Sierra Leone

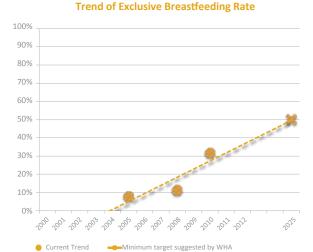


Joined: January 2012

Demographic data	
National Population (million, 2010)	5.8
Children under 5 (million, 2010)	0.9
Adolescent Girls (15-19) (million, 2010)	0.30
Average Number of Births (million, 2010)	0.20
Population growth rate (2010)	2.33%
WHA nutrition target indicators (MICS 2010/SMA	
Low birth weight	10.5%
0-5 months Exclusive Breastfeeding	31.6%
Under five stunting	34.1%
Under five wasting	6.9%
Under five overweight	9.6%
Coverage of Nutrition-relevant Factors	3.070
Infant and young child feeding practice	
6-23 months with Minimum Acceptable Diet	_
6-23 months with Minimum Diet Diversity	_
Programs for vitamin and mineral deficiencies	
Zinc Supplementation for Diarrhea	7.4%
Pregnant Women Attending 4	7.4%
or more Antenatal Care Visits	74.770
Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months)	99.0%
Households Consuming Adequately Iodized Salt	63.0%
Women's Empowerment	
Female literacy	26.2%
Female employment rate	64.9%
Median age at first marriage	-
Access to skilled birth attendant	62.0%
Women who have first birth before age 18	32.2%
Fertility rate	5.2
Other Nutrition-relevant indicators	
Rate of urbanization	39.66%
Income share held by lowest 20%	7.81%
Calories per capita per day (kcal/capita/day)	2,081.0
Energy from non-staples in supply	34.87%
Iron availability from animal products (mg/capita/day)	1.3
Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities	40.5%
Open defecation	28.9%
Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources	57.0%
Access to Piped Water on Premises	1.0%
Surface Water as Drinking Water Source	27.8%
GDP per capita (current USD, 2013)	809.00
Exports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012)	-
Imports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012)	-









Bringing people together into a shared space for action

SUN Secretariat located in the Office of the Vice President serves as Secretary to the SUN Steering Committee and the SUN technical Committee. The MSP meets regularly. Donors, UN agencies and CSOs also participate in the Health Development Partners Group (chaired by the Minister of Health), the Presidential Task Force in Agriculture (Chaired by the President) and the Agriculture Advisory Group (chaired by the Minister of Agriculture). Development partners use the multi-sectoral Nutrition Working Group co-chaired by Irish Aid and USAID to share updates in food and nutrition security with the government, UN agencies and CSOs have been absorbed in to the SUN Technical Committee – Chaired and Co- Chaired by Ministry of Health and Sanitation and Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security.

Civil Society Organizations participate in a number of existing platforms including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security NGO Coordination Platform, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) with participation from FAO; the Health NGO Forum; the Sierra Leone Association of NGOs; and the Food Security Technical Meeting, chaired by FAO. They are also active members of the Nutrition Working Group. The business community is in the process of forming its own platform, though the Chamber of Commerce and a functioning Multi-stakeholder National Food Fortification Alliance exist.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Sierra Leone has made nutrition a priority in its five-year Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan – the "Agenda for Prosperity". The country has already developed a National Food and Nutrition Policy and other nutrition-specific policies and strategies on infant and young child malnutrition, managing acute malnutrition and micronutrient supplementation. Nutrition-sensitive policies and plans cover key sectors like agriculture and food security, poverty reduction and development, as well as public health. The coordinating mechanism of the MSP is fully embedded in the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan.

Key line ministries have been pro-active in mainstreaming nutrition into their sector/ministerial strategic plans, though the tracking and reporting system is at sector level. Moreover, there is two nutrition parliamentary committees on Health and Agriculture and Food Security. The National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plans were recently validated.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework

The National Food and Nutrition Implementation Plan remains the common results framework and has been validated by relevant Ministries and development partners. Its development, following the endorsement of the National Food and Nutrition Policy, was the result of the concerted efforts led by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Ministry of Agriculture, together with minis tries and stakeholders.

Additionally, the implementation of the Free Healthcare Initiative that focuses on ensuring access and care for women and children is expected to contribute to a reduction in child and maternal morbidity and mortality. The government, which has set clear targets to reduce stunting and wasting and increase exclusive breastfeeding rates by 2020, is committed to scaling up community support networks for nutrition and food security and is increasing the number of qualified nutritionists. Programs have been aligned around seven priorities with involvement of relevant ministries, local government and multiple stakeholders. Focal persons are now identified in nine ministries in support of mainstreaming the implementation of relevant interventions and services at scale.

Financial Tracking and resource mobilization

The budget of the Food and Nutrition Policy Implementation Plan was finalized. This budget will be used to reconcile estimates with investments in order to identify financial gaps. In honoring its commitment Government has increased nutrition allocation to both Ministry of Health and Sanitation and Ministry of Agriculture in its 2014 budget. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) staff have been trained on tracking and financing nutrition activities. The Government has shown commitment and pays wages salaries and utility costs as outlined in the implementation plan. However, disbursement remains a challenge. Financial contributions are made by donors for some nutrition direct and sensitive interventions.

Progress Across Four SUN Processes Sierra Leone

