

Sierra Leone MDTF

Fund Signature Page / Cover Sheet




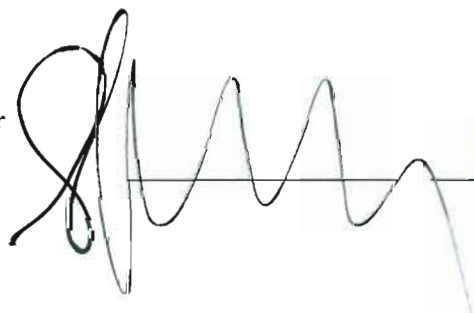
(Note: this page is attached to the programme¹ document)

Participating UN Organisation(s): World Food Programme	Priority Area: JV: Basic Education and school feeding AFC Chapter: 7 – Human Development
Programme Manager of Participating UN Organization Name: Gon Myers Address: 5H Old Railway Line Tengbeh Town Telephone: +232 763 79695 E-mail: gon.myers@wfp.org	Implementing Partner(s): Name: Africare, Sierra Leone Address: 145 Wilkinson Rd. Freetown Telephone: +232 76737761 E-mail: ernestgaie@yahoo.com Name: Plan International Address: 6Contonment Rd. Off King Harmon Rd Freetown, Sierra Leone Telephone: +232-22-231 865/ +232-76-683 32 E-mail: Augustine.Allieu@plan-international.org Name: World Vision International Address: 145 Wilkinson Rd. Freetown Telephone: +232 76675273 E-mail: jennifer_harold@wvi.org
Joint Vision Programme Number: 8	Project Duration: 1 year Estimated Start-Up Date: July 2011
Project Title: Food Assistance to Primary School Children Through a School Meal Programme in Sierra Leone.	Project Location: Vulnerable Chiefdoms Nationwide
Project Description: The project will promote and assists basic education in the most vulnerable chiefdoms in the 12 districts in Sierra Leone, as well as slums and informal settlements in the Western Area. WFP aims to integrate school feeding into a social safety net to be increasingly owned by the Government. A total of 400,000 primary school children will benefit with the provision of on-site mid-day meals every school day. This is 150,000 pupils more than the previous year. In addressing, gender disparity 1,500 girls in grades 4-6 will benefit from take-home rations. The incentives to girls will be piloted in two chiefdoms in Moyamba District with very high gender disparity in schools.	Total Project Cost: SL- MDTF: US\$ 735,000 Government Input: US\$ 52,000 Other: US\$ GRAND TOTAL: US\$ 787,000
Development Goal and Key Outcomes: <u>Intended Outcomes:</u> Specific targets to measure progress against our objective include: 1) increasing enrolment [target=6% annually], 2) increased retention [target=10% annually] and 3) reduce gender disparity among primary school children [target=1:1]. In addition, by reducing short-term hunger in children who more often than not come to school without having had breakfast, the school meal improves the children’s attention span and thereby their ability to learn	

¹ The term “programme” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

Deliverables:

- 8.1.1 400,000 primary school children fed with a daily hot meal
- 8.1.2 9,622 metric tons of food commodities delivered to 1,482 schools
- 8.1.3 Training and sensitization sessions held for 1,482 School Management Committees in WFP supported schools.
- 8.1.4 Capacity Assessment and Development Strategy formulated in conjunction with MEYS, District Councils, and other relevant stakeholders.
- 8.1.5 School Feeding enshrined in National Education and Social Protection policies.
- 8.1.6 School Feeding Baseline conducted

	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name/Title</i>
WFP		Nov 4/11	William Hart Country Representative
DEPAC Co-Chair		24/11/11	Honorable Dr. Samura Kamara Minister of Finance and Economic Development
DEPAC Co-Chair		Nov. 29, '11	Mr. Vijay Pillai Country Manager World Bank
DEPAC Co-Chair		24/11/11	Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations

Project Document

Executive Summary

WFP in Sierra Leone leads the fights against short term hunger and builds long term food security through vital food assistance programmes. WFP works with Sierra Leone's government and partners to achieve development goals across three interlinked thematic areas: nutrition/health, education, and livelihoods.

Approximately 1.3 million children (55 percent boys) are enrolled in primary school in Sierra Leone. Gender disparities at the sub-district level are significant, especially in the higher primary grades. The completion rate for primary school is a mere 11%.

WFP School Feeding Programme provides daily meals to promote and assists basic education in the most vulnerable chiefdoms in the 12 districts in Sierra Leone, as well as slums and informal settlements in the Western Area. WFP aims to integrate school feeding into a social safety net to be increasingly owned by the Government.

During the 2011/2012 academic year, 400,000 primary school children will be targeted with the provision of on-site mid-day meals every school day. This is 150,000 pupils more than previous year. Additionally, on a pilot basis, 1,500 children in schools in two chiefdoms in Moyamba District with very high gender disparity are implementing a take-home ration for girls in grades 4-6. In addition to promoting access to primary education, retention and attendance of pupil, school feeding will address short-term hunger and reduced the pressure on families to provide daily meal to the school kids.

The individual daily ration provided by WFP will be well balanced and includes 100g of cereals, 30g of pulses, 10g of vegetable oil, and 3g of iodized salt. On-site feeding at lunch time is provided for all 195 school days per year. The take home ration, consisting of 15 kg of pulses per month, is given to each eligible child if she attends at least 80% of the school days in any given month.

The project is in line with the Agenda for Change and the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology (MEST)'s Education Sector Plan which emphasizes universal primary education by 2015.

The main partners in the school feeding activity are the National School Feeding Coordination Unit of the MEST, World Vision, Africare, and Plan International. School Management Committees and ward councilors represent the first level of monitoring arrangements at the community level. MEYS, WFP and Implementing Partners will conduct joint monitoring.

The expected outcome of the project is to enhance national capacity to institute and manage a sustainable, cost-effective, nationally owned school feeding programme that aims to eventually be nationally funded. Transition to a Government owned programme is a long term objective that requires addressing significant financial and capacity gaps.

Situation Analysis

Sierra Leone is classified as a low-income food-deficit country, ranking 81 out of 84 countries in the International Food Policy Research Institute 2009 Global Hunger Index. The 2010 United Nations Human Development Index also ranked Sierra Leone 158 out of 169 countries (previously 180 out of 182 countries in 2009). The Poverty levels are very high, in Sierra Leone with 70% of the population living below the national poverty line of US\$2 per day and 26% living in extreme poverty. The completion rate for primary school is a mere 11%. The redesigned Country Programme (CP) 10584.0 promotes and assists basic education in the most vulnerable areas in 11 out of the 12 districts in Sierra Leone, as well as slums and informal settlements in the Western Area.

According to the 2010 Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA), the food and fuel price rise has induced erosions in purchasing power and therefore food access by vulnerable households. The increase in the price of petrol had a knock on effect on the price of food items due to increases in transportation costs.

Most affected by this recent food price inflation, are the low-income urban and peri-urban households, who are largely dependent on the market to access food products. Smallholder food deficit farmers are also among the worst affected by the continued increase in prices of the staple food commodities, causing among them, high or extreme levels of malnutrition and food insecurity, especially during the hunger season, from July to September. A critical group amongst the affected is the youth segment of the population, which is largely unemployed, unskilled and lacking in education and income earning opportunities. Other population groups that are particularly affected are female-headed households who have limited coping mechanisms. Within the households, the most affected individuals are children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and those suffering from illnesses such as HIV/AIDS.

The high food and fuel price crisis and the depreciation of the value of the Leone against the dollar have exacerbated the already difficult food security situation especially in the urban areas where people are mainly net buyers of food. Given the fact that the rise in prices is not triggering an immediate increase in salary, households are struggling to make ends meet at a cost. The focus of households have switched to providing food for their families at the expense of providing even breakfast or lunch for their kids who go to school. *This predicament of poor households could even lead to education for their kids becoming an opportunity cost for their daily survival. The proposed contribution will help households in the most vulnerable locations to mitigate the shock of the high food prices.* School feeding assistance to school pupils in slums and informal settlements in the Western Area and other very vulnerable locations serves as a transfer to households of the value of the food distributed that will free up scarce household resources to provide daily food for poor families.

Since one of UNJV priorities is to support actions to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the proposed contribution to school feeding will not only be used to target schools in the most vulnerable locations, but it will also serve to reach an addition of 150,000 primary school kids in approximately 410 more schools. Furthermore it will contribute in the realization of Education for All (EFA) by 2015 which is primary to poverty eradication. MDG 3 on promotion of gender equality will be specifically addressed through an expansion of the Take-Home-Ration for girls that are currently being piloted in two chiefdoms in the Moyamba

District (Timdale and Kowa Chiefdoms). Based on the results of the Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Assessment, and the results of the study to be conducted on the ongoing pilot, the take-home-ration will be increased and expanded.

Strategies including lessons learned and the proposed programme

The Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability assessment results and Chiefdom Priority Ranking Exercise will ensure targeting that is based on vulnerability, thereby ensuring that needy children are kept in school through the provision of mid-day meals to alleviate short term hunger that would lead to concentration and learning. Furthermore there is evidence from recent real income shocks that suggests that there is a significant risk to educational outcomes for the poor as a result of increases in commodity prices. The 1997 economic crisis in Indonesia was associated with a doubling of the number of out of school children (Frankenberg et al. 1999), while droughts in Sub-Sahara Africa have been associated with declines in both schooling and child nutrition (Schady 2008). The proposed UNJIV contribution will therefore ensure the expansion of school feeding assistance to the poor and vulnerable, to mitigate the adverse effects of the spike in food prices. This impact will be achieved in concert with UNICEF and WFP International NGO partners and other Education Development partners through implementation of the complementary “Essential Package”

Results framework

- 400, 000 primary school beneficiaries in targeted vulnerable chiefdoms and locations receive school meals
- Food Commodities distributed to beneficiaries in time and in the correct quantity and quality
- Baseline survey conducted to set benchmarks to measure potential project induced changes
- Delivery of take-home-ration to an additional 3,500 girls in locations with low girl child enrolment, attendance, and completion rates.
- Maintaining the involvement of partners in the implementation
- Vigorous monitoring and evaluation of the programme
- Refresher training of partner staff on project implementation
- Community participation strengthened by training School Management Committees of assisted schools.

Management and coordination arrangements

School Feeding is directly under auspices of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST) that is responsible for primary education. MEST School Feeding Coordination Unit works closely with the district councils and School Feeding Technical Committees to coordinate and oversee implementation.

MEST recognizes that the transition to full Government ownership and “Home grown School Feeding” will require government investment which will take time. WFP is meanwhile, implementing the school feeding programme through Africare, Plan International, and World Vision. These International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs) have strong field presence and links with communities. The NGOs bring to the partnership comparative advantages in the forms of familiarity with intervention areas, and the provision match funding.

The Ministry of Education will as of academic year 2011/2012 take over the implementation of School Feeding Programme in the Koinadugu District. This initiative marks the beginning of a

gradual transition from implementing through NGOs to implementation by MEST. The goal is that by 2014 MEST should be doing 25% of the school feeding in the country.

Fund management arrangements

The contribution will be registered with WFP Headquarters and managed and accounted through corporate financial system. WFP will abide by the UNJV financial management and accountability will be guided by the MOU.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Generally Monitoring and Evaluation will follow the UNJV framework. The School Feeding Coordination Unit is a MEST unit that is responsible for the coordination of school feeding at both the central and district level. It has a coordinator and two food monitors in each district that oversee the implementation of school feeding and also has a National Coordinator at the central level.

District coordination and management structures are also being strengthened, in line with the Government's decentralization of education services. The coordination structure includes District Councils, MEST Inspectorate, School Feeding Technical Committees and the NGO partners.

WFP will also undertake monitoring and joint monitoring visits to project sites to coach and ensure that projects are properly implemented. WFP has made it a priority to physically visit 200 schools every month which will sum up to over a thousand schools, equivalent to 90% of total schools assisted by the end of the academic year.

Furthermore twice yearly post distribution monitoring will be conducted during the second half of 2011 and another in 2012 to determine the impact of all WFP projects on beneficiaries. Additionally, a baseline survey is also scheduled to be conducted in the second quarter of 2011. This will be complemented by yearly follow-up surveys up till 2013. In full recognition that school feeding support alone will not deliver quality basic education, a School Feeding Technical Committee at the central level will coordinate school feeding and related activities with membership drawn from relevant Education Development Partners. This body will be replicated at the district level with membership drawn from the District Council Education Committees, INGO partners, The School Feeding Coordination Unit, WFP Sub-offices, and the Local Directorate of Education. The central and district level coordination structures will also coordinate the delivery of the "Essential Package". The life span of the current Country Programme to which the school feeding belongs will be concluded by an independent evaluation of the programme.

Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

In Sierra Leone, the classic UNDAF was replaced by an Integrated Mission Plan, the UN Joint Vision (UNJV) that brings together the political mandate of the peace building mission and the humanitarian and development mandate of the agencies, funds and programmes. The UNJV is the UN contribution to the national priorities laid out in the Agenda for Change.

Work Plan for School Feeding

Programme Goal: will contribute to increase access to primary education by relieving short-term hunger among school going children and enhance improved attendance and retention rates particularly among girls through food assistance.					
Objective 1: To provide School Meal support to primary school children in targeted schools in Sierra Leone.					
No.	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	Time Frame
	Distribution of food to assisted primary schools for the 2011-2012 school year	Food delivered to Partner EDPs for onward delivery to schools	<p>a. Number of schools assisted</p> <p>b. tonnage of food delivered as a percentage of planned</p> <p>C. Number of vulnerable chiefdoms per district targeted</p>	Distribution and Monitoring reports	School year
Objective 2: To build the capacity of WFP field monitors and counterpart staff on the implementation of the School Meal programme.					
	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	Time frame
1	Capacity building of Government counterpart staff, Cooperating partners and WFP staff	Trainings conducted for WFP, CPs and counterpart staff on the implementation of the School Meal programme including reporting mechanism, food handling and use as well as other related areas.	<p>Number of trainings conducted for counterparts, CPs and WFP staff</p> <p>Number of staff trained (WFP and Counterparts)</p>	Training Reports produced.	Second quarter

Objective 3 : To increase Government ownership and management of School Feeding					
	ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	Means of verification	Time Frame
	Hold a Workshop for the formulation of a School Feeding Policy	A policy for the school feeding programme including strategies produced and ratified by Government		Availability of a ratified School Feeding policy document	First Quarter
Objective 4: To ensure community participation, ownership and eventual sustainability of the programme					
	Using the integrated School Management Committee(SMC) manual train SMCs on their roles in the School Feeding implementation	Train 410 SMC of all assisted schools	Number of SMCs trained	Training Report	Second quarter

PROJECT BUDGET	
CATEGORY	AMOUNT
1. Food commodities and transport, storage and handling costs.	495,036
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	66,222
3. Other office costs: supplies, equipment, etc	35,658
4. Training of counterparts	32,500
5. Contracts	20,000
6. Other direct costs	37,500
Total Programme Costs	686,916
Indirect Support Costs (7% of total programme cost)	48,084
TOTAL	735,000.00