



World Food Programme

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LIVES

## WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief June 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 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 March 2022. Rice is the staple food in Sierra Leone.

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

WFP has been present in the country since 1968.



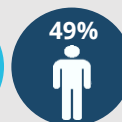
Population: **8.9 million.**

Human Development Index (2021): **181 out of 191**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **26.2 percent of children between 6-59 months**

### In Numbers



**209,915** people assisted

**658 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 15,245** cash transfers made

**US\$ 5.4 million** six-month (July – December 2023) net funding requirement

### Operational Updates

- **Crisis Response:** The Korea International Cooperation Agency visited WFP Country Office in Sierra Leone to gather information and assess the viability of a funding application focused on safeguarding Sierra Leone's Western Area Peninsular National Park, submitted for the funding envelope *disasters and conflict in fragile states*. The team inspected the proposed project site, engaged with government counterparts, youth beneficiaries, and partners, and worked with WFP on refining the project's logical framework based on feedback from the Korean Ministry of Affairs.
- **Asset creation and livelihood:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), WFP initiated a Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) pilot project in five districts (Bonthe, Kambia, Karene, Kenema, and Pujehun). This pilot aims to support 25 women farmer groups (750 women) in producing and marketing orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) to primary schools participating in the home-grown school feeding initiative. Incorporating OFSP into the school meals will offer a more nutritious alternative to rice at least once a week in the 25 pilot schools.
- To enhance the capacity of women farmer groups in OFSP cultivation, WFP partnered with the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute to train 12 MAFS extension workers as trainers in improved agronomic practices for OFSP. These trainers, in turn, established Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in each community.
- Additionally, these women farmer groups received tools and OFSP vines to initiate their production. This comprehensive approach not only aims to empower women economically but also promotes sustainable agriculture practices while improving nutrition in schools across Sierra Leone.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>118 million</b>	<b>62.6 million</b>
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2023)
<b>21.9 million</b>	<b>5.4 million</b>

### 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' organisations 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.

- **Nutrition:** WFP collaborated with four Mother Support Groups - involved in producing local complementary foods - to create a brand for their children's porridge called "pekin pap" aiming to promote their products. Each group was supported in developing a comprehensive branding and marketing plan.

## Voices from the field

- Patricia A. Kargbo, the head teacher at the Holy Cross Primary school, acknowledges the profound difference school feeding has made in her school. She reflects, "Before the introduction of the school feeding program, it was an arduous task to maintain discipline among children. Those who arrived at school without lunch, often left prematurely. However, with the advent of daily school meals, the students remain on campus, attend all classes and leave when the school day ends. In addition, the school has witnessed a significant surge in student enrolment following the introduction of the program."

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring for the resilience-building activity. Six hundred households were surveyed in seven districts. Initial findings indicate higher levels of food consumption scores, lower levels of consumption and livelihood based coping strategies compared to results from the national food security monitoring assessment conducted in February. The final report will be shared with national stakeholders and donors in July.
- Regular field monitoring visits continued with 129 visits undertaken across 8 districts. Not all the project site visits could be made due to safety and security concerns around the election period.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020 – 2024 include the 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.