



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Sierra Leone Country Brief December 2025

In Numbers



256,154 people assisted

443 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 374,231 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.4 million six-month net funding requirement
(Jan 2026 – June 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 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. 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**

Operational Updates

- WFP with support from OPEC Fund provided various construction materials, such as zinc, cement and nails, for the construction of school kitchens in 264 schools across Kambia, Kenema and Pujehun districts. Once the structures are completed, WFP will provide two institutional fuel-efficient stoves per school; these stoves have been sourced locally and use 44 percent less firewood than the traditional three fire stones. Beyond the environmental impact, the project stands to offer significant health benefits for the school cooks and school children by eliminating exposure to hazardous pollutants and reducing pressure on the forest.
- In December, WFP transferred \$121,305 to 96 farmers-based organizations for the purchase of over 10,600 kg of orange flesh sweet potatoes (OFSP) consumed in the home-grown school feeding programme. Rich in vitamin A, OFSP diversifies the school meals menu while increasing the income of smallholder farmers. A mobile payment platform, operated by orange mobile, helps to ensure timely payment to farmers even in areas not served by the traditional banking system.
- To mark the end of the agriculture calendar, supported Farmer Based Organizations across Pujehun, Kenema, Karene, Falaba, Koinadugu, Tonkolili, and Kambia districts, were engaged in activities such as rice harvesting, threshing, winnowing, drying, and storage, adopting best agricultural practices. The purpose of these activities is to enhance production and post-harvest management to strengthen household food security and increase smallholder farmers' productivity.

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Photo Caption: Energy-efficient stoves being used to prepare school meals for children in primary schools use 44% less fuelwood than traditional cooking methods.
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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\$) (Jan 2026 – June 2026)
25.4 million	3.4 million

<p>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations can meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises. <i>Focus area: Crisis Response</i></p> <p>Activities: Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected households and support their recovery needs.</p>
<p>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2: Primary school children in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i></p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition</p> <p>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. <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers and communities in targeted areas have resilient livelihoods that better meet their food security and nutrition needs by 2030. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i></p> <p>Activities: Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organizations and women's groups.</p>
<p>Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food security and nutrition programmes by 2024. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i></p> <p>Activities: Provide integrated resilience-building support to smallholder farmers, including farmers' organisations and women's groups.</p>

- Production sites for locally fortified complementary food, Nyam Nyam Pap, continued their operations, contributing to local economies and improving access to complementary foods that promote child nutrition. With weekly production ranging between 120–130 packets per site, the programme also strengthens community-based Mother Support Groups and supports market linkages through stock replenishment in retail outlets. Additionally, the programme's value is recognized as a potential model for other countries that seek to address the root causes of child malnutrition, as demonstrated by the WFP Mauritania Country Office's study tour aimed at learning from Sierra Leone's local complementary food model.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring (RAM)

In December, WFP completed process monitoring across 138 sites in five districts. Of these activities, 81 percent focused on Asset Creation and Livelihoods (ACL), while the remaining 19 percent centered on the School Meals Programme.

WFP also conducted a baseline assessment in 130 schools across the Kenema, Kambia, and Pujehun districts. This assessment supports the OPEC-funded Re-Energizing School Meal Programme.

Additionally, a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey was carried out with woodlot farmers in Bonthe following the distribution of cash transfers.

Partnerships

New partnership agreements were signed with the Environment Foundation for Africa and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone under the Nature Nourishes projected funded by the European Union. Partners will support WFP to independently conduct the Social Assessment for Protected Area (SAPA) in various forest-edge communities around Sierra Leone.

The new WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan (2026–2030) was approved by the Executive Board. With a budget of US\$ 148.7 million, it targets chronic food insecurity and malnutrition through support for crisis-affected populations, improved nutrition, and strengthened livelihoods. Sincere thanks to all partners and donors for their invaluable support to the previous CSP (2020-2025).

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.