



Country sheet

Sierra Leone

(in Mano River Program)

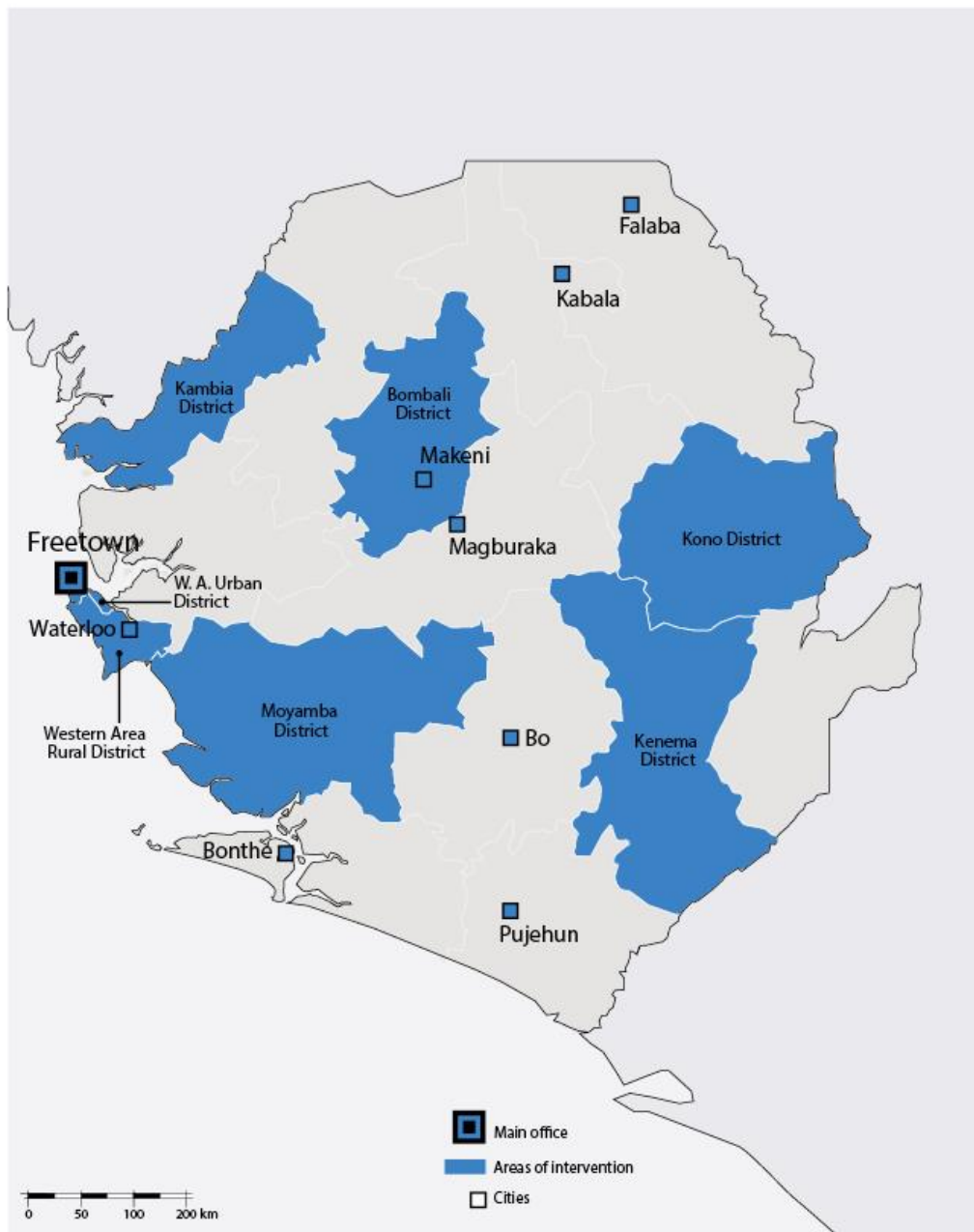




HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Sierra Leone program has 39 staff members.

Sierra Leone





General data of the country

General data

| Indicator | Sierra Leone | Liberia | France |
|---|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Population | 8 791 092 | 5 418 377 | 68 170 228 |
| IHDI | 0,31 | 0,31 | 0,82 |
| SIGI score | 47,8 | 38,3 | 10,1 |
| Maternal mortality | 443 | 652 | 8 |
| GINI index | 35,7 | 35,3 | 30,7 |
| Population within UNHCR mandate | 210 | 1 829 | 762 378 |
| INFORM index | 4,2 | 4,6 | 2,9 |
| Fragile State Index | 82,6 | 86,9 | 28,3 |
| Public social protection % | 4,4 | 6,20 | 100 |
| Net ODA (development aid) (millions of USD) | 523,5 | 484,8 | 0 |

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

| Humanitarian law instruments | Status |
|--|---------------------|
| Mine Ban Treaty | Ratified 25/04/2001 |
| Convention on Cluster Munitions | Ratified 03/12/2008 |
| UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | Ratified 04/10/2010 |

Geopolitical analysis

Social/cultural/demographic elements

Sierra Leone is bordered by Guinea on the North, Liberia in the South-East and the Atlantic Ocean in the South-West. The country became independent on April 27th, 1961, after having been a British colony since 1792. It was ravaged by a civil war that lasted from 1991 to 2002 and resulted in some 70,000 casualties and 2.6 million displaced people. Since 2002, the country has slowly rebuilt and restored order.



About 16 ethnic groups inhabit in Sierra Leone. Although English is the official language spoken at schools and government administration, the Krio language is the most widely spoken language in the country. Sierra Leone is among the 10% of countries in the world that are most vulnerable to the adverse consequences of climate change, and presently one of the least able to cope with the effects. Unpredictable weather patterns, severe flooding, mudslides, and associated crop failure are becoming more frequent, even as the country is witnessing cut down at a faster rate than being planted. Also due to high dependence of agriculture and natural resources, high rates of poverty and unemployment, and environmental degradation (extreme precipitation and sea level rise increasingly threatens coastal areas with flooding and erosion).

Political context

General elections were held in Sierra Leone on the 24th June 2023 to elect the president, members of parliament and local councils. The incumbent president Julius Maada Bio was re-elected with 56% of the vote and the Sierra Leone People's party won 81 seats in parliament compared to the main opposition party, the All-People's Congress, which won 54 seats. The result was contested by the All-People's Congress, which demanded a return, citing "*glaring irregularities*". European election observers stated that there was "*statistical inconsistency*" in the presidential results published, with the European Union Election Observation Mission saying that the election commission should "*publish disaggregated results data per polling station to allow for public scrutiny of the results*". Unless that happened, it said that transparency was compromised. Because of this, there has been tension and disagreement between the two political parties. The opposition party has boycotted their seats in parliament and local councils.

A political dialogue was initiated under the aegis of the African Union and ECOWAS and led to the signature of the "Agreement of National Unity" on October 18th. Part of the agreement was the formation of a Tripartite Committee in order to promote national unity and reviewing critical elements such as election results and electoral processes. International bodies like the Commonwealth, African Union, ECOWAS, and the U.S. government supported the committee's formation, with \$1.5 million from the U.S. aiding its operations. The primary goal was to resolve disagreements related to polling station results, some of which were contested or missing, and ensure transparency in the electoral process. Following the attacks on Wilberforce Barack in November 2023, which the Minister of Information latter referred to as a failed coup d'état, the political situation in Freetown was in state of heightened tension. In relation to this, on the 3rd of January 2024, four charges were filed against the former president Ernest Bai Koroma, a member of the APC party, including treason, misprision of treason and the crime of harboring. The former president was found guilty and has been exile to Nigeria as pleaded by the ECOWAS community rather than to be imprisoned in Sierra Leone.

This situation remains a significant political crisis in Sierra Leone, with implications for the country's electoral integrity and governance.



Economic elements

Real GDP growth declined to 3.4% in 2023 from 3.5% in 2022. This was primarily attributed to subdued aggregate demand and socio-political stability concerns. Growth was driven by the mining export (iron ore) on the demand side and by the recovery in key sector on the supply side, inflation rose to 27% in 2022 to 46.6% in 2023, driven by food and fuel prices, depreciation of the Leone and supply-side constraints. The fiscal deficit declined to an estimated 5.8% of GDP from 9.6% in 2022. Public debt is estimated to have declines from 98.8% of GDP in 2022 to an estimated 90.5% of GDP in 2023. The country remains at high risk of debt distress. The current account deficit narrowed to an estimate of 8.3% of GDP in 2022 to 6.1% in 2023, reflecting an increase in export and grants.

Gross foreign reserves stood at \$432.9 million in October 2023. The depreciation of the Leone moderated from 39.1% in 2022 to 17.2% in 2023 due to lifted foreign exchange market. non-performing loans Sierra Leone is characterized by high poverty (25% in 2023), youth employment was 10% in 2022, but underemployment is much higher.

Summary of HI presence in the country

In 1996, HI launched its first activities in the country with the opening of a rehabilitation center in Bo. Since then, HI has been instrumental in building the foundation of rehabilitation work, promoting the agenda of inclusive education, inclusive economy, protection, disaster risk reduction (DRR), sexual reproductive health and rights and mental health in Sierra Leone through various projects. Besides, HI has also responded to one of the largest emergencies, Ebola outbreak', followed by mudslide in 2017 and COVID-19 pandemic. Since its first mission in 1996, HI has reach out to tens of thousands of people including people with disabilities, girls, children, gender-based violence survivors and women who needed the support to alleviate the sufferings due to lack of access to services and social injustice.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships.

| Project title and main sectors of intervention | Main activities | Beneficiaries | Partners | Location | Dates of beginning and end of the project | Donors |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--------|
| Touching Minds Raising Dignity Phase II Multiple Country Coordination Platform | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the implementation of this multiple country project in Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Lebanon, Togo• Capacity strengthening• Advocacy and communication on Positive Mental Health• Community of practices, capitalization | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 countries of implementation• Services users' associations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Health and Sanitation | Freetown | January 2022 - December 2025 | AFD |
| Touching Minds Raising Dignity Phase II Mental health and psychosocial support – Project in Sierra Leone | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the mental health working group• Advocacy• Support the formulation of new mental health law and policy• Capacitate user's association• Make community visits and referral | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 320 individuals (360 in psychological distress, 80 health agents, 40 community stakeholders and 840 people sensitized)• 2 structures national users' associations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Health and Sanitation• Community Association for Psychosocial Services• Service User's and Family Members Association | Western Area Urban District (Looking Town and Susan Bay Community) | January 2022 - December 2025 | AFD |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize community support groups Conduct awareness sessions Train health care workers Train and supervise community stakeholders Support the refurbishment of the Sierra Leone Psychiatric and Teaching Hospital | | | | | |
| Agricultural Farm Project Inclusive Agricultural Farm Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support Capacity building Farmers trainings IGA & VSLA trainings Provision of seed capital Farm tourism Community sensitization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 vulnerable people (persons living with disabilities, people living with HIV and survivors of gender-based violence) 1 200 people living in rural communities 15 600 members of the partner association NETHIPS, students from schools in Freetown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network of HIV positive in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS) Visit Sierra Leone VSL) Travel | Western Area Urban and Moyamba Districts | January 2023 – December 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz Famille Leibundgut Fondation Lord Michelham |
| Saving Lives in Sierra Leone (SLiSL3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising for DHMT staff and hospital managers on disability and inclusion Basic training of DHMT health programme managers and hospital managers on inclusive transformative approach Advance training for DHMT staff and hospital managers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 171 199 direct beneficiaries: 167 780 people with disabilities, 3 419 health workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern Worldwide (lead of the consortium) Kings Global Health Partnership Welbodi Partnership SEND Sierra Leone Helen Keller International | Western Area Urban, Moyamba, Bombali, Kono, Kenema and Kambia Districts | 2024 - 2028 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) |



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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>on inclusive transformative approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness raising for service providers and health mentors in primary health centers on disability and inclusion• Training for service providers and health mentors in primary health centers on inclusive F/planning/SRHR and communicating with people with disabilities• Awareness raising for health workers/mentors in secondary hospital on disability and inclusion• Training for health workers/mentors in secondary hospital on F/planning/SRHR and communicating with people with disabilities• Adaptation and production of tools• Training service providers on adapted tool• Production of policies and IEC materials• Training and selection for organisations for people with disabilities | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|



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|---|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations for people with disabilities district specific activities Awareness session for consortium partners on disability & inclusion Basic training session for consortium partners on disability & inclusion Advance training session for consortium partners on disability & inclusion | | | | | |
| Piloting a revised system of disability assessment and certification in 2 districts in Sierra Leone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field testing of the DAD tools Revision of the DAD tools based on the findings from the testing Development of training curriculum and manual based on the findings from the testing of the DAD tool Training for 25 chiefdom assessment teams Field disability assessment On-the-job supervision and coaching for the chiefdom assessment teams Mapping of services and referral Draft a standard procedure for disability assessment Revision of the DAD tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 000 adults with disabilities: 1 000 males and 1 000 females 500 children with disabilities: 250 girls and 250 boys | | Western Area Urban and Kenema Districts | March 2024 - October 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF |



| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Digitization of the DAD tools for scale-up | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Donors

AFD



FONDATION PHILANTHROPIQUE
FAMILLE SANDOZ

FAMILLE LEIBUNDGUT

FONDATION LORD MICELHAM

UNICEF



FCDO

