



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

October 2023



In Numbers



156,520 people assisted

504 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.2 million six-month (November– April 2024) net funding requirement

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 latest bi-annual lean season Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment indicates that close to one in three households, 2.2 million people (28 percent), are severely food insecure today, marking an 8 percent increase from the Feb 2023 FSMS results. Some 52 percent are moderately food insecure.

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**

Operational Updates

School Meals:

- WFP through its cooperating partners, including Pure Heart Foundation, Community Action for the Welfare of Children (CAWeC) and Caritas, conducted community-level trainings for 291 participants from 97 schools. The trainings aimed to strengthen the capacity of school authorities and cooks in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of home-grown school feeding.

Nutrition:

- To prevent malnutrition and improve the nutritional status of children 6-23 months, WFP provided financial support as startup capital to Mother Support Group (MSG) at Sahn Malen to produce 3,600kg of enriched local complementary food. Additionally, funds were provided for MSGs in three locations: Gbagbantoke, Rotifunk and Zimmi to test newly installed food processing equipment.
- Through six peripheral health facility communities, Mother Support Group in Sahn Malen distributed 1,602kg of locally produced enriched complementary food to over 500 children aged 6-23 months at risk of malnutrition.

Resilience Building:

- WFP in collaboration with the Planning Evaluation Monitoring and Statistics Division (PEMSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security completed yield studies on the Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) cultivated by 750 women belonging to 25 groups in Karene, Bonthe, Kambia, Pujehun and Kenema. The yield assessment indicated that the farmers produced an average of 7.5 mt of OFSP per hectare.
- With funding from USAID, WFP is empowering nearly 3,000 families through 95 Savings Associations across seven districts to increase access and control over resources and use collective power to overcome social and financial barriers through Village Savings and Loans Associations.

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Photo Caption: Distribution of enriched complementary to children at risk aged 6-23 months at Sahn Malen health center.
WFP/Francis Boima

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
118 million	73 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October – March 2024)
22 million	2.3 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.

- Some 200 cattle herders in Falaba district were provided with grass seeds, fruit tree seedlings, barbed wires, and tools to establish fenced syntropic farms to promote the cultivation of nutritious grass to ensure confined grazing and mitigate conflict between cattle herders and crop framers.

Partnership

A no-cost addendum to the agreement with Talking Drums Studio Sierra Leone (TDS SL) was signed to continue the implementation of Building cross-border peace and strengthening sustainable livelihoods of cattle herders and crop farmers in Falaba district. The TDS SL will continue to support the implementation focusing on outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan: ‘Border-lying communities in Falaba district have and use inclusive fora that promote peaceful co-existence and resolve conflict between cattle herders and crop farmers’.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring

In October, the school feeding activity accounted for 70 percent of all field monitoring visits conducted whilst the Resilience and Nutrition activities accounted for 20 and 10 percent respectively.

Challenges

- The country office continued to face delayed clearance of its food and non-food items consignments due to administrative challenges leading to increased storage costs.
- Also, production of Local Complementary Food by three out of four assisted Mother Support Groups has been delayed due to late installation of off-grid solar systems to power food processing machinery by the contracted vendor.

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.