

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Sierra Leone

February 2010

Key Messages

- Imported inflation remains high due to the currency depreciation which has negative impacts on purchasing power.
- Sierra Leone is considered a fragile country which still has to recover from the long civil war.
- Hunger and food insecurity are major problems in the country.
- The government has implemented a number of trade policy measures including the removal of export bans and import tariffs on food.

Background

The total population was 5,559 million in 2008 with 2% annual growth rate; 53% of the population was living with less than 1\$ per day; 47% was reported as undernourished and life expectancy at birth for both sexes was estimated at 40 years.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population - 2008 (WB)	5559853
Population growth rate - 2008 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	750
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2003 (MDGI)	53%
Rural population - 2007 (WB)	63%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2008 (WB)	42%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005 (FAO)	47%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	50%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2006 (WHO)	11%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2006 (WHO)	40
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2006 (WHO)	53%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2005 (WHO)	1%

Prices

There is no price data. However, the year-on-year inflation rate in October 2009 increased for the seventh consecutive month, since reaching a low in April, but was at a lower level relative to the rate in 2008. Furthermore, the steep depreciation of the Leone during 2009 has meant that lower global food prices have not been transferred to the domestic market, resulting in a loss of purchasing power.

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Sierra Leone has made much progress since the civil war ended in 2002, but a number of social and economic issues must still be overcome if an enduring peace is to be built. Some 20,000 people wounded in Sierra Leone's war are receiving micro-grants as part of efforts to rebuild lives and livelihoods in the still fragile country.

Refugees and IDPs	2006	2007	2008
Total in the country	27727	9385	8476
Total outside the country	48632	37157	35480

Source: [UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database](#), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/10/2009.

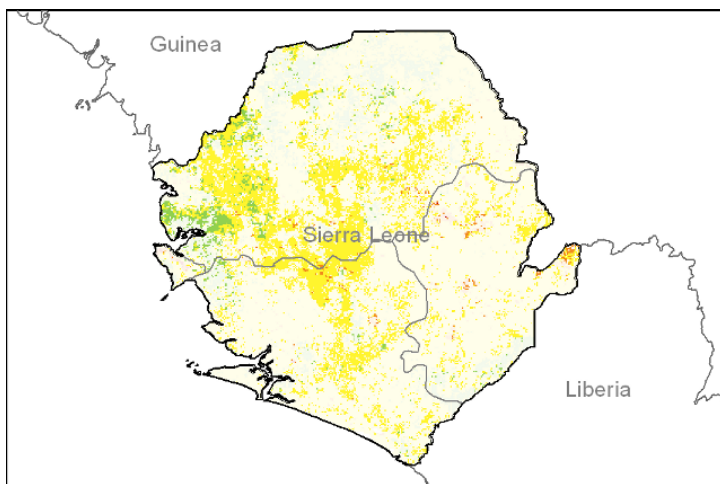
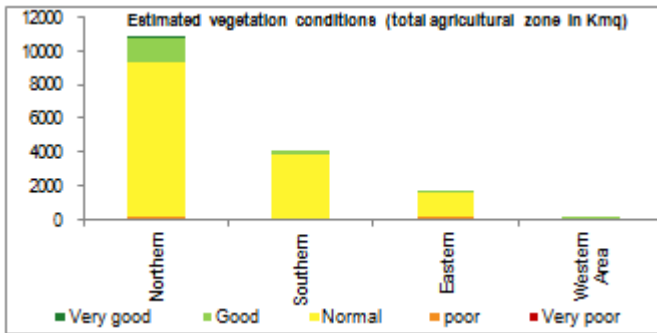
Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
No Floods	-	-	-
No Earthquakes	-	-	-

Source: [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Information required to draw this chart is not available.

Vegetation Condition

At the middle of the dry season, normal to good vegetation conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for January 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER land cover database (2005).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Food Security Situation

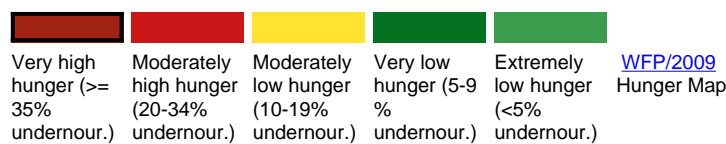
The estimates of food insecurity in the country are very negative. In the short term GIEWS reports widespread lack of access; in the long term, WFP reports a very high problem of hunger; while the assessment of IFPRI warns of an extremely alarming food security situation.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT



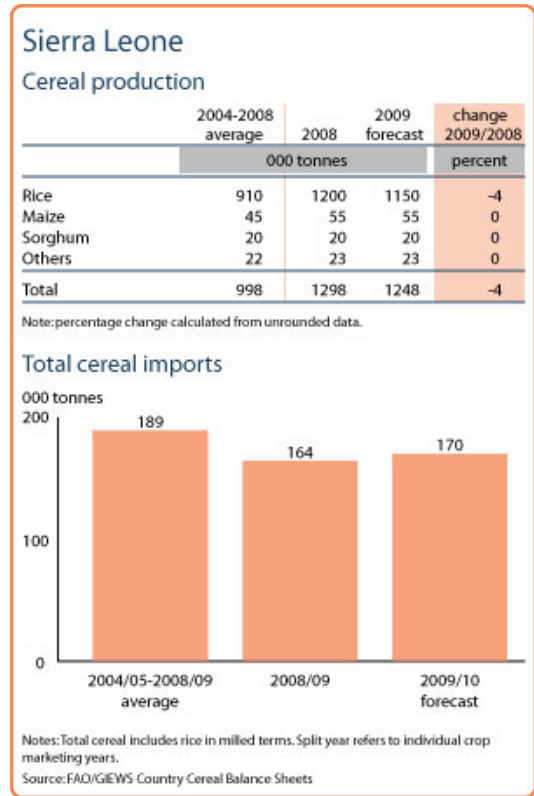
Sierra Leone n.a. FEWSNET

SCALE OF HUNGER



Food Balance Sheet

Harvesting of the 2009 paddy crop, virtually the only cereal grown in the country is nearly complete. Below normal rainfall levels during the beginning of the cropping season have led to slightly lower production estimates for the 2009 rice crop. Imports are estimated at 170,000 tonnes for 2009/2010, compared to 164,000 tonnes of 2008/09.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government has implemented a number of policies to create a more liberalised grain market, including the removal of the export ban on rice in January 2009. Import tariffs on most important cereals were also eliminated in 2008 to help lower national food prices. Currently the government is spending more than 50% on food imports and it has acquired machines to be sold to farmers at a subsidized rate through the federation of farmers of Sierra Leone and the chamber of agriculture.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Support to inputs and machinery for crop production.
Trade policy measures	Reduced/eliminated import tariffs; Removed export ban.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	n.a.

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

- [SIERRA LEONE: Appeal for aid as malaria "emergency" looms](#)
- [SIERRA LEONE: Compensating war victims](#)
- [SIERRA LEONE: War-wounded get micro-grants](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
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