

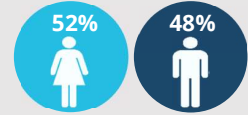


SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief August 2024

## In Numbers



**8,000** farmers assisted  
**3,000** mothers supported

**US\$ 3.2 million** six-month net funding requirement (September- February 2025)

### Operational Context

Poverty is widespread in Sierra Leone, with over half the population living below the poverty line of US\$2 per day. Agriculture, the main livelihood, is underdeveloped, leading to food insecurity. Limited infrastructure, high unemployment, and dependence on food imports exacerbate vulnerabilities, making the nation prone to food crises and malnutrition.

Data from the Government and WFP show an increase in food prices for specific staples when compared to the previous quarter. The prices of a kilogram of imported and local rice increased by 15 percent and 13 percent respectively when compared to the previous quarter (January-March 2024) and increased by 30 percent and 22 percent respectively year on year.

Results of the February 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

- To boost productivity of supported farmers, WFP through the farmer field schools provided technical assistance to 8,000 smallholder farmers, focusing on transplanting techniques and recommended fertilizer applications. In August, over half of the 138 supported Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) sites had successfully completed rice transplanting and fertilizer application.
- In an effort to prevent and mitigate disasters in Bonthe district, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), initiated the transplanting of tree seedlings to establish 16 hectares of woodlots in Sittia Chiefdom. This initiative aims at revegetating mangroves and deforested areas in the chiefdom.
- WFP signed a grant of JPY 200 million (approx. US\$ 1.36 million) with the Government of Japan to support 28,800 primary school children in Pujehun district during the 2024-2025 school year. With this contribution, WFP will provide daily hot and nutritious meals made from Japanese rice along with fresh vegetables that will be locally procured from smallholder farmers. The assistance will target 137 government-owned and government-supported primary schools across six chiefdoms facing acute food insecurity and prone to climate shocks.
- WFP enhanced the capacity of four Mother Support Groups (MSGs) from Moyamba-Gbangbatoke, Kambia-Rotifunk, and Pujehun Malen and Zimmi by providing training on good manufacturing practices. This initiative focused on improving food processing for complementary feeding, thereby enhancing their skills in food safety and quality to ensure optimal feeding for young children.
- Through Mother Support Groups (MSGs), WFP provided nutrition support to 2,000 children aged 6-23 months from four chiefdoms: Moyamba-Lower Banta, Kambia-Dixon, and Pujehun-Malen & Mapkele. This support included 'nyam nyam pap' to promote timely and appropriate complementary feeding practices.

**Contact info:** Francis Boima (francis.boima@wfp.org)  
**Country Director:** Yvonne Forsen  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone)

**Photo Caption:** Nutrition education to caregiving mothers in Kambia  
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Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>118 million</b>	<b>82.1 million</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September – February 2025)
<b>13.3 million</b>	<b>3.2 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.

## Partnerships

A partnership agreement was signed with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) for the implementation of school feeding in Bonthe and Kenema districts. Under this agreement, WFP will be funded by the Government of Sierra Leone through MBSSE to provide school meals for 123,416 beneficiaries in stated districts.

## Challenges

Heavy rains have flooded WFP supported Inland Valley Swamps, destroying irrigation structures and crops including rice, cassava and potato in Kambia, Port Loko, Pujehun, Bonthe, Moyamba, and Falaba districts. Expected quality and quantity of yields/harvests would be affected thus increasing food insecurity in affected communities.

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- Data collection for the bi-annual national food security and nutrition assessment of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) was conducted across 16 districts. A sample size of 7,600 households were surveyed and preliminary results from the analysis are expected in October.
- In August, 133 sites were monitored across seven districts. Asset Creation and Livelihood (ACL) accounted for 87 percent of all visits followed by 13 percent for nutrition activities.
- A [decentralized evaluation of asset creation and livelihoods](#) activities (from January 2020-December 2023) was conducted to provide evidence on the effects of the programme in terms building self-reliance and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers and communities.

## 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.