



WFP Sierra Leone

Country Brief

August 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

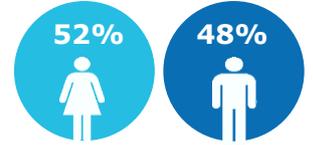


In Numbers

USD29,058 of cash-based transfers made

USD9 m six-month (September – February 2023) net funding requirements

2,505 people assisted
in August 2022



Operational Context

Economic impacts of the war in Ukraine 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 and lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conflict triggered fuel shortages and power outages in the country and in July 2022, the price of fuel increased by 120 percent—from Le10,000 to Le22,000 per liter, leading to a dramatic rise in transportation costs, and subsequently, food prices. Though the fuel price was later reduced to Le18,000, the impact of the rapid increase has been severe, including declining purchasing power of households.

There has been a 40 percent increase in the price of imported and local rice since the beginning of 2022. Cassava, an important substitute for rice by poorer households, has also increased in price by 44 percent, an increment directly linked to the increased price of rice across the country.

Commodity prices continue to rise amidst a rapid decline in the value of the local currency, the Leone. The year-on-year price inflation was at 24.87 percent in May 2022, one of the highest on the continent, as the Leone depreciated by 33 percent between June 2021 to June 2022. All markets monitored across the nation are now classified as in "crisis" based on [Alert for Price Spikes](#).

The 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) already showed that 57 percent of the population (4.7 million Sierra Leoneans) were food insecure.



Population: **8.6 million**
(projected, based on 2015 census)

2020 Human Development Index ranking: **181 out of 191**

Income level: **Low income**

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

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- As co-lead of the emergency assessment pillar nationally, WFP supported the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in assessing the damage caused by the 28 August rains, which fell on Freetown continuously, leaving eight people dead and 6,500 displaced. The government recorded 145mm of rain, almost seven times higher than the flooding threshold of 20mm. WFP supported orientation training for the enumerators, transported them to 18 communities, and guided data analysis and visualization of assessment results.

Root Causes

- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, WFP trained 21 members of mother support groups in Kambia district in maternal infant and young child feeding (MIYCF) through diet diversification. The training improved knowledge around MIYCF, a critical component of the 1,000 Days approach for improving mother-and-child health and nutrition while preventing stunting. Stunting is high at 26.2 percent nationally.

Resilience Building

- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and the Japan International Development Co-operation (JICA) developed a menu for its home-grown school feeding programme. The menu will standardize locally sourced meals served in schools across the country as the programme expands gradually from 2022/2023 in alignment with the national school feeding policy. It will ensure that the school meals food basket is nutritious, diversified, and locally affordable.
- To boost rice yields for the crop year 2022 in the inland valley swamps (IVS), WFP provided six metric tons of fertilizer to 22 farmer-based organizations (FBOs) in Kambia, Koinadugu and Tonkolili districts. As a result of Ukraine crisis, the cost of fertilizer more than doubled in some parts of rural Sierra Leone, which is why WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other food security entities are projecting reduced agricultural production in the country in 2022/2023.

Country Director: Yvonne Forsén

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

Photo credit: © WFP

Caption: WFP participates in the registration of flood-affected people in Culvert community in Freetown on 29 August.

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.

- Some 2,500 farmers in Mongo and Sulima chiefdoms in Falaba district received their second tranche of WFP cash by mobile money. The cash is an incentive for their participation in a UN cross-border peacebuilding project under which they grow rice and vegetables in IVS. WFP implements the project with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other partners, strengthening peace between cattle herders and crop farmers in Falaba district in Sierra Leone and Faranah prefecture in Guinea.

Partnerships

- WFP and district health management teams in Moyamba, Kambia, and Pujehun in 2022/23 signed memoranda of understanding to implement climate and nutrition-sensitive programmes for transforming food systems.
- WFP and the MBSSE signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of school feeding in Kambia and Pujehun districts for 2022/23.

Monitoring, Assessments, Research

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, completed data collection and analysis for the lean season Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS analysis), which used a sample size of 5,000 households nationwide. WFP's support to biannual FSMS and monthly market surveys, both conducted with the Ministry, is for strengthening the Government's capacity in food security analysis and monitoring.
- WFP assessed 41 FBOs and agricultural business centres (ABCs) in Kambia, Koinadugu, Tonkolili, and Pujehun districts to guide its livelihoods assistance programming. The assessment focused on governance capacities of the FBOs and ABCs, which has implications on sustainability.
- WFP monitored 23 IVS sites in Kambia and Tonkolili. Of these, around two thirds had been transplanted with rice, which is encouraging. The monitoring is part of WFP's efforts to continue assisting FBOs that benefitted from its food-assistance-for-assets programme in the past.

Challenges

- The 10 August violent protests in Makeni and Freetown temporarily disrupted some WFP activities, including the delivery of fertilizer to IVS sites in three districts. The protests forced WFP staff to work from home.

Donors

- To the Country Strategic Plan [2020-2024]: Government of Sierra Leone, China, European Union, France, Ireland, Japan, Russia, United States of America, and private and multilateral donors.
- and the 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	7.8m	9m

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