

**United States Agency for International Development  
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance  
Office of Food for Peace  
Fiscal Year 2010: Title II Proposal Guidance and Program Policies  
Supplementary Fiscal Year 2010 Title II Multi-Year Assistance Program  
Country Specific Guidance: Sierra Leone**

**I. Background**

The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has funds available for Multi-Year Assistance Programs (MYAP) in Sierra Leone in fiscal year 2010. This document supplements the FFP *Title II Proposal Guidance and Program Policies* with information on USAID/Sierra Leone and FFP's food security programming priorities.

**II. Food Security Situation and Geographic Priorities**

Despite progress in rebuilding after the devastating 11-year civil war (1991-2002) Sierra Leone is the poorest low-income country in the world and food insecurity is a serious problem, with high levels of extreme poverty and chronic malnutrition. Various factors continue to affect food security such as weak governance and marginalization of the extreme poor, women and youth. Constraints to decreasing food insecurity are many, affecting food availability, access and utilization.

MYAP proposals should focus on the districts of Kenema, Koinadugu, Tonkolili, Bombali, and Kailahun.

**III. USAID/Sierra Leone and FFP Programming Priorities**

The Title II awardee focus for the MYAP is "*to reduce food insecurity among vulnerable rural populations in Sierra Leone.*" Awardees are encouraged to collaborate with government and civil society to address issues such as but not limited to land distribution to marginalized people (i.e. women, the extreme poor and returning refugees), gender-based violence against women and the decentralization process. Food aid program activities should be developed in a format that ensures full community inclusiveness is attained. MYAP proposals should encourage an enabling environment for promoting gender equality and local nongovernmental organization capacity building, where feasible.

FFP anticipates making one (1) award of up to an annual total of \$12 million for five years, subject to the availability of funds.

Mission and FFP priority objectives and recommended activities for Title II MYAPs are summarized below:

**1. Reduce chronic malnutrition among children under five years of age, by:**

- A. Preventing of malnutrition among children under two (PM2A)\*;
- B. Improving infant and young child feeding practices for children under two years of age;
- C. Improving maternal nutrition and health;
- D. Improving prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses;

- E. Improving detection and referral of children under five years of age with severe acute malnutrition;
- F. Improving nutritional status and nutrition awareness among single and newly married adolescent girls and their families;
- G. Improving adoption of key practices through effective use of behavior change and communication interventions; and
- H. Improving access to safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation and improving hygiene practices.

**2. Improve agricultural productivity and rural household incomes, by:**

- A. Transferring improved agricultural technologies and practices, both during production and post harvest, this includes promotion of the use of agricultural machinery to increase cultivated land;
- B. Promoting livestock and dairy enterprises, to include poultry and egg production;
- C. Promoting value chain and agro enterprise approach in agricultural production;
- D. Improving small farmers' access to agricultural production enhancing and inputs (e.g., new technologies, seeds, fertilizers, credit, labor saving tools, etc);
- E. Assessing markets and increasing and improving market linkages;
- F. Promoting increased village-level savings and investments;
- G. Focusing food-for-work activities on the development of community assets to support improvements in household incomes; and
- H. Promoting good governance and enhancing capacities of producers.

For additional information, the [Sierra Leone Food Security Country Framework](#) is available via the FFP website. Also, visit the [USAID/Sierra Leone Mission](#) website.

*\* PM2A is a food-assisted approach to reduce the prevalence of child malnutrition by targeting a package of preventive health and nutrition interventions to all pregnant and lactating women and children under age two. Participants in targeted high-risk areas receive a conditional food ration based on program participation, to prevent the onset of malnutrition before it occurs. This population-based approach differs from many maternal child health and nutrition interventions that target children after they have become malnourished to help them recuperate from malnutrition. To ensure long term benefits from prevention, other MYAP components should serve the same population, bringing improvements to their household food and livelihood security. This approach has been successfully tested in a Title II setting and had a significant impact on reducing malnutrition through prevention.*