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 151 out of 159 countries assessed on the Gender Inequality Index. About 51 percent of adult men and women are literate. Enrolment rate for primary education (year 1-6) stands at 72 percent, while completion with pass rate in all core subjects at the end of junior secondary school (year 7-9) was 47 percent in 2011. Attendance and enrolment of children beyond primary school remains low. WFP has been present in the country since 1968.

In Numbers

- **203.1 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **US$ 0** cash based transfers made
- **US$ 7,914,883** six months (May-Oct 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

15,981 people assisted in June 2018

Operational Updates

- In preparation to support the government’s policy to re-introduce school meals in all public assisted primary schools, WFP has assessed 720 schools in 50 chiefdoms in Bonthe, Kailahun, Kono, Pujehun, Tonkolili and Kambia districts to determine their readiness for the implementation of the school meals programme.

- In collaboration with the district health management team, WFP conducted a joint monitoring in Bombali district of the nutrition support to TB clients programme. The monitoring revealed the high turnover of government peripheral health unit staff, thus affecting continuity of project implementation.

- A delegation from ECOWAS visited the 2017 mudslide and flood victims in Freetown to get first-hand account of their ordeal and the support they received from WFP and other humanitarian actors. They also visited some government agencies including the Office of National Security which coordinated the emergency response.

- WFP completed the second round of food assistance for assets (FFA) distribution to vulnerable smallholder farmers in Pujehun district engaged in rehabilitation of inland valley swamps. FFA focuses on assets and their impact on people and communities rather than on conditionality (i.e. the labour) placed on assisted people, so that food assistance is not provided as a free hand-out.

Main Photo

Credit: Francis Boima
Caption: School meals assessment in Kailahun district.

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WFP Country Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Confirmed Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.8 m</td>
<td>8.8 m</td>
<td>7.9 m</td>
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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

- **Focus area**: Crisis Response
  - **Strategic Outcome 1**: Crisis-affected population in targeted areas have met their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.
  - **Focus area**: Crisis Response
  - **Strategic Result 1**: Everyone has access to food
  - **Scope**:
    - **Strategic Outcome 2**: Chronically food-insecure populations in targeted areas in Sierra Leone have met their basic food and nutrition needs all-year round.
    - **Focus area**: Resilience Building
    - **Strategic Result 2**: No one suffers from malnutrition
    - **Scope**:
      - **Strategic Outcome 3**: Children and pregnant and lactating women in districts with the highest rates of stunting and acute malnutrition as well as malnourished people living with HIV/TB nationwide will have improved nutritional status by 2020.
      - **Focus area**: Root causes
      - **Strategic Result 3**: Smallholder productivity and incomes
      - **Scope**:
        - **Strategic Outcome 4**: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have improved livelihoods and resilience throughout the year.
        - **Focus area**: Resilience Building
        - **Strategic Result 4**: Countries strengthen capacities
        - **Scope**:
          - **Strategic Outcome 5**: Capacities of national institutions are strengthened to address chronic food insecurity and improve rapid response capacities by 2019.
          - **Focus area**: Resilience Building
          - **Strategic Result 5**: Countries strengthen capacities
          - **Scope**:

**WFP Country Activities**

**SO 1**

1. Provide food assistance to vulnerable households affected by disasters or sudden onset emergencies.
2. Provide cash-based transfers to chronically food-insecure populations.
3. Deliver SBCC in combination with the provision of nutritious foods to targeted PLW and children age 6-23 months, and strengthen public-private partnerships in order to prevent stunting.

**SO 2**

4. Provide MAM treatment, through targeted supplementary feeding and SBCC for children aged 6-59 months and for PLW.
5. Provide nutrition assessment counselling and support for malnourished people living with HIV/TB.
6. Provide food assistance for assets (in-kind or cash transfer) including land rehabilitation and smallholder farmers and productive farming cooperatives.
7. Provide training to farmer based organizations and strengthen market access for smallholder farmers.

**SO 5**

- Provide support to the Government to complete the institutional capacity assessment for national school feeding activities (SABER) and to integrate key findings into national HGSF policies and systems.
- Provide technical assistance to national disaster management authority and MAFFS in priority areas.

**Challenges**

- The country office is facing critical funding shortfalls of 45 percent which has impacted all operational activities. The most affected 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 and TB clients. Only critical activities will be prioritized while resource mobilization efforts are being stepped up.
- Due to delay in submission of reports by partners, there are challenges in reconciling food distribution data in Logistics Execution Support System and COMET, the tool for programme design, implementation, monitoring and performance management.

**Partnerships:**

- A meeting was held between WFP and JICA to discuss prospective collaboration. JICA is specialized in the provision of technical support to farmers engaged in rice production whereas WFP has comparative advantage in FFA creation support to construct water control structures for year-round rice production. A memorandum of understanding will be drafted for review by management to strengthen operational collaboration.

**Donors**

Japan, Republic of Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, European Commission, Multilateral Canada, United Arab Emirates, South Africa