



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief July 2023



## In Numbers



209,915 people assisted

658 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 802,246 cash transfers made

US\$ 5.3 million six-month (August – January 2024) net funding requirement

### Operational Context

The economic effect of the Ukraine crisis has put a further strain on food and nutrition security in Sierra Leone as it coincided with macroeconomic decline and lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in a food deficit country. The crisis triggered a spike in the price of petroleum products, causing a domino effect on the cost of transportation, food, and other basic commodities, thus reducing people's purchasing power and causing widespread poverty.

Government and WFP data show that the cost of food continued to rise in 2023. The prices of a kilogram of imported and local rice both increased by 14 percent compared with the previous quarter and increased by 53 percent and 39 percent respectively year on year. Rice is the staple food in Sierra Leone.

The March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) found that over 900,000 people need immediate assistance (CH Phases 3 and 4) to protect their livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition, while 1.2 million people are expected to be in such situation during the lean season (June – August).

WFP has been present in the country since 1968.



Population: 7.5 million.

Human Development Index (2021): 181 out of 191

Income Level: Low income

Chronic malnutrition: 26.2 percent of children between 6-59 months

### Operational Updates

- **Crisis Response:** Over 8,500 highly food-insecure families in vulnerable districts (Port Loko, Pujehun, and Tonkolili) benefited from the second round of cash assistance. The assistance was delivered via mobile money with added financial literacy training, empowering low-income families to manage surging food costs effectively.
- **Asset creation and livelihood:** Across 145 Inland Valley Swamps, supported Farmer-Based Organizations are actively engaging in rice cultivation, highlighting enhanced agronomic methods outlined in the Rice Production Technical Package. Leveraging insights from recent soil assessments, WFP additionally facilitated farmers with suitable fertilizers to amplify yields. Nevertheless, delayed seasonal rains and instances of flooding have adversely affected planting in specific locations.
- WFP and the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) undertook a comprehensive soil analysis covering all 145 smallholder-supported Inland Valley. The results indicated prevalent soil acidity, necessitating strategic soil management for optimal yields. Additionally, 60 percent of sites displayed adequate nitrogen content, signifying caution in using NPK 15-15-15 fertilizer that could exacerbate soil acidity and reduce yield. These significant insights were jointly shared with the Food Security Working Group.
- **Nutrition:** In Malen chiefdom, Pujehun district, the Mother Support Group has taken the lead by initiating the production of "pekin pap," an economical Local Complementary Food aimed at enhancing nutrition for children aged 6-23 months. The group has initiated product promotion, even vending to mothers participating in growth monitoring sessions. Anticipatedly, two additional groups will commence production in the coming month.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>118 million</b>	<b>63 million</b>
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August – January 2024)
<b>21.9 million</b>	<b>5.3 million</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected populations can meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

**Activities:** Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households and support their recovery needs.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Primary school children in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

**Activities:**

- Provide nutritious school feeding to primary schoolchildren and support the implementation of an integrated school feeding programme.
- Provide assistance to the Government-led national school feeding programme.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted districts – including children, pregnant and lactating women and girls and adolescents – have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2025.

**Focus area:** *Root Causes*

**Activities:** Provide comprehensive malnutrition prevention support, including complementary food and nutrition messaging, while strengthening the capacity of peripheral health units and staff on health and nutrition.

### Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Smallholder farmers and communities in targeted areas have resilient livelihoods that better meet their food security and nutrition needs by 2030.

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

**Activities:** Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers’ organizations and women’s groups.

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food security and nutrition programmes by 2024.

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

**Activities:** Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers’ organisations and women’s groups.

### Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services throughout the year.

**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

**Activities:** Provide supply chain and ICT services to humanitarian and development partners.

## • Voices from the field

In the heart of Yumbuma village Kenema district in eastern Sierra Leone, nestled among vast cocoa and oil palm plantations, lives a young man named Saidu Juana, affectionately known as Pajet. Pajet is 29 years old, and his family is known for their small mud house and their thriving farming business. For generations, they have been subsistence farmers, cultivating crops like cocoa, oil palm, and various fruits across their seven acres of land.

Living in a community with poor infrastructure and communication, Pajet relies on the Ministry of Agriculture’s field extension workers who are few and far between, for information on best agronomic practices. He actively shares this knowledge with his community, emphasizing crucial aspects such as nursery establishment and irrigation to ensure high yields year-round. Like Pajet, over 145 Community Youth Contractors have been trained and equipped with motorbikes in the past two years to cascade agronomic best practices to farmers and to back-stop field extension officers.

As he looks towards the future, Pajet sees a brighter path beyond the challenges that might come his way. He knows he can always rely on the support of his community to continue spreading his agronomic practices and transforming lives through agriculture.

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- WFP field monitoring teams recently completed 110 site visits in Sierra Leone, spanning 7 districts. The districts of Pujehun, Falaba, and Kambia had the most visits, totalling 37, 27, and 24 visits respectively. The visits were primarily focused on asset creation, livelihood activities (constituting 75 percent of all visits), and nutrition activities (making up 23 percent of visits). Notably, no monitoring visits were conducted for the school meal programme in July due to the summer break. The cumulative count of monitoring visits by CO teams has now reached 1,200 for the year.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone CSP 2020-2024 include the (China, European Union, France, Government of Sierra Leone, Ireland, Japan, Russia, United States of America, multilateral contributors, private donors, and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.