

# WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief 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 a decrease in food prices for specific staples when compared to the previous quarter. The price of a kilogram of imported and local rice decreased by 17 and 4 percent respectively compared to the second quarter of 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.



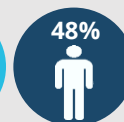
Population: **7.5 million.**

Human Development Index (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**

## In Numbers



**262,365** people assisted

**893 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 76,159 cash**-based transfers made

**US\$ 3.7 million** six-month net funding requirement  
(April- September 2025)

## Operational Updates

- Local rice procurement is ongoing as stocks are collected, aggregated, milled and re-bagged at various locations. As of March 2025, WFP has purchased and received 387 metric tons of milled rice from smallholders for its home-grown school feeding programme (HGSF).
- Under the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) HGSF contribution, WFP has now completed the construction of 30 kitchens equipped with energy efficient stoves and stores in assisted schools to enhance the preparation of daily meals. Some 176 institutional stoves have been manufactured by a local supplier, with installations in progress.
- WFP completed the installation and testing of a further seven large, combined [SATAKE](#) rice milling machines to establish smallholder processing hubs under a Government of Japan's International Organisation contribution, actualizing a key priority of the Government's Feed Salone flagship programme.
- WFP has kicked started Asset Creation and Livelihood activities under the new cross-border Peace Building Project with neighbouring Liberia, targeting the Gola Rainforest landscape. Specifically, WFP is supporting the development of 100 hectares of irrigation systems in Inland Valley Swamps through providing livelihood opportunities for high-risk youth.
- WFP donated a Toyota Landcruiser to the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB) to boost food safety and quality control. As the national standards regulator, SLSB ensures products meet safety requirements for local and export markets through testing, inspection, and certification. The vehicle enhances SLSB's mobility, enabling efficient field inspections, surveillance & outreach activities. This support strengthens WFP's collaboration with SLSB in promoting food security, nutrition, and smallholder farmer development.

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
162.1 million	94.2 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April– September 2025)
25.4 million	3.7 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.

# Voices from the field:



**Photo Caption:** A cross section of students of the Khulafai Rashideen Islamic Primary School in Karene District. Copyright WFP/Ismael Bull

WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and the National School Feeding Secretariat, commemorated the 10th African Day of School Feeding at Khulafai Rashideen Islamic Primary School in Mabere Town, Dibia Chiefdom, Karene District. The event brought together key stakeholders, including line ministries and donors (BMZ and Iceland), partners, and local community members—school administrators, parents, pupils, and farmers.

Held under the theme “Decade of Nourishment: Celebrating the Past, Securing a Just Future,” the celebration highlighted efforts to scale up the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative under the National School Feeding Programme.

## Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

- In March, 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 created Inland Valley Swamp tool to assess potential sites for the PBF-funded "Resilience, Empowerment, Access, and Peacebuilding" project on the Liberia-Sierra Leone border, enhancing agriculture, resilience, and peacebuilding.

## 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.