



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP SIERRA LEONE

COUNTRY BRIEF

February 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP commenced its 2026–2030 Country Strategic Plan which responds through an integrated approach combining shock-responsive preparedness, nutrition, home-grown school feeding, and food systems strengthening. These interventions align with three strategic outcomes: crisis resilience, improved nutrition and human capital, and strengthened livelihoods for women and youth, supporting sustainable, nationally led food security solutions.
- WFP successfully completed food delivery to support the 2nd term of the national school feeding programme.

IN NUMBERS



259,808 people assisted in January



48%
Male



52%
Female



1,729 mt food distributed



USD 1.8M (Feb – Jul 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Happy children enjoying lunch at the Roman Catholic Primary School, in Gbinti, Karene district. WFP/Francis Boima

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Sierra Leone’s humanitarian needs are driven by chronic poverty (**54–56 percent poor**), economic fragility, and high food prices amid persistent inflation. Climate shocks affecting rain-fed agriculture deepen vulnerability, especially in rural areas.
- Despite political stability, limited fiscal space constrains response. As a result, **78 percent of people are food insecure, 13 percent severely**, while malnutrition persists with **26 percent of children under 5 suffering from stunting**, disproportionately affecting poor households.
- However, the July 2025 Food Security Monitoring System survey reported a decline in the proportion of severely food insecure households by more than half- from 28 percent in 2023 to 13 percent in July 2025 – representing a 15-percentage point reduction.
- Women, girls, children, persons with disabilities, and rural households in Sierra Leone face heightened risks from gender-based violence, child marriage, poverty, food insecurity, limited services, climate shocks, and unequal access to education, health, and livelihoods.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Nutrition

- WFP continued to support four women-run centres which produce local complementary food, Nyam Nyam Pap, for children 6-23 months. The production centres help to improve access to complementary foods based on local food availability and preferences, with a view to preventing acute malnutrition.

School-Based Assistance

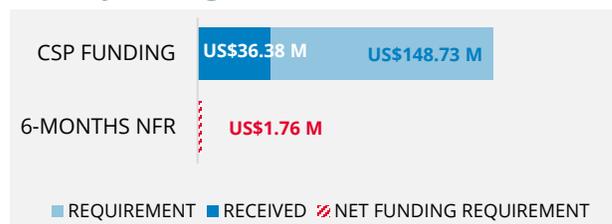
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, delivered more than 2,100 metric tons of food to primary schools for Term 2 of the 2025/26 academic year. This support will provide daily nutritious meals to over 250,000 boys and girls enrolled in more than 1,200 government-assisted primary schools across Kenema, Kambia, Pujehun, Bonthe, and Karene districts, contributing to improved educational outcomes, including increased enrolment and attendance.
- WFP commenced preliminary engagement with the National School Feeding Secretariat of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to support the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for the national school feeding programme.
- Between 21-23 January, WFP, in collaboration with the German Embassy, conducted a field visit with the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as the Sierra Leone ministers of Basic & Senior Secondary Education, Technical & Higher Education and Planning & Economic Development, to a primary school in Karene District. The visit offered an opportunity to see the positive changes achieved through BMZ's contribution to home grown school feeding and the importance of sustained investments in the education and agricultural sectors to help achieve Sierra Leone's development goals.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- As WFP anticipates procuring over 1,000 mt of locally produced rice for its home-grown school feeding programme, a training was conducted for 75 smallholder farmers (30 men and 45 women) across three locations, to enhance post-harvest handling, stores management, food safety and handling practices. The training is expected to help in ensuring that WFP food quality standards for local procurement will be met.
- As part of the collaboration with government and NGO partners under the EU funded Nature Nourishes, A Territorial Approach to Local Development project, WFP has successfully piloted and rolled out six Social Assessments of Protected Areas (SAPA). This has generated evidence of the positive and negative impact of protected areas on lives and livelihoods of surrounding communities.
- In parallel, two Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) assessments have been completed, providing a clear picture of how well the targeted landscapes are being managed.
- These assessments are now being carried out in other landscapes, providing the project with critical data to sharpen targeting decisions and ensure that interventions are both responsive and strategically placed.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2026-2030)



Donors:

Donors to WFP Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2026-2030 include the European Union, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, OPEC Fund, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, as well as multilateral contributors, private donors, and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.