



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

July 2020



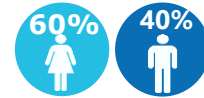
## In Numbers

172 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 161,809 cash-based transfers made

USD 0.6 m six months (August 2020–January 2021) net funding requirement

29,072 people assisted in July 2020

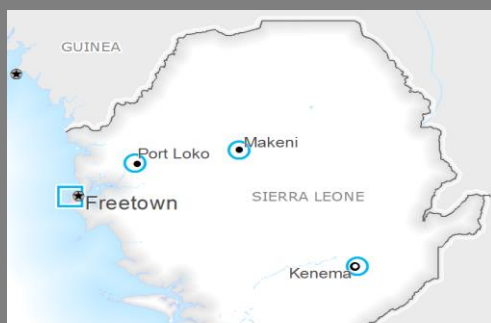


## Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income country marked by food-deficit with 63 percent of Sierra Leoneans estimated to be food insecure (June 2020 Food Security Monitoring System survey). 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 case in April 2020, cumulative confirmed positive cases stand at 1,843 as of end July. The pandemic has led to the closure of schools and disruption of supply chain. Nutrition and livelihood activities have likewise 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

## Operational Updates

- Under WFP's resilience/livelihood response, farmers in Makpele and Sahn Malen chiefdoms in the Pujehun district and Upper and Lower Banta chiefdoms in the Moyamba district benefited from the second tranche cash payment. Each of the 1,854 participants (representing 9,270 beneficiaries) engaged in agricultural asset creation activities received a total of 1,696,000 Leones (USD 174) for a period of 60 working days.
- WFP trained staff of the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in community-driven vulnerability targeting for three-months in-kind food assistance to bridge the hunger gap during the lean season. Targeting exercise was completed in six border districts (Kambia, Karene, Kono, Falaba, Kailahun and Pujehun) for the lean season relief food assistance. Disaster Management Committees in the six districts were training on data collection using the digitized Multi Indicator Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool. Also, SLRCS volunteers to be attached to the Office of National Security situation room received training in data analysis for emergency response reporting.
- WFP participated in a discussion programme organized by the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement on the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation television to raise awareness on nutrition of Maternal and Young Child feeding and healthy lifestyle in the context of COVID-19.

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**Main Photo:** Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

**Caption:** Cash distribution to farmers in Pujehun 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	0.6 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 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.

## Monitoring:

- Results from the June 2020 Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment undertaken by WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, FAO and IFAD indicate the highest food insecurity with 63 percent of Sierra Leoneans estimated to be food insecure. The report will be finalized and published soon.

## 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:

- The Ministry of Health and Sanitation in collaboration with WFP is planning to provide nutrition support for the management of moderate acute malnutrition through the distribution of specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women.
- WFP and the Ministry of Social Welfare signed a partnership agreement to target and assist the most food insecure areas according to the results of the June 2020 FSMS.
- WFP is supporting the distribution of 96 mt of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food for the management of moderate acute malnutrition provided by Edesia through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone in 2020 include Irish Aid, Japan, Private Donors, the Government of Sierra Leone, Japan, and the US.