In Numbers

392 mt of food assistance distributed

US$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US$ 3.5 m six months (June-November 2019) net funding requirements

37,996 people assisted
in May 2019

51% 49%

Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income and food-deficit country. Poverty levels are high, with 53 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (USD 1.90 per day). The country is recovering from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which ended in 2016. The economy is supported primarily by subsistence agriculture, which employs over 60 percent of the population and accounts for almost half of GDP. According to the 2015 Population and Housing Census, 49 percent of the economically active population are women, and slightly more women (52 percent) than men are engaged in agriculture. Gender inequalities have decreased but remain significant in some sectors; Sierra Leone ranks 150 out of 160 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. Women's literacy, standing at 44 percent remains much below men's literacy. Enrolment rate for primary education (year 1-6) decreased by 12 percent from 2015 to 2017. WFP has been present in the country since 1968.

Operational Updates

- WFP continued its support to the government Free Quality Education Initiative by providing school meals to 29,187 primary schoolchildren (49 percent men; 51 women) in 11 vulnerable chiefdoms in Pujehun and Kambia districts. Additionally, in contribution of the global WFP ‘School Design Competition’, WFP finalised the selection and submission of five student drawings to be judged by WFP headquarters.

- As part of the resilience programme, WFP provided food assistance for asset (FFA) creation to 1,144 beneficiaries in the districts of Kenema, Portloko, Kambia, Falaba, Koinadugu and Tonkolili, amounting to 113 mt.

- The country office hosted a mission from the WFP Regional Bureau to support the community based participatory planning component of the Japan Bilateral Project. A series of follow-up partner meetings and information gathering exercises were held to strengthen the programme.

- As part of the national Early Warning System and to strengthen national capacity in food security monitoring, WFP trained 20 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) staff in market price monitoring, using paperless data acquisition through the Open Data Kit Platform. The training involved MAF statisticians across the country, including senior statisticians at MAF headquarters.

- In May, WFP and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation reviewed the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment activities and developed a phase-out plan (towards December 2019) following the recommendation of the protracted relief and recovery operations (PRRO) evaluation. They prepared memorandum of understanding (MoUs) (national and districts) to carry out the phase-out while strengthening the government’s capacities.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/ Victoria Kamara
Caption: beneficiaries receiving cash in Pujehun from Ecobank WFP cash partner
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 m</td>
<td>4 m</td>
<td>3.5 m</td>
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Monitoring

A total of 81 implementation sites were monitored against 147 sites planned for May, resulting in a 55 percent monitoring site achievement.

Challenges:

WFP is facing critical funding deficit which has affected all operational activities including nutrition and livelihood activities. This resulted in shorter contract period with partners thus affecting food distributions to vulnerable populations. The most affected areas of intervention include WFP support in stunting prevention, targeted supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months, and support to people living with HIV/AIDS and TB clients. Only critical activities will be prioritized while resource mobilization efforts are being stepped up.

Partnerships:

In Sierra Leone, WFP collaborates with 20 partners including INGOs, NGOs UN Agencies and Government line ministries.

In May, WFP and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) signed six MOUs for the implementation of nutrition activities in complementing effort of the Government in addressing malnutrition.

Donors

In alphabetic order

Canada, ECOWAS, Ireland, Japan, Private Sector, Republic of Sierra Leone, UAE, United Kingdom, UN Funds and Multilateral