



World Food Programme

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WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief August 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 prices of a kilogram of imported and local rice both increased by 14 percent compared with the previous quarter and increased by 53 percent and 39 percent respectively year on year. 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: **7.5 million.**

Human Development Index (2021): **181 out of 195**

Income Level: **Low income**

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

In Numbers



8,000 farmers assisted

3,000 Mothers supported

US\$ 2.4 million six-month (September – February 2024) net funding requirement

Operational Updates

- **Crises Response:** To ensure the operational readiness of the Government and partners to respond to prospective flood incidence, WFP has provided training to 60 enumerators in Freetown to be rapidly deployed for timely data collection. WFP data assurance team is developing an automated solution to improve data integrity and data sharing protocols between WFP and the Government counterpart.
- **School Meals:** To diversify the school feeding food basket, WFP has collaborated with 5 women-led Farmer-Based Organizations in Pujehun, Moyamba, Kambia, Kenema, and Bonthe districts to successfully cultivate Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP). These nutritious crops are now fully ready for harvest.

Nutrition: The Muloma Mother's club in Sahn Malen Pujehun district was able to produce and sell local complementary food using two recipes: Rice and Soybeans and OFSP and soybeans at an affordable cost of USD2 (SLE50). This low cost provides primary caregivers of children greater access to local enriched infant food than expensive imported products in the market.

- **Resilience Building:** WFP has donated 31 motorbikes to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS). The donation is aimed at enhancing the mobility of MAFS staff to improve their access to remote and hard-to-reach rural areas where they provide technical assistance to WFP-supported farmers engaged in agriculture and marketing activities. The motorbikes were distributed to eight districts: Tonkolili, Pujehun, Moyamba, Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu, Falaba, and Bonthe.
- A total of 8,000 farmers belonging to 145 Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs) supported by WFP have successfully completed 90 percent of rice transplanting process, covering an impressive 1,200 hectares of developed Inland Valley Swamps in seven districts.

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
118 million	63 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September – February 2024)
22.1 million	2.4 million

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.

Partnership

- A field-level agreement was signed with the District Health Management Team (DHMT) to increase the capacities of Mother Support Groups (MSGs) in Pujehun, Moyamba, Kambia. The DHMT will conduct monthly cooking demonstrations for 50 MSGs and provide supportive supervision to nutrition counselling sessions.
- Also, the partnership agreement was extended with the Institute of Development and Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) for ongoing capacity-strengthening support to 64 MSG members engaged in local complementary food production on entrepreneurship and business plan development in Sahn Malen, Gbangbatoke, Zimmi and Rotifunk communities.
- WFP also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education for the implementation of the School Meal Programme in Pujehun, Bonthe, Kambia, Karene, and Kenema.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, began the bi-annual collection of the lean season food security and nutrition data for the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS), using a sample size of 5,000 households nationwide. This exercise along with the monthly market surveys, conducted with the Ministry, aims to strengthen the Government's capacity in food security analysis and monitoring.

Challenges

- The clearance of WFP's food and non-food items consignment has been delayed due to some Government administrative challenges, leading to the accumulation of significant demurrage.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020-2024 include: China, European Union, France, Government of Sierra Leone, Ireland, Japan, Russia, United States of America, multilateral contributors, private donors, and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.