



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief May 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 February 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\*

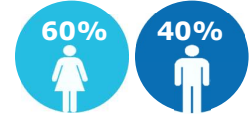
401 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 197,381 cash-based transfers made

USD 23 m six months (June–November 2021) net funding requirement

107,890 people assisted in May 2021

\*Figures based on estimates



## Operational Updates

- Over 1,800 households (9,000 individuals) received two months unconditional food assistance to help them cope with the impacts of COVID-19 in Western Area Rural and Urban.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation distributed some 36 mt of ready-to-use therapeutic food to more than 5,000 children aged 6-59 months in Western Areas and Port Loko districts for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.
- In June, nearly 75,000 schoolchildren were assisted with over 28 metric tons of food commodities in Kambia and Pujehun districts.
- WFP completed the first round of cash-based transfers as part of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, targeting 2,145 farming households (10,725 beneficiaries) engaged in developing small-scale irrigation systems in Inland Valley Swamps (IVS) in Pujehun and Moyamba districts. The total transfer value disbursed was SLL 1,270,972,560 (around USD 124,410).
- With technical support from WFP, the National School Feeding Policy has been released following cabinet's endorsement. The policy provides guidelines for the transition and institutional arrangements and structures for a home-grown school feeding scheme. With this policy, Sierra Leone has taken a bold major step to follow the current trend of countries taking responsibility and ownership of their school feeding programme.
- WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other partners launched the 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) report which shows that 57 percent (4.7 million) of Sierra Leonians are food insecure. This report will be useful to the Government, donors, development and humanitarian partners for planning food and nutrition interventions in the country and targeting intervention areas.
- WFP handed over the main logistics base in Port Loko to the National Disaster Management Agency as part of its transition strategy, ensuring that capacity to prepare for and respond to various emergencies is provided to the agency.
- WFP is stepping up emergency preparedness measures to support Ebola Virus Disease logistics preparedness. A Logistics Preparedness Officer has been deployed in Sierra Leone to support Ebola Virus Disease logistics preparedness in priority border districts, liaising closely with the field-based Preparedness Officer to support national and district-level emergency and with WFP Head of Logistics on updating of the Sierra Leone Digital Logistics Capacity Assessment.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima  
Caption: WFP handover of Port Loko Logistics base in the presence of Regional Minister, UN Resident Coordinator, Director General NDMA and WFP Country Director.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)		
2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>43.2 m</b>	<b>7.3 m</b>	<b>23 m</b>

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected populations 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 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 people 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

- Limited funding for the stunting prevention program has resulted in a change of strategy, to a more sustainable community-based approach and social behavioral change communication in preventing chronic malnutrition. Nonetheless, there is limited coverage in terms people reached, which might affect efforts ongoing to reduce prevalence of malnutrition in assisted communities.

## Monitoring

- Thirty-one activity sites in Pujehun and Moyamba districts were monitored for IVS rehabilitation activities.
- WFP in collaboration with other UN agencies and its partners completed a vulnerability profiling assessment for about 3,000 people Living with HIV/AIDs nationwide to develop a robust database to enhance targeting.

## Challenges

- A lack of agricultural inputs from the Government (seeds and fertilizer) impacted WFP-supported farmers under the Asset Creation and Livelihoods portfolio. Several approaches are being reviewed to address the issue.
- Delayed disbursement of contribution to the school feeding programme by the Government for seven districts will affect procurement of food commodities for approximately 287,000 primary school children by the end of July 2021.
- WFP closed and shifted the Portside Warehouse premises to the Kissy warehouse after operating there for 20 years. This move followed the partial privatization of the port. With this change, all arriving WFP consignments will be subject to additional procedures and related costs.

## Partnerships

- WFP is in the process of forming partnerships with Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), Pure Heart Foundation and MADAM SL for the implementation of food assistance activities.
- A joint UN mission led by the Resident Coordinator took place in Port Loko for the official handover of the Logistics Base to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and in Moyamba, where they visited a WFP-UNDP joint project, and an IOM project site.
- A logistics preparedness gap analysis and action planning workshop was effectively conducted on 18-19 May in support of NDMA. The workshop brought together participants from national and district Government, as well as NGOs, UN agencies, and the private sector.
- WFP held an online meeting with the two UN Resident Coordinators of Guinea and Sierra Leone and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in New York for a presentation on the outcomes of rapid assessments done on border areas of both Sierra Leone and Guinea. Concept note preparation is underway with technical aspects of the cross-border project.

## Donors

Top donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020-2024 include Republic of Sierra Leone, China, Ireland, Japan, Russia, and the USA. Additional support has been provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.