WFP Sierra Leone

Country Brief

March 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Operational Context

Reverberations from the Ukraine war have put a further strain on food and nutrition security and people's quality of life in Sierra Leone, coinciding with a longer-term macro-economic decline in the country. The rise of petroleum prices by 50 percent in one month (March) had a domino effect on the price of other commodities, including food and transportation. This happened as the local currency, the Leone, continued to deteriorate against the US dollar, contributing to a rapid rise in the cost of living and poverty.

WFP's monthly market surveys, which are conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, showed that there was a 20 and 40 percent increase in the price of imported and local rice respectively, between January 1 and 30 March 2022. Compared to the same period last year, the surveys found that the price of palm oil increased by 17 percent. Rice is a staple food and palm oil is a major ingredient consumed in local cooking.

The national year-on-year inflation for February 2022 stood at 17.59 percent, among the highest rates on the continent.

As a result of these shocks, household incomes have significantly eroded, which is disrupting food access among vulnerable households due to declining purchasing power.

The 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) already showed that 57 percent of the population of Sierra Leone (4.7 million people) were food insecure, with the level of severe food insecurity higher among female-headed households (13 percent) compared to male-headed ones (11 percent).

The Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024) aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2023) and is 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**
Income level: **low income**	Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children between 6-23 months**

Country Director: Steve Nsubuga
Further information: **www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone**
Photo credit: © WFP/Lydia Wamala
Photo caption: WFP joined Government Ministers and officials, donors and leaders in Kambia to advocate for HGSF on the Africa Day of School Feeding.

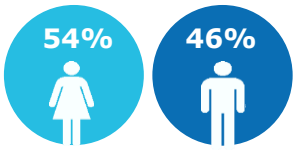
In Numbers

384 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 462,704 cash-based transfers made

USD 7.1m six-month (April-September 2022) net funding requirements

224,596 people assisted
in March 2022



Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- In March 12,000 people from households identified as most food insecure in Pujehun district, received their second round of WFP cash-based transfers to meet immediate food needs. The recipients were mostly households headed by widowers or widows, chronically ill, older persons and people with children aged between 6 – 59 months.

Resilience Building

- WFP Sierra Leone organised a virtual study visit to WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, to facilitate an exchange of learning on the successful home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme. Ministers of Education and Social Security from Sierra Leone attended the event, which emphasized a multi-sectoral approach. Following WFP's on-going HGSF pilot, the Government of Sierra Leone plans to roll out HGSF in line with its new school feeding policy, leveraging expertise through continued South-South cooperation.
- To boost food production and rural economic growth, WFP initiated the procurement of 107 metric tons of milled rice produced by local smallholder farmers. Over 50 WFP-assisted farmer-based organizations (FBOs) in six districts signed letters of intent to supply the commodity, which will be used for WFP's school feeding programme.
- WFP and experts from the Ministry of Agriculture trained 16 FBOs in Pujehun district, on managing Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) to support vulnerable people's access to agricultural finance, especially women. The farmers learned financial management and group cohesion skills, as well as business principles. The trainings also support financial literacy and encourage continued participation in WFP's livelihoods programmes to improve their food security. WFP will strengthen its collaboration with the UN Capital Development Fund for further support to VSLAs.

WFP Country Strategy

Gender and Age Marker =3

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
10.5 m	**10.2m**	**7.1 m**

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations can meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises
Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households and support their recovery needs.

Strategic Result 1 Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Primary school children in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school feeding to primary schoolchildren and support the implementation of an integrated school feeding programme.
- 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:

- 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:

- 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:
Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organizations and women's groups

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:

- Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners.

Monitoring, Assessments, Research

- WFP supported the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to assess the Guma Valley reservoir forest catchment, the main water source for the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown. Analysis of the forest loss in the Western Area Peninsular Forest Reserve and the water levels in the reservoir, revealed that 2,850 hectares of forest were lost in the last 10 months; and 40 percent reduction in water levels occurred between 2015 and 2022. Assessments were compiled by WFP headquarters' Asset Impact Monitoring from Space team.
- WFP and the district school feeding monitors and an agricultural extension officer jointly visited 10 schools piloting home-grown school feeding in Pujehun district. The mission found that the pilot had created a market for WFP-supported farmer-based organizations, that now supply the schools with fresh food and vegetables daily. Over 5,000 school children are benefiting from more nutritious lunches through the pilot in the two districts of Pujehun and Kambia.

Challenges

- Inflation is continuing to rise in Sierra Leone. The 50 percent increase in petroleum prices and 20 percent rise in international rice prices between January and March 2022, will impact WFP through higher operational costs.

Partnership

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March with the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), to collaborate on improved local seed varieties, food loss reduction and enhanced soil health (achieved organically).
- WFP signed a field-level agreement with the NGO Talking Drums Studio (TDS) Sierra Leone, for the implementation of its 'building cross border peace and strengthening sustainable livelihoods of cattle herders and crop farmers in Sierra Leone and Guinea in Falaba district' project. The project will be implemented with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Donors

- Donors to the Country Strategic Plan [2020-2024]: Government of Sierra Leone, China, European Union, Ireland, Japan, Russian Federation, United States of America, the World Bank and private and multilateral donors (Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom). Additional support is provided by UN Peacebuilding Fund.