



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief November 2020



## Operational Context

Sierra Leone is a low income country marked by food-deficit, with 63 percent of Sierra Leoneans estimated to be food insecure (June 2020 Food Security Monitoring System survey). Food security has drastically deteriorated since January, demonstrating the considerable impact of COVID-19 on households that rely on fragile livelihoods. Poverty levels are high, with 53 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (with less than USD 1.25 per day), and the country is still socially and economically recovering from the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak which ended in 2016.

Since the country registered its first COVID-19 case in March 2020, cumulative confirmed positive cases stand at 2,416 as of the end of November. The pandemic led to the closure of schools and disruption of supply chains. Nutrition and livelihood activities have been affected by measures geared towards breaking the chain of transmission.

About half of the adult population is illiterate (44 percent among women) and the country ranks 150 out of 160 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. WFP has been present in the country since 1968, helping to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition challenges among vulnerable groups. The launch of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020 – 2024), in line with the new 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 million

2019 Human Development Index: 182 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 31% of children between 6-59 months

## In Numbers

1,694 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 cash-based transfers made

USD 7.6 m six months (December 2020–May 2021) net funding requirement

380,405 people assisted in November 2020



## Operational Updates

- Targeting process is ongoing by WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, District Councils and Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for the unconditional three-months emergency assistance in the form of in-kind food and cash transfers to over 51,000 beneficiaries across the most food insecure districts of Kenema, Kambia, Kono, Port Loko Tonkolili, Western Area (rural and urban areas). Distribution has been delayed due to operational challenges related to validation of community-driven targeting.
- WFP and the Office of National Security completed in-kind unconditional food assistance distribution to some 202 households (1,010 individuals) affected by windstorm in Mandu chiefdom (Kailahun district).
- WFP, Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and Ministry of Social Welfare are preparing to implement a second round of in-kind food assistance to vulnerable beneficiaries in bordering chiefdoms in Kailahun and Pujehun districts. This activity will also include targeting of 501 additional households (2,505 beneficiaries) in Penguia chiefdom.
- Training was conducted for over 50 lead farmers from 25 farmer based organisations (FBOs); community youth contractors and agricultural business centre members trained on post-harvest management in Peje chiefdom (Pujehun district) and in Gaura and Niawa chiefdoms (Kenema district).

Contact info: Francis Boima ([francis.boima@wfp.org](mailto:francis.boima@wfp.org))

Country Director: Steve Nsubuga

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone)

Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Francis Boima

Caption: Post harvest management training in Tonkolili district.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)		
2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
24.9 m	20.8 m	7.6 m

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected populations in Sierra Leone 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 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:**
2. Provide nutritious school feeding to primary school children 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

**Resourcing and Pipeline**

- USD 7.6 million are urgently required for the next six months (December 2020-May 2021) to implement activities at planned scale. Stunting prevention activity is the most impacted.
- A budget revision to WFP’s Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020-2024) in Sierra Leone is ongoing, to reflect increased needs emanating from the results of the recently concluded June 2020 food security monitoring system (FSMS) assessment.

**Monitoring**

- Outcome post distribution monitoring (PDM) assessments were conducted for livelihood and nutrition (stunting prevention activity) programmes. The PDM targeted 1,200 beneficiary households who received either in-kind or cash-based transfer support from WFP. The Ministry of Social Welfare staff and Sierra Leone Red Cross Society staff/volunteers were trained to administer a light proxy means testing (LPMT) tool that will be used for targeting the most vulnerable households within selected food insecure chiefdoms that will benefit from the upcoming unconditional cash transfer activity.

**Challenges**

- Food delivery to hard-to-reach areas which was already difficult in the dry season has been made worse by the rains. WFP’s fleet was sometimes used to ameliorate the situation.

**Partnerships**

- WFP signed addenda to agreements with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for the implementation of unconditional in-kind food and cash assistance to the most vulnerable households.
- WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Aids Secretariat for implementation of cash transfer to people living with HIV.

**Donors**

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone in 2020 include Ireland, Japan, Welthungerhilfe, Republic of Sierra Leone, Russia and the USA.