



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief 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.

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 2024 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.



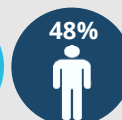
Population: 7.5 million.

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



3,666 people assisted*

6 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 10,116 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1 million six-month net funding requirement
(September-February 2026)

*The lower-than-average number of people assisted is due to the annual break in school feeding activities.

Operational Updates

- To prevent malnutrition and ensure access to fortified complementary foods for vulnerable groups especially children 6-23 months, **WFP continued to support four food processing sites to produce and distribute Nyam Nyam Pap** (a locally produced complementary food using seasonally available products) in Pujehun, Moyamba and Kambia districts.
- WFP, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), continued to strengthen local capacity for disaster preparedness**, focusing on high-risk districts identified for potential flooding. **Capacity-strengthening workshops were conducted alongside the re-establishment of District Disaster Management Committees**, aimed at decentralising disaster risk management processes and enhancing local preparedness and response capabilities.
- In August, **agricultural activities continued in WFP resilience project sites in Kenema and Falaba districts**, including rice production and orange-flesh sweet potato (OFSP) cultivation. Supported by technical assistance and joint monitoring missions, local farmers engaged in ploughing, transplanting, and nursery establishment across both new and existing Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) sites. Improved irrigation systems were installed, and ongoing maintenance of rice mills was conducted to support local food systems.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministries of Environment and Finance with funding from the European Union, **launched the Nature Nourishes Project** to restore forests, preserve national parks, and promote alternative livelihoods. [Recent data](#) from the Asset Impact Monitoring from Space (AIMS) shows alarming deforestation, driven by logging, mining, and encroachment, threatening water security and increasing disaster risks. The project links environmental protection to community benefits, empowering local conservation, sustainable land management, and green economic opportunities for present and future generations.



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Photo Caption: Nurturing the dreams of primary school children through school feeding in the food insecure chiefdom of Niawa, Kenema district.
Photo credits: WFP/Francis Boima

WFP Country Strategy

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\$) (September–February 2026)
25.4 million	1 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.

Challenges

In August, heavy rainfall severely disrupted programme implementation. Flooded roads and waterlogged fields rendered many communities inaccessible, leading to delays in scheduled monitoring activities and limiting the ability to verify progress on the ground. Logistics were also affected, with trucks unable to reach remote sites, resulting in postponed deliveries of essential tools and supplies. These challenges hindered farmers' capacity to carry out planned activities and sustain productivity. **Despite these setbacks, the programme responded with agility,** prioritising accessible locations and working closely with local partners to ensure that critical support reached those most in need.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

- In August, WFP carried out monitoring activities at 44 locations across four districts, dedicating all efforts to Asset Creation and Livelihood initiatives.
- WFP collaborated with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to train 100 Sierra Leone Red Cross (SLRC) volunteers—60 from Western Area Urban and 40 from Western Area Rural—along with 20 NDMA staff in emergency preparedness. The training encompassed instruction on the Multi Indicator Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool and the beneficiary registration tool, thereby enhancing participants' readiness to effectively respond to potential flood disasters.
- Additionally, WFP released the second quarter 2025 edition of the Market Prices Bulletin, which provides an analysis of commodity price trends and the broader macro-economic outlook for Sierra Leone.

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.