



# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

## Highlight

- In response to the 14 August mudslide and floods in Freetown, WFP provided food assistance to over 2,000 affected households in eight communities.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, WFP trained humanitarian partners on mobile data collection to register and verify households affected by the disaster.
- WFP is providing logistics support to the Office of National Security to help manage, store and transport relief items for the emergency response.

## WFP Assistance

WFP is implementing activities to support the Government's 2015–2017 National Ebola Recovery Strategy and reverse the negative impacts of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak on food security and nutrition among vulnerable populations.

Rebuilding food and nutrition security and strengthening disaster management capabilities in Sierra Leone	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200938 (Jun 2016 – Dec 2017)	34.1 m	20.2 m (59%)	0.9 m (13%)

\*August 2017 - February 2018

**GENDER MARKER 2A** PRRO 200938

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) aims to: (i) strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable communities through community asset creation and rehabilitation; (ii) improve the nutritional status of malnourished children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and nursing women and people living with HIV and TB; and (iii) develop national capabilities to prepare for and respond to future emergencies.

The PRRO contributes to restoring and rebuilding livelihoods devastated by EVD, focusing on the most food-insecure populations and Ebola survivors, while enhancing utilisation of health and nutrition services weakened by the EVD outbreak. The PRRO contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger and SDG17: Partnerships, as well as SDGs on poverty reduction, health and gender equality.

WFP continues to implement Purchase for Progress (P4P) to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers to access reliable markets, enabling them to sell their surplus crops at competitive prices, thus bolstering their income, reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience. WFP is also supporting the expansion of social safety nets to highly food-insecure households during the 'lean' season.

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP: 200336 (Jan 2013-Dec 2017)	56.7 m	35.7 m (63%)	0

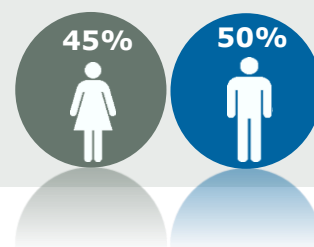
\* August 2017 - February 2018

Activities under the Country Programme, which was extended to the end of 2017, include technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and support to the implementation of their revised national school meals programme. WFP Country Programme, which contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17, was designed to empower vulnerable households and individuals with the highest rates of food insecurity and illiteracy in meeting their food and nutrition needs in a sustainable way. The Country Programme also supports the Government to realize its priorities set forth in the Agenda for Prosperity, particularly advancements in the education sector (SDG 4).

## In Numbers

**3.5 m** People food insecure

**37,000**  
People assisted  
August 2017



## Operational Updates

- Following the August 14 mudslide and flash floods in the capital, Freetown, the United Nations Resident Coordinator designated WFP as the incident coordinator of the emergency. WFP began food distributions to households affected by the disaster on 15 August, reaching over 2,000 households in eight communities. WFP continues to provide two-week food rations consisting of rice, beans, vegetable oil, salt and fortified complementary food to meet the basic food needs of the survivors.
- WFP is also providing pregnant and nursing women and children aged 6–59 months residing in shelters with fortified complementary food to improve their nutritional status.
- Due to an influx of relief items arriving at Lungi International Airport, the Office of National Security requested WFP to support the management, storage and transportation of these relief items. WFP erected five mobile storage units at its Main Logistics Base in Port Loko, approximately 45 miles east of Freetown.

## Challenges

- The first week of the emergency response, WFP food distributions were delayed due to slow registration and verification of households. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs leads the Registration Pillar of the Government's emergency response. The Ministry requested WFP to support in the verification of individuals who registered as affected by the disaster. WFP helped the Ministry transition from paper-based collection of information, which was timely and prone to error, to digital collection of data through the use of mobile technology. The Registration Pillar also defined criteria for eligibility to receive assistance during the initial relief and recovery phase.

## Partnerships

- WFP worked closely with the Government of Sierra Leone in response to the mudslide and floods emergency. WFP supported various pillars including Logistics, Food and Nutrition, Shelter and Registration pillars.
- Under the interagency framework, WFP coordinated humanitarian assistance, including a joint distribution where WFP provided food and UNFPA/UN Women provided dignity kits to affected households. UNICEF and WFP partnered to support the Ministry of Health to screen and refer cases of moderate acute malnutrition to local health centres. WFP is also working with UNOPS and FAO to develop maps of the affected areas.

## Country Background & Strategy



Since the end of a decade-long conflict in 2002, Sierra Leone has made significant progress towards peace-building, the resettlement of displaced populations, the reconstruction of war-affected communities and rehabilitation of productive household and community assets. Sierra Leone is now ranked (43 out of 163) most peaceful countries according to the 2016 Global Peace Index (GPI). However, the recent EVD outbreak, which erupted in Kailahun District in May 2014 has devastated the country's economy, and claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 people causing widespread human suffering. On 7 November 2015, the EVD outbreak was declared over after 42 days with no new cases. However, a new EVD case was confirmed on 15 January 2016.

Sierra Leone faces significant challenges related to food security and nutrition. The country has been ranked as having an "alarming" hunger level, scoring 112 out of 118 surveyed in the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The 2015 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis found that 49 percent of the population are food insecure, of which 12 percent are severely food insecure. Local production of rice, the main staple crop in Sierra Leone, remains inadequate to satisfy national requirements.

Over 70 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line of USD 2 per day. According to the 2015 Population and Census Housing Survey, net primary school enrolment is between 62 percent and 69 percent and drop-out rates are high, especially among girls in their early teens. The 2014 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) survey shows that at the national level the global acute child malnutrition rate is 4.7 percent and 29.8 percent of children under five are chronically malnourished. Malnutrition rates vary greatly between districts. Malnourished children require special foods, including fortified blended food, which many households are unable to access. Therefore, food assistance remains crucial for the country's most vulnerable populations.

Population: **7 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **179 out of 185**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **29.8% of children between 6–59**

## Donors

**Top five donors for CP 200336:** Japan, Republic of Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, European Commission, Multilateral  
**Top donors for PRRO 200938:** Japan, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Multilateral

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