



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief October 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), with the level of severe food insecurity higher among female-headed households (13 percent) compared to male-headed ones (11 percent).

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**

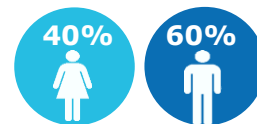
## In Numbers

**105 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 0** transferred in cash-based assistance

**USD 3.4 m** six months (November 2021–April 2022) net funding requirement

**5,556 people** assisted in October 2021



## Operational Updates

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) released the August 2021 lean season Food Security Monitoring System [report](#) (FSMS), which found a general deterioration in the Food Consumption Score (FCS) in Sierra Leone. The share of households with “poor” FCS increased to 37 percent in August 2021 from 34 percent in June 2020. The proportion of households with “acceptable” FCS decreased to 21 percent in August 2021 from 29 percent in June 2020. The consistent deterioration in FCS most likely reflects the impact of continuously increasing food and fuel prices, given that Sierra Leone is a net importer of food, in addition to the macroeconomic decline during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- A total of 4,800 vulnerable households (approximately half of them headed by women) were targeted by WFP using a community-based approach and will receive a two-month cash transfer in Kenema district in November. Funded by WFP’s internal emergency funding mechanism, this assistance will enable households to meet their immediate food needs and recover from a year of high food insecurity exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19. A scale-up of cash-based transfers to poor households is in line with the recommendations outlined in the FSMS.
- In Moyamba, Bombali, Karene and Port Loko districts, WFP is using in-kind food to assist the same profile of vulnerable households as in Kenema, mostly those headed by women, widows and chronically ill persons, as well as others with more than two children under the age of 5. A total of 5,165 people, nearly 60 percent of them female, received food in Moyamba district in October.
- WFP staff visited 17 schools to assess their readiness to pilot the homegrown school feeding programme in Kambia and Pujehun districts. The schools and their communities were found ready, while smallholder farmers confirmed their struggle to find a market for their surplus fresh foods. WFP sensitized school management committees and the farmers on the advantages of homegrown school feeding. Local education and agriculture stakeholders expressed their strong interest in scaling up the programme.
- WFP has no funding to procure specialized nutritious foods that prevent child stunting. As a mitigation measure, WFP worked with MAF in October to train 46 farmers from 23 smallholder farmers’ groups in Tonkolili and Moyamba

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone)

**Photo credit:** WFP/Richard MBOUET

**Caption:** WFP-supported farmers receive tools to build a poultry house for boosting their nutrition in Moyamba district.

## 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                                | 3.4 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

## Capacity strengthening

- WFP conducted a training for the National Disaster Management Agency Port Loko Hub Manager on warehouse layout and stock management. Done in a simulation style exercise, the training will equip the agency with the capacity to effectively manage prepositioned relief items.

## Monitoring

- The verification of food assistance for assets (FFA) outputs was completed in Koinadugu, Kenema and Tonkolili districts where WFP supports small-scale farming groups comprised mostly of women and youth to cultivate rice, vegetables and legumes in inland valley swamps. The food assistance is an incentive for the groups to construct simple irrigation schemes that permit crop planting all year. Planting of rice using improved methods had been completed in all sites in Koinadugu and harvesting has started. Progress in some communities in Kenema was slower due to competing mining activities resulting in lower farmer participation, particularly among youths.
- WFP civil engineers monitored the construction of six poultry houses in Moyamba and Pujehun district that WFP will hand over to mother support groups to produce eggs and thus improve nutritional intake among pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and young children. Poultry enterprises will be linked to WFP-assisted farmer-based organizations, who will produce maize for the production of chicken feed.

## Challenges

- WFP in Sierra Leone is improving the frequency and speed of regional liner shipping options to ensure timely food arrivals for its programmes.

## Partnerships

- WFP and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly implement a school feeding programme targeting more than 200,000 primary school children in 918 schools in five districts (Kambia, Pujehun, Karene, Kenema and Bonthe) in the 2021/2022 school year.
- WFP and the Ministry for Youth Affairs discussed the implementation of the Government's Youth in Agriculture initiative. In November, WFP will support eight chiefdom youth farms operated by over 500 youth with tarpaulins, empty polywovenbags and technical training in post-harvest management to reduce losses during the ongoing rice harvest.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020-2024 include China, Ireland, Japan, Private donor, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the World Bank.