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.

WFP Aviation has started humanitarian passenger air services in support of the Government of Sierra Leone including in the fight against COVID-19. Connecting a number of capitals in Africa from the hubs in Accra and Addis Ababa as well as some countries in Asia and Europe, WFP Global Air Passenger Services landed its first flight in Lungi this month aimed at overcoming the lack of commercial capacity and ensuring humanitarian personnel can deploy.

WFP distributed agricultural tools and vegetable seeds to vulnerable smallholder farmers whose livelihoods have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The project will benefit 1,150 vulnerable farming households (representing 5,750 beneficiaries) in Falaba, Karene, Kambia, Kailahun and Pujehun districts with 40 days Food for asset creation, tools, seeds and training in improved agricultural practices to cultivate 92 hectares of cowpea, pumpkin, okra, maize, groundnut, hot pepper and orange fleshed sweet potato.

To ensure the continuity of WFP and Ministry of Agriculture’s youth contractor model during the COVID-19 outbreak - whereby talented young agriculturists provide technical guidance in improved agricultural practices to other farmers within their communities – WFP donated a smartphone to each of 27 youth contractors supporting the implementation of livelihood activities in Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun and Tonkolili districts. Each smartphone is uploaded with a GPS app so that the youth contractors can precisely monitor the development of irrigation systems in their localities, in addition to enhancing their ability to share ideas with one another and report to WFP during COVID-19 when their movement is curtailed.

WFP, in collaboration with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition, completed a nationwide training of 63 district nutritionists and 16 monitoring and evaluation officers on the management of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>14 m</td>
<td>3 m</td>
<td>0.6 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: Nutritional vulnerability 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: Nutrition

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 0.6 m to provide food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations directly and indirectly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- A Budget revision is anticipated to reflect increased needs emanating from the results of the recent emergency Food Security Monitoring System (e-FSMS) assessment and also to absorb the new contributions negotiated.

Monitoring

- A nationwide e-FSMS assessment was conducted by WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Statistics Sierra Leone, FAO and IFAD. Preliminary findings are anticipated to be shared by the beginning of July 2020. The E-FSMS will provide district-level data which will help guide targeting and prioritization of emergency response and recovery activities.

Challenges

- Food delivery to hard-to-reach areas which was already difficult in the dry season has been made worse by the rains.
- Distribution of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food has been delayed due to challenges in clearing the product at the Freetown terminal.

Partnerships

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been renewed between WFP and UNFPA for light construction projects of isolation units at various locations within the Western Area including King Harman Hospital, Regent Community Health Centre and Waterloo Adolescent Clinic.
- Implementation agreements have been signed with the Ministry of Social Welfare district-level offices and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for implementation of emergency, unconditional food assistance activity targeting 49,500 severely food insecure beneficiaries in border lying chiefdoms in Falaba, Kailahun, Kambia, Karene, Kono and Pujehun districts and urban slums with food support (both in-kind and Cash Transfers) during the lean season (July – September). WFP will train partner staff in the targeting criteria and start community-driven targeting.

Donors

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