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 the 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 in 2023. The price of locally produced rice in March increased by 23 percent while the one of imported rice increased by 32 percent compared to the same period in 2022. Rice is the staple food in Sierra Leone.

The March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé found that over 900,000 people need immediate assistance (Phases 3 and 4) to protect their livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition, while 1.2 million people are expected to be under Stress during the lean season (June – August).

WFP has been present in the country since 1968.

In Numbers

210,219 people assisted

1,572,19 mt of food assistance distributed

US$ 5.4 million six-month (June – November 2023) net funding requirement

Operational Updates

- **School feeding**: WFP trained 46 district and community stakeholders from assisted schools in Kambia district to support the implementation of the home-grown school feeding programme. This was part of efforts to scale up the programme while linking more farmer-based organisations to schools.

- A joint monitoring was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSSE) and other school feeding partners, to four schools (implementing regular and home-grown school-based programmes) in Pujehun and Kenema districts. The MBSSSE-led visit, aimed at monitoring the implementation of the WFP-supported school meals programme. A debrief was held among all mission participants, and follow-up actions are in the process.

- **Nutrition**: WFP, in partnership with an NGO, International Development Humanitarian Assistance trained 13 Mother Support Group (MSG) members engaged in local complementary food production for children aged 6-23 months, on entrepreneurship skills. The training will strengthen the capacity of the MSG for proper business establishment and management.

- WFP, in collaboration with the District Health Management Team in Pujehun district, established one small-scale local food processing unit to produce locally enriched complementary food to increase access, and availability and improve the nutritional status of children aged 6-23 months. This entails the construction of a processing unit, the installation of six food processing equipment, and the supply of smaller items to support food processing.

- **Asset creation and livelihood**: Ten power tillers operators were trained by WINGIN company in Peace Building Fund-assisted communities, Mongo and Sulima Chiefdoms in Falaba district. This will boost their capacity to mechanise agriculture in line with the policy of the government to leverage technology to drive agricultural growth.

- WFP engaged the Talking Drums Studio and Barefoot Women organisation to select women to be trained on solar pump management and maintenance. Under the Peacebuilding Fund cross-border project, 300 herder households in Sierra Leone and Guinea will benefit from access to solar water points and improved species of grass to graze their cattle.

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Photo Caption: Mothers eating food prepared during cooking demonstration in Kambia district.

WFP/ Francis Boima
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53.2 million</td>
<td>50.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.7 million</td>
<td>5.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 4: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

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 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: Crisis Response

Activities:
- Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners.

Strategic Result 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 a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a non-governmental organisation, Ma Nyande Women’s Development Cooperative. This MoU provides a framework for more collaboration, coordination, and synergies between WFP and the Cooperative.
- WFP also signed three addenda to agreements with the District Health Management Teams in Kambia, Moyamba, and Pujehun districts to assist MSGs to the end of the year.
- Furthermore, WFP signed an MoU with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for the oversight of the malnutrition prevention activity and for increased ownership of the programmes at the national level and in operating districts.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring

WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring for its resilience-building activity. Six hundred households were surveyed in seven districts. The results are under analysis and will be shared in August.

Regular field monitoring visits continued in May with 241 total visits across 8 districts of Sierra Leone consisting of 150 visits to schools, 81 visits to WFP supported Farmer Based Organization locations, and 10 Mother Support Group Food Demonstration activities.

Donors

Government of Sierra Leone, China, the European Union, France, Ireland, Japan, Russia, the United States of America, private donors, multilateral contributors, and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.