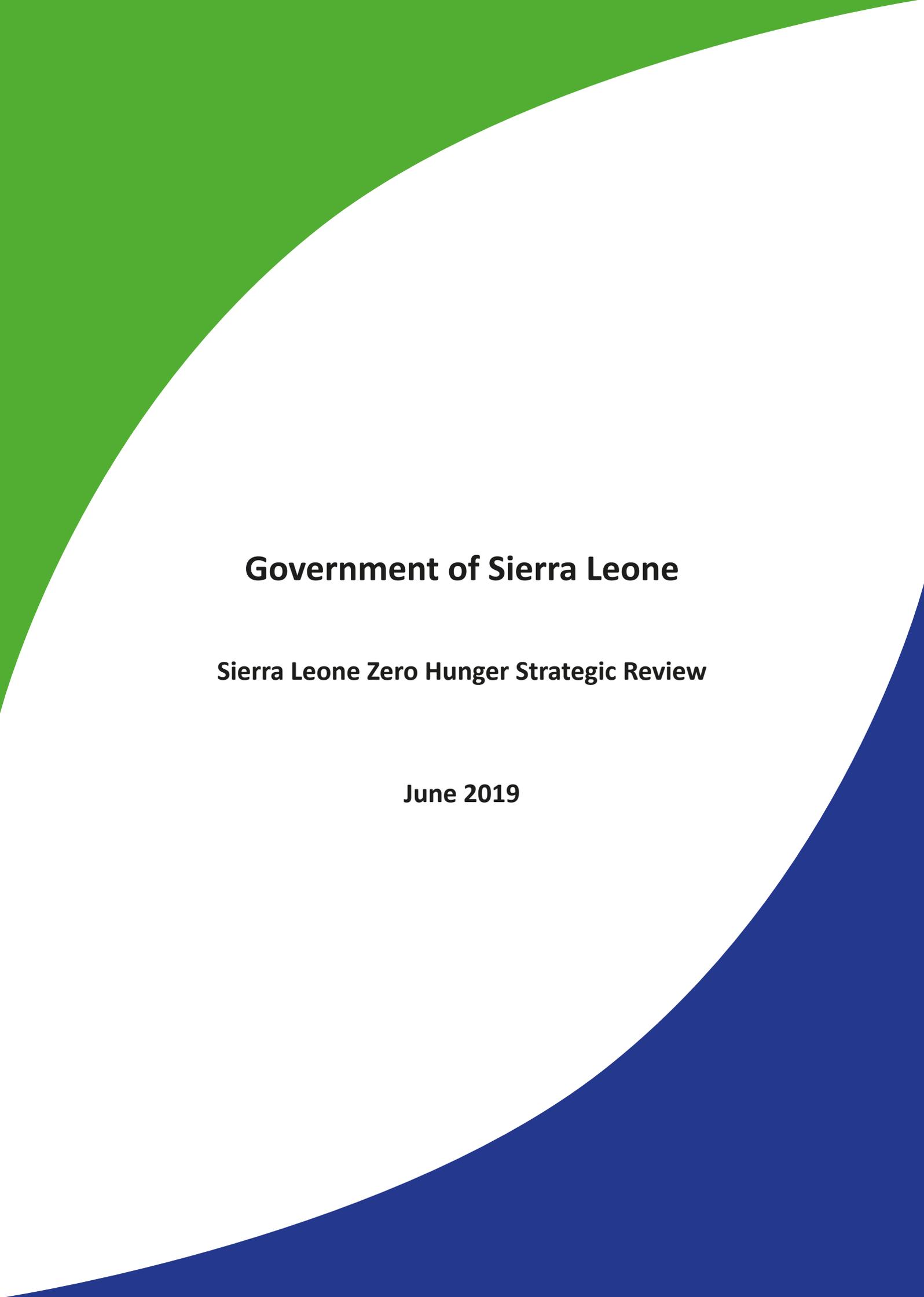




Sierra Leone

Zero Hunger Strategic Review





Government of Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Zero Hunger Strategic Review

June 2019

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PREFACE

We are privileged to present to you the national Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) report for Sierra Leone. The purpose of this review is to help map out the food and nutrition situation in the country in line with aspirations of the Agenda 2030 with regards to the Goal 2 of achieving zero hunger. Secondly, on the basis of this mapping out, we may - as a country – identify concrete actions we need to undertake in order to position the country toward the achievement of zero hunger by 2030 in line with global aspirations.

Even though food insecurity permeates the entire country, rural areas are most hit (59.7%) compared to urban areas (25.1%), implying close correlation between hunger and poverty. It means we have to address the underlying causes of poverty if we are to make progress in attaining zero hunger by 2030.

Equally alarming is the nutrition situation in Sierra Leone. Urgent corrective actions are required to reduce the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) which currently stands at 5.1% and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) at 4.0% among children. Although the levels of both wasting and stunting have shown an improving trend over the past 10 years, stunting rates remain high (>30%) indicating a persistent serious chronic malnutrition according to WHO classifications.

The review is based on a considerable amount of information gathered through stakeholder interviews, district level consultations and as well as steering committees composed of representatives of sectorial ministries, United Nations agencies, NGOs and development partners. It supports a multi-sector approach to fully address food and nutrition security issues, as well as the national vision and objectives in food and nutrition to Reduce Malnutrition in Sierra Leone in alignment with the national nutrition strategic plan and priorities.

The report needs to be read in conjunction with the recently unveiled Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019-2023) which contains medium-term measures to enhancing food security and nutrition in the country, as well as the National Agriculture Transformation Strategy issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2018.

Let us all work in earnest to ensure that no Sierra Leonean goes to bed hungry and neither suffers from ravages of malnutrition.



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Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)



Hon. Dr Francis M. Kaikai
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRYONYMS

ABC	Agribusiness Centre
AfDB	African Development Bank
APC	All People’s Congress
BMI	Body Mass Index
BoSL	Bank of Sierra Leone
BPEHS	Basic Package of Essential Health Services
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
DAO	District Agricultural Office
DFID	Department for International Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EAIN	Entrepreneurial Agriculture for Improved Nutrition
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
EPA-SL	Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone
EU	European Union
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FHCI	Free Health Care Initiative
FSA	Financial Services Association
FSMS	Sierra Leone Food Security Monitoring System
GAFSP	Global Agricultural Food Security Programme
GAM	Global acute malnutrition
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHI	Global Health Index
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMAM	Integrated management of acute malnutrition
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IVS	Inland valley swamp
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IYCF	Infant and young children feeding
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MAM	Moderate acute malnutrition
MDAs	Ministries Department and Agencies
MIYCN	Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
MLCPE	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MOPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
NaCSA	National Commission for Social Action
NASSIT	National Social Security and Insurance Trust
NCCS	National Climate Change Secretariat

NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NFNSIP	National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSADP	National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programme
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RCPRP	Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project
RFCIP	Rural Finance and Community Improvement Programme
RUTF	Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
SCADeP	Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project
SCP	Smallholder Commercialization Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Programme
SL-SPTF	Sierra Leone Social Protection Trust Fund
SLADF	Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund
SLARI	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
SLHIS	Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey
SLNNS	Sierra Leone National Nutrition Survey
SLPP	Sierra Leone People's Party
SNAP	Sustainable Nutrition and Agriculture Programme
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition (Network)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sierra Leone joined the global community at the United Nations in September 2015 to adopt the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a view to ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all. Heads of state and governments undertook to achieve food security for their populations, improve their nutritional status and promote sustainable development under the second goal whose aim is to end hunger and improve nutrition.

Sierra Leone is a low-income and food-deficit country with a population of about 7 million people; half of whom are food insecure and sizeable number malnourished. Subsistence agriculture employs over 60 percent of the population, and accounts for almost half of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and approximately 10 percent of Sierra Leone's total exports.

Although there are many policies governing the country's intended approach to promote agricultural productivity and safeguard health for all, they have not been successfully implemented. However, there are significant opportunities to improve Sierra Leone's performance in these areas and get on-track to achieve Sustainable Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger.

The current Government led by H.E President Julius Maada Bio recognizes the importance of agriculture as the economic backbone of the country, and a promising platform for innovation. Similarly, attention must be given to the indispensable role of nutrition in ensuring a healthy, productive workforce able to achieve the gains envisioned in the National Development Plan: 2019-2023, which outlines the Government's medium-term policy priorities.

To achieve success - food security for all and the elimination of malnutrition - a top-down, bottom-up and cross-sectoral approach must be embraced. Agricultural productivity is impacted by education, infrastructure, climate change and disaster preparedness, and access to finance. Nutritional status is interwoven with issues related to healthcare, water and sanitation, and education, to name a few. Gender considerations, and inclusion of vulnerable and at-risk populations, cut across both issues.

It is important for the Government to lead by example in its commitment to eradicate malnutrition and ensure food security for all – through dedicated funding for interventions designed to address both of these goals. Improvements in agricultural productivity and nutrition require medium to long-term investments.

One of the pre-requisites across all of these recommendations is that such programs must be sustained interventions with the full policy and budgetary support of the Government; other partner support should be supplemental, and not a substitute for capacity-building within ministries to budget for and execute these interventions over a period of several years.

This report is a product of the review process and provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges Sierra Leone

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