



WFP Sierra Leone

Country Brief

April 2022

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, as they are coinciding with 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 prices of other commodities, including food and transportation. This happened as the local currency, the Leone, continued to deteriorate against the U.S. 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 the main staple food and palm oil is a commonly consumed foodstuff.

The national year-on-year inflation for April 2022 stood at 22.44 percent, among the highest rates on the continent.

As a result of these shocks, household incomes have been 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 (CSP 2020-2024) aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2023) and provides 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**

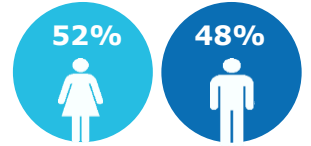
In Numbers

257.3 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 cash-based transfers made

USD 8.5 m six-month (May - October 2022) net funding requirements

212,811 people assisted in April 2022



Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- As the lean season approaches coupled with rising food prices, WFP is facing a 95 percent shortfall (USD 5.8 million) for its unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT) programme. Consequently, WFP will not be able to provide emergency assistance to 20,000 food insecure households or be in a position to respond to sudden shocks that could arise during the rainy season.

Root Causes of Hunger

- WFP provided technical and financial support to the Governments' Directorate of Food and Nutrition for the validation of the updated national nutrition policy (2022-2031). The policy is intended to contribute to improved health, social and economic well-being for the entire population and across all stages of the life cycle. WFP's assistance is part of a broader national capacity strengthening initiative in Sierra Leone. Notably, a new element of the policy is the re-positioning of nutrition as a cross-cutting issue and the integration of nutrition across all national development efforts.

Resilience Building

- The Government of Sierra Leone provided Le 30.6 billion (USD2.3 million) for school feeding in Bonthe, Kenema and Karene districts, implemented by WFP in 553 pre-primary and primary schools.
- Additionally, development partners fund WFP's school feeding activities in Kambia and Pujehun districts, where home-grown school feeding is being piloted. Through this project, small-scale farmers continued to supply locally grown vegetables to schools, feeding over 5,000 children across 17 schools.
- WFP assisted nine farmer-based organizations to rehabilitate their grain drying floors in Pujehun district, to strengthen post-harvest management infrastructure.

Country Director: Steve Nsubuga

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone

Photo credit: © WFP/Lydia Wamala

Photo caption: Kambia District Education Committee Primary School in Tawuya village benefited from home-grown school feeding in April.

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

- President Julius Maada Bio visited the Guma Valley Reservoir in Sierra Leone’s Western Area Peninsular Forest Reserve, to assess the destruction of the water catchment area. The visit followed an assessment conducted by WFP’s asset impact monitoring from space department. The assessment found unprecedented levels of deforestation during the last 11 months, threatening water security in Freetown. The following actions have been taken since the President’s visit:
 - deployment of 250 military and police personnel to enforce the green belt and catch perpetrators;
 - establishment of a demarcation committee initially tasked with identifying landmarks to show the perimeter;
 - establishment of an investigations committee chaired by the Chief Minister, including representatives of civil society organizations and high-profile legal personnel.
- Jointly with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), WFP conducted an end-of-project evaluation for the UN Peacebuilding Fund project ‘Mitigating localized resource-based conflicts and increasing community resilience in Moyamba and Pujehun districts’. The evaluation aims to measure impact, suggest recommendations and understand community perspectives.
- WFP distributed weighing scales to statisticians at the Ministry of Agriculture across 16 districts, aiming to improve the data quality for market price monitoring exercises, conducted monthly by WFP and the Ministry.

Partnerships

- WFP signed a field-level agreement with the local non-governmental organization (NGO) Mankind Activities Development Accreditation Movement (MADAM). The partnership will support the implementation of WFP’s project focused on building cross border peace and strengthening sustainable livelihoods in the Falaba district. MADAM previously implemented WFP’s unconditional food assistance activities in Bombali and Karene districts.

Donors

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

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	8.5m

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