



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief July 2021



Operational Context

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 57 percent of its population, or 4.7 million people, faced with food insecurity, according to findings of the 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). The March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé projected over 1.7 million will be food insecure during the 2021 lean season (June-September). Food security drastically deteriorated from early 2020 as food prices spiked across West Africa, largely associated with the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

Sierra Leone has also been on high alert since the resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea in February 2021. While the emergency was declared as ended in July 2021 in Guinea, the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with its humanitarian and development partners, including WFP, has drafted a preparedness action plan.

WFP has been present in the country since 1968, helping to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition among vulnerable groups. The launch of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020 – 2024), in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2023), is an opportunity for WFP in Sierra Leone to build upon the lessons learned to achieve Zero Hunger.



Population: 8.1 million

2019 Human Development Index ranking: 182 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 30% of children between 6-23 months

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima
Caption: Food preparation demonstration in Moyamba district, southern Sierra Leone.

In Numbers*

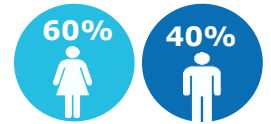
745 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 99,690 transferred in cash-based assistance

USD 11 m six months (August 2021–January 2022) net funding requirement

338,548 people assisted in July 2021

*Figures based on estimates



Operational Updates

- WFP assisted more than 8,500 individuals (including 35 percent women) from 1,700 farming households with cash-based transfers for constructing irrigation structures to enhance year-round cultivation of rice and vegetables in Barri, Makpele and Malen chiefdoms in the southern Pujehun district. The project aims at **mitigating local conflicts between communities, government, and private companies by fostering social cohesion through group farming, marketing** thus increasing their income and long-term food security. Farming households also acquired improved agronomic practices which will boost their productivity and production.
- To prevent a spike in the rates of moderate acute malnutrition during the lean season (June-September) in Sierra Leone, WFP provided more than 10,000 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with 198 mt of special blended foods and fortified vegetable oil in seven districts (including Moyamba, Falaba, Koinadugu, Kailahun, Western Area Urban, Bo and Kambia). The distribution was carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation's Directorate of Food and Nutrition. Apart from the nutrition gains, this assistance and partnership will prevent a deterioration in the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals while strengthening the capacity of 2,400 health workers.
- More than 300,000 primary schoolchildren (50 percent girls) in over 1,000 government-owned and government-assisted schools in nine districts received a total of 652 mt of rice, pulses, oil, and salt from WFP for their daily hot meal. WFP's intention with this assistance is to support the government Free Quality Education programme by reducing short-term hunger, thereby enabling children to learn, and encouraging enrolment and increased school attendance.
- WFP, in collaboration with district health management teams, trained 64 mother support group members and community health workers in Moyamba and Pujehun districts to strengthen their capacity in nutrition counselling and assessments at community level. This assistance will also enhance social behaviour change communication on mother, infant and young child feeding practices, thus improving women's nutritional wellbeing.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
43.2 m	8.4 m	11 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

1. Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households and support their recovery needs.

Strategic outcome 2: Primary school children in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

2. Provide nutritious school feeding to primary schoolchildren and support the implementation of an integrated school feeding programme.
3. 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:

4. 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:

5. 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:

6. Provide support to strengthen Government capacity in food security and nutrition - including in disaster management and response, school feeding and nutrition.

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:

7. Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners.

Capacity strengthening

- WFP supported the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and humanitarian partners to develop a Logistics Preparedness Action Plan. Priority activities that commenced in July in support flood preparedness include relief items, warehouse, and transport mapping, as well relief items pre-positioning.

Monitoring

- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Statistics Sierra Leone completed data collection for Food Security Monitoring System which keeps track of the food situation on a short-term basis. Data analysis is underway with results of the exercise expected in August.
- WFP contracted a specialist to conduct a case study on its HIV/AIDS support and social protection work in Sierra Leone, covering all geographical regions. The exercise will determine the agency's impact on people.

Challenges

- Delays in the processing of tax exemptions for WFP food containers resulted in extra port storage costs and demurrage. Management is working with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance to resolve the issue.
- With limited funding for its stunting prevention programme, WFP stepped up its community-based outreaches along with social behavioural change communication to prevent chronic malnutrition. Meanwhile, over 34,000 people consisting of pregnant and lactating women and girls and children aged 6-23 months are left unattended which might affect prevalence reduction.
- Delays in the arrival of pulses in country has affected the food basket for the lean season unconditional food assistance.

Partnerships

- WFP formed new partnerships with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and the NGOs Pure Heart Foundation, MADAM SL and the Ministry of Social Welfare for the implementation of unconditional food assistance.
- Partnerships were also established with the district offices of the Ministry of Social Welfare in Bombali, Karene, Port Loko and Moyamba districts to monitor unconditional food assistance.
- WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation through the district health management teams in Falaba, Kailahun, Koinadugu and Moyamba for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months during lean season.

Donors

Top donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020-2024 include Republic of Sierra Leone, China, Ireland, Japan, Private Sector, Russia, and the USA.