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Agenda Item 9
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Reports of the Executive Director on
Operational Matters
For information

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Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Approved by the Executive Director (1 July–31 December 2016) – Sierra Leone 200938

Rebuilding food and nutrition security and strengthening disaster management capabilities in Sierra Leone

Number of beneficiaries	819,109
Duration of project	1 June 2016–31 December 2017
Gender marker code*	2A
WFP food tonnage	17,464 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Food and related costs	14,861,952
Cash-based transfers and related costs	5,643,530
Capacity development and augmentation	3,938,534
Total cost to WFP	32,267,203

* <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/gm-overview-en.pdf>.

Abstract

1. Sierra Leone is emerging from an Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak that claimed the lives of 3,955 people and left more than 13,000 survivors and orphans. Ebola crippled the economy, increased food insecurity and reversed upward trends in health and nutrition indicators.
2. In 2014, stunting levels in children under 5 exceeded 30 percent in at least seven districts, and 4.7 percent of children were wasted. The EVD outbreak further weakened Sierra Leone's health system. Usage of non-Ebola related health services declined, resulting in increased maternal and child mortality, and poor adherence to essential therapies. Prevalence of teenage pregnancies peaked during the outbreak.

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3. The 2015 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis indicates half the population is food insecure, with levels of food insecurity exceeding 60 percent in many districts. In addition to overcoming the consequences of EVD, Sierra Leone faces long-term challenges associated with damage to natural resources caused by the effects of climate change.
4. This protracted relief and recovery operation reinforces three priorities of the Government's "building back better" Ebola recovery strategy:
 - restore and rebuild livelihoods devastated by EVD, focusing on the most food-insecure populations and Ebola survivors;
 - enhance utilization of health and nutrition services weakened by the Ebola outbreak; and
 - strengthen national capabilities to prepare for and respond to future emergencies, including Ebola flare-ups and localized flooding.
5. This operation will support government efforts to restore livelihoods and incomes by providing safety nets in areas with high food insecurity. WFP will leverage experience working with farmers' organizations under the Purchase for Progress pilot to strengthen agricultural value chains and access to markets for smallholder farmers. In partnership with the Government, Rome-based agencies, and key stakeholders, WFP will support activities that improve agriculture practices and climate change adaptation techniques.
6. The Government has partnered with WFP, other United Nations agencies, and stakeholders to enhance availability of and access to quality health care services that address multiple causes of malnutrition. This includes scaling-up nutrition-sensitive public health actions against EVD and other threats, and reinforcing adherence to HIV and TB treatment at both individual and household levels. Working through the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, WFP aims to prevent chronic malnutrition among children under 2, while integrating nutrition-sensitive programming into activities supporting improved livelihoods and smallholder agriculture.
7. In coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, WFP will strengthen national capabilities to prepare for and respond to emergencies by providing technical assistance to disaster management authorities.
8. The operation will provide a bridge for development of a new operational portfolio aligned with the Government's Agenda for Prosperity and the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework that is expected to start in 2018.