



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone

## Country Brief

December 2021



### Operational Context

Fifty seven percent of the population of Sierra Leone (4.7 million people) are food insecure, according to the 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 has drastically deteriorated due to rising food prices which spiked across West Africa in early 2020, 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 Guinea on July 2021, the Government in collaboration with its humanitarian and development partners, including WFP, has drafted a preparedness action plan.

The Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020-2024) aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2023) and an opportunity for WFP in Sierra Leone to build upon lessons learned over several decades operating in country to achieve Zero Hunger.



Population: **8.1 million**

2020 Human Development Index  
ranking: **182 out of 189**

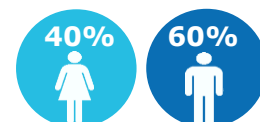
### In Numbers

**318.5 mt** of food assistance distributed

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

**USD 1.8 m** six months (January - June 2022) net funding requirement

**216,882 people assisted**  
in December 2021



### Operational Updates

- WFP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and civil society partners jointly launched a new project in Freetown funded by the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund. A two-year cross-border initiative that will be convened by WFP (2022-2023), the project will be jointly implemented by the UN agencies, civil society and government entities in Sierra Leone (Falaba District) and Guinea (Faranah Prefecture) with the aim of enhancing peaceful co-existence between cattle herders and crop farmers through conflict prevention mechanisms and climate-smart livelihood solutions. The project seeks to address long-standing conflicts between herders and farmers which have intensified due to climate change, water and food shortages and unsustainable livelihood opportunities for women and men. Additionally, the project aims to mitigate risks of future potential conflict, from increased migration of herders travelling from Guinea to Sierra Leone.
- WFP provided school meals to 206,308 children (52% female; 48% male) across 5 districts of Bonthe, Kambia, Karene, Kenema and Pujehun. School feeding is a key WFP programme aiming to address extreme food insecurity in the worst affected areas of the country. Approximately one in eight people are extremely food insecure, with projections expected to deteriorate further in the first half of 2022.
- WFP provided specialised nutritious foods aiming to reduce moderate acute malnutrition to 10,574 (54% female, 46% male) children aged 06-23 months, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls in Bo, Moyamba and Kenema districts. As a complementary approach to sustainable nutrition outcomes, WFP supported training initiatives for 36 women in poultry farming – all part of mother support groups. This approach ensures vital information sharing with mothers regarding child feeding practices in Pujehun and Moyamba districts, which have the highest rates of child malnutrition in Sierra Leone.

**Country Director:** Steve Nsubuga

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

**Photo credit:** WFP/Richard Mbouet

**Caption:** WFP-supported farmers tend their rice crop in valley swamps

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>43.2 m</b>	<b>24.9 m</b>	<b>1.8 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 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 held consultation meetings with several partners on the roll out of its home-grown school feeding pilot that will take place across 17 schools, beginning January 2022. Engagement aimed to foster early participation in developing programme guidelines, and ensure effective implementation and government ownership over the longer-term. Participants included district education, agriculture and health officials, teachers, school management committees and smallholder farmers.
- WFP trained a staff member from the National Disaster Management Agency (Port Loko Hub) focusing on improving logistical skills including warehouse layout and stock management. WFP trained staff using simulations to strengthen the institutions' capacity to effectively manage pre-positioned relief items to improve emergency response.

## Monitoring

- WFP partnered with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition to conduct a consumer acceptability study on four enriched local complementary food recipes. The study aims to increase access and use of local complementary foods to improve infant and child feeding, especially crops rich in Vitamin A. Recipes include rice, yellow flesh cassava, orange flesh sweet potatoes and maize from Moyamba and Pujehun districts. The study shows a high degree of acceptability (85%) to all four recipes when considering appearance, taste, smell and texture.

## Partnerships

- WFP signed a field level agreement with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to implement cash-based transfers in Pujehun district beginning 2022. SLRCS will facilitate a community-driven process where eligible recipients of cash transfers will be identified. Close collaboration with the the Ministry of Social Welfare and WFP will be required to establish community identification committees.
- Addenda to agreements with the SLRCS and two local NGOs, Pure Heart foundation and Mankind Activities Development Accreditation Movement (MADAM) were signed for the completion of in-kind food assistance to vulnerable households affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

## Donors

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