181 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

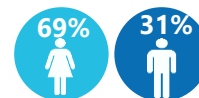
In Numbers

47,974 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 69,270 cash-based transfers made

USD 7.3 m six months (June 2020–November 2020) net funding requirement

17,014 people assisted
in May 2020



Operational Updates

- A 13-bed treatment facility equipped with necessary accessories including ventilators was commissioned on 28 May 2020 at the '34 Military Hospital'. This facility will be used as an intensive care unit for critically COVID-19 affected patients. This was a joint United Nations project done with technical coordination from UNFPA, while WFP designed and built the facility, and provided a 250 KVA generator and procured supplies.
- WFP, in support of containment measures by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation delivered assorted food items to six COVID-19 treatment centres in Freetown and Port Loko. Also, in order to meet the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable groups during the three-day nationwide lockdown, WFP provided food assistance consisting of rice, pulses and vegetable oil to some 4,486 vulnerable individuals including street children, orphans, people living with disabilities, people living with mental illnesses and homeless in shelters and institutions managed by Ministry of Social Welfare, Street Child, SOS Children Village and Don Bosco across 10 districts (Bo, Kailahun, Kambia, Kenema, Kono, Port Loko, Bombali, Tonkolili, Western Area Rural and Western Area Urban).
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to transport over 900 mt of improved seed rice for distribution – on a loan basis – to smallholder farmers across the country who are cultivating lowland ecologies. This is aimed at boosting local production of the staple rice under cluster 5 of the government's Quick Action Economic Response Plan (QAERP) in order to mitigate the potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic on food security.
- WFP completed the first of two rounds of cash payment of 846,000 Leones (USD 87) per household to 1,095 farming households (representing 5,475 beneficiaries) in Moyamba district (Lower and Upper Banta chiefdoms) and Pujehun district (Malen and Makpele chiefdoms) to meet their own food needs while engaged in Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) development activities under the Peace Building Fund (PBF) project: "Mitigating Resource-based conflicts and increasing community resilience in Pujehun and Moyamba districts in Sierra Leone."

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

Country Director: Dr. Housainou Taal

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

Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Mohamed Sawaneh

Caption: Food delivery to Street Child Quarantined centre

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	7.3 m

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 deficit of USD 3.7 m to provide food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations directly and indirectly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- WFP requires USD 3.6 million to provide life-saving logistics and ICT common-services to support the national COVID-19 response.
- **Monitoring:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, FAO, and IFAD, WFP supported preparations for an emergency Food Security Monitoring System assessment to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 on food security. The data collected will be useful to the key food security stakeholders to guide their interventions in addressing food insecurity and the impact of COVID-19 on the population.

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:

- WFP is in the process of signing an addendum with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to reflect the interventions addressing improving nutrition indicators undertaken by both the Government and its development partners to prevent further negative impact by COVID-19 on the nutritional status of children under 2 years and Pregnant and Lactating women (PLW).
- Similarly, field level agreements are being discussed with District Health Management teams
- In Bombali, Kenema, Port Loko and Tonkolili districts for the implementation of both stunting prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programmes including support to quarantined homes.

Donors

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