



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief June 2021



In Numbers*

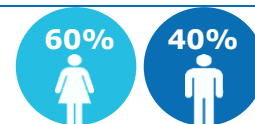
419 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 124,352 cash-based transfers made

USD 17.6 m six months (June–November 2021) net funding requirement

288,270 people assisted in June 2021

*Figures based on estimates



Operational Updates

- As COVID-19 infection rates are rising in Sierra Leone, WFP provided food assistance to 600 households (3,000 individuals) under quarantine in the Western Area Urban and Rural districts of Freetown.
- As part of the lean season support, WFP received funds for the implementation of the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme for children aged 6-59 months in four districts (Falaba, Kailahun, Koinadugu and Moyamba). Also, over 100,000 individuals will receive unconditional food assistance for two months in four food insecure districts (Bombali, Karene, Port Loko and Moyamba).
- WFP and partners (including UNDP and the office of the Vice President) have completed the first round of cash distribution to over 2,000 farmers engaged in the rehabilitation or development of inland valley swamp in Lower/Upper Banta chiefdoms in Moyamba district and Makpele and Malen chiefdoms in Pujehun district. This initiative aims to contribute to strengthening social cohesion and community resilience in targeted areas.
- In order to boost the production levels of smallholder farmers, WFP has availed two power tillers to high-performing farmer-based organizations (FBOs) in Moyamba. Five other power tillers are planned to be availed to high-performing FBOs in Tonkolili, Kambia, Kenema, and Pujehun.
- Procurement of locally produced rice is planned, to help boost local economy and increase income of farmers. Price negotiations for the procurement of 95 mt were completed with FBOs.
- Some 132 smallholder farmers and 24 community youth contractors benefited from trainings conducted by WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture on increased rice production in three districts.
- WFP and District Health Management Teams started trainings for Mother Support Groups on maternal infant and young child feeding practices in 30 communities in Moyamba and Pujehun districts.
- Although the Ebola Emergency was declared over in neighbouring Guinea, WFP took advantage to conduct field level assessments covering 10 of the country's 16 districts. The assessment covered district-level coordination, status of infrastructure, ground mobility, fuel availability, the availability and quality of Global System for Mobile Communications telephone services. Outcomes of these assessments will feed into preparedness planning.

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). The latest March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé highlighted over 1,700,000 will be food insecure during the 2021 lean season (June–September). Food security drastically deteriorated from early 2020 as food prices have spiked across the West Africa sub-region, associated with the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and economic crisis.

Sierra Leone has also been on high alert since the resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea in February 2021. That Ebola emergency was gratefully declared as ended within July 2021 in Guinea. Despite this, 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

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

Caption: Farmers being trained in post harvest management in Bombali district, northern Sierra Leone.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
43.2 m	7.5 m	17 m

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 schoolchildren 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.

- WFP is strengthening district-level emergency preparedness and response capacities of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and other partners, providing training on the use of digitalized crisis response tools.

Resourcing

- Limited funding for the stunting prevention programme has resulted in a change of strategy to a more sustainable community-based approach and social behavioral change communication in preventing chronic malnutrition. Meanwhile, over 34,000 people consisting of pregnant and lactating women and children 6-23 months are left unattended which might affect prevalence reduction.

Monitoring

- WFP and the Moyamba district health management team conducted a joint monitoring of the MAM treatment programme and needs assessment on reporting tools in six chiefdoms, covering 13 targeted peripheral health units. Findings showed the need to update reporting tools and improv the feedback mechanism at community level.
- Out of the 1,010 schools assisted by WFP and partners, 25 percent were monitored to review the implementation of the school feeding programme in order to improve the procedures and services.

Challenges

- A food commodity shortfall has affected completion of the second quarter food distribution to pregnant and lactating women under the MAM treatment programme.
- Delayed reception of contribution for the school feeding programme for seven districts is expected to affect procurement of food commodities for approximately 287,000 primary school children leaving over quarter million children without school meals for the 2021/22 academic year

Partnerships

- WFP has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS), Pure Heart Foundation, MADAM SL and the Ministry of Social Welfare for the implementation of unconditional food assistance activities.
- Partnerships with district offices of the Ministry of Social Welfare (Bombali, Karene, Port Loko and Moyamba) to monitor unconditional food assistance activities were established.
- WFP held consultations with a mining company that operates in localities where WFP supports farmers on livelihood activities. The objectives were to determine how the two institutions could complement each other's activities in support of the communities.

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.