



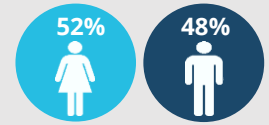
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief September 2024

In Numbers



239,350 people assisted

567 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.9 million six-month net funding requirements (October 2024 – March 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 184th out of 193 countries

Income Level: **Low**

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

Operational Updates

- Seventy-eight women groups (1,950 smallholder farmers) assisted by WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and the Sierra Leone Agriculture Research Institute (SLARI) commenced their first Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) harvest in Karene and Bonthe districts. OFSP will be delivered directly to primary schools assisted through Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) to diversify the cereal element for enhanced nutrition.
- At the end of September, over 95 percent of 138 supported Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) sites had successfully completed the transplanting of rice seedlings and application of fertilizer in eight districts including Pujehun, Kenema, Bonthe, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Kambia, Karene and Koinadugu districts.
- As co-chair of the Assessment and Registration pillar of the Inter-Pillar Disaster Response coordination system, WFP is providing technical support to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to conduct a post-disaster assessment of flooding that has submerged agricultural crops.
- By 30 September 2024, 99 percent of food dispatches to WFP-assisted primary schools were completed, ensuring the timely start of school feeding for the 2024/25 academic year.
- To promote diet diversity among women and children aged 6-23 months, WFP supported sub-national Ministry of Health partners to enhance the cooking skills of 50 communities in Kambia district through food demonstrations.

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Photo Caption: Smallholder farmers return from a successful harvest of Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato in Rogbere Bana village, Karene district *Copyright WFP/Francis Boima*

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
118 million	82.1 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2024 – March 2025)
13.3 million	2.9 million

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

Partnership agreements were signed with two Non-Government Organizations (Pure Heart Foundation and CaWEC) for the implementation of school feeding in Bonthe and Kenema districts.

Under these agreements, the partners will support the various trainings for capacity strengthening of school authorities, cooks and smallholder farmers in 798 schools (both the regular and home-grown).

Challenges

Heavy rains during September 2024 have flooded agricultural lands planted with rice, cassava, ground nuts and sweet potato, with Kambia, Port Loko, Pujehun, Bonthe, and Karene districts most affected. Farmlands in these areas have been submerged under water for several days, exacerbating the vulnerability of local farming communities. Expected quality and quantity of yields/harvests would be affected thus increasing food insecurity in affected communities.



Photo Caption: A flooded inland valley swamp in Kambia district with rice field totally submerged for months now. WFP/Francis Boima

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 September, 167 sites were monitored across the seven districts. Community and household asset creation activities accounted for 72 percent of all visits followed by 25 percent for nutrition activities.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020–2024 include China, the European Union, France, Germany, 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.