



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief AUGUST 2020



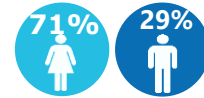
In Numbers

79.2 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 cash-based transfers made

USD 1.3 m six months (September 2020–February 2021)
net funding requirement

26,837 people assisted
in August 2020



Operational Updates

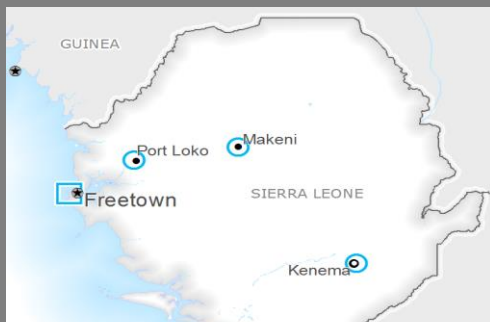
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation launched a nationwide treatment programme for moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/G). This vulnerable group will be provided with specialized nutritious food along with complementary social behavioural change communication messages.
- Meanwhile, training was completed for 942 health workers in eight districts (Kambia, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Western Area Rural & Urban, Kenema and Pujehun) in the implementation of moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme. This training will equip them with skills in food management, handling and storage as well as administering admission and discharge protocols.
- A refresher training was conducted for 60 Office of National Security (ONS) staff and Sierra Leone Red Cross Society volunteers in Freetown on data collection using the digitized Multi Indicator Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool. Moreover, 100 mobile tablets were given on loan to ONS to enable data collection in emergency response situations.
- Twenty-six households affected by landslide in Simbaru Chiefdom in Kenema district received food assistance to help them meet their immediate food needs while recovering from the shock.
- WFP, through the Ministry of Youth Affairs, has distributed 10 mt of food to 1,000 youths and their families in Kono and Kenema districts who are engaged in the development of irrigation structures in inland valley swamps for year round cultivation of rice and vegetables. The project aims at increasing engagement of youth in commercial agricultural activities.
- Seventeen vulnerable farmer-based organizations in seven districts in Karene and 10 districts in Falaba received 21 mt of food assistance under the nutrition sensitive agriculture for cultivating 34 hectares of cowpea, pumpkin, okra, maize, groundnut, hot pepper and orange fleshed sweet potato.

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 2,022 as of the end of August. The pandemic has led to the closure of schools and disruption of supply chains. 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: 8 million

2018 Human Development Index:
181 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

Caption: Supplementary feeding programme 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	1.3 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

Strategic outcome 6: Additional operational costs required to adapt WFP interventions to the COVID context, in-line with WHO and national guidance.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

7. Respond to additional needs; safeguard programme delivery platforms and safeguard health of beneficiaries and WFP's and partners' workforces.

Resourcing and Pipeline:

- A budget revision to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024 is ongoing to reflect increased needs emanating from the results of the recent Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment.

Monitoring:

- WFP undertook assessments of Agricultural Business Centres (ABCs) in 10 chiefdoms including Niawa (Kenema), Malen, Makpele (Pujehun), Bramaia, Gbileh, Dixon, Magbema (Kambia) Lower/Upper Banta (Moyamba), Kunike Barina (Tonkolili) to guide prospective capacity augmentation support in post-harvest management.
- WFP is planning a nationwide value chain assessment of priority crops prospectively to be locally sourced for the school feeding programme from women and youth groups.

Challenges:

- Food delivery to hard-to-reach areas which was already difficult in the dry season has been made worse by the rains.

Partnerships:

- Under WFP's leadership, a food assistance coordination meeting was launched with the National Commission for Social Actions, Welthungerhilfe, Catholic Relief Services and Concern Worldwide as well as MOHS Food and Nutrition Directorate to ensure the operational coordination of COVID-19-specific food assistance activities. The division of responsibilities and areas of operation will be shared with the Food Assistance and Nutrition pillar.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone include; Irish Aid, Japan, Welthungerhilfe, Republic of Sierra Leone, and the US. Additional support has been provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.