



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief January 2022



Operational Context

Fifty seven percent of the population of Sierra Leone (4.7 million people) are food insecure, according to findings of the 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), with the level of severe food insecurity higher among female-headed households (13 percent) compared to male-headed ones (11 percent).

Food security has drastically deteriorated due to rising food prices which spiked across West Africa in early 2020, largely associated with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

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

The Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020-2024) aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2023) and an opportunity for WFP in Sierra Leone to build upon lessons learned over several decades operating in country to achieve Zero Hunger.



Population: **8.1 million**

2020 Human Development Index ranking: **182 out of 189**

Income level: **low income**

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

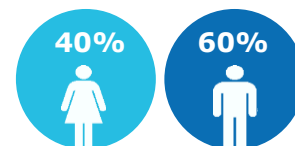
In Numbers

209 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 325,508 cash-based transfers made

USD 1.8 m six-month (January-June 2022) net funding requirements

282,520 people assisted



Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- A total of 12,000 people identified as most food insecure in the Pujehun district received WFP cash-based transfers (CBTs) through mobile money, to meet their immediate food needs for a month. This was the first round of CBT assistance in the district, supporting households identified through community led targeting exercises. These included households headed by older persons, chronically ill or windowed people, and those with children aged 6-59 months.

Root Causes

- A landscape analysis was conducted by a WFP team and regional food technologist to explore the possibility of supporting food fortification in Sierra Leone, for improved nutrition outcomes. The team met with representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Health and Sanitation, private sector, UNICEF, Scale Up Nutrition Secretariat and Standard Bureau, to assess existing structures and nutrition projects involved in local food fortification in Kambia and Moyamba districts. Focus group discussions were also held with mother support groups to better understand the local challenges and consider solutions with the community.

Resilience Building

- WFP began piloting home-grown school feeding in 17 schools in Kambia and Pujehun districts with local smallholders supplying 31.86 metric tons of rice to the schools. Overall, in January, WFP assisted 279,185 primary school children (with equal gender) in 931 schools in five districts through its school feeding programme.
- WFP donated rice millers, threshers, and tillers (14 pieces) to farmer-based groups in Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun and Koinadugu districts to boost their agricultural capacity as part of its efforts to address gaps in the food system.

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Photo credit: © WFP/Lydia Wamala

Photo caption: School feeding programme in Kambia district.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
10.5 m	6.2 m	1.8 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:

- 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:

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

- 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:

- 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:

Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organizations and women's groups

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:

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

Monitoring, Assessments, Research

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture trained 100 enumerators and supervisors for a countrywide data collection exercise that will inform the food security monitoring system (FSMS) analysis due in February 2022. The data collection will cover 3,600 households to determine post-harvest food security levels in the country.

Partnerships

- WFP has agreed to form a partnership with the non-governmental organization Talking Drums Studio, for the implementation of its cross-border peacebuilding project alongside the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sierra Leone and Guinea. One key role for the NGO will be to support the validation, updating, and dissemination of the cattle settlement policy at national and district/prefecture levels. This is important to the programme because the policy will form the basis for a new peace-building framework for the cattle herders and crop farmers in the border-lying areas.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP [2020-2024]: the Government of Sierra Leone, China, European Union, Ireland, Japan, Russian Federation, United States of America, multilateral and private donors and the World Bank. Additional support has been provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.