



# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

## August 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### Operational Context

Fifty seven percent of the population of Sierra Leone (4.7 million people) is faced with food insecurity, according to findings of the 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). The March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé, meanwhile, projected that over 1.7 million people would be in phase 3 and above and thus in need of immediate food assistance 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

### In Numbers\*

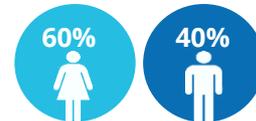
858.6 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 110,741 transferred in cash-based assistance

USD 3.3 m six months (September 2021–February 2022) net funding requirement

42,421 people assisted in August 2021

\*Figures based on estimates



### Operational Updates

- WFP is providing relief food (rice, pulses and vegetable oil) to over 100,000 individuals faced with severe food insecurity during the lean season. In August, some 24,980 individuals faced with severe food insecurity in Bombali District were served. The vulnerable people, who were identified through community-based targeting are mostly households headed by women, widows and chronically ill persons, as well as those with more than two children aged 6-59 months. This crisis response is intended to cushion vulnerable populations whose food insecurity was exacerbated by sharp price increases and the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Some 583 metric tons of relief food is being prepositioned from Freetown to the Makeni warehouse for distribution in Karene district. Moyamba and Port Loko districts will receive theirs in September. Lean season treatment of moderate acute malnutrition is also being provided Moyamba, Falaba, Koinadugu, Kailahun, Western Area Urban, Bo and Kambia with funds from Irish Aid and Japan.
- WFP assisted 18,740 individuals (35 percent women) from 3,748 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 Pujehun District and Lower and Upper Banta chiefdoms in Moyamba District. These activities were implemented under the Japanese Bilateral Project and the Peace Build Fund project, which aims at mitigating local conflicts between communities, government, and private companies by fostering social cohesion through group farming and marketing and post-harvest food loss reduction.
- Schools were closed in August as the 2020/21 school year ended in July and the new school year starts on 6 September.

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

Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Patricia Thornhill

Caption: Flood preparedness and response planning in Freetown

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
43.2 m	21 m	3.3 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 continued in August to support flood preparedness and response include warehouse and transport mapping, as well relief items pre-positioning.

## Monitoring

- Outcome Post Distribution Monitoring was conducted at the end of August for asset-creation activities in Kenema, Moyamba and Pujehun Districts. The exercise targeted households that received in-kind support in Kenema and cash-based transfers in Moyamba and Pujehun. Data collection ended in September and its analysis is on-going.
- WFP and the Kenema District health management team jointly assessed 12 peripheral health units implementing the moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme in Kenema District. Findings from the exercise showed a need to update reporting tools.

## Challenges

- Amidst a rapid deterioration in food insecurity, children in the hardest hit districts in Sierra Leone risk not receiving any school meals when the new school year starts in September 2021. WFP has a shortfall of USD 4 million for the 2021-2022 academic year where it will feed 237,000 schoolchildren and implement community capacity strengthening exercises.
- Poor roads exacerbated by heavy rains continue to affect timely food deliveries especially in the south and east of the country.

## Partnerships

- WFP collaborated with the NGO Pure Heart and the Ministry of Social Welfare, which oversaw a community driven exercise where the most food insecure people were identified for the lean season relief food assistance in Bombali District. The collaboration ensured alignment with the agreed vulnerability criteria and monitoring of the food distribution exercise.
- WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation through the district health management teams in Falaba, Kailahun, Koinadugu and Moyamba Districts 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.