

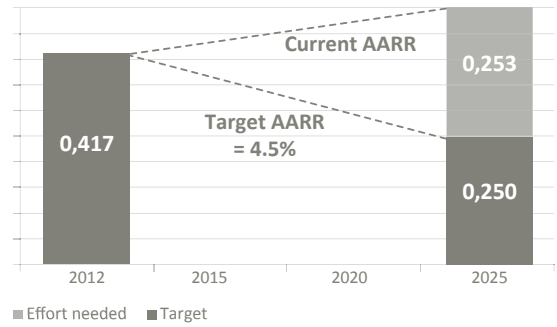
Sierra Leone

Joined: January 2012

Highlights

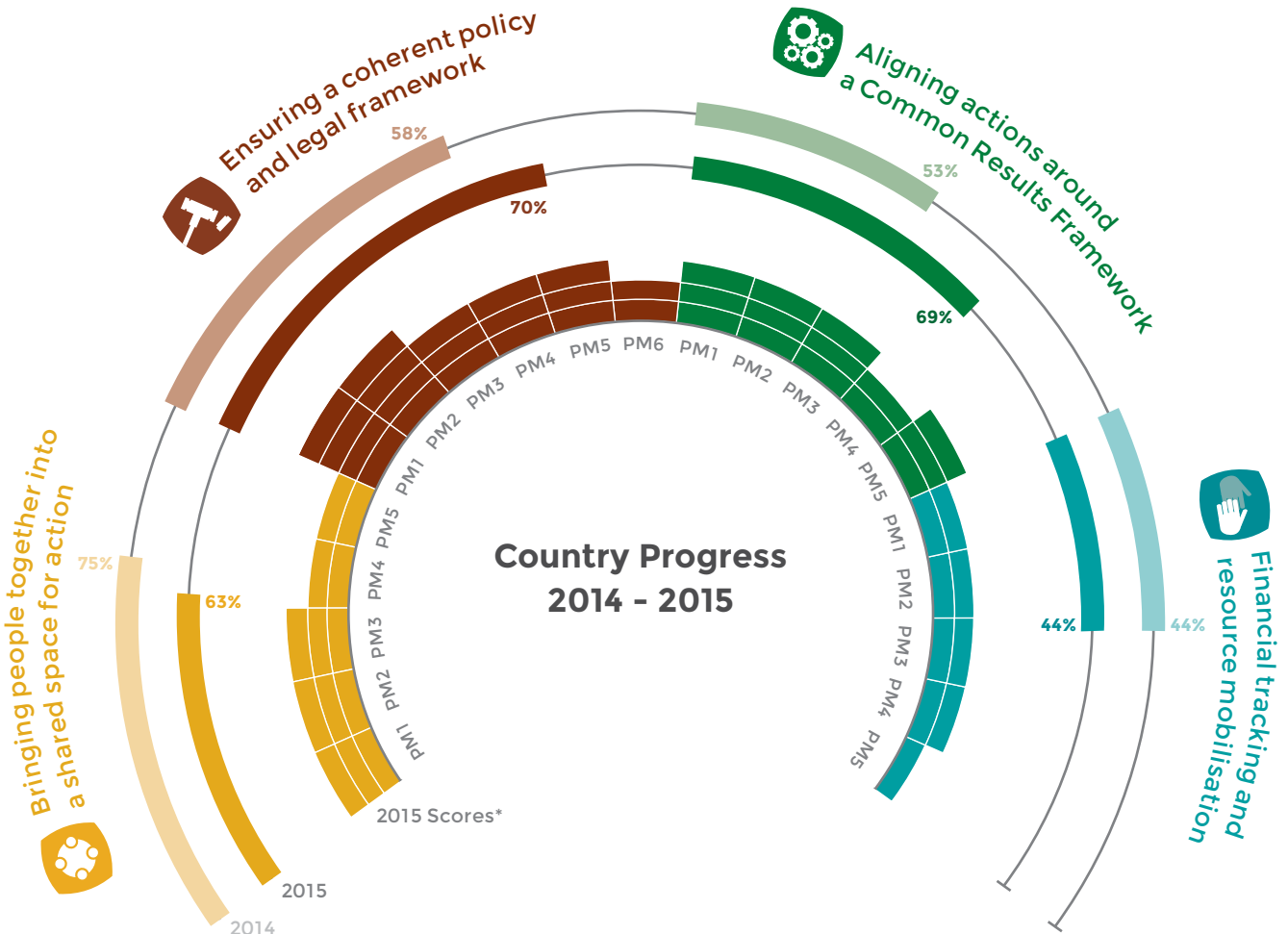
- Sierra Leone has made nutrition a priority in their flagship five-year Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan – the “Agenda for Prosperity”.
- In collaboration with District Coordination Bodies and the media, civil society is strengthening and coordinating food and nutrition messages.
- Parliamentary Oversight Committees on Health, Agriculture, Gender, and Education are supporting Parliamentary Committees in accelerating the enactment of pro-food and nutrition legislation and ensuring all development programmes, strategies and policies impact the nutritional status of women and children positively.

Beginning prevalence: 44.9% **Targeted Stunting Reduction (million U5 stunted children)** Target prevalence: 24.8%



Under five stunting:	37.9%
Low-birth weight:	7.1%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding:	32.0%
Under five wasting:	9.4%
Under five overweight:	8.9%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years:	45.2%

*data sources detailed in Annex 1



*See page 29 for more information about 2015 scoring against each progress marker



The Ebola epidemic is having a dire effect on key development areas (Agriculture, Education, Trade, Transport and Health) and the SUN Secretariat, housed in the office of the Vice President, is fully aware of the difficult challenges to tackle food insecurity and high disease burden, especially among the vulnerable sectors of society. Sierra Leone has called upon all stakeholders from the Civil Society Platform (CSP), the private sector, donors and the United Nations (UN) family (that meets regularly) to partner with the government to support the scaling-up nutrition (SUN) programme and enable the SUN Secretariat to develop and support districts food and nutrition multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms. The CSP is made up of

national and international non-governmental organisations and community based groups working in various fields, including farmers, fishers, human rights defenders, women's groups, youth associations, research entities, consumer groups, trade unions that come together as a powerful voice calling for action and investment in nutrition. The CSP is collaborating with the media to strengthen and coordinate food and nutrition messages.

Bringing people together into a shared space for action



To ensure full political support to the SUN programme, the political Executive is well informed and fully understands the need to include nutrition in the country's development political agenda. **With support of the parliamentary committees (Health, Agriculture, Gender, and Education), parliament is accelerating the enactment of pro-nutrition legislation. Parliamentary committees are also demanding clarification on nutritional outcomes of children under five and women in child bearing age for all development policies, programmes and strategies passing through parliament.** Parliamentarians are ensuring there is increased community participation and understanding of nutrition issues, and the sustainability of programmes.

Sierra Leone has made nutrition a priority in its five-year Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan—the “Agenda for Prosperity”. **The National Food and Nutrition Policy was validated and launched in June 2015.** Other nutrition-specific policies (on infant and young child malnutrition, acute malnutrition and micronutrient supplementation) and nutrition-sensitive policies covering key sectors like agriculture and food security, poverty reduction and development, and public health exist but need to be operationalised. UN agencies have integrated nutrition into their country development programmes, plans and the UN Development Action Framework (UNDAF) and are bringing technical support to finalise legislation that support the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework



The National Food and Nutrition Implementation Plan (NFNIP) is the common results framework. It has been reviewed, validated and was launched in July 2015 by the Vice President. The NFNIP and budget has been developed by stakeholders across multiple sectors to translate the goals, objectives and strategies articulated in the draft National Food and Nutrition policy into implementable priority areas and activities. Programmes

are aligned around priority areas with the involvement of relevant line ministries, local government and external stakeholder groups. Nine ministerial Focal Persons have been identified to support the implementation of scaled-up interventions and services and there is a need to develop a joint monitoring tool based on outcome indicators. Development of the tool has been postponed due to the Ebola outbreak.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework



The Government is paying salaries for the SUN Secretariat and logistics are being provided. The budget of the (NFNIP) was finalised in 2014 and the government finances most of it (including staffing and operations). **However, this has been challenged by the outbreak of Ebola although the government is still committed to increasing resources to nutrition and food security and will maintain specific budget lines for nutrition in the budgets of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture.** Sierra Leone has recruited personnel in the Ministries of

Health, Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security and Social Welfare. **Irish Aid intends will continue to support the nutrition sector in 2015, most importantly, during the post-Ebola recovery phase.** Donors and the CSP are encouraging the SUN Secretariat to monitor and evaluate the execution of nutrition budget from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Development Partners. Parliament is also playing an important role in advocating for government financial commitment and increased funding to SUN interventions in the country.

Financial tracking and resource mobilisation