

# Food Security Monitoring System Report, February 2024

WFP Sierra Leone Country Office





SAVING LIVES

CHANGING LIVES

# Table of Contents

Key Findings	4	
Background & Context	6	
Methodology of FSMS	6	
Households' Demographic Profile	7	
Household Size	7	
Head of Household Demographics	8	
Dependency Ratio	9	
Food Consumption Score	10	
Reduced Coping Strategy Index	12	
Food Expenditure Share	15	
Market Conditions	17	
Inflation	17	
Food Commodity Prices	18	
Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security		

# **List of Acronyms**

CARI Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security

CFSVA Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis

CSI Coping Strategy Index

ECMEN Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs

FCS Food Consumption Score

FSMS Food Security Monitoring System

GAM Global Acute Malnutrition

HDDS Household Dietary Diversity Score

LCSI Livelihood Coping Strategy Index

MAFS Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

MAD Minnimum Acceptable Diet

MoHS Ministry of Health and Sanitation

MUAC Mid Upper Arm Circumference

ODK Open Data Kit

PEMSD Planning Evaluation Monitoring and Statistics Division

rCSI Reduced Coping Strategy Index

RAM Research, Assessment and Monitoring

SMART Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and

Transitions

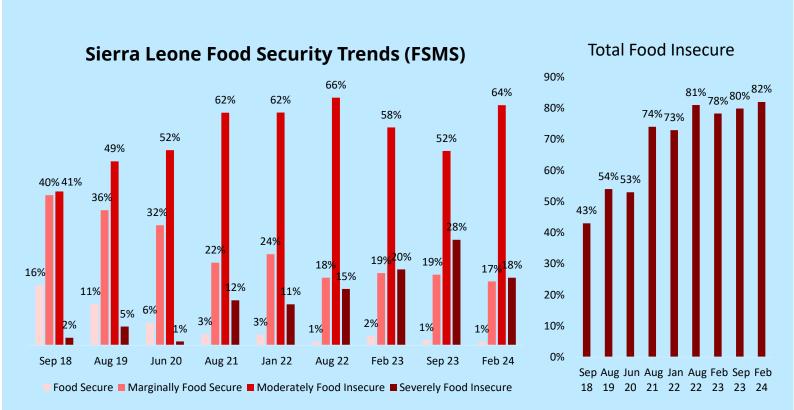
StatsSL Statistics Sierra Leone

VAM Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

# **Key Findings**

- > **82 percent** of Sierra Leone's population is food insecure. Among the food insecure, **18 percent** of households are severely food insecure, which is an expected improvement from the last assessment conducted in the lean season, attributable to a relatively good havest.
- ▶ 68 percent of the surveyed households reported spending more than 75 percent of their total expenditure on food.
- > **14 percent** of households are within the poor food consumption score category.
- ➤ The Nutrition analysis shows a deterioration when compared with the data collected in the 2023 February and August FSMS; the Global Acute Malnutrition rates increased from 3.1 percent to 5 percent in February 2024.
- ➤ Rural households with agriculture as a source of income was a common characteristic of households with high levels of food insecurity.
- Kenema, Falaba, Koinadugu, Karene, and Tonkolili districts have the highest levels of vulnerability across most indicators.

Figure 1: Food Security Historical Trend



#### **Recommendations**

Given the prevailing food insecurity stemming from limited access to nutritious food due to economic vulnerabilities like high food prices, inflation, and currency depreciation, compounded by low rural productivity and poor agricultural practices, neglecting the following recommendations could worsen the situation:

- To consider the most food-insecure districts and populations vulnerable to shocks for shockresponsive social protection programmes and revise transfer values to align with current costs of Minimum Essential Needs.
- Finalize the national emergency preparedness plan to provide appropriate assistance to the most vulnerable households to safeguard their food and nutritional intake.
- To increase investment in agriculture, credit facilities should be provided for farming inputs such as improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, and farm tools directed at the smallholder level.
- Expand soil and water conservation farming techniques; make proper use of soil testing; and improve market linkages for smallholder farmers to improve their access to improved seeds and organic fertilizer.
- Expand on climate-smart agriculture and encourage smallholder farmers to embark on perennial agriculture
- Strengthen prevention of malnutrition initiatives with emphasis on a multi-sectoral approach using networks of smallholder farmers and mother support groups.

# **Background & Context**

The World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Health through the Directorate of Food and Nutrition (DFN), conduct Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) surveys bi-annually during the lean season (July-September) and post-harvest (January-March) to monitor the levels of food insecurity across the country. Over the past decade, household food insecurity and vulnerability have deteriorated<sup>1</sup>. Sierra Leone, like many other fragile economies worldwide, has seen a steep decline in the past two years. This downturn is attributed to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global food crisis ignited by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

During the period leading up to the data collection, prices of staple food commodities surged in local markets, mirroring the trajectory of national macroeconomic indicators. The price of both local and imported rice rose by 31 percent and 38 percent, respectively, from January 2023 to January 2024. These sharp hikes in commodity food prices were evident in the FSMS results. For many Sierra Leonean households, these potentially forewarn of an intensifying and broader food security crisis in the near future. This is especially concerning as household incomes remain static amid rising expenses. In addition to increasing food commodity costs, recent macroeconomic trends have negatively impacted agricultural production. This is due to the increasing costs of inputs such as fertilizer and seeds and the high transportation costs to markets. Given the dependence of the nation's economy's the agricultural sector — accounting for over half of its GDP—these stressors will inevitably heighten food insecurity for most Sierra Leoneans in rural and urban areas. However, the lack of alternate economic opportunities in rural regions also adds another dimension for households whose income relies on smallholder farming.

# **Objectives**

The main objective of the FSMS is to provide accurate information about household food security and vulnerability levels in the country twice a year, during post-harvest and lean seasons. This data provides national and district-level insights, enabling targeted short- and long-term interventions. The main outcome is to support Sierra Leone's progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

#### Methodology of FSMS

A total of 6,015 households were surveyed nationwide using a two-tiered sampling method. Enumeration Areas (EAs) were chosen from the 2015 sampling frame using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) in the initial phase, while the second-tier households were selected using systematic random sampling. An exhaustive and mutually exclusive list of EAs spanned all 16 districts, detailing the estimated and cumulative number of households. Statistics Sierra Leone supplied this EA list based on the 2015 Census. The survey systematically selected 228 EAs proportional to population size, making up 6,015 households.

Twenty-eight households were selected from each EA for the FSMS, and fourteen children aged 6-59 months from those households from each EA were chosen, totaling 3,431 children across the 16 districts for the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) data through Middle Upper Arm Circumference measurements (MUAC) from children<sup>2</sup> and oedema. The measurements were supervised by trained enumerators from the Directorate of Food and Nutrition (including a standardisation test). The measurements are used to determine the impact of nutritional deficiencies in children's diets, which hinder their physical development and growth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNHCR Emergency Handbook; Acute malnutrition threshold.

The following food security & Nutrition indicators were examined and analyzed using the Consolidated Approach and Reporting Indicators to Food Security (CARI)

- 1. Household Food Consumption Score (FCS)
- 2. Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)
- 3. Reduced Coping Strategy Index (r CSI)
- 4. Livelihood Coping Strategy Index
- 5. Share of Expenditure on Food
- 6. Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)
- 7. Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)

Data was collected digitally using tablets to access the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform, which contained the digital survey form comprised of food security indicators to guide enumerators when conducting interviews. Data was collected by 120 enumerators and 16 Supervisors trained prior to data collection and supervised by the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) and Research, Assessment, and Monitoring (RAM) team, UNICEF Nutrition and national cooperating partner staff. The data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists, ENA software and excel by WFP VAM/RAM team, Directorate of Food and Nutrition team and UNICEF Nutrition team.

# Households' Demographic Profile

#### **Household Size**

Amongst the 6,015 participant households, the mean household size was 6.5. When broken down into categories, 54 percent comprised 5 to 8 members, followed by 21 percent comprised of 9 to 12 members, 20 percent comprised of 1 to 4 members, and lastly, 6 percent comprised of 13 or more members. When examining the mean household sizes by districts, households in Falaba, Bombali, Bo, and Kenema had mean household sizes of 7 and above. On the lower end, Bonthe had a mean household size of 6.



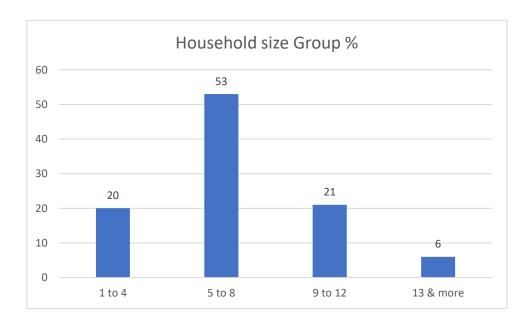
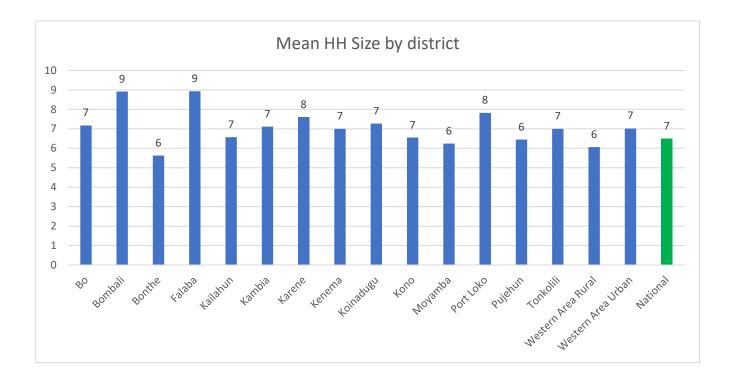


Figure 3: Mean Household Size by District

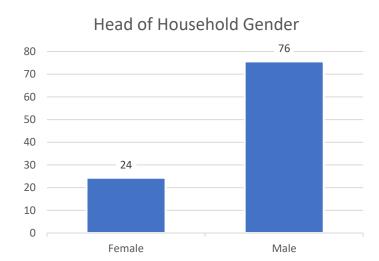


# Head of Household Demographics

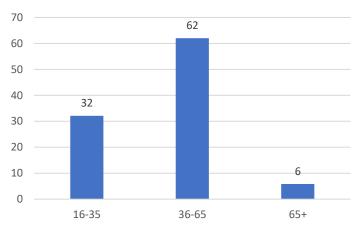
Of the survey participant households, 76 percent were headed by men and 24 percent by women. A breakdown of heads of households disaggregated by gender and district showed Western Area Urban had the least discrepancy between male and female-headed households, with values at 65 percent and 35 percent, respectively. Falaba had the highest discrepancy, with 89 percent of the households headed by men and only 11 percent by women.

Distribution of heads of households into age categories showed that 62 percent of the decision-makers in the households were between the ages of 35 to 64. This was followed by 32 percent aged 16 to 35 and 6 percent 65 years and older. Bo, Pujehunn, and Bonthe districts had the highest percentage of younger heads of households, with 42 percent, 40 percent, and 37 percent, respectively, between the ages of 16 and 35. The districts of Falaba and Kenema had the highest percentage of elderly 65 and older head of households with 6 percent.

Figure 4: Head of Household Gender and Age



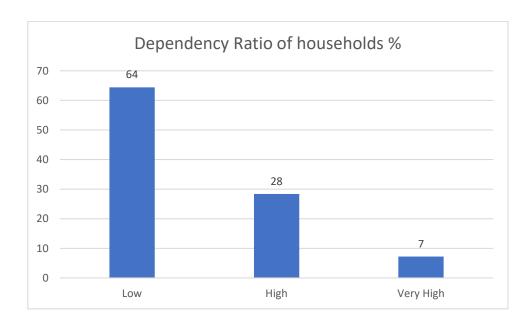
# Age group of Head of Households



# **Dependency Ratio**

The dependency ratio is an important indicator often used in the beneficiary selection methodologies for humanitarian assistance. The indicator is calculated by dividing the number of dependents (children and elderly) by the number of able-bodied adults in targeted households. Analysis of the FSMS participant households revealed that 64.4 percent had a low dependency ratio below 1.5. 28.4 percent had a high dependency ratio of between 1.5 and 3, and 7.2 percent had a very high dependency ratio of 3 and above. Breaking this down by districts, Western Area Urban led with 77.7 percent of its households in the low ratio category. In contrast, Falaba and Bombali had 22 percent and 10 percent of their households in the very high dependency ratio bracket, respectively.

Figure 5: Dependency Ratio of households



# **Food Security Indicators**

#### Food Consumption Score

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) assesses the quantity and quality of diets consumed by the households participating in the survey. The indicator allows for measuring dietary diversity, food consumption frequency, and the relative nutritional value of the food items consumed 2. The FCS is computed from a 7-day recall period and the number of times food items were consumed during these 7 days.

According to the latest survey results, 14 percent of Sierra Leonean households are within the poor food consumption score category, which is a 7-percentage point below the 21 percent reported in February 2023. However, the population in the borderline category deteriorated from 51 percent in February 2023 to 62 percent in February 2024. Comparing the results with the September 2023 FSMS shows an improvement in the poor FCS category from 24 percent to 14 percent. Still, households in the borderline category deteriorated from 49 percent in September 2023 to 62 percent in February 2024.



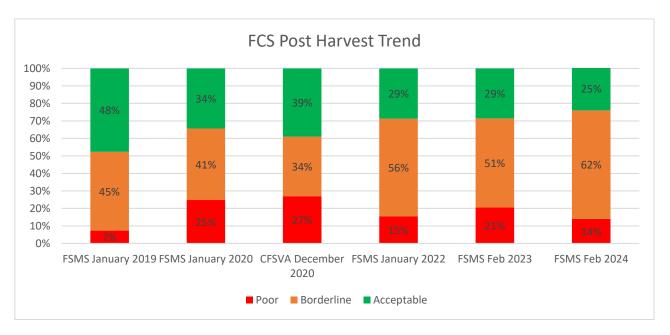


Figure 7: FCS Post Harvest Vs Lean Season

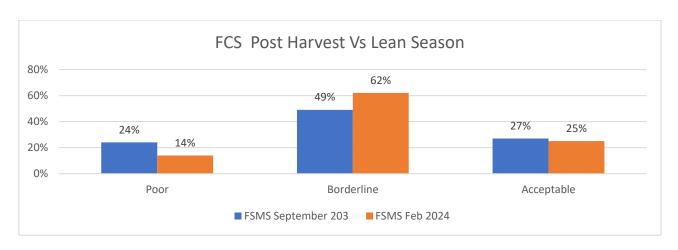
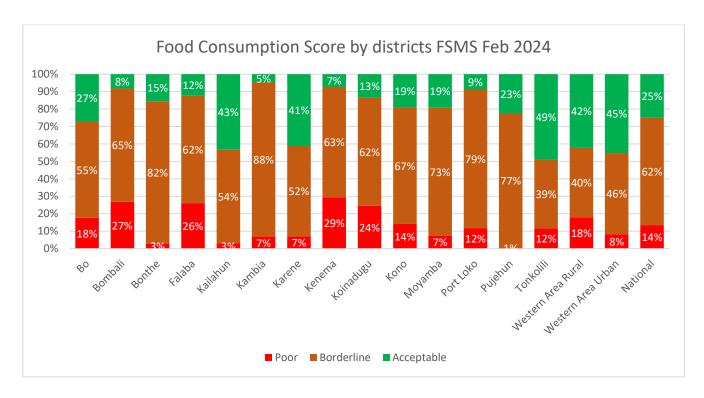


Figure 8: FCS by districts



Districts disaggregated results shows, Kenema, Bombali, Koinadugu, and Falaba districts had the highest proportion of their population in poor food consumption. When examining districts with the smallest proportion of households in the poor food consumption category, the data highlighted Bonthe at 2.9 percent and Kailahun at 3.2 percent.

## Household Dietary Diversity Score

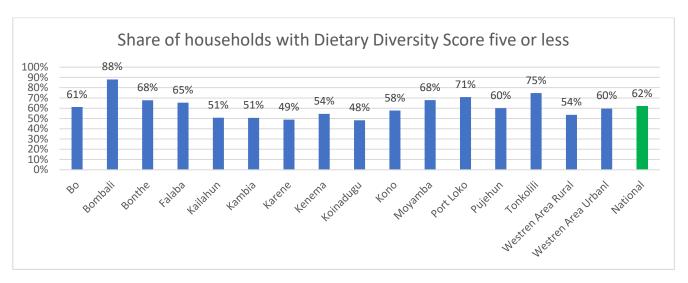
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) assesses the number of unique foods consumed by household members during the 24 hours preceding the survey interviews. HDDS can be used as a proxy measurement of household food access and diet quality<sup>3</sup>.

Due to the underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of machinery for applying modern agricultural techniques, and widespread utilization of traditional smallholder agricultural practices, access to a diverse and nutritionally rich diet is out of reach for the majority of Sierra Leoneans. The survey findings reflect this reality, with 62 percent of the households reporting consuming 5 or fewer different food items, which is below the acceptable levels.

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> FANTA Project; Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) for Measurement of Household Food Access: Indicator Guide.

Figure 9: Share of Households DDS five or less by districts

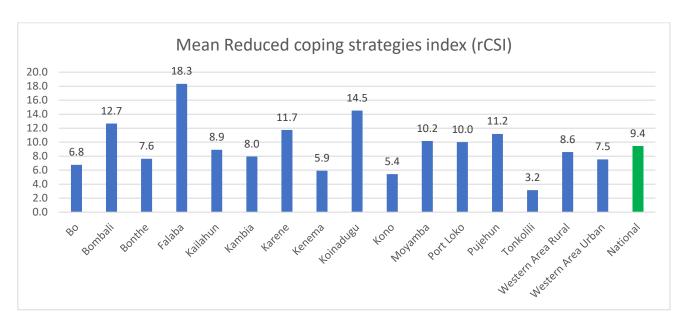


# **Reduced Coping Strategy Index**

The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is an indicator used to measure the impacts of hardships households face on their food consumption habits. The index measures the frequency and severity of the food consumption-related coping mechanisms of the households engaged in the 7-day reference period before the survey<sup>4</sup>. The index is based on five coping strategies as follows:

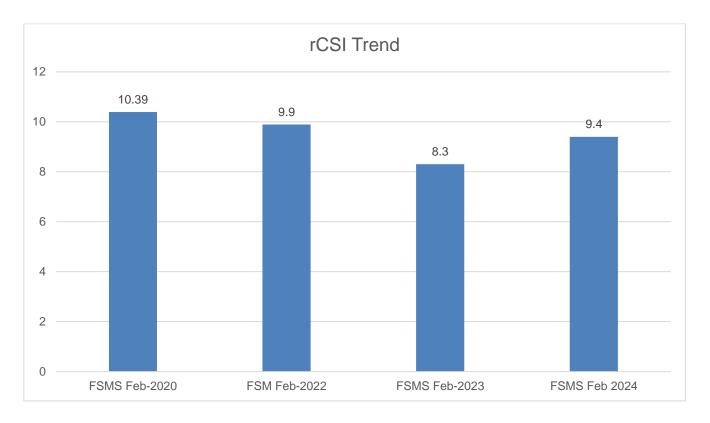
- i. Rely on less preferred and less expensive food
- ii. Borrow food or rely on help from relative(s) or friend(s)
- iii. Limit portion size at meals
- iv. Restrict consumption by adults for small children to eat
- v. Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day

Figure 10: Mean rCSI by district



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Technical guidance for the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security.

Figure 11: r CSI Trend



Higher rCSi scores indicate higher vulnerability levels for the households. In February 2024, the national average rCSI score stood at 9.4. When the results are disaggregated by geographic location, Falaba, Koinadugu, and Bombali districts reported the highest average rCSi scores of 18.3, 14.5, and 12.7, respectively. Additionally, the districts of Karene, with a score of 11.7, Pujehun with a score of 11.2 and Port Loko, with 10.2 also exceeded the national average rCSI score of 9.4. Comparing the results with the same time last year, it shows a deterioration from 8.3 in February 2023 to 9,4 in February 2024.

#### **Livelihood Coping Strategies**

Livelihood coping strategies are an indicator used to understand households' medium and longer-term coping capacity in response to lack of food or lack of money to buy food (or essential needs) and their ability to overcome challenges in the future<sup>5</sup>. The indicator is derived from 10 questions regarding the households' experiences with livelihood stress and asset depletion to cope with food shortages. The questions consist of at least four stress coping strategies, three crisis coping strategies and three emergency coping strategies that are most relevant for the Sierra Leone context. Stress strategies indicate a reduced ability to deal with shocks because of a current resource reduction or debt increase. Crisis strategies are often associated with the direct reduction of future productivity. Emergency strategies also affect future productivity but are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic than crisis strategies. The following 10 questions were asked for each category:

<sup>5</sup> Technical guidance for the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security.

Stress	Crisis	Emergency	
Sold household assets/ goods	Sold productive assets or means of transport	Sold house or land	
Purchased food on credit	Reduced health and educational expenditures	Begged	
Spent savings	Withdrawn children from school	Sold last female breeding	
Borrowed money		stock, eat seed stocks	

The proportion of households that adopted emergency coping in the current period was 23 percent and the same as last year, February 2023, at 23 percent; comparing the emergency coping to the lean season last year in September 2023, the result shows a decrease from (26 percent) to (23 percent).

Figure 12: Livelihood coping strategies index, Post Harvest Trend

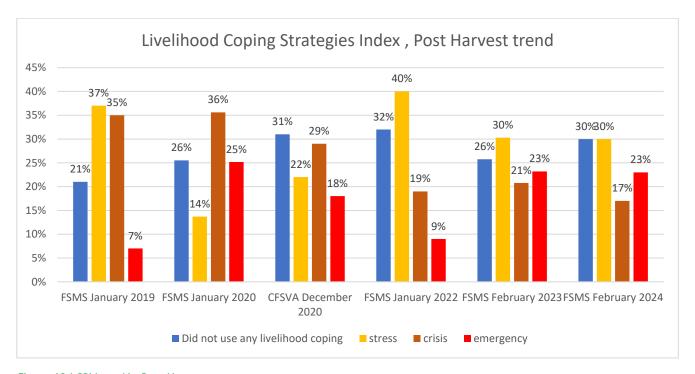
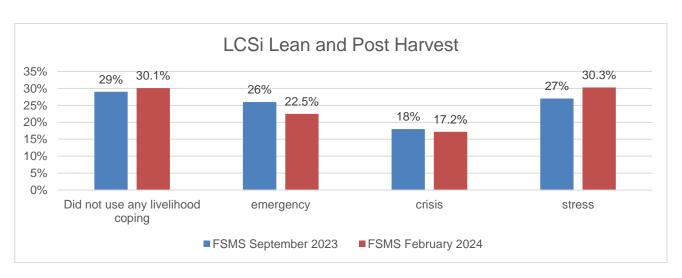


Figure 13 LCSi Lean Vs. Post Harvest



Regarding the crisis coping strategies, the latest adoption rate was lower when compared to the same period last year, with 17 percent of participant households reporting adopting crisis coping strategies in the latest survey compared to 21 percent in February 2023. When examining the LCSi figures by location Tonkolili (51 percent), Karene (38 percent), Falaba (33 percent) and Kenema (28 percent) were the districts with the highest proportion of households reporting adoption of emergency coping strategies.

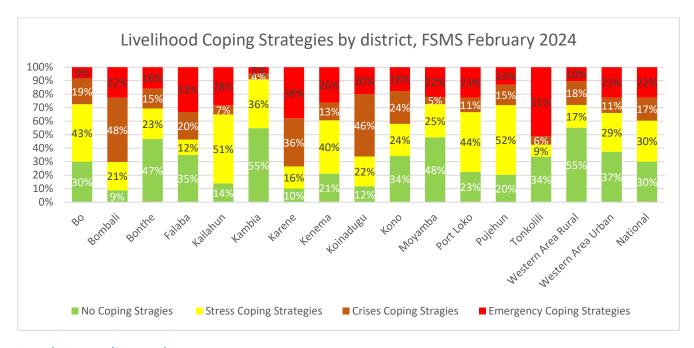


Figure 14: Livelihood Coping Strategies by District

# Food Expenditure Share

The food expenditure share measures the economic vulnerability of households based on the premise that the greater the expenditure on food when compared to other essential needs, the more economically vulnerable the household is. When the income level reduces or prices increase, the share of food expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure also increases. For poor households, this means reducing expenditure on other essential non-food items and services, such as education and health, eating less, or eating less preferred foods that are cheaper<sup>6</sup>.

68 percent of the survey participant households reported spending more than 75 percent of their total expenditure on food and 25 percent on all other essential needs. When compared with the same time last year, this shows a deterioration of 7 percentage points, from 61 percent in February 2023 to 68 percent.

<sup>6</sup> Technical guidance for the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security.

Figure 15: Share of Expenditure on Food Trend Post Harvest, 75% or Greater

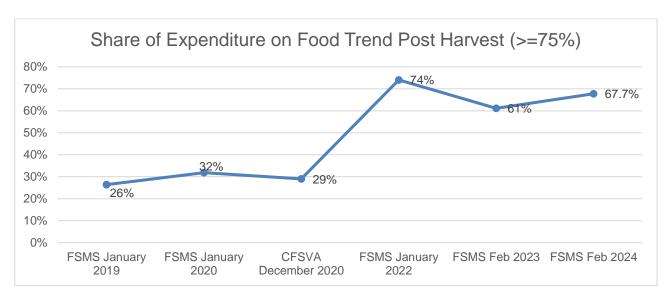
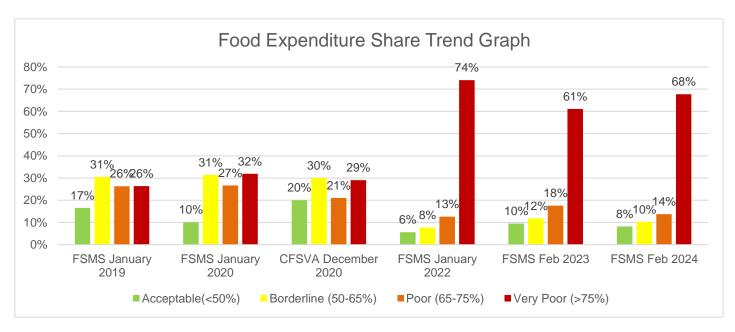
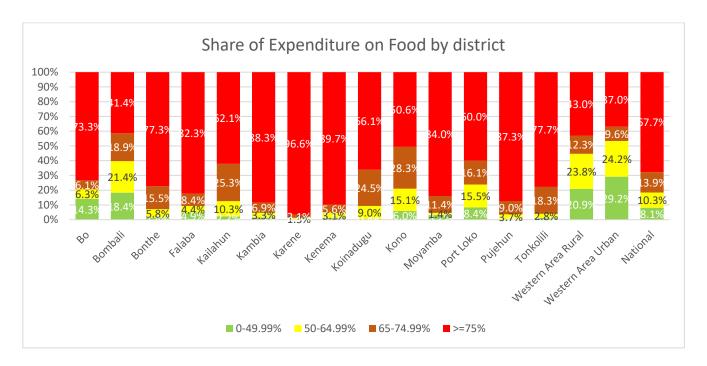


Figure 16: Share of Expenditure on Food Trend, Post-Harvest



Districts that reported the highest share of their populations with food expenditures above 75 percent of their total household expenditures included Karene, 94 percent; Moyamba, 94 percent; Pujehun, 90 percent; and Port Loko, 88 percent. These are some of the country's poorest and most vulnerable districts, which rely more on crop production and are prone to climatic and economic shocks.

Figure 17: Share of Expenditure on Food by District



#### **Market Conditions**

#### Inflation

In January 2024, the national inflation rate for food and non-food items was 47.42 percent, marking a decrease of 4.74 percentage points from 52.16 percent in December 2023. Inflation rates for food and non-alcoholic beverages have risen but have steadily decreased in the last 3 months. Specifically, the national inflation rate for food and beverages in January 2024 decreased to 49.82 percent, which is a decrease of 7.39 percentage points from 57.21 percent in December 2023. However, Sierra Leone still ranks among countries in the subregion with high inflation for food and non-food items, largely due to surging commodity prices and a heavy reliance on imports. This inflationary pressure has exacerbated the economic vulnerability of many Sierra Leoneans, further intensifying overall food insecurity.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Stats SL - Home | Statistics Sierra Leone

Figure 18: General Inflation Rate

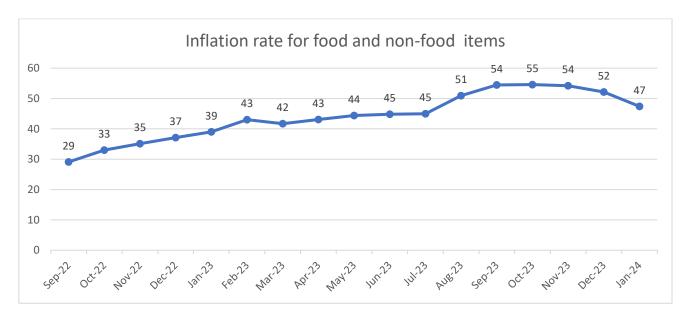
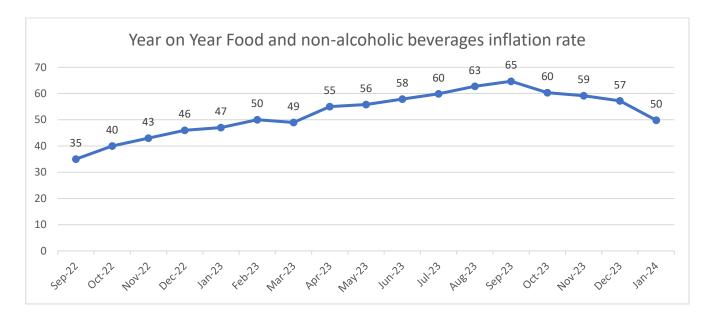


Figure 19: Year on Year Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate



# **Food Commodity Prices**

From January 2023 to January 2024, local and imported rice prices saw a significant increase nationally — 31 percent for local rice and 38 percent for imported rice. The surge in the price of imported rice can be attributed to higher freight costs and the depreciation of the national currency against the United States Dollar.

Retail price of imported rice and local rice per kg in SLE 25 22 22 20 19 20 17 18 15 16 16 10 10 10 5 Feb-23 ■Price of imported Rice /Kg in SLE Price of local Rice/Kg in SLE

Figure 20: Retail prices of imported and local rice per kilogram in SLE

# **Currency Exchange Rates**

The Leone (SLe) experienced a year-on-year depreciation of 19 percent against the United States Dollar. This can be chiefly attributed to rising prices of imported goods, a repercussion of prevailing global inflationary pressures. Given Sierra Leone's pronounced reliance on imports to fulfill the essential needs of its populace, sustained depreciation of the Leone is likely to intensify the nation's pre-existing vulnerabilities and heighten food insecurity.<sup>8</sup>

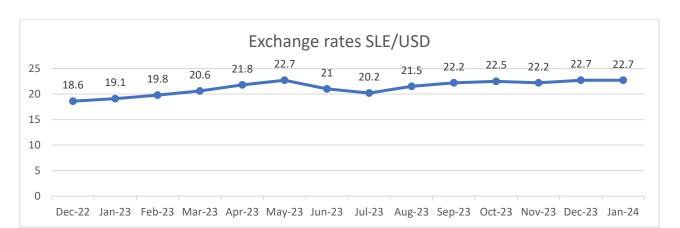


Figure 21: Exchange rates SLE/USD

## **Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security**

The Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) is a methodology used to aggregate different food security indicators into one index to report on a population's overall food security status. The CARI assesses availability and access to food by measuring the status of household

<sup>8</sup> Bsl.gov.sl

consumption and the ability of a household to stabilize consumption over time by measuring the Coping Capacity through economic vulnerability and livelihood coping strategies<sup>9</sup>. The approach culminates in a food security console that supports the reporting and combining of food security indicators in a systematic and transparent way, using information collected in the February FSMS survey.

The console classifies food insecurity into four categories, i.e.

- 1) Food secure, 2) Marginally Food Secure, 3) Moderately Food Insecure, and 4) Severely Food Insecure, as illustrated in Table 2. For the CARI analysis, the following indicators were collected and used:
- i. Food consumption score,
- ii. Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSi)
- iii. Food expenditure share and
- iv. Livelihood coping

The food security analysis was done using the revised CARI guidelines and the most noticeable updates applied during this analysis are 1. Addition of reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSi) to the Food Consumption Score in the Current Status domain in the CARI console; 2. Updated standard household expenditure module to measure Food Expenditure Share (FES) and Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN); 3. Introduction of methodology to calculate Livelihood Coping Strategies. Food Security (LCS-FS) from the Livelihood Coping Strategies module used for Essential Needs (LCS-EN). Lastly, 4. Include updated livelihood coping strategies in the LCS-FS module and align the LCS-EN module accordingly. One major implication noted is the increase in marginal food-secure households compared to the old CARI methodology. This is due to the reclassification of households with acceptable food consumption and a high level of reduced Coping Strategies into the marginally food-secure category instead of the food-secure category.

This current analysis will be used as a reference point for the methodology used. According to the current results (FSMS September 2023), 82 percent of Sierra Leone's population are food insecure. Among the food insecure, 18 percent of households are severely food insecure, and 64 percent are moderately food insecure.

The survey findings show that 18 percent of the households are severely food insecure, with the highest proportion reported in Kenema at 40.6 percent, Tonkolili at 31.5 percent, and Falaba at 31.0 percent. These are some areas that reported a higher proportion of households consuming poor diets and resorting to emergency coping strategies. About 64 percent of the households were classified as moderately food insecure and needed help meeting their minimum dietary requirements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Technical guidance for the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security.

Figure 22: Food Security Classification by District

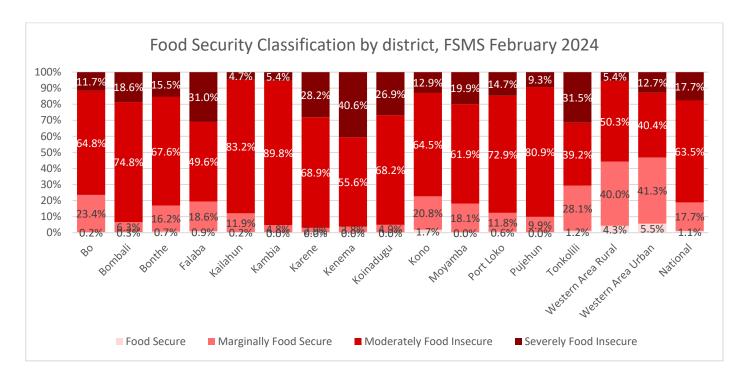
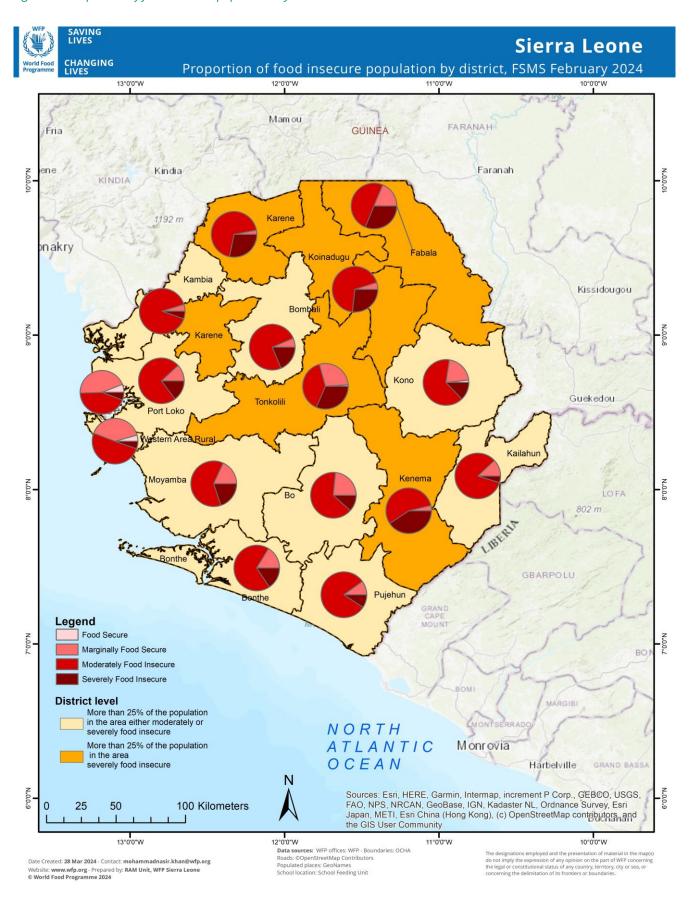


Figure 23: Proportion of food insecure population by districts



The results also showed that households living in rural areas are prone to severe food insecurity; out of the 18 percent of severe food insecure households, households in rural areas account for 77 percent of severe food insecurity, while households in urban areas account for 23 percent of the total severe food insecurity. On the contrary, out of the food-secured households, 62 percent live in urban areas, while the remaining 38 percent live in rural areas.

Figure 24: Rural and Urban Food Security Classification

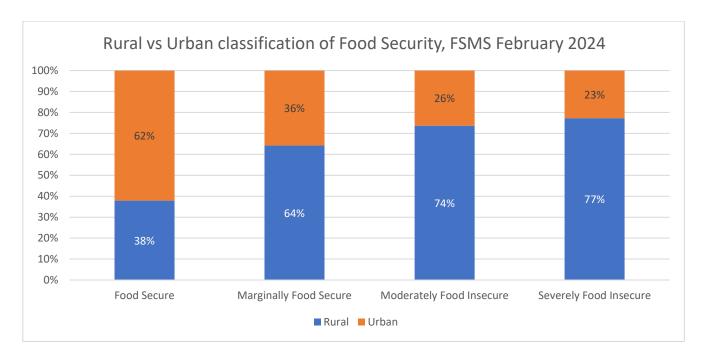


Figure 25: CARI Console

	Domain	Indicator	Food	Marginally	Moderately	Severely
			Secure	Food	Food	Food
				Secure	Insecure	Insecure
	Food	Food	Acceptable	Acceptable	Borderline	Poor
nt	Consumption	Consumption		and rCSI		
Current Status		Groups and rCSI		>=4		
C. St			9.1%		61.6%	13.5%
				15.8%		
	Economic	Food	<50%	50% -	65% - <75%	≥75%
τ	Vulnerability	Expenditure		<65%		
aci		Share	8.1%		13.9%	67.7%
Capacity				10.3%		
Coping (	Livelihood	Livelihood	None	Stress	Crisis	Emergency
	Coping	Coping		30.3%		
	Strategies	Strategies – Food	30.1%		17.2%	22.5%
		Security				
CARI			1.1%	17.1%	63.5%	17.7%

#### Global Acute Malnutrition and other nutrition indicators

In addition to food security indicators, field teams collected Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) data through Middle Upper Arm Circumference measurements (MUAC) from children aged between 6 months and 59 months<sup>10</sup> and oedema. The analysis result showed deterioration when compared with the data collected in the 2023 August FSMS; the GAM rates increased from 3.1 percent to 5 percent in February 2024.

Global Acute Malnutrition Prevalence
(children 6-59m with MUAC≤125mm and/or oedema

5

3.9

3.1

Figure 26: Comparison between data collected in previous FSMS (from Aug 2022 to September 2023) with data collected in February 2024

#### Caution on the results at the sub-national level:

FSMS August 2022

Given the results of the plausibility checks and MUAC distribution at the district level, it is recommended that the regional-level data be used. Problems may result from an underestimation of the sample size.

FSMS August 2023

FSMS February 2024

FSMS February 2023

Indeed, the overall quality of data looks acceptable (quality note by ENA is acceptable, not many outliers, overall distribution good), but the results by district show signs of underestimation of the sample size: the expected age and sex ratio are problematic in some districts, and the distribution of MUAC is uneven. These quality issues are normally sorted by higher sample size (the age and sex ratio tend to be as expected as the sample increases). Also, when the GAM prevalence is higher than expected during the sample size calculation, this means that the sample size may have been underestimated (with higher prevalence estimates, the sample size increases). The training of enumerators was conducted by skilled and experienced professionals from DFN, processing standardisation tests for the selection of enumerators. Given the dramatic results in some districts and the uneven distribution of MUAC, pooling the data by province is recommended to sort out the limitation of the sample size mentioned above. For that purpose, the provincial GAM average has been calculated using the 2023 population projections from STAT SL to account for the difference in population from one district to another.

The regional analysis of the 5 regions in Sierra Leone shows that the food and nutrition situation has a direct correlation as the North-Eastern Region recorded 27 percent of the population with severe food insecurity

24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> UNHCR Emergency Handbook; Acute malnutrition threshold.

and having 11 percent GAM rate of children 6-59 months; this is followed by the Eastern Region that recorded 21 percent severe food insecurity and 6 percent GAM rate.<sup>11</sup>

Regional Food and Nutrition Security Situation, Severe Food Insecurity and GAM Rate by Region 30% 27% 25% 21% 20% 15% 13% 15% 11% 11% 10% 6% 5% 5% 1% 1% 0% East North-East North-West South West

Figure 27: Regional Food and Nutrition Situation

The FSMS also captured the Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF), Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD), and Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) of children aged 6-23 months. When the results are compared with the last FSMS, the MMF decreases from 11.7 to 11.2, MDD decreases from 9.7 to 7.1, and MAD decreases from 3.7 to 2.9.

GAM

■ Severely Food Insecure

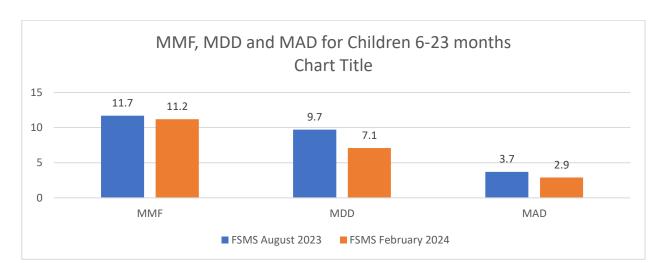


Figure 28: MMF, MDD and MAD for children 6-23 months

Urban)

\_

25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> North East districts(Bombali,Falaba,Koinadugu and Tonkolili) North West(Kambia,Port LokoKarene) East (Kailahun, Kenema and Kono) South (Bo,Bonthe Moyamba and Pujehun) Western Area (Western Area Rural and Western Area

## For further information please contact:

Yvonne Forsen, Country Director, WFP Sierra Leone, <a href="mailto:yvonne.forsen@wfp.org">yvonne.forsen@wfp.org</a>

Mr. Ballah Musa Kandeh, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Officer, WFP Sierra Leone, ballahmusa.kandeh@wfp.org

Mr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin Khan, Research, Assessment and Monitoring Officer, WFP Sierra Leone <a href="mailto:mohammadnasir.khan@wfp.org">mohammadnasir.khan@wfp.org</a>

Mr. Alan Awimbo, Partnerships Officer, WFP Sierra Leone, <a href="mailto:alan.awimbo@wfp.org">alan.awimbo@wfp.org</a>