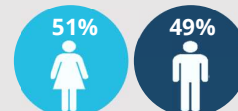


## WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief March 2024



## In Numbers

240,455 people assisted



723 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 7.2 million six-month net funding requirement (April– September 2024)

### Operational Context

The economic effects of the Ukraine crisis further strained food and nutrition security in Sierra Leone, alongside macroeconomic decline and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in an already food-deficient country. Spikes in prices of petroleum products subsequently impacted costs of transportation, food, and other basic commodities. This in turn reduced people's purchasing power and increased widespread poverty.

Data from the Government and WFP showed that food costs slightly declined at the beginning of 2024. The price of 1 kg of imported and local rice (a staple food in Sierra Leone) decreased by 2 percent and 11 percent respectively, compared with the previous quarter (June–September 2023).

Preliminary results of the latest bi-annual post-harvest Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment indicated that 82.3 percent of Sierra Leoneans were food insecure, a slight increase compared to the 80 percent figure from the same period in 2023.

WFP has been present in Sierra Leone since 1968.



Population: 7.5 million.

Human Development Index (2022):  
Ranked 184<sup>th</sup> out of 193 countries

Income Level: Low

Chronic malnutrition: 26.2 percent of  
children aged 6 to 59 months

### Operational Updates

- On 1 March 2024, WFP hosted school feeding stakeholders at RC Primary School Zimmi, Pujehun district to **celebrate the African Day of School Feeding**. The event showcased the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) approach, particularly the positive impact on dietary diversity through the inclusion of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato. WFP also launched the HGSF logo and announced its planned scale-up of the programme moving forward.
- To promote the adoption of improved, **climate-sensitive soil management** processes and empower assisted smallholder farmers to multiply their own seeds, WFP collaborated with the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute to train 38 Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) extension workers and 131 Community Youth Contractors. The trainees will now in turn train an estimated 8,000 smallholder farmers in **improved soil management and seed multiplication** through the Farmer Field Schools at the community-level.
- Under the UN Peacebuilding Fund project, WFP and Barefoot Women trained 30 trainers (25 women, 5 men) in soap production, packaging, and marketing to help diversify women's livelihoods in Falaba district.
- To enhance labour efficiency of assisted Farmer Based Organisations and enable them to boost their production, WFP donated **13 power tillers** ('walking tractors') to 13 **high performing groups**. Thirty-nine power tiller operators (27 men and 12 women) received a 2-day training in safe operation of the machines.
- To **prevent chronic malnutrition**, WFP in collaboration with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition supported increased access to nutrient rich Local Complementary Food (LCF) produced by four Mother Support Groups (MSG). During the month, the MSG in Kambia district supplied 500 children aged 6-23 months with LCF for free on referral, distributing a total 1.5 mt.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>118 million</b>	<b>81.5 million</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April – September 2024)
<b>14.9 million*</b>	<b>7.2 million</b>

\* Estimated as per ongoing budget revision. To be adjusted upon final approval.

## 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.

## Partnerships

- BBC Media Action Sierra Leone, in partnership with WFP, has begun **creating content to promote the nutrient-rich, orange-fleshed sweet potato nationally**, aiming to boost its local production and consumption.

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- In March, **292 sites were monitored**. **School feeding** accounted for 62 percent of all field monitoring visits, while WFP's **resilience building activities** (33 percent) and **nutrition** (5 percent) accounted for the remainder.

## Voices from the Field



In the heart of communities like Zimmi, Gbangbatoke, Kambia, and Sahn Malen, WFP is pioneering small-scale food processing facilities managed by the resilient Mother Support Groups. These facilities, though humble in appearance, are powerhouses of change, producing 'Nyam Nyam Pap', a nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months.

One such beneficiary, Mary Massaquoi, shares her experience. "When my little one turned 6 months, I found it difficult to feed her on a budget" she recalls. "But then, the Nyam Nyam Pap came along. It is making her grow well and it is affordable." This is the story of change, one bowl of 'Nyam Nyam Pap' at a time.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020–2024 include China, the European Union, France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sierra Leone, the United States of America, as well as multilateral contributors, private donors, and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.