

# Sierra Leone



## Did you know that...

**people in emergency situations or recovering from emergencies** - such as wars and natural disasters - often do not have enough food. They must be given food and helped to recover by receiving the additional help, care and training they may need to improve their economic resources and rebuild their lives.

## Some facts about my country

**There are over 5 million people living in Sierra Leone**, almost half of whom are children under the age of fourteen.

**The country is recovering from the civil war of 1991-2002**, when tens of thousands of people died and more than 2 million people (about one-third of the population) were forced to move away from their homes. The war especially affected those in the rural areas, where seventy per cent of the population lives.

**Three out of four people** live on less than two dollars a day.

**One out of two Sierra Leoneans** is undernourished. Six out of ten Sierra Leoneans have no access to health services. Four out of five women cannot read and write. Seven out of ten Sierra Leoneans have no safe drinking water.

**In 2002, the President of Sierra Leone** pledged to do everything in his power to ensure that no Sierra Leonean should go to bed hungry.



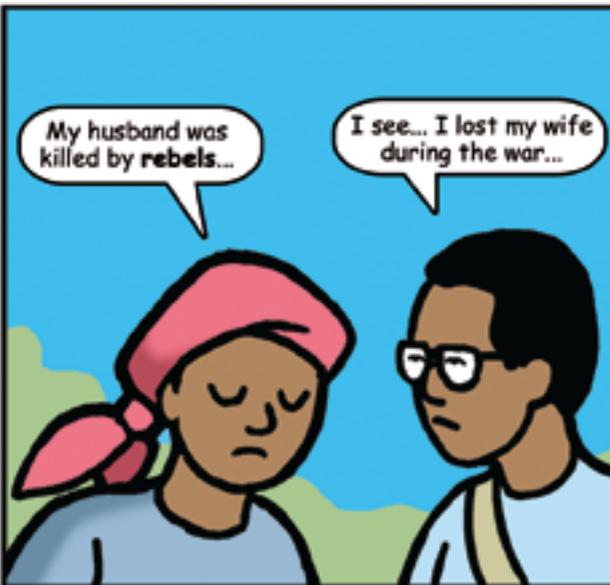
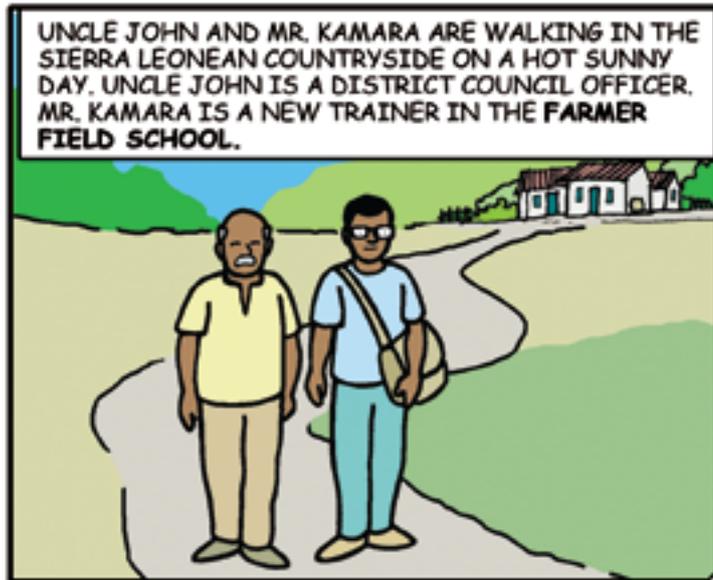
## Read my story to find out...

**What** effect war in our country had on farming and our food supply.

**How** we rebuilt our lives and got food after the war.

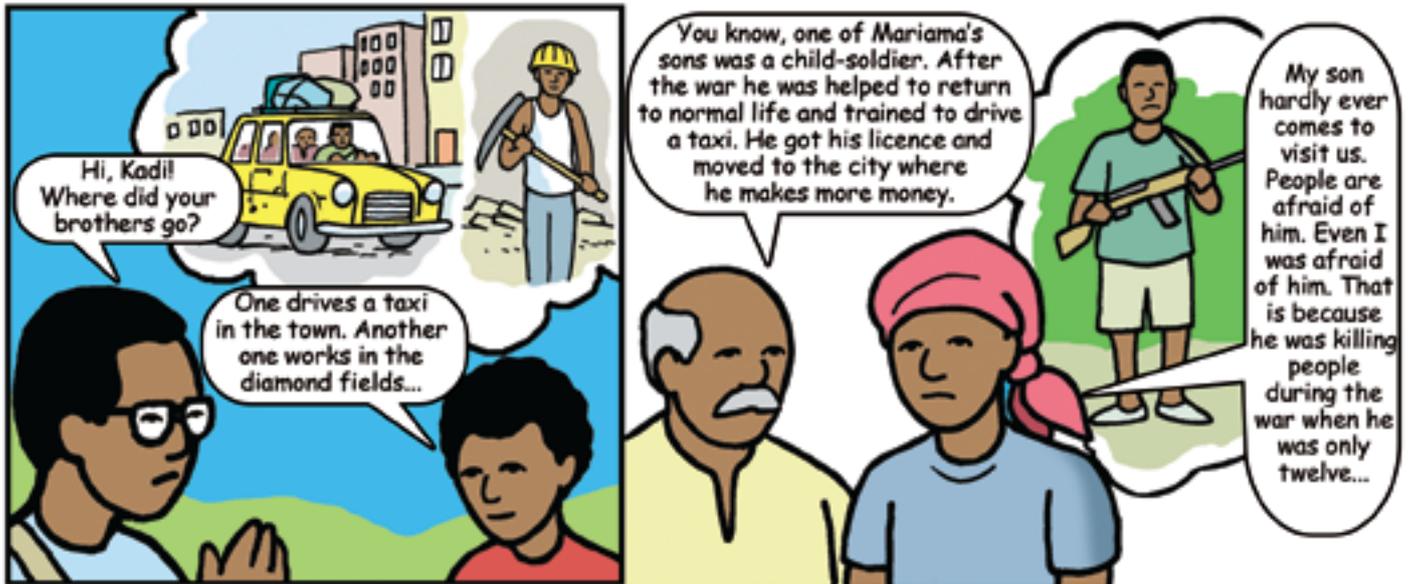
**How** our government can help those of us who have lost everything.

# Starting Over

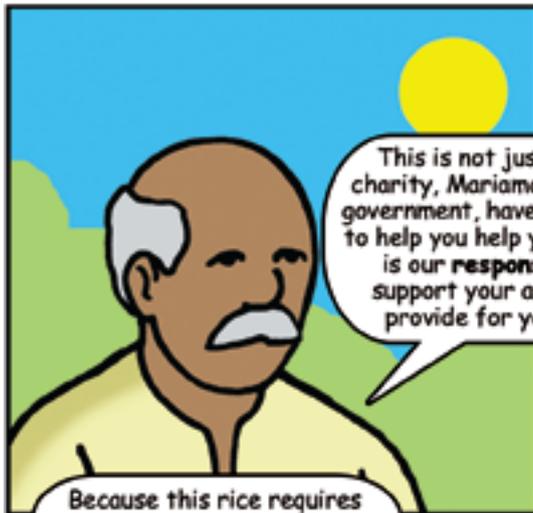


**farmer field school:** teaching adult farmers new farming practices in the field

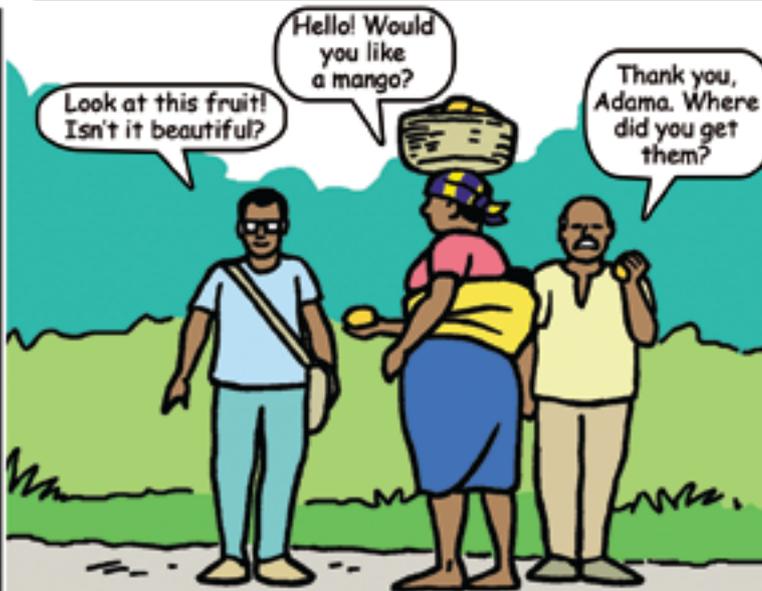
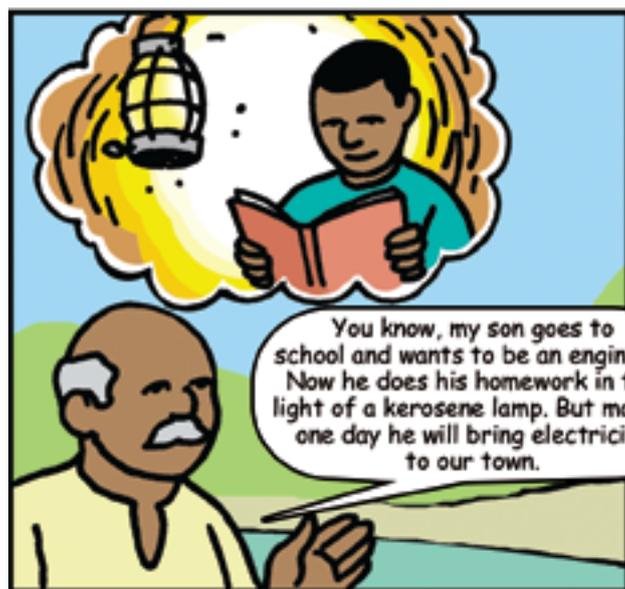
**rebel:** a person who fights against authority

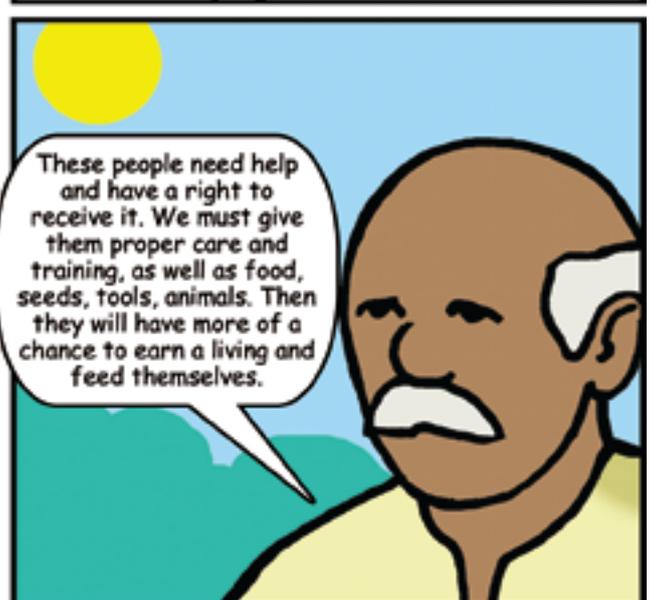


**yield:** the amount that can be harvested from a crop



**loan:** a sum of money borrowed that is usually repaid with interest  
**responsibility:** a duty, something for which a person is responsible





**amputate:** to remove a body part, such as an arm or leg

**polio:** a disease caused by a virus which can lead to paralysis (inability to move)

**barrie:** a meeting place in an African village

**refugee:** a person forced to leave home to seek safety or protection in another country





**latrine:** a specific area used as a toilet



So, what do YOU think?



Have you thought about...

- what** happened to farmers and their families during the war?
- why** it was a good idea to open a Farmer Field School in the village?
- what** help people need to recover after a war?

Is it fair that...

- people** in emergencies should be given free food?
- people** who have been affected by war should receive extra help, care and training to rebuild their lives?



Everyone can do something

You can **gather information** about emergencies and talk about how to respond to them at home, with your friends, neighbours, at school.