



World Food
Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief

November 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 rice fell from 24 SLE per kilogram in September 2024 to 19 SLE per kilogram in September 2025, a 23 percent year-on-year decrease. Local parboiled rice declined from 25 SLE to 22 SLE per kilogram, marking a 13 percent annual reduction. According to the July 2025 FSMS survey, 13 percent of households are classified as severely food insecure and 65 percent as moderately food insecure. The proportion of severely food insecure households has declined by more than half- from 28 percent in 2023 to 13 percent in July 2025 – representing a 15-percentage point reduction. The proportion of severe 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



220,086 people assisted



700 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 14,744 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 5.4 million six-month net funding requirement
(Dec 2025 – May 2026)

Operational Updates

- To strengthen community ownership and promote accountability within the school feeding programme, WFP and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education organised training sessions for leaders of school management committees and head teachers from 811 schools across Kambia, Karene, Kenema and Pujehun districts. Altogether, 1,622 participants—comprising 999 men and 623 women—were instructed on the roles and responsibilities of key actors, as well as on best practices for food storage and daily food monitoring.
- To help farmers minimise post-harvest losses and enhance the value of their produce, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, organised training sessions for 60 farmers, 50 percent of them women, belonging to 30 farmer-based organisations in Kenema, Pujehun and Falaba districts. These sessions formed part of the Gola- REAP project, delivered along the Liberia and Sierra Leone border under the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) portfolio and the Mercy Ships project. This initiative not only seeks to bolster resilience and social cohesion but also aims to create alternative livelihood opportunities for women and young people within these border communities.
- To guide geographical targeting of the EU-funded *Nature Nourishes – A Territorial Approach to Local Development* project, WFP is conducting a comprehensive baseline assessment comprised of four elements to determine which Key Landscape for Conservation and Development (KLCDs) should be targeted. Land cover analyses were completed by AIMS team, providing a snapshot into the ecological status of each KLCD. WFP is partnering with the International Institute for Environment and Development to conduct the Social Assessment for Protected Area, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) to conduct the Integrated Management Effectiveness. WFP RAM will conduct a Basic Needs Assessment. These three pending assessments will commence in January 2026.



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Photo Caption: Rice being parboiled in Zimmi as part of the post-harvest management training to reduce losses and add value to product.

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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\$) (Dec 2025 - May 2026)
25.4 million	5.4 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.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

In November, WFP conducted extensive monitoring across 225 sites in five districts, an increase of 51 percent compared to October 2025. Of these activities, 88 percent were dedicated to the School Meals Programme, while 12 percent focused on Asset Creation and Livelihood projects.

An outcome monitoring survey was conducted for the School Meals Programme in five districts. Additionally, post-distribution monitoring was completed for the Asset Creation and Livelihood activities under the Peace Building Fund project in Kenema and Pujehun districts. The results will feed into the 2025 Annual Country Report for external stakeholders.

Voices from the Field



The smallholder farmers in Zimmi like many others in Sierra Leone used to experience high post-harvest losses, a situation which is typical of inefficient post-harvest handling systems resulting in poor grain quality.

As the harvests came in, the farmers watched with frustration as much of their hard-earned crops were lost even before they could reach the market.

Change soon arrived when the World Food Programme and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security provided training on modern farming techniques. Farmers learned ways to reduce waste and improve crop quality, enabling them to earn more by selling higher-value rice to the school feeding programme.

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.