

Sierra Leone

General

	MALES	FEMALES	YEAR
Total population under 15	1,257,997	2,674,688	2017
Total population over 15	1,666,241	1,830,689	2017

** ALL DATA FROM CIA, 2017*

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth	1,360	2015 est.	CIA, 2017
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	70	2016 est.	CIA, 2017
Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births	127.3	2012	UN Statistics, 2015
Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births	113.1	2012	UN Statistics, 2015
Births attended by a skilled health professional	60	2014	WHO, 2016
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15–49	1.3	2015	WHO, 2017
Life expectancy for men	55.6	2016 est.	CIA, 2017
Life expectancy for women	60.9	2016 est.	CIA, 2017

Education

	MALES	FEMALES	YEAR
Youth literacy rate, ages 15-24	75.79%	59.17%	2015
Adult literacy rate, ages 15+	59.04%	38.18%	2015
Net enrolment rate in primary education	98.93%	99.3%	2015
Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	46.47%	40.08%	2015
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	No Data	No Data	2015

** ALL DATA FROM UNESCO INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, 2017*

- Female graduates from tertiary education (2000) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 43.8%
- Female students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs (2001) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 25.0%
- Female teachers in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 25.6%
- Female teachers in secondary education (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2001): 27.4%
- Female teachers in tertiary education (2002) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 14.6%

Sierra Leone

Economic Activity

- Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 68.5%
- Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 65.0%
- Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a money mobile service provider (2014) (UN Statistics, 2017): 19.66%

Decision-Making

- Proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 12

Human Rights

- Girls married before 15 (UNICEF, 2016): 13%
- Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 39%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2016): 34%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during the last 12 months (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data

Gender and Development Trends in Sierra Leone

The 2014 Ebola crisis witnessed the vulnerabilities of several nations in West Africa, including Sierra Leone, to unexpected shocks. These have led to significant economic and social setbacks in the region.

Health

Early marriage in Sierra Leone is a serious threat to the health of adolescents and teenagers. In areas where early marriage is more frequently practised, young girls either do not go to school or are more likely to drop out of school for this reason (WHO, 2014).

Education

In 2013, prior to the Ebola outbreak, around 25% of children were out of school and less than 60% of 15-24 year olds in Sierra Leone had completed primary education (Education Policy and Data Centre, 2014). 76% of pupils completed primary school yet only 1% of children in Grade 4 could read with sufficient fluency for comprehension (Education Policy and Data Centre, 2014).

Economy

In 2008, female-headed households comprise 22% of Sierra Leone's total household structures (UNFPA, 2012)

Sierra Leone

The Government of Sierra Leone has outlined an 'Agenda for Prosperity: 2013-2018', in which several key areas for improving women's empowerment have been highlighted. These include: (a) education, reducing socioeconomic barriers and supporting formal and non-formal education; (b) increasing their participation in decision-making in public, private, and traditional institutions, and access to justice and economic opportunities; (c) strengthening prevention and response mechanisms to violence against women and girls; and (d) improving the business environment for women, with access to finance and capacity development (Government of Sierra Leone, 2013, p. xvi).

Governance

Women constitute more than 51% of the total population in Sierra Leone but occupy only 15 out of 124 seats in parliament. The country is expected to hold general elections in March 2018, which may provide an opportunity to increase the level of women's political participation (Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 2016).

Human Rights

According to a 2016 U.S. Department of State report, Sierra Leone criminalises rape, which is punishable by between five and 15 years' imprisonment. Despite this, rape occurs commonly and is "viewed more as a societal norm than a criminal problem" (U.S. Department of State, 2016, p. 16).

2015 data from Sierra Leone's Family Support Unit (FSU) indicates 2,398 cases of rape and sexual penetration, with the majority occurring in the Freetown area and the Eastern province (U.S. Department of State, 2016).

Sierra Leone SDG Progress Profile

- Sierra Leone is currently ranked 138th for overall performance under the SDGs, with a median rank of 133rd.
- Sierra Leone has ranked 179th in the UN's 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) (UNDP, 2015).

SDG 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels. (Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 8.6 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%): 62.7 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Net primary school enrolment rate (%): Insufficient data

In the interim period between the closing of the MDGs and the implementation of the SDGs, a 2016 Government of Sierra Leone interim report identified major challenges to the goal of universal primary education. These include a need to increase the access, retention, and completion profiles children in the nation. The report estimates that 14% of children had

Sierra Leone

difficulty accessing schools in 2010, and identified a need to enhance the overall capacity of the schooling system, by 56% (Government of Sierra Leone, 2016).

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.

(Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Women in national parliaments (%): 12.4 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female years of schooling (% male): 54.1 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female labor force participation (% male): Insufficient data
- Unmet demand for contraceptives (%): 65.7 (major challenges must be overcome)

A 2016 UNDP report notes that the after effects of Ebola have “affected women [in Sierra Leone] through the loss of livelihoods attributable to reduced productivity in agriculture, trade (including cross-border trade), small businesses and service sector activities” (p. 37)

Sierra Leone

References

- Bertelsmann Stiftung (2016). *Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboards (2016)*. Retrieved from http://www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/sdg_index_and_dashboards_indicator_profiles.pdf
- CIA. (2017). The World Factbook: Country profiles. Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>
- Dieterich, Huang & Thomas, 2014. *Women's Opportunities and Challenges in Sub-Saharan African Job Markets*. IMF Working Paper, WP/16/118.
- Education Policy and Data Centre (2014). *Sierra Leone*. Retrieved from https://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP_Sierra%20Leone.pdf
- Government of Sierra Leone (February 2016). *Interim Millennium Development Goals Report 2015: Sierra Leone*. Retrieved from <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MDG%20Report%202015%20ofinal.pdf>
- UNESCO Institute of Statistics. (2015). *Education*. Retrieved from <http://data.uis.unesco.org>
- UNESCO (2017). *UNESCO Institute of Statistics*. Retrieved from <http://uis.unesco.org/>
- UN Data (2017). *Sierra Leone*. Retrieved from <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Sierra%20Leone>
- UNDP (2015). *Human Development Data (1990-2015)*. Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>
- UNDP (2016). *Africa Human Development Report 2016: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa*. New York, NY. Retrieved from <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/2016-africa-human-development-report/>
- UNFPA (2012). *Sierra Leone: Country Implementation Profile*. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/FINAL_Sierra_Leone.pdf
- UNICEF (2016a). "The State of the World's Children 2016." Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/sowc/>

Sierra Leone

- United Nations Statistics (2017). *SDG Indicators*. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=8.10.2>
- United States Department of State. (2016). *Sierra Leone 2016 Human Rights Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265510.pdf>
- UN Women (2016). *Global Database on Violence Against Women: Sierra Leone*. Retrieved from <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/sierra-leone>
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (2016). *Women's Political Participation in Sierra Leone*. Retrieved from <http://www.wfd.org/womens-political-participation-in-sierra-leone/>
- World Bank (2017). *Databank (Labour Force Participation)*. Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>
- World Economic Forum. (2013). *The Global Gender Gap Report 2013*. Retrieved from http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf
- World Economic Forum. (2016). *The Global Gender Gap Report 2016*. Retrieved from <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/economies/#economy=RWA>
- World Health Organisation (2014). "Analytical Summary - Gender and Women's Health." Retrieved from http://www.aho.afro.who.int/profiles_information/index.php/Sierra_Leone:Analytical_summary_-_Gender_and_women%27s_health
- World Health Organisation (2016). *World Health Statistics 2016: Monitoring Health for the SDGs*. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/en/
- World Health Organisation (2017). *Global Health Observatory Data Repository*. Retrieved from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.22500?lang=en>