



Sierra Leone

Zero Hunger Strategic Review





# **Government of Sierra Leone**

## **Sierra Leone Zero Hunger Strategic Review**

**June 2019**

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## PREFACE

We are privileged to present to you the national Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) report for Sierra Leone. The purpose of this review is to help map out the food and nutrition situation in the country in line with aspirations of the Agenda 2030 with regards to the Goal 2 of achieving zero hunger. Secondly, on the basis of this mapping out, we may - as a country – identify concrete actions we need to undertake in order to position the country toward the achievement of zero hunger by 2030 in line with global aspirations.

Even though food insecurity permeates the entire country, rural areas are most hit (59.7%) compared to urban areas (25.1%), implying close correlation between hunger and poverty. It means we have to address the underlying causes of poverty if we are to make progress in attaining zero hunger by 2030.

Equally alarming is the nutrition situation in Sierra Leone. Urgent corrective actions are required to reduce the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) which currently stands at 5.1% and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) at 4.0% among children. Although the levels of both wasting and stunting have shown an improving trend over the past 10 years, stunting rates remain high (>30%) indicating a persistent serious chronic malnutrition according to WHO classifications.

The review is based on a considerable amount of information gathered through stakeholder interviews, district level consultations and as well as steering committees composed of representatives of sectorial ministries, United Nations agencies, NGOs and development partners. It supports a multi-sector approach to fully address food and nutrition security issues, as well as the national vision and objectives in food and nutrition to Reduce Malnutrition in Sierra Leone in alignment with the national nutrition strategic plan and priorities.

The report needs to be read in conjunction with the recently unveiled Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019-2023) which contains medium-term measures to enhancing food security and nutrition in the country, as well as the National Agriculture Transformation Strategy issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2018.

Let us all work in earnest to ensure that no Sierra Leonean goes to bed hungry and neither suffers from ravages of malnutrition.



**Hon. Mr Joseph J. Ndanema**  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)



**Hon. Dr Francis M. Kaikai**  
Minister of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED)

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRYONYMS

ABC	Agribusiness Centre
AfDB	African Development Bank
APC	All People’s Congress
BMI	Body Mass Index
BoSL	Bank of Sierra Leone
BPEHS	Basic Package of Essential Health Services
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
DAO	District Agricultural Office
DFID	Department for International Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EAIN	Entrepreneurial Agriculture for Improved Nutrition
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
EPA-SL	Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone
EU	European Union
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FHCI	Free Health Care Initiative
FSA	Financial Services Association
FSMS	Sierra Leone Food Security Monitoring System
GAFSP	Global Agricultural Food Security Programme
GAM	Global acute malnutrition
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHI	Global Health Index
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMAM	Integrated management of acute malnutrition
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IVS	Inland valley swamp
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IYCF	Infant and young children feeding
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MAM	Moderate acute malnutrition
MDAs	Ministries Department and Agencies
MIYCN	Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
MLCPE	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MOPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
NaCSA	National Commission for Social Action
NASSIT	National Social Security and Insurance Trust
NCCS	National Climate Change Secretariat

NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NFNSIP	National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSADP	National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programme
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RCPRP	Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project
RFCIP	Rural Finance and Community Improvement Programme
RUTF	Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
SCADeP	Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project
SCP	Smallholder Commercialization Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Programme
SL-SPTF	Sierra Leone Social Protection Trust Fund
SLADF	Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund
SLARI	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
SLHIS	Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey
SLNNS	Sierra Leone National Nutrition Survey
SLPP	Sierra Leone People's Party
SNAP	Sustainable Nutrition and Agriculture Programme
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition (Network)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report has been produced for the Government of Sierra Leone, with financial and operational support from the World Food Programme (WFP).

Many people contributed in different ways to the production of this report, and we are most grateful for their efforts. First acknowledgement of gratitude goes to the lead ministry in the process, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development led by the former Minister, Nabeela Farid Tunis; the Deputy Minister, Robert Chikanda and the Development Secretary, Peter Nuyaba Kpakra. Contributions were received from other line ministries including that of Agriculture, Health, Gender and Education; as well as from several departments and organizations.

A special thanks to the WFP Country Director and Representative, Housainou Taal, and the Deputy Country Director, Yasuhiro Tsumura; for their guidance, support, and leadership throughout the process. Thanks also to Dominic Otieno Omolo for his operational, strategic and technical support, and to Caroline Thomas who played a critical role in the initial phase of the review. The process received a financial contribution from FAO through the Representative, Nyabenyi Tito Tipo and technical support from UNICEF nutrition team.

Lastly, we are grateful to the Lead Convenor, Sanusi Deen who led the process, assisted by a technical research team of EDS Partners Limited comprising of Peter Kaindaneh and Mariama Ellie for their technical expertise in the production of this report. Particular thanks also to Catherine Daly for her valuable contributions towards the review and editing of the report to its present shape.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sierra Leone joined the global community at the United Nations in September 2015 to adopt the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a view to ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all. Heads of state and governments undertook to achieve food security for their populations, improve their nutritional status and promote sustainable development under the second goal whose aim is to end hunger and improve nutrition.

Sierra Leone is a low-income and food-deficit country with a population of about 7 million people; half of whom are food insecure and sizeable number malnourished. Subsistence agriculture employs over 60 percent of the population, and accounts for almost half of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and approximately 10 percent of Sierra Leone's total exports.

Although there are many policies governing the country's intended approach to promote agricultural productivity and safeguard health for all, they have not been successfully implemented. However, there are significant opportunities to improve Sierra Leone's performance in these areas and get on-track to achieve Sustainable Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger.

The current Government led by H.E President Julius Maada Bio recognizes the importance of agriculture as the economic backbone of the country, and a promising platform for innovation. Similarly, attention must be given to the indispensable role of nutrition in ensuring a healthy, productive workforce able to achieve the gains envisioned in the National Development Plan: 2019-2023, which outlines the Government's medium-term policy priorities.

To achieve success - food security for all and the elimination of malnutrition - a top-down, bottom-up and cross-sectoral approach must be embraced. Agricultural productivity is impacted by education, infrastructure, climate change and disaster preparedness, and access to finance. Nutritional status is interwoven with issues related to healthcare, water and sanitation, and education, to name a few. Gender considerations, and inclusion of vulnerable and at-risk populations, cut across both issues.

It is important for the Government to lead by example in its commitment to eradicate malnutrition and ensure food security for all – through dedicated funding for interventions designed to address both of these goals. Improvements in agricultural productivity and nutrition require medium to long-term investments.

One of the pre-requisites across all of these recommendations is that such programs must be sustained interventions with the full policy and budgetary support of the Government; other partner support should be supplemental, and not a substitute for capacity-building within ministries to budget for and execute these interventions over a period of several years.

This report is a product of the review process and provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges Sierra Leone faces in achieving SDG 2 by 2030. It is a product of an all-inclusive, consultative and country-led exercise involving a wide range of government stakeholders as well as civil society, private sector, donors and international organizations.

Strengthening the country's institutional capacity to develop and deliver such agriculture and health services effectively, with contributions from relevant ministries, development partners, NGOs and CSOs, will improve the efficacy of future agriculture and health-related programming.

The targets set by the National Agriculture Transformation Strategy are: increased rice production from current 300,000 mt to 900,000 mt; increased population of small ruminants to 5 million, cattle to 2 million heads, and egg production to 750,000,000 per year; tree crops production cover to 400,000 ha and other crops cover to 200,000 ha; and forest cover increased from 5 percent to 10 percent.

The review has also identified animal health care as another critical area which requires attention and resources, including establishing functioning livestock clinics at district levels and providing training for mid-level staff and



including establishing functioning livestock clinics at district levels and providing training for mid-level staff and community animal health workers (CAHWS).

Lastly, is the issue of climate change. Sierra Leone is ranked third on the list of countries most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change and the country already experienced extreme vulnerability to climate change, in the form of several recent natural disasters related to rainfall such as floods and mudslide. The irregularity in rainfall and weather patterns have impacted on food production, thus threatening the livelihoods of much of the population that relies on agriculture and fishing for sustenance.

Improving agricultural productivity will free up labour within Sierra Leone to pursue additional income-generating activities and promote economic stability among households and the population at large. This is the first step to ensuring food security in Sierra Leone; for a population that is healthier and more financially secure and will contribute to the overall health and productivity of the country in tandem with Agenda 2030 of leave no one behind and attain zero hunger.

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In 2015, the Government of Sierra Leone joined the global community in committing to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The second of these goals, Zero Hunger, aims to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.”<sup>1</sup>

In 2017, World Food Programme (WFP) in consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone, launched the national Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) process by appointing a Lead Convenor (Mr Sanusi Deen) to oversee the process, assisted by a technical research team of EDS Partners Limited. The review process was an all-inclusive, consultative and country-led exercise involving a wide range of government stakeholders as well as civil society, private sector, donors and international organizations.

This report is a product of the review process and provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges Sierra Leone faces in achieving SDG 2 by 2030. The interdependent nature of the 17 SDGs, however, requires an analysis of the multi-sectoral dimensions of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

In addition to providing a baseline and determining gaps in the national food security and nutrition response, the strategic review identifies priority actions to achieve SDG 2. These priority actions – summarized into a roadmap – are designed to inform and assist national stakeholders and partners in strategic planning and policymaking.

The report is intended to strengthen national efforts to provide food and nutrition security to all Sierra Leoneans. Addressing hunger is critical to ensuring that all citizens are able to achieve their full physical and mental potentials and contribute to the economic growth and development of the country.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Review

The Review has three principal objectives:

1. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the food security and nutrition situation within the targets of SDG 2;
2. Determine the policies, programmes, institutional capacities and resources aimed at improving food security and nutrition in Sierra Leone; analyse the current state of such initiatives, and identify gaps in the response; and
3. Discuss and prioritize actions that will be required to fill response gaps and accelerate progress towards zero hunger, and provide recommendations for how these actions may be implemented.

## 1.3 Methodology

The Review was conducted through a desk review of reports, documents and articles on food security and nutrition from sources including the WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), African Development Bank (AfDB), Government of Sierra Leone ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and other partners in Sierra Leone.

Additional consultations and knowledge transfer sessions with key stakeholders took place in Freetown and the provinces. The research team held consultations with the following stakeholders:

- Relevant MDAs of the Government of Sierra Leone
- District councils and district agricultural offices
- UN agencies represented in Sierra Leone
- Other development partners working on food and nutrition issues in Sierra Leone, including international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Relevant university and research institutions
- Relevant private sector organizations

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Zero Hunger: Why It Matters*, ([www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Goal-2.pdf](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Goal-2.pdf)).

These stakeholders provided strategic guidance to the research team. In addition, during the course of this review, the team attended food security and nutrition meetings conducted by WFP, FAO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS).

Finally, a validation workshop with the participation of food and nutrition stakeholders and experts was undertaken to build consensus on the review findings and roadmap. This was in addition to technical inputs provided by the Advisory Board whose membership comprised of line ministers, representatives of major financial partners and critical United Nations agencies.



## CHAPTER 2: ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SITUATION

This Chapter provides a situational analysis on food and nutrition in Sierra Leone, within the context of relevant and influential macroeconomic, geopolitical and demographic factors, including gender and disability status. Special attention is paid to alignment with SDG 2 targets, which include food access, nutrition, food availability/smallholder farmer production, and sustainability.

### 2.1 Macroeconomic, Geopolitical and Demographic Context

Sierra Leone is a low-income and food-deficit country in West Africa, with an area of 72,325 km<sup>2</sup>, 465 kms of coastline,<sup>2</sup> and four administrative regions (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and North Western Area).<sup>3</sup> The 2015 Census reported a population of 7,092,113; youth (defined as 15-35) composed 39.4 percent.<sup>4</sup> The growth rate of 3.2 percent per annum between 2004 and 2015 put the country on pace to double in size by 2036.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, more recent population estimates confirm this continued growth rate, with 2017 World Bank population figures at 7.5 million.<sup>6</sup> Rural to urban migration is expected to continue (the urban population increased from 35 percent to nearly 40 percent between 2001 and 2015), but the country lacks a strong formal employment sector to support this population seeking employment and economic opportunity.<sup>7</sup>

Fifty-three percent of the population live below the income poverty line of USD 1.90 per day,<sup>8</sup> and sixty

percent live in rural areas.<sup>9</sup> According to recent data collected under the Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLHS 2018), of households whose heads engaged in agriculture, forestry or fishing, the incidence of poverty was 72.3 percent, and extreme poverty 16.4 percent – the highest among all occupations.<sup>10</sup> According to the just released Sierra Leone National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019, almost two-thirds of the population in the country was identified as ‘MPI poor’ (deprived in at least 40 percent of indicators), with poverty in rural areas more than double that of urban areas (86.3 and 37.6 percent, respectively).<sup>11</sup> Three districts were identified as having the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty in the country: Pujehun (87.2 percent), Koinadugu (86.5 percent), and Tonkolili (85.4 percent).<sup>12</sup>

The country’s infant and child mortality rates are 96 and 67 per 1,000 live births, respectively, and life expectancy is 49.5 years.<sup>13</sup> The country’s estimated maternal mortality ratio is 1,360 deaths per 100,000 babies born, among the highest in the world.<sup>14</sup> Subsistence agriculture employs over 60 percent of the population, and accounts for almost half of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).<sup>15</sup> Agriculture, forestry and fishing together contribute 60.3 percent to GDP,<sup>16</sup> and agriculture contributes approximately 10 percent to Sierra Leone’s total exports.<sup>17</sup>

Sierra Leone has experienced considerable economic turbulence over the past seven years. Iron ore discoveries in 2011 and the operationalization of several mines in 2012 drove growth from approximately 5.7 percent (2010-2011) to 20 percent in 2013.<sup>18</sup> However, global iron ore prices dropped in 2014.

<sup>2</sup> UNDP’s Climate Change Adaption Portal, Sierra Leone ([www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/western-africa/sierra-leone](http://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/western-africa/sierra-leone)).

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Information and Communications, GoSL, (<http://mic.gov.sl/dotnetnuke/AboutSL/Provinces>).

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL)/UNFPA, *Thematic Report on Population Structure and Population Distribution Statistics, Sierra Leone (October 2017)*, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> The World Bank: World Development Indicators (<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/source/world-development-indicators>).

<sup>7</sup> GoSL, *Sierra Leone’s National Development Plan: 2019-2023 (NDP)*, p. 27.

<sup>8</sup> WFP, *Sierra Leone Country Brief (September 2018)*.

<sup>9</sup> UN, *Sierra Leone Country Profile (http://data.un.org)*.

<sup>10</sup> GoSL, *NDP*, p. 15.

<sup>11</sup> UNDP Sierra Leone. *Sierra Leone National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019*, p.2. (The MPI index uses the Alkire-Foster method whereby a poverty profile is constructed for each person. It has five dimensions – health, education, living standards, housing, and energy – and 14 indicators. It uses the same weight for each dimension and depending on the dimension each indicator will have different weight.)

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, p.2

<sup>13</sup> SSL/UNFPA, *Thematic Report on Mortality, Sierra Leone (October 2017)*, p. 1.

<sup>14</sup> WHO, *Sierra Leone Annual Report 2017*, p.10.

<sup>15</sup> WFP, *Sierra Leone Country Brief (September 2018)*.

<sup>16</sup> World Bank. *World Development Indicators*.

<sup>17</sup> GoSL, *NDP*, p. 81.

<sup>18</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, *Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) (December 2015)*, p. 20.

This price drop, coupled with the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, significantly impacted the economy, productivity, and food security of the country.<sup>19</sup> After negative 21.5 percent GDP growth in 2015, the economy slowly started to recover, partly due to a resurgence in iron ore production in 2016, and the declared end of the EVD outbreak.

Between January and June 2018, total exports were valued at USD 515.8 million, as a result of increases in palm oil, timber, natural honey and other items that constituted USD 308.2 million of that total. This figure is more than double that for the same period in 2017. Imports during the first half of 2018 dropped by USD 9.9 percent overall; however, fuel imports increased by 60.6 percent (attributable to both increase in price and volume).<sup>20</sup>

Sierra Leone's strong economic reliance on an unpredictable commodity means uncertain growth projections – estimated at 6.1 percent for 2018, and 6.5 percent for 2019.<sup>21</sup> Inflation has been well above target, at 11.5 percent in 2016 and 18.4 percent in 2017.

The EVD outbreak resulted in 4,000 deaths,<sup>22</sup> and declines in institutional deliveries (43 percent), vaccination rates (30 percent), and 7 percent loss of the health workforce.<sup>23</sup> The impact of the EVD disproportionately affected women because they were primary caretakers for the sick. “As a result, their essential maternal health uptake reduced notably in antenatal, perinatal and postnatal care.”<sup>24</sup>

Elections held in March 2018 resulted in a runoff that elected Rt. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) candidate.<sup>25</sup> The new administration considers agriculture and its subsectors “key drivers of the country's economic development and achievement of Vision 2035 for attaining a middle-income status.”<sup>26</sup> The new President launched his “New Direction” agenda which has four pillars: Free and quality education;

Agriculture and economic diversification; environment; and domestic revenue generation, anti-corruption and rule of law. Consequently, the government developed Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) IV to be aligned with the “New Direction”, which was later renamed the National Development Plan 2019-2023.

The new administration has introduced school-fee subsidies for government and government-assisted schools at the pre-primary, primary, junior secondary and secondary levels, as well as a school feeding programme (discussed in further detail below).<sup>27</sup> The national electrification rate was below 10 percent in 2011,<sup>28</sup> and a strong focus on improving access to sustainable energy is seen in recent government and development partner initiatives, which include several projects to provide off-grid solar power to rural communities, and a USD 40 million contract with the Turkish Karadeniz power ship, Dogan Bey to supply 30 megawatts of electricity for three years.<sup>29</sup>

The country's current state reflects a commitment to economic and social recovery following the EVD outbreak and drop in iron ore prices; however, poverty, lack of job opportunities, vulnerability to climate change, and poor resourcing in the agricultural, education, and health sectors remain significant challenges to development and stability. The new administration's policy priorities mentioned above (and discussed in further detail in Chapter 3) are outlined in its working document, Sierra Leone's National Development Plan (2019-2039): Education for Development – Part One Medium Term Plan (2019-2023), referred to as the National Development Plan (NDP) throughout this report. The document acknowledges the critical role agriculture plays in the economy and labour force of Sierra Leone, and the importance of prioritizing strategic investments and innovation in order to support the sector. Improvements in agricultural productivity will not only promote livelihood and economic development, they will also promote food security and access to nutrition.

<sup>19</sup> USAID, Food Assistance Factsheet — Sierra Leone (September 2017).

<sup>20</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 34.

<sup>21</sup> African Development Bank Group, Sierra Leone Economic Outlook, ([www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/sierra-leone/sierra-leone-economic-outlook/](http://www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/sierra-leone/sierra-leone-economic-outlook/)).

<sup>22</sup> WFP, Sierra Leone Country Brief (September 2018).

<sup>23</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 64.

<sup>24</sup> MoHS/Action Against Hunger, Sierra Leone National Nutrition Survey 2017 (SLNNS), p. 3.

<sup>25</sup> World Bank, Sierra Leone Country Overview (available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/sierraleone/overview>).

<sup>26</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 81.

<sup>27</sup> Republic of Sierra Leone Office of the President, Statehouse Media and Communications, President Bio Launches Free Education, Calls on Parents and Teachers to Support the Initiative (August 20, 2018) Statehouse Media and Communications Unit.

<sup>28</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 23.

<sup>29</sup> Republic of Sierra Leone, Office of the President, Report of the Governance Transition Team 2018, (<https://statehouse.gov.sl/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GTT-report-25June-2018-.pdf>).



## 2.2 Food Security Situation Analysis Along SDG 2 Targets

### 2.2.1 Food Access and Availability

Food security, as defined by the Committee on World Food Security, “exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability.”<sup>30</sup> In West Africa, severe food insecurity increased from 20.7 percent of the population in 2014 to 29.5 percent in 2017, and undernourishment increased from 10.7 percent to 15.1 percent, respectively.<sup>31</sup>

According to the “State of Food Security in Sierra Leone 2015: Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis” (CFSVA), half the population of Sierra Leone are food insecure (49.8 percent), including 8.6 percent facing severe food insecurity, defined as “extreme food consumption gaps, OR extreme loss of livelihood assets [that] will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse.”<sup>32</sup> This data was collected as soon as possible after the EVD, and therefore reflects the negative impact of the EVD on food security and access to nutrition.

Based on the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment conducted in September 2018, overall food insecurity rate at national level is 43.7

percent, with 2.4 percent classified as severely food insecure. This means 3,182,300 Sierra Leoneans are living in food insecurity, whilst 170,210 are severely food insecure. This compares to an overall food insecurity level of 49.8 percent (3,530,754 people) found to be food insecure (moderately and severely) by the CFSVA 2015, of which 8.6 percent were classified as severely food insecure (608,505 people).<sup>33</sup>

Sierra Leone is ranked 109<sup>th</sup> of 113 countries in the Economist Intelligence Unit’s 2018 Global Food Security Index,<sup>34</sup> which weighs the criteria of affordability, availability, quality and safety, and evaluates the impact of natural resources and resilience on food security. According to the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Sierra Leone scored 35.7, an improvement from 40.4 in 2010 – but still within the range labeled “alarming” – and ranked 114<sup>th</sup> of 119 qualifying countries.<sup>35</sup> The various indices by which a population’s food security are measured concur that the situation in Sierra Leone requires improvement, and its rankings in this area are routinely among the lowest globally.

In a country where food accounts for above 65 percent of total household expenditure for 45.2 percent of households<sup>36</sup>, fluctuations in food prices, especially staple foods, have a significant impact on a family’s ability to provide consistent food consumption and/or access to other services. Between 2010 and 2015, rice’s local per-kilogram price increased by 38 percent; imported rice by 37

<sup>30</sup> FAO, 35th Session. Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (2009) ([www.fao.org/3/a-k7197e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-k7197e.pdf)).

<sup>31</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2018).

<sup>32</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 12.

<sup>33</sup> WFP, Sierra Leone Food Security Monitoring System Report (September 2018) (FSMS) p. 6.

<sup>34</sup> Global Food Security Index (<https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/Index>).

<sup>35</sup> The GHI is calculated according to four indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. A lower number indicates a lower (better) level of hunger. ([www.globalhungerindex.org/about/](http://www.globalhungerindex.org/about/) for a detailed description).

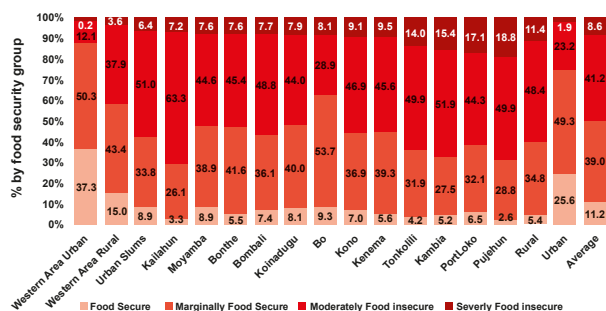
<sup>36</sup> WFP, FSMS, p. 13.

percent. Between September 2017 and September 2018, the price per kilogram for local rice increased by 10 percent, and by 3 percent for imported rice. Imported rice is subsidized by the Government of Sierra Leone because domestic production is at subsistence level. Cassava prices rose by 327 percent per kilogram between 2010 and 2015, and by nearly 80 percent between 2017 and 2018, as a result of high demand due to its affordability relative to rice. Smoked herring – a locally produced source of protein – increased by more than 300 percent between 2010 and 2015. Between 2017 and 2018, a kilogram of bonga fish increased by nearly 25 percent; one kilogram of meat went up by 20 percent during the same time period.<sup>37</sup> The 2018 increase in the price of meat is attributed to a third quarter outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) among small ruminants and livestock, impacting on supply and price.<sup>38</sup> The price of fish increases during the rainy season due to low supply, and also experienced a year-on-year increase due to inflation.<sup>39</sup>

Irregular rainfall during the 2018 rainy season impacted 67.8 of rice-growing households surveyed for the FSMS, of whom 51.1 percent lost more than half their seedlings. For groundnut, of the 63.3 percent affected households, 60.3 percent lost at least half of their seedlings. As the report notes, groundnut is predominantly cultivated by women, and is therefore expected to result in reduced income and food security in the coming months, particularly for female-headed households.<sup>40</sup>

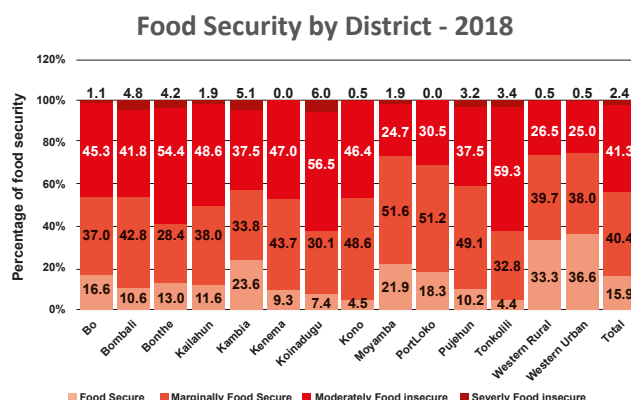
Figures 1 and 2 (from the CFSVA and FSMS, respectively), disaggregate food security by district for 2015 and 2018. Food security by gender, and disability, are disaggregated in Figures 3 and 4 for the year 2015.<sup>41</sup>

Figure 1: Food Security, by District - 2015<sup>42</sup>



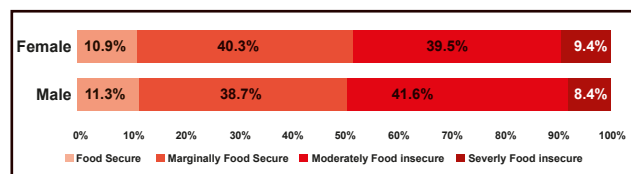
Pujehun, Port Loko, Kambia, and Tonkolili experience the highest rates of severe food insecurity, while Western Area Urban and Rural experience the lowest. The population of Western Area Urban, which houses the country capital, Freetown, enjoys the highest percentage of food security.

Figure 2: Food Security by District - 2018<sup>43</sup>



Koinadugu, Kambia, Bombali and Bonthe now have the highest rates of severe food insecurity; however, the situation has improved in each of these districts since 2015. Overall food insecurity (combining moderate and severely food insecure households) is highest in Tonkolili (62.7 percent) and Koinadugu (62.5 percent). Western Area Urban continues to enjoy the highest rate of food security, although it decreased between 2015 and 2018. Marginal food security in this area also decreased, with a larger percentage of the population moving into the moderately food insecure category (25 percent in 2018 compared to 12.1 percent in 2015).

Figure 3: Food Security, by Gender of Household Head - 2015<sup>45</sup>



Disaggregating food security by gender, slightly more female-headed households experience severe food insecurity, and slightly fewer female-headed households experience food security. However, female-headed households fare better in the

<sup>37</sup> Food prices for 2010/2015 from WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 25; Food prices for 2017/2018 from WFP, FSMS (September 2018), p. 9.

<sup>38</sup> Consultations with WFP staff (December 21, 2018).

<sup>39</sup> GoSL, Statistics Sierra Leone, The Consumer Price Index September 2018.

<sup>40</sup> WFP, FSMS, p. 7.

<sup>41</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 68.

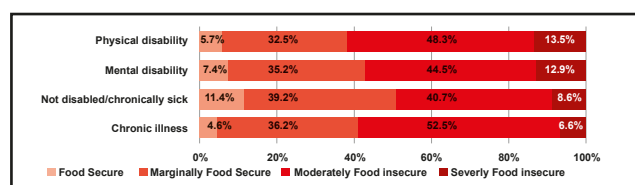
<sup>42</sup> Ibid, p. 45.

<sup>43</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2018), p. 20.

<sup>44</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 58.

intermediate categories, with a greater percentage of marginal food security and a lower percentage of moderate food insecurity than male-headed households. As of 2015, more than 42 percent of women in Sierra Leone had access to land; 20 percent were landowners; 37.7 percent performed farm work (compared to 35.5 percent among men).<sup>45</sup>

**Figure 4: Food Security, by Disability of Household Head - 2015<sup>46</sup>**



Among the disabled population, physical disability appears to have the greatest impact on a household's likelihood to face severe food insecurity, followed by mental disability. Households without disabilities or chronic illnesses enjoy the greatest percentage of food security, and households facing chronic illness the lowest.



## 2.2.2 Agricultural & Smallholder Productivity

Although Sierra Leone has sufficient arable acreage,<sup>47</sup> output is constrained by many factors. Because most farming is performed by smallholder farmers using

traditional methods, the advantages of mechanization, and more efficient tilling and soil management, are largely unrealized. As of 2015, irrigation techniques were practiced by only 4.6 percent of farmers.<sup>48</sup> Crop diversification – which can improve soil fertility and productivity, distribute risk and support income stability<sup>49</sup> – is not commonly practiced in Sierra Leone. Poor land management, including “slash and burn” techniques and deforestation, contribute to the reduction in soil fertility and arable land.<sup>50</sup> Limited access to credit, with high interest rates and short repayment periods – as well as a dearth of agribusiness dealers – limits access to improved seed varieties and other inputs such as fertilizer, pesticide and insecticide. Yield is also reduced through post-harvest loss. Challenges regarding physical access to markets (poor feeder roads), as well as access to market information system on pricing, also impedes farmers' ability to generate income above subsistence level. Value chain addition is rare, particularly among smallholders. Additional challenges include a difficult land tenure system and no insurance markets.<sup>51</sup>

The agriculture sector provides the lowest value added per worker within the country; despite increasing from USD 455 in 2002 to USD 1,105 in 2015 (real terms), in 2014 it was one-third lower than average national labour productivity.<sup>52</sup> In 2015 farmers cited their primary challenges to improving agricultural production as follows:

- Unavailability of improved seeds (45.5 percent)
- Lack of access to credit/money (38.8 percent)
- Natural disasters/EVD (37.7 percent)
- Insufficient household labourers (31.5 percent)
- Pest/crop diseases (27.3 percent)
- Lack of tools (24.9 percent)
- Unavailability of fertiliser (19.2 percent).<sup>53</sup>

Rice paddy production (hg/ha) improved from 1,204,020 tonnes in 2014 to 1,400,000 in 2017.<sup>54</sup> However, Sierra Leone still faces an import dependency that creates additional risk of food

<sup>45</sup> Ibid, p. 68.

<sup>46</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 58.

<sup>47</sup> FAO, Sierra Leone Country Profile ([www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=SLE](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=SLE)).

<sup>48</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 71.

<sup>49</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2018).

<sup>50</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA. <sup>51</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 28.

<sup>52</sup> World Bank Group, Republic of Sierra Leone: Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction Systematic Country Diagnostic (February 2018), p. 27.

<sup>53</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 71.

<sup>54</sup> FAO, FAOSTAT Data ([www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QC](http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QC)).



security and macroeconomic instability. According to the Government of Sierra Leone, 2016 rice imports cost USD 95.9 million.<sup>55</sup> The Government of Sierra Leone's Budget Statement 2018 estimated rice imports amounting to USD 108 million for the first six months of 2017, and expects this number to reach USD 200 million for the equivalent 2018 time period.<sup>56</sup> Of the 97.4 percent of the population that report rice as a staple food, 67.3 percent purchase and 28.3 percent produce themselves.<sup>57</sup>

See **Figure 5** for information on the availability of local and imported rice in markets countrywide, and **Figure 6** for increases in crop production between 2014 and 2017.

**Figure 5: Availability of Local and Imported Rice in Markets - 2015<sup>58</sup>**

District	Availability of Imported Rice				Availability of Local Rice			
	Always	Most of the time	Once in a while	Never	Always	Most of the time	Once in a while	Never
Kailahun	87.7%	4.7%	6.3%	1.2%	42.7%	48.6%	6.7%	-
Kenema	96.2%	3.8%	-	-	45.8%	46.2%	6.0%	-
Kono	70.9%	12.3%	11.1%	5.3%	42.5%	40.6%	16.9%	-
Bombali	95.8%	4.2%	-	-	81.1%	8.8%	9.2%	0.8%
Kambia	91.0%	8.3%	0.7%	-	74.3%	22.2%	2.8%	0.7%
Koronedugu	53.4%	20.5%	24.8%	1.2%	52.8%	22.4%	24.8%	-
Port Loko	95.1%	4.5%	0.4%	-	41.7%	33.1%	25.2%	-
Tonkolili	93.1%	3.9%	2.9%	-	61.8%	26.0%	12.3%	-
Bo	95.7%	2.2%	1.1%	1.1%	56.2%	30.4%	12.3%	1.1%
Bonthe	96.3%	2.5%	1.2%	-	16.8%	11.8%	67.7%	3.7%
Moyamba	89.5%	10.0%	-	0.4%	37.1%	38.6%	23.6%	0.4%
Fujehun	97.8%	0.6%	1.7%	-	6.2%	37.1%	56.2%	0.6%
Western Area Rural	98.5%	1.5%	-	-	90.0%	27.3%	22.7%	-
Western Area Urban	97.3%	2.7%	-	-	95.2%	4.1%	0.7%	-
Urban slums	11.1%	88.9%	-	-	11.1%	88.9%	-	-
Average	89.2%	6.4%	3.6%	0.8%	49.4%	30.5%	19.6%	0.5%

**Figure 6: Sierra Leone Crop Production Increase<sup>59</sup>**

Crop	2014 (metric tonnes)	2017 (metric tonnes)
Paddy Rice	832,774	897,069
Cassava	2,298,649	2,476,118
Cocoa	27,111	48,903
Coffee	60,303	92,149
Cashew	317	1,494
Palm Oil	646,988	702,456

The World Bank's Diagnostic Trade Integration Study identifies low productivity as a primary inhibitor to the development of rice, cassava, cocoa and palm oil value chains. Of the four, cassava processed into gari is the most competitive, and Sierra Leone could potentially respond to strong regional demand if it prioritizes strategic sectoral investments.<sup>60</sup>

Aquaculture is being promoted in certain districts (see Chapter 3) to supplement marine and inland fisheries, which contribute 9.4 percent to Sierra Leone's GDP.<sup>61</sup>

Among rural households, 29.4 percent keep livestock (including chickens).<sup>62</sup> Livestock numbers have still not recovered from the impact of the protracted civil war, and the limited number of households rearing animals in Sierra Leone was further reduced during the EVD, during which sale or killing and consumption was employed as a coping strategy.<sup>63</sup> An outbreak of FMD among small ruminants and livestock in the third quarter of 2018 resulted in additional negative impacts on stock.<sup>64</sup>

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, authored by the FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, WFP, and the World Health Organization (WHO), notes: "hunger is significantly worse in countries with agricultural systems that are highly sensitive to rainfall and temperature variability and severe drought, and where the livelihood of a high proportion of the population depends on agriculture."<sup>65</sup> This environment applies to Sierra Leone where farmers cite natural disasters as among the top three reasons for poor output and productivity. Irregular rainfall due to climate change, coupled with lack of irrigation systems, heightens such vulnerability. Despite improvements in certain areas, the Government of Sierra Leone and its partners must continue to prioritize targeted efforts to accelerate productivity and expand access to food.

<sup>55</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 83

<sup>56</sup> GoSL, Presidential Public State Opening Address, delivered May 10, 2018, (<https://statehouse.gov.sl/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Presidential-Public-State-Opening-Address.pdf>).

<sup>57</sup> MoHS/Action Against Hunger, SLNNS, p. 49

<sup>58</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 94.

<sup>59</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 82. Attributed to PEMSD National Yield Study Data.

<sup>60</sup> World Bank, Trading Toward Prosperity: Sierra Leone Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update (December 2013) pp. 16-17.

<sup>61</sup> WorldFish Center, Feed the Future — Sierra Leone Agriculture Project ([http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource\\_centre/2016-08.pdf](http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource_centre/2016-08.pdf)).

<sup>62</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, CFSVA, p. 76.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid, p. 76.

<sup>64</sup> Consultations with WFP staff (December 21, 2018).

<sup>65</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2018), p. vi.

Promoting crop diversification and facilitating physical infrastructure, and access to information, will reduce the influence of external shocks on consumption, and therefore food security.

Further discussion of recent and forthcoming efforts to address food security can be found in **Chapter 3**.



## 2.3 Malnutrition Status of Sierra Leone

According to UNICEF's widely cited Conceptual Framework of Malnutrition, the "causes of malnutrition are multisectoral, embracing food, health and caring practices. They are also classified as immediate (individual level), underlying (household or family level) and basic (societal level), whereby factors at one level influence other levels."<sup>66</sup> Immediate causes are inadequate dietary intake and disease, underlying/household level causes are poor water, sanitation and inadequate health services, inadequate maternal and child care practices, and insufficient access to food. Basic causes are the quantity and quality of human, economic and organisational resource, and potential resources such as environment, technology and people.<sup>67</sup>

The Sierra Leone National Nutrition Survey 2017 (SLNNS 2017) analyzes the ways in which these diverse contributors to malnutrition are revealed within the country, and notes "morbidity and malnutrition have [an] interchangeable cause-effect relationship and may both result in mortality of affected groups in [a] population."<sup>68</sup> The SLNNS provides the following overview of the terms under the malnutrition umbrella, their causes and potential severity.

**Wasting:** *the main indicator of acute malnutrition, occurs because of recent rapid weight loss, or a failure to gain weight within a relatively short period of time, and, according to the UNICEF Framework of Malnutrition, may be the result of inadequate food intake or a recent episode of illness. Recovery from wasting is relatively quick once optimal feeding, health and care are restored. Wasting occurs because of deficiencies in both macronutrients (fat, carbohydrate and protein) and some micronutrients (vitamins and minerals).*

**Stunting:** *is common in areas of low food security, and acute malnutrition and is instigated by a combination of economic [sic], agricultural production, lack of access to diversified diets and consumption of insufficient essential nutrients as well as health-related factors. The consequences of the stunting can be looked at in the short-term in terms of mortality from infections, in particular pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea; in medium term, cognitive, education and behavioural aspects of child development; and in long term, the risk of poor health and lower attainment of socio-economic productivity throughout lifetime and are irreversible.*<sup>69</sup>

The survey's population sampling revealed a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at 5.1 percent, Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) at 4.0 percent, and Severe Acute Malnutrition at 1.0 percent, including 47,861 wasted children, positioning Sierra Leone as a "poor nutrition situation according to WHO classification."<sup>70</sup> The survey report notes: "Wasting occurs more commonly in children under five years old, often during the stage when complementary foods are being introduced and children are more susceptible to infectious diseases, explaining why acute malnutrition was higher among the younger

<sup>66</sup> UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (1998) ([www.unicef.org/sowc98/sowc98.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/sowc98/sowc98.pdf)).

<sup>67</sup> UNICEF, The State of the World's Children.

<sup>68</sup> MoHS/Action Against Hunger, SLNNS, p. 66

<sup>69</sup> Ibid, p. 62.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid, p. xv.

(6-29 months) than the older children (30-59 months). The younger age group includes the critical breastfeeding age (6-23.9 months) during which the child experiences multiple challenges in terms of the quality and quantity of food consumed as well as frequent infections resulting from poor feeding practices and conditions.”<sup>71</sup>

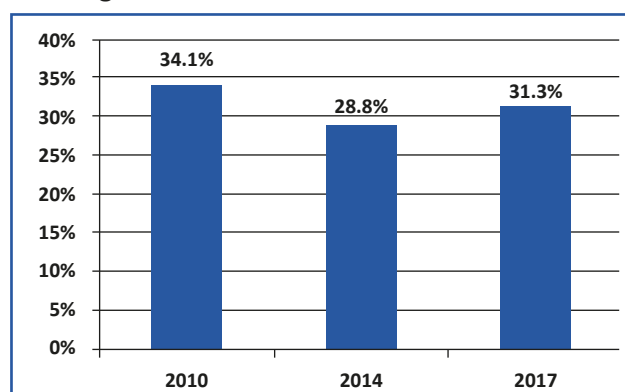
For women aged 15-49 years, among those pregnant and/or lactating, acute malnutrition was 5.7 percent (measured using Mid Upper Arm Circumference - MUAC <23 cm); among non-pregnant/lactating women acute malnutrition was 0.1 percent (MUAC < 18.5 cm).<sup>72</sup> Obesity rates for women in the same age range are highest in the Western Area - Slums (13.0 percent) and Urban (14.7 percent).<sup>73</sup> As obesity is also a form of malnutrition (“overnutrition”) national policies and programmes must also consider how to target this threat to public health.

The national stunting level was 31.3 percent, (21.3 percent moderately stunted, and 10.0 percent severely stunted), including 293,736 children. In both the wasting and stunting category, the survey found more boys than girls suffered from these conditions.<sup>74</sup> The report notes “although the levels of both wasting and stunting have shown an improving trend over the past 10 years, stunting rates remain high (>30%) indicating a persistent serious chronic malnutrition according to WHO classification.”<sup>75</sup>

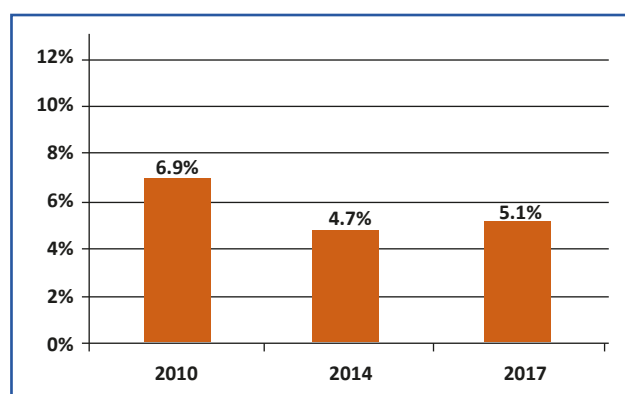
The highest child stunting (6-59 months) in the country is found in Pujehun (38.7 percent), Moyamba (35.1 percent) and Kenema (35 percent).<sup>76</sup> Bombali has the highest prevalence of GAM for children aged 6-59 months based on weight for height scores (5.9 percent) followed by Port Loko (5.8 percent) and Western Area Urban district (5.8 percent). In nine districts, the prevalence of wasting is in the “medium” range (5 – 10 percent) as defined by the WHO Crisis Classification. In six districts the prevalence is considered “low” (<5 percent) while Kailahun and Western Rural Area have the lowest rates of acute malnutrition.<sup>77</sup>

**Figure 7: Malnutrition Situation in Sierra Leone (2010-2017)**<sup>78</sup>

#### Stunting



#### Global Acute Malnutrition



#### Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

According to FAO, exclusive breastfeeding from 0 – 6 months protects against child stunting and wasting, as well as obesity.<sup>79</sup> The African Nutritional Regional Strategy (ANRS) has identified breastfeeding as integral to the prevention of malnutrition, and a key component among many African countries’ nutritional programmes.<sup>80</sup> Despite widespread breastfeeding practices in Sierra Leone (albeit with considerable variation among districts, especially Western Area Urban, Bonthe and Tonkolili), the SLNNS survey identified 40 percent of infants introduced to complementary foods before the six-month mark, which increases vulnerability due to unhygienic feeding and poor Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Ibid, p. 62. <sup>72</sup> Ibid, p. 34.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid, p. 36. <sup>74</sup> Ibid, pp. xv – xvi.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid, p. xvi. <sup>76</sup> Ibid, p. 31.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid, p. 20. <sup>78</sup> Ibid, pp. xv, xvi, and 4.

<sup>79</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2018), p. 31.

<sup>80</sup> In terms of interventions to control ‘inadequate intake of nutrients’, most African national nutrition programmes include a component of breast-feeding promotion focusing on three major parts: a) early initiation, b) exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months of life, and c) continued breastfeeding (with feeding other foods) up to 24 months. (ARNS 2015-2025)

<sup>81</sup> MoHS/Action Against Hunger, SLNNS, p. xvi.

Studies indicate that infants in food insecure households are less likely to be exclusively breastfed during this critical period.<sup>82</sup> In Sierra Leone, lack of Vitamin-A-rich foods and failure to meet recommended minimum meal frequency affected more than 50 percent of infants aged 6 to 24 months. The SLNNS report notes that “rates of acute and chronic malnutrition higher among the breastfeeding age are indicative of the effect of sub-optimal IYCF practices among the population.”<sup>83</sup>



### Dietary Diversity

In Sierra Leone, poor households achieve less dietary diversity, which increases the risk of malnutrition. Of eight possible food groups, 56.8 percent of households consume from four or less, and 13.9 percent consume two groups or less on a weekly basis.<sup>84</sup> Micronutrient deficiency (MNDs) including deficiencies in iron and Vitamin A, are common, and attributable to poverty, lack of access, lack of knowledge, and prevalence of infectious diseases.<sup>85</sup> Access to protein-rich foods can be challenging in rural, non-coastal areas. Dried and smoked fish may be unhygienic and lacking in nutrients due to long travel times from the coast.<sup>86</sup> Fish accounts for 80 percent of Sierra Leoneans’ animal protein intake, and “is particularly important during pregnancy and the first two years of a child’s life, as the fatty acids it provides promote optimal brain and neurological development.”<sup>87</sup> Limited access to fish in certain areas, therefore means limited animal protein altogether, with potential long-term health consequences for the young.

### Food Consumption Score (FCS)

This is an indicator that “measures a household’s food intake over the seven-day period prior to being interviewed as part of a survey. The FCS looks into the frequency that different food groups are consumed triangulated with their relative nutritional importance. Households are classified into three groups: **Poor**, **Borderline** and **Acceptable**.”<sup>88</sup>

**Figure 8: Food Consumption Score 2015 vs. 2018<sup>89</sup>**

Households by FCS Category	FCS Threshold	FCS 2015 CFSVA	FCS 2018 FSMS
Poor	0 – 21	19.9	18.1
Borderline	21 – 35	33.5	45.7
Acceptable	>35	46.5	36.2

**Figure 8** compares FCS within Sierra Leone between 2015 and 2018. The most significant change is a large increase in the “borderline” category at the expense of the “acceptable” category, indicating that a greater percentage of the population is now more vulnerable to external shocks. The report notes this is due to a reduction in protein intake, resulting from price increases.

<sup>82</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2018)*, pp. 31-32.

<sup>83</sup> MoHS/Action Against Hunger, *SLNNS*, p. 65.

<sup>84</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, *CFSVA*, p. 50. <sup>85</sup> *Ibid*, p. 51.

<sup>86</sup> USAID, *Fish Farming Brings Food and Nutrition Security to Rural Sierra Leone (May 2018)*

(<https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/fish-farming-brings-food-and-nutrition-security-sierra-leone>)

<sup>87</sup> WorldFish Center, *Feed the Future — Sierra Leone Aquaculture Project*

([http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource\\_centre/2016-08.pdf](http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource_centre/2016-08.pdf)).

<sup>88</sup> WFP/MAFFS/FAO, *CFSVA*, p. 37. <sup>89</sup> WFP, *FSMS*, p. 10.

# CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS



This Chapter considers the policy, strategic and programmatic response of the Government of Sierra Leone and development partners in addressing issues affecting the agricultural and health sectors – including resources to combat malnutrition, increase food security, and improve national social protection. Strategies to govern disaster management and mitigate impacts of climate change also appear below. These initiatives from the Government of Sierra Leone and partners indicate the priority areas for intervention and the methods used to address food security and nutrition issues.

## 3.1 Policies, Strategies and Programmes

### 3.1.1 Addressing Agricultural Issues in Sierra Leone

Current and previous governments recognize the importance of supporting the agriculture sector as

part of integrated efforts to ensure food security and access to nutrition, promote household financial stability and countrywide economic growth, and support the health and development of the country as a whole.

Sierra Leone signed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in 2009.<sup>90</sup> CAADP was developed by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of the African Union. CAADP's targets for country signatories include a 6 percent annual growth in agricultural GDP, and a minimum 10 percent of public expenditures to the agricultural sector.<sup>91</sup> As part of preparations to become a CAADP signatory, the Government of Sierra Leone developed its National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan (NSADP 2010-2030), which remains the country's primary policy document governing agriculture.<sup>92</sup> The NSADP's six thematic areas of review (selected because they reflect alignment between national

<sup>90</sup> NEPAD, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Overview* ([www.nepad.org/nepad-oncontinent/comprehensive-africa-agriculture-development-programme-caadp-sierra-leone](http://www.nepad.org/nepad-oncontinent/comprehensive-africa-agriculture-development-programme-caadp-sierra-leone)).

<sup>91</sup> UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)* ([www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/peace/caadp.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/peace/caadp.shtml)).

<sup>92</sup> GoSL, *National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan (2010-2030)*.

objectives and CAADP Pillars)<sup>93</sup> are:

1. Sustainable land and water management system
2. Rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access
3. Improved food production to reduce hunger including emergencies and disasters that require agricultural support
4. Agricultural technology development, dissemination and adoption
5. Sustainable use of forestry, fisheries and livestock resources
6. Cross-cutting issues: policy formulation and review, agricultural statistics, M&E, women in agriculture, youth in agriculture and farmer health

Government of Sierra Leone projects that resulted from or are aligned with the NSADP include:

**Smallholder Commercialization Program (SCP):** The SCP, which began in July 2011, is a programme designed to promote long-term economic development through increased food security and income among the rural poor. It is supervised by IFAD, and executed through MAF (formerly MAFFS) through a dedicated PMU. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) funds the USD 50 million programme through a grant to the Government of Sierra Leone. “The main project objectives are to: (i) Reduce the gap between national rice production and demand (representing 70,000 metric tons), and (ii) Increase farm incomes by 10 percent for direct beneficiaries. The project consists of four components: (i) Smallholder Agriculture and Commercialization; (ii) Small-Scale Irrigation; (iii) Rural Finance; and (iv) Programme planning, coordination and management.”<sup>94</sup>

Under the SCP, MAF established 193 ABCs, operated by 490 Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs). An estimated 122,500 farmers compose these FBOs, with 30 percent from female-headed households. ABCs face challenges in management and governance, under/disuse of services, and overall low capacity.<sup>95</sup>

**Smallholder Commercialisation and Agribusiness Development Project (SCADeP):** SCADeP is funded with USD 55 million (40 million from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, and 15 million from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The project is designed to benefit 50,000 smallholder farmers (40 percent of whom are women and youth) through access to inputs, finance, markets (including the construction of feeder roads) and agribusiness development.<sup>96</sup> In 2016, the Apex Bank (formerly the Technical Assistance Agency) was established and re-capitalized with 3.2 million from the IDA, in order to support its oversight of and support for 51 Financial Services Associations (FSAs) and 17 Community Banks (CBs), including provision of soft loans to farmers.<sup>97</sup> DFID’s contribution will be directed toward the rehabilitation and maintenance of 500 km of feeder roads,<sup>98</sup> with the goal to reduce travel time by 20 percent. In addition to improving access to markets, this initiative is expected to facilitate women’s access to maternal healthcare, and girls’ access to schools and clinics.<sup>99</sup> Another component under SCADeP is the Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund (SLADF), which focuses on promoting out grower development through financial support and value chain strengthening, including rice, cocoa, oil palm and poultry.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>93</sup> The four CAADP Pillars are: (i) extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems; (ii) improving rural infrastructure and trade related capacities for market access; (iii) increasing food supply and reducing hunger; and (iv) agricultural research, technology dissemination, and adoption. See Mkandawire, Richard, “The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Presentation to the Members of Parliament, United Kingdom”, available at: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/events-documents/3889.pdf>.

<sup>94</sup> IFAD, *Smallholder Commercialization Programme Under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (SCP-GAFSP) — Supervision Report (2013)* (<https://operations.ifad.org/documents/654016/10873b9e-3811-4328-9bc5-ca34b8e099b8>)

<sup>95</sup> World Bank. *International Development Association, Project Appraisal Report*, (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/424451468185330277/pdf/PAD1372-PAD-P153437-Box394849B-IDA-R2016-0008-1-OUO->) p.5.

<sup>96</sup> Awoko, *Sierra Leone News, SCADeP Fosters Agribusiness Development*: <https://awoko.org/2017/09/21/sierra-leone-news-scadep-fosters-agri-business-development/>; *Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund* (<https://www.sladf-sl.org>).

<sup>97</sup> Awoko, *Sierra Leone News, Apex Bank to Get \$3.2m*: <https://awoko.org/2016/05/30/sierra-leone-news-apex-bank-to-get-3-2m/>.

<sup>98</sup> *Additional work on primary, secondary and feeder road networks is funded by AfDB, the EU, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) through NACSA, and the Islamic Development Bank.*

<sup>99</sup> UKAID. *Business Case, Summary Sheet: Feeder Roads for Smallholder Commercialisation & Agribusiness Development in Sierra Leone* (<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205171/documents>).

<sup>100</sup> *Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund* (<https://www.sladf-sl.org/about-us>).

**Linking Farmers to Market (LFM):** The LFM project is funded by the Islamic Development Bank (USD 22,800,000) and began October 31, 2013. LFM aims to improve smallholder productivity, food security, income and marketing capacity through initiatives including: infrastructure support such as building ABCs and irrigation facilities, promoting land development, and rehabilitating feeder roads; capacity building and training for smallholder farmers and MAF extension workers; and supplying inputs such as seed and fertilizer.<sup>101</sup>

**Boosting Agriculture and Food Security (BAFS):** This EUR 35 million project, funded by the European Union and implemented through MAF, is scheduled to run from 2017-2021. BAFS aims to reduce poverty and food insecurity in Sierra Leone through the following objectives: “increasing agricultural productivity, promoting commercial agriculture, and promoting sustainable land use and improving agricultural research as well as promoting institutional capacity building and sector policy reform.”<sup>102</sup> The project is aligned with the NSADP. Capacity building and sector policy reform will be concentrated in MAF to support central- and district-level capacity and administration, and strengthen operational units within the Ministry. Capacity building for the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) and specifically for veterinary services, and livestock diversification, is envisioned. Cashew, cocoa and coffee are the cash crops targeted for improved productivity and export. Agribusiness development via provision of seed money will also be provided.<sup>103</sup>

The **Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency Act, 2017** and **The National Fertilizer Regulatory Agency Act, 2017** were both passed by Parliament to support availability of high-quality seeds and fertilizers in Sierra Leone, specifically through encouraging private sector participation in the production, supply and distribution of these items.<sup>104</sup>

Under **Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity: Poverty Reduction** Paper (2013-2018) the Government of

Sierra Leone planned to promote the agriculture and fisheries sectors through cross-cutting assistance under several of the eight “Agenda for Prosperity” Pillars, including support for infrastructure, access to finance, natural resources and institutional strengthening.<sup>105</sup> However, the EVD outbreak necessitated a re-prioritization toward health and social protection. The President’s Recovery Priorities (launched June 20, 2016) again included agriculture and fisheries, in addition to health, education, and access to water and energy.<sup>106</sup>

The new administration of the Government of Sierra Leone’s overarching policy document is the National Development Plan (2019-2023): Education for Development. The Medium-Term Plan (2019-2023) is being finalized. This document provides an overview of the macroeconomic context, including opportunities and inhibitors to growth. Eight policy clusters encompass the Government of Sierra Leone’s strategic priorities: (i) Human Capital Development; (ii) Population, Youth Employment and Migration; (iii) Diversifying the Economy; (iv) Governance and Accountability for Results; (v) Infrastructure and Economic Competitiveness; (vi) Women, Children, Adolescents and Persons with Disabilities; (vii) Addressing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience; (viii) Means of Implementation. Agriculture, as a means to promote food security, end hunger and malnutrition, and support economic growth, is a cross-cutting priority under these clusters. The following strategies are planned for the next four years: encouraging private investment, promoting improved technologies, increasing production of food and cash crops, and improving livestock production.<sup>107</sup>

The NDP is driven by the New Direction Agenda policy of the President. The overall goal of the agricultural policy is to “ensure sustainable and diversified production of food, including crops and animals, on a scale sufficient enough to feed the growing population as well as providing gainful employment while maintaining the natural resource base.”<sup>108</sup>

<sup>101</sup> IsDB, *Linking Smallholder Farmers to Market Project (2013)* ([www.isdb.org/project/linking-smallholder-farmers-to-market-project](http://www.isdb.org/project/linking-smallholder-farmers-to-market-project)).

<sup>102</sup> European Union, *The Government of Sierra Leone and the European Union Officially Launch the EUR 35 Million (LE 210 Billion) Boosting Agriculture and Food Security Programme Funded by the European Development Fund* ([https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/togo/10279/the-government-of-sierra-leone-and-the-european-union-officially-launch-the-eur-35-million-le-210-billion-boosting-agriculture-and-food-security-programme-funded-by-the-european-development-fund\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/togo/10279/the-government-of-sierra-leone-and-the-european-union-officially-launch-the-eur-35-million-le-210-billion-boosting-agriculture-and-food-security-programme-funded-by-the-european-development-fund_en)).

<sup>103</sup> GIZ, “Brief Overview of the BAFS Project”.

<sup>104</sup> GoSL, NDP, p.83.

<sup>105</sup> GoSL, *Agenda for Prosperity* (<http://www.sierra-leone.org/Agenda%20Prosperity.pdf>).

<sup>106</sup> World Bank Group, *Republic of Sierra Leone: Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction Systematic Country Diagnostic* (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/152711522893772195/pdf/SIERRA-LEONE-SCD-02132018.pdf>).

<sup>107</sup> GoSL, NDP.

<sup>108</sup> SLPP, *New Direction People’s Manifesto* (<http://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SLPP-MANIFESTO-2-02-2018-PDF.pdf>).

The National Agricultural Transformation Programme 2023 has been developed in line with the NDP. Its goal is to increase agricultural production by attracting and retaining large investments and supporting smallholders to exit subsistence farming by 2023. The targets are increased rice production from current 300,000 mt to 900,000 mt; increased population of small ruminants to 5 million, cattle to 2 million heads, and egg production to 750,000,000 per year; tree crops production cover to 400,000 ha and other crops cover to 200,000 ha; and forest cover increased from 5 percent to 10 percent.<sup>109</sup>



### 3.1.2 Addressing Malnutrition in Sierra Leone

Malnutrition is a health sector issue as well as an agricultural sector issue. Therefore, health policy development and coordination are instrumental in the Government of Sierra Leone's efforts to attain SDG 2: Zero Hunger. Maternal and child health care are particularly important. In the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021, MOHS addresses the impact of the EVD on Sierra Leone's health system, reviews past gaps and shortcomings in implementation, and establishes targets across a comprehensive range of indicators for future improvement. Below is a review of other relevant recent, current and future policies and programs.

**Free Health Care Initiative (FHCI):** This was introduced by then-president Ernest Koroma in 2010 in response to the country's high maternal and child mortality and morbidity levels, eliminated user fees for children under five, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Evaluators found "a very sharp drop in under-five mortality associated with the start of the initiative" but note that the onset of the EVD also diminished many gains under the program.

Additional strategies and policies related to maternal and child health include the following:<sup>111</sup>

- Reproductive, New-born and Child Health (RNCH) Policy 2011-2015
- RNCH Strategy 2011-2015
- Strategic Plan for Adolescent and Young People's Health & Development 2011-2015

According to the Government of Sierra Leone, "1 out of every 3 girls age 15-19 years are either mothers or pregnant and 2 out of every 5 girls are married before age 18. Sierra Leone is among the top 10 countries with the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world." It is therefore allocating Le 1.2 billion (with additional funds from development partners) to support the National Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Programme in 2019.<sup>112</sup>

**Basic Package of Essential Health Services (BEPHS 2015 – 2020):** This was an expanded version of the original 2010 BEPHS, and the MOHS notes "the HSSP I review team noted that it does not make health services more affordable or efficient as written. Realistically, only a miniscule portion of the services described in the new document can be provided at the levels of care described in the document. Nonetheless, it formed the backbone for the MoHS' new health sector vision."<sup>113</sup>

**Sierra Leone National Nutrition Survey - 2017 (SLNNS):** The survey was conducted by the Directorate of Food and Nutrition/MOHS and Action Against Hunger, and funded by Irish Aid. The 2017 Survey, like its predecessors in 2010 and 2014, used the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) methodology. Information on malnutrition, including prevalence of

<sup>109</sup> MAF Presentation during the ZHSR Line Ministries Consultation Workshop on 30/01/2019 at MOPED Conference Room.

<sup>110</sup> Oxford Policy Management, *Evaluation of the Free Health Care Initiative in Sierra Leone* ([www.opml.co.uk/projects/evaluation-free-health-care-initiative-sierra-leone](http://www.opml.co.uk/projects/evaluation-free-health-care-initiative-sierra-leone)).

<sup>111</sup> World Health Organization, *Sierra Leone Launches Reproductive & Child Health Policy, Strategy & Adolescent Health Strategic Plan* (<https://afro.who.int/news/sierra-leone-launches-reproductive-child-health-policy-strategy-adolescent-health-strategic>).

<sup>112</sup> GoSL, *2019 Budget Speech*, (transcription available at:

<http://sliepa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-GOVERNMENT-BUDGET-AND-STATEMENT-OF-ECONOMC-AND-FINANCIAL-POLICIES.pdf>) p. 30 – 31.

<sup>113</sup> MOHS, *National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021*, p.17



wasting, stunting, overweight and obese populations, as well as status of pregnant/lactating and non-pregnant/non-lactating, are included. Information is disaggregated at the district level, and provides an overview of progress from the previous survey periods.

**Sierra Leone National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2012-2016**<sup>114</sup>: Authored by MOHS, this policy provided an overview of Sierra Leone's current state of food security and nutrition, objectives and goals for improving these metrics, strategies to achieve the improvements, and an overview of institutional arrangements among key players.

**Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)**: Sierra Leone joined the SUN network on January 16, 2012. A global movement to end malnutrition, the SUN Movement Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).<sup>115</sup> UNN, which is the United Nations Network for SUN, is the coordination mechanism by which UN agencies harmonize nutrition efforts in support of achieving SDGs and other country-level nutrition targets. Ahead of the 2018 election, UNN advocacy resulted in enactment of a food and feed safety bill in Sierra Leone, and the positioning of nutrition as a policy priority in the manifestos of 14 political parties.<sup>116</sup>

The multi-sectoral **National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan: 2013-2017 (NFNSIP)** was developed under the auspices of Sierra Leone's participation in the SUN Movement, with inputs from civil society, development partners, and the United Nations. The NFNSIP is currently under revision and will be aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and delineate the responsibilities of each relevant sector, when complete.<sup>117</sup>

The Directorate of Food and Nutrition, within the MOHS, administers the following:

- Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) Unit, tasked with providing nutrition services to infants, children (0-24 months) and mothers. The MIYCN Unit finalized the "*National Infant and Young Children Feeding*

*Strategy 2015*" and "*Guidelines for Enhancing Optimal Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices 2016*" in 2016; developed materials to promote breastfeeding based on WHO guidance, and training support for mother support groups (MSGs).<sup>118</sup>

- Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Unit, tasked with ensuring health workers in each district of Sierra Leone are able to provide children under the age of 5 with moderate and severe acute malnutrition services, integrates three care and treatment modes: Inpatient Facility (IPF), Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programme (OTP), and Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP). Such services fall under the BPEH under the Free Health Care Initiative.<sup>119</sup> Recent activities implemented or facilitated by the IMAM Unit include training at the community level on self-screening children for malnutrition, the WFP's Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) in four districts where acute malnutrition was prevalent, and MOHS's incorporation of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) in its list of life-saving commodities.<sup>120</sup>
- Micronutrient Unit, tasked with preventing micronutrient deficiencies, particularly among vulnerable populations of women and children, focuses on iron, Vitamin A, and iron deficiencies. Recent activities include a pilot programme on micronutrient powder that was expanded to include over 26,000 children in Kono and Pujehun Districts; establishment of a national anaemia working group composed of stakeholders from across the health sector; and contributions to the development of the MOHS's National Multi-Sectoral Strategy to Prevent and Control Anaemia (2018-2025).

### **World Fish (USAID Feed the Future)**

Development partners such as World Fish are working to combat the protein deficit for rural communities with the introduction of Tilapia ponds in Tonkolili district.<sup>121</sup> "The development of

<sup>114</sup> MOHS, *Sierra Leone National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2012-2016*.

<https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/sites/default/files/SLE%202012%20Sierra%20Leone%20Nutrition%20Policy%20pdf%20version.pdf>

<sup>115</sup> *Scaling up Nutrition, SUN Progress Report 2018* ([https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/themes/elision/pdf/SUNPR-2018/SUN\\_Report\\_EN\\_2018.pdf](https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/themes/elision/pdf/SUNPR-2018/SUN_Report_EN_2018.pdf)), p.x.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid*, p. 46. <sup>117</sup> *Ibid*, p. 149.

<sup>118</sup> MOHS, *Annual Health Sector Performance Report 2016*, pp 100-101.

<sup>119</sup> GOSL, *National Food and Nutrition Security Strategic Plan: 2013-2017*, p 93.

<sup>120</sup> MOHS, *Annual Health Sector Performance Report 2016*, pp 101-102.

<sup>121</sup> WorldFish Center Blog, *Fish Farming Brings Food and Nutrition Security to Sierra Leone* (<http://blog.worldfishcenter.org/2017/01/fish-farming-brings-food-and-nutrition-security-to-sierra-leone/>)

diversified integrated farming systems involving rice (the country's staple food), fish and vegetables appears to offer particular potential for improving self-sufficiency in rice production, raising incomes through more productive use of land and water, and improving nutrition through diversification of crops and subsequent consumption patterns."<sup>122</sup>

### School Feeding Programme

The Government of Sierra Leone has been trying to successfully implement a sustainable school feeding programme for the past several years. Recent efforts were suspended due to funding and operational issues. The National School Feeding Directorate, set up within the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, worked closely with stakeholders including WFP, CRS, and MOHS to develop a new, integrated programme that prioritizes a multi-sectoral approach, including promotion of smallholder farmer livelihoods, hygiene and sanitation, and nutritious and diverse diets. Models from Botswana, Ghana and Kenya were evaluated to determine what components would best benefit the Sierra Leonean context.

The stakeholders have identified the need for monitoring and evaluation, and more staff, to ensure the next implementation does not face the same challenges as in 2016.<sup>123</sup> One of the primary differences in this rollout is a reduction in participating schools – only those identified as “vulnerable” by the Ministry of Education and WFP are eligible. However, there is an increase in quantity of feedings, from 2-3 times per week to 5 times per week, in an effort to substantially strengthen children's nutritional status and eliminate incentives to attend only on feeding days.<sup>124</sup>

A national School Feeding Policy has been developed with assistance from WFP, with whom the Government has partnered to help source and supply school meal food to target areas. It is hoped that the Government supported school feeding will initially reach over 450,000 pre-primary and primary school children before being rolled out widely to cover the entire country.

## 3.2 Financial Resources for Food Security and Nutrition

The NSADP envisages member country fulfilment of the Maputo Pledge by allocating at least 10 percent of the national budget to the agriculture sector, with a goal of achieving an annual growth rate of six percent in that sector.<sup>125</sup> Sierra Leone has not yet met this obligation. In 2013, the GoSL committed to “increase [their] financial allocation to nutrition and food security and create a specific budget line for nutrition in budgets for the Ministries of Health and Sanitation, Agriculture and other relevant Ministries” under their commitment to the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact (N4G Compact).<sup>126</sup> However, the EVD outbreak required a reallocation of funds to address the emergency across the health and social protection sectors.

In the 2018 budget, the APC Government allocated 3 percent of the budget to agriculture,<sup>127</sup> a similar annual allocation since 2010. However, in his Speech to Parliament, incoming President Maada Bio specifically referenced a renewed commitment to this investment, while highlighting the importance of private sector and public official investment as well:

*“While my administration is committed to increasing budgetary allocation to the sector to a minimum of 10 percent in the next 2 years in line with the Maputo Accord, we shall rely on private investment in the sector. The political class and urban middle class must demonstrate interest in agriculture. Accordingly, effective 2019, investment in agriculture (including animal husbandry) will be a pre-condition for holding political office. The Office of the President and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will work out the details to implement and monitor this policy directive. Additionally, my administration will encourage local banks to lend to the private sector for agricultural purposes”.*<sup>128</sup>

The 2019 budget, Maada Bio's first as President, allocates 5 percent to the agriculture sector.<sup>129</sup>

<sup>122</sup> WorldFish Center, *Feed the Future — Sierra Leone Agriculture Project* ([http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource\\_centre/2016-08.pdf](http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource_centre/2016-08.pdf)).

<sup>123</sup> WFP/GOSL/CRS, *School Feeding Concept Note* (2018).

<sup>124</sup> Awoko, *Sierra Leone News: Changes to School Feeding Programme* (September 7, 2018) (<https://awoko.org/2018/09/25/sierra-leone-news-changes-to-school-feeding-programme/>).

<sup>125</sup> GoSL, *National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan, 2010 – 2030*, p.22 ([http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/NSADP\\_CAADP\\_discussion\\_paper\\_for\\_Compact\\_double\\_sided.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/NSADP_CAADP_discussion_paper_for_Compact_double_sided.pdf)).

<sup>126</sup> SUN/ACF, *2013-2016: The Trends of Government Funding for Nutrition in Sierra Leone*, (<http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Sierra-Leone-Nutrition-Investment-Trends-Briefing-Paper.pdf>).

<sup>127</sup> GoSL, *Government Budget and Statement of Economic and Financial Policies for the Financial Year 2019* (Budget 2019) (<http://mofed.gov.sl/index.php/budget/annual-budget>).

<sup>128</sup> GoSL, *Presidential Public State Opening Address, May 10, 2018* (<https://statehouse.gov.sl/presidential-public-state-opening-address/>).

<sup>129</sup> GoSL, *Budget 2019*.

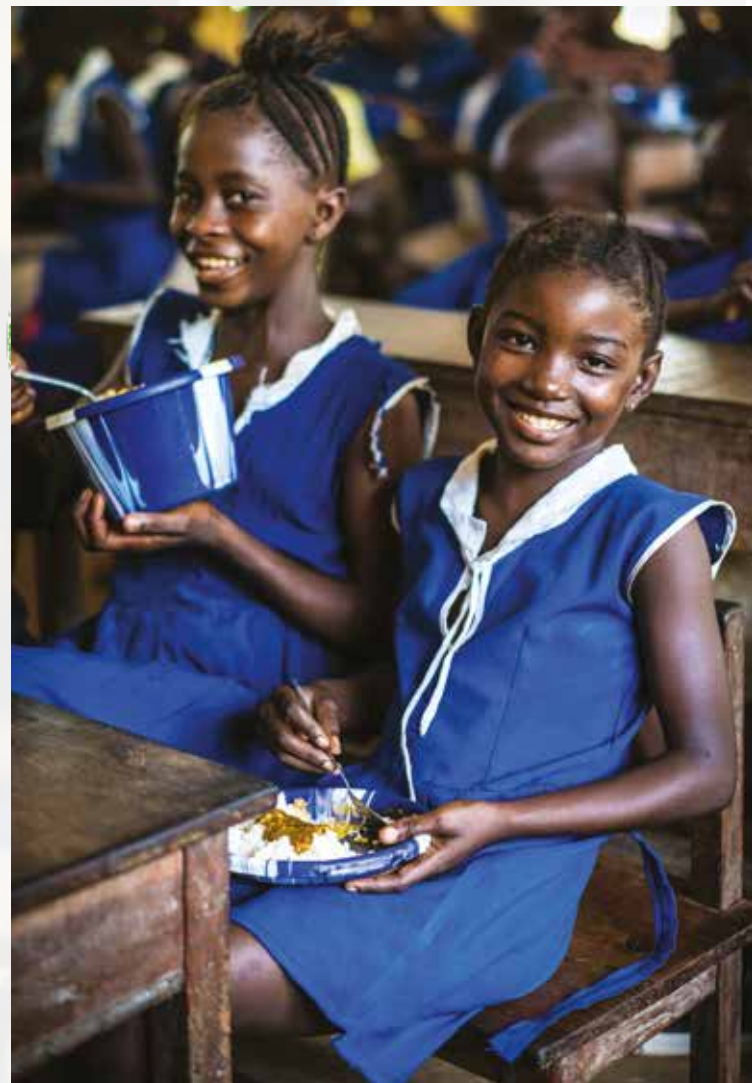
Sierra Leone undertook its first budget analysis of nutrition spending in May/June 2016. Among the key findings (text taken directly from source):<sup>130</sup>

- *Government expenditure for nutrition sensitive interventions grew from about USD 30 – 35 million between 2012 and 2015*
- *In 2015, government expenditure for nutrition represented 0.98 percent of the country's GDP and 32 percent of the estimated cost for the implementation of 2015 activities of the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan*
- *In 2016 the budget for nutrition planned to triple, but as of August 2016, still no disbursements had been made*
- *Recording of nutrition expenditure within the Directorate of Food and Nutrition (Ministry of Health) has improved thanks to the shift from a programme-based recording to an activity-based recording*
- *A budget line for nutrition was created in 2014 within the Ministry of Agriculture budget but was never used to record any nutrition intervention*
- *Salaries absorb the main part of the expenditure, and we must find a way to weight more efficiently and more realistically salaries, when tracking expenditure on nutrition-sensitive interventions*

Outside government fiscal allocation, food security and nutrition sectors have seen significant investment by international development agencies, including the World Bank, the European Union (EU), the AfDB, Islamic Development Bank, and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), among others. In the 2019 Budget, Public Investment Programmes under MAF total Le 124,500 million for foreign loans and grants, and Le 70,650 million for government budget support.<sup>131</sup>

### 3.3 Social Protection Framework

Food insecurity and malnutrition, as discussed above, result from different types of economic, physical, and environmental factors. Poverty, poor sanitation, lack of access to infrastructure, education level, and physical/mental ability all play a role in the presence or absence of secure access to food and



sufficient nutrition. Agriculture provides work for the majority of Sierra Leoneans, but because smallholder productivity is not at maximum capacity, and less able to cope with external events such as climate change, this also renders many vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

It is the responsibility of the Government of Sierra Leone to provide social protection to the most vulnerable among its population, while also investing in and promoting external investment in sectors with the greatest potential benefit for the country and its people.

In February 2018, the Government of Sierra Leone issued an updated National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) to “reflect new emergencies and vulnerabilities and to also redefine the institutional arrangements” of the original 2011 NSPP. The 2011 policy was developed by the National Social

<sup>130</sup> Action Contre La Faim: Tracking Government Expenditure on Nutrition in Sierra Leone – Piloting the Sun Three Step Approach ([www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/publication/tracking-government-expenditure-on-nutrition-in-sierra-leone-piloting-the-sun-three-step-approach/](http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/publication/tracking-government-expenditure-on-nutrition-in-sierra-leone-piloting-the-sun-three-step-approach/)).

<sup>131</sup> GOSL, Budget 2019.

<sup>132</sup> The NSPSC was later renamed the Social Protection Inter-Agency Forum, and is now referred to as the National Social Protection Council, sitting in the Office of the President, under the supervision of the Chief of Staff. NSPP, p. 29.

<sup>133</sup> GoSL, National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) (February 2018), pp. 1-2.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid, p. 1.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid, p. xi.

Protection Steering Committee,<sup>132</sup> a body established to increase the efficacy and impact of previous social protection initiatives under a guiding framework. Sierra Leone has national policies and legislation on labour, disability, child rights, gender rights, property rights, marriage and divorce rights, education, and legal aid, among others.<sup>133</sup> The 1991 Constitution delineates the state's obligations regarding social protection as well.<sup>134</sup>

The updated NSPP 2018 recognizes the importance of a multi-sectoral, well-coordinated and integrated approach to implementation of social protection measures, as well as the necessity of sustainable funding, via budgetary allocation and from the Sierra Leone Social Protection Trust Fund (SL-SPTF).<sup>135</sup> In light of resource constraints, the policy has set a 20 year deadline for universal implementation of a social protection floor,<sup>136</sup> with "identification of specific categories of intended beneficiaries for prioritization in the short term".<sup>137</sup> The 2018 NSPP acknowledges the importance of addressing gender-specific categories of risk, including health risks, life-cycle risks, household economic risks, and social risks which may disproportionately affect vulnerable women.<sup>138</sup> It also highlights the government's work to promote disability rights through the drafting of a National Disability Act "to ensure the protection and provision of services to socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and individuals".<sup>139</sup> The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) has added infrastructure and promoted disability awareness among teachers in order to facilitate attendance by youth with disabilities, but the Government of Sierra Leone notes that attendance among disabled students decreased from 25,339 in 2015 to 25,022 in 2017 despite increases in overall enrolment.<sup>140</sup> It is anticipated that implementation of the new Inclusive Education Policy will facilitate greater attendance by disabled children.

### 3.4 Disaster Management and Climate Change and Mitigation

Sierra Leone's rainy season extends from May to October, with the months of July, August and September typically experiencing the heaviest rainfall. Sierra Leone has already experienced extreme vulnerability to climate change, in the form of several recent natural disasters related to rainfall. In 2015, floods in Freetown killed ten and left thousands homeless<sup>141</sup>, and the mudslide of 2017 killed more than 1,000 people.<sup>142</sup> In addition to fatalities and displacements, rainfall irregularity has impacted food production as well.<sup>143</sup> Sierra Leone is ranked third on the list of countries most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, according to the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The impact of changes in rainfall, temperature, sea level and weather patterns are compounded in the context of Sierra Leone, where poverty is widespread, and much of the population relies on agriculture and fishing (both of which are compromised by climate change and environmental degradation) for sustenance.<sup>144</sup>

The National Disaster Management Department, under the Office of National Security, was established by the Government of Sierra Leone in 2004, the same year the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan was also developed to address the spectrum of disaster management activities<sup>145</sup>

The Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), established in 2008 and located in the President's office, was formed to support enforcement of the 1994 National Environmental Policy (NEP), which is responsible for conservation, natural resource and biological diversity preservation, public awareness of and participation in environmental sustainability.<sup>146</sup>

<sup>132</sup> The NSPSC was later renamed the Social Protection Inter-Agency Forum, and is now referred to as the National Social Protection Council, sitting in the Office of the President, under the supervision of the Chief of Staff. NSPP, p. 29.

<sup>133</sup> GoSL, National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) (February 2018), pp. 1-2.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid, p. 1.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid, p. xi.

<sup>136</sup> The social protection floor is defined as a "minimum essential level of social rights, services and facilities that all citizens will enjoy". NSPP, p. 14.

<sup>137</sup> GoSL, NSPP, p. 14. <sup>138</sup> Ibid, p. 12.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid, p. 12. <sup>140</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 49.

<sup>141</sup> BBC, Sierra Leone Floods Kill Hundreds as Mudslides Buries Houses, August 15, 2017 (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40926187>)

<sup>142</sup> World Bank, Rapid Damage and Loss Assessment of August 14, 2017: Landslides and Floods in the Western Area. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/523671510297364577/pdf/121120-WP-PUBLIC-SierraLeoneDaLareportNovember.pdf>

<sup>143</sup> UNDP, Climate change might undermine decades of development gains, ([www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/07/23/climate-change-might-undermine-decades-of-development-gains-sierra-leone-addresses-impact-of-climate-change.html](http://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/07/23/climate-change-might-undermine-decades-of-development-gains-sierra-leone-addresses-impact-of-climate-change.html)).

<sup>144</sup> GoSL, "Draft Report by Cluster 7: Addressing Vulnerabilities & Building Resilience", 2018.

<sup>145</sup> Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, Sierra Leone Overview (<https://www.gfdr.org/sierra-leone>).

<sup>146</sup> FAO, Bioenergy and Food Security Projects, Sierra Leone Country Brief (2013), p. 7.

The EPA established the National Secretariat for Climate Change (NSCC) in 2012, which receives quarterly guidance on climate change issues from a committee composed of government, NGOs and universities. “This committee has the potential and mandate to build institutional links between various agencies on the cross-cutting issues of climate change adaptation, including disaster management, agricultural development and infrastructure design and planning.”<sup>147</sup>

The fifth key objective of the 2019 Government of Sierra Leone budget is to “address vulnerabilities relating to natural disasters, climate change and environmental damage to strengthen the resilience of the economy”. The 2019 budget also aligns with the clusters laid out in the NDP, of which *Addressing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience (Environment, Climate change and Disaster Management)* is number 7. Annual allocations include Le 15.2 billion to the EPA-SL.

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<sup>147</sup> USAID, Climate Change Risk Profile, Sierra Leone ([www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Sierra%20Leone.pdf](http://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Sierra%20Leone.pdf)).

<sup>148</sup> GOSL, Budget 2019.

<sup>149</sup> FAO/WFP/IFAD/UNICEF/WHO. “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World” (2018).

# CHAPTER 4: GAPS IN THE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION RESPONSE



An improvement in the efficacy of national response efforts to address food security and nutrition is required if Sierra Leone will successfully meet SDG targets by 2030. The Government itself notes that improvements in agricultural and land policy are necessary to see an improvement in labour productivity and a decline in poverty.<sup>150</sup> This Chapter presents gaps in the legal and policy framework, programme implementation and design, resource allocation, and institutional capacity that have resulted in shortcomings. Identifying these gaps will enable stakeholders to make informed decisions on future priority actions and resource allocation.

## 4.1 Gaps in Legal and Policy Framework

The Government of Sierra Leone recognizes the need for better cross-sectoral alignment among agricultural, education, water and sanitation, health, and other relevant policies that impact the national food security and nutrition status of Sierra Leoneans. It also recognizes the need for alignment between government policies and development partner and NGO programmes.

A draft **Development Cooperation Framework for Sierra Leone**, currently under review by MOPED, outlines the Government of Sierra Leone's plan to improve coordination among government, development partners, and NGOs across sectors. The document emphasizes the importance of aligning all future programmes with national priorities (specifically the National Development Plan) and adhering to strong coordination mechanisms to avoid overlap or duplication among implemented activities. Funding guidelines indicate at least 70 percent of development funding for a given NGO should be directed to beneficiaries. Partners should focus on capacity strengthening for MDAs with whom they collaborate. District level coordination and oversight of NGO implementation by relevant ministries, as well as a well-coordinated monitoring and evaluation system, are planned in the framework.<sup>151</sup>

### Social Protection

The SUN Movement estimates that Sierra Leone's social protection programme coverage is currently at 30 percent.<sup>152</sup> The Government of Sierra Leone notes "85 percent of social assistance expenditures [are]

<sup>150</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 27

<sup>151</sup> MOPED, Development Cooperation Framework for Sierra Leone (December 2018).

<sup>152</sup> Scaling up Nutrition, "SUN Progress Report 2018" ([https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/themes/elision/pdf/SUNPR-2018/SUN\\_Report\\_EN\\_2018.pdf](https://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/themes/elision/pdf/SUNPR-2018/SUN_Report_EN_2018.pdf)), p. 40.

financed by external resources".<sup>153</sup> Additional challenges include poor targeting of beneficiaries, poor coordination and a negative impact on cost effectiveness, coverage gaps, and lack of monitoring and evaluation. Considering the poverty level, food security and nutrition, and health issues facing a large proportion of the population, the coverage, strength, and efficacy of social protection programmes are instrumental in achieving welfare gains.

### Gender Policy

Despite being signatory to multiple international legal frameworks, regional policies, and the existence of national laws and policies to promote gender equality, Sierra Leone remains a patriarchal society. The Women in Agriculture and Nutrition Unit (WIAN), established in 1997, is tasked with promoting women's access to and participation in the agriculture sector under the umbrella of MAFF's mandate. However, it has been ineffective due to poor coordination and lack of technical capacity and staffing.<sup>154</sup> Women are underrepresented in government, less educated and literate than the male population, suffer high maternal mortality rates, and are primary caregivers for infants and children. In rural areas, women are expected to participate in smallholder farming practices and manual processing activities, in addition to household management. Efforts to target women's socioeconomic empowerment, particularly in rural areas, are constrained by gender stereotypes and discriminatory traditional perceptions and practices.

### Land Reform

Investment in land, whether on a smallholder or large-scale commercial level, requires clear legislation and regulation. Sierra Leone currently has a legally confusing dual land tenure system supported by outdated land survey data, resulting in frequent land disputes and barriers to investment for large-scale agricultural enterprises, among others. Full implementation of the National Land Policy (2017), which is anticipated to assist in resolving these outstanding issues, has not yet been achieved.

### Breast-milk Legislation

Sierra Leone does not currently have any legal measures in place to support implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes;<sup>155</sup> however, a committee has been

established to assist MOHS and parliament in implementing the Code. Save the Children found aggressive marketing of breastmilk substitutes in Sierra Leone has led to increased use among mothers, with potential health consequences for infants as a result.<sup>156</sup>

## 4.2 Gaps in Programme Implementation and Design

Programme implementation and design should reflect government policies and strategic objectives. For maximum impact, development partner projects are aligned with and reflect such objectives. In Sierra Leone, there is a gap between policy and implementation. There may also be inadvertent conflicts of interest that arise when external funding is introduced. For example, the Research Team noted that most staff at district agricultural offices (DAOs) were more eager to implement NGO and development partner-supported activities, rather than MAF national programmes. Farmers outside a development partner's target communities therefore receive little to no extension services while these arrangements operate.

NEPAD's 2017 review of Sierra Leone's progress against CAADP commitments highlights the following as key areas for improvement: i) increasing public agriculture expenditure as a percentage of overall public expenditure, ii) targeted action to reduce high levels of stunting among children under 5, iii) increasing sustainable land management practices for agricultural land, iv) increasing agricultural value-addition on arable land, v) access to financial services for those engaged in the agricultural sector.<sup>157</sup>

## 4.3 Gaps in Resource Allocation

A review of Sierra Leone's resource allocation performance must acknowledge the country's recent economic challenges stemming from the 2014 EVD outbreak and drop in the price of iron ore. Recovery from those socio-economic shocks was directly followed by a period of political uncertainty from 2016-2018, during which time elections were deferred for a year. There was much focus on ensuring a peaceful electoral process and, if necessary, transfer of power. Now that a new administration is fully operational, it is imperative that resource allocation to improve the country's

<sup>153</sup> GoSL, NDP, p. 71.

<sup>154</sup> FAO/ECOWAS, National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods- Sierra Leone (2018), p. 19.

<sup>155</sup> WHO/UNICEF/IBFAN "Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes: Implementation of the International Code Status Report 2018".

<sup>156</sup> Save the Children, "Breast-milk Substitutes Threaten Young Lives: 2012 Research into Use of Breast-milk Substitutes in Sierra Leone" (2012). p 3.

<sup>157</sup> NEPAD, "Tracking Progress: Sierra Leone" (<https://www.nepad.org/caadp/countries/sierra-leone>).

food security and nutritional status is prioritized. This is not the same as improving agricultural productivity, which may not necessarily improve the lives of the vulnerable and at-risk.

Despite a 2 percent increase in agriculture expenditure from the 2018 budget, the 5 percent allocated for 2019 is still well below the 10 percent stipulated by the Maputo Accord of Africa Union, which President Maada Bio committed to meet in his address to Parliament noted above.<sup>158</sup> As the new administration looks to leverage the potential of Sierra Leone's resources, (such as expanding the acreage of arable land under large-scale rice production), it must also ensure that resources are allocated to support smallholder farmers, who compose the majority of the country's agricultural labour, and a significant proportion of its population.

To that end, field consultations by the Research Team with district agricultural officers revealed underfunded extension services in almost all districts. Farmers reported a near absence of institutional financing for farmers and agribusiness investors. Interviews with the Apex Bank, which operates the widest financing network in rural areas, indicate the majority of their loans are for short term commercial (trade) activities, as they lack sufficient capital to offer agricultural loan products. Specialized financing institutions need to be well-resourced, and to provide low-interest loans with flexible repayment terms. Support for value-add activities that will increase income should be prioritized and consider the fact that it is primarily women who perform current value addition activities, which are labour intensive due to lack of mechanization and equipment.

The 2019 Budget Speech, aligned with the NDP, emphasizes the need for innovations in agriculture to drive economic growth. Funding for large scale rice production to reduce import dependency, as well as improvements in cash crop production for exports, are both priorities. Irrigation facility development, inland valley swamp development, and agricultural research are also funded under the new budget. Improved seed varieties, fertilizers, and inputs are included as well. Investment in many of these initiatives has been done before, however, and it is important that resource allocation targets the primary impediments to effective implementation as a fundamental component of funding for innovation and scale-up.

In Sierra Leone effective mobilization of labour is required to achieve productivity gains. In remote rural areas, poor roads, lack of transportation, and the demands of maintaining a small subsistence plot are all significant challenges to transforming the agriculture sector. Resource allocation for scaled-up innovation may improve the country's overall agricultural performance and yield. But it is equally important, if not more so, to target improved productivity among smallholder farmers, whether through long-term targeted investments in training, infrastructure and inputs at the community level, or through incentivizing their participation on larger farms. It is important farmers can participate without any personal risk to income or livelihood as many are already food insecure or bordering on food insecure. Smallholder subsistence farmers are focused on their own plots, which are often low-yielding due to poor quality inputs, lack of knowledge of improved techniques (including soil fertility and pest control), and unpredictable rainfall. As the primary or sole source of livelihood for many, incentives to incorporate different approaches or participate in larger-scale farming will only gain traction if designed to be zero-risk initially, with a phased approach to gradually withdraw that safety net as the productivity gains lead to sustained income improvements.

Access to quality healthcare, and information on nutrition and feeding practices, is equally important to promote Sierra Leone's attainment of SDG 2. The high levels of malnutrition, including stunting and wasting among children under 5, whose cognitive and physical development will be compromised in the long term, should be of primary concern. Resource allocation for health clinics and community health workers (CHWs) should be prioritized. Behaviour change communication around hygiene, sanitation, and breastfeeding are integral to the health of the population. Ensuring a standard of health among the population is important to necessary to achieve longer-term gains in productivity across any sector, including agriculture.

Nutrition expenditure tracking in line ministry budgets is still a work-in-progress. Action Contre le Faim's evaluation of Sierra Leone's commitments under the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact finds that, despite progress in tracking and transparency, more clarity and better monitoring is required regarding the budget allocation for nutrition-sensitive activities, which are more difficult

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<sup>158</sup> GOSL, Budget 2019.



to track than nutrition-specific activities.<sup>159</sup>

Public expenditure support for larger-scale initiatives such as cold chain infrastructure for crops and animal products, and all-weather roads from farm to market, are required in order to support countrywide, consistent access to nutrition. As noted above, nutrition in rural areas, such as protein via fish consumption, is compromised by poor supply chain infrastructure that results in poor hygiene and lack of nutrients in what is made available in local markets upcountry.

Agriculture and health/nutrition budget allocations should be executed in-line with critical challenges facing the country and its population, and allocated to programmes that reflect multi-sectoral, integrated approaches to improving food security and nutrition. Special attention should be paid to

- i) ensuring good practices for infant and child feeding,
- ii) maternal health,
- iii) dietary diversity, and
- iv) improving knowledge and providing behaviour change communication regarding other sectors that impact food security and nutrition outcomes (e.g. water and sanitation).

#### 4.4 Gaps in Institutional Capacity

As a result of the civil war (1991- 2001), many Sierra Leoneans of experience and education left the country. In addition, others who were sent abroad for advanced studies and professional training have not returned. This has resulted in a lack of human resource capacity (compounded by the impact of the war on education, health, and the economy, and the more recent impact of the EVD on health, food security, and economic stability as well). As a result of these challenges, as well as issues such as low salaries and corruption, institutional capacity and service delivery has also suffered.

Strategic planning, including strong inter-ministerial coordination, is not in place. The country has many policies addressing agriculture and health, but the relationship between these documents, and the roles and responsibilities of the authoring ministries in executing them, is often unclear. Stakeholder consultations may include relevant ministry personnel, but without planned follow-up, accountability and monitoring is lacking.

Furthermore, policies developed in the absence of dedicated funding (and government will) cannot be implemented.

Government coordination and communication between the national and the district level requires improvement. There is a disconnect between national level policy and ground-level implementation; staff note they lack the resources to perform their roles and responsibilities. Transportation in rural areas is one such challenge.

Capacity among extension advisory services is weak – staff lack the knowledge and resources to provide sufficient technical support around improved agricultural practices for land use, and management practices for ABC, FBO and farming community cohesion and sustainability.

The Government of Sierra Leone has not been effectively leveraging the private sector through technical partnerships, investments, and other forms of assistance to support farmers in developing and maintaining value chains and agribusinesses. This has been noted by the current administration as a priority area, but will remain a critical issue until programmes are in place to support such development. However, sustainable and long-term funding and technical training across the stakeholders responsible for improved agricultural productivity is critical to catalyze stronger private sector investment and minimize the risk of such initiatives.

Private agro-dealers are constrained by financial risk when dealing with inputs that expire and require a level of technical knowledge for appropriate implementation. Several government and development partner-funded activities have included activities focused on strengthening the role of agro-dealers in rural communities, but these efforts need to be renewed and evaluated to determine the most effective way to support this valuable link between smallholder farmers and improved inputs.

Animal health care has historically been under-resourced: prior to early 2018 when the Veterinary Center in Teko, Bombali District was refurbished, there were no functioning livestock clinics in any district providing training for mid-level staff and community animal health workers (CAHWS). However, there are recent initiatives in place and in the pipeline to train and incentivize

<sup>159</sup> ACF/SUN, "Nutrition for Growth: Sierra Leone's Progress On Its Commitments Three Years Later", ([https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/n4g\\_analysis\\_position\\_paper\\_final.pdf](https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/n4g_analysis_position_paper_final.pdf)).

frontline service providers such as CAHWs, given the importance of detecting and addressing animal-borne illnesses in the wake of the EVD outbreak. MoHS and MAF are aware of these issues, but still require external funding and support to implement the type of evaluations and programme improvements that are needed to make significant impacts.

The *Sierra Leone Fisheries Law* prohibits any fishing vessel from entering within 35 nautical miles of the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ); however, this law is not observed and trawling is rampant along the coast of the country. Estimates put illegal fishing at 50-60 percent of stock catch, and an annual loss to national income of USD 29 million.<sup>160</sup> Stronger regulation and enforcement against illegal fishing is important to curb the negative impact of this activity, especially as local fishermen report significant decrease in ability to catch fish of late.<sup>161</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd., *Review of Impacts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on Developing Countries*, 2005, May 2011; Mark Rowe, "Fishy Business", *Geographical*, August 2013

<sup>161</sup> The Economist. "Why Sierra Leone is Running Out of Fish".

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2017/12/14/why-sierra-leone-is-running-out-of-fish>

## CHAPTER 5: PRIORITY ACTIONS IN MEETING NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION REQUIREMENTS



This Chapter presents priority actions and recommendations that are key elements in the national Roadmap towards achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. These key actions are informed by consultations with key stakeholders, central and local government officials, UN agencies and private sector operatives. They synthesize the findings and analyses of information contained in the preceding Chapters.

Improvements in agricultural productivity are the first step to ensuring food security in Sierra Leone. Increasing agricultural diversity is integral to

improving nutrition among its population. Prioritizing both initiatives, in tandem, will promote a population that is healthier and more financially secure. A population able to eat throughout the year, without lean periods dictated by lack of crop rotation, irregular rainfall, and living at subsistence level, will contribute to the overall health and productivity of the country. Improving agricultural productivity will free up labour within Sierra Leone to pursue additional income-generating activities and promote economic stability among households and the population at large. Good practice agricultural

techniques will also support environmental stability (e.g., soil fertility) and mitigate impacts of external shocks such as climate change (e.g., reducing deforestation promotes a better environment in the long term).

The actions are summarized in Annex 1: The Sierra Leone Zero Hunger Roadmap.

## 5.1 Recommendations (The Roadmap)

The Roadmap to achieving SDG 2: Zero Hunger was developed after document review and countrywide stakeholder consultations, and collaboration and assistance from the Government of Sierra Leone, the private sector, and development partners. It is aligned with the New Direction Agenda whose priority focus areas in agriculture are: “increasing investment in agriculture, increasing food crop production, increasing cash crop production, increasing livestock production, improving irrigation water management, improving land management and improving governance and research.”<sup>162</sup>

### 5.1.1 Target 1: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

For the country to attain increased and diversified production that leads to food security and improved nutritional uptake, the agricultural sector should be guided by a combination of activities undertaken by the Government of Sierra Leone, development partners and the private sector. Recommended actions include:

- Prioritize country-wide food security as the primary objective behind increased agricultural productivity; Government of Sierra Leone agriculture programming should focus first and foremost on reaching all vulnerable populations and ensuring sufficient quantity of food year-round especially during historic “lean seasons”.
- Promote crop, food diversification, and bio-diversification initiatives, with an initial focus on “low-hanging fruit” that provide the greatest and most sustainable nutritional benefit with the lowest financial and human capital investment.
- Solicit detailed feedback from medium and large-scale potential investors and producers to determine barriers to investment; tailor future FDI and agriculture policies to address this feedback and incentivize long-term investment that will catalyse significant

investment that will catalyse significant increase in agricultural production.

- Improve coordination, communication and accountability between central ministries and district offices to facilitate capacity building among smallholder farmers and ensure efficient use of budget allocations for agriculture and nutrition.
- Increase investment in public services and goods, including education and healthcare, particularly at the rural level to promote equal opportunity among rural and urban populations, facilitate economic opportunities in rural areas, and decrease rural-urban migration.
- Promote and support agro-dealers to establish availability of affordable inputs, especially in rural, hard-to-reach farming communities. Synchronize priority inputs (based on training provided to farming communities, and cost-benefit analysis of such inputs, to promote stock of cost-efficient, productivity-enhancing inputs that are desirable for farming communities).
- The recent FSMS report indicates food security has not greatly improved since the period directly following Ebola. The GoSL and other stakeholders should evaluate the lasting effects of the EVD outbreak on vulnerable populations (e.g. loss of livestock or small ruminants) and prioritize assistance for affected groups.
- Improve coordination, communication and accountability between central ministries and district offices to facilitate capacity strengthening among smallholder farmers and ensure efficient use of budget allocations for agriculture and nutrition.
- Promote food safety and hygiene practices, particularly among mothers; build knowledge on the risks of illness (especially to infants and young children) from poor food hygiene.
- Promote the Food Based Dietary Guidelines for Sierra Leone.
- Develop a reliable statistics database for agriculture that includes information from all relevant stakeholders and producers.

### 5.1.2 Target 2: End all forms of malnutrition

The following priority action areas are recommended to end malnutrition in Sierra Leone:

- Socialize the importance of nutrition-focused programming among all GoSL ministries to

<sup>162</sup> SLPP, New Direction People’s Manifesto (<http://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SLPP-MANIFESTO-2-02-2018-PDF.pdf>).

facilitate increased focus on cross-sectoral policy development, alignment, and implementation. Data on the downstream effects of poor nutrition intake at a young age, and consequences for educational attainment, labour productivity. Reference to the Cost of Hunger in Africa report will assist in quantifying the impact of malnutrition on Sierra Leone's overall development.

- Continue to fund and expand the revised School Feeding Programme to promote nutrition and education among the country's young population.
- Educate pregnant women and mothers on benefits of exclusive breastfeeding for infants aged 0-6 months, post-natal healthcare, introduction of appropriate (i.e., hygienic) complementary feeding practices, and WASH practices, through existing community and facility structures (health facility staff, MSGs, and CHWs).
- Focus on the *First 1000 Days of Life* as a priority goal for nutrition interventions targeting infants, young children, and mothers.
- Incorporate nutrition programming into educational modules among primary and secondary children to build knowledge and proficiency around healthy eating from a young age, and to assist in transmitting knowledge to family units untouched by other programmes.
- Continue to support Parliament to adopt the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
- Scale-up Implementation of BFHI in all districts.
- Support the expansion of fish farms in inland districts to promote protein intake among the rural poor.
- Continue to support development partner investment in improved roads and infrastructure to enable access to markets and access to health facilities.
- Develop and implement a National Implementation Plan for Prevention and Control of Anaemia
- Future nutrition policy should consider the different challenges facing rural populations, pregnant women and new mothers, adolescents, the obese, and the elderly - and develop interventions that directly address the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Empower district staff to successfully implement programmes to reduce

malnutrition. This requires devolution of resources, increased and sustainable funding, and promoting capacity, accountability and authority among district level personnel.

- Establish clear guidelines for ministry budget reporting on nutrition-specific vs. nutrition-sensitive programming for better clarity on resource allocation to this critical issue.

### 5.1.3 Target 3: Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers

The following priorities are recommended to double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, which is of tremendous concern to Sierra Leone, wherein the bulk of the agricultural sector is composed of smallholder farmers, and more than 60 percent of the population is involved in subsistence agriculture.

- Provide well-designed support to ABCs and cooperative farming enterprises for sustainable training and capacity-building (including agribusiness training, governance structure, crop planning, access to mechanization, improved productivity techniques, value chain addition and markets).
- Establish and/or rehabilitate existing demonstration farms within villages, extension centres, and at research facilities as training sites for improved agricultural practices; provide periodic follow-up assistance on smallholder plots to promote individual increase in productivity and earning potential and actualize potential gains from such initiatives.
- Support smallholder agricultural production improvements, including through mechanization and irrigation schemes; incentivize utilization of mangrove, boliland, riverine flood plain, and riverine grassland area to maximize arable land productivity.
- Implement and publicize the new National Land Policy (2017) among smallholder farmers, with an emphasis on the improvements in women's rights.
- Facilitate farm gate price improvements and access to market of agricultural products by constructing new feeder roads and rehabilitating existing feeder roads that connect farming communities to markets. Improved transportation routes will also minimize post-harvest loss that results from

delays in reaching markets.

- Enable access to finance (through government loans to community banks or FSAs) that provides smallholder farmers with the ability to invest in necessary inputs (and absorb attendant risk), without the risk of creating further economic hardship. Low or zero interest loans with flexible repayment terms are recommended.
- Enhance access to finance for production and value-addition activities through affordable financing and outreach schemes, and training for farmers who wish to engage in value-add activities and improved post-harvest practices. Focus on crops with highest potential for returns (i.e., existing regional comparative advantage) such as cassava into gari.
- Support development of cold chain infrastructure to mitigate post-harvest loss.
- Support smallholder farmer access to improved seeds and other high-quality inputs through availability of agro-dealers and affordable loans.
- Promote diverse recruitment into training programmes and development partner or government-supported initiatives: priority on inclusion of women, disabled, and youth.
- Develop a centralized market information system to facilitate smallholder farmer access to price and crop planning information; develop information distribution methods for those living in off-grid/limited network areas.

#### **5.1.4 Target 4: Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices**

To facilitate sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices, common impediments to achieving such goals, including irregular rainfall, poor land management, lack of quality inputs, and lack of knowledge, should be addressed. Priority actions include:

- Promote improved and diverse seed varieties (and support relevant institutions such as SLARI) to enable higher yields and biodiversity among smallholder communities; this will improve food security, nutritional intake, and income by facilitating a transition from subsistence to profitability as yields increase.
- Customs and importation duty waivers for agricultural input importers to facilitate affordability.
- Continue to develop/rehabilitate arable land

for larger-scale food production (e.g. irrigated rice farms) via out-grower schemes.

- Promote food diversification to include other nutritious items such as bio-fortified cassava, orange-fleshed sweet potato, pumpkin and soybeans in local diets. Focus on nutritional diversity among crops that require least amount of improved inputs and techniques to promote nutritional uptake among vulnerable communities (e.g., crops vulnerable to blight and post-harvest loss are riskiest and will not engender sustainable uptake long-term without continued technical supervision and financial support).
- Promote private sector investment and confidence through improvements to the regulatory environment, including implementation of a clear land use policy, while ensuring such investments are environmentally sustainable and integrate technical capacity-building for smallholder farmers.
- Continued support for Njala University as a centre of agricultural excellence and innovation.
- Improve animal care through training and staffing CAHWs, and maintaining/establishing district livestock clinics.
- Improve regulatory enforcement to decrease the impact of illegal fishing on fishermen livelihoods.
- Provide support to the PEMSD for the early warning systems.
- Capacity-building of researchers and extension workers in the use of ICT and basic agricultural related social media platforms, for dissemination to farmers and livestock herders.
- Promote the use of renewable energy in crop, fish and animal production systems
- Mainstream climate change in key sectoral policies and programmes.

# ANNEXES

## Annex 1: The Sierra Leone Zero Hunger Roadmap 2019 - 2030

### Target 1: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<p>Inadequate household food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited technologies for improved quantity and quality of food</li> <li>▪ Post-harvest losses</li> <li>▪ Low awareness on healthy eating and lifestyle</li> <li>▪ Barriers to investment for mid- and large-scale producers</li> <li>▪ Recovery from impact of Ebola is still in-progress; smallholder farmers have not recuperated loss of livestock and small ruminants</li> <li>▪ Import dependency on rice exposes Sierra Leone to increased food insecurity and/or malnutrition if global prices rise</li> <li>▪ Low investment in human capital, including access to education, prevents greater investment in productivity and innovation in agriculture and other sectors</li> <li>▪ Lack of financial opportunities in rural areas incentivize migration to urban areas with resulting consequences for overcrowding, poor health and sanitation, vulnerability to environmental disasters, and increased competition for low/un-skilled labour employment</li> <li>▪ Lack of credible agricultural statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong prioritization by current government to promote agricultural productivity and mechanization (particularly for increased rice production) in the NDP</li> <li>▪ Better coordination between MoHS and MAF for increased production of nutritious, diversified crops</li> <li>▪ Implementation of a national food-based dietary guideline for healthy eating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote and support agro-dealers to establish availability of affordable inputs, especially in rural, hard-to-reach farming communities</li> <li>▪ Government of Sierra Leone and other stakeholders should evaluate the lasting effects of the EVD outbreak on vulnerable populations (e.g. loss of livestock or small ruminants) and prioritize assistance for affected groups</li> <li>▪ Solicit detailed feedback from medium and large-scale potential investors and producers to determine barriers to investment; tailor future FDI and agriculture policies to address this feedback and incentivize long-term investment that will catalyse significant increase in agricultural production</li> <li>▪ Promote food safety and hygiene practices, particularly among mothers; build knowledge on the risks of illness (especially to infants and young children) from poor food hygiene</li> <li>▪ Promote the Food Based Dietary Guidelines for Sierra Leone</li> </ul>	<p>Short to Medium Term</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> SUN Secretariat MoHS MAF</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> MoF MoPED MoTI MEST MSWGCA FAO WFP CAPP SLeCAD INGOs and NGOs Civil Society</p>

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inadequate household food security</li> <li>▪ Limited technologies for improved quantity and quality of food</li> <li>▪ Post-harvest losses</li> <li>▪ Low awareness on healthy eating and lifestyle</li> <li>▪ Barriers to investment for mid- and large-scale producers</li> <li>▪ Recovery from impact of Ebola is still in-progress; smallholder farmers have not recuperated loss of livestock and small ruminants</li> <li>▪ Import dependency on rice exposes Sierra Leone to increased food insecurity and/or malnutrition if global prices rise</li> <li>▪ Low investment in human capital, including access to education, prevents greater investment in productivity and innovation in agriculture and other sectors</li> <li>▪ Lack of financial opportunities in rural areas incentivize migration to urban areas with resulting consequences for overcrowding, poor health and sanitation, vulnerability to environmental disasters, and increased competition for low/un-skilled labour employment</li> <li>▪ Lack of credible agricultural statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong prioritization by current government to promote agricultural productivity and mechanization (particularly for increased rice production) in the NDP</li> <li>▪ Better coordination between MoHS and MAF for increased production of nutritious, diversified crops</li> <li>▪ Implementation of a national food-based dietary guideline for healthy eating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prioritize country-wide food security as the primary objective behind increased agricultural productivity; agriculture programming should focus on reaching all vulnerable populations and ensuring sufficient quantity of food year-round especially during historic “lean seasons”</li> <li>▪ Promote crop, food diversification, and bio-diversification initiatives, with an initial focus on “low-hanging fruit” that provide the greatest and most sustainable nutritional benefit with the lowest financial and human capital investment</li> <li>▪ Improve coordination, communication and accountability between central ministries and district offices to facilitate capacity building among smallholder farmers and ensure efficient use of budget allocations for agriculture and nutrition</li> <li>▪ Increase investment in public services and goods, including education and healthcare, particularly at the rural level to promote equal opportunity among rural and urban populations, facilitate economic opportunities in rural areas, and decrease rural-urban migration</li> <li>▪ Develop a reliable statistics database for agriculture that includes information from all relevant stakeholders and producers</li> </ul>	Medium to Long Term	<p><b>Lead:</b> SUN Secretariat MoHS MAF</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> MoF MoPED MEST MSWGCA FAO WFP INGOs and NGOs Civil Society</p>



**Target 2 : End all forms of malnutrition**

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global Acute Malnutrition: 5.1 percent</li> <li>▪ Moderate Acute Malnutrition: 4.0 percent</li> <li>▪ Severe Acute Malnutrition: 1.0 percent</li> <li>▪ Acute malnutrition among women age 15-49 pregnant and/or lactating: 5.7 percent</li> <li>▪ National stunting level: 31.3 percent (21.3 percent moderately stunted, 10.0 percent severely stunted)</li> <li>▪ 40 percent of infants introduced to complementary foods before the six-month mark</li> <li>▪ No regulation governing the marketing of breast-milk substitutes</li> <li>▪ Nutrition policy harmonization is limited and the coordination framework is poor</li> <li>▪ Approach to nutrition is not multi-sectoral; nutrition is seen as a health issue, is not mainstreamed and is underfunded</li> <li>▪ Limited development partner support for procurement of nutrition therapeutic foods for malnourished children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stunting has increased from 28.8 percent in 2014 to 31.3 percent in 2017</li> <li>▪ Global Acute Malnutrition has slightly increased from 4.7 percent in 2014 to 5.1 percent in 2017</li> <li>▪ School feeding programme implemented five days per week in high-risk schools</li> <li>▪ Developed Sierra Leone National Multi-Sectoral Strategy to Prevent and Control Anaemia 2018 – 2025</li> <li>▪ Committee formed to support adoption of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes</li> <li>▪ 100% of nutritionists competencies and skills increased on maternal infant and young child nutrition</li> <li>▪ Ante-natal visits increased from 4 to 8 visits for pregnant women</li> <li>▪ Commenced implementation of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) for the 3 regional hospitals plus Princess Christian Maternity and Ola During Children Hospitals</li> <li>▪ Revised national nutrition policy/implementation plan</li> <li>▪ Nutrition advocacy by SUN Network is directing attention to nutrition issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Socialize the importance of nutrition-focused programming among all GoSL ministries to facilitate increased focus on cross-sectoral policy development, alignment, and implementation. Data on the downstream effects of poor nutrition intake at a young age, and consequences for educational attainment, labor productivity. Reference to the Cost of Hunger in Africa report will assist in quantifying the impact of malnutrition on Sierra Leone’s overall development</li> <li>▪ Continue to fund and expand the revised School Feeding Programme to promote nutrition and education among the country’s young population</li> <li>▪ Support the expansion of fish farms in inland districts to promote protein intake among the rural poor</li> <li>▪ Continue to support Parliament to adopt the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes</li> <li>▪ Develop and implement a National Implementation Plan for Prevention and Control of Anaemia</li> </ul>	Short to Medium Term	<p><b>Lead:</b> MoHS</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> MEST MAF MSWGCA UNICEF FAO WHO UNWOMEN WFP Njala University and SUN Network members</p>

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**Target 3 : Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers**

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited access to and use of improved seed varieties and inputs (fertilizer, pest control products)</li> <li>▪ Limited knowledge of good agricultural practices, including intercropping and land preparation</li> <li>▪ Lack of appropriate and affordable equipment and implements for smallholders</li> <li>▪ Inadequate government support to research and extension</li> <li>▪ Lack of cold-chain infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Lack of post-harvest facilities</li> <li>▪ Poor rural roads and feeder road networks: farm</li> <li>▪ market is difficult and/or expensive</li> <li>▪ Land tenure challenges impede agricultural investments</li> <li>▪ Poor market information to facilitate informed pricing and crop planning decisions</li> <li>▪ Little focus on livestock and fish production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2019 budget allocates Le 36.9 billion to purchase tractors to increase mechanization</li> <li>▪ Small-scale value addition products being marketed in Freetown</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation of feeder roads underway</li> <li>▪ MAF rehabilitated and developed 979 hectares of inland valley swamp to promote rice production</li> <li>▪ A national survey of existing FBOs completed</li> <li>▪ Finalization of the National Land Policy (2017), which recognises women’s rights to land</li> <li>▪ Increased availability of local rice in domestic market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support smallholder agricultural production improvements, including through mechanization and irrigation schemes; incentivize utilization of mangrove, boliland, riverine flood plain, and riverine grassland area to maximize arable land productivity</li> <li>▪ Support smallholder farmer access to improved seeds and other high-quality inputs through availability of agro-dealers and affordable loans</li> <li>▪ Enable access to finance (through government loans to community banks or FSAs) that provides smallholder farmers with the ability to invest in necessary inputs (and absorb attendant risk), without the risk of creating further economic hardship</li> <li>▪ Provide well-designed support to ABCs and cooperative farming enterprises for sustainable training and capacity-building (including agribusiness training, governance structure, crop planning, access to mechanization, improved productivity techniques, value chain addition and markets)</li> <li>▪ Establish and/or rehabilitate existing demonstration farms within villages, extension centers, and at research facilities as training sites for improved agricultural practices</li> <li>▪ Implement and publicize the new National Land Policy (2017) among smallholder farmers, with an emphasis on the improvements in women’s rights</li> </ul>	Short to Medium Term	<p><b>Lead:</b> MAF</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> MoF MLCPE SLeCAD SLARI BoSL WFP FAO IFAD World Bank GIZ AfDB INGOs SLeCAD</p>

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited access to and use of improved seed varieties and inputs (fertilizer, pest control products)</li> <li>▪ Limited knowledge of good agricultural practices, including intercropping and land preparation</li> <li>▪ Lack of appropriate and affordable equipment and implements for smallholders</li> <li>▪ Inadequate government support to research and extension</li> <li>▪ Lack of cold-chain infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Lack of post-harvest facilities</li> <li>▪ Poor rural roads and feeder road networks: farm</li> <li>▪ market is difficult and/or expensive</li> <li>▪ Land tenure challenges impede agricultural investments</li> <li>▪ Poor market information to facilitate informed pricing and crop planning decisions</li> <li>▪ Little focus on livestock and fish production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2019 budget allocates Le 36.9 billion to purchase tractors to increase mechanization</li> <li>▪ Small-scale value addition products being marketed in Freetown</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation of feeder roads underway</li> <li>▪ MAF rehabilitated and developed 979 hectares of inland valley swamp to promote rice production</li> <li>▪ A national survey of existing FBOs completed</li> <li>▪ Finalization of the National Land Policy (2017), which recognises women's rights to land</li> <li>▪ Increased availability of local rice in domestic market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance access to finance for production and value-addition activities through affordable financing and outreach schemes, and training for farmers who wish to engage in value-add activities and improved post-harvest practices</li> <li>▪ Facilitate farm gate price improvements and access to market of agricultural products by constructing new feeder roads and rehabilitating existing feeder roads that connect farming communities to markets.</li> <li>▪ Support development of cold chain infrastructure to mitigate post-harvest loss</li> <li>▪ Promote diverse recruitment into training programmes and development partner or government-supported initiatives: priority on inclusion of women, disabled, and youth</li> <li>▪ Develop a centralized market information system to facilitate smallholder farmer access to price and crop planning information; develop information distribution methods for those living in off-grid/limited network areas.</li> </ul>	Medium to Long-Term	<p><b>Lead:</b> MAF</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> MoF MLCPE SLeCAD SLARI BoSL WFP FAO IFAD World Bank GIZ AfDB INGOs SLeCAD</p>

**Target 4 : Sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices**

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor quality seeds and seed systems</li> <li>▪ Low level of funding for both plant and animal research</li> <li>▪ Unattractive conditions of service for research staff</li> <li>▪ Lack of plant and animal breeders</li> <li>▪ Few veterinarians</li> <li>▪ Few plant pathologists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Higher number of improved crop varieties and breeds</li> <li>▪ Increased qualified plant and animal breeders</li> <li>▪ Increased number of veterinarians</li> <li>▪ Genetically improved hybrid seeds available for major crops</li> <li>▪ Sierra Leone Seed Act (2017)</li> <li>▪ Fertilizer Act (2017)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to develop/rehabilitate arable land for larger-scale food production (e.g. irrigated rice farms) via out-grower schemes.</li> <li>▪ Promote improved and diverse seed varieties to enable higher yields and biodiversity among smallholder communities</li> <li>▪ Customs and importation duty waivers for agricultural input importers to facilitate affordability.</li> <li>▪ Promote food diversification to include nutritious items such as bio-fortified cassava, orange-fleshed sweet potato, pumpkin and soybeans in local diets.</li> <li>▪ Focus on nutritional diversity among crops that require least amount of improved inputs and techniques to promote nutritional uptake among vulnerable communities (e.g., crops vulnerable to blight and post-harvest loss are riskiest and will not engender sustainable uptake long-term without continued technical supervision and financial support).</li> <li>▪ Promote private sector investment and confidence through improvements to the regulatory environment, including implementation of a clear land use policy, while ensuring such investments are environmentally sustainable and integrate technical capacity-building for smallholder farmers.</li> <li>▪ Continued support for Njala University as a center of agricultural excellence and innovation.</li> <li>▪ Improve animal care through training and staffing CAHWs and maintaining/ establishing district livestock clinics.</li> <li>▪ Improve regulatory enforcement to decrease the impact of illegal fishing on fishermen livelihoods.</li> <li>▪ Support to the PEMSD Division for the early warning systems</li> </ul>	Short to Medium Term	<p><b>Lead:</b> MAF MoF MoHS</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> IITA ILCA World Bank AfDB UNICEF FAO IFAD</p>

CURRENT SITUATION	MILESTONES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low level use and application of ICT in agricultural practices</li> <li>▪ Limited access to electricity and energy</li> <li>▪ Lack of Climate Change Specialists</li> <li>▪ Low level of practising Climate Smart Agriculture</li> <li>▪ Poor dissemination of climate change information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased number of farmers trained in the utilization of simple social media platforms</li> <li>▪ Promotion of solar energy use in the rural areas</li> <li>▪ Increased use of renewable energy in agricultural production</li> <li>▪ 2019 budget allocation for climate change and disaster risk management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacity-building of researchers and extension workers in the use of ICT and basic agricultural related social media platforms, for dissemination to farmers and livestock herders</li> <li>▪ Promote the use of renewable energy in crop, fish and animal production systems</li> <li>▪ Mainstream climate change in key sectoral policies and programs</li> </ul>	Medium to Long-Term	<p><b>Lead:</b> MAF MoF SLARI</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> FAO WFP IFAD World Bank EPA UNDP</p>

## ANNEX II: PREPARATION OF THE ZERO HUNGER STRATEGIC REVIEW REPORT

### Steps for the preparation of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report

**Step 1:** In advance of the workshop, the Lead Convener and research team prepare a 'zero draft' for each of the six core areas indicated above.

**These drafts cover:** The current situation for the specific area, and the challenges and gaps in the national response that have contributed to the current situation. These zero drafts are shared with group participants several days before the workshop.

**Step 2:** The six Thematic Working Groups meet in a one day workshop to discuss and make recommendations for further development of the zero drafts. The discussions by each group will be led by a Group Facilitator, with notes taken by the Group Rapporteur. A presentation of the key points of each group's discussions will be delivered during the workshop by the Group Facilitator.

**Step 3:** Following the workshop, the Lead Convener and research team work with each Group Facilitator to incorporate and implement the recommendations made during the workshop, to create a first draft **Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report** and **Roadmap**. The first draft will include key recommendations and priority actions that must be taken to address the gaps. The Roadmap will include a timeline, identification of responsible government institutions, and the role of international partners.

**Step 4:** The first draft **Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report** and **Roadmap** is shared via email with group participants, for their feedback.

**Step 5:** The Local Convener and research team produce the final draft **Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report** and **Roadmap**, which is shared via email to group participants for their approval.

(Further steps after the Thematic Working Groups steps, will involve recommendations by the Advisory Board, incorporation of these recommendations, and then validation of the final report by the Advisory Board)



## Zero Hunger Strategic Review - Methodology

PROCESS STEPS	KEY QUESTIONS	INPUT
1. ANALYSIS OF THE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SITUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ What are the main trends and problems?</li> <li>❖ What are the causes?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Literature and secondary data review</li> <li>❖ Vulnerability &amp; food security assessments</li> <li>❖ Gender analysis</li> <li>❖ Consultations</li> </ul>
2. NATIONAL POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ What are the main national targets and goals?</li> <li>❖ What programmes and policies are implemented to achieve these targets and goals? With what financial and institutional resources?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review of national policy and programme frameworks and budgets</li> <li>❖ National evaluations</li> <li>❖ Sector funding reviews</li> <li>❖ Consultations</li> </ul>
3. GAPS IN THE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION RESPONSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Which gaps, including in planning, design, implementation, capacity and resourcing, hinder the achievement of targets and goals?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Benchmarking of the situation against the targets and the response</li> <li>❖ Review of findings from previous steps</li> <li>❖ Consultations</li> </ul>
4. RECOMMENDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ What needs to be done to fill up the gaps?</li> <li>❖ What institutional, financial and human resources are required?</li> <li>❖ How will priority actions be implemented?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review of all findings</li> <li>❖ Consultations including validation of outcomes</li> </ul>

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