



WFP Sierra Leone

Country Brief

October 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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). Food security has drastically deteriorated since January, demonstrating the considerable impact of COVID-19 on households that rely on fragile livelihoods. Poverty levels are high, with 53 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (with less than USD 1.25 per day), and the country is still socially and economically recovering from the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak which ended in 2016.

Since the country registered its first COVID-19 case in March 2020, cumulative confirmed positive cases stand at 2,365 as of the end of October. 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 (44 percent among women) 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 Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020 – 2024), in line with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2023), is an opportunity for WFP in Sierra Leone to build upon the lessons learned to achieve Zero Hunger.



Population: 8 million

2018 Human Development Index:
181 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

In Numbers

870.9 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 cash-based transfers made

USD 6.7 m six months (November 2020–April 2021) net funding requirement

383,009 people assisted in October 2020



Operational Updates

- Provision of school meals resumed in eleven districts supported by WFP and the Government through the national school feeding programme, following the reopening of schools after six months of closure due to COVID-19. Over 300,000 children will be supported.
- Over 40 farmers from 22 farmer-based organisations, seven community youth contractors and six Agricultural Business Centre members in Tonkolili district benefited from post-harvest management training conducted by WFP. Modules included parboiling, control of moisture content, stores management and marketing. The objective was to improve knowledge and skills of targeted farmers, to help them reduce post-harvest losses and add value to their produce.
- A community-based participatory planning (CBPP), which empowers communities to actively participate in planning and implementing interventions that can transform their lives, was facilitated by WFP and other development partners in the Pujehun and Moyamba districts. The main objective was to guide the formation of a multi-year, multi-sector community action plan and to build resilience in those districts.
- WFP supported the Office of National Security to develop an assessment tool aimed at identifying households residing under three bridges in Freetown (Tengbeh Town Bridge, Old Railway Line Bridge and Kingtom Bridge) with a view to relocating them to a safer location, in a bid to avert reoccurrence of the 17 September 2020 collapse of the Syke Street bridge. Relocation packages will be provided by the Ministry of Finance and WFP will support with data analysis after the completion of assessment.
- WFP provided tents and mobile storage units for the COVID-19 health screening simulation exercise at the borders organized by the Government, World Health Organization (WHO), Mano River Union, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ahead of the reopening of the land borders.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

Caption: CBPP session in Pujehun district.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)		
2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
24.9 m	16 m	6.7 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 school children 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 girls and adolescents – 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 on health and nutrition

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

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 have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

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 Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts

Strategic outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year
Focus area: Crisis Response

- Activities:**
7. Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners

Resourcing and Pipeline

- WFP in Sierra Leone faces a funding shortfall of 47 percent for the next six months and stunting prevention activity is the hardest hit.
- A budget revision to WFP’s Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020-2024) in Sierra Leone is ongoing, to reflect increased needs emanating from the results of the recently concluded June 2020 food security monitoring system (FSMS) assessment.

Monitoring

- Outcome post distribution monitoring (PDM) assessments were conducted for livelihood and nutrition (stunting prevention activity) programmes. The PDMs targeted 1,200 beneficiary households who received either in-kind/CBT support from WFP. The Ministry of Social Welfare staff and Sierra Leone Red Cross Society staff/volunteers were trained to administer a light proxy means testing (LPMT) tool that will be used for targeting the most vulnerable households within selected food insecure chiefdoms that will benefit from the upcoming unconditional cash transfer activity.

Challenges

- Food delivery to hard-to-reach areas which was already difficult in the dry season has been made worse by the rains. WFP’s fleet was sometimes used to ameliorate the situation.

Partnerships

- WFP signed addenda to agreements with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for the implementation of unconditional in-kind food and cash assistance to the most vulnerable households.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone in 2020 include Ireland, Japan, Welthungerhilfe, Republic of Sierra Leone, and the US.