



World Food Programme

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# WFP Sierra Leone

## Country Brief

February 2023



### Operational Context

The economic effect of the Ukraine crisis has put a further strain on food and nutrition security in Sierra Leone as it coincided with macroeconomic decline and lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in a food deficit country. The crisis triggered a spike in the price of petroleum products, causing a domino effect on the cost of transportation, food, and other basic commodities, thus reducing people's purchasing power and causing widespread poverty.

Government and WFP data show that the cost of food continued to rise through 2022. The price of rice has experienced almost 45 percent increase in 2022 with a close disparity between local and imported rice which experienced price increases of 47 percent and 42 percent respectively. Rice is the staple food in Sierra Leone.

The high importation of food, compounded by the Ukraine crisis, is worsening the depreciation of the currency, the Leone, whose value against the United States dollar dropped by 61 percent the close of 2022. This further reduced farmers' access to fertilizers, which is projected to negatively impact agricultural yields in 2022 and 2023.

The August 2022 lean season Food Security Monitoring System analysis conducted jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP found that overall food insecurity reached unprecedented levels in Sierra Leone, with 81 percent of households classified as food insecure and 15 percent as extremely food insecure.

The 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) found 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 2020-2025) aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation.

Population: **7.5 million**

2021 Human Development Index ranking: **181 out of 191**

Income level: **low income**

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

## In Numbers

**590 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 0** cash transfers made

**USD 5.8 m** six-month (March 2023- August 2023) net funding requirements, representing 44% of total

**211,195 people assisted** in February 2023

### Crisis response

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, WFP registered 8,571 households ( 52 percent female) identified through a community-based targeting process to mitigate the impact of high global food prices on vulnerable households in Port Loko, Tonkolili and Pujehun districts.. WFP intends to provide cash support to cover their food and nutrition needs during March and April.

### Nutrition

To roll out the National School Feeding Menu, developed with support from WFP, 42 district nutritionists and National School Feeding Secretariat coordinators were trained as trainers in the use of the menu. Also, 110 volunteer cooks from 55 schools were trained on the use of different recipes that utilize readily available, nutritious foods in WFP's home-grown school feeding schools.

### School feeding

WFP completed its home-grown school feeding pilot project in Kambia and Pujehun districts providing 5,452 children in 17 schools with rice and daily fresh vegetables sourced from smallholder farmers. Cash assistance to schools enabled direct purchase of fresh vegetables by school authorities. A qualitative assessment documented the impact of the project, providing lessons learned for scale-up during 2023.

Also, 15 stores were handed over to the school authorities as part of the initiative.

### Asset Creation and Livelihood

WFP procured 39.35 mt of milled rice from 20 farmer-based organizations in Kenema district, assisted under the asset creation and resilience building programme for distribution to the school feeding programme. An independent superintendent did the quantity and quality certification of the rice to ensure that it met international standard.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone)

**Photo credit:** © WFP/Peter Abdulai

**Photo caption:** Quality and quantity assessment of rice by Standards Bureau in Kenema district.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2023 Total Requirements (in USD)	2023 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
19.7 m	1.3 m	5.8 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.

## Partnerships

**WFP signed field level agreements** with two local NGOs (Pure Heart Foundation and MADAM) and MSW to support the implementation of two months unconditional food assistance to vulnerable households in the form of cash in Pujehun, Port Loko and Tonkolili districts. An agreement was also signed with PHF to support school feeding programme capacity strengthening.

## Challenges

WFP faces a funding shortfall to implement its malnutrition prevention programme. If the shortfall is not addressed, capacity strengthening of Mother Support Groups in improved Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and the production of Local Complementary Food will be interrupted.

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring

Preliminary results of the recent nationwide food security monitoring system assessment indicate a continuous deterioration in household food security levels across the country; 1 in 5 households are now severely food insecure (i.e. they have run out of food and gone a day or more without eating) as compared to 1 in 9 households during the same period in 2022. The results are expected to be published soon.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone's Country Strategic Plan (2020-2025) are: Government of Sierra Leone, China, European Union, France, Ireland, Japan, Russia, the United States of America, private and multilateral contributors (including Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom) and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.