

Sierra Leone

Country profile

2016
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www.devinit.org/p20i

This country profile is produced by Development Initiatives to support the National Dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As one of the founding partners of the Leave No One Behind partnership, established in July 2015, our role is to provide data at a national level to help track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so we can make sure that no one is left behind.

Poverty profile

- In Sierra Leone the national poverty line is Sierra Leonean Leone (SLL) 4,515.50 per day. According to the most recently available data (2011), 52.9% of the population live below this line, of which 66.1% live in rural areas. Tonkolili district had the highest proportion (76.4%) of the population living below the poverty line, while Western Area Urban District had the lowest (20.7%).¹

National poverty line (SLLs per day)

4515.50

Note: 2011 data.
Source: Statistics Sierra Leone

% of population living below the national poverty line

52.9%

Note: 2011 data.
Source: Statistics Sierra Leone

% of population living below the national poverty line in rural areas

66.1%

Note: 2011 data. Source:
Development Initiatives based on
World Development Indicators

Mean household income per month (2011 PPP\$)

94.46

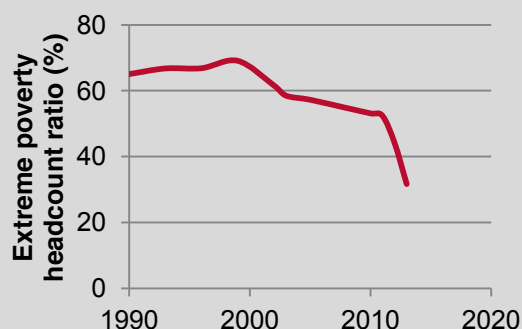
Note: 2013 data. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet

% of population living below the international extreme poverty line

31.6%

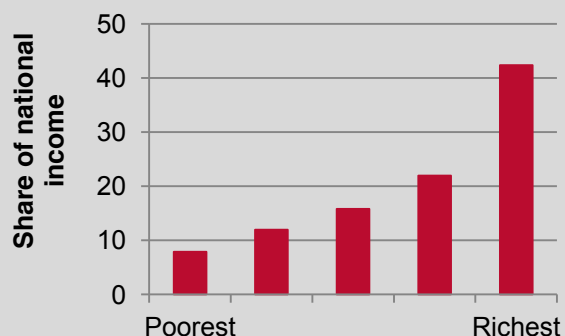
Note: 2013 data, international extreme poverty line is
2011 PPP\$1.90/day. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet

Is poverty reducing over time?



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank's PovcalNet

How is income distributed?



Note: 2011 data Source: World Development Indicators

- In Sierra Leone, extreme poverty, defined as those living on less than PPP\$1.90 a day, has decreased since 1999, falling from 69.1% to 31.62% in 2013.
- As of 2011, the richest 20% in Sierra Leone owned 42.4% of national income, in contrast to the 7.9% shared by the poorest 20%.
- In 2013,² 27.8% of people in rural areas belonged to the poorest 20%, compared with 2.8% in urban areas.³ Most urban dwellers belonged to the highest income quintile (61.2%). Moyamba and Bonthe Districts had the highest proportions in the poorest 20% (47.2% and 45.6% respectively), whereas Western Area Urban District had the lowest (0.5%).

Economic profile

- In 2015, Sierra Leone's GDP per capita was PPP\$1,497 compared with a regional average of PPP\$3,477 for sub-Saharan Africa.
- Out of 188 countries, Sierra Leone is ranked 181st on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (HDI) (2015), with a score of 0.713.
- The Gini index measures the income distribution of a country's residents where 0 means everyone earns the same, and 100 that one person earns everything. In Sierra Leone in 2013, the Gini index was 33%, down from 40% in 2003, reflecting an increasingly even distribution of income in Sierra Leone.

GDP per capita (2011 PPP\$)

1,497

Note: 2015 data.
Source: World Development Indicators

Human Development Index Ranking

181/188

Note: 2015 data. Source:
United Nations Development Programme

Gini index

33%

Note: 2013 data.
Source: Demographic and Health Survey for
Sierra Leone.

- In Sierra Leone, income inequality is higher in rural areas with a Gini index rating of 34% compared with 26% in urban areas.⁴
- Economic growth in Sierra Leone has steadily increased from 3.2% in 2009 to 20.1% in 2013, ranking it as one of the highest post-conflict economic recoveries in sub-Saharan Africa. This is mainly attributed to a return to full economic capacity post-war and a strong

contribution of extractives in the country, for instance iron ore mining contributed 19.83% of GDP (SLL 9,729.05) in 2013.

- Grants play a significant role in the economy. In 2014, revenue and grants formed 14.8% of GDP, of which grants was 4.5% of GDP. Grants increased to 5.4% of GDP in 2015 and are budgeted at 3.2% in 2016.⁵ Since 2014, humanitarian assistance continues to support Sierra Leone to recover from Ebola outbreaks and build resilience (69% of the funding requirements were met).⁶

Education outcomes

- In 2013, the government of Sierra Leone spent PPP\$52.39 per capita on education, this compares with a regional average for sub-Saharan Africa of PPP\$136.65.
- In 2013, Sierra Leone's adult literacy rate stood at 45.7%, up from 34.8% in 2004.
- In 2013, the net attendance ratio for primary schools was significantly lower for the poorest 20% at 58.4%, compared with 87.0% for the highest quintile and a national average of 71.2%. The trends are similar for secondary schools with a net attendance ratio of 22.1% for the lower wealth quintile compared with a national average of 40.0%.⁷

Adult literacy rate (%)

45.7

Note: 2013 data. Source: World Development Indicators

Per capita public expenditure on education (2011 PPP\$)

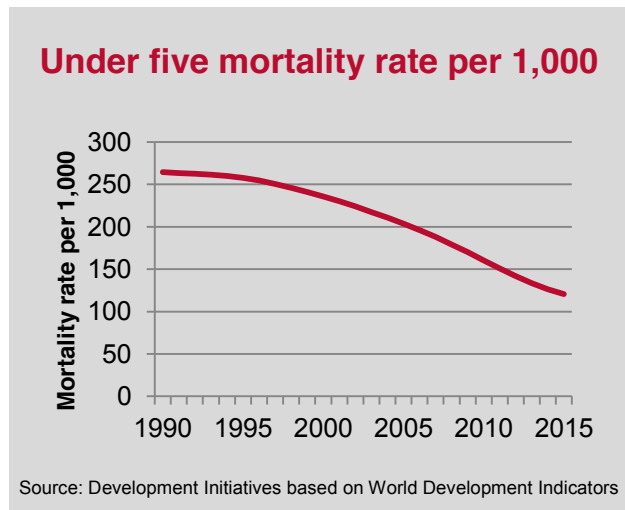
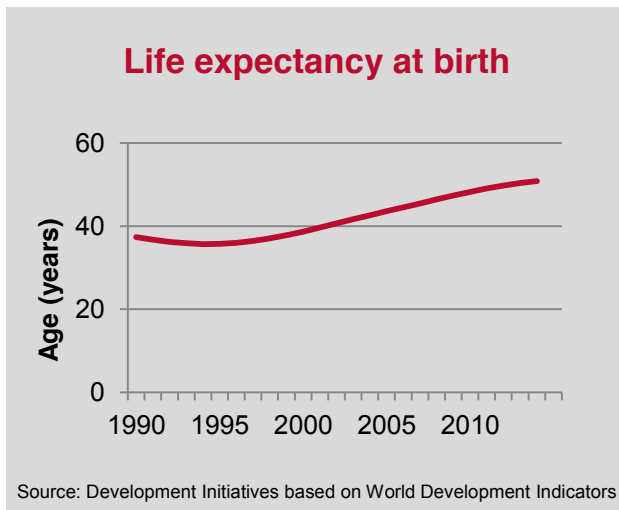
52.39

Note: 2013 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators

Health outcomes

- Life expectancy in Sierra Leone has steadily increased from 37.4 in 1990 to 50.9 in 2014, resulting from the end of the conflict and a return to normal life.
- Since 1990, the mortality rate of children under 5 has fallen from 264 per 1,000 to 120 per 1,000 in 2015.
- In 2013, children born to mothers younger than 20 years old at birth had the highest mortality rates (199 per 1,000).
- In 2013, just under half (49.4%) of women in the poorest 20% (lowest wealth quintile) delivered in a health facility, compared with 70.1% of the women in the highest quintile. Correspondingly, a higher percentage of women in the lowest wealth quintile used traditional birth attendants (43.8%), compared with 13.0% in the highest quintile.⁸
- Sierra Leone has a high annual population growth rate of 3.25%, with the population increasing from 4.977 million people in 2004 to 7.076 million people in 2015. Western Area Urban District had the highest percentage of population in 2015 (14.8%), while Bonthe District had the lowest (2.8%) in the same year.⁹
- In 2013, Sierra Leone had a total fertility rate of 4.9 children per women, with higher values in rural areas (average of 5.7). Women with no formal education had fertility rates of almost double (5.6) that of women with secondary or higher levels of education (3.0). In line with this, women in the lowest income quintile (poorest 20%) had more than double the total fertility rate (6.1) of women in the highest income quintile (3.0).¹⁰

- In 2014, public spending on healthcare in Sierra Leone was PPP\$36.15 per capita, compared with a regional average for sub-Saharan Africa of PPP\$80.12.



Note: Economic, health and education data in this profile are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's World Development Indicators and UNDP's HDI unless otherwise stated; please refer to these sources for full definition of public spending. Poverty data are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's PovcalNet unless otherwise stated.

Achieving SDGs

If global efforts to end poverty and achieve the SDGs are to be reached, it is essential that no one is left behind; the SDGs will not be considered met unless they are met for everyone. Despite a significant reduction in poverty and inequality in Sierra Leone over the last 15 years, people are still being left behind.

The poorest 20% of people, of whom most in rural areas, are being left behind in health, education and other development indicators. Stakeholders must ensure the current recovery in the economy leads to better equitable and sustainable development for all.

However, current data is not good enough to tell us exactly who is being left behind, where they live and why. To better target resources and track their progress we need to better understand who the poorest people are. To achieve this we need more and better data disaggregated by at least geography, gender, age and disability.

A new project from Development Initiatives, the P20 Initiative, will be doing just this. The P20 Initiative will provide data on whether things are improving for the poorest 20% of people globally. It will do this by gathering and using existing data and promoting better disaggregation of data on people so we can ensure that those furthest behind are reached first and included in progress so the SDGs can be achieved for all.

Contact

If you would like more information on any of the data provided in this summary or on the P20 Initiative please contact Cat Langdon on cat.langdon@devinit.org

Notes

- 1 Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL), 2014. *The Statistical Digest*. Available at: https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/annual_statistical_digest_2007_2013.pdf
- 2 Values reported as wealth quintiles. For the purpose of this brief, we assumed these to be approximately equivalent to income quintiles.
- 3 In this study, we considered the lowest income quintile as the poorest 20%.
- 4 SSI, 2014. 2013 Demographic and Health Survey. Available at: https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/demographic_and_health_survey_2013_final-report.pdf
- 5 Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, 2016. Annual budget reports. Available at: <http://mofed.gov.sl/annualbudgetrep.htm>
- 6 Humanitarian Response, 2016. *Sierra Leone districts profiles*. Available at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/sierra-leone>
- 7 SSI, 2014. 2013 Demographic and Health Survey. Available at: https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/demographic_and_health_survey_2013_final-report.pdf
- 8 SSI, 2014. 2013 Demographic and Health Survey. Available at: https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/demographic_and_health_survey_2013_final-report.pdf
- 9 SSL, 2016. 2015 Population and Housing Census provisional results. Available at: <https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015-Census-Provisional-Result.pdf>
- 10 SSI, 2014. 2013 Demographic and Health Survey. Available at: https://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/demographic_and_health_survey_2013_final-report.pdf

Data use survey

Do you use data in your work? How would you rate your use of data? What data sources do you use? We are interested to hear about the ways in which you use data in your work. Please follow the link below and complete our short survey.

Link - goo.gl/iEJdZb

The Leave No One Behind partnership seeks to drive global momentum to make sure that happens. Made up of three international non-profit organisations (CIVICUS, Development Initiatives and Project Everyone) with the support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development we have come together as founding partners to catalyse a global movement to ensure that the pledge to Leave No One Behind turns from words into reality.

For more information on the Leave No One Behind partnership please email info@leavenoonebehind.global or visit www.leavenoonebehind.global

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Development Initiatives (DI) is an independent international development organisation working on the use of data to drive poverty eradication and sustainable development.