



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief April 2021



Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income country marked by food-deficit, with 57 percent of Sierra Leoneans estimated to be food insecure according to the recently validated 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). Meanwhile, the March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé highlighted alarming results, with 1.8 million people estimated to be food insecure during the 2021 lean season (June-September). Food security drastically deteriorated from early 2020 as food prices have spiked across the region, demonstrating the considerable and rapid impact of COVID-19 outbreak on households that rely on markets and the informal sector for their livelihoods.

Sierra Leone has been on high alert since the resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea in January 2021. The Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with its humanitarian and development partners, including WFP, has drafted a preparedness action plan in response to an eventual outbreak.

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 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: 8.1 million

2020 Human Development Index ranking: 182 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

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

In Numbers

994 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 366,694 cash-based transfers made

USD 19.5 m six months (May–October 2021) net funding requirement

357,807 people assisted in April 2021



Operational Updates

- A market linkage mission was undertaken in Kenema and Pujehun districts, with the objective to conduct a joint validation of rice stocks with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, assess the processing capacities of aggregation points, and sensitize farmer-based organisations (FBOs) on WFP’s food quality requirements, contracting process and remote price negotiation.
- WFP supported FBOs working in inland valley swamps (IVS) in negotiating and signing land leasing agreements, an important step for farmers to augment land title arrangements. WFP also donated rice processing machinery to agricultural business centres and a high performing FBO to strengthen the communities’ rice processing capabilities.
- As part of capacity strengthening support to the youth, 30 community youth contractors completed a 5-day IVS development inception training in Kenema district, led by the Agricultural Engineering division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in the clearance process and handling of three containers of specialized nutritious foods (Plumpy) that arrived at Port. A request was also received from the same Ministry for WFP to transport 25 mt of Plumpy from Freetown to various district-level nutrition centres. WFP is looking into internal funding mechanisms to support the request.
- WFP Port Loko Main Logistic Base was handed over to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) at the end of April. As part of capacity augmentation, WFP will continue supporting NDMA pursuant to the handover.
- A validation workshop for the Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) was held, with results showing a gradual deterioration of food security over the last 10 years.

Monitoring

- Analysis of community feedback was received through help desk in Susan’s Bay’s fire response. More than 100 households indicated that they are yet to receive their cash-based transfers for various reasons (including lost or blocked SIM cards). WFP is coordinating with partners to address challenges and ensure all the beneficiaries receive their entitlements.
- UN Resident Coordinator offices in New York, Guinea, and Sierra Leone and WFP (Peacebuilding division and Sierra Leone and Guinea country offices) held discussions to agree on a rapid assessment to conduct as part of a cross-border Peace Building Fund project with Guinea.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

Caption: Screening sessions with community Health Worker volunteers.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
43.2 m	6.5 m	19.5 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

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's recent move to commercialize provision of agricultural inputs for farmers is of major interest to WFP. The recent policy move was that agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, previously availed by the Ministry to farmers would be provided through commercial outlets. Several WFP beneficiaries, specifically the ones participating in WFP's asset creation and livelihoods activities are expected to be direct beneficiaries of these agricultural inputs, which will help them improve their food production.
- School feeding rations are maintained to ensure school children receive the full nutritious meals for the current school year ending July 2021. However for the next school year, confirmation of planned resources is yet pending, so adjustments to rations and beneficiary numbers will have to be done for the September-December 2021 school semester. This will have a negative impact on the assisted school children's nutrition and ultimately cognitive development.
- The stunting prevention programme faces over 80 percent shortfall, bearing huge negative impact on children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women benefiting from this programme. Further negative outcome is that the prevalence rates of chronic malnutrition in the districts assisted by WFP might increase.

Partnerships

- WFP held a meeting with FAO to benefit from lessons learnt from their ongoing poultry rearing project in Kono district. WFP will use lessons learned to plan the establishment of small poultry farms for mother support groups in Moyamba and Pujehun districts. WFP and FAO are also discussing opportunities to collaborate in the implementation of upcoming projects including the home-grown school feeding programme.
- Following a meeting held with the Minister of Youth, it was agreed that lessons learned on WFP's asset creation and livelihoods activities that have a strong youth component will be regularly shared.
- Organised by the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Sierra Leone, a half-day meeting was held to review the UN agencies' joint financing and resource mobilization strategy.
- Pursuant to the endorsement of a Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and UNESCO at the respective headquarters, the possibilities of local engagement with UNESCO on school-based programming will be explored.

Donors

Top donors to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024 include Republic of Sierra Leone, China, Ireland, Japan, Russia, and the USA.