



In partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone

Main Report

MAY 2021

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

STATE OF FOOD SECURITY IN SIERRA LEONE 2020 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis

Data collected November-December 2020

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Preface

The *State of Food Security in Sierra Leone 2020* showcases findings from the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). The CFSVA provides a trend analysis on food insecurity and is conducted every five years. This is the third CFSVA conducted in Sierra Leone. Despite the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, the CFSVA was undertaken as planned in November and December 2020, underscoring the commitment of food security partners.

The *State of Food Security in Sierra Leone 2020* is a culmination of the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics Sierra Leone and the World Food Programme. The analysis contributes to the Government and development partners' understanding of the food and nutrition security situation of the population at the district and chiefdom level. It provides insight based on more than 34,000 household surveys and 17,046 mid upper arm circumference measurements of children under the age of five years. The analysis considers multisectoral data and indicators contributing to the food and nutrition security status of households across Sierra Leone.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 compounded an already stagnant economic situation, representing the latest in a series of shocks that has compromised the resilience of already vulnerable households. With some 77 percent of the rural population relying on farming as their primary livelihood, low production rates seriously exacerbated food insecurity and wellbeing.

The restrictions on movement and trade coincided with the annual planting season, lowering food production and thus increasing imports of food commodities. Lack of access to food led farming households to frequently eat the seeds that were intended for the planting season, thus further impacting farming activities in the mid-term.

The 2020 CFSVA was possible through the cooperation and technical inputs of multiple partners and organizations in Sierra Leone. Generous support from Irish Aid, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency and UNICEF made it possible to deliver this important assessment on the state of food security in Sierra Leone.

We are grateful to all of the enumerators, supervisors and district and regional coordinators for their hard work and commitment to making this assessment a success. Special thanks is also extended to the 34,000 households who participated in the CFSVA for giving their time and information.

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Contents

Acroynms	l
Figures and tables	
Executive summary	V
CHAPTER 1: Introduction	1
CHAPTER 2: Demographics	11
CHAPTER 3: Food security in Sierra Leone	22
Food security situation 2020	24
Food security at chiefdom level	29
Household food consumption	30
Food expenditure share	
Coping strategies	32
CHAPTER 4: Food availability	35
CHAPTER 5: Food accessibility	44
CHAPTER 6: Utilization (health and nutrition)	54
Nutritional status of children	55
Food diversity	56
Consumption of food rich in vitamin A and iron	57
Access to sanitation	58
Child health	60
CHAPTER 7: Profiling (who, why)	62
Food security prevalence by gender	63
Food security prevalence by marital status	63
Food security prevalence by household size	64
Food security prevalence by disability	64
Food security prevalence by livelihoods	65
Food security prevalence by household head's education level	65
Food security prevalence by housing	66
Food security prevalence by access to water and sanitation	67
Food security prevalence by access to cultivated land	68
CHAPTER 8: Effects of COVID-19	69
CHAPTER 9: Conclusion and recommendations	73
List of Annexes	76



Acronyms

ABCs	Agricultural Business Centres
CARI	Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CSI	Coping Strategy Index
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBOs	Farmer Based Organizations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FSMS	Food Security Monitoring System
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LCSI	Livelihood Coping Strategy Index
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MND	Micronutrient Deficiency Diseases
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
NSADP	National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan
ODK	Open Data Kit
rCSI	reduced Coping Strategy Index
SLDHS	Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
StatsSL	Statistics Sierra Leone
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US\$	United States Dollar
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Figures and Tables CFSVA 2020

FIGURES

Figure 1: GDP growth (% of GDP at current prices) and per capita GDP (USD) 2011–2020 Figure 2: Number of mines in Sierra Leone between January 2018 and March 2021 Figure 3: Dependency ratio by district Figure 4: Percentage of households by gender and location Figure 5: Percentage of household heads who are disabled, by location Figure 6: Types of housing materials used in rural and urban areas Figure 7: Percentage of households and their wealth index, by district (CFSVA 2020) Figure 8: Migration for at least two months during previous year, by district Figure 9: Education level of household head Figure 10: Trends in food insecurity, 2010, 2015, 2020 (%) Figure 11: Food insecurity comparison by district Figure 12: Household food consumption score Figure 13: Share of expenditures on food and non-food items Figure 14: Share of expenditures on food and non-food items by district Figure 15: Reduced coping strategy index by district Figure 16: Percentage of households adopting coping strategies 30 days prior to the survey Figure 17: Agriculture seasonal calendar Figure 18: Rainfall in Sierra Leone in 2020 Figure 19: Percentage of farmers citing labour constraints in farming Figure 20: Source of fertiliser in farming areas Figure 21: Use of irrigation facilities in farming areas Figure 22: Storage facilities for food grains Figure 23: Households rearing livestock (including poultry), in farming areas Figure 24: Number of months households are self-sufficient in rice Figure 25: Total number of food groups consumed by households in a day Figure 26: Communities and villages not accessible by vehicles Figure 27: Villages rendered inaccessible during rainy season when normally accessible

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