



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP SIERRA LEONE

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP’s EU-funded Local Food Solution Initiative strengthened Sierra Leone’s infant food value chain through stakeholder collaboration, securing two acres in Bombali for a processing facility to meet annual demand for 2,000 mt of quality complementary food.
- WFP contracted 26 smallholder farmers worth USD 1.2 million, advanced local procurement, and conducted extensive monitoring across five districts, including baseline assessments supporting community needs and sustainable food system development.

IN NUMBERS



259,808 people assisted in February



48%
Male



52%
Female



744 mt food distributed



USD 1.4 M (March – Aug 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Supplying vegetables by women farmers to schools has empowered them financially while ensuring nutritious meals for school children in Kambia district., WFP/Photographer: Michael Duff

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

- The Infant food value chain project led by WFP and funded by the European Union is advancing efforts to strengthen Sierra Leone's infant food value chain. As a result of collaborative engagement with key stakeholders—including the Paramount Chief of Makarie, the District Health Management Team, and the Bombali District Council—a two-acre parcel of land has been generously donated for the development of a medium-sized food processing facility in Bombali district. This strategic investment directly supports the goal of meeting the annual demand for 2,000 mt of high-quality complementary food, enhancing nutrition outcomes for children and supporting local economic growth.

School-Based Assistance

- WFP, in collaboration with the Iceland Embassy in Freetown, conducted a field visit to two primary schools in Bonthe District. The visit highlighted the positive changes made possible through Iceland's support for home-grown school feeding and underscored the importance of sustained investment in education and agricultural sectors to help achieve Sierra Leone's development goals.
- A joint home-grown school feeding (HGFS) assessment mission was carried out in partnership with the European Union (EU) and the National School Feeding Secretariat (NSFS) under the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. The mission was designed to provide the EU with firsthand insight into the operational procedures surrounding HGFS implementation and to help redefine the HGFS model to better fit Sierra Leone's context. The team visited three schools located in Bonthe, Pujehun, and Karene districts, engaging directly with head teachers, school management committee members, farmer-based organizations, and community volunteer cooks. This joint mission coincided with ongoing efforts by WFP and the EU Delegation to draft a concept note focused on strengthening the NSFS

monitoring and evaluation system, with the goal of improving data management and supporting evidence-based decision making.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

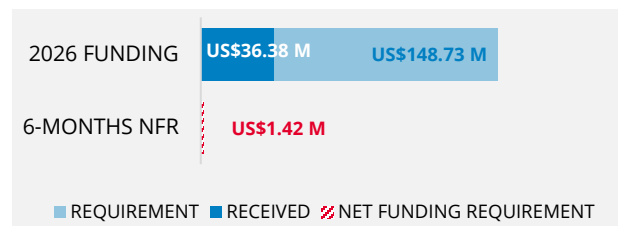
- As part of efforts to buy locally, WFP has partnered with 26 Smallholder Farmers (SHFs) across multiple provinces. Of these, 22 SHFs were contracted to supply locally produced rice, while 4 SHFs were engaged to provide locally sourced pulses. These agreements amount to a significant total value of USD 1.2 million, directly contributing to the empowerment of smallholder farmers and the strengthening of Sierra Leone's local food systems.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- During February, WFP conducted monitoring activities at 178 locations within five districts. Of these, 90 percent were associated with the School Meals Programme, while 10 percent were part of Smallholder Agricultural Market Support initiatives. Additionally, a qualitative baseline assessment for the Nature Nourishes project was performed in eight protected areas in Tonkolili, Karene, Pujehun, and Kenema, aimed at identifying the essential needs of local communities.

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.