



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief October 2022



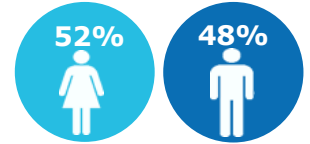
In Numbers

313 mt of food distributed

USD 14.1 million six-month (November 2022 – April 2023) net funding requirements

USD 4,432 cash-based transfers made

118,000 people assisted
in October 2022



Operational Updates

Resilience Building (School Feeding & Livelihoods)

- A direct contribution agreement was signed with the Government of Sierra Leone to feed over 115,000 primary school children in Bonthe, Karene and Kenema districts during the 2022/23 academic year. Subsequently, WFP signed agreements with district-level education offices, with whom it will collaborate to supply over 2,300 metric tons of food, including through home-grown school feeding starting in November. In October, WFP fed over 118,000 children in Kambia, Karene, and Pujehun districts, including through the home-grown school feeding pilot. Additionally, in collaboration with the national school feeding secretariat, WFP trained 440 head teachers and 440 representatives of school management committees in implementing and reporting on school feeding in Kambia and Pujehun districts.
- The Government recognizes that historically, in times of widespread poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition, school feeding has been an important safety net in the country. In addition, in its Education Sector Plan (2022-2026), Sierra Leone is focusing on improving learning throughout the first four years of school.
- WFP recognizes that poor governance is a significant barrier to the growth and viability of farmers' organizations. In October, it conducted organizational governance and management training for 40 assisted groups in Tonkolili, Koinadugu, and Falaba districts in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- WFP and the Ministry also assisted 140 farmers' groups to establish 500 compost pits that will be used to make organic manure for enhanced vegetable production in the inland valley swamps during the dry season (November to April). Composting reduces the need for inorganic fertilizers, which are too expensive for small-scale farmers, yet difficult to apply appropriately without soil testing and compromising soil fertility over time.

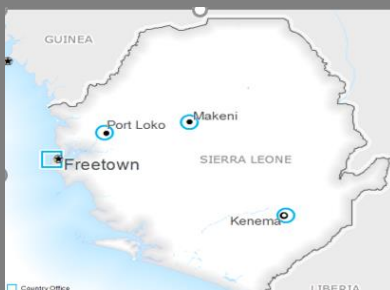
Operational Context

The impacts of the Ukraine crisis have put a further strain on food and nutrition security in Sierra Leone, at a time of macroeconomic decline in the country. The crisis triggered a spike in the price of petroleum products, which has had a domino effect on the cost of transportation, food and other basic commodities, further reducing people's purchasing power. The cost of food has remained high for most households. The price of rice increased by 35 percent compared to the same period in 2021. Cassava which is an important substitute for rice among poorer households rose by 33 percent, a trend directly linked to the higher price of rice across the country. The local currency (Leone), depreciated by 41 percent against the US dollar between September 2021 and September 2022.

The August 2022 lean season Food Security Monitoring System analysis conducted jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP found that, partly due to the impacts of the Ukraine crisis, overall food insecurity reached unprecedented levels in Sierra Leone, with 81 percent of households classified as food insecure and 14.9 percent as extremely food insecure.

The price of inorganic fertilizer rose this year partly due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This is expected to negatively impact agricultural production in 2023.

School feeding, which is WFP's largest programme, addresses short-term hunger while facilitating learning and other educational outcomes, especially for the sake of girls.



Population: **7.5 million**

2021 Human Development Index ranking: **182 out of 191**

Income level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **26.2 percent of children between 6-23 months**

Country Director: Yvonne Forsén

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

Photo credit: © WFP/Lydia Wamala

Caption: In Kambia district, WFP supported nutrition education so that parents can provide optimal complementary feeding.

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	9.3 m	14.1 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

- The September consumer inflation rate in Sierra Leone was announced at 29.10 percent (YoY). Amongst the items included in the basket of goods and services for the calculation, the inflation rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages category was 35.2 percent and the one for housing, utility and fuel costs was 20.93 percent. The current historically high inflation rates are diminishing the population's purchasing power and pushing more of them below the poverty line. The trend for quarterly average inflation rates this year continues to portray a negative outlook for the local economy with an average rate of 28.9 for Q3 2022, up by 3.9 percentage points from Q2 2022 at 25.08 percent. The Q2 rate was 6.32 percentage points higher compared to Q1 2022 at 18.76 percent.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture with the analysis and submission of findings from August 2022 Food Security Monitoring System Assessment. Key findings from the exercise outline countrywide levels of household food security and child malnutrition. The findings will be included in the Sierra Leone Cadre Harmonisé report, which will be shared with humanitarian and development stakeholders late November 2022.

Challenges

- Road conditions in Falaba district, where WFP is implementing a cross-border project under the UN Peacebuilding Fund deteriorated during the rainy season this year. This continues to challenge humanitarian activities of WFP and its partners, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and a national non-governmental organization. There is need for a coordinated effort from international donors present in Sierra Leone to fund development projects in Falaba, especially among communities in the border-lying areas. Underdevelopment with regard to road access, water and sanitation, electricity, and phone network within Falaba is preventing communities from emerging out of poverty, which reinforces their vulnerability to conflict.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone in 2022 include the Government of Sierra Leone, China, European Union, France, Ireland, Japan, Russia, the United States of America, and private and multilateral donors (Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom). Additional support is provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the World Bank.