



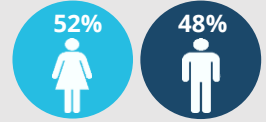
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief November 2024



In Numbers



258,043 people assisted

621 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 12,347 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.2 million six-month net funding requirement
(December- May 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 price of both local and imported rice rose by 18 percent and 28 percent respectively from September 2023 to September 2024.

Results of the September bi-annual post-harvest Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) assessment indicated that 77 percent of Sierra Leoneans were food insecure, a slight decrease compared to the 80 percent figure in the same period in 2023. The proportion of severely food insecure households reduced by 11 percentage points from 28 percent in September 2023 to 17 percent in September 2024. 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

- The Head of Mission for Iceland, Ásdís Bjarnadóttir, accompanied WFP Country Director, Yvonne Forsen on a **two-day official visit to Bonthe Island**. During the visit, WFP showcased the implementation of the **Home-Grown School Feeding** initiative and its notable contribution to improving nutrition, boosting education outcomes, and supporting the local economy. This visit followed a recent donation of USD 2.4 million by the Government of Iceland, for the provision of nutritious, locally sourced meals to 39,000 students in 136 out of 182 schools benefiting from school feeding in the district.
- WFP through its cooperating partners, including Pure Heart Foundation, and Community Action for the Welfare of Children (CAWeC), continued **community-level trainings** for 1,657 participants (1,412 male, 245 female) from 1,035 schools. The trainings were aimed at strengthening the capacity of school authorities, cooks and smallholder farmers in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the home-grown school feeding programme.
- To enhance **rice processing** capabilities and **improve agricultural productivity** of supported smallholder farmers in the districts of Kambia, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Kenema, Pujehun, and Moyamba, WFP has commenced the **construction of seven milling houses** equipped with milling machines in those districts.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) conducted **yield and cost studies** for smallholder group farms supported by WFP across seven districts. The data and reports from these studies will be used to advocate for climate-smart agriculture and adherence to improved farming practices, boosting productivity, yield, and profitability.

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Photo Caption: Production of fortified complementary food (nyam nyam pap) production for children 6-23 months using local ingredients by WFP supported Mother Support Group in Gbangbatoke, Moyamba district.

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Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
162.2 million	90.8 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December – May 2025)
23.1 million	3.2 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

- WFP signed addenda to agreements with **Mother Support Groups** in Kambia, Moyamba and Pujehun districts to produce fortified complementary food for children aged 6-23 months. These addenda will allow WFP to expand its technical assistance to the Groups to implement the **nyam nyam pap** marketing strategy, for example in the form of transportation equipment to facilitate marketing and linkage to markets beyond WFP.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- In November, **169 sites were monitored** across seven districts. School feeding programme accounted for 65 percent of all visits followed by 35 percent for resilience building activities.
- The Country Office conducted a **joint data collection** exercise with the government using the **Multi-Indicator Rapid Assessment** tool across five districts to evaluate the impact of recent floods on agricultural yields and food security. In September 2024, heavy rain caused extensive flooding across the country, with the districts of Kambia, Port Loko, Pujehun, Bonthe, and Karene being the most affected. Large swaths of land planted with rice, cassava, groundnuts, and sweet potatoes in these areas remained submerged for several days. The quality and quantity of expected yields were likely to decline, exacerbating food insecurity in the affected regions.
- WFP and the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) have launched a **shelf-life study for nyam nyam pap**. This study involves six recipes developed in collaboration with the Directorate of Food and Nutrition. The goal is to determine the food safety and quality standards for this locally fortified complementary food.

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.