



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief June 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.



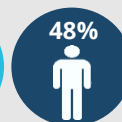
Population: **7.5 million.**

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



255,795 people assisted

836 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 10,116 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.7 million six-month net funding requirement
(July-December 2025)

Operational Updates

- To develop human capital and tackle food insecurity in vulnerable chiefdoms, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea donated 1,800 metric tons of rice to the World Food Programme (WFP) for its school feeding programme. Over 106,700 children in 300 primary schools will benefit from this donation for the 2025/2026 academic year.
- To strengthen national capacity for effective disaster response, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in collaboration with WFP and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, organized a three-day nationwide emergency preparedness and response workshop for the Western Area. The training aimed to improve coordination and readiness among key disaster management actors and included a simulation exercise to enhance operational readiness to flooding and landslides. The workshop emphasized the importance of preparedness measures, coordinated action, and data-driven planning.
- To enhance farmer skills and promote sustainable rice production, WFP organized a training on the Technical Package for Rice Production (TP-R) in Pujehun and Kenema districts. The training targeted key stakeholders from the Peace Building Fund cross-border project and aimed to improve the adoption of modern rice farming techniques. A total of 20 Community Youth Coordinators (CYCs), 20 lead farmers, and 4 extension staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) participated. Developed by JICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, TP-R offers practical guidance on land preparation, seed selection, transplanting, fertilization, and pest control. Participants are expected to cascade trainings to their farming communities.
- To enhance post-harvest processing and reduce labour burden, WFP delivered three rice threshers to clustered locations in Baoma, Gbandalahun, and Nomo Faama in Kenema district for shared, rotational use among supported farmers. Additionally, three more threshers were distributed to communities in Gbaa, Njaluahun, and Njagor in Pujehun district to support local rice production efforts and improve efficiency in threshing.

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
162.1 million	95.5 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July– December2025)
25.4 million	2.7 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

From Imported to Homegrown: WFP Supports Local School Feeding in Sierra Leone

WFP Sierra Leone has reduced its reliance on imported food for school meals—from 90 percent to 60 percent—through the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative, aligned with the Feed Salone agenda. By partnering with ministries and local cooperatives, WFP connects smallholder farmers, many of them women, directly to schools. This shift boosts rural incomes, strengthens national food systems, and improves student nutrition and attendance. Farmers now have stable markets, and families take pride in locally grown meals. Despite challenges, WFP and the government aim to increase local sourcing to 60 percent, advancing food security and resilience. For parents like **Fatmata Kamara**, whose daughter **Mariama Kamara** attends the Kambia District Council Primary School in Dar Es Salaam, Kambia, the impact is undeniable. “My daughter told me that, she eats rice from our own soil. That’s pride. That’s progress.”

Partnerships

- The World Food Programme and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change signed an agreement that enhances cooperation on forest monitoring, environmental protection, anticipatory action & climate-smart programming, focusing on national parks, forest reserves and key conservation landscapes.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

- In June, monitoring was carried out at 150 sites across five districts, with 80 percent of activities focused on the school feeding programme and the remaining 20 percent on resilience-building initiatives.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), WFP commenced the biannual Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) data collection 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.