



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief November 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 COVID-19.

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 over in July 2021 in Guinea, the Government 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

**572.6 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 909,513** transferred in cash-based assistance

**USD 2.8 m** six months (December 2021– May 2022) net funding requirement

**233,317 people assisted** in November 2021



## Operational Updates

- WFP continued providing direct and indirect food assistance to 1 million severely food insecure Sierra Leoneans in the worst-hit chiefdoms through emergency food assistance, school feeding, nutrition prevention, agricultural support to smallholder farmers and institutional capacity strengthening.
- WFP provided two-month emergency cash-based transfers to 4,700 vulnerable households (23,500 people) in Gaura, Koya, Nomo and Tunkia chiefdoms in Kenema district. Of these recipients, 11,985 were women and 11,515 men. WFP assisted mostly households headed by women, widowers and chronically ill persons, as well as those with more than two children aged 6-59 months.
- WFP resumed school feeding nationally, providing 206,308 children (48 percent girls, 52 percent boys) with one hot meal a day in 918 primary schools in the most food insecure chiefdoms. Collaborating with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, WFP supported Government-assisted primary schools in Kambia, Pujehun, Karene, Kenema and Bonthe districts. In addition, WFP continued to develop guidelines and prepare for the home-grown school feeding pilot due to begin in January 2022.
- Advocating and promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food diversification, WFP trained 250 farmers and 61 community youth agricultural extension agents in Kambia, Tonkolili, Pujehun and Moyamba districts. WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), whose experts provided practical modules on how to cultivate nutritious local staples, vegetables and legumes.
- WFP supported eight rural farms operated by over 500 young people with tarpaulins, air-tight bags and training in post-harvest management to reduce losses during the on-going rice harvest. The training, which WFP conducted in partnership with MAF, also covered food loss minimization and profit maximization. It took place in Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu, Moyamba, Pujehun and Tonkolili districts.

**Country Director:** Steve Nsubuga

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

**Photo credit:** WFP/Francis Boima

**Caption:** WFP-sponsored training in post harvest management.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
43.2 m	25 m	2.8 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 meals 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 support to strengthen Government capacity in food security and nutrition - including in disaster management and response, school feeding and nutrition.

## Capacity strengthening

- WFP worked with the National School Feeding Secretariat to develop a school feeding manual. The manual will be important in the coming years for strengthening local capacity nationally for effectively implementing school feeding at community level.

## Monitoring

- WFP monitored all 65 food assistance for assets (FFA) and livelihood sites in Moyamba district (Lower and Upper Banta chiefdoms) and Pujehun district (Barri, Makpele and Malen chiefdoms). All new development sites in Moyamba are fully under cultivation, with farmers thus qualifying to receive the final round of a conditional cash transfer. Planting of new sites in Pujehun is on-going. The majority of groups have already commenced harvest, expecting high yields.

## Challenges

- A global shortage in shipping containers and services led to delayed food transshipments and, consequently, some food distributions. Through its Global Commodity Management Facility network, WFP expedited shipping to prevent extended delays in distributions.

## Partnerships

- WFP participated in the National Youth Summit on 1-2 November in Tonkolili district. Invited by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, WFP presented its resilience-building work targeting rural youth, and shared knowledge on improved agricultural practices. The summit was partly intended to highlight Sierra Leone's progress in implementing its National Youth Policy and the operationalization of the African Union's roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth.
- WFP and MAF completed field work on the Market Functionality Index (MFI). The exercise targeted 80 markets in all of Sierra Leone's 16 districts. The main objective of the assessment was to determine the appropriateness of using cash and/or in-kind food as a transfer modality in the country context.

## Donors

Donors to CSP 2020-2024 are: Canada, China, European Union, Ireland, Japan, private and multilateral donors, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Additional funding was provided by the World Bank and UN Peacebuilding Fund.