Sierra Leone

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

1.76M people were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in June–August 2021

22% of the population was in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above)

2.83M people were in Stressed (CH Phase 2)

Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have risen since 2020. Sierra Leone’s escalating food insecurity challenges continued to worsen in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic fuelled the country’s ongoing economic crisis.

At 1.8 million, the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) was 35 percent higher in the June–August 2021 lean season than it was in June–August 2020, despite a slight decrease in the population analysed from 8.3 million (100 percent of the population) to 8.1 million (96 percent of the population). The prevalence of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) increased from 16 percent – already the highest in the region – to 22 percent. The numbers of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) had already increased fourfold between October–December 2019 and June–August 2020 (from 348 000 to 1.3 million), largely due to price spikes and job losses associated with COVID-19. Poor seed germination and waterlogging of fields resulted in below-average cereal harvests in 2018 and 2019, which reduced food availability and contributed to high food prices in 2020 (CH, March 2020).

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: CH.

FIG 3.32

CH acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2021

Eight districts – Kailahun, Kenema, Moyamba, Bonthe, Bombali, Bo, Pujehun and Port Loko – were in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and the remaining six were in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

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