



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

**Rapid Assessment of Livelihoods Status and Food Security Situation
In the Southern and Eastern Provinces of Sierra Leone
and
Recommendations for a
Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation**

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1 April 2007

Rapid Assessment of Livelihoods Status and Food Security Situation in the Southern and Eastern Provinces of Sierra Leone and Recommendations for a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation

Purpose of the Mission

1. This mission took place after review of a draft project document, owing to the fact that existing assessment information had not been drawn together into a document which could fully justify the project, and be made publicly available.
2. The purpose of the mission, then, was to assemble and synthesize key assessment information with regard to a proposed recovery project in eastern and southern Sierra Leone, to review the profile of the proposed project, and to review the appropriateness of the size of the proposed intervention.
3. Some of the key issues to be addressed are:
 - The food security situation in the concerned areas
 - The role, appropriateness and comparative advantage of food aid
 - The nature and justification of the interventions
 - The size of the recovery project

Organisation of the Report

4. The document is organised in three parts:

Review of Secondary Sources. This was prepared by Heidi Haugen, from the VAM unit in ODD, the WFP Regional Bureau for West Africa in Dakar. This report is in annex 1. Comments on the report are presented as Part 1 of this document.

5. Part 2, Summary of Assessment Information from the Country Office, has been prepared by Mr. Lansana Wonneh, in charge of food security in WFP Sierra Leone.

6. Part 3, Review by Senior Regional Programme Advisor, ODD. This input has been prepared on the basis of review of available documentation, and a visit to 3 districts in east and southern Sierra Leone. Available assessment information has been analysed, various concerns addressed, and a recovery strategy recommended. During the field work at the village level, the mission focussed on understanding the priority needs of the concerned population. In terms of the programming modalities, the mission focussed primarily on the central area of intervention: FFW for the rehabilitation of livelihoods, which constitutes 43% of the tonnage in the draft project document, and is conceptually the centrepiece of the intervention. The focus of the field work in second place was school feeding (18% of the tonnage), and then to a lesser extent on other programmes. All proposed programmes were reviewed with key informants at district level.

7. Part 3 is divided into 3 sections addressing:

- A. Livelihoods of Plantation Villages and their Recovery
- B. Complementary Interventions
- C. Other Emergency/Recovery Interventions

Annex 1 contains recommended programming levels for the PRRO.

Annex 2 contains a review of secondary sources.

Part 1: Review of Secondary Sources and Analysis

8. A separate report has been prepared by Ms Heidi Haugen of VAM, ODD reviewing information available from secondary sources. This report is in Annex 2.

9. During a review of the information while in country and while in the provinces, a few elements have come to light with regard to interpretation of this statistical information:

- The statistical system in post-war Sierra Leone is still being rebuilt and as such, the quality of statistics is not always as good as it was before the war.
- The last population was carried out in 2004. Particularly in the east and south where post-war population returns started in 2002, there have been significant increases in the population since that time.
- The last agricultural survey was carried out in the 1980s. The Ministry of Agriculture's statistical unit has relied on the best available statistics to estimate and project production.

11. A key issue was identified, and then investigated during the mission of the ODD Senior Regional Programme Advisor: the apparent rice self-sufficiency in Pujehun district in the south and in Kailahun district in the east. During the investigation of this issue, it was discovered that:

- The population in the two concerned districts devoted a minority of their productive land and efforts to rice production.
- On 29 March 2007, approximately 15 mt of imported rice (from India, Thailand) etc. was on sale on the local market in Pujehun, the capital of Pujehun district. At the same time, some 15 kg of local rice was on sale in the same market. It should be noted that the local population prefers the local rice over imported rice. Imported rice was also found on the market in Kailahun town.
- Through most of Pujehun and Kailuhun districts, most land is allocated to production of cash crops, while swamp areas and some highlands are used for rice cultivation. Numerous focus group discussions with villages involved in cash crop production (which is the great majority of people in these districts) indicated that harvested rice was not sold but rather consumed by the producer; and that the average "hunger period" during which local rice was no longer available is currently 6 months per year. Some 10 – 20% of the more prosperous people in the villages have shorter or no hunger period due either to various factors leading to greater success in farming, or due to remittances from family members which are for the most part concentrated during this hunger season.
- District level Ministry of Agriculture officials, as well as teachers, district commissioners, chiefs and paramount chiefs, and traders confirmed that the districts are not rice self-sufficient, and that rice was in fact imported during the whole of the year.

13. In its efforts to improve agricultural statistics, the Ministry is engaged in a sentinel-sites monitoring project. A draft report "Sierra Leone: Food Security Up-date" (not yet published) states that in 2006, Kailahun district was 71% rice self-sufficient, while Pujehun was 65% rice self-sufficient. This is based on estimated per capita consumption of 104 kg, which translates into 997 kcal per day, which is not high for these districts with very limited cassava production. Other than the Freetown area, the districts rated as

having the lowest degree of rice self-sufficiency are: Kenema, Bo, Kono, Pujehun and Kailahun – all of them between 65 and 71%. These are in fact the five areas targeted by this project for recovery activities.

14. With regard to the VAM study results on food security, the districts concerned by this project had relatively good results. The 2005 field work was in fact done in March 2005 and reviewed food consumption during the preceding week. It did not take into account seasonality. The rice stocks in the plantation areas, according to focus group discussions with people living on the plantations, on average last to March-April, at which point income from cash crops is used to purchase additional rice for some time, until cash resources run out. The lean season hunger period in these areas had not yet started when the VAM study field work was done.

The mission concluded that the districts concerned are in fact cereals deficit and, owing to the current state of their plantations, are food insecure. There is, therefore, no contraindication for WFP programming in these districts. (The suitability of food is elaborated in paragraph 57.)

15. It should be noted that the choice of districts for the recovery intervention does not align with the list of most vulnerable districts in Sierra Leone as per the 2005 national VAM study. The Country Programme in fact has attempted to target the most vulnerable districts, whereas the present project focuses on recovery of livelihoods in districts in the east and southern provinces where tree plantations are a major element of livelihood patterns. This targeting is based partially on the comparative advantage of food aid in supporting the recovery of this particular population, and partially on the desirability and viability of this recovery after the population of the concerned districts suffered the shock of displacement during the Sierra Leone civil war, followed by the arrival in their midst of a wave of Liberian refugees. The project is about the restoration of the population to a condition of self-sufficiency, as they were before the war. All of these elements are further elaborated in the following pages.

Part 2:**Summary of Assessment Information from the Country Office**

16. In 2006, the CO carried Rapid Assessments in the districts of Kenema, Kailahun and Pujehun

Purpose of the Assessment:

17. The objectives of the assessments were:

- To understand the causes and level of food insecurity in the mainly plantation growing and refugees hosting districts of Sierra Leone and review the current status of the local economy and livelihoods of the population
- To obtain valid information that will guide the formulation of PRRO in support of communities in the districts described above.

Overview of Methodology:

18. The methodology in the community assessment used the rapid rural appraisal technique involving key informants and focus group interviews conducted during one-day visits to each community. The assessments were conducted partly in August 2006 and December 2006, mainly in the southeastern region covering 16 communities across the districts of Kenema, Kailahun, and Pujehun. The team conducted three sets of interviews in each community during one day visits. A key informant interview was conducted usually with 2-3 persons, and focus group discussions with 8-12 persons of separate male and female groups. In addition meetings were also held with district authorities and NGOs in the three districts, and with central government line ministries. The December 2006 assessment was organized as part of the PRRO formulation exercise, and included a team member from the ODD Regional Bureau.

Key Findings:**Population:**

19. The populations in the three districts have similar livelihoods, land ownership, farming systems, sources of income and labour opportunities, and coping strategies.

Livelihoods

20. **Agricultural Production:** Traditionally, smallholder plantations of cocoa, coffee and oil palm have been and still remain the mainstay of the local economy. In Kailahun district, according to key informants in the sample, nearly all (>90%) of the indigenous households in their communities had established plantations of cocoa and coffee. For the sampled communities in Pujehun and Kenema districts, it was reported that more than 60% of the households had plantations of cocoa, coffee and oil palm, with an estimated average farm size of about 1.5-2.5 hectares.

21. Focus group discussions in the three districts revealed that households in the sampled communities also grow a variety of food crops, with rice (the staple food) indicated as the most

important food crop, followed by cassava, and sweet potatoes. Some households also keep a few poultry, goats and sheep for domestic production and source of income.

22. Although productivity of the smallholder cocoa and coffee plantations was said to have declined drastically as compared to the pre-war period, focus group interviews indicated sale of cocoa, coffee and palm oil as the primary source of household income in all the sampled villages. The incomes currently derived from this source were reported to have declined by about 75% compared to the pre-war level in real terms.

23. Non-agricultural and off-farm income: The community assessment attempted to document non-agricultural and off-farm income sources in the communities visited. In the context of limited agricultural income and low levels of food production non-agricultural and off-farm income sources can have important role in strengthening the economic viability and food security of rural households. The non-agricultural and off-farm income activities mentioned in the group interviews included food for work, sale of firewood and charcoal, agricultural wage labour, handicrafts, petty trading, alcohol brewing, skilled work (carpentry, tailoring, etc), and migrant labour.

24. Participants in the focus group discussions reported, however, that the availability of non-agricultural and off-farm income sources was limited and varied according to how far away the village is located from the main towns. Also, it was revealed that the income which households derive from the various sources was not significant. Most of the group interviews indicated that such income sources did not have much of a role in enhancing the food security of households. It was estimated that non-agriculture/off-farm income contributes about 20-35% of household income. In general, non-farm/off-farm income sources were believed to be less reliable and limited sources of food supply and cash income as compared to agriculture. In the refugee hosting areas it was pointed out that the local populations have to compete with refugees who are also dependent on the same livelihood activities.

Household Food Security

25. Household Food Production: The assessments revealed that households in the sample communities also grow a variety of food crops in addition to plantation agriculture. Rice, (the staple food) grown mostly on the uplands, was indicated as the most important of these crops; other food crops indicated included cassava, sweet potatoes, yam, vegetables, and legumes. The farmers practice an antiquated form of agriculture, where hand cultivation with traditional tools, is extensively used and crop production is entirely based on rainfed conditions. This coupled with the use of unimproved agricultural inputs, infertile and erosion prone soils leads to consistently poor annual production of food especially rice.

26. According to the focus group interviews, excessive and earlier than normal rainfall negatively affected the production of food crops in 2006. Due to very early rains, the quality of burning was poor on significant number (30-50%) of upland rice farms. In some cases farmers abandoned such farms in fear of the heavy land clearing, and weeding tasks associated with them. The focus

groups also reported that substantial areas of cropped lands were lost to wild animals, birds, weeds and intermittent flooding. All the communities interviewed across the three districts reported that total production of rice by community members was not sufficient to meet the needs of the population throughout the year.

27. Data collected by the Ministry of Agriculture across sentinel sites in the three districts confirmed that both rice yields and farm sizes were generally low across the three districts. As explained by the district agriculture authorities, the rains began early in 2006, and were heavier than the previous year. The distribution was also less favourable than the preceding years with significant inconvenient disruption of the burning, planting and weeding practices.

Farm sizes under rice by district & Yields per hectare

District	Farm Sizes (Hectare)				Yield/ha (Mt).
	Less 0.5 ha.	0.5 < 1.0 ha.	1.0 ha & above	Total	
Kailahun	28	20	10	58	0.7 to 1.60
Kenema	32	24	4	60	0.5 to 1.35
Pujehun	38	16	8	62	0.7 to 1.50
Total	98	60	22	180	0.5 to 1.60

Compiled from data collected from sentinel sites : MAFS-2006

28. Owing to poor roads, and lack of effective demand among the population, most of the sampled communities (60%) reported unavailability of rice in the local market during the rainy season.

29. Household Access to Food: Access to food across the three districts is mainly through household production, and purchases from the market. Depending on sufficiency of own production of rice to meet the yearly household consumption needs in 2006, community members in the focus group discussions were asked to divide households into three categories:(i) households with sufficient production of rice to meet their consumption needs throughout the year- (self-sufficient); (ii) households with sufficient production of rice to meet the consumption needs only for the dry¹ season, but not enough for the rainy² season (low self-sufficiency) (iii) households having insufficient rice to meet their consumption needs in both dry and wet seasons (critically low self-sufficiency).

30. According to the focus groups, 10-15 % of households in the sampled communities fall into the “rice self-sufficient category”; 35-40% into the “low rice self-sufficiency category”, while the vast majority (45-55%) of households, were indicated to fall into the “critically low rice self-sufficiency category”. The last category was reported to consist of female-headed households, including war widows (50-60%), households headed by elderly or ill persons (20-30%), and households headed by youths (15-25%).

¹ November to April, during and immediately after harvesting

² May to September, during planting, weeding and immediately before harvesting

Estimated Proportion of Households in different rice self-sufficiency category

Self-sufficiency Category	Kailahun district	Kenem district	Pujehun district
High Self-sufficiency	15	15	10
Medium Self-sufficiency	35	40	35
Low Self-sufficiency	50	45	55
Total	100	100	100

Estimated through use of propotional piling technique

31. The focus groups also reported that purchasing power varied among households in the different categories. In order to meet the remaining rice needs for the year, it was estimated that 40-60% of the households in the “medium self-sufficiency category” were able to purchase additional rice during the rainy season, whereas, only 5-10% of households in the low self-sufficiency could afford additional rice through purchase. The remaining 90-95% of households in the “low rice self-sufficiency category” adopted other less favourable coping mechanisms.

32. Other factors that hinder access to food in the sampled communities were said to included: poor road infrastructure, unavailability of vehicles especially in the rainy season, isolation and distances between villages and towns, and high prices of rice and other imported food commodities.

Coping Strategies:

33. In general terms, survival strategies tend to be the same for nearly all of the communities interviewed. The most commonly mentioned coping practices across all the communities interviewed consisted of: progressive reduction in food consumption levels, consumption of wild crops, migration to urban areas for work, sales of wood or charcoal, sale of assets including sale of corrugated³ iron dismantled from dwelling houses.

35. Other coping strategies frequently mentioned included, casual labour (agricultural employment), borrowing money from traders at high (100-200%) interest rates, with repayment to be made in produce- cocoa, coffee and palm oil. While gifts and rice loans, remittances from relatives in the cities/abroad were indicated in some communities, this coping mechanisms came much less frequently thus indicating that opportunities through traditional safety nets have become too limited. Most of the group interviews, however, indicated that the current coping strategies were less effective and could not play a significant role in enhancing the food security of households. In the communities that are hosting refugees, these coping mechanisms have been eroded further due to pressure from the refugees, who are also dependent on the limited community resources.

Causes of Food Insecurity in the Region:

36. Seasonality: From the interviews it was revealed that both structural and transitory food insecurity were common phenomena in the study areas. Seasonal food shortages occurred in all the sampled communities, starting as early as May and extending to August as these communities primarily rely on rainfall for cultivation of food crops, mostly on the dryland/upland.

37. According to the focus groups large number of families in their communities experienced food shortages on average for about 5-6 months in Pujehun district, and 4-5 months in both Kailahun and Kenema districts during the year. Some of the communities interviewed in the flood prone areas of Pujehun district revealed that seasonal food shortages could sometimes be as long as 6 to 8 months. Seasonality is therefore a wide spread and serious problem in the three districts, although there could be variation within and across the districts.

38. Markets and Prices: Markets are located in the few towns, mostly Chiefdom or District centers. The most common modes of transportation in the villages are by walking, and motorbikes. Travel time by foot from the most remote villages to market centres varies from three to twelve hours. Problems on the production side were made worst by adverse market and road conditions in the communities. For the last two rainy seasons, it was reported that prices of imported rice in rural markets, across the three districts, soared to some very high levels, beyond the reach of most farmers.

39. Key informants in all of the communities reported that less rice was available in the communities in 2006, as compared to the previous two years. Part of the reason was that rice traders stopped coming to some of the more distant markets because of very bad road conditions during the rainy season, but also due to lack of effective demand for imported rice mostly among the poor households. According to the women's focus group interviews, prices of imported rice, salt, fish, sugar, magi, onions and vegetable oil have been rising continuously.

40. Overall, focus group interviews in all sampled villages consider the declining income from the cocoa and coffee plantations due to lack of capacity to rehabilitate them as the principal cause of their vulnerability to food insecurity. According to the communities, these plantations had in the past provided them substantial income to buy sufficient food from the market during periods of cereal shortages. Other causes of food insecurity as stated by the male and female groups included the following: low soil fertility, crop damage due to pests, poor roads, flooding, poor burning of upland rice farms, increase in prices of rice in the rainy season, low yields of rice and burden of hosting refugees.

Perceived causes of food insecurity in sampled communities

Perceived Causes	Male Groups		Female Group	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Unrehabilitated Plantations	16	100.0	16	100.0
Infertility of Upland Soils	9	56.3	13	81.3
Crop damage by pest	14	87.5	16	100.0
Flooding	3	18.8	5	31.3
Poor burning of upland farms	10	62.5	6	37.5
High weed infestations	4	25.0	12	75.0
Poor roads conditions	14	87.5	16	100
Increase in prices of rice	9	56.3	13	81.25
Low rice yields	10	62.5	15	93.8
Burden of hosting refugees	3	18.8	3	18.8

N= 16 Male Groups N=16 Female groups

Opinions regarding households' recovery needs:

41. As would be expected, the need to support rehabilitation of over-grown cocoa and coffee plantations was the most important priority identified by both male and female groups in the majority of the communities interviewed. The other important priorities that were frequently mentioned by both male and female groups included rehabilitation of feeder roads to improve accessibility to markets and rehabilitation of inland valley swamps to improve rice production levels. The need to improve access to health care services, grain mills, market infrastructure, schools, and safe drinking water as well as improved farm inputs were the other important priorities identified by the various community respondents.

42. Responses of the Local Government Authorities and NGOs: When the Local Government Authorities and NGOs in the three districts were asked to make suggestions on how to reduce food insecurity and accelerate post-war recovery in the communities, their responses parallel the priorities identified by community members. In their opinion, interventions that would directly address food insecurity include: rehabilitation of cocoa and coffee plantations, construction of smallholder irrigation schemes for inland swamp rice cultivation, soil and water conservation activities, expansion of food-for-work and school feeding programmes, rehabilitation of feeder roads and market infrastructures. Other related food security or productivity suggestions that were frequently mentioned included credit schemes for purchase of fertilizer, and seeds of early maturing rice varieties (NERICA). Suggestions to improvement of health services including expansion of nutrition support to the health centres were also a major priority of the three district councils visited. The suggestions expressed by community members therefore primarily stressed interventions that would revive the local economy, and strengthen livelihoods and food security.

Section 3A: Livelihoods of Plantation Villages and their Recovery

Historical Context: Shocks to the Sierra Leone Population in the East and South

44. The eastern and southern areas of Sierra Leone include the districts which were the first to be affected by population displacements associated with the war, and they were also the last to receive an organised return of the population. These areas became virtually emptied of their populations in the mid-1990s, and organised return in some areas started as recently as 2002 and 2003. Returning refugees from Guinea Conakry and Liberia, and returning IDPs received some 4 months of food rations. Schools, other infrastructure, and in some case houses were rebuilt. In 2003, FAO and WFP organised distribution of seeds along with a seed protection ration. Many organisations provided assistance in various forms. Being at the tail end of the return/reintegration process, the returnees of 2003 were not favoured by the fatigue of donors and humanitarian workers who had worked through a long Sierra Leone saga.

45. In 2003 and 2004, due to a resurgence of conflict in Liberia there was a large wave of Liberian refugees into eastern and southern Sierra Leone. In some areas, Liberian refugees far outnumbered the local population. While the effective reinstallation and recovery of the returnee population was still at its early stages, the attention and resources of some humanitarian organisations was redirected to this new emergency. At the same time, newly arriving refugees entered into competition with the returnees over local resources (land, water, wood, charcoal, wild food, etc.). While the refugees' level of wellbeing (as reflected in low malnutrition rates) eventually came to far exceed that of the local population, in areas of refugee concentration, the local people nevertheless found that their environment was being depleted of resources which they normally used as coping mechanisms for supplementing their livelihoods. Refugees, particularly those from rural areas, gradually integrated with the local population, gaining access to land, and intermarrying. From July 2007, those who have opted not to repatriate to Liberia will cease receiving support as refugees. It should be noted that for the duration of their stay in Sierra Leone, Liberian refugees had and used freedom of movement; this means that their impact on the environment and on the local population's coping mechanisms were most concentrated at, and emanated from the location of the refugee camps.

Conditions of the population / The Recovery Problem

46. Reports on discussions with key informants and with the population at the local level have led to the following understanding of their situation. This was further confirmed by field work undertaken by the present mission.

47. In the east and south, returnees moved back to their smallholder tree plantations. These plantations have existed for decades, though the oldest people in the population can still remember colonial officials encouraging their families to plan cocoa and coffee as cash crops. These tree plantations are a substantial asset for the population which have resulted in the rural population of these districts prospering. Upon their return from exile, however, the population found their plantations to be completely overgrown and unproductive. The lowland swamps were also overgrown. Both required a massive amount of rehabilitation work. The 4-month ration

which they had received was insufficient to support them for a sufficient period to enable them to rehabilitate these productive assets.

48. In the pre-war livelihood pattern of the population in the concerned villages, cocoa, coffee and palm oil tree crops had provided the largest portion of income. This was supplemented by rice production in both low lying swamps and dry land rice production. Very little of the rice was sold: rice was seen as a subsistence, not a cash, crop. The produced rice was supplemented by additional rice purchased with income from cash crops. Other inputs for rice production were also purchased with income from cash crops.

49. Upon their return, the local population attempted to re-establish their means of income. However, heavy work was needed to rehabilitate plantations: approximately 200 mandays per hectare. This work consisted of clearing out the brush under the trees, cutting down other large vegetation that had grown, and pruning the branches to allow good aeration. Without rehabilitation, production would remain very low in quantity, and of poor quality.

50. As of March 2007, the status of rehabilitation of their livelihoods is estimated consistently by a number of focus groups as being somewhat less than 50%. Some of the most able households have succeeded in rehabilitating 50% of their plantations, these being households with ample able-bodied male members who have been able to undertake the heavy work, and who have had access to sufficient resources to keep themselves fed while undertaking this work. On the average, however, small plantation owners estimate that they have rehabilitated one third to less than one half of their plantations. The notable exception to this is households without sufficient manpower, particularly plantations owned by widows, the elderly, youth-headed families, people who are ill or handicapped, etc; in many of these cases 0% of the plantation has been rehabilitated.

51. Technical advice on coffee and cocoa production indicates that once rehabilitation has taken place, the trees will increase towards full production after 3 years. There is therefore a delay in full increase in income after rehabilitation of the plantation.

52. In participatory focus group discussions conducted during the mission's field visits, communities consistently indicate that 50-60% of their households are currently actively cultivating approximately 1 acre of rice. 25-35% are cultivating approximately 3 acres, and 10-20% are cultivating about 5 acres. (1 hectare = 2.47 acres.) The population of all villages with which this was discussed identified clearly that those cultivating 1 acre were highly food insecure.

53. In the absence of sufficient income from cash crops, farmers are unable to purchase the items that they normally use for pest control, and thus their rice yield per acre is low. As gun ownership is now forbidden in the districts, some large animals such as bush cows are damaging the rice crop, and monkeys intrude on both the rice and the tree crops.

The problem faced by the villages in East and South provinces engaged in tree plantations is primarily one of sufficient production and income for families to be able to feed themselves. One of the keys to resolving the problem is rehabilitating assets that degraded during the population's absence in war time. The most important of these assets is their tree plantations.

54. Lutheran World Federation has systematically identified some of the most vulnerable villages. They indicate that the rice crop in these villages is consumed during the harvest period and for one to two months afterwards, leaving people with an 8-9 month hunger season. In the more typical villages visited by this mission, the hunger season was identified by the population as lasting from April to October, a period of 6 months. When this hunger season starts, the population typically draws on some of the following few resources:

- They can work on other people's farms, being fed in return for their work (traditional practice). This is not very common at the present time, as few people have enough food to feed a work crew.
- If such programmes exist in their area, they can participate in food-for-work programmes, or other such programmes that provide an income.
- They can purchase food with income from their cash crops (cocoa, coffee, palm oil).
- They can gather wild foods, particularly wild yams, or in extremis some palm fruits. Such a diet does not facilitate the undertaking of hard physical labour, and thus result in slowing down rehabilitation work.
- In case a school canteen exists, parents send their child to eat there. If there is no canteen, they may send their child to stay with relatives where there is a school canteen, or with more prosperous relatives perhaps in town.
- Lastly, they can borrow. Going into debt means promising part of their harvest to somebody who provides them with rice to get through the lean season. While helping to ensure survival, the high level of "interest" on the loan naturally has the tendency to lead to an even larger problem in the subsequent year, with the hunger season arriving even earlier. Thus caught in a cycle of debt, the plantation owner and his/her household focus on survival; they have insufficient capital to complete the rehabilitation of the tree plantation which should be enough to ensure a sound livelihood.

Geography of the Problem

55. The refugee presence has impacted Sierra Leone's Eastern and Southern provinces. The impact of their presence has been felt most intensely the areas immediately around the refugee camps themselves. As the refugees had freedom of movement, however, their presence was felt to a somewhat lesser extent quite widely through the two provinces. These provinces also contain

the vast majority of households whose livelihoods are based on tree plantations. Thus it is these two provinces that are being targeted by this project.

Trends in Rehabilitation of Major Tree Crops by District
in Eastern and Southern Provinces

Districts	Total Area Pre-War(ha)	Total Area Rehabilitated(ha)	Total Area Unrehabilitated(ha)
Kailahun	40 044	7 351	32 693
Kenema	48 843	7 446	41 397
Kono	26 766	4 312	22 454
Pujehun	25 128	3 425	21 703
Bo	12 663	2 779	9 884
Total	153 444	25 313	128 131

Experience from the Pilot Food For Work Interventions: Role of Food Aid & Its Comparative Advantage

56. WFP carried out a pilot project in rehabilitation of tree plantations and the following key factors came to light:

- In villages concerned, almost all families have smallholder plantations.
- In one community benefiting from a 120 day FFW assistance, in which 30 out of 125 villagers participated, the whole village had enough to eat through the lean season, and completely avoided going into debt that year. Moreover, as the FFW participants had shared their rations with the whole village, non-participants in the FFW project were sufficiently well-nourished to also undertake rehabilitation activities on their plantations.
- The rainy season and hence the main rice growing season is from April thru October. The gender division of labour sees men doing the more intensive heavy work but women spending more time in the fields doing ongoing work throughout the season. Once the men's work in the fields is completed, they turn their attention to work on the tree plantations and rice production becomes a primarily female activity. The key food for work interventions concern tasks done primarily by the men and as such they do not interfere heavily with the rice production work, nor do they necessarily interfere with the maintenance of the tree plantations which is a year-round task.

57. Focus group discussions in participating communities reveal a strong preference for food rather than cash payments for the following reasons:

- The local markets have no rice or other cereals

- Buying from the market in the regional capital involves a substantial trip over roads which are almost impassable, and involving significant transportation costs.
- Many of the workers are young men who are proud to provide food for their communities. However, if they received payment in cash and were to go to town to purchase food, a certain amount of the cash would be spent on other things.
- There is an existing cultural practise of community members working on the farm of one community member, often on a rotational basis if there is a need for manpower on various farms. The person receiving the community support does not pay the workers, but feeds them. This system is currently not functioning very well, as almost nobody has sufficient food resources to offer food to a group of workers. Nevertheless, some communities have set up a sort of rotational system of working together on each other's farms simply because they enjoy the communal element. In this cultural context, food for work is an ideal programming modality, warmly accepted by the community, and perfectly aligning WFP's approach to rebuilding assets (FAAD policy) with community motivations. WFP's approach is in fact more generous than the traditional approach, as WFP offers a family ration whereas traditionally community members are only able to offer to feed participants on the day of communal work.

58. While it might be supposed that the generous family rations would offset further, less well remunerated community work, this has not proven to be the case. To the contrary, food for work interventions have consistently been followed by communal voluntary activities. Many of the FFW groups have taken on road and bridge repair along important access roads, or other activities. In some cases of FFW being used to rehabilitate secondary feeder roads, the FFW groups have finished with the portion of the road supported by FFW and then done some extra kilometres of road in the interest of their community. Yet other groups have started group farms, the proceeds from which are used for community service, or as an emergency fund for members of their group. One group mentioned having set up a savings and credit fund for group members. In general, FFW has led to the creation of youth groups in most of the communities, with a cultural antecedent in the activities of age cohort groups linked to traditional initiation.

59. There has also been quite a constructive impact on integration of ex-combatants. After their demobilisation, ex-combatants were provided with assistance and training, and some of them moved back to the villages. All parties concerned received awareness-raising from Government, media, etc. The villages, already in the somewhat uncomfortable position of living alongside individuals involved in the horrors of the war, faced the further complication that they were hosting former soldiers from various factions. Ex-combatants interviewed indicated that they were committed to the process of reintegration, that they knew some people would be uncomfortable, and that they therefore sought from the start to engage in community projects. Opportunities for this were limited until FFW was introduced to their communities, at which point the former soldiers worked alongside others, under the direction of the elders of the community. The elders in particular spoke eloquently of the trust-building, healing and bonding that this engendered, evidenced by the integration of ex-combatants into youth groups that proceeded with additional service projects.

60. The model of FFW that has emerged for rehabilitation of livelihoods of communities with tree plantations includes the following elements:

- Focus primarily on rehabilitation of the plantations as these are the community's engine for further self-directed progress;
- In consultation with the communities, priority targeting of plantations belonging to those unable to rehabilitate without outside assistance, such as widows, youth-headed households, the elderly, the disabled, etc.
- Only one family member can participate in a specific food for work intervention. The ration he/she receives feeds other family members who can be working on rehabilitation of their own assets.
- A secondary but also productive focus of FFW has been rehabilitation of low land swamps for rice cultivation, and repair of secondary feeder roads.

Recommendation:

The **targeting** of FFW interventions on asset-holders who do not have the ability to rehabilitate their own assets should be continued. In addition, communities affected by refugees, and/or receiving refugees as integrated members from 1 July 2007 should also be targeted. The goals are

1. to assist asset holders (the asset beneficiaries of the interventions) and communities to become economically autonomous and food secure. Progress towards this goal can be followed by measuring the length of the "hunger season" in villages.
2. while helping families to move towards food security, to provide needed food rations to FFW participants to enable them and their family to continue being healthy and productive and moving towards autonomy, and to help them avoid becoming indebted and caught in a debt cycle.

62. It should be noted that the Ministry of Agriculture attempted to implement a limited plantation-rehabilitation intervention with cash. Anecdotal reports indicate that the intervention faced a lot of challenges, including cash management, and pressures on targeting because of the involvement of cash. The project was discontinued. The Minister of Agriculture visited one of the WFP FFW interventions and was very pleased with the results he witnessed.

Through pilot activities in plantation rehabilitation in Sierra Leone, WFP has come to the conclusion that food aid has an enabling and catalyzing role in the rehabilitation process. The comparative advantage of food assistance over cash has been clearly established due to problems with the functioning of markets, and cultural reasons which make food for work an acceptable and productive approach.

Partners

63. The presence of a battery of partners has been noted. For FFW interventions, WFP is collaborating with relevant Government services, and is implementing through either international or local NGOs. The quality of work done by these partners is satisfactory, particularly in the area of community mobilisation. Both local and international NGOs have expressed interest in doing additional work with WFP in this area. They have indicated that one of the benefits of collaboration will be that their own resources will go further when supplemented by WFP's food resources, and that they anticipate being able to reach more communities. However, the number of NGO partners and their implementation capacity is significantly less than sufficient to the rehabilitation needs, providing a limiting factor to WFP's ability to respond, and leaving WFP with the sole option of carefully targeting its interventions on people and communities facing the greatest need for assistance. In case partners are more successful than anticipated in scaling up, WFP can revise its budget accordingly to scale up its FFW intervention.

64. Other actors in the area of rehabilitation of tree crops, low lying swamps for rice production and repair of feed roads include:

- IFAD and African Development Bank which are financing the provision of tools to many local communities, as well as the construction of drying floors for tree crops. They have included in their project collaboration with WFP FFW interventions;
- GTZ is undertaking FFW interventions in a few villages for rehabilitation of tree crop plantations, modelled on the WFP pilot exercise.

Recommendation:

WFP needs to include in the project some financial support for NGO partners, particularly for management of food distributions as well as for project implementation by these cooperating partners. WFP should also make a provision for purchase of tools in cases where partners are not providing tools.

Phasing Out of Livelihood Recovery

65. By definition, the emergency/recovery phase continues until a population has returned to its pre-shock levels of livelihoods and coping. This definition is difficult to apply in this case. One of the shocks encountered has been the arrival of Liberian refugees in 2003-4, but that particular shock only added to the previous one from which the population had not recovered. The Liberia war, and the population's displacement was the primary shock, but pre-crisis livelihoods were characterised by cocoa and coffee prices on the international market which were significantly higher than the current prices. It is not reasonable, therefore, to expect that smallholder plantation owners will reach the same economic level as previously. They are themselves convinced, however, that they can become autonomous and prosperous, and that the time to accomplish this will be reduced through assistance in the process, with the priority being on rehabilitation of the tree crop plantations.

66. Several interviewed communities indicated that, in the continuum between “emergency” and “normal life”, they were not yet half way to normalcy. They are making progress in this direction. When individual communities reach the point where their hunger season is eliminated, they will at the same time be freed from their debt cycle, and will be able to start accumulating capital for further investment. Within communities, some families will reach this point before others, but once reached, because of social solidarity and extended family ties, the more prosperous families can be expected to support other community members towards recovery. (Note the example of community sharing of FFW rations in section (“Experience from the Pilot ...”))

67. The reduction of the hungry season to 0 months in a given community will be an indication to completely phase out of food aid in that community, and this will be considered as a sufficient return to the population’s pre-crisis level. The mission does not believe that a partial but not full phase out of recovery work in the concerned districts will be indicated within the 2-year duration of the project. A review of progress with livelihood rehabilitation and the population’s food security should be undertaken 6 months before the project’s end in order to determine readiness for WFP phasing out. The mission notes that the information already gathered by the country office can serve as a baseline for the degree of community self-sufficiency.

Intervention of an elder in a focus group discussion:

“If WFP can help us to rehabilitate our tree plantations and swamps for growing rice, you will not have to worry about providing food to the children in the school any more. We will be able to feed our own children.”

Recommended Intervention

68. Table 1: Calculation of number of mandays for tree crop rehabilitation:

TABLE HERE

Total hectares devoted to Coffee/Cocoa/Palm Oil Plantations (pre-war)	153 444 ha
Estimated land not yet rehabilitated	128 131 ha
15% Portion of smallholders unable to rehabilitate on their own	19 220 ha
200 Mandays required per hectare of rehabilitation	3 843 930 mandays
Number of FFW participants, each for 120 days, over duration of project	32033 participants

69. The statistics on hectares of plantations and estimated amount not yet rehabilitated have been provided by the Ministry of Agriculture based on data they have collected. As the data is not complete, the estimates should be considered to be on the low side.

70. The figure of 15% of smallholders unable to rehabilitate their own plantations is an estimate made by the mission based on discussions and observations at the village level. Other interventions providing tools will reinforce the efforts of the local population. For the various reasons enumerated in this report, food aid has a comparative advantage in livelihoods rehabilitation in this particular context, and targeting as “asset beneficiaries” those who are

unable to undertake their own rehabilitation work will, in the judgment of the mission, maximize impact.

71. Additional food for work interventions for swamp rehabilitation and feeder road rehabilitation should be targeted on communities affected by long-term presence of refugee populations, communities receiving significant numbers of resettling refugees, and other communities which are particularly vulnerable. These interventions would ideally each be approximately 25% of the size of the plantation rehabilitation work, meaning some 8000 annual participants each, establishing an overall number of FFW participants during the 2-year duration of the project of approximately 48,000. However, as has been noted, partner capacity is a constraint, and as such the Country Office has estimated the maximum capacity of implementation for FFW at 30,000 participants over a 2-year period.

Recommendation:

Because of constraints in implementation capacity by partners, the size of the FFW intervention should be limited to 30,000 participants over the 2-year life of the project. If in the course of the project additional partner capacity becomes available, the project budget could be revised upwards.

Section 3B: Complementary Interventions

72. While the tree plantation rehabilitation will be the core intervention in this project, several complementary interventions have been identified which will establish a synergy and address crucial needs for which food aid has a comparative advantage. These complementary interventions will reinforce the food security of affected families within the same geographical area as the plantation rehabilitation. During this transitional period, these complementary programmes will reinforce households' supply of food and reduce the length of their hunger season. The interventions are outlined below.

Skills Training: Food For Training Programme

73. Various actors are implementing skills training programmes in such areas as carpentry, dress making, tailoring, hairdressing, soap making, tie dying, masonry and mechanics. These programmes are providing skills needed in the communities, and are providing participants with a way to earn their living. Participants are constrained in their ability to participate in these programmes primarily because they need to feed themselves during the training. WFP can associate itself with these programmes to good effect, meeting the food needs of participants for the duration of the training.

74. Relevant training programmes have been identified for a total of 30000 participants over a two year period.

75. Priority targeting for these programmes is resettling refugees who have not yet established a viable livelihood, most of whom will not have access to income from a tree plantation unless through intermarriage with local people.

76. It was noted that the percentage of women involved in these training programmes does not meet WFP's norms, partially due to the type of training programmes many of which are traditionally male work.

Recommendation:

Through its support of FFT programmes, WFP will advocate with implementing NGOs to substantially increase the number of women participating in these programmes.

77. Phasing out of the FFT programme should be reviewed after 18 months of project implementation, in connection with the review of phasing out of the FFW programme. To the degree that livelihood patterns in the region have recovered and the hunger season has reduced, phasing down / phasing out will be indicated.

Emergency/Recovery School Feeding

78. The school feeding intervention proposed for this area is not traditional school feeding. The criteria for traditional school feeding include a sound package of interventions making for a viable school: school buildings, qualified teachers, teaching materials, latrines, water on or near the school grounds, a dedicated food warehouse, etc. Many of these elements are not yet in place in spite of a major effort at school construction / reconstruction from 2003.

Children have returned to school, both boys and girls, particularly in schools with a functioning canteen.

The primary purpose of school feeding in this context is to contribute to food security while other interventions push forward the recovery process.

79. The primary purpose of school feeding in this context is to contribute to food security while other interventions push forward the recovery process. By doing so, a nutritious meal is provided on a daily basis to primary-aged school children, one of the most vulnerable age group in the population. As a result, the nutritional status of these children is reinforced not only by the caloric intake but also by the enhanced dietary variety. At the same time, families economise on their inadequate food stocks, and the length of the family's hunger season is reduced. It should be noted that within a given area, when a canteen functions in one school but not in a neighbouring school, most of the children move to the school with the canteen, a sign that parents highly value and in fact need this food support for their children.

80. Children in resettling Liberian (former) refugee families will also benefit in a similar way, as their parents adjust to life of resettlement.

There are various other benefits from school feeding in these communities:

- The presence of children in school frees up a greater number of adults to undertake productive work.

- There are obvious educational benefits.
- There is an important protection element. With the school canteen functioning, most parents keep their children living with them. In the absence of a functioning canteen, many parents send their children to live with more prosperous relatives whether in another village or in town. This typically results in the children receiving more limited care and supervision, and in many cases being required to undertake household labour in exchange for their support. Separated from their mother and father, girl children are exposed to more occasions of sexual exploitation and abuse by others because of less parental supervision and protection. Overall, from a protection perspective, it would be preferable that the children remain with their parents.
- Normalcy. After a childhood which may well have started in a refugee or IDP camp, it is highly preferable for the children to return to living as normal as possible a life, attending school and staying with their parents. Normalcy also benefits the older generation, rooting people in place and providing a disincentive to any further displacement.

Recommendation:

While school feeding can be a helpful support to the recovery process, it should be noted that take home rations for girls is not essential to the objectives of this school feeding intervention and it is therefore recommended not to include them.

81. HCR, in meetings with WFP, has strongly advocated school feeding in refugee affected areas to benefit resettling refugees during their resettling period.

82. WFP has a functioning school feeding programme in 3 of the 5 districts undergoing livelihoods rehabilitation. These programmes could be productively maintained, and expanded to cover the needs of additional schools in the villages. In the case of children who have been sent to stay with more prosperous relatives, this will encourage parents to bring their children back to live with them in the villages. The programme can continue parallel to the plantation rehabilitation FFW programme, working in synergy with it. Once the objective of rehabilitating livelihoods is sufficiently achieved, the emergency/recovery school feeding programme can be phased out, unless some of the regions are identified for integration into the Country Programme's regular school feeding intervention.

83. Regarding the additional 2 districts, the Country Office has reservations about introducing school feeding to these two areas for duration of potentially only 2 years. The mission shares this concern, as the investment of time and effort is not insubstantial for communities, Government and WFP to establish such a programme for a mere 2 years; also it inevitably raises expectations for continuation of the programme.

84. In discussions with the Country Office, it was thought that the best approach would be NOT to introduce school feeding to the new districts for such a short duration, but rather to take into

account the absence of this supporting programme when selecting additional shorter term interventions in the area of FFW (road repair, etc.) and FFT.

Recommendation:

WFP should provide emergency/recovery school feeding in the 3 districts in which it has existing school feeding programmes. WFP should not initiate new school feeding programmes in the additional 2 districts, given the likelihood that these programmes will be of quite limited duration.

85. The indicators to be monitored should include:

Absolute enrolment in rural areas (a significant increase would be positive on the protection issue).

Length of hunger season (when sufficiently reduced, phase down/phase out is indicated).

HIV – AIDS & Other vulnerable groups

87. The Country Office, in collaboration with the National AIDS Secretariat and other partners, have identified a need for nutritional and food security support to 1,000 people on ARVs, and 1500 participating in programmes to prevention transmission of HIV from parents to their children. These programmes are to take place within the 6 districts of the intervention of the PRRO, and will provide support to some of the most food insecure people in the districts. The HIV prevalence rate in the districts covered by the PRRO is approximately 2%. WFP and available partners, because of their coverage constraints and targeting criteria, are able to provide assistance to some 2500 HIV-affected food insecure persons and their families.

88. Other vulnerable groups include TB patients, orphans, destitute children, etc., also within the six districts of intervention of the project. The total number identified to be assisted by this project is 3000.

89. The mission considers this planning to be sound and reasonable. The justification for the inclusion of these beneficiaries in the project is that the population of the region, who would normally support them, is unable to do so adequately until such time as the state of their own livelihoods improves. If WFP does not support these vulnerable groups, they will consume less, and to some extent they will draw resources from relations and other support structures within the districts, slowing down the overall rate of recovery of the concerned districts. The assistance to these groups contributes therefore to the overall food security of the districts, and to enhancing the speed of recovery.

Section 3C: Other Emergency/Recovery Interventions

Contingency Stocks

90. Contingency plans for Guinea Conakry include a planned figure of 50,000 refugees arriving in Sierra Leone. The Country Office will be able to respond more quickly to such an emergency through an existing PRRO than if it is necessary to prepare a new Emergency Operation. In order

to include this emergency need in the PRRO, the 50,000 contingency can be anticipated in the project, and there are two options for how to proceed:

1. include an estimated beneficiary number, duration of assistance, and needed tonnage of food commodities in the project budget. Contributions towards this part of the project would only be solicited in case of arrival of refugees;
2. include in the project document a section on contingency for emergency response to incoming refugees, but not include it in the project budget. The budget would then be revised in the case of arrival of refugees in line with the identified needs, and stocks for life-saving assistance would be borrowed from in-country stocks and stocks in the pipeline.

Recommendation:

The mission recommends the second option, to include the contingency for emergency response in the project, and that this would be budgeted and resourced only if and when there is an actual arrival of refugees.

Nutrition

91. The mission has noted the high national rates of malnutrition, with 10% global acute malnutrition, 2.7% severe acute malnutrition, and 40% stunting. The country's under five mortality rate of 286/1,000 live births and the maternal mortality rate of 1,800/100,000 live births are among the highest in the world.

92. In the context of WFP programming modalities, a key issue is whether nutrition interventions in the Sierra Leone context fall under the emergency, recovery or development category. A review of WFP Sierra Leone's nutrition programme was undertaken in October 2006 by an external nutritionist, and her recommendation was the following:

The mission concludes that the situation in Sierra Leone has reached crisis proportions as a direct consequence of the war and therefore needs to be tackled with corresponding measures through a PRRO. (The full report is available from the Country Office upon request.)

93. It should be noted that the nutritionist's report was based on a higher rate of malnutrition reported in a 2005 VAM study. Upon review, it was determined that the nutrition component of this particular VAM study was not sufficiently robust statistically to use as a reference, and instead UNICEF MICS figures have subsequently been used. This has resulted in a reduction of the number of "under 5" malnourished children originally targeted for nutritional support.

94. The MICS reports moderate acute malnutrition at 10%, and the rate in some of the regions is significantly higher. The mission is of the opinion that this problem of high malnutrition rates is very much linked to poverty, and to the fact that Sierra Leone is still in a post-war recovery phase, and therefore its inclusion in the PRRO is justified. The nutrition intervention targets the 5

districts involved in livelihoods rehabilitation, plus one adjacent district, Bonthe, which has been identified as having an extremely high rate of malnutrition.

95. The design of the nutrition intervention is based on an external assessment carried out in October 2006 assessment, which is available from the CO on request.

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Annex 1: Level of Programming Recommended for the PRRO

SIERRA LEONE PRRO: 2007-2009 BENEFICIARY CASELOAD BY INTERVENTION TYPE

Intervention Type	2007*	2008	2009**	Total
<i>Selective Feeding</i>				
Therapeutic Feeding	600	1200	600	2400
Therapeutic feeding (Caretakers)	600	1200	600	2400
Sub Total	1200	2400	1200	4800
<i>Supplementary Feeding & MCH</i>				
Pregnant Women	5040	10080	5040	20160
Lactating Mothers	15120	30240	15120	60480
Under 5 Children	29120	58240	29120	116480
Sub Total	49280	98560	49280	197020
<i>Assistance to Vulnerable Groups</i>				
PLWAs	6250	12500	6250	25000
Other OVPs	1500	3000	1500	6000
Sub Total	7750	15500	7750	31000
<i>Emergency School Feeding</i>				
ESF	110000	120000	120000	120000
SubTotal	110000	120000	120000	120000
<i>Food for Recovery</i>				
Food for Work	37500	75000	37500	150000
Food for Training	7500	15000	7500	30000
Sub Total	45000	90000	45000	180000
<i>Contingency</i>				
Assistance to Guinean Refugees	0	-	-	0
Sub Total	0	--	-	0
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	133,205	266,410	133,205	532820

* July-Dec

** Jan-June

SIERRA LEONE PRRO: 2007-2009
FOOD REQUIREMENTS (MT) BY TYPE OF INTERVENTION

Intervention Type	2007*	2008	2009**	Total
<i>Selective Feeding</i>				
Therapeutic Feeding	33	66	33	132
Therapeutic feeding (Caretakers)	109.5	219	109.5	438
Sub Total	142.5	285	142.5	570
<i>Supplementary Feeding & MCH</i>				
Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers	642.5	1285	642.5	2570
Under 5 Children	773	1546	773	3098
Sub Total	1415.5	2831	1415.5	5662
<i>Assistance to Vulnerable Groups</i>				
PLWAs	702.5	1405	702.5	2810
Other OVPs	276.5	553	276.5	1106
Sub Total	979	1958	979	3916
<i>Emergency School Feeding</i>				
ESF	1148	3172	2093	6413
SubTotal	1148	3172	2093	6413
<i>Food for Recovery</i>				
Food for Work	3408.5	6817	3408.5	13634
Food for Training	428	855	427	1710
Sub Total	3836.5	7672	3835.5	15302
<i>Contingency</i>				
Assistance to Guinean Refugees	0	-	-	0
Sub Total	0	-	-	0
TOTAL TONNAGE	7521,5	15918	8465,5	31905

* July-Dec

** Jan-June

Annex 2: Review of Secondary Sources

Table of contents

Data sources searched	29
Details on selected publications	30
Background figures	38
PRRO activities, mt food distributed, and district food production	38
Availability	38
Agricultural production and rice self-sufficiency trends during the war	39
Rice self-sufficiency levels by district and region in 2004 and 2005 (%)	39
Crop production in PRRO area, acres (2004)	40
Crop production in PRRO area, acres per capita (2004)	40
Access	41
Vulnerable groups	42
Utilization	42
Food security	43
Background information	44
Population change in the PRRO districts	44
Households in poor or borderline food consumption groups	44
Food security (access, availability and utilization): Overview from 2005 VAM study	45

Data sources searched

Source	Information
ACF	No relevant information found.
ADB	No SIL statistics divided by provinces or regions, but project documents on agriculture and education contain such statistics, and are included. A project description for road infrastructure in Kono gives some useful information, and is included.
DFID	No information other than documents about SIL – DFID projects found. These documents give little relevant general information, and are not included.
DHS	SIL not covered by DHS.
FAO	Data not broken down into regions or districts. A document with some national basic food and nutrition indicators and changes over time included. A document on fish farming as supplementary protein source included.
Government of SIL	The Government of SIL has collected a lot of relevant documents and statistics at the website “Encyclopedia 2006”, set up with the support of UNDP (http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/). The site also contains information from other sources. Particularly useful are the datapacks made for each district (although they are starting to become a bit outdated, they were produced in late 2004). GoSIL has also compiled thematic datapacks, the ones for agriculture, education, health and roads are included. National censuses on agriculture, education, population and poverty included (data collection 2004, released in 2006).
Human Rights Watch	A report on sexual abuse during the war and implications for recovery is included. Several other organizations have published papers on the same topic. Victims of sexual abuse is not mentioned as a vulnerable group in the PRRO document, despite the high incidence of abuse and subsequent marginalization.
IFAD	Sierra Leone not included in databases and surveys on Rural Poverty Portal (eg. the West African Market Information Network)
OECD	Some relevant SWAC reports on conflict and recovery.
Oxfam	Document from 2003 highlights the regional dynamics in the SIL humanitarian problems and lessons learned for humanitarian response. Otherwise no relevant information.
ReliefWeb	No background statistics found on SIL.
Science Direct (database for academic articles)	No relevant information retrieved.
UNDP	No province or region specific information. SIL UNDP office has recently re-launched their website http://www.sl.undp.org/2_1governance.htm , but information posted is so far scant. The Government website set up with UNDP support

	has a lot of useful information, see above.
UNESCO	No relevant information found
UNHCR	No statistics of interest. Reference to Amnesty International and HRW reports, but these are not broken down by province. Evaluation reports on repatriation and reintegration program added to inventory, as well as a refugee map.
UNICEF	MICS results for 2000 included in the inventory. MICS 2005 DRAFT received directly from UNICEF, but cannot be published. MICS 1995 only available for some SIL provinces.
United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone	No relevant information found.
WARDA Afr. Rice Center	A paper that gives a fairly good overview of issues related to rice production and markets in the PRRO area is included.
WB	PRSP, PRSP background documents and first PRSP progress report added. WB has compiled an overview of development aid to SIL 2004-5, which is included in the inventory.
WHO	2000 nutrition data by province included. No more recent information found.

Details on selected publications

Title	Policies and strategies for promoting food security in Sierra Leone with special Title to rice			
Published by	WARDA Africa Rice Center	Year	2005	
URL	http://www.warda.org/workshop/RicePolicy/Aliu/Aliu.E.Sub%20Sierra%20Leonne.Paper.pdf			
Addresses				
Poverty	Food secur.	x	Rural infrast.	x
Key words				
Notes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem of food distribution from highly productive remote areas to urban centers, where produce prices are higher, could be a major factor in food insufficiency. Bad road conditions and low produce prices forced farmers to transport rice across international borders in Kailahun, Kono and Pujehun Districts. 				

Title	RoSL 2004 Population and Housing census: Education and Literacy			
Published by	Statistics SL, EU, UNFPA	Year	2006	
URL	http://www.statistics.sl/Analytical%20Modules.htm			
Addresses				
Poverty	Food secur.	Rural infrast.	Education	x
Malnutrition				

Key words						
	Notes					

Title	RoSL 2004 Population and Housing census: Agriculture								
Published by	Statistics SL, EU, UNFPA			Year	2006				
URL	http://www.statistics.sl/Analytical%20Modules.htm								
Addresses									
Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food secur.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural infrast.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Malnutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key words									
	Notes								

Title	RoSL 2004 Population and Housing census: Poverty								
Published by	Statistics SL, EU, UNFPA			Year	2006				
URL	http://www.statistics.sl/Poverty.pdf								
Addresses									
Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food secur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural infrast.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Malnutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key words									
	Notes								

Title	Sierra Leone 2005 PRSP								
Published by	World Bank			Year	2005				
URL	http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/04/15/000090341_20050415102633/Rendered/PDF/31775.pdf								
Addresses									
Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food secur.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural infrast.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Malnutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Key words									
Poverty	Rural/urban								
	Notes								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis placed on food security in the PRSP. • Destruction of fishing infrastructure led to a drastic reduction in production of fish from pre-war levels. Poverty data indicates that some of the poorest communities live in coastal areas in the Kambia, Moyamba, Bonthe and Pujehun Districts. • Incidence, depth and severity of poverty by district: the poorest districts in order of the incidence of poverty are Kailahun, Bombali, Kenema, Bonthe and Tonkolili. With the exception of Bonthe, Kambia and Koinadugu, the incidence of poverty is relatively 									

higher in the rural than urban areas. The highest incidence of urban poverty is in the Bonthe urban areas with about 89 percent of the population in poverty, followed by urban Tonkolili with 88 percent and Urban Kailahun with 86 percent.

Title	Sierra Leone 2005 PRSP progress report													
Published by	World Bank			Year	200-									
URL	http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SIERRALEONEEXTN/Resources/APR_Final.doc													
Addresses														
Poverty	x	Food secur.	x	Rural infrast.		Education	x	Malnutrition	x					
Key words														
Poverty	Rural/urban													
Notes														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pujehun & Kailahun are more than food self-sufficient 														

Title	MICS 2000									
Published by	UNICEF			Year	2000					
URL	http://childinfo.org/MICS2/newreports/sierraleone/sierraleone.htm									
Addresses										
Poverty	x	Food secur.		Rural infrast.		Education	x	Malnutrition	x	
Key words										
Notes										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MICS 2005 not yet available online • Data only by province, not by district • Primary school attendance and literacy in East and South higher than in North, but lower than in West • Underweight among children (-2SD) highest in East, then follows North, South and West. • Child diarrhea most common in East, then follows North, West and South. 										

Title	Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict											
Published by	Human Rights Watch			Year	2003							
URL	http://hrw.org/reports/2003/sierraleone/sierleon0103.pdf											
Addresses												
Poverty		Food secur.		Rural infrast.		Education		Malnutrition				
Key words												
War	Sexual Violence		Discrimination	STDs	Reconciliation							
Notes												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual violence was used as a strategy by both sides in the SIL war, gender based abuse threatened life and health of women during the war and continues to do so for an extended period afterwards. 												

Title	Agricultural Sector Rehabilitation Project Appraisal Report														
Published by	ADB		Year	2004											
URL	http://www.afdb.org/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ADB_ADMIN_PG/DOCUMENTS/OPERATIONSINFORMATION/ADF_BD_WP_2004_174_E.PDF														
Key words															
Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food secur.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural infrast.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Malnutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Crops	Agriculture														
Notes															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional pattern in different crops outlined, as well as effects of war on types of crops and harvest • Regional variation in public health indicators outlined. • Provinces bordering Liberia a main focus of ADB loan financed projects 															

Title	Educational Sector Project Appraisal Report								
Published by	ADB		Year	2002					
URL	http://www.afdb.org/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ADB_ADMIN_PG/DOCUMENTS/OPERATIONSINFORMATION/ADF_BD_WP_02_88_E.PDF								
Key words									
Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food secur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural infrast.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Malnutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimates % of educational facilities destroyed due to conflict • Female school inscription lowest in the North, and worse in the East and South than in the West. 									

Title	Poverty and Environment. Environmental Contribution to the PRSP of Sierra Leone								
Published by	GoSIL		Year	2004					
URL	http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/7_lib/7_2/sector/7_2d_env/PRSP_final_env.pdf								
Key words									
Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food secur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural infrast.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Malnutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment									
Notes									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses land ownership, heritage and women's access to land • Discusses links between poverty and environmental degradation • Discusses how environmental issues are integrated in the PRSP 									

Title	Accelerated dynamics of resettlement in emerging from conflict in Sierra Leone					
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Published by	OECD - SWAC			Year	2004	
URL	http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/36/51/31107281.pdf					
Key words						
Poverty	Food secur.	Rural infrast.	x	Education		Malnutrition
Security						
Notes						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The long war has profoundly modified settlement patterns inside Sierra Leone. As a result, the geographical distribution of the population has fundamentally changed compared to the situation prior to the war. National and international agents supporting reconstruction must take this into account in program design. Description of population change and economic activities in Kailahun, Koindu and Kenema. 						

Title	LAND, AGRICULTURAL CHANGE AND CONFLICT IN WEST AFRICA: Regional issues from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire											
Published by	OECD - SWAC			Year	2005							
URL	http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/35/42/34685331.pdf											
Key words												
Poverty	Food secur.	Rural infrast.		Education		Malnutrition						
Agrarian reform	Conflict											
Notes												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of the conflict in Sierra Leone was rooted in power relations between different urban and rural actors, which were transformed, but not necessarily made more equal, during the conflict. Main questions to be answered in project: Who are the winners and losers from changing entitlements to land in the process of agricultural transformation in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire? How has this affected their roles in conflict and reconstruction? Report first outcome in project on land, agricultural change and conflict in West Africa. Documentation of other outcomes not available through OECD web search. 												

Title	Agricultural Sector Background Review for the PRSP											
Published by	GoSL			Year	2004							
URL	http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/7_lib/7_2/sector/7_2a_agr/PRSP_final_agr.pdf											
Key words												
Poverty	x	Food secur.	x	Rural infrast.	x	Education						
Farm structure	Farm input											
Notes												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a survey of self-assessed reasons for poverty Includes a table of % food consumption from own agricultural production by district (2004) In consultation with stakeholders in the Eastern province, improvement of rural infrastructure was ranked as the most important task ahead. The condition of main and feeder roads is worst in the country in the East, and the destruction of agricultural buildings in the war is most 												

marked. Many respondents pointed out that without access to markets from passable all-weather roads, there was little chance of enhancing small farm incomes or service provision, even with increased outputs. In the Southern province, supporting farmer-, women- and community organizations and enhance rural service provision were given the highest priority.

Title	Road study Kono (for project proposal)						
Published by	ADB		Year	2006			
URL							
Key words							
Poverty	Food secur.	Rural infrast.	x	Education	Malnutrition		
Notes							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes state of road infrastructure in Kono district 							

Title	Oxfam GB humanitarian activities in Sierra Leone and in Liberia						
Published by	Oxfam GB		Year	2003			
URL	http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/19/6/33904736.pdf						
Key words							
Poverty	Food secur.	Rural infrast.	Education	Malnutrition			
Foreign aid	Sexual exploitation		Programming	Refugees			
Notes							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to further develop regional perspective and analysis, as conflicts in the region are inextricably linked and the humanitarian situation has to be analysed and understood at both national and regional levels. • Advocacy must be a better integrated part of humanitarian aid • Need to further develop gender-sensitive programme to address gender inequity, which remains very acute throughout the Mano River region 							

Title	Report on Development Assistance to Sierra Leone 2004-2005						
Published by	WB		Year	2006			
URL	http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SIERRALEONEEXTN/Resources/SL_Report_Development_Assistance_Nov_2006_Final.pdf						
Key words							
Poverty	Food secur.	Rural infrast.	Education	Malnutrition			
Aid							
Notes							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives an overview of all foreign aid to SIL 							

Title	Country Assistance Strategy for SIL				
Published by	WB		Year	2005	
URL	http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/				

	WDS/IB/2005/05/ 26/000090341_20050526085619/ Rendered/PDF/31793.pdf						
Key words							
Poverty	x	Food secur.		Rural infrast.		Education	
Development assistance							
Notes							

Title	WHO global database on child growth and malnutrition									
Published by	WHO			Year	2000					
URL	http://www.who.int/gdgmwho/p-child_pdf/SLE.pdf									
Key words										
Poverty		Food secur.		Rural infrast.		Education				
Child malnutrition										
Notes										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For child underweight and BMI/age, East is the worst off province. For height/age and weight/height, South is the worst off province in SIL. 										

Title	National Aquaculture Sector Overview - Sierra Leone									
Published by	FAO			Year						
URL	http://firms.fao.org/fi/website/SwapLang.do?language=en&page=%2FFI RetrieveAction.do%3Fdom%3Dcountrysector%26xml%3Dnasoso_sierra_leone.xml									
Addresses										
Poverty		Food secur.	x	Rural infrast.	x	Education				
Key words										
Notes										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquaculture is concentrated in the provinces in the south (mainly in Bo and to a lesser extent in Moyamba and Pujehun), the north (mainly in Tonkolili and a little in Bombali) and the east (in Kailahun, Kenema and Kono) of SIL. Aquaculture could provide much-needed employment, especially for poor rural communities. Against this background, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has placed aquaculture as a foremost priority in the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper). 										

Title	ASSESSING REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE: A FOOD ECONOMY ASSESSMENT									
Published by	UNHCR			Year	2002					
URL	http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/3f72aa567.pdf									
Addresses										
Poverty		Food secur.	x	Rural infrast.		Education	x			
Malnutrition										

Key words
Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes information on dietary practices in SII and LIB. • Outlines refugee survival strategies, sources of income and wealth groups

Title	From emergency evacuation to community empowerment Review of the repatriation and reintegration programme in Sierra Leone								
Published by	UNHCR		Year	2005					
URL	http://www.unhcr.org/research/RESEARCH/420b80384.pdf								
Addresses									
Poverty	x	Food secur.	Rural infrast.	Education	Malnutrition				
Key words									
Content									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates the repatriation and reintegration assistance provided for some 272,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who returned to their country of origin from Guinea and Liberia between the years 2000 and 2004. • Summary of interagency mission, including WFP, to Kailahun and Kambia 2003 									

Background figures

PRRO activities, mt food distributed, and district food production

	South			East			Total planned mt food yr 1
	Bo	Bonthe	Kono	Pujehun	Kenema	Kailahun	
MCH	X	X	X	X	X	X	3 604
PLWHA/OVC	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 958
FFW/FFT	X		X	X	X	X	7 651
TF	X	X			X	X	285
ESF			X	X		X	3 067
Rice prod MT, 2005	22 883	6 521	22 326	28 655	44 884	46 563	

Source: PRRO proposal to PRC, GoSIL 2006 PRSP progress report

From the above table, it can be concluded that:

- Total PRRO food aid, of which the bulk is cereals (bulgur and CSB), represents about 10% of the rice cereals production in the region. Part of the cereals produced is sold at the market, the rest is consumed by the farmers. The WFP food aid therefore represents a greater proportion of marketed local production.
- As rice is the preferred staple, the bulgur might be sold by the beneficiaries on the market to buy rice, thus affecting supply in the region.
- If the food aid is not well targeted to those with low purchasing power, the PRRO aid may affect demand in the Southern and Eastern provinces.

As a first step in addressing these questions, it may be worthwhile to ask the country office about what experience they have with beneficiaries in the PRRO regions selling food aid on the market.

The 2005 VAM CFSVA summarizes the food security of the 6 PRRO regions in the following way (see table at the end of this document):

- **Kailahun** and **Pujehun** have a large proportion of the households with **good or fairly good** food consumption.
- **Kono** and **Bo** have a large proportion of the households with **adequate low diversity** food consumption, Bo also having a considerable proportion of the households within the **borderline** group.
- Almost all households in **Bonthe** fall under the **borderline** group.
- In **Kenema**, 15% of households have **poor** food consumption, while the bulk of households fall into the **adequate, low diversity** group.

Tables showing population changes in the 6 PRRO districts, ranking all Sierra Leone districts with respect to food consumption, and giving a summary of the 2005 CFSVA food security analysis are attached at the end of this document.

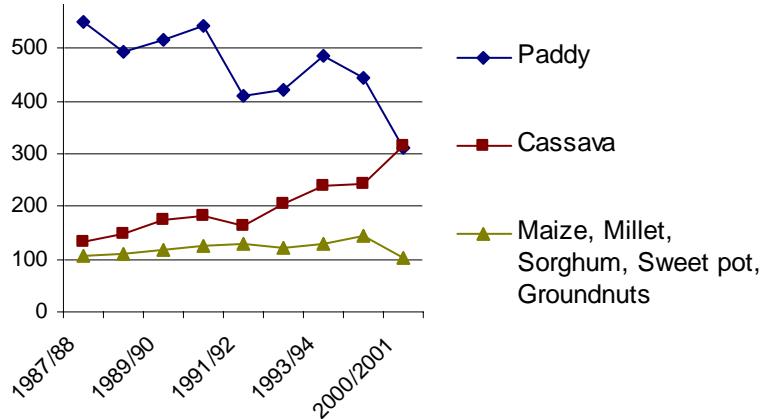
Availability

Rice is Sierra Leone's most important food crop. In the early 1990s, Sierra Leone produced 543,000MT of rice yearly. As the graph below shows, the production of rice went sharply down during the war. The steep drop in production was caused by the destruction of infrastructure and human displacement, as well as the removal subsidies on farming input and outputs prior to the

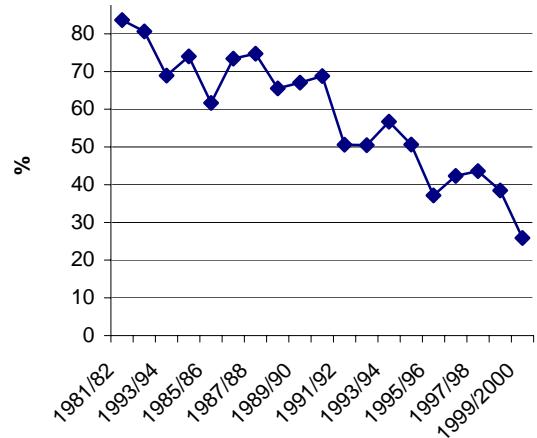
war. By 2005, Sierra Leone's rice production reached the pre-war levels. Nationally, the rice self-sufficiency level has steadily increased from 57.4% in 2002 to 61% in 2004 and 69% in 2005 respectively, which is about the same level as before the war (GoSIL 2006 PRSP progress report, WARDA 2005).

Agricultural production and rice self-sufficiency trends during the war

Agricultural production during the war



Rice self sufficiency during the war



Source: WARDA 2005

Bonthe, Bo, Kono, Kailahun, Kenema, Pujehun all experienced an increase in their rice self-sufficiency between 2004 and 2005 of between 4 and 23 percentage points, with all PRRO districts but Bo and Kono increasing faster than the national average. Statistics suggest that Kailahun and Pujehun may have become more than self-sufficient by 2005 (see table below).

Rice self-sufficiency levels by district and region in 2004 and 2005 (%)

	2004	2005
South	Bo	38
	Bonthe	21
	Pujehun	97
East	Kenema	76
	Kailahun	106
	Kono	58
Total SIL	60	69

Source: GoSIL 2006 PRSP progress report

Cassava which is the second most important food crop after rice. Nationally, the production of cassava far exceeds of the national requirement. Of the PRRO districts, cassava exceeds rice cultivation in Bonthe only. During the war, the cassava production increased, and it continued to grow by more than 50% between 2002 and 2005 (GoSIL 2006 PRSP progress report).

The tables below show the cultivated area by crop type in the six PRRO districts as well as the national figures, total and per capita. The data re-enforce the impression from the rice self-sufficiency table that Bo and Bonthe are PRRO districts with relatively low agricultural production, whereas Pujehun and Kailahun have high agricultural activity (the latter devoting a large proportion of cultivated land to cash crops). Kenema and Kono also have per capita land devoted to rice and cash crops above national average.

Crop production in PRRO area, acres (2004)

	Rice	Cassava	Millet	Ground nut	Cash crops
Bo	65002	9 314	6 356	17 739	18313
Bonthe	15616	25 066	0	8 006	17234
Kailahun	55151	13 466	1 352	12 751	223871
Kenema	122412	18 375	7 583	18 739	273278
Kono	56262	3 080	0	5 320	142600
Pujehun	81451	8 859	399	9 451	16102
Sierra Leone	800410	244 117	111 567	377 947	810 462

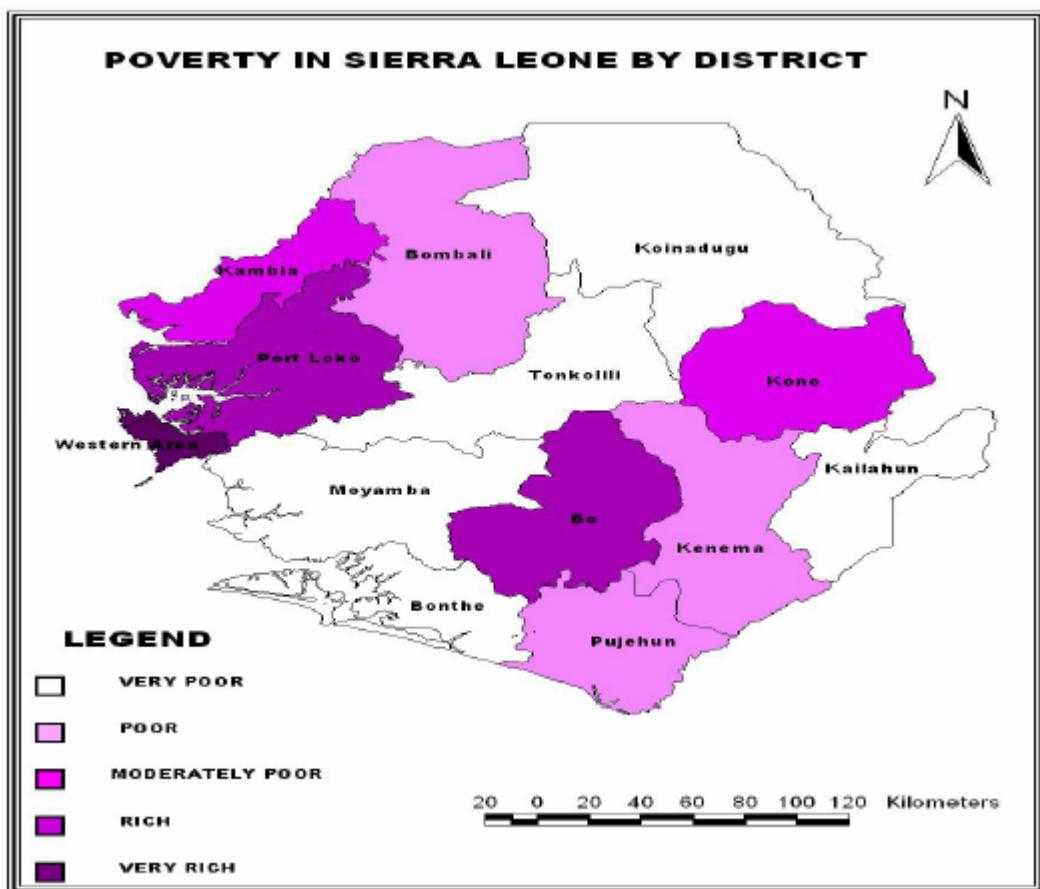
Crop production in PRRO area, acres per capita (2004)

	Rice	Cassava	Millet	Ground nut	Cash crops
Bo	0,14	0,02	0,01	0,04	0,04
Bonthe	0,12	0,19	0,00	0,06	0,13
Kailahun	0,15	0,04	0,00	0,04	0,63
Kenema	0,25	0,04	0,02	0,04	0,55
Kono	0,17	0,01	0,00	0,02	0,43
Pujehun	0,36	0,04	0,00	0,04	0,07
Sierra Leone	0,16	0,05	0,02	0,08	0,16

Sources: GoSIL Population and Housing Census, 2004; GoSIL Agriculture Datapack 2004. Rice includes both swamp and highland production.

The pre-war stock levels of livestock in Sierra Leone were 340,000 heads of cattle; 264,000 sheep; 145,000 goats; 17,000 pigs and 3 million poultry. The war led to a massive loss of livestock. Since 2002, the livestock production for all animals has increased steadily for all animals, with an increase between 30 and 100 percent between 2002 and 2005. The pre-war levels of goats, pigs and poultry have been surpassed. However, the government target for restocking of cattle has not been met, a reason believed to be the high one-off cost associated with buying a head of cattle. In Bonthe, Kailahun and Pujehun, the number of cattle in 2004 was negligible.

Access



Source: GoSIL Population and Housing Census 2004

The 2005 WFP CFSVA concluded that in Kailahun; Kono, Bonthe and Bo (as well as one other district in Sierra Leone), households were mainly dependent on agriculture for living. In Kenema and Pujehun, households depended on both agricultural and non-agricultural activities for living.

A particularity of the Sierra Leone war is that a large number of returned refugees and IDPs returned to other areas than those they originally came from. Hence, when the pre- and post-war poverty situation in Sierra Leone is compared, one should be particularly careful not to apply the conclusions made about the population of a district to individual households.

A WARDA study from 2005 concluded that lack of rural infrastructure hampered the export of food from highly productive remote areas to urban centres, where produce prices are higher. Bad road conditions and low produce prices forced farmers to transport rice across international borders in Kailahun, Kono and Pujehun Districts. According to a GoSIL 2004 road survey, Bonthe, Kenema and Bo had road conditions that on average were better than the overall national level in 2004, while the road condition in Pujehun was worse than the national average. Kono and Kailahun were not covered in this survey, presumably because of the enormous backlog of

emergency road repairs and major rehabilitation that had to be done there before routine assessments and maintenance could be carried out.

Key welfare indicator 1: School attendance

	Male			Female		
	MICS 2000	MICS 2005	Change	MICS 2000	MICS 2005	Change
North	30,7	63,0	32,3	24,0	62,6	38,6
East	35,2	71,6	36,4	26,4	72,3	45,9
South	51,6	67,1	15,5	50,9	68,3	17,4
West	73,9	89,3	15,4	69,8	88,6	18,8
Total	43,1	68,9	25,8	38,1	69,4	31,3

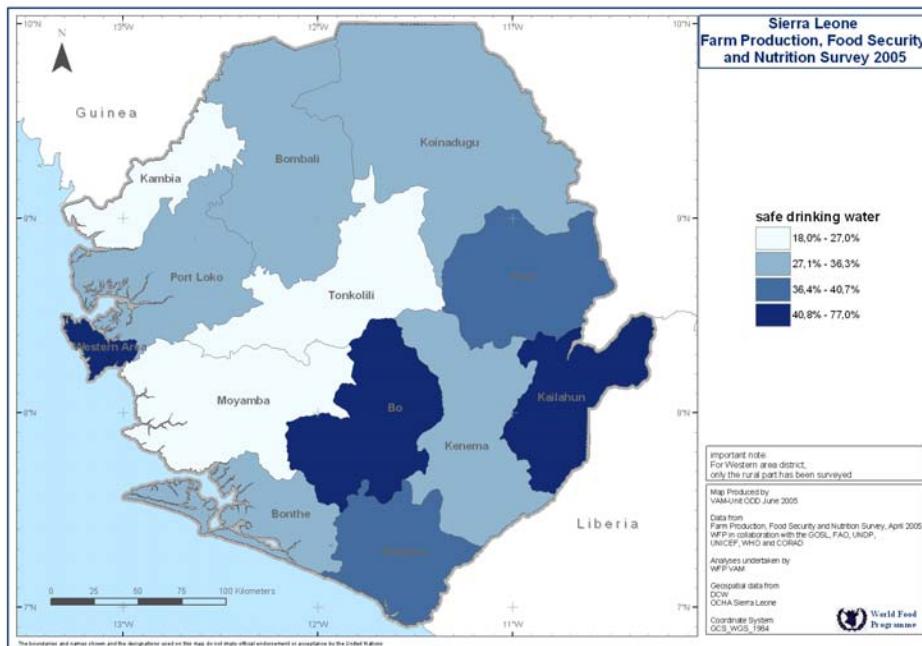
Vulnerable groups

The AfDB Gender Empowerment Measure indicates that women in Sierra Leone have significantly fewer opportunities than men compared with other African countries. Women cannot inherit or own land in rural areas, and partly for this reason, they also have weak access to official loans. In agriculture, women farmers are responsible for 80 percent of food production, processing, preparation and distribution and livestock production. The war made many women more vulnerable in two ways: 1) They lost access to the land they previously cultivated if their husbands or other male caretakers were killed or left the family; 2) Sexual violence against women and girls was extremely prevalent in the Sierra Leone conflict, and often caused the victims to become ineligible for marriage or alienated from their existing families, thus losing their access to land.

The official predicted HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Sierra Leone overall is relatively low at around 1,5%, but higher among certain groups (police and security forces, sex workers, etc) and in urban areas. However, other agencies, such as AfBD, predicts it to be as high as 4,9%. The high prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence contributed to the spread sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, by increasing exposure to unprotected sex and causing trauma to the genital areas making victims more susceptible to STDs. The Western Province has higher HIV/AIDS prevalence than the Southern and Eastern provinces, but also has higher popular awareness of how HIV/AIDS is transmitted. A 2004 GoSL survey quotes higher numbers of HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality rates in Kenema than in any other districts. However, the total number of recorded cases is too low to be reliable.

Utilization

Unclean drinking water, inadequate disposal of human excreta and poor personal hygiene are associated with diseases prohibiting food utilization, including diarrhoeal diseases. Thirty percent of the population of Sierra Leone lives in households that use improved sanitation facilities. Residents of the East and North are the least likely to use improved facilities; only 20 and 22 percent of the population there, respectively, use them. In the East and South most of the population uses rivers, bush, fields, or has no facilities. As shown in the tables and map below, the PRRO regions are not particularly disadvantaged with respect to access to improved drinking water sources.



Food security

As shown in the table below, based on MICS data, moderate underweight among children under five has increased between 2000 and 2005 in all parts of the country except the Western province. Severe underweight, on the other hand, has become less prevalent in the two PRRO provinces. The nutrition situation in Sierra Leone For the indicators height for age and weight for height, the Western province is still faring better than the other three provinces, but less markedly so. There is no marked overall improvement in the three malnutrition indicators for children under five in South and East from 2000 to 2005.

Underweight among children under five

	Moderate			Severe		
	2000	2005	Change	2000	2005	Change
North	29,0	33,9	4,9	8,5	11,1	2,6
East	32,1	34,4	2,3	12,7	7,8	-4,9
South	23,7	27,4	3,7	9,8	7,2	-2,6
West	20,5	20,5	0	3,7	5,8	2,1
Total	27,2	30,5	3,3	8,6	8,5	-0,1

Background information

Population change in the PRRO districts

		1974	1985	2004	
South	Bo	217 711	8,0%	268 671	7,6%
	Bonthe	80 606	2,9%	97 975	2,8%
	Pujehun	102 741	3,8%	117 185	3,3%
East	Kailahun	180 365	6,6%	233 839	6,7%
	Kenema	266 636	9,7%	337 055	9,6%
	Kono	328 930	12,0%	389 657	11,1%
Sierra Leone		2 735 159	100%	3 515 812	100%
				4 976 871	100%

Source: GosIL 2004 Census

Households in poor or borderline food consumption groups

	Poor or borderline cons.	Borderline consumption	Poor consumption
Bonthe	90%	89%	1%
Moyamba	63%	55%	8%
Bombali	54%	4%	50%
Bo	32%	30%	2%
Koinadugu	31%	3%	28%
Pujehun	30%	22%	8%
Tonkolili	20%	10%	10%
Kenema	18%	3%	15%
Kambia	12%	4%	8%
Port Loko	11%	8%	3%
Kailahun	9%	2%	7%
Kono	4%	0%	4%
Western Rural	4%	2%	2%

Source: 2005 CFSVA

Food security (access, availability and utilization): Overview from 2005 VAM study

	Food access & availability					% of women with low BMI
	Poor consumption	Borderline	Adequate low diversity	Fairly good consumption	Good consumption	
Kailahun	7%	2%	34%	19%	38%	8%
Kenema	15%	3%	58%	3%	22%	15%
Kono	4%	0%	66%	1%	28%	6%
Bombali	50%	4%	17%	15%	14%	29%
Kambia	8%	4%	48%	3%	37%	12%
Koinadugu	28%	3%	37%	18%	15%	12%
Port Loko	3%	8%	14%	6%	69%	17%
Tonkolili	10%	10%	37%	8%	35%	8%
Bo	2%	30%	45%	4%	20%	10%
Bonthe	1%	89%	7%	0%	3%	23%
Moyamba	8%	55%	22%	1%	14%	13%
Pujehun	8%	22%	10%	3%	57%	7%
Western Rural	2%	2%	37%	6%	53%	11%

WFP VAM CFSVA 2005