



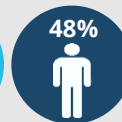
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief February 2025

## In Numbers



256,473 people assisted

717 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 6.6 million six-month net funding requirements (March- August 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 30 percent and 29 percent respectively compared to the last quarter of 2023.

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 (2023):  
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

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security launched a high-tech rice milling house in Rokupr, Kambia, as part of efforts to boost local rice production, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase farmer incomes. The facility, inaugurated by Hon. Minister Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka and WFP representative, is the first of ten planned nationwide. It aims to modernize rice processing, improve grain quality, and enhance market competitiveness for local rice. The milling hubs will strengthen the home-grown school feeding programme, which sources rice from local farmers for school meals. The facilities will also help the farmers to save time, reduce losses, and increase profits. Supported by WFP, the Government of Japan, and Satake, this initiative aligns with Sierra Leone's agricultural transformation goals.
- In Kenema and Pujehun districts, smallholder farmers supported by WFP in the month of February completed harvesting and post-harvest activities such as threshing, winnowing, and sun drying. WFP will purchase this rice for the home-grown school feeding programme, providing income for local farmers. Additionally, 20 metric tons of rice were aggregated and packaged at the Gberia Fortombo Agricultural Business Centre in Falaba district, with quality checks supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- WFP, funded by the European Union, reported severe deforestation in Sierra Leone's Western Area Peninsular National Park. Satellite data showed 715 hectares lost in 2024, totalling 5,600 hectares since monitoring began. Land grabbers, quarries, and fires threaten endangered species and the Guma Valley Dam, which supplies 90 percent of Freetown's drinking water. Deforestation increases sedimentation, raising treatment costs and risks of mudslides. Despite being a protected area and UNESCO candidate, illegal activities persist, prompting urgent calls for action to safeguard the park's ecological and water security. In 2024, WFP rehabilitated and cultivated over 1,000 ha of inland valley swamp which reduced pressure on the forest by decreasing the need for upland farming.

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Photo Caption: Distribution of tools to supported farmers in Mongo chiefdom, Falaba District.  
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## Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>162.1 million</b>	<b>94.2 million</b>
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (March– August 2025)
<b>25.4 million</b>	<b>6.6 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

- The district office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) in Kenema, Pujehun, Falaba, Karene and Bonthe and WFP signed an agreement until December 2025 outlining collaboration in food security, support to agricultural asset creation through climate sensitive initiatives, and linkage to interdependent markets.
- A Field Level Agreement signed between WFP and World Vision International was extended to April 2025 to allow completion of activities under the strengthening Agricultural value Chains project to support smallholder farmers in Koinadugu district.

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

- In February, monitoring was conducted at 126 sites across seven districts, with 83 percent of efforts focused on school feeding programme and 17 percent on resilience-building and nutrition activities.
- The monitoring team collaborated with the school feeding unit to develop a Fish Assessment Tool, which was piloted in Bonthe district to map fish farmer groups, assess their proximity to schools, and explore integrating fish into the home-grown school feeding programme to enhance nutrition, support local farmers, and strengthen community partnerships.
- The team also developed the IVS Tool to assess potential sites for the "Resilience, Empowerment, Access, and Peacebuilding" project along the Liberia-Sierra Leone border, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), aims to boost agricultural productivity, resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and peacebuilding efforts.

## 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.