



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief 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.

The prices of a kilogram of imported and local rice reduced from SLE 21.7 and SLE 23.3 in March 2024 to SLE 20.1 and SLE 22.5 in March 2025 recording a year-on-year reduction of 7 percent and 4 percent respectively.

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.



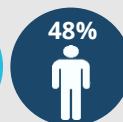
Population: **7.5 million**.

Human Development Index (2023):
Ranked 184th out of 193 countries

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers



259,546 people assisted

626 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 52,634 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.5 million six-month net funding requirement (June-November 2025)

Operational Updates

- The Embassy of Japan, WFP, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) inaugurated the country's first solar-powered cold storage facility. This innovation, funded by Japan and implemented by WFP, aims to reduce post-harvest losses for women vegetable farmers, enabling them to store produce longer and access better markets. The Japan-funded initiative has already supported 8,100 households with rice mills and training. This cold storage marks another step toward food security and women's economic resilience, aligning with Sierra Leone's Feed Salone goals.
- WFP in partnership with World Vision International Sierra Leone completed the installation of one solar powered borehole in Kabala, Koinadugu district, which will be utilized by the Koinadugu Women Vegetable Farmers' Cooperative to expand cultivation of vegetables during the dry season.
- Following a surge in Mpox cases, WFP was requested by the Ministry of Health to establish a field hospital in the western area, which accounts for 90 percent of all confirmed cases and remains the most affected region in Sierra Leone. About 19 containers, provided by WFP's Continental Response hub in the Democratic Republic of Congo, are currently in Accra, Ghana, awaiting dispatch to Sierra Leone. Once available in-country, WFP will coordinate with local authorities to support the installation of the field hospital.
- A Quality and Quantity test was conducted for 350 metric tons of rice through the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau. The rice will be supplied to WFP-supported schools under the home-grown school feeding programme.
- WFP completed dispatch of food to 1,195 schools for term three of the 2024/25 academic year. This will provide daily nutritious lunch to over 200,000 primary school children in Kenema, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kambia, and Karene districts.

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Photo Caption: Processing of rice by women farmers in Kambia district sell to WFP as part of the home-grown school feeding programme.
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Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
162.1 million	95.4 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June– November 2025)
25.4 million	3.5 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.

- The OPEC Fund for International Development joined WFP, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to launch 'The Re-energizing School Meals Project' worth US\$ 1.2 million. Replacing traditional stoves with energy-efficient alternatives, the initiative will create a safer cooking environment for 1,300 volunteer cooks.

Challenges

- WFP continued to face challenges with last-mile food deliveries, causing delays in dispatches to schools. Many commercial transporters were reluctant to access hard-to-reach areas. To address this, WFP utilized its own fleet to ensure timely delivery.
- Local procurement of 205 metric tons of rice has met with delays principally due to default by some smallholder farmers. WFP had to cancel the contracts of five vendors who had failed to deliver and reallocated the same quantity of rice to WFP supported smallholder farmers.

Partnerships

WFP and Peace Corps Sierra Leone signed an MOU, to develop projects and activities in the education and food security sectors identified and assisted by the Peace Corps through the assignment of its Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps Response Volunteers.

WFP signed a partnership agreement with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for the co-implementation of the livestock component under the 'Sustainable Agriculture and Livestock Project' funded by Mercy Ships Australia.

FAO under this project will deploy technical experts to support livestock management, including the introduction of improved breeds and the establishment of climate-smart cattle ranches in Falaba district.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

- During May, 143 sites across five districts were monitored, with 75 percent of efforts targeting the school feeding programme and 25 percent allocated to resilience-building activities.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), WFP will conduct the biannual Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) in July 2025 to assess household vulnerability and food security, providing data for evidence-based interventions.

Donors

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020–2025 include China, the European Union, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, OPEC Fund, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sierra Leone, the United States of America, World Bank as well as multilateral contributors, private donors, and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.