



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief September 2021



Operational Context

Fifty seven percent of the population of Sierra Leone (4.7 million people) is faced with food insecurity, according to findings of the 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). The March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé, meanwhile, projected that over 1.7 million people would be in Phase 3 or above and thus in need of immediate food assistance during the 2021 lean season (June-September). Food security drastically deteriorated since early 2020 as food prices spiked across West Africa, largely associated with the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sierra Leone has been on high alert since the resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea in February 2021. While the emergency was declared to be over in July 2021 in Guinea, the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with its humanitarian and development partners, including WFP, has drafted a preparedness action plan.

WFP has been present in Sierra Leone since 1968, assisting the Government in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition 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 lessons learned to achieve Zero Hunger.



Population: **8.1 million**

2019 Human Development Index ranking: **182 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children between 6-23 months**

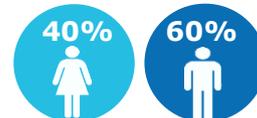
In Numbers

105 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 transferred in cash-based assistance

USD 3.3 m six months (October 2021–March 2022) net funding requirement

5,556 people assisted in September 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, provided in-kind food assistance to severely food insecure households whose vulnerability has been exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in three additional districts – Karene, Port Loko and Moyamba – since the last distribution in August in Bombali district. The assistance will enable households to meet their food and nutritional needs. To date, this one-off relief assistance reached over 65,000 people, prioritizing households headed by women, people living with chronic illness or disability, the elderly and families with more than two children aged 24-59 months.
- WFP provided specialized nutritious foods (Super Cereal Plus, Super Cereal) and fortified vegetable oil to 5,538 children aged 6-59 months, as well as pregnant and lactating women under its Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme in Bo, Kailahun and Kenema districts.
- WFP facilitated two community-based participatory planning (CBPP) processes in the Lower and Upper Banta chiefdoms of Moyamba district under its peacebuilding programme, implemented jointly by UNDP and the Government of Sierra Leone. CBPP empowers communities to lead the planning and implementation of interventions that build resilience and transform their livelihoods. Facilitated by development ministries and agencies, each chiefdom formulated a multi-year, multi-sector community action plan.
- Schools re-opened on the 6th of September and WFP has undertaken preparatory works to resume its school feeding activities in Pujehun, Kambia, Karene and Bonthe districts. These include carrying out school assessments and headcounts, as well as drafting a revised memorandum of understanding to formalize its partnership with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education.
- WFP conducted a training in the Village Savings and Loans Association for 450 farmers from 15 communities in Kenema, Pujehun and Tonkolili districts. The training aimed to improve farmers' financial inclusion, promote self-reliance, and strengthen cohesion among farmer-based organizations.

Contact info: Francis Boima (francis.boima@wfp.org)
Country Director: Steve Nsubuga
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone
Photo credit: WFP/Francis Boima
Caption: Unconditional food assistance in Tolmosor Sierra Leone.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
43.2 m	20.6 m	3.3 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.

Capacity strengthening

- WFP supported the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in developing a pre-positioning strategy including warehouse relief items management and service delivery to crisis-affected populations. The pre-positioning strategy will be especially useful for the planned decentralization of disaster coordination to the district level. Meanwhile, NDMA staff and personnel from four brigades of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces benefited from on-site training on dismantling and re-assembling mobile storage units.
- WFP facilitated a pilot implementation of the Sierra Leone Incident Management System (SLIMS) during the recent Kroo Bay fire incident in September whereby the relief operations were coordinated on the ground and at NDMA headquarters.

Monitoring

- Post-distribution monitoring data collection on outcome indicators for the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme is ongoing in ten districts.
- Community-driven beneficiary targeting identified approximately 2,000 food insecure households in Kenema district in preparation for relief food distributions and cash-based transfers.
- In total 33 health facilities benefited from WFP's supportive supervision which provided technical support to healthcare workers on the treatment of MAM. The visit revealed active participation of mother support groups in nutrition counselling on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.
- WFP conducted a school assessment and headcount exercise in collaboration with the National School Feeding Secretariat in 630 schools across 32 chiefdoms, covering the four districts of Kambia, Karene, Bonthe and Pujehun.

Challenges

- Food delivery to hard-to-reach areas, which was already difficult during the dry season, has been made worse by heavy rains.
- Delays affected the arrival of 1,066 mt of pulses at the Freetown port due to the unavailability of vessel negatively impacting planned deliveries.

Partnerships

- WFP extended its partnership agreements with the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Pure Heart Foundation, and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to implement unconditional food assistance targeting the most food insecure districts.
- WFP signed a contract agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to pilot the Home-grown School Feeding programme.
- Tasked by the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Country Team, WFP is processing the construction of a COVID-19 treatment center intended for UN staff and their dependents.

Donors

Top donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020-2024 include China, Ireland, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.