



WFP Sierra Leone

Country Brief

June 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Impacts 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 120 percent between January and June 2022 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 an increase in the price of local rice (36%), imported rice (42%) and cassava (44%) between April and June 2022. Compared to the same period last year the price of palm oil increased by 53 percent in June.

In the June ECOWAS/WFP/FAO assessment on the impact of the Ukraine crisis in the region, Sierra Leone registered the highest rise in food prices over the last five years (62 percent) and the fastest local currency depreciation.

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

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: **7.5 million**

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

Income level: **low income**

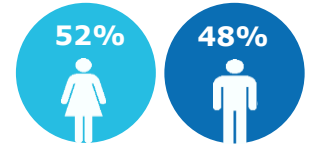
Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children between 6-23 months**

In Numbers

671 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 9.5 m six-month (June – November 2022) net funding requirements

216,240 people assisted in June 2022



Operational Updates

Resilience Building

- To promote peaceful co-existence between cattle herders and crop farmers through climate-smart livelihoods, WFP under its Peacebuilding project has distributed 700 rolls of barbed wire to 10 project sites in Mongo and Sulima chiefdoms in Falaba district. This is to fence irrigated lands developed under the project for rice and vegetable cultivation to protect them from cattle attacks.
- To improve the ability of smallholders to dry their rice and improve quality, WFP has assisted Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs) in rehabilitating 31 drying floors across six districts. WFP provided oversight to the construction through its engineering unit, whilst FBOs provided local materials and skilled and casual labour.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), trained over 168 beneficiaries from 10-communities in Kenema and Tonkolili districts on Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA). At the end of the training, each community received four savings boxes and seed money of three million Leones (\$214). The scheme is intended to increase the financial inclusion and independence of FBOs. VSLA provides its members with a safe place to save money and to access loans. The activities of the group run in cycles of one year, after which the accumulated savings and the loan profits are distributed back to the members.
- WFP participated in a two-day social protection strategy validation workshop in Makeni organized by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA). WFP has been engaging with the Social Protection Secretariat, UNICEF, and the World Bank to ensure that its current and future programmes (including HIV, the school feeding programme, and unconditional food assistance initiatives) could be reflected in the new strategy. WFP's technical expertise in cash-based transfers (CBT) will benefit NaCSA's ongoing social protection interventions in Sierra Leone.

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

Photo credit: © WFP/John Babawo

Photo caption: Construction of a drying floor in Moyamba district.

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.

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	13.3m	9.5 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

Monitoring, Assessments, Research

- According to a World Bank report released in June 2022, and the quarterly Market Bulletin by WFP, recent inflationary trends which now stand at 22.4 percent, have generated policy concerns regarding the extent to which growing prices erode the purchasing power of households. Price volatility, driven by rising fuel prices that have caused significant increases in the food price have increased vulnerability in Sierra Leone.

Challenges

- The 120 percent increase in the price of fuel from March to June in Sierra Leone resulted in a need for WFP to re-negotiate contracts with transporters and suppliers and adjust its programmatic budgets. It is expected that fuel prices will continue to rise in Sierra Leone as the country adjusts to the far-reaching impacts of the Ukraine crisis.
- Heavy rains and bad road network are affecting the monitoring of activities being implemented, especially in hard-to-reach communities.

Resourcing

- 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 from June to November 2022. Consequently, WFP would not be able to provide emergency assistance to 20,000 food insecure households or be able to respond to sudden-onset shocks that could arise during the rainy season.

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.