



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief July 2025

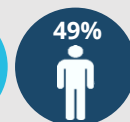


In Numbers

259,546 people assisted

191 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.3 million six-month net funding requirement (August 2025 - January 2026)



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 the prices of imported and local rice decreased by 18 percent and 3 percent respectively when compared to June 2024. Similarly, across the districts, the annual price comparison for imported rice between June 2024 and June 2025 reveals notable decreases. 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

Operational Updates

- As part of its commitment to strengthening community resilience, **WFP, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), has initiated support to District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) in flood-prone regions.** This effort follows the successful completion of operational readiness training and aims to ensure that DDMCs are fully functional and equipped to respond effectively to future emergencies. The partnership is focused on strengthening local capacity, improving coordination, and fostering proactive disaster risk management at the district level.
- WFP procured 34,000 bags of locally milled rice (1,700mt) from smallholder farmers to support school meals** in the 2025/26 academic year—boosting local food production, strengthening livelihoods, and stimulating the rural economy.
- In Pujehun district, WFP supported near-complete bund construction across ten Inland Valley Swamp sites and simultaneous rice nursery establishment.** Village Savings and Loans Associations remained active, with members contributing and repaying loans—demonstrating strengthened financial inclusion, community resilience, and progress toward sustainable agricultural development.
- In Kenema district, WFP advanced agricultural development through earthworks and rice nursery preparations across multiple sites** using the TPR-P method—an integrated, improved technique for sustainable rice farming. Rehabilitation and transplanting activities also progressed in Bandawor and Kuranko, communities contributing to enhanced food security and demonstrating community commitment to adopting climate-resilient practices and boosting local production.

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
162.1 million	106.2 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August 2025–January 2026)
25.4 million	2.3 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

- The **World Food Programme and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, (MoECC), signed a Field Level Agreement (FLA)** to support the planting of 13,000 tree seedlings in eight communities in Sittia Chiefdom, Bonthe district. These woodlots aim to sustainably supply firewood for school feeding. MoECC will receive mobility and monitoring support to manage transplanting, train farmers in woodlot management, raise environmental awareness, and identify vendors for climate-resilient seedlings. They will also conduct weekly site visits, use GPS for demarcation, verify work outputs with WFP, and assist in organizing beneficiaries during cash-based transfer (CBT) disbursements.
- Also, **an agreement was signed between WFP and the National Public Health Agency, (NPHA) to support the national Mpox response** by providing food assistance to 1,500 hospitalized patients and 1,000 caregivers across treatment facilities nationwide. The initiative aims to improve recovery and offer nutritional support to vulnerable individuals in isolation. WFP will procure and deliver food, including fresh vegetables via a service provider—the Koinadugu Women's Vegetable Farmer Cooperative. NPHA will coordinate food preparation, assign cooks, ensure food safety, share caseload data, and support monitoring efforts to ensure effective implementation and beneficiary support.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- In July, WFP conducted monitoring at 65 sites across four districts. The school meals programme accounted for 63 percent of the activities, while 37 percent focused on resilience-building initiatives.
- A baseline assessment was launched for the "Sustainable Agriculture and Livestock Project" in Falaba District, a joint initiative with FAO and funded by Mercy Ship Australia.
- WFP actively contributed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework mid-year report, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator's Office, providing inputs across three UN result groups, reinforcing inter-agency collaboration.
- WFP, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and Statistics Sierra Leone completed data collection for the bi-annual 2025 Lean Season Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS). Results are expected in September and will enable targeted interventions for the most at-risk communities.

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.