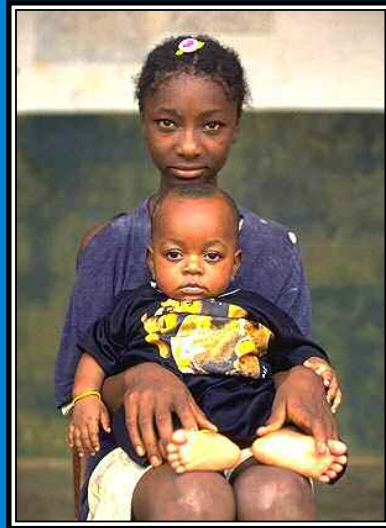


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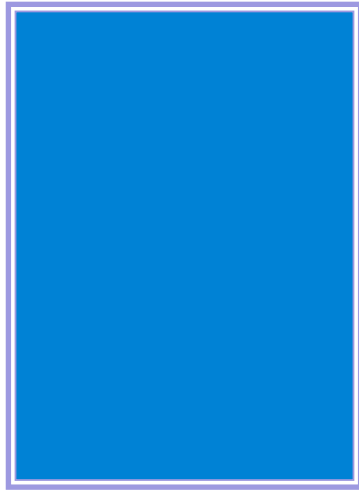


SIERRA LEONE

REPORT 2009

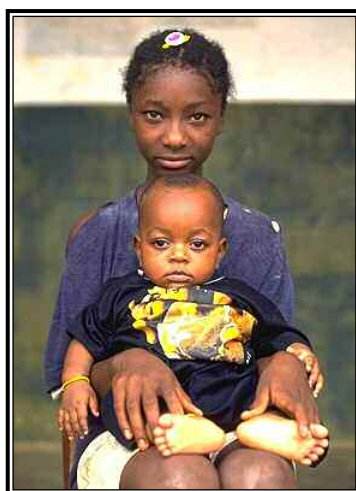


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SIERRA LEONE REPORT 2009



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THE MANTRA GREEN MICROFINANCE PROJECT
OF THE SPANDA FOUNDATION

RESEARCH & REPORT TEAM

SAHLAN MOMO *Director*

REBECCA BENTLEY *Executive Summary - Editing*

PIETRO CHEN *Employment - Education - Poverty - Energy*

BENOÎT GÉRARD *General Presentation - Population and Society - Political System - Economy
Agriculture - Health - Environment and Natural Resources*

PATRICIA MARTÍN GÓMEZ *Women - Climate Change*

JENNIFER NEWSOM *Editing*



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ACRONYMS



APC	All People's Congress
BHP	Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
EFI	Economic Freedom Index
EU-EOMSL	European Union Election Observation Mission Republic of Sierra Leone
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FMG	Female Genital Mutilation
GCR	Gross Completion Rate
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GST	Goods and Services Tax
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HRW	Human Rights Watch
HTC	Higher Teacher Certificate
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPRSP	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MINUSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
NPA	National Power Authority
PHR	Physicians for Human Rights
RUF	Revolutionary United Front
SCSL	Special Court for Sierra Leone
SHARP	Sierra Leone HIV and AIDS Response Programme
SSL	Statistics Sierra Leone
TC	Teacher Certificate
TICPI	Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TVE	Technical and Vocational Education
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



IN ESPIITE OF THE STEADY progress that Sierra Leone has made since the end of 11-year civil war in 2002, much still awaits to be done. The successful 2007 government elections – won by president Ernest Bai Koroma and his All People’s Congress (APC) – and a steady six to seven percent growth rate has encouraged the country along its path to democracy and economic growth. However, addressing a number of social and economic threats is essential to avoid civil war and destruction from recurring and to foster development. One of the most crucial concerns is the deep-rooted issue of government corruption. Sierra Leone is a republic with a democratically elected president who holds executive powers vested in Parliament. The political system is blurred and complex as the traditional political system has merged with modern nation-state administration. The traditional social organisation, structured along various levels of chieftaincy, has been integrated into the national political system. In each of the thirteen administrative districts, the Paramount Chief is co-opted by a Chiefdom Council to support entry into Parliament. Below the district level, local power is mostly inherited and undemocratic. Districts are presided over by District Councils, which are in turn divided into Chiefdoms. Paramount Chiefs govern the Chiefdom Councils and administer authority to Town Chiefs and Section Chiefs. It is claimed that the relationship between the District Councils and the various Chiefs lacks clarity, with undefined and overlapping roles that are generally unrepresentative and undemocratic.

Although institutional frameworks have been established, for local councils to begin to deliver much-needed social services to war-affected individuals and to represent the population fairly, the corrupt system requires fiscal decentralization. A fairer electoral system needs to be formed in order to represent women and youths who are largely underrepresented and marginalised in the current system. Patronage networks and identity politics continue to influence government decisions, causing corruption to continually undermine its credibility. However, the new government has sanctioned the increase of individualism, and an interest in voluntary association are beginning to replace the old system of patronage networks and the employment of extended families. This change is more visible in urban areas as opposed to rural. The government has also been called to tackle the issue of corruption, establishing the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2000. However, the lack of resources and its failure in securing the convictions of those at the top are a clear sign that the fight against corruption lacks direction and focus.

Economic growth has degenerated in the last forty years – particularly during the civil war – due to a decline in the mining sector, on which the economy relies heavily, and heightened corruption among government officials. Although the country has been on the road to recovery since the end of the civil war in 2002, its economy remains a serious concern as the effects of slow economic growth impact heavily on the majority of the population, 70.2% of which live below the poverty line. Furthermore, in the 2009 UN Human Development Report (HDR) the country ranked at the 180th position out of the 182 enlisted, a clear indicator that development still has a long way to go. The government has been making changes and, between 2004 and 2007, the annual economic growth was equivalent to over 7%. Although substantial mineral, agricultural, and fishing resources are broadly present, and provide food supplies and employment for the majority of the population, the physical and social infrastructures of the country are undeveloped and prevent foreign investment. Moreover, social unrest due to the unemployment of many youths continues to hamper economic development. The exploitation of fish supplies, continuous deforestation and the pollution of rivers and streams mainly for diamond mining, is jeopardizing the income for a substantial portion of the population that relies on the country’s natural resources for sustenance. The 2009 Economic Freedom Index (EFI) depicts the country as weak in business freedom, trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom, property rights, freedom from corruption, and labour freedom. Again being marred by corruption, licensing requirements and restrictive regulations in certain sectors reduces investment opportunities and affects economic growth.

Unemployment is a serious cause for concern and has been stated as a top priority on the agenda of the new democratic government. The high number of unemployed youths – suggested as a possible cause for the outbreak of the civil war – amounting to 60% is of particular concern. It is essential to resolve the issue promptly and effectively, as frustrated youths could resort to violence and return the country to its former destabilised condition. Donor aid and peace building interventions have targeted skills training and civic education, and have provided young people with renewed means for non-violent mobilisation. Post-war reconstruction has increased the number of jobs and training

programmes available to young people. In both urban and rural areas, most youths have found employment in the informal sector, and many are self-employed. Nonetheless, these attempts have been short-lived as reconstruction efforts have decreased in scale and intensity. Research shows that over half of the unemployed population are between the ages of 20-34, and that there are a higher numbers of unemployed women than men. The number of young women employed is relatively high because many drop out of school at an early age to assist in generally unpaid family activities and household chores. Adversely, many men continue onto advanced education before entering the job market, and are therefore more desirable to employers.

The statistics of employment vary by region. The Eastern region has a high rate unemployment, largely because the area has been most severely affected by the war and, as a result, many of its ex-combatant residents have not managed to integrate well into society and productive activities. The Western Urban Area, home to the country's capital of Freetown, is the economic and financial centre and boasts a significantly high rate of employment. Agricultural labour is the most common source of employment, particularly in the Western Rural region. Self-employment is evident in the crop farming and trade repairs sectors, a positive indicator of economic development and a free market economy. Child labour is a critical concern and, as the majority of working children are girls, is an issue that needs to be addressed to establish gender equality in the work force.

Education is a decisive element in development and economic growth as literacy levels are crucial to the advancement of many sectors and in creating a strong and stable infrastructure. Hence, education affects the rates of employment and crop productivity, thereby further impacting on the health and nutrition of the population. Despite huge setbacks to education reform caused by the war, since 2001 tremendous progress has been made in extending primary education provisions in both government assisted and non-formal community schools. Primary school enrolments have highly increased in the last decade and the overall gross enrolment rate for primary education has jumped from 35% in the early 1990s to 122% by mid-2003. Moreover, the enrolment gap between males and females has narrowed considerably, largely due to the abolition of tuition fees, the provision of school-sponsored meals, improvements to schooling infrastructure and enhanced awareness of the importance of education. In spite of considerable progression, major challenges remain concerning access, completion and the overall quality of education. Only approximately one-third of children between the ages 5 to 17 have been to school, and differences in urban and rural enrolment rates remain substantial. Dropout rates continue to be high due to long travel distances to schools, child labour on family farms and acute poverty. Whilst teachers in urban areas, such as Freetown, are generally qualified, their number in rural areas is very limited. In the main, university students come from more affluent and urban family backgrounds, signalling the great rural and urban divide on many levels and affecting the development of the country.

With the majority of the population living in rural farming areas, agriculture – employing approximately 70% of the labour force – is the most important source of labour and productivity. The tropical climate provides good conditions for crop growth and large amounts of annual rainfall are ideal for the production of rice, the most important subsistence crop grown by 80% of the farmers. Nonetheless, the annual production of rice is insufficient to feed the population, and about a fourth of rice consumed annually is imported. The exportation of produce has increased, particularly of cacao, *gari* (cassava flour), palm oil, and to a lesser extent coffee, kola nuts and palm roughage. Crop production is hindered by a lack of up-to-date farming and production inputs, such as tractors and fertilizers that would enhance the efficacy and speed of production. Among other factors, poor soil quality, land degradation, erratic rainfall, and climate change affect the standards of agricultural productivity. The exportation of meat products has also increased in recent years, and countries such as Egypt and South Africa are considering investment in the agricultural sector.

Health is a serious issue. Many food and waterborne diseases are common among the population, particularly malaria. Another serious health risk is the spread of sexually transmitted diseases that increased enormously during the civil war, whereby thousands of women were subjected to widespread sexual violence, including rape and sexual slavery. Many women consequently experienced birth complications, which sometimes lead to illness, injury and even death. Women are likely to experience future complications including uterine problems and scarring, reducing their ability to have a normal sex life, and to conceive or carry a child to the full term. The health of children born to abused and abducted women also suffers, as the mothers often have no female guidance, which contributes to high rates in infant mortality. Sexual abuse affects the mental health of victims; the Human Rights Watch has revealed that many women do not report their experiences, as they feel ashamed and fear stigmatisation. The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in Sierra Leone, with substantial expertise in treating survivors of sexual violence, believes that counselling on a large scale is needed to help women rebuild their futures.

The civil war caused many disabilities, with the estimated number being 250,000 in total. Disabled individuals have greater difficulty seeking employment and many suffer psychological trauma as a result of their experiences. The health system is of an extremely low standard and is impaired by a lack of trained and sufficiently motivated staff. There is a shortage of drugs and medical supplies, of blood for transfusion, grossly inadequate provisions for emergency obstetric care, poor infrastructure, and an ineffective referral system. Furthermore, there is little or no monitoring and accountability at the local or national level to ensure that the health care system functions effectively. The scant attention paid until recently to conflict related sexual violence has determined little consideration of funding on the health needs of women and girls, as required to adequately address the scale of the problem. Many victims of the conflict, especially in remote villages, still suffer trauma from the experiences they endured and will be unable to receive counselling. Further health hazards are caused by water pollution and a general deficiency in waste collection and sewage disposal throughout the country.

The majority of the population lives in abject poverty and an ever-growing mass of young and socially alienated people are a threat to the security of the country. Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) has collected data from a 2004 report, revealing that 71% of the population can be considered poor and that poverty levels are largely influenced by regional differences. The poorest regions were those that largely suffered from the civil war, notably the Northern and Eastern regions, with the most prosperous region being the Western Urban Area. Although research reveals that geographical differences in poverty levels are not markedly pronounced, poverty is still a widespread phenomenon.

The natural environment is changing at a very fast pace. The rapid growth of the population has led to agricultural expansion, and resulted in soil depletion, while lumbering, cattle grazing, and slash-and-burn farming are destroying the primary forests. Deforestation is also due to the growing need for food – as a population has virtually doubled in the last fifty years – and to the use of wood for home cooking. Overfishing to feed the populace has endangered the renewal fish and the civil war badly affected the country's natural resources. In an attempt to resolve these issues, the country has taken part in several environment agreements concerning biodiversity, climate change, desertification, preservation of endangered species, marine life conservation, ozone layer protection, and ship pollution.

The effects of climate change are visible. Some of the effects of regional climate change have only recently emerged and remain difficult to discern as some regions have adapted well. The country is experiencing seasonal droughts, strong winds, thunderstorms, landslides, heat waves, flooding, changed rainfall patterns, higher temperatures, and the spreading of the Sahara Desert. These changes drastically affect crop production, forest management, the number of heat related deaths and the spread of diseases such as malaria. A country representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) has observed that the issue of climate change and its devastating effect on health could debase the country's chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Health issues at least partly induced by climate change include malnutrition and the spread of vector borne, waterborne and enteric diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery, and diarrhoea, which are all largely caused by rising temperatures. Climate change is severely affecting the economy as the country depends heavily on its natural resources, particularly for fish consumption and the production of rice. Potential increases in the frequency and severity of droughts are likely to exacerbate land erosion, as well as the ecosystems vulnerable to accelerated land erosion on unprotected hillsides that are at risk from landslides. The rising sea levels will have a significant impact on the coastline infrastructure, on socio-economic activities and communities. Roads, buildings and substantial government investments will be at particular risk, as will drinking water sources and damaged sanitary infrastructure, which could prompt waterborne epidemics.

Power supply, along with many other crucial concerns, was badly damaged during the civil war. Limited power supply, caused by the low generating capacity and unreliability of the generators, has resulted in frequent blackouts throughout the country, and many households consequently rely on charcoal and kerosene for lighting and cooking. Most people receive on average twelve hours of electricity in a given 48-hour period. The country relies on its forests for 80% of its energy supply, thereby contributing to deforestation. The majority of energy is consumed by the three main cities, Freetown, Kenema and Makeni. The government has resumed the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project to increase the country's electricity supply. The project aims to construct a hydropower complex intended to improve the likelihood of meeting the country's needs for low costs and sustainability, and to provide power to areas that currently have no supply. In January 2009, President Ernest Bai Konoma launched a \$ 200 million project to generate power by producing ethanol, which would produce renewable energy and employ more than 4,000 Sierra Leoneans. It is evident that the issue of energy resources is being taken seriously and the benefits of the projects undertaken will hopefully be visible in the near future.





PRESENTATION¹

SIERRA LEONE is a small West African country that borders Guinea-Conakry in the Northeast and Liberia in the Southeast. The largest city is the capital Freetown, followed by Bo and Kenema. The country covers a total area of 71,740 km².



The population is composed of twenty ethnic groups: the most prominent are the Mende (29.5%) in the south and the Temne (24.2%) in the north. The Krio (9.5%), Limba (6.7%), Kuranko (5.4%), Kono (4.1%), Loko (2.7%), Sherbro (2.7%), Kissi (2.5%), Soussou (2.4%), and Maninka (2.1%) make up the majority of the remaining population. Krio is the dominant language and is used by 95% of the population.

Historically, Sierra Leone is one of the first West African countries to come into contact with Europe. In the fifteenth century, the Portuguese established commercial relationships with local tribes and the slave trade between Europeans and the indigenous population began in the sixteen century. Freetown subsequently became a British colony in 1787. Since gaining colonial independence in 1961, the fragility of the western model of state combined with tribal wars, plunged the country into political instability. In the 1970s, a single-party system was established, but the country was adversely affected by a strong economic crisis in the 1980s. In 1991, the Liberian conflict spread over into Sierra Leone leading to a struggle for political power and natural resources, particularly diamonds. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (MINUSIL) was forced to intervene and put an end to the conflict and, in January 2002, 47,000 combatants were disarmed. Approximately one-third of the population was displaced and many were sexually abused and mutilated.

In May 2002, the former president Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was re-elected with a 70% majority and the United Nations created the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). Political stability has been re-established, but the country is still facing many political, economic and social challenges. Consequently, the 2007-2008 and the 2009 United Nations Human Development Reports (HDR) ranked Sierra Leone at the bottom of the list based on the Human Development Index (HDI).



Temne Wooden Polychrome Helmet Mask, Sierra Leone, 19th century AD.

As with other tribes of Africa, the Temne are regulated by secret societies who oversee political life and initiation rites. Both men and women are involved in the complex procedures and ceremonies related to the coming of age. Young male initiates are under the guidance of the *Poro* society, whose adult members take them from the village for several months or even years until they have reached a level of maturity. Girls are under the guidance of the *Sande* society, which helps prepare them for marriage. During initiation, the young girls wear a helmet mask known as a *bundu*, representing the ancestors presiding over the initiates.

This spectacular mask is of that type,
and is certainly monumental in its presence.

The four faces around the central portion are similar
in appearance, each with eyes closed as if in meditation.

Two of them have color only on the lips; while the other two are marked with brilliant rose-red around the chin or down the center of the forehead. These may be ancestral figures, who are often grouped in pairs. The figure on top is riding on the crest, holding onto the elaborate hairdo with supreme confidence as if he is in complete command. He wears a peaked headdress which may indicate a high position in society, or a variety of helmet-masks worn during initiation.

The power of this headdress elevates
it to a true sculpture, in which we can see
an interplay between the human and other
worldly forces that is both beautiful and hypnotic.

1 - POPULATION & SOCIETY¹



1.1 - RELIGION

SIXTY PERCENT of the population identify themselves as Muslim, 30% as Animists and 10% as Christian or Catholic. While religious orientation varies widely, religious practices are often syncretic. A person may attend Sunday mass, for example, and still make sacrifices to ancestors in the hope of good fortune. Likewise, Muslim rituals may appear to dominate some areas, often merging with indigenous customs. There are a number of indigenous religious practitioners, who mediate with the spirit world. These include diviners, healers, female and male society elders and Wiccan specialists. Churches, mosques and society clearings in the forest or town are used to serve as focal points for organizing religious activities. Water is often an integral part of religious rituals, with many consequently taking place by lakes, rivers or streams.

Burial customs can vary depending on the region or religion, but most people encompass a firm conviction in the existence of God and the spirit world, particularly upholding the divine ability of ancestors to intervene in everyday life situations. Sacrifices, ritual remembrances and prayer enlist ancestors' support and good favour.

1.2 - SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

The basic household structure typically includes an extended family organized for farm and agricultural production. Many households are polygamous, whereby a husband takes more than one wife. The first or senior wife, usually holds authority over the other wives, and is responsible for training and organizing them into a functional unit. Monogamy is common, but mainly among urban and Christian families. Fertility is highly valorised and larger households tend to earn more respect. Having many children is considered an investment that, though initially expensive, eventually allows a family to accumulate wealth by creating a large and diverse labour pool. Fathers can procure a large dowry for their daughters and strategically arrange marriages to cement alliances.

Inheritance laws tend to favour male heirs, with rights of inheritance usually passing directly to the deceased's (male head of the household) eldest living brother. The heir is most likely to inherit land and personal property, but inheritance may also include the deceased's wives and any young children. If there are no surviving brothers, inheritance passes to the eldest adult son. There are exceptions, however, most notably among the coastal Sherbro women who may be heads of households, village chiefs, or even lineage heads. It is not unusual in these circumstances for women to become trustees of land or property.

Kinship networks are extremely important in everyday matters, with lifelong obligations to assist family members. These networks also play an important role in hearing legal cases and settling disputes before they are referred to a third party mediator. Thus, upon marriage a man and a woman may each prefer to settle near their own kin, as this provides them with distinct political and economic advantages. Though rights and responsibilities exist throughout a family, maternal uncles are often particularly important figures, conferring both obligations and entitlements to particular individuals.

The average person's primary allegiance is to their village rather than to a larger unit. People are concerned with the government on a larger scale only when they are involved in a court case or are required to pay business taxes. Villages are divided into wards or quarters, the nucleus of each ward is presided over by descendants of an original settler. There is usually a meeting place for the men of the ward where the village head and the elders settle disputes during a general meeting, in which the aim is to permit the parties to air their grievances freely. The elders then arbitrate and pass a judgement with the goal of reaching a settlement and restoring harmony.

The Paramount Chief technically holds the territory of an administrative Chiefdom. In conjunction with the Paramount Chief, older families that prove they are descendants of a village founder are able to control the land close to their home. These families then control and administer land, a valuable asset in a subsistence society that gives them superiority over non-landholders. Colonial administrators in some ways exacerbate these differences between people by favouring elite families who support their agenda with urban employment opportunities, political appointments and education. An elder male of the lineage usually administers land to those who request a plot to farm. Land is mainly given to members of his extended family, but he may award it to strangers who provide a gift of respect and usually some portion of the ensuing harvest.

1.3 ~ MARRIAGE

For all Sierra Leonean, marriage is a right of passage into adulthood and brings considerable prestige to both bride and groom. Specific customs vary by ethnic group and socio-economic status. The ritual usually begins when a man has been able to assemble enough bride price, often a mixture of money and fine cloth, to give to the prospective bride and her family. He may be able to amass this himself, but usually has to ask his father and his father's brothers for support. Traditionally, all marriages were arranged between families; sometimes while the girl was still quite young. Increasingly, 'love marriages' are more common especially among the literate population.

1.4 ~ SOCIALIZATION

Mothers carry infants close to them at all times by strapping them to their back with a brightly coloured cloth or *lappa*. Babies are breast-fed often for well over a year, although solid food, usually rice pap, may be introduced at a young age. Both the extended family and the community share responsibility in rearing infants and children. It is not unusual for a mother to 'give' her child to a trusted friend or relative, though she of course would still play an active part in the child's life.

Providing parents can afford school fees, most will try to send their children to formal schooling. This is often Western-style education, although Arabic schools are also an option in many areas.

Outside the formal system, men and women's societies have historically provided important instruction for proper behaviour. Boys may learn the arts of proper social conduct, also including conflict mediation and forest survival. Similarly, girls learn crucial social, household and childbearing skills to prepare them for womanhood. *Sande*⁴ is an influential women's secret society that initiates girls into adulthood. It confers fertility, instills notions of morality and proper sexual comportment; and maintains an interest in the wellbeing of its members throughout their lives. In addition, *Sande* champions women's social and political interests and promotes their solidarity vis-a-vis the *Poro*, a complementary institution for men.

Traditionally, these instructions for young people would last more than a year. Increasingly, however, pressures from school and urban environments have shortened this time to a month or less. Children begin to take part in the work process at an early age and are not, as a rule, kept separate from adults. Small children imitate adult activities in their games and initially undertake light tasks. Girls help to pound grain, draw water, use winnowing baskets, fetch firewood and so on, while boys drive off birds and monkeys from the farms and then help in weeding until they are able to undertake a young man's share of cultivation. Among cattle-keeping groups, boys practice adult roles by handling calves.

1.5 ~ HABITAT

Outside the built up area of urban Freetown, the traditional house in Sierra Leone is a clay and earth structure built with a thatch roof. Construction can be either 'wattle and daub'⁵, or clay and earth blocks which dry and hardened in the sun. These construction techniques enable the inside of houses to remain relatively cool during the hot and dry months. Modern materials are now often incorporated into building techniques, especially zinc sheets for roofs and cement to cover floors and walls. While making the interior of the house cooler during the hot season, these materials also reduce the amount of maintenance necessary.

Houses are either round or rectangular and typically offer a veranda, a central parlour and two or three interior rooms. These may function as bedrooms or food storage areas. Families that are more affluent may form a cluster of houses into a compound that is sometimes walled off to separate it from the rest of the village. Kitchens are often located outside the main house. On sunny days, the kitchen is often located wherever a woman places her 'three stones': large rocks that support a pot heated by a stick fire. During cool *harmattan* evenings, this area becomes a place where children gather to listen to storytelling by their elders. During the rainy season, it is not unusual to see a woman move her pots inside the parlour of the main house to get away from the damp.

Traditional older towns and villages are not structured with grid-like 'streets' *per se* and the houses appear in irregular and sometimes densely packed clumps. More recently, new constructions resulting from trade and commerce expansions tend to be organized along railroad lines or streets, creating a more linear system. Depending on the size, almost all villages will include shops or market areas, a centralized public court space, a church or mosque, a school, wells and latrines. Cemeteries are usually positioned on the periphery of a village and at either edge of a town there are carefully defined *Poro* or *Bundu*.

POPULATION*	6,440,053
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (estimated)**	935,800
GENDER RATIO (male/female)*	
Total	0.94
At birth	1.03
Under 15	0.96
15-64	0.92
65 and over	0.84
AGE DISTRIBUTION (%)*	
0-14	44.4
15-64	52.2
65 and over	3.2
MEDIAN AGE (years)*	
Total	17.5
Male	17.2
Female	17.8
POPULATION GROWTH RATE (%)*	2.3
MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000)*	21.91
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000)*	44.73
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (births per female)****	5.2
NET MIGRATION RATE (per 1,000)*	0
URBANIZATION*	
Urban population (%)	38
Rural population (%)	62
Urbanization annual rate (%)	2.9

TABLE 1 – 2008-2009 General data³.

¹ Countries and their culture, *Sierra Leone*, (<http://www.everyculture.com/Sa-Th/Sierra-Leone.html>).

² *Ibidem*.

³ Sources: * Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009*, (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).

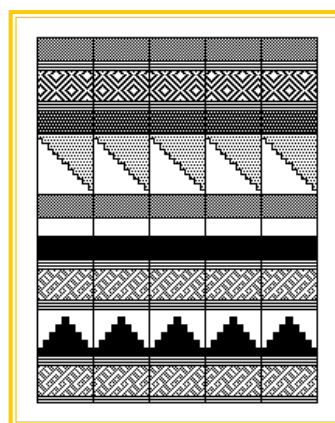
** Kenda S. Kamara, *Sierra Leone: Microfinance Demand and Stakeholders Perceptions of Impact*, 2008, (<http://community.eldis.org/>).

*** Diplomazia Economica Italiana, *Sierra Leone: il Paese è pronto a rinascere*, 2009.

**** UNDP, *Human Development Report 2009*.

⁴ *Sande* is also known as *zadagi*, *bundu*, *bundo* and *bondo*. Today this social institution is found among the Bassa, Gola, Kissi, Kpelle, Loma, Mano and Vai of Liberia; the Bullom, Kono, Limba, Mende, Sherbro, Temne and Yalunka of Sierra Leone; and in the Northern and Eastern extension of these ethnic groups in Guinea.

⁵ *Wattle* is a frame made with a group of poles secured by intertwining twigs and vines. This frame is then daubed or plastered with soft earth.



Textile pattern, Sierra Leone, 18th century AD.

2 - POLITICAL SYSTEM



2.1 - OVERVIEW

SIERRA LEONE is a republic with a democratically elected president and unicameral parliament. Supreme legislative powers are vested in Parliament, the law making body of the nation. Supreme executive authority resides with the president and members of his cabinet. Judicial power remains with the court, which is headed by the Chief Justice.

The political system of Sierra Leone is the result of a blurred and complex articulation between the former traditional political system and modern nation-state administration. The traditional social organisation, organized in chieftaincies at different levels, has been integrated into the national political system. In each district, the Paramount Chief is co-opted by a Chiefdom Council to support entry into parliament. Below the district level, local power is mostly inherited.

During colonisation, the chieftaincy was used by the British administration to legitimate their power. Since independence in 1961, the governments of both major political parties have also used the chiefs to consolidate and maintain power among the people¹. Although the traditional power has been set aside, it has remained influential at least with regards to culture and justice². In post-war Sierra Leone, international partners have supported the paramount chieftaincy's restoration and the establishment of local councils to facilitate broad-based recovery and peace building. However, on a number of key issues such as tax collection and public service delivery, relations among the central government, the local councils and chiefdom authorities remain unclear. Although institutional frameworks have been established, in order for local councils to begin to deliver much-needed social services to war-affected individuals, fiscal decentralization is essential³.

According to observers, the last national elections were free, fair and credible.

2.2 - LOCAL POWER

Sierra Leone is divided into 4 administrative zones and 13 districts. The Western Area consists of the capital city Freetown and its surroundings areas, which is also considered a district. The Northern region contains 5 districts, with the Southern region containing 4 and the Eastern region containing 3 districts.

Since the Local Government Act of 2004 was passed, elected local councils called District Councils now administer the districts⁴; each consisting of a mayor and counsellors⁵. A candidate for the Local Council Elections may present himself to the electorate as a political party member, as an individual, or as an independent candidate. Councillors, chairpersons and council mayors are elected by a simple majority vote for a four-year term. There are 19 different local councils in the country:

- 12 District Councils;
- 2 Councils in the Western Area district: Urban Area Council (Freetown) and Rural Area Council⁶;
- 4 other City Councils in Bo, Makeni, Koidu, New Sembhun and Kenema. The inhabitants of these big cities vote only for the City Councils, not for the District Council in which their city is located;
- 1 Municipal Council in Bonthe.

Modern Sierra Leone has more than four-fifths of its land mass and population under the direct hegemony of 'semi traditional' power. The districts are in turn divided into Chiefdoms, characterized by pervasive inequality and centralized authority.

Paramount Chiefs who preside over the Chiefdom Councils administer chiefdoms. Paramount Chiefs are orally elected through a system of electoral colleges composed of very small, undemocratic pools of 'chieftaincy families'⁷. These electoral colleges are the Chiefdom Councils, comprised of Town Chiefs and Section Chiefs^{8,9}. Eligible candidates for the Paramount Chief must come from a ruling house (a form of royal family concept). Except for the Western Area, which is divided in sections and administered by Headmen, in each of the districts, the Paramount Chiefs choose one fellow chief to represent the district in the national parliament^{10,11}. Headmen are elected by the taxpayers within that section.

At the next level, the Section Chiefs are responsible for their sections, which are composed of several towns. “A Section Chief shall be elected by the Chieftom Councillors in the Section in accordance with the customs and traditions of that section of the Chieftom. If the Minister is satisfied with the conduct of the election, the newly elected Section Chief shall be formally recognized by the publication of the election in a Gazette¹².”

The final unit is the town, which is administered by Town Chiefs. Within the Chieftoms, the Town Chiefs are elected by the taxpayers in the town in accordance with the relevant customs and traditions. In each town, an Elder Comity, consisting of a few elderly men and women, advise the Town Chief in his actions, but have no restrictive power over him¹³. In every town, a Chairman is elected as representative of the district.

Chiefs typically rule for life, but, in theory, they can be removed for ‘gross misconduct’ by the national government. The Civil Society criticises this mandate for being too vague.

“While district and town councils are responsible for service delivery, Chieftom authorities maintain their own infrastructure of police and courts, which are also funded by local taxes¹⁴.”

From 18 onwards, villagers are required to pay a local tax (approximately one euro per year). The Town Chiefs collect the taxes from villagers and give them receipts. Controls are carried out by the Chieftom police. Those that have no receipt pay three times the initial tax. The money collected is then deposited in the Chieftom account and the Paramount Chief will be accountable to the government for the tax revenue. During the Chieftom Council sessions, the chiefs can receive money for a particular project if they gather a simple majority¹⁵.

2.3 ~ COUNCIL OF PARAMOUNT CHIEFS

An interim Council of Paramount Chiefs was established by the former President Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, with the intention of turning such bodies into a permanent institution and to promote collaboration between the chiefs, and the government. The primary advisory function of a National Council of Paramount Chiefs would be to call the council to voice issues concerning: land tenure in the provinces, criteria of succession, recognition of ruling houses, methods for strengthening the socio-economic development of Chieftoms and a review of customary law to build national standards¹⁶.

2.4 ~ EXECUTIVE POWER

The president is the head of state, the head of government and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and of the police. The president appoints and heads a cabinet of ministers that is approved by Parliament. The president is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two five-year terms and holds the most influential position within the government.

2.5 ~ LEGISLATIVE POWER

The Parliament has 124 seats¹⁷. Each of the country’s 13 districts is represented in parliament and 112 members are elected concurrently during presidential elections. Paramount Chiefs occupy the remaining 12 seats from each of the country’s 12 administrative districts that are administered by them. Western Rural Area is dependent on a Headman¹⁸. All members of Parliament serve five-year terms¹⁹.

2.6 ~ GOVERNANCE

The New Local Government Act of 2004 is currently under revision. Whereas a Chieftaincy Act was created in 2009, civil society has denounced it as maintaining the *status quo*. Critics claimed that Chieftom Councils are voluntarily kept unrepresentative and undemocratic and lend themselves to political interference and manipulation. This electoral college system is skewed in favour of elderly males and women and youths are marginalized by means of a biased selection process that requires candidates to be tax payers. Critics also point out that the Draft Act contains clauses that appear to be designed to cover up prosecuting allegedly fraudulent chieftaincy elections. Furthermore, the relations between the District Councils and the Chiefs lack clarity, with undefined and overlapping roles.

Critics are demanding a clearer, more democratic and more regulated local governance system so that the chieftaincies practices are reshaped towards the needs of the population.

FIGURE 1 illustrates the political system of Sierra Leone.

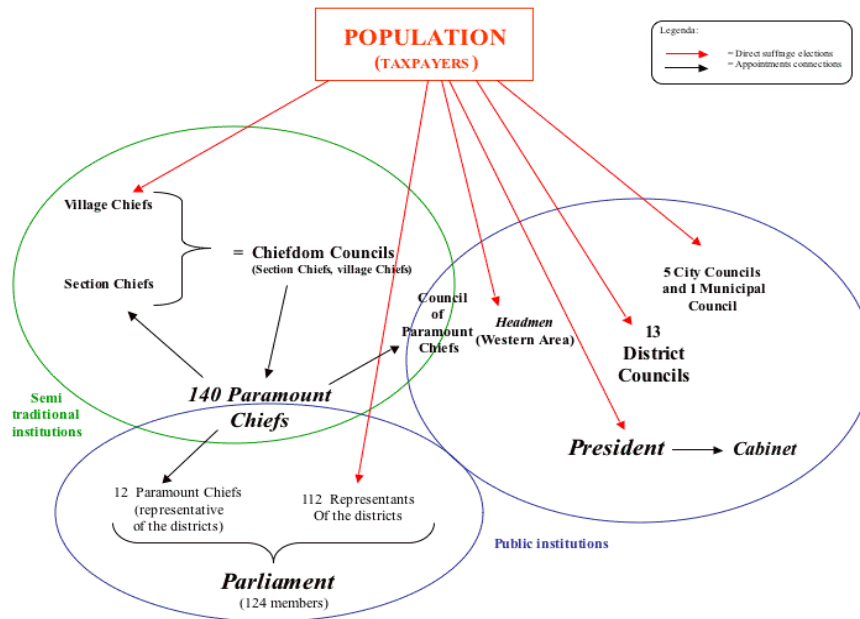


FIGURE 1 - Political system scheme. SOURCE: Spanda Foundation.

- ¹ Ed. Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, *Cultures of the World – Sierra Leone*, 2008, p. 41.
- ² Encyclopedia Britannica, *Sierra Leone Overview*, Consulted Oct. 8, 2009 (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/543356/Sierra-Leone>).
- ³ United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, *Briefing Paper on Local Governance and Democracy in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone: Emerging Issues and Implications for Peace and Development*, Executive Summary, 2007 (<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/Country-Specific%20Configurations/Sierra%20Leone/01.11.07%20briefing%20paper%20SL%20other%20info.pdf>).
- ⁴ Development Assistance Coordination Office, *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia*, 2008 (http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/7_elect/7_1councils.htm).
- ⁵ The last local election was monitored by observers and was considered as peaceful, free and credible. Development Assistance Coordination Office, *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia 2008* (http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/7_elect/7_1councils.htm).
- ⁶ National Accountability Group, *General Information*, 2004-2005 (<http://www.accountability.sl/country/generainformation.htm>).
- ⁷ Kamara K., *The institution of chieftaincy: The Last Bastion of Underdevelopment in Sierra Leone* 2009 (<http://www.articlesbase.com/politics-articles/the-institution-of-chieftaincy-the-last-bastion-of-underdevelopment-in-sierra-leone-609540.html>).
- ⁸ Sierra Leone Web, *Sierra Leone News*, 2002 (<http://www.sierra-leone.org/Archives/slnews1202.html>).
- ⁹ Since only men are obliged to pay the local tax, most councillors are men – but not all. In some Chiefdoms, women had paid the tax to make themselves eligible to take part in the election.
- ¹⁰ President and Members of Parliament, *Chieftaincy Act 2009*.
- ¹¹ Traditionally, a Paramount Chief was chosen among members of the same ruling house. Paramount Chiefs were appointed only with the approval of the people in the chiefdom. Today, the Declaration Officer ensures that the conduct of the election is done on a rotational crowning basis. “Opinion – Chieftaincy Reforms and The Role of Governance” in *Concord Times*, March 18, 2009 (<http://allafrica.com/stories/200903180785.html>) and President and Members of Parliament, *The Chieftaincy Act*, 2009.
- ¹² President and Members of Parliament, *Chieftaincy Act 2009*.
- ¹³ Embassy of Sierra Leone, Brussels.
- ¹⁴ US Department of State, *Background Note – Sierra Leone*, 2009 (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5475.htm>). Consulted on November 19, 2009.
- ¹⁵ Embassy of Sierra Leone, Brussels.
- ¹⁶ Cf. Sierra Leonean political system scheme.
- ¹⁷ Eighteen of the Members of Parliament are females.
- ¹⁸ The Western Area of Sierra Leone, which hosts the capital city Freetown, is divided into Western Rural and Western Urban. The Western Rural is divided into four districts, namely: Koya; Mountain and Peninsular; Waterloo and York. The Western Urban is generally referred to as the Freetown municipality, categorized into Eastern, Central and Western sections.
- ¹⁹ The current parliament in the August 2007 Parliamentary elections is made up of three political parties with the following representations: the All People’s Congress (APC) 59 seats; the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) 43 seats; and the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) 10 seats. Since independence in 1961, Sierra Leone’s politics has been dominated by two major political parties, the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP), and the ruling All People’s Congress (APC), although other minor political parties have also existed but with no significant supports.



THE ECONOMY OF SIERRA LEONE relies strongly on its mining sector and diamonds in particular. In the 1970s and early 1980s, the economic growth rate decreased due to a decline in the mining sector and increasing corruption amongst government officials¹. By the 1990s, economic activity was degenerating further and economic infrastructure had become seriously weakened. The civil war and subsequent hostilities have strongly affected formal economic activity, severely damaged the export base, destroyed much of the physical infrastructure and drained resources to support the war effort. “The resultant effect on the economy has been a collapse in the revenue base and significant increases in the budget deficit, bank financing, and domestic and external payment arrears².”

Since hostilities subsided in 2002, massive infusions of outside assistance have helped Sierra Leone to begin a recovery. Today, the country is still re-building. While recent positive performances may in part reflect a catch-up in growth for the population, the economic situation, however, is generally still destitute. Sierra Leone suffers from tremendous income distribution inequality. According to the 2009 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, the wealthiest 10% of the population control 33.6% of the national income and expenditures. The Gini index³ is equivalent to 42.5. In 2004, it was estimated that 70.2% of the population lived below the poverty line⁴ with about two-thirds engaging in subsistence agriculture⁵.

The gathered health, education, economic and security data has resulted in the country having one of the lowest Human Development Index rankings in the world. In the 2009 Human Development Report, the country ranked at the 180th position out of 182 countries.

3.1 - ECONOMIC INDICATORS

“Growth in recent years has been propelled by remittances and investments from the Sierra Leone expatriate community, selected mining investments, notably in rutile and bauxite, and by foreign aid. Much of this growth was concentrated in the informal agricultural, fishing, mining and services sectors that make up the bulk of the economy. Formal activity is confined primarily to large-scale mining, construction, retail services, tourism, and government employment. Between 2004 and 2007, the annual real economic growth was equivalent to just over 7%⁶.”

As illustrated in FIGURE 1, the Purchase Power Parity *pro capite* is equivalent to less than US\$ 1,000 per year. The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is also represented below:

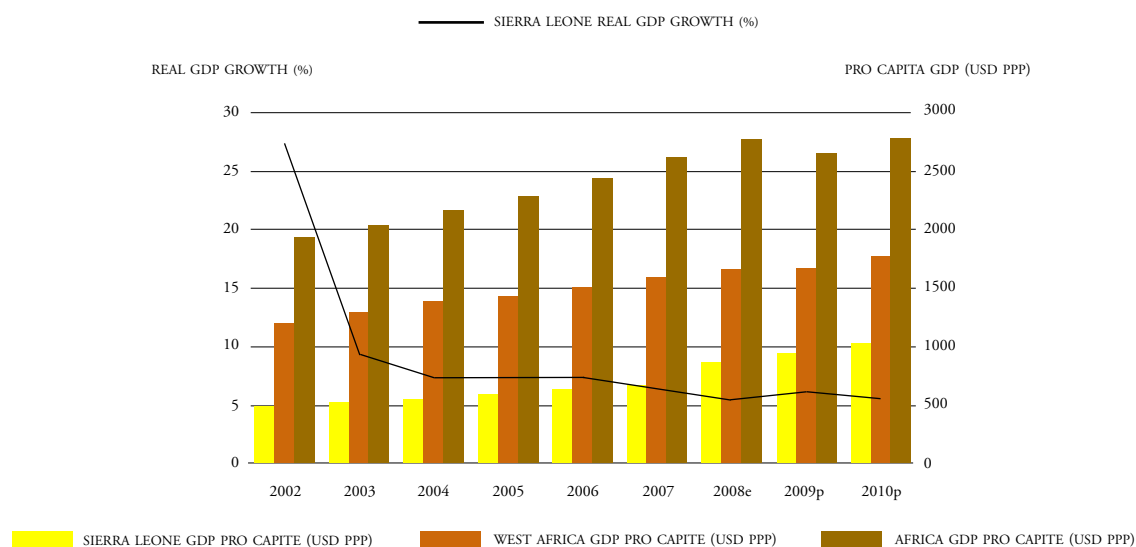


FIGURE 1 - Real GDP Growth and *pro capite* GDP (USD/PPP at current prices). SOURCE: African Economic Outlook 2009⁷.

Today, mining accounts for approximately 30% of GDP and diamonds are the primary export.

While the country possesses substantial mineral, agricultural, and fishery resources, its physical and social infrastructures are not well developed, thus, creating a barrier for foreign investment. Furthermore, pervasive social disorder continues to hamper economic development⁸. Exploitation of fish supplies, continuous deforestation and pollution of rivers and streams, mainly for diamond mining, is jeopardizing income sustainability for part of the population.

In 2005, agriculture accounted for half of the GDP, whereas industry and services accounted 31% and 21%, respectively⁹. Two-thirds of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture¹⁰ and manufacturing consists mainly of processing raw materials and of light manufacturing for the domestic market. The other main economic activities include diamond mining, small-scale manufacturing (beverages, textiles, cigarettes and footwear), petroleum refining and small commercial ship repair¹¹. Over 75% of the active population works in the informal sector¹².

In 2008, the country had a negative current account balance¹³ equivalent to \$ 141 million¹⁴ and a negative trade balance of \$ 344 million in 2003. The government has now proven its commitment to reduce its dependency on foreign aid. The country is engaged in a process of strengthening the National Revenue Authority and a Goods and Services Tax will be implemented in January 2010¹⁵.

“Sierra Leone has broadened its export base from an almost exclusive concentration on diamonds in recent years to include rutile, bauxite and a growing volume of cash crops. Export growth was positive for all products in 2007, but fell in 2008 due to technical problems with kimberlite diamond and rutile mining operations. The external current account deficit (including official transfers) increased to 8.4% of GDP in 2008 from 3.5% of GDP in 2006. Official reserves reached US\$ 209 million in 2008 or 5.1 months of import coverage¹⁶.”

In 2003, the external debt was equivalent to \$ 1.61 billion. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was equivalent to \$ 42.8 million in 2006. FIGURE 2 represents the evolution of the FDI inflows.

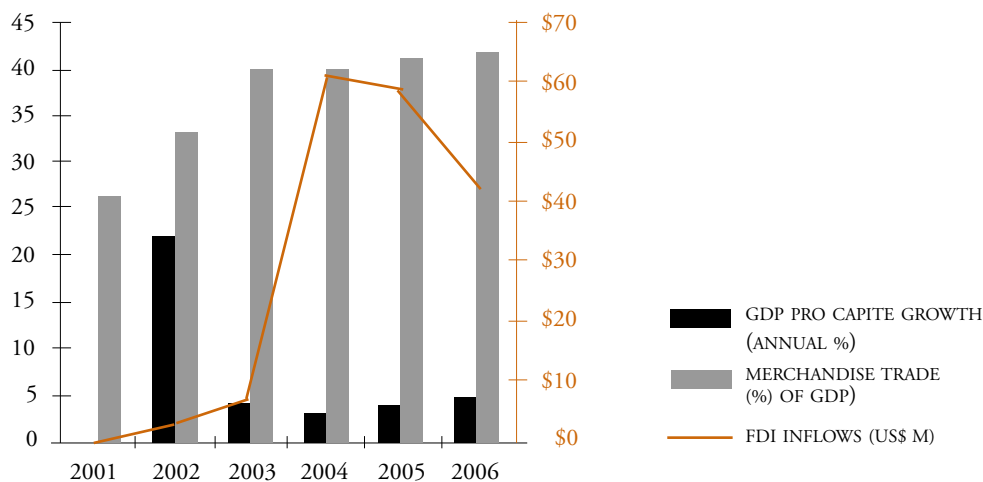


FIGURE 2 - FDI inflows. SOURCE: World Bank Database Group and UNCTAD.

“The current account deficit was financed mainly by concessional external assistance and debt relief. Most fundamentally, in December 2006, Sierra Leone reached the Completion Point of the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and, in doing so gained additional relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The total relief will amount to roughly US\$ 1.6 billion spread over 30 years¹⁷.”

3.2 - ECONOMIC FREEDOM¹⁸

In the 2009 Economic Freedom Index (EFI 2009), Sierra Leone’s economic freedom score was 47.8, making its economy the 158th freest in the world. Its score is slightly lower than in 2008, reflecting a large decrease in financial freedom. Sierra Leone is ranked 36th out of 46 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region and its overall score is below the global average. TABLE 1 illustrates the main economic freedom indicators.



Mende textile, Sierra Leone, 19th century.

TYPE OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM	SIERRA LEONE	WORLD AVERAGE
Business Freedom	57.0	64.3
Trade Freedom	66.0	73.2
Fiscal Freedom	80.9	74.9
Government Size	86.3	65.0
Monetary Freedom	73.8	74.0
Investment Freedom	30.0	48.8
Financial Freedom	20.0	49.1
Property Rights	10.0	44.0
Fdm. From Corruption	21.0	40.3
Labour Freedom	33.4	61.3

TABLE 1 - Economic freedom indicators.

According to the 2009 EFI, Sierra Leone is weak in business freedom, trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom, property rights, freedom from corruption, and labour freedom. Licensing requirements and restrictions in certain sectors reduce investment opportunities. Corruption is also a serious problem.

The 2009 EFI maintains that the labour market is highly inflexible and that the overall freedom to conduct business is restricted by Sierra Leone's regulatory environment. Obtaining a business license requires more than the world average of 18 procedures and 225 days. However, starting a business only requires an average of 17 days compared to the world average of 38 days. Regarding bankruptcy, proceedings are fairly straightforward, but costly.

In 2008, the country's average tariff rate was 12%. Liberalization of the trade regime is progressing, but import taxes and fees, non-transparent regulations, inefficient customs implementation, inadequate infrastructure and corruption add to the cost of trade. Ten points were deducted from Sierra Leone's trade freedom score to account for non-tariff barriers.

Sierra Leone has relatively high tax rates. Other taxes include a goods and services tax (GST) and a tax on interest¹⁹. Total government expenditures, including consumption and transfer payments are low. In the last year, government spending equalled 21.4% of GDP. Measures to widen the tax base and clamp down on expenditures are on the reform agenda, but weak control of public spending management remains a central problem.

For the period of 1990-2007, the average inflation rate was 17.8%²⁰ and was 12.2% in 2008²¹. Most prices are freely set in the market, but the government influences prices through state-owned enterprises and utilities. Five points were deducted from the monetary freedom score to account for policies that distort domestic prices.

According to the 2009 EFI, foreign investment receives national treatment and is not screened, but it is restricted in certain sectors. All investors face licensing requirements and must register with the government. The judicial system is

slow and prone to corruption. Weak regulatory enforcement, lack of administrative capacity, restrictive labour rules, inadequate infrastructure and corruption also deter investment. Residents and non-residents may hold foreign exchange accounts, subject to some restrictions. Foreign exchange and capital transactions may face restrictions and certain approval requirements. Direct investment abroad by residents is prohibited. Foreigners may lease land, but cannot own it.

The 2009 EFI maintains that Sierra Leone's financial system was severely undermined during the civil war and the recovery process has been very slow. A considerable portion of the population remains outside the formal banking sector and scarce access to credit is a major impediment to more vibrant business activity. Poor enforcement of contracts discourages lending and corruption is endemic. A substantial shadow market in US dollars hinders efforts to combat money laundering and non-performing loans have arisen in recent years. Government-owned banks account for a majority of assets and the government's frequent bond auctions tend to crowd out credit to other markets.

Property is not secure. There is no land titling system, and judicial corruption is significant. Traditional tribal justice systems continue to serve as a supplement to the central government's judiciary, especially in rural areas. In general, corruption is perceived as pervasive. Sierra Leone ranked 146th out of 180 countries in the 2008 Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)²². International companies cited corruption in all branches of government as an obstacle to investment.

Sierra Leone's inflexible labour regulations hinder overall employment and productivity growth. The non-salary cost of employing a worker is moderate, but the difficulty of firing workers is a significant disincentive to additional hiring²³.

¹ US Department of State, *Background Note – Sierra Leone*, US Department of State, 2009 (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5475.htm>). Consulted on November 19, 2009.

² Institute for Security Studies, *Sierra Leone Profile* (<http://www.iss.org.za/AF/profiles/sieraleone/Economy.html>).

³ The Gini index lies between 0 and 100. A value of 0 represents absolute equality and 100 absolute inequality.

⁴ UNDP, *Human Development Report*, 2009.

⁵ US Department of State, *Background Note – Sierra Leone*, 2009 (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5475.htm>). Consulted on November 19, 2009.

⁶ Worldbank, *Sierra Leone Country Sheet*, 2009.

⁷ African Economic Outlook, *Sierra Leone Overview* (http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/countries/west-africa/sierra-leone/#/statistics_table).

⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).

⁹ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2009*.

¹⁰ Heritage Foundation, Wall Street Journal, *Index of Economic Freedom 2009* (<http://www.heritage.org/Index/Country/SierraLeone>).

¹¹ Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).

¹² Conteh B. K., Braima S.J., *Micro Finance and Informal Sector Development for Poverty Alleviation*.

¹³ This entry records a country's net trade in goods and services, plus net earnings from rents, interest, profits, and dividends, and net transfer payments (such as pension funds and worker remittances) to and from the rest of the world during the period specified. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/notesanddefs.html?countryName=Sierra%20Leone&countryCode=sl®ionCode=af#2187>).

¹⁴ African Economic Outlook, *Sierra Leone Overview* (http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/countries/west-africa/sierra-leone/#/statistics_table).

¹⁵ Baimba Sesay J, *Sierra Leone Committed to Reducing Dependency on Foreign Aid*, Newstime Africa, Oct. 10, 2009 (<http://www.newstimeafrica.com/archives/2634>).

¹⁶ Worldbank, *Sierra Leone Country Sheet*, 2009.

¹⁷ Worldbank, *Sierra Leone Country Sheet*, 2009.

¹⁸ Heritage Foundation, Wall Street Journal, *Index of Economic Freedom 2009* (<http://www.heritage.org/Index/Country/SierraLeone>).

¹⁹ In the most recent year, overall tax revenue was 10.5% of GDP.

²⁰ UNDP, *Human Development Report*, 2009.

²¹ Worldbank, *Sierra Leone Country Sheet*, 2009.

²² Transparency International, *Corruption index 2009* (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/mps-expenses/6589735/Transparency-Internationals-2009-corruption-index-the-full-ranking-of-180-countries.html>)

²³ Heritage Foundation, Wall Street Journal, *Index of Economic Freedom*.



4 - THE STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT



4.1 - OVERVIEW

REDUCING unemployment is a top priority on the agenda for Sierra Leone's new government. Ensuring that the mass of unemployed people participate in society through work is vital for the newly born democracy. A failure in this initiative may cause the socially divided population to resort to violence, thereby destabilizing the country once again. The government has reported that 60% of Sierra Leonean youths are unemployed, therefore making youth unemployment a critical concern. Many prominent national and international organizations have deduced that a combination of high youth unemployment, illiteracy and marginalization led to the development of the 1991-2002 civil war, in which most of the armed groups were formed by young combatants. To explain the issues concerning the new democratic state, this report will specifically examine aspects of the country's labour force, analyse the population's industry and employment areas, as well as investigate the impact of child labour and informal employment.

4.2 - DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following concepts are based on definitions given by the International Labour Organization (ILO)

LABOUR FORCE	The employed and the unemployed populations.
EMPLOYED	Persons of 15-64 years of age who worked regularly in the month prior to the census.
UNEMPLOYED	Those in the reference age band who are not working but available for work and/or looking for work in the reference period.
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE	Those aged 15-64 that are engaged in any economic activity either as a paid employee, self employed, an unpaid family worker ¹ and those looking for work.
ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE	Neither working or looking for work; are full time domestic workers ² or full time students.
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	possible classification includes paid employees, self-employed and unpaid family workers.
CHILD LABOUR	Children aged 5-14 involved in economic activities a month prior to the census.

According to the 2004 population census by Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL), approximately 85.6% of the population classified as economically active were employed (FIGURE 1), with men comprising 42% of those employed. Of approximately 63,262 unemployed individuals, men constituted 68%. Furthermore, taking up 52.6% of the economically active population, men outnumbered women in the labour force.

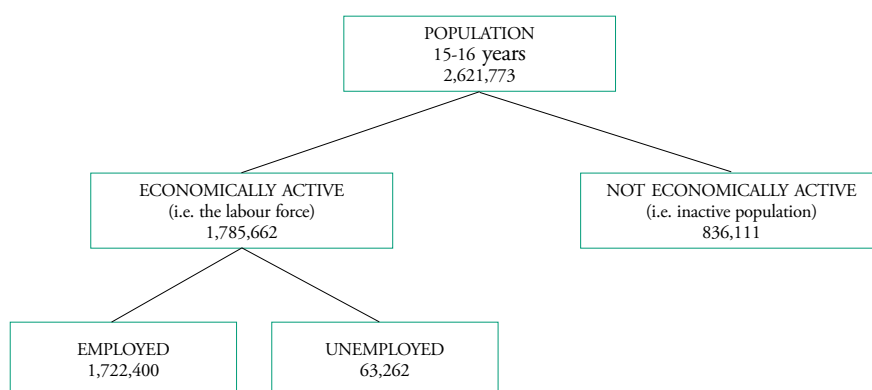


FIGURE 1 - Economic status of working population. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

TABLE 1 shows that the majority of the economically active population falls within the 15-44 age range (over 80%), with the highest number in the age group being 15-19 (19.83%). Interestingly over half of those unemployed are in the 20-34 age range.

AGE GROUP	ACTIVE			INACTIVE POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION	ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE %		
	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL			EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL
15-19	188483	7447	195930	324045	519975	10.94	11.77	19.83
20-24	230800	13902	244702	162423	407125	13.40	21.98	15.53
25-29	284865	13789	298654	102333	400987	16.54	21.80	15.29
30-34	237472	8758	246230	63499	309729	13.79	13.84	11.81
35-39	236050	6667	242717	55088	297805	13.79	10.54	11.36
40-44	170380	4679	175059	36666	211725	9.89	7.40	8.08
45-49	143890	3402	147292	28546	175838	8.35	5.38	6.71
50-54	101498	2214	103712	23817	127529	5.89	3.50	4.86
55-59	66074	1427	67501	16750	84251	3.84	2.26	3.21
60-64	62888	977	83865	22944	88809	3.65	1.54	3.31
TOTAL	1722400	63262	1785662	836111	2621773	100.00	100.00	100.00

TABLE 1 - Economically active population. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

When the data is analysed according to gender (see TABLE 2), it reveals that there are more employed men than women from the age of 35-64. Female employment is prominent in younger individuals largely because females are not likely to be sent to school and drop out of school earlier than their male counterparts. Most men go onto advanced education before entering the job market.

AGE GROUP	ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE (NUMBER)						DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE	
	MALE			FEMALE			MALE	FEMALE
	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL		
15-19	79424	4332	83756	109059	3115	112174	9.18	12.84
20-24	102414	8836	111248	128388	5066	133454	12.19	15.28
25-29	138679	9345	148024	146186	4444	150630	16.23	17.25
30-34	119012	6032	125044	118460	2726	121186	13.71	13.88
35-39	122415	4828	127243	113635	1839	115474	13.95	13.22
40-44	93163	3522	96685	77217	1157	78374	10.60	8.97
45-49	84830	2666	87496	59060	736	59796	9.59	6.85
50-54	57374	1714	59088	44124	500	44624	6.48	5.11
55-59	38841	1112	39953	27233	315	27548	4.38	3.15
60-64	33074	709	33783	29814	268	30082	3.70	3.44
TOTAL	869224	43096	912320	853176	20166	873342	100.00	100.00

TABLE 2 - Active population by gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

From a regional perspective, most of the working population is in the Northern region (35%), followed by the Eastern region with 24.3% (see TABLE 3). These proportions are not reflected in the gender distribution. Even when women represent more than half of the working population, they are less likely to be employed.

	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
NATIONAL	869224	853176	1722400	43096	20166	63262
EASTERN	239009	185871	424880	7136	2513	9649
NORTHERN	281176	337553	618729	6242	2753	8995
SOUTHERN	869224	853176	1722400	43096	20166	63262
WESTERN	869224	853176	1722400	43096	20166	63262

TABLE 3 - Distribution of labour force by region and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

Analysing the distribution of employment at the district level, TABLE 4 explains that the six districts of Kenema, Kono, Bombali, Port Loko, Bo and the Western Urban Area attract 60% of the labour force. These districts boast the best economic activity, infrastructure and educational and health facilities. In all Eastern districts, male employment exceeds female employment while, in the North, female employment exceeds that of males. In the South, with the exception of Pujehun, the male labour force distribution exceeds that of females. In the Western Urban district, more women are employed than men. This is merely a reflection of the proportion of women in the labour force in these districts, rather than renovated gender sensitivity to employment.

DISTRICT	MALE			FEMALE		
	TOTAL MALE POPULATION	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	DISTRIBUTION MALE LABOUR FORCE (%)	TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION	TOTAL FEMALE	DISTRIBUTION FEMALE LABOUR FORCE (%)
KAILAHUN	86938	41926	5.29	99337	35614	5.20
KENEMA	137671	94021	11.85	134356	58328	8.38
KONO	97408	69528	8.76	87938	44210	6.35
BOMBALI	93381	57851	7.29	112354	63411	9.11
KAMBIA	56196	33763	4.26	73432	33537	4.82
KOINADUGU	58532	37449	4.72	76247	41592	5.97
PORT LOKO	97311	62785	7.91	129172	72241	10.38
TONKOLILI	74929	43486	4.48	99629	42229	6.07
BO	115598	78229	9.86	124255	70644	10.15
BONTHE	31835	22777	2.87	38411	21249	3.05
MOYAMBA	57405	39951	5.04	73552	41350	5.94
PUJEHUN	51795	33714	4.25	63056	25900	3.72
WESTERN RURAL	44855	32022	4.04	48163	30602	4.40
WESTERN URBAN	231324	145788	18.38	226793	115263	16.56
SIERRA LEONE	1235078	93290	100.00	1386695	696170	100.00

TABLE 4 - Distribution of labour force by district and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The following table categorises the population considered inactive. At the time of the census, 41.2% (1,418,209) of the 3,439,284 surveyed were either not working or looking for work. Household work accounted for 60.4% of the population. Students represent the other inactive group, as seen in FIGURE 2.

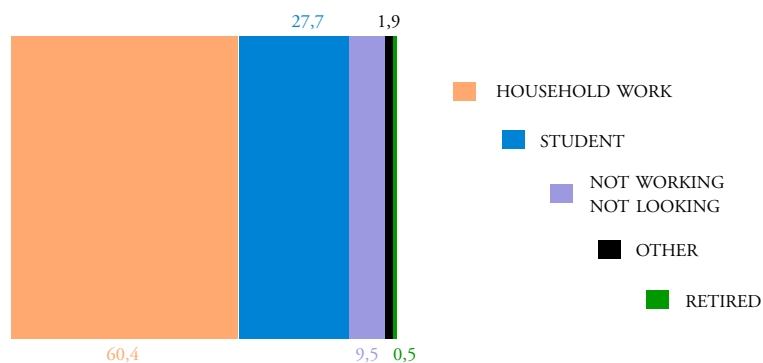


FIGURE 2 - Distribution of the number of economically inactive persons by category. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

TABLE 5 illustrates the inactive population within each district. The national average is below that of the six districts mentioned before. The Koinadugu and Bombali districts hold the highest female activity rate.

DISTRICT	MALE			FEMALE		
	INACTIVE POPULATION	(%) INACTIVE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION	(%) INACTIVE POPULATION WITHIN DISTRICT	INACTIVE POPULATION	(%) INACTIVE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION	(%) INACTIVE POPULATION WITHIN DISTRICT
KAILAHUN	27764	9	32	43721	9	44
KENEMA	30481	9	22	58932	11	44
KONO	17527	5	18	30594	6	35
BOMBALI	25066	8	27	30827	6	27
KAMBIA	13247	4	24	23279	5	32
KOINADUGU	12012	4	21	20746	4	27
PORT LOKO	24063	7	25	37789	7	29
TONKOLILI	18543	6	25	37887	7	38
BO	30469	9	26	44230	9	36
BONTHE	6988	2	22	14574	3	38
MOYAMBA	11974	4	21	22340	4	30
PUJEHUN	11757	4	23	27601	5	44
WESTERN RURAL	11423	4	25	15190	3	32
WESTERN URBAN	81444	25	35	105643	21	47
SIERRA LEONE	322758	100	26	513353	100	37

TABLE 5 - Distribution of the inactive population by district and sex. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The indicators represented in FIGURE 3 measure the labour participation rate. It is defined by the number of persons in the labour force in a specific age group divided by the total persons within that age group. It is evident that within lower groups the participation rate for females is strikingly higher than that of males. From an early age, girls are not sent to school and are usually engaged in household chores, baby-sitting, and family activities. This trend is reversed in the age groups from 30-34 up to 60-64.

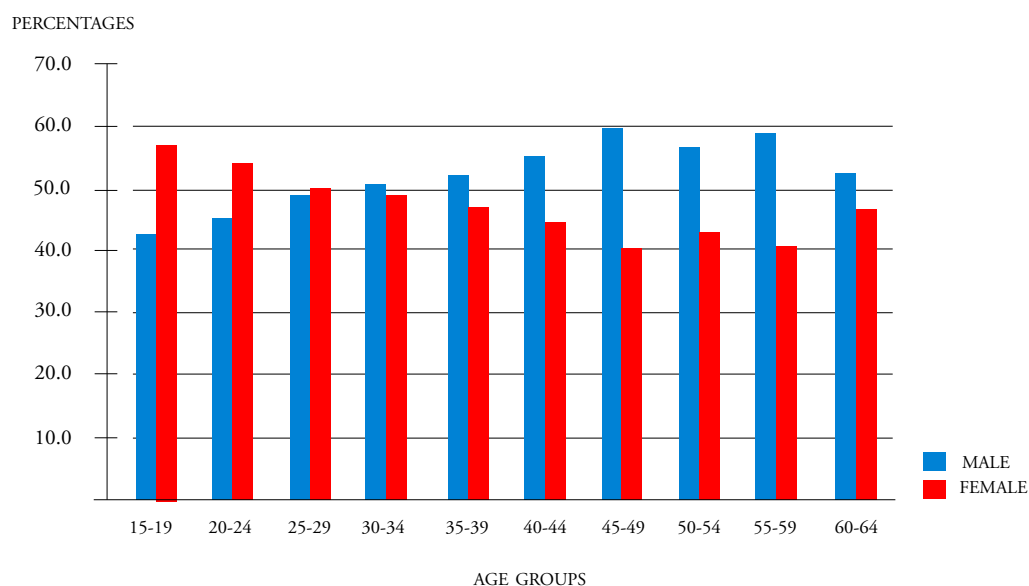


FIGURE 3 - Age-gender specific rate. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

TABLE 6 shows the employment-to-population ratio by region and gender. The indicator provides information concerning the aptitude of the economy to create jobs. This ratio is quite high in the Eastern, Northern and Southern provinces. Gender disparity is very prominent in the Eastern region.

PROVINCES/AREA	MALE ♂ FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE		
	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL EMPLOYED	RATIO	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL EMPLOYED	RATIO	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL EMPLOYED	RATIO
EASTERN	613518	121880	66.0	321917	239009	71.2	321631	185871	57.8
NORTHERN	871183	618729	71.0	280349	281176	73.9	490834	337553	68.8
SOUTHERN	555907	378850	68.1	256633	190501	74.9	299274	188349	67.9
WESTERN AREA	551135	299941	54.4	276179	158538	57.4	274958	141403	51.4
SIERRA LEONE	2621773	1722400	65.7	1235078	869224	70.4	1386695	853176	61.5

TABLE 6 - Employment-to-population ratio by region and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

For the country as a whole, the employment ratio is 65.7%. In terms of gender disparity, this leans towards a female dominance, 61.5% vs. 70.4%. The employment ratio is the lowest in the Western Urban district (54.4%) and the highest in Koinadugu (75.1%) (see TABLE 8). With the exception of Bombali and Port Loko, there is a wide gender disparity, particularly in Pujehun, Bonthe, Kono and Kenema.

DISTRICT	MALE ♂	MALE	FEMALE
	FEMALE		
KAILAHUN	60.3	66.0	55.4
KENEMA	65.7	75.8	55.4
KONO	72.2	79.3	64.2
BOMBALI	71.6	71.2	71.9
KAMBIA	70.8	74.9	67.8
KOINADUGU	75.1	78.6	72.4
PORT LOKO	71.3	73.1	70.0
TONKOLILI	66.9	73.9	61.6
BO	67.2	71.2	63.4
BONTHE	68.1	76.4	61.3
MOYAMBA	72.9	77.7	69.2
PUJEHUN	64.8	75.8	55.8
WESTERN RURAL	67.2	68.5	66.1
WESTERN URBAN	51.8	55.2	48.3
SIERRA LEONE	65.7	70.4	61.5

TABLE 7 - Employment-to-population ratio by district and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The unemployment rate by age, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. Persons of working age are classified as unemployed if they were not employed, had not worked for even one hour in any economic activity or were available for work and had not taken active steps to seek employment during a recent specified period. According to this definition, the unemployment rate is very low (3.4%). The overall unemployment rate for males (4.4%) is almost twice that for females (2.3%). This is because more females are employed as unpaid family workers or engaged in household work. It is worth stressing that these figures must be taken with caution. In an underdeveloped economy such as Sierra Leone's, the unemployment rate calculated according to this definition is not a good indicator of the labour market performance. This is because it does not take into consideration discouraged workers, those who wish to work, but are not actively seeking a job as they see no possibility of getting one. They would potentially include neither youths whom are employed nor those in school. Therefore, the unemployment rates are most likely to be highly underestimated.

AGE GROUP	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE
15-19	4.3	6.0	3.0
20-24	5.7	7.9	3.8
25-29	4.6	6.3	3.0
30-34	3.6	4.8	2.2
35-39	2.7	3.8	1.6
40-44	2.7	3.6	1.5
45-49	2.3	3.0	1.2
50-54	2.1	2.9	1.1
55-59	2.1	2.8	1.1
60-64	1.5	2.1	0.9
TOTAL	3.4	4.4	2.3

TABLE 8 - Unemployment rate by age. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

4.3 - YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The two following illustrations (TABLE 9 and FIGURE 4) address youth unemployment. The term 'youth' is typically considered to define those between 15-25 years of age. According to TABLE 9, the youth unemployment rate is slightly higher than the national average (3.5% vs. 3.4%). This data reflects current difficulties experienced by young people. They are most at risk because they lack experience and have few skills to offer, even if they are educated. The last column, Youth Unemployment Population Ratio, includes the economically inactive as well as those in school.

AGE GROUP	TOTAL YOUTH POPULATION	YOUTH LABOUR FORCE	YOUTH PAID LABOUR FORCE	YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	YOUTH EMPLOYMENT POPULATION RATIO	YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT POPULATION RATIO
15-19	519975	519975	4475	3.8	11.5	1.432184
20-24	407125	407125	10865	4.4	14.1	3.414676
25-29	400987	400987	21213	7.1	17.4	3.438765
30-34	309729	309729	22847	9.3	14.5	2.827633
15-24	927100	927100	15340	3.5	25.6	2.680155
15-34	1637816	1637816	59400	3.6	57.5	1.432184

TABLE 9 - Youth unemployment rates. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The youth labour force participation rate demonstrates the extent to which the country's youth are economically active. Depicted in FIGURE 4, male youth are more economically active than female youth in all districts, with the exception of Port Loko. The youth labour force participation rate is also high in districts with a high rural population, for example, Koinadugu (69.2%), Moyamba (68.3%), Kono (69%) and Kambia (67.1%), as opposed to more populated areas such as the Western Urban region (51.3%). The Kailahun district has a relatively low participation rate, largely due to its many ex-combatant residents who have not integrated into productive activities after the war.

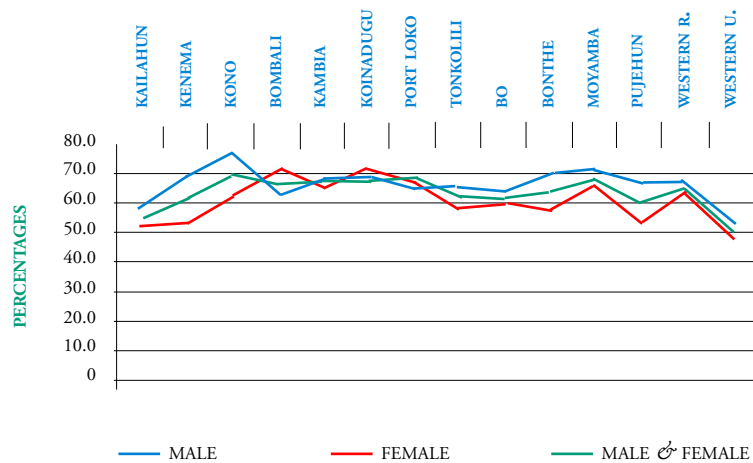


FIGURE 4 - Youth labour force participation rate. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

4.4 - EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Sierra Leone's economic structure is typical of developing countries, as it relies heavily on one sector. As depicted in TABLE 10, 64% of the total labour force in Sierra Leone is employed in crop farming. The trade and repair industry is a distant second, accounting for 14.3% of the labour force. The industry includes wholesale and retail trade as well as repairing motor vehicles, and personal and household goods. The crop farming and trade and repairs industries employ a higher proportion of females to males (67.7% vs. 60.4% and 18.1% vs. 10.7%). The private household and health and social work industries are another two sectors in which the female labour force is stronger.

INDUSTRY	MALE & FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE	
	TOTAL	DISTRIBUTION	TOTAL	DISTRIBUTION	TOTAL	DISTRIBUTION
	LABOUR FORCE	OF LABOUR FORCE (%)	LABOUR FORCE	OF LABOUR FORCE (%)	LABOUR FORCE	OF LABOUR FORCE (%)
CROP FARMING	1177873	64.01	568165	60.42	600708	67.77
LIVESTOCK	7211	0.39	3910	0.12	3301	0.37
POULTRY	1796	0.10	866	0.09	900	0.10
HUNTING	1241	0.07	777	0.08	464	0.05
FORESTRY	6180	0.84	4060	0.43	2120	0.24
FISHING	48821	2.65	31834	3.39	16987	1.89
MINING	67611	3.68	58481	6.22	9163	1.02
MANUFACTURING	9208	0.50	7236	0.77	1967	0.22
ELECTRICITY/GAS/WATER	8255	0.45	7050	0.75	1196	1.13
CONSTRUCTION	38307	2.08	27829	2.96	10478	1.10
TRADE/REPAIRS	263459	14.32	100398	10.68	163061	18.12
HOTELS/RESTAURANTS	4800	0.27	2604	0.28	2286	0.25
TRANS/COM/STORAGE	15654	0.05	14402	1.53	1252	0.14
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATE	6873	0.37	3973	0.42	2900	0.32
ESTATE/RENTING/BUSINESS	10602	0.58	5128	0.58	5171	0.58
PUBLIC ADMIN./DEF/SS.	25004	1.40	21038	2.24	4766	0.53
EDUCATION	33550	1.82	22708	2.41	10842	1.21
HEALTH/SOCIAL WORK	19591	1.06	9739	1.01	9855	1.10
OTHER COMMUNITY/S.W.	81157	4.41	43370	4.61	37779	4.20
PRIVATE HH EMPLOYEE	8062	0.44	3895	0.41	4167	0.46
EXTERNAL ORG./BODIES	3796	0.21	2180	0.26	1310	0.15
SIERRA LEONE	1840002	100.00	940296	100.00	899706	100.00

TABLE 10 - The distribution of the labour force by industry and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

Breaking down the data by region, TABLE 11 illustrates that agriculture is dominant in the Northern, Eastern and Southern regions.

INDUSTRY	EASTERN REGION	NORTHERN REGION	SOUTHERN REGION	WESTERN REGION
	DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR FORCE (%)	DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR FORCE (%)	DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR FORCE (%)	DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR FORCE (%)
CROP FARMING	71.00	81.16	71.77	4.49
LIVESTOCK	0.27	0.60	0.22	0.36
POULTRY	0.27	0.07	0.05	0.17
HUNTING	0.27	0.06	0.05	0.11
FORESTRY	0.27	0.31	0.26	0.69
FISHING	0.27	0.71	5.21	3.93
MINING	0.27	0.79	3.58	1.23
MANUFACTURING	0.27	0.24	0.37	1.53
ELECTRICITY/GAS/WATER	0.27	0.20	0.24	1.44
CONSTRUCTION	0.27	1.06	1.46	6.33
TRADE/REPAIRS	0.27	8.38	8.07	15.50
HOTELS/RESTAURANTS	0.27	0.08	0.10	1.16
TRANS/COM/STORAGE	0.27	0.34	0.33	3.44
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATE	0.27	0.23	0.16	1.42
ESTATE/RENTING/BUSINESS	0.27	0.21	0.32	1.75
PUBLIC ADMIN./DEF/SS.	0.27	0.60	0.72	5.17
EDUCATION	0.27	1.25	1.80	4.15
HEALTH/SOCIAL WORK	0.27	0.63	0.78	2.97
OTHER COMMUNITY/S.W.	0.27	1.93	4.16	11.73
PRIVATE HH EMPLOYEE	0.27	0.18	0.27	1.58
EXTERNAL ORG./BODIES	0.27	0.05	0.07	0.85
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

TABLE 11 - Distribution of the labour force by industry and region. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

Looking at industrial distribution on a district level in TABLE 12, agriculture is revealed to be dominant except, as expected, in the Western Urban region where the trade and repairs sector employs 45.5% of the population. The Western Urban as well as the Western Rural regions also employ a significant amount of the population, 21.98% and 34.09%, respectively, in 'Other' industries such as: utilities, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, public administration and defense, and health and social work. This indicates the relative affluence and industrialization of these areas.

DISTRICT	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	FISHING	MINING	MANUFACTURING	CONSTRUCTION	TRADE AND REPAIRS	EDUCATION	OTHER
KAILAHUN	91.58	1.17	0.78	0.16	0.86	2.04	0.79	2.61
KENEMA	64.99	0.43	11.30	0.42	1.51	10.96	1.54	8.84
KONO	65.67	1.06	14.99	0.31	1.40	8.61	0.86	7.10
BOMBALI	77.86	0.80	2.28	0.18	1.30	11.17	1.53	4.88
KAMBIA	80.97	2.83	0.51	0.19	0.93	9.26	0.94	4.37
KOINADUGU	92.95	0.07	0.29	0.10	0.61	2.64	0.77	2.57
PORT LOKO	75.63	4.07	0.15	0.37	1.11	11.46	1.39	5.82
TONKOLILI	88.54	0.25	0.44	0.28	1.16	4.81	1.39	3.12
BO	63.94	1.12	0.48	0.46	2.30	12.19	2.33	11.18
BONTHE	64.75	17.56	0.34	0.26	1.36	5.87	1.71	8.14
MOYAMBA	83.22	3.63	0.11	0.41	0.65	6.74	1.64	3.60
PUJEHUN	81.42	7.93	3.99	0.20	0.80	2.35	0.91	2.40
WESTERN RURAL	15.66	11.50	2.53	1.20	1.58	39.75	2.81	21.98
WESTERN URBAN	3.17	1.90	0.88	1.62	6.80	47.04	4.50	34.09
SIERRA LEONE	91.58	2.65	3.68	0.50	2.08	14.32	1.82	10.04

TABLE 12 - Distribution of the labour force by industry and district SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The geographical distribution of the paid labour force is demonstrated in FIGURE 5. In the Eastern region, agriculture takes the highest share of the labour force (28.6%), followed by education (17%), mining (12.6%) and public administration (12%). In the Northern and Southern regions education accounts for the largest share (29.6% and 29.5%), followed by agriculture (19.3% and 17.7%). In the Western Area, the industries with the largest percentage share are public administration (19.1%), education (14%), and trade and repairs (11.5%).

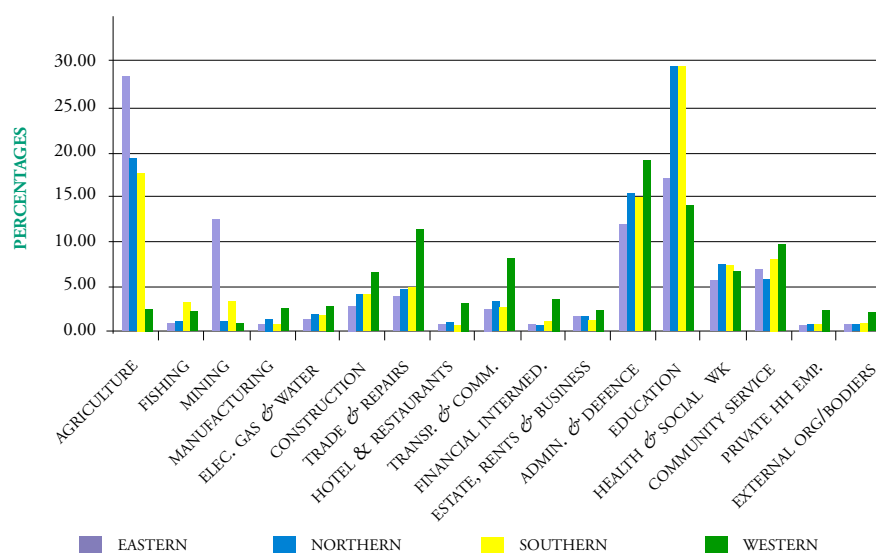


FIGURE 5 - Percentage distribution of the paid labour force by region. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

Self-employment is an indication of an economy's level of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its extension also determines the size of the private sector, which, is a good indicator of the economic development of a free market economy. The

self-employed are those actively engaged in economic activities for personal gain. The ratio of self-employed individuals to the total labour force gives an idea of the prevalence of self-employment in an economy. Additionally, the highest proportion of self-employed labour is found in crop farming and the trade and repairs sectors (TABLE 10); areas that are typically of high labour intensity and low in skill requirement. As women are engaged in crop farming and the trade and repairs sectors to a greater extent than their male counterparts, this suggests a need for more education and training for women to improve their earning potential.

INDUSTRY	MALE & FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE	
	DISTRIBUTION OF SELF EMPLOYED POPULATION	SELF EMPLOYED AS % OF TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	DISTRIBUTION OF SELF EMPLOYED POPULATION	SELF EMPLOYED AS % TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	DISTRIBUTION OF SELF EMPLOYED POPULATION	SELF EMPLOYED AS % TOTAL LABOUR FORCE
CROP FARMING	65.10	76.31	64.41	79.22	65.82	72.41
LIVESTOCK	0.37	70.10	0.39	69.62	0.34	68.45
POULTRY	0.06	45.55	0.05	43.20	0.07	46.00
HUNTING	0.06	63.17	0.07	59.45	0.05	64.86
FORESTRY	0.31	69.56	0.39	66.51	0.23	73.19
FISHING	2.92	82.48	3.77	82.92	2.03	80.32
MINING	4.11	83.88	7.03	83.98	1.10	77.33
MANUFACTURING	0.44	66.04	0.65	62.98	0.22	76.04
ELECTRICITY/GAS/WATER	0.32	52.90	0.52	51.35	0.11	59.05
CONSTRUCTION	2.07	74.76	2.79	70.18	1.33	85.40
TRADE/REPAIRS	17.04	89.30	12.33	85.93	21.90	90.65
HOTELS/RESTAURANTS	0.13	36.87	0.12	32.72	0.14	41.02
TRANS/COM/STORAGE	0.50	43.92	0.90	43.69	0.08	44.42
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATE	0.24	47.32	0.21	37.50	0.26	59.82
ESTATE/RENTING/BUSINESS	0.54	70.79	0.45	57.61	0.64	83.81
PUBLIC ADMIN./DEF/SS.	0.15	7.81	0.19	6.41	0.10	13.38
EDUCATION	0.33	13.52	0.40	11.90	0.25	14.90
HEALTH/SOCIAL WORK	0.60	42.47	0.56	40.33	0.64	43.13
OTHER COMMUNITY/S.W.	4.32	73.44	4.40	70.60	4.23	73.49
PRIVATE HH EMPLOYEE	0.30	52.17	0.25	44.16	0.36	55.27
EXTERNAL ORG./BODIES	0.10	35.64	0.10	27.66	0.10	49.18
SIERRA LEONE	100.00	75.03	100.00	74.22	100.00	74.46

TABLE 13 - Distribution of the 15-64 age range in self-employment by industry. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

4.5 - CHILD LABOUR

The extent of the child labour phenomenon is partly revealed by examining the number of children of school-going age (6-17 years) not going to school in relation to the total number of children. As depicted in TABLE 14, the 2004 census reports that nearly one third, approximately 475,672 out of 1,462,610 children are not attending school. Of those not attending school, nearly 30% are male and 35.8% are female. While school attendance is highest in the Western Urban region, this is mainly due to the greater number of educational facilities available in comparison to more rural districts. The gender disparity is consistent across all regions in that male children are much more likely to attend school than female children are.

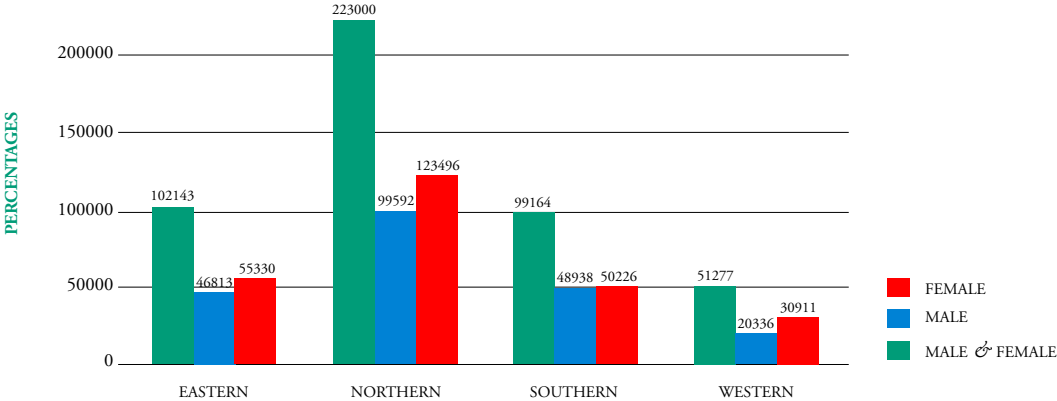


FIGURE 6 - Number of children aged 6-17 attending school by region and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

DISTRICT	MALE & FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE		
	TOTAL POPULATION	NO. NOT IN SCHOOL	% CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL	TOTAL POPULATION	NO. NOT IN SCHOOL	% CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL	TOTAL POPULATION	NO. NOT IN SCHOOL	% CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL
KAILAHUN	107714	32842	30.5	55150	15179	27.5	52564	17663	33.6
KENEMA	131757	39727	30.2	66366	18257	27.5	63391	21470	32.8
KONO	92245	29574	32.1	45673	13377	29.3	46572	16197	34.8
BOMBALI	128923	42910	33.3	66719	19238	28.8	62204	23672	38.1
KAMBIA	82796	33088	40.0	42817	13858	32.4	39979	19230	48.1
KOINADUGU	86809	49833	57.4	43609	23459	53.8	43200	26374	61.1
PORT LOKO	137326	53888	39.2	70339	23413	33.3	66987	30475	45.5
TONKOLILI	109242	43369	39.7	55272	19624	35.5	53970	23745	44.0
BO	130180	33813	26.0	65092	15238	23.4	65088	18575	28.5
BONTHE	36667	15013	40.9	19205	8031	41.8	17462	6982	40.0
MOYAMBA	72207	22897	31.7	37943	11313	29.8	34264	11584	33.8
PUJEHUN	64422	27441	42.6	33826	14356	42.4	30596	13085	42.8
WESTERN RURAL	50079	12819	25.6	21685	5178	21.0	25391	7611	30.1
WESTERN URBAN	232243	38458	16.6	109735	15158	13.8	122508	23300	19.0
SIERRA LEONE	1462610	475672	32.5	736431	215679	29.3	726179	259993	35.8

TABLE 14 - The 6-17 age range not attending school by district and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The percentage of money earners in the 10-18 age range is a further indicator of child labour. Shown in TABLE 15, female children are more often involved in money earning employment in comparison to male children, but this is unsurprising since a higher percentage of female children do not attend school. It should be noted that there is a gap between the proportion of children not attending school and the proportion of children in wage earning employment. This indicates that a significant proportion of both male and female children are working in unpaid employment.

DISTRICT	MALE & FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE		
	10.14	15-18	10-18	10.14	15-18	10-18	10.14	15-18	10-18
	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP	CASH EARNERS AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP
KAILAHUN	10.8	19.3	15.0	10.6	16.6	13.5	11.0	22.0	16.6
KENEMA	9.9	24.4	16.6	10.4	22.8	16.0	9.4	25.9	17.3
KONO	12.2	28.2	19.6	12.6	26.8	19.1	11.8	29.2	20.0
BOMBALI	12.0	27.3	18.8	10.5	21.8	15.5	13.6	33.0	22.4
KAMBIA	11.5	24.5	17.1	10.0	19.0	13.7	13.2	29.7	20.8
KOINADUGU	24.4	35.2	29.2	23.2	30.3	26.3	25.6	39.8	32.1
PORT LOKO	13.4	29.7	20.4	12.2	22.8	16.5	14.8	35.9	24.5
TONKOLILI	14.1	26.6	19.8	13.7	24.1	18.3	14.4	28.9	21.4
BO	10.6	26.3	17.8	10.8	21.4	15.6	10.3	31.0	20.0
BONTHE	16.1	32.4	23.6	18.7	30.7	24.0	13.1	34.1	23.2
MOYAMBA	11.6	28.3	18.7	12.4	23.5	16.9	10.6	33.0	20.6
PUJEHUN	15.8	29.4	22.5	18.1	30.3	23.7	13.0	28.5	21.2
WESTERN RURAL	7.7	26.5	15.8	6.8	19.6	12.1	8.6	32.8	19.2
WESTERN URBAN	3.6	13.2	7.9	2.9	11.1	6.6	4.1	15.1	9.0
SIERRA LEONE	11.1	24.6	17.2	11.0	21.1	15.4	11.3	27.9	19.0

TABLE 15 - Percentage of child cash earners by gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

To delve into this phenomenon, we present four indicators that relate to the population of children who are economically active. This is namely the wage employment as percentage of total child employment: self-employment as percentage of total child employment, unpaid family work as percentage of child employment and child labour force

participation rates. Total employment constitutes the total number of children within the age group in wage earning, self-employment and unpaid family work. The first three are presented in TABLE 16. Overall, wage employment accounts for only 3% of the total employment for children from ages 10-14. Males are more often employed than females. This data reveals the astonishingly high rate of young children utilized in wage employment. Although younger children are in fact less likely to become self-employed than older children, there is a high rate of young children in unpaid family work, however, the numbers decline as the children mature.

AGE	MALE & FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE		
	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	UNPAID WORK AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	% CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	UNPAID WORK AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
10	3.07	55.95	40.98	3.29	55.93	40.78	2.82	55.92	41.25
11	3.62	56.00	40.39	3.99	56.02	40.00	3.21	55.97	40.82
12	2.87	57.06	40.07	3.41	55.85	40.74	2.30	58.31	39.38
13	2.79	58.12	39.09	2.96	57.58	39.46	2.62	58.62	38.76
14	3.01	60.73	36.27	3.85	59.54	36.61	2.24	61.78	35.98
15	2.07	64.23	33.70	2.54	62.73	34.74	1.66	65.56	32.79
16	2.30	65.65	32.05	3.39	62.65	33.97	1.58	67.62	30.80
17	2.47	68.92	28.61	3.68	66.55	29.77	1.61	70.57	27.81
18	2.26	70.30	27.44	3.80	68.39	27.81	1.26	71.52	27.22
10-18	2.55	63.54	33.92	3.34	61.58	35.07	1.88	65.15	32.97
10-14	3.03	57.51	39.47	3.45	56.85	39.70	2.59	58.15	39.25
15-18	2.24	67.33	30.43	3.26	65.14	31.59	1.49	68.92	29.59

TABLE 16 - Child activity rate by employment status for single ages by gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

TABLE 17 below gives an idea of the employment status for children aged 10-18 at the regional level. As we can see, for children from the age of 10-14, wage employment ranges from 1.8% in the Northern region to 10.3% in the Western Area. Self-employment accounts for the largest proportion in all provinces with the highest rate in the Western Area. For children in the age group of 10-14, unpaid family work was lower in the West than in the other regions. Overall, female children are more often self-employed than their male counterparts.

PROVINCES/AREA	MALE & FEMALE			MALE			FEMALE		
	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	UNPAID WORK AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	% CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	UNPAID WORK AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
EASTERN	2.92	55.05	31.23	3.85	59.12	37.03	2.51	60.25	37.22
NORTHERN	1.44	60.34	38.22	1.89	58.28	39.83	1.08	61.97	36.95
SOUTHERN	2.05	69.22	28.73	2.59	67.24	30.18	1.52	71.10	27.32
WESTERN	7.91	76.38	15.71	12.65	71.71	15.64	4.87	79.38	15.75
CHILD ACTIVITY RATE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR CHILDREN 10-14 YEARS									
EASTERN	3.87	53.22	42.91	3.53	63.38	33.09	3.37	53.55	43.08
NORTHERN	1.86	55.69	42.44	2.22	54.80	42.98	1.53	56.53	41.94
SOUTHERN	2.05	60.22	28.73	2.70	63.53	33.77	2.62	63.50	33.79
WESTERN	10.29	66.80	22.92	14.53	63.12	22.35	7.45	69.25	23.29
CHILD ACTIVITY RATE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR CHILDREN 16-18 YEARS									
EASTERN	2.75	63.52	33.73	3.53	63.38	33.09	2.54	60.25	37.22
NORTHERN	1.13	63.71	35.16	1.60	61.26	37.13	0.80	65.42	33.78
SOUTHERN	1.68	72.58	25.74	2.50	70.08	27.42	1.02	74.50	24.40
WESTERN	6.97	80.19	12.85	11.87	75.24	12.89	3.87	83.31	12.82

TABLE 17 - Child activity rate by employment status for children 10-18 years. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The employment status of children at the district level is presented in TABLE 18. Bo has the highest proportion of self-employment and Kambia the highest proportion of unpaid work. Female self-employment is higher than male self-employment in 10 of 14 districts and, alternatively, a larger proportion of males participate in wage employment in 11 out of 14 districts.

DISTRICT	MALE ♂			FEMALE ♀		
	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	UNPAID WORK AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	WAGE EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	UNPAID WORK AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
KAILAHUN	4.46	47.39	48.15	4.88	45.86	49.25
KENEMA	3.50	53.33	43.17	4.08	52.87	43.05
KONO	3.67	59.93	36.10	3.97	61.78	31.25
BOMBALI	1.90	56.56	41.54	2.41	55.80	41.70
KAMBIA	2.38	46.37	51.25	2.88	45.40	51.73
KOINADUGU	1.08	60.36	38.56	1.47	55.77	42.76
PORT LOKO	1.74	59.60	38.66	2.19	59.39	38.41
TONKOLILI	2.35	54.58	43.07	2.61	53.63	43.76
BO	3.28	71.07	25.64	3.23	71.09	25.68
BONTHE	3.43	32.4	28.16	4.06	66.59	29.34
MOYAMBA	2.32	68.41	38.37	2.28	60.06	37.66
PUJEHUN	1.86	59.31	42.33	1.81	57.09	41.11
WESTERN RURAL	7.05	59.36	23.59	9.94	68.12	21.94
WESTERN URBAN	11.70	65.68	22.62	16.73	60.72	22.55

TABLE 18 - Child activity rates for children aged 10-14 by district and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

4.6 - INFORMAL SECTOR

The last section of this report on employment intends to cover a widespread phenomenon observed in Sierra Leone; that of the informal sector. The pertaining data are scarce, given the indefinite nature of the phenomenon under examination. The ILO analyses categories of activities that make up the informal sector. It provides the following definition: 'the informal sector is made up of micro-enterprises, which in the context of Sierra Leone engage less than six workers, with self-employment accounting for the largest share of total employment in the sector; most activities require limited investment; the sector comprises mainly of non-capitalistic activity whereby the family usually owns the business and provides the means of production; there is a tendency for the enterprises to operate outside the institutional and legal framework³.' The data gathered by the official office of statistics provides a general idea of the extent of this phenomenon. TABLE 19 below shows us that self-employment accounts for 65% of the economic activities in this sector, followed by 18% of household work and 15.2% of unpaid work. Youngsters aged 15-24 contribute to 27%, while those in the age group 15-34 are more than double this amount (57.2%). Women outnumber men across all ages, as we can see from FIGURE 7 below. The observed pattern is the same for men and women: informal employment is low at the ages 15-19, reaching its peak at 25-29 and then declining.

AGE	SELF EMPLOYED	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER	HOUSEHOLD WORK	TOTALS
15-19	128743	55265	54064	241728
20-24	172688	47247	59055	282665
25-29	215757	47895	60853	327952
30-34	178501	36124	45655	262739
35-39	178985	34634	42387	258240
40-44	127036	23400	37098	179256
45-49	108012	18900	20756	149045
50-54	75236	13913	15872	106111
55-59	49670	8959	10036	69424
60-64	48963	9865	11930	71655
TOTAL	123591	296202	347706	1948815
15-24	301431	102512	113119	524393
15-34	695689	186531	219627	1115084

TABLE 19 - Economic activities in the informal sector by age. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

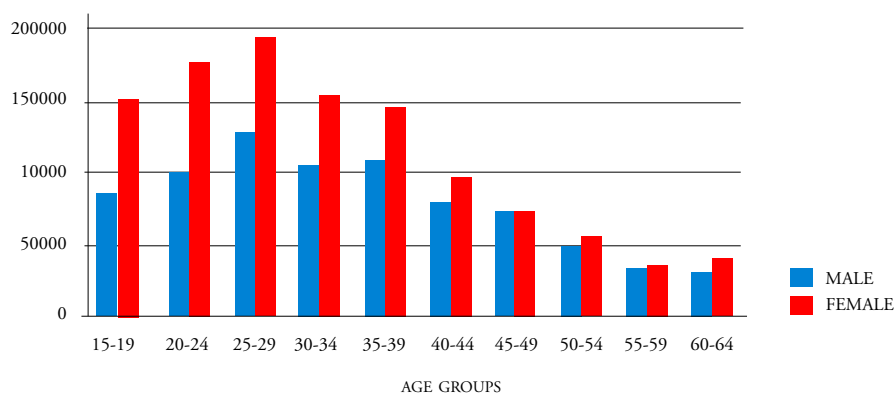


FIGURE 7 - Age and gender pattern of informal sector workers. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

In closing this section of the report, the data gathered so far allows us to draw the following conclusions:

- Male participation to the labour force exceeds that of females. Nonetheless, in Bombali, Kambia, Koinadugu, Port Loko, Bonthe and Pujehun, there is a high female participation rate.
- Educated youngsters are most likely to be unemployed and youth unemployment (slightly) exceeds the national average.
- Gender disparity is highly pronounced in all districts with the exception of Bombali.
- Sierra Leone's economy is purely agrarian and is lacking in highly skilled professionals.

¹ Paid employees are those who work for others and are paid in cash. Self-employed individuals are those engaged in business for themselves. Unpaid family workers are those employed in the family business without payment.

² Household workers are those who are engaged in activities related to housekeeping, babysitting, and so forth.

³ *Alleviating Unemployment and Poverty under Adjustment – Issues and Strategies for Sierra Leone*, International Labour Organization.





Mende Wooden Soweï Helmet Mask, Sierra Leone, 20th century AD.

In many African societies, masked dancers perform on special occasions, but the dancers are nearly always men. The Mende people, however, are one of the notable exceptions where women worn masks. Nearly every member of the Mende tribe belongs to a secret association: the Sande society for women, and the Poro society for men. When girls and boys reach their teens they go through special training to join these organizations, learning all they will need to know to become full adult members of society. Women teach the girls dancing and singing, domestic skills, childcare, grooming, and etiquette, in addition to religious knowledge. This mask was used in a traditional initiation ceremony into the secret Sande society.

This mask represents everything an adult Mende woman should be: wise, serene, and elegant. The mask was not intended to be a portrait of a specific person; rather, it represents an ideal woman.

The delicate facial features of the mask, the modestly downcast eyes, and the discreetly closed mouth, are examples of inner beauty as much as outer beauty. The smooth high forehead indicates wisdom and success. In Mende thought, a woman's future may be told by her forehead. Because elaborate hairstyles are desirable among adult Mende women, the hair is carved to show an intricate style of braiding and banding. The hair is carefully arranged in orderly patterns, reflecting the balance and harmony of an ideal household. To fully appreciate the Sande Society mask, we would have to see it in the context of the ceremony for which it was intended. Now still and silent, this wooden mask once embodied a powerful spirit called soweï.

Imagine the awesome appearance of this beautiful mask worn by a woman with raffia swirling about her as she moved. The mask itself is an embodiment of the soweï spirit, not simply decoration that conceals the dancer.

In evoking the spirit, the masked woman gives up her own identity to allow the spirit to take over. The soweï spirit is present to escort the girls into initiation, to provide guidance while they are in training, and to emerge with them in festive celebration of their readiness for adulthood and marriage.

5 - AGRICULTURE

5.1 - OVERVIEW

AGRICULTURE is the most important labour activity in Sierra Leone, employing approximately 70% of the labour force. The sector accounts for 46.9% of GDP. Nonetheless, the nutrition of the population is partly dependant on exportations.

Livestock production counts for only 15% of the total agricultural production. The fishing sector is expanding; however, it lacks sufficient equipment and a canning industry. (Cf. DATA INFRA).

The majority of the population live on small, scattered farms, following a scheme of bush-fallow rotation and slash-and-burn field preparation¹. The fields are usually cleared by axe and cutlass. They are burned at the start of the season and, in 65% of cases, are cultivated in two successive seasons².

A large amount of annual rain provides ideal growing conditions. With this advantage, the country could become a leading crop producer in West Africa's future. It has over 4.3 million hectares of cultivable land available, which constitutes 74% of the land mass³.

Farmers wait for the first rains before they begin to sow crops, as termites brush the lands when the rains start. The farmer has to burn his land three times a week before it begins to rain. He then casts the seeds and the crops are harvested from December until the beginning of January. However, a recent trend among groundnut farmers is to sow a second crop in September after harvesting the first crop⁴.

The annual 'hanger gap'⁵ lasts from June to October. During this period, small producers are often out of stock and have difficulties acquiring money and food, which are harder to come by this time of the year. (Cf. Farming calendar infra).

Rice, grown by 80% of farmers, is the most important subsistence crop. Nevertheless, the annual rice production is not sufficient to feed the population. About one fourth of rice consumed is therefore imported⁶. Cassava is the second most important food crop. Traditionally, farmers use the inland valley swamps (IVS) for rice in the rainy season, and then cultivate it in the dry season for groundnut, vegetables, potatoes and cassava.

Some food crop industries have begun producing ginger, spices and palm oil⁷. The most important exportation crops are cacao, gari (cassava flour), palm oil and rice⁸. Coffee, kola nuts and roughage of palm are lesser exportation products⁹.

Regarding livestock and fish productions, 33.55% of the total meat consumed was issued with exportation in 2002 (mainly poultry and pork)¹⁰.

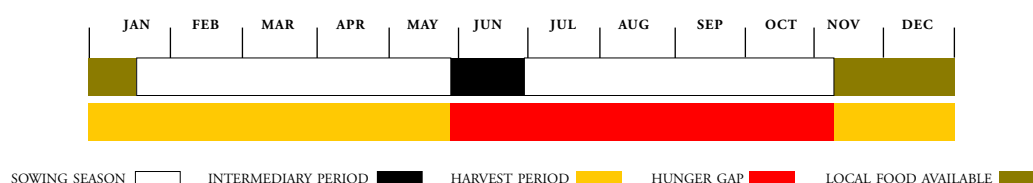
A commercial agreement has been signed between sorghum farmers and international beer brands. Furthermore, several countries are considering to invest in the country's agricultural sector, including Egypt and South Africa.

Despite ideal climatic conditions, crop productivity is considerably low due to a lack of access to 'modern' production inputs such as insecticides, fertilizers, and tractors. Moreover, farming inputs, including tools, seeds and technology are inadequate and basic. The typical farmer exhibits a very poor knowledge of agronomy and is inhibited by the absence of institutional credit¹¹. Credit awarded to small producers is generally rare and costly¹².

Traders and farmers also meet a number of market organisation deficiencies, such as the oral transmission of prices, and a lack of access to markets often due to bad quality road networks (particularly feeder roads). The latter increases the price of trading and limits access to farming inputs. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), less than 5% of households have access to fertilizer, insecticides, lawn-tractors and tractors¹³.

Climate change is also a growing concern, however, according to available data; it is difficult to acknowledge the scope of the issue. Depending on the region, there are other environmental constraints such as low soil suitability, land degradation, erratic rainfall and cold stress risk near the ocean. (cf. MAP INFRA).

5.2 - FARMING CALENDAR



Arable land in proportion to total land (% in 2005)*	7.95%
Used arable land (%)***	20%
Irrigated land (square meters in 2005)*	300 sq
Irrigated land in proportion to total land mass (% in 2005)	0.04%
Agriculture GDP in proportion to agriculture in total GDP (% in 2005)****	42.9
Proportion of livestock production in agricultural GDP (% in 2005)**	15.2
Population density of total land mass (persons/sq km)**	66.5
Agricultural population density of agricultural land (persons/sqkm in 2005)**	104
Percentage of total area considered suitable for crop production on a sustainable basis****	74

¹ Nations Encyclopedia, *Agriculture*, <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Sierra-Leone-Agriculture.html>.

² Sangonet, *Sierra Leone*, <http://www.sangonet.com/afriqg/PAFF/sierraleo-drhy.html>

³ FAO, Aquastat, Sierra Leone Report, 2009, (<http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquasta/data/query/results.html>)

⁴ Sesay A., Yarmah A., *Growth, yield performance and market quality of groundnut (Arachis hypogaea) as affected by the cropping season in southern Sierra Leone*, Journal of Agricultural Science, 127(2): 201-206.

⁵ The 'hanger gap' is the period between two harvests, when granaries from the last crop are empty and it is still not the right time to produce the next crop.

⁶ *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper- Progress Report on Pillar II: Promoting Pro-Poor Sustainable Growth for Food Security and Job Creation*, 2006 (Development Assistance Coordination Office, *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia 2008* (http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/1_gov/1_2/MAFFS/maffs_progress_report.pdf)).

⁷ International Trade Centre, In Sierra Leone, Ginger Trade Helps Recovery, 2007, (http://www.tradeforum.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/1131/In_Sierra_Leone,_Ginger_Trade_Helps_Recovery.html).

⁸ Visit Inter Press Service, *Sierra Leone - Challenges 2007-2008 : Un autre type de bataille pour la Sierra Leone*, December 29, 2007 (<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200712300044.html>).

⁹ Encarta, *Sierra Leone* (http://fr.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563681_5/Sierra_Leone.html).

¹⁰ FAO, Livestock Information, Sector Analysis and Policy Branch, 2005

¹¹ FAO, Aquastat, Sierra Leone Report, 2009 (www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries/sierra_leone).

¹² Visit Inter Press Service, *Sierra Leone - Challenges 2007-2008: Un autre type de bataille pour la Sierra Leone*, December 29, 2007 (<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200712300044.html>).

¹³ <http://www.fao.org/isfp/information-par-pays/sierra-leone/fr/>.

¹⁴ * Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).

** FAO, Livestock Information, Sector Analysis and Policy Branch, 2005.

*** Diplomazia Economica Italiana, *Sierra Leone: il Paese è pronto a rinascere*, 2009.



6 - EDUCATION & LITERACY

6.1 - OVERVIEW

E DUCATION underpins and drives economic performance in both developed and developing countries. Without minimum levels of literacy, mathematical and other key skills, it becomes extremely difficult to reach crucial development milestones such as: proper nutrition, lower population growth, the empowerment of women, a vibrant private sector, effective demographic governance at national and district levels, and strong civic participation in the Country's development process.

The eleven-year civil war had a devastating impact on the educational system. However, since 2001, tremendous progress has been made in extending primary education provisions in both government assisted and non-formal community schools. Primary school enrolments had more than tripled in just over three years to around 1,3 million in 2004. The overall gross enrolment rate for primary education has increased from 35% in the early 1990s to 122% by mid-2003, and the gender enrolment gap has narrowed considerably. The surge in enrolments has been fuelled by the abolition of tuition fees, increased awareness of the importance of schooling – especially among the rural poor – the provision of school-sponsored meals, and significant improvements in schooling infrastructure. Despite these considerable achievements, major challenges remain concerning access, completion and the overall quality of education. Only approximately one-third of youth between the ages 5 to 17 have been to school, and differences in urban and rural enrolment rates remain substantial. Dropout rates remain unacceptably high due to long travel distances to schools, child labour on family farms, and acute poverty.

6.2 - LITERACY RATE

At the time of the census (1985), 39% of the 3,439,824 respondents in the over 10 age group reported reading and writing ability in at least one language. Sixty percent reported the inability to read or write and 1% did not respond. The trend illustrated in FIGURE 1 suggests that older members of the population tend to have a higher illiteracy rate. Eighty-five percent of the population aged 65 or older were reported as illiterate in comparison to 41% of those aged 10-14.

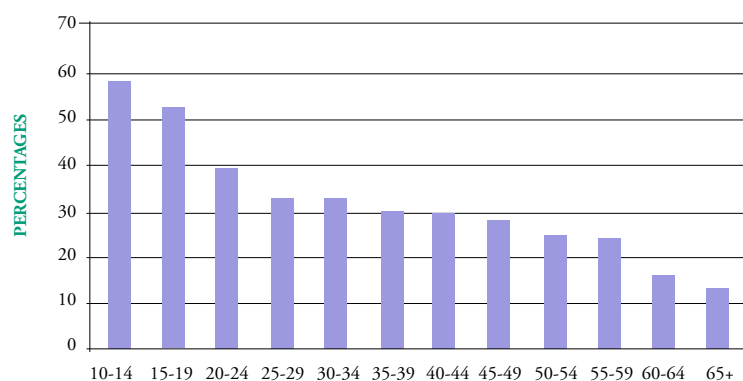


FIGURE 1 - National literacy rate by age range. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

FIGURE 2 below illustrates the gendered literacy distribution rate. The gap between male and female literacy rates is striking, with 49% and 29%, respectively.

This trend is present both at the regional and district level, as shown in TABLE 1. Eastern and Northern regions have the lowest overall rate, while the female literacy rate is lowest in the Northern region. Once again, this data confirms the disparity of the female situation.

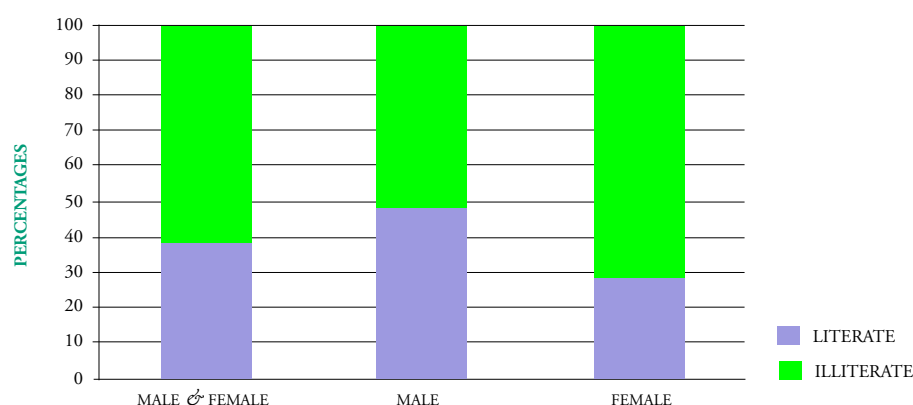


FIGURE 2 - Literacy distribution by gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	% ALL	% MALES	% FEMALES
NATIONAL	39	49	29
EASTERN REGION	31	40	22
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	32	43	22
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	21	30	13
KENEMA TOWN	56	67	46
KONO LG DISTRICT	27	35	19
KONO TOWN	42	49	32
NORTHERN REGION	31	43	20
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	29	40	18
MAKENI TOWN	59	71	48
KAMBIA DISTRICT	32	48	18
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	21	30	14
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	32	45	21
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	30	41	21
SOUTHERN REGION	34	45	25
BO LG DISTRICT	29	40	19
BO TOWN	84	74	55
BONTE LG DISTRICT	24	34	16
BONTE TOWN	56	65	49
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	33	45	24
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	25	36	17
WESTERN AREA	34	45	25
WEST URBAN AREA	68	76	60
WEST RURAL AREA	52	62	42

TABLE 1 - Literacy rates by region and districts. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

This gap appears to be more significant among youths and the elderly. For instance, the national literacy rate for those over 65 was 22% for males and 5% for females, while the rate for those aged 10-14 was 62% for boys and 55% for girls. Whilst the Western Urban Area has a literacy rate of 68% and Bo Town of 64%, the rates in Koinadugu, Pujehun and Kenema are 21%, 26% and 21% respectively.

6.3 ~ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance has improved since the previous census in 1985, in which approximately 71% of Sierra Leoneans aged five and above had never attended school, whilst 16% were still attending school and 13% had left school (as illustrated in TABLE 2). Forty percent of the population aged 6-29 reported having never attended school whilst 46% were attending school and 14% had completed their education. A positive side to these results is that the percentage rate of older individuals who never attended school is lower than for those of a younger age.

AGES	TOTAL	% IN SCHOOL	% LEFT SCHOOL	% NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL
TOTAL	2,495,921	46	14	40
6	155,708	58	1	42
7	117,568	67	1	32
8	159,787	71	1	28
9	121,217	75	1	24
10	158,183	72	2	26
11	81,822	79	2	19
12	130,580	75	2	22
13	97,643	75	3	22
14	97,935	72	4	24
15	155,393	56	6	37
16	89,783	57	8	34
17	76,991	53	10	37
18	132,858	42	13	48
19	81,402	41	17	43
20	153,151	22	18	60
21	60,277	21	30	50
22	83,251	16	31	53
23	57,922	10	39	51
24	59,213	9	41	50
25	185,582	4	28	68
26	57,309	29	42	56
27	61,906	28	43	55
28	71,961	1	39	60
29	45,016	2	45	53

TABLE 2 - Percentage of 6-29 year olds who are in school, out of school or have never attended school. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The census reveals significant differences between districts. The Western Urban district has the lowest non-attendance rate (18.8%), while it reached its highest in Koinadugu (64.5%). Ten out of 14 districts showed a rate higher than 40% and, once again, there is a strong urban-rural divide.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	% ATTENDING SCHOOL	% NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL	% NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL
NATIONAL	48.4	13.6	40.0
EASTERN REGION	45.0	13.1	41.9
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	48.7	13.5	37.8
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	11.2	13.7	42.1
KENEMA TOWN	61.9	16.3	21.8
KONO LG DISTRICT	42.3	11.7	46.0
KONO TOWN	45.2	17.6	37.2
NORTHERN REGION	12.2	8.2	19.6
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	10.2	9.1	12.7
MAKENI TOWN	64.6	14.3	21.1
KAMBIA DISTRICT	12.5	8.9	18.6
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	31.2	4.3	64.5
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	42.8	9.9	47.2
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	42.8	7.4	49.9
SOUTHERN REGION	40.0	12.3	41.0
BO LG DISTRICT	50.5	13.9	35.6
BO TOWN	64.2	10.3	19.0
BONTE LG DISTRICT	10.8	9.8	19.1
BONTE TOWN	62.7	17.7	21.0
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	16.6	10.9	12.5
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	39.0	12.2	48.8
WESTERN AREA	55.0	21.4	20.6
WEST URBAN AREA	48.5	21.7	29.1
WEST RURAL AREA	56.3	21.9	10.0

TABLE 3 - School attendance by region and districts. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The gender disparity in school attendance is exemplified in TABLE 4 and 5 below, illustrating male and female school attendance at the district level. They confirm that the urban-rural divide, as previously shown, and highlight the alarming proportion of women who never attended school. The national average amounts to 46.5%, and in rural areas this actually exceeds the national rate.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	% ATTENDING SCHOOL	% NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL	% NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL
<i>NATIONAL</i>	52.6	14.4	33.0
<i>EASTERN REGION</i>	50.2	14.2	36.6
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	55.8	14.1	30.1
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	49.1	14.9	36.0
KENEMA TOWN	67.4	16.3	16.2
KONO LG DISTRICT	45.7	13.3	41.0
KONO TOWN	47.3	19.0	33.7
<i>NORTHERN REGION</i>	50.9	9.0	40.1
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	55.9	9.8	34.3
MAKENI TOWN	72.1	13.3	14.6
KAMBIA DISTRICT	53.4	10.5	36.1
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	37.7	5.1	57.2
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	52.5	10.7	36.8
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	51.0	7.4	41.4
<i>SOUTHERN REGION</i>	51.8	12.4	35.8
BO LG DISTRICT	56.7	14.1	29.2
BO TOWN	69.7	15.5	14.7
BONTE LG DISTRICT	45.2	9.2	45.6
BONTE TOWN	65.2	15.8	19.1
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	53.7	10.7	35.6
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	43.5	12.4	44.1
<i>WESTERN AREA</i>	58.8	25.4	15.8
WEST URBAN AREA	55.2	21.9	23.0
WEST RURAL AREA	59.6	26.0	14.4

TABLE 4 - Distribution of 6-29 year old male school attendance by district. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	% ATTENDING SCHOOL	% NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL	% NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL
<i>NATIONAL</i>	40.6	12.9	46.5
<i>EASTERN REGION</i>	40.1	12.0	47.9
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	41.9	12.9	45.1
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	39.5	12.5	48.0
KENEMA TOWN	56.6	16.4	27.0
KONO LG DISTRICT	39.0	10.2	50.8
KONO TOWN	43.2	16.2	40.6
<i>NORTHERN REGION</i>	34.3	7.5	58.2
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	40.6	8.5	50.9
MAKENI TOWN	57.6	15.2	27.2
KAMBIA DISTRICT	32.4	7.4	60.2
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	25.5	3.6	70.9
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	34.2	9.2	56.6
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	35.5	7.1	57.3
<i>SOUTHERN REGION</i>	40.6	12.3	47.1
BO LG DISTRICT	44.7	13.6	41.6
BO TOWN	59.0	16.9	24.1
BONTE LG DISTRICT	36.6	10.4	53.0
BONTE TOWN	60.6	15.6	23.9
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	39.9	11.1	49.0
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	34.6	12.1	53.3
<i>WESTERN AREA</i>	51.5	23.4	25.2
WEST URBAN AREA	42.6	21.6	35.8
WEST RURAL AREA	53.3	23.7	23.0

TABLE 5 - Distribution of 6-9 year old female school attendance by district. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

6.4 - PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Gross Completion Rate (GCR) measures the proportion of students who have successfully completed their last year of primary school as a percentage of the amount of students in the official graduating age. Nationally, as shown by TABLE 6, the rate is 56.2%, far from the Millennium Development Goal no. 2 target of 100%¹. The GCR rate varies widely across regions, districts and genders. Koinadugu continues to stand out as the district most in need of urgent intervention, with a 17.5% GCR rate for females. While the cities of Bonthe Town, Bo Town, the Western Urban Area and the Kailahun district deserve praise, many other areas require immediate attention.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	% GCR	% MALE GCR	% FEMALE GCR	PARITY INDEX
NATIONAL	56.2	63.9	47.6	0.74
EASTERN REGION	56.8	67.2	45.3	0.76
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	83.4	98.7	65.8	0.67
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	35.2	42.3	26.8	0.63
KENEMA TOWN	74.1	82.6	65.4	0.79
KONO LG DISTRICT	32.7	42.7	22.1	0.52
KONO TOWN	69.9	80.5	60.1	0.75
NORTHERN REGION	38.8	47.2	29.1	0.62
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	34.6	43.6	23.8	0.55
MAKENI TOWN	79.6	91.5	67.9	0.74
KAMBIA DISTRICT	35.6	46.3	22.4	0.48
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	23.3	29.0	17.5	0.60
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	41.3	50.3	30.7	0.61
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	42.6	49.8	34.5	0.69
SOUTHERN REGION	53.4	59.9	45.8	0.76
BO LG DISTRICT	42.2	50.7	31.5	0.62
BO TOWN	87.2	103.5	72.1	0.70
BONTE LG DISTRICT	38.4	40.0	36.2	0.90
BONTE TOWN	155.0	180.9	135.6	0.75
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	45.2	51.6	37.4	0.72
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	45.6	49.0	41.1	0.84
WESTERN AREA	87.7	95.9	80.0	0.83
WEST URBAN AREA	63.6	75.6	51.0	0.68
WEST RURAL AREA	92.7	100.3	85.7	0.86

TABLE 6 - Primary level gross completion rates by region, district and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

6.5 - JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Junior secondary school or JSS (age 12-14) consists of 143,407 children, 87,787 of which are male and 55,620 are female. As detailed in TABLE 7, boys have higher enrolment rates than girls in every district. Kambia has an alarming ratio of 3.1. Kenema, Kono, Bombali and Bo are not much better however. This suggests that efforts focus on the Northern and Eastern regions rather than Southern and Western areas.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	M.F. RATIO
NATIONAL	143,407	87,787	55,620	1.6
EASTERN REGION	27,397	18,025	9,372	1.9
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	9,616	6,603	3,013	2.2
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	3,935	2,773	1,162	2.1
KENEMA TOWN	8,512	5,117	3,395	1.5
KONO LG DISTRICT	2,703	1,900	803	2.4
KONO TOWN	2,631	1,632	999	1.6
NORTHERN REGION	31,699	21,161	10,535	2.0
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	4,622	3,271	1,351	2.4
MAKENI TOWN	4,696	3,015	1,954	1.5
KAMBIA DISTRICT	3,859	2,922	937	3.1
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	2,192	1,611	848	1.9
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	9,681	6,342	3,330	1.9
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	6,076	3,970	2,106	1.9
SOUTHERN REGION	27,976	17,554	10,422	1.7
BO LG DISTRICT	1,998	3,432	1,566	2.2

BO TOWN	11,979	7,085	4,894	1.4
BONTE LG DISTRICT	2,088	1,305	783	1.7
BONTE TOWN	427	232	195	1.2
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	1,181	2,961	1,520	2.0
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	4,000	2,536	1,464	1.7
WESTERN AREA	56,335	31,044	25,291	1.2
WEST URBAN AREA	6,346	3,842	2,504	1.5
WEST RURAL AREA	19,989	27,202	22,787	1.2

TABLE 7 - JSS total enrolment by region, district and sex. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

6.6 - SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

The enrolment rate at the senior secondary school level (SSS) for the those aged 15-17 was 65,141, of which 22,483 were girls (35%) and 42,658 (65%) were boys. TABLE 8 below displays the regional differences in gender ratios. In most districts, boys outnumber girls by more than 2 to 1. In Kambia, this ratio is even more pronounced at 4.5 to 1. The Western Area reported the highest enrolment rate of 56%.

REGIONAL/LOCAL GOVT. AREA	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	M.F. RATIO
NATIONAL	65,111	42,658	22,183	1.9
EASTERN REGION	8,104	5,977	2,127	2.8
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	2,114	1,644	470	3.5
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	1,093	830	203	3.2
KENEMA TOWN	3,870	2,780	1,090	2.6
KONO LG DISTRICT	414	303	111	2.7
KONO TOWN	616	420	196	2.1
NORTHERN REGION	10,324	7,395	2,929	2.5
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	1,090	821	269	3.1
MAKENI TOWN	2,345	1,639	706	2.3
KAMBIA DISTRICT	943	771	172	1.5
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	1,027	702	325	2.2
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	3,551	2,453	1,098	2.2
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	1,368	1,009	359	2.8
SOUTHERN REGION	10,235	7,070	3,165	2.2
BO LG DISTRICT	1,290	920	370	2.5
BO TOWN	6,039	4,115	1,924	2.1
BONTE LG DISTRICT	616	470	146	2.7
BONTE TOWN	181	116	65	1.8
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	942	667	275	2.4
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	1,128	773	355	2.2
WESTERN AREA	36,475	22,216	14,259	1.6
WEST URBAN AREA	2,610	1,695	915	1.9
WEST RURAL AREA	33,865	20,521	13,344	1.51

TABLE 8 - Enrolment at SSS by region, district and gender. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

Comparing enrolment rates across various school levels is essential. In FIGURE 3, the abyssal difference between primary school and JSS enrolments cannot be ignored. Whilst over 70% of children enrolled at the primary school level, as few as 17% enrolled at the JSS level. This data indicates the low percentage rate of primary school students who continue their education.

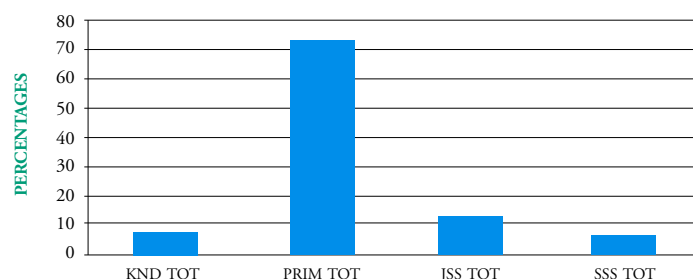


FIGURE 3 - Distribution of enrolment at the various school levels. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

6.7 ~ POST SECONDARY EDUCATION



The Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) group rounds up dropouts from primary and secondary schools with the intention of providing them with employable skills and experience. The World Food Programme reported enrolment of over 50,000 individuals from 525 community education and other training centres, of which many are managed and funded by various NGOs. Since 2000, there has been a strong focus on the training of ex-combatants. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) records list a total of 321 technical and vocational training institutions concentrated in the Western Area (97) and the Bo and Kenema districts (45 and 25, respectively). Most offer training at JSS and SSS levels. Three-quarters of these centres lack tools and basic equipment and two-thirds of instructors are untrained. There is neither a standardised curriculum nor any national testing system. Over 1500 courses are offered at 148 institutions with a total enrolment of 22,394 reported in May 2003. Rural resources are very limited with only two districts having more than ten centres. The TVE system focuses heavily on full-time pre-employment

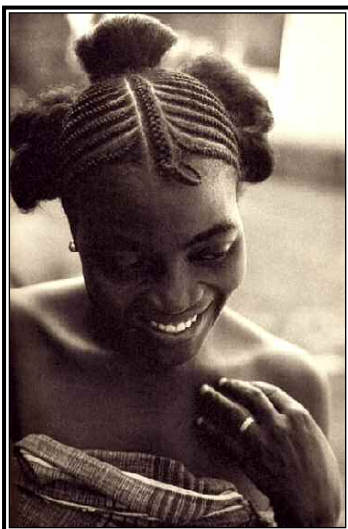
training for high- and middle-paying occupations in the formal sector. The principal beneficiaries of this training are secondary school leavers that are not from poor backgrounds.

6.8 ~ TERTIARY EDUCATION

The University of Sierra Leone is comprised of Fourah Bay College, Njala University College, the Institute of Public Administration and Management, and The College of Medicine and Health Sciences. Total enrolment for the university has increased from 3,400 in 1999-2000 to 5,885 in 2003-2004. Approximately 5,000 students were enrolled at the two polytechnics and 3,890 at the three separate teacher-training colleges. The total tertiary enrollment has increased rapidly in recent years: from 8,671 in 2001-2002, to 15,535 in 2003-2004. Gender ratios have remained largely unchanged (at between 0.20-0.25) at both Fourah Bay College and Njala University College since the early 1990s. The overall gender ratio at the five



other tertiary-level institutions is currently 37%. It is widely believed that university students come from more affluent and mostly urban family backgrounds. However, the socioeconomic status of these individuals has yet to be researched.



6.9 ~ TEACHING STAFF

A healthy educational system must rely on a properly trained teaching body. In aggregate terms, 55% of primary school teachers are qualified either with a Teacher Certificate (TC) or at Higher Teacher Certificate (HTC). The scarcity of qualified primary school teachers is acute in the following districts: Kono (72%), Koinadugu (83%), and Tonkolili (70%). Conversely, 96% of primary school teachers in Freetown are qualified. Most rural primary schools have only one or two qualified teachers; one of whom is the head teacher who does not normally teach. Around 60% of the teachers in government-funded schools have more than ten years experience. In contrast, most teachers at community primary schools have less than three years of experience. Since promotion is based almost exclusively on seniority, most head teachers are over fifty years old. One-quarter

of secondary school teachers are unqualified and teachers with the prescribed HTC qualification in remote locations are even scarcer. The qualification and experience profiles of teaching staff at the tertiary education institutions are also very weak. Out of 1.321 lecturers in 2000-2001, only 12% had post-graduate degrees (46 doctorates and 111 masters). At Fourah Bay College, only 31 full-time staff had reported having doctorates, and the qualification profiles at the teacher-training colleges are even weaker. Training capacity in science and mathematics is especially limited and there is a dearth of well-qualified trainers at most TVE institutions.

¹ The Millenium Development Goal no. 2 intends to achieve a universal primary education. The goal is to 'ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling'.



Shirt, Sierra Leone, 20th century AD.

7 - HEALTH

7.1 - OVERVIEW

HEALTH is a serious issue in Sierra Leone. According to the 2007-2008 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), out of 177 countries, Sierra Leone has the lowest health expenditure *pro capite* (PPP US\$).

HEALTH STATISTICS

	NATIONAL	MALE	FEMALE	WORLD POSITION
LIFE EXPECTANCY (YEARS)*	41.24	38.92	43.64	219 TH /224
HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS IN 2007)**	37	--	--	--
DEATH RATE IN 2009: (DEATH/1000 POPULATION)*	21.91	--	--	4 TH /223
INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN 2009: (DEATH/1000 LIVE BIRTHS)*	154.4	171.57	136.78	2 ND /224
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE IN 2009 (CHILDREN /MOTHERS)*	--	--	5.88	12 TH /224
HIV/AIDS – ADULT PREVALENCE RATE IN 2007 (% OF THE POPULATION)*	1.7	--	--	37 TH /170
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH AS % OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE (2006)*	7.8	--	--	--

TABLE 1 - SOURCE: * Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009*, (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).
** UNDP, *Human Development Report 2009*.

Food or waterborne diseases are most common in Sierra Leone, such as bacterial and protozoan diarrhoea, schistosomiasis, hepatitis A and typhoid fever; vector borne diseases such as malaria and yellow fever; and aero sized dust or soil contact diseases such as the Lassa fever.

7.2 - HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION¹

In order to review the local situation, a table of data with key health indicators was compiled for each district in Sierra Leone (see Appendix 1)². The 2008 Demographic and Health Survey revealed that the situation in the Moyamba district is particularly critical and that the Koinadugu district was the worst concerning child nutrition.

HEALTH STATISTICS BY DISTRICT

	BO	BOMBALI	BONTHE	KAILAHUN	KAMBIA	KENEMA	KOINADUGU	KONO	MOYAMBA	PORT LOKO	PUJEHUN	TONKOLIL
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH												
TOTAL	45,3	52,5	49,1	49,1	50,7	45	49,3	46,9	44,5	49	46	47,6
WOMEN	46,1	55,3	49,6	49,5	51,5	46,2	50,6	48,2	46,0	50	46,7	47,9
MEN	44,6	51,6	48,6	48,6	50	43,9	48,2	45,7	43,1	48,1	45,4	47,3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE												
	131	96	112	112	105	132	111	123	135	112	127	118
CHILD MORTALITY RATE												
	102	68	84	84	76	104	83	94	107	84	99	89
UNDER FIVE MORTALITY RATE												
	222	159	188	189	174	225	186	208	230	189	216	199
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE												
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NUMBER OF FUNCTIONING PERIPHERIC HEALTH UNITS												
	96	83	33	--	46	108	52	63	83	92	49	--
HIV PREVALENCE (% IN 2005)												
TOTAL	1,9	1,0	0,7	1,4	1,5	1,5	3,0	1,0	1,0	1,3	2,2	0,5
WOMEN	1,3	0,7	0,6	1,2	2,0	1,2	3,0	1,0	1,0	1,3	2,4	0,3
MEN	2,4	1,2	0,8	1,6	1,2	2,6	3,0	1,0	0,9	1,4	1,9	0,8

TABLE 2 - SOURCE: Development Assistance Coordination Office, *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia 2008*, and Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

WATER AND SANITATION DATA

	BO	BOMBALI	BONTHE	KAILAHUN	KAMBIA	KENEMA	KOINADUGU	KONO	MOYAMBA	PORT LOKO	PUJEHUN	TONKOLIL
% OF POPULATION WITHOUT SAFE DRINKING WATER												
	30,6	57,8	67,5	46,1	67,6	43,1	69,1	50,2	79,6	64,8	51,4	71,1
% OF HOUSEHOLDS USING PROTECTED WELLS												
	25,0	9,0	10,6	16,1	15,8	6,1	20,5	20,5	11,5	11,8	9,1	14,2
% OF HOUSEHOLDS USING TAP WATER												
	21,3	25,0	7,6	20,3	4,7	9,2	10,6	19,5	2,2	7,1	15,1	8,5
% OF HOUSEHOLDS USING LATRINES												
	55,0	77,0	21,4	40,2	75,6	4,0	70,6	86,6	30,8	67,6	36,5	74,8

TABLE 3 - SOURCE: Development Assistance Coordination Office, *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia 2008*, and Ministry of Health and Sanitation.



7.3 - SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CONFLICT^{3,4}

Throughout the ten-year civil war, thousands of Sierra Leonean women and girls were subjected to widespread sexual violence, including rape and sexual slavery, mostly committed by rebels. A survey carried out by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) in 2002 of 991 female heads of households living in communities of displaced individuals found that approximately one in every eight household members (13%) had been subjected to one or more incidents of conflict related sexual violence. Among the respondents to the survey, the prevalence rate of such sexual violence was 9% (94 out of 991). Based on this rate, as many as 50,000 to 64,000 internally displaced women may have been subjected to sexual violence as a result of the war. Adding extrapolated data for other types of victims, PHR calculated that as many as 215,000 to 257,000 Sierra Leonean women and girls may have been subjected to sexual violence during the period of conflict.

The rebels sought complete domination by humiliating civilians. They assailed cultural norms by not merely violating the victim, but also the victim's family. Many rapes were committed in full view of other rebels and civilians, and victims were sometimes forced to commit incest. Victims were also raped in mosques, churches, and other sacred areas. Boys and men were sometimes raped too by male or female rebels and, due to the stigma attached to homosexuality few boys were willing to report it. The rebel forces also subjected women and girls of all ages, ethnic groups, and socioeconomic classes to individual and gang rape. The rebels favored girls and young women whom they believed to be virgins. Girls that have been raped are considered less eligible for marriage.

Rebels, sometimes child combatants, also raped postmenopausal and breastfeeding women. Furthermore, the rebels frequently used objects, including weapons, burning wood and hot oil, to rape and torture women and girls, which occasionally lead to their death.

Women and girls were often captured to carry out forced labour and were forced to marry rebels. Many have given birth to children fathered by rebels. An unknown number of abducted girls and women still remains under the control of their rebel 'husbands' and feel unable to relinquish the 'families' they have founded. In many cases, the abductees' own families would not welcome them back.

7.4 - EFFECTS ON HEALTH

Sexual violence often continues to affect the physical and mental health, and the well-being of survivors long after they have been abused. In addition to the reluctance of some survivors to seek medical treatment, the lack of health facilities, especially in the provinces, as well as the survivors' lack of money for transport, medical treatment and drugs has meant that the health status of survivors is poor.

Doctors and other health personnel interviewed by Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported a high rate of sexually transmitted diseases amongst victims of sexual violence. Other health problems include vasico-vaginal and vasico-rectal fistulas, as a result of the rapes conducted on young girls, but also those of mature women. Moreover, many victims encounter more complications when giving birth. Health professionals have noted high rates of pregnancies among young girls with a higher risk of illness, injury, and even death due to pregnancy-related complications. These girls are likely to experience future complications including uterine problems and scarring, reducing their ability to

have a normal sex life, and to conceive or carry a child to the full term in the future. The health of children born to abducted girls is also likely to suffer, as the girls often have no one to teach them motherhood skills, which therefore contributes to high rates in infant mortality.

7.5 ~ STIGMATISATION AND SHAME OF SURVIVORS

Although rapes have been committed on such a systematic and widespread scale and witnessed by many people, it seems that rape survivors, particularly in urban centers, are generally not stigmatised by society. Interviewed survivors have expressed fears of rejection by their families and communities, but in practice, it seems that their fears are unfounded. Most survivors are accepted back into their communities, with their families simply overjoyed to find them still alive. Nevertheless, some women have been rejected by their husbands and, girls and women who voluntarily joined the rebel forces are less likely to be welcomed back.

The survey conducted by PHR gives an indication of survival strategies employed by female rape victims and 65% revealed their personal experiences of sexual violence. Of the 85% of women that did not report incidents of rape, 64% stated that feelings of shame or fears of social stigmatisation were the reasons behind their silence. To a lesser extent, fear of being stigmatised or rejected (28%) and of having lost trust in others (21%) were the main factors that kept women from reporting a rape. The HTW also found that many survivors felt intense personal shame from being defiled and, therefore, often did not report the crime or seek medical attention. The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)⁵ in Sierra Leone, which has substantial expertise in treating survivors of sexual violence, believes that counseling on a large scale is needed to help women rebuild their futures.

7.6 ~ DISABLED POPULATION

Due to a decade of brutal civil war and carnage, the nation suffered from 75,000 fatalities, two million displaced individuals, 5,000 child soldiers, and 20,000 people mutilated, including 5,000 with damaged upper limbs. In total, some estimate the number of disabled people in Sierra Leone to total about 250,000, or approximately four percent of the total population⁶.

Wendy Batson, spokeswoman for Handicapped International, has said that almost half of the country lives by subsistence agriculture which can cause great difficulties for an amputee⁷. Therefore, the 20,000 disabled individuals remain in the bottom rung of the economic ladder. With many begging by day and sleeping on Freetown's market tables by night, Handicapped International claims that life span of such persons is likely to be lower than the country's average of 41 years.

Additionally, those disabled during the war are likely to be tormented by psychological problems as a result of their trauma. 'Many have chosen not to return to their home villages, the site of their victimization', said Victor Gegebe, project officer in the psychological unit of Handicapped International's Freetown office. Many are also marginalized within their communities, which have ignorant views toward the handicapped, equating their trauma with witchcraft and evil spirits⁸.

Furthermore, the European Union Election Observation Mission Republic of Sierra Leone (EU-EOMSL) has revealed that the disabled population of Sierra Leone was under-represented in the 2007 electoral process⁹.

7.7 ~ HEALTH SYSTEM FAILURES

With the high cost and the bad quality of health care delivery, access to health is severely undermined. A recent report discussing maternal health in Sierra Leone¹⁰ shed light on the inherent problems that help explain limited access to health care. A primary issue is that the Sierra Leonean health care system suffers from a lack of trained and sufficiently motivated staff. For instance, only 42% of deliveries are attended by skilled professionals and less than five deliveries are carried out in health facilities. There is also a lack of drugs and medical supplies, of blood for transfusion, grossly inadequate provisions for emergency obstetric care, poor infrastructure, and an ineffective referral system. Furthermore, there is little or no monitoring and accountability at the local or national level to ensure that the health care system functions effectively.

The lack of attention paid until recently to conflict related sexual violence has meant that the health needs of women and girls have not received as much attention or funding as required to adequately address the scale of the problem. Additionally, mental health services for survivors of sexual violence are inadequate and quantitatively insufficient¹¹. Thus, many victims of the conflict, especially in remote villages, still suffer trauma from the experiences they endured and will not receive any specialised counseling.

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- ¹ Development Assistance Coordination Office, *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia 2008*, (http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/3_dist) and Ministry of Health and Sanitation).
- ² No statistics can be found for the Western district.
- ³ This part constitutes extracts from Human Rights Watch, *We'll Kill You If You Cry*, Human Rights Watch, 2003. (<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2003/01/15/well-kill-you-if-you-cry>).
- ⁴ Forum for African Women Educationalists.
- ⁵ FAO, Disabled in Sierra Leone prove disability is not inability, 2004 (<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/EN/field/2004/51804/index.html>)
- ⁶ Rusling M., *Sierra Leone's amputees: Those left to beg*, April 12, 2009 (<http://www.nowpublic.com/world/sierra-leones-amputees-those-left-beg>).
- ⁷ *Ibidem*.
- ⁸ European Union Election Observation Mission, *Open and genuinely contested elections, organised in a largely professional manner represent a positive step towards building a sustainable democracy in Sierra Leone*, 2007, (http://www.euomsierreleone.org/PDF/EU_EOM_Sierra_Leone_Preliminary_statement.pdf).
- ⁹ Amnesty International UK, *Out of reach: the cost of maternal health in Sierra Leone*, 2009.
- ¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, *We'll Kill You If You Cry*, 2003. (<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2003/01/15/well-kill-you-if-you-cry>).
- ¹¹ *Ibidem*.



*Sculpture, probably Mende,
Sierra Leone, 19th century AD.*

8.1 - OVERVIEW

IN SIERRA LEONE, women constitute more than 51% of the population; they provide 80% of the rural labour force and 70% of the local food production. Women living outside the capital city of Freetown in rural areas have little protection from discrimination, violations of human rights and brutal abuse. They are forced, due to a lack of formal legislation and limited police protection, into situations in which their rights are violated on a daily basis. They are considered inferior to men and are kept under the guardianship of a male family member. As a result, women and children's rights for an adequate standard of living are limited. Additionally women's access to justice is severely impeded by practices that take place under customary laws that do nothing to protect women from violence, coercion and discrimination.

LIFE EXPECTANCY (YEARS)	43.6
FEMALE LITERACY RATE ¹ (%)	29
FEMALE LITERACY RATE (AS A % OF MALES), 2000–2007	54
SCHOOL LIFE EXPECTANCY (YEARS)	6
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (PER FEMALE)	5.2
ADOLESCENT FERTILITY RATE (PER 1,000)	126
CONTRACEPTION PREVALENCE ² (%), 2000–2007	5
ANTENATAL CARE COVERAGE ³ (%), 2000–2007	81
SKILLED ATTENDANT AT BIRTH ⁴ (%), 2000–2007	43
INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY (%), 2000–2007	19
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO REPORTED, 2000–2007	1,800
ADJUSTED MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO ⁵ , 2005	2,100
LIFETIME RISK OF MATERNAL DEATH (%) 2005	15

TABLE 1 - Statistics of women in Sierra Leone SOURCE: UNICEF and The World Bank.

8.2 - GENDER EQUALITY AND THE LAW

Sierra Leone is a party in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and in its Optional Protocol. The government has also made commitments to follow the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The CEDAW⁶ is an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and thirty articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and establishes an agenda for national action to end discrimination. The CEDAW defines discrimination against women as any distinction, exclusion or restriction based on sex, which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of women. This is irrespective of their marital status, and is based on the equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or civil field.

According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Sierra Leone leads in gender promotion. Nonetheless, women are still suffering and experiencing inequality. One of the main issues lies in Sierra Leone's constitution, which recognises both the formal and the customary laws. Formal law constitutes the laws promulgated by Parliament. Customary law is defined by the constitution as the rule of law dictated by customs that are applicable to particular communities and are enforced by local courts. For instance, Islamic law (*Sharia*) is recognized in Sierra Leone in relation to marriage, divorce and inheritance among Muslims. It is treated as part of customary law in most areas.

In theory, under the constitution ratified in 1991, women are now entitled to equal rights as the state now promotes national integration and unity, and discourages discrimination. For instance, Section 9 states that: "The Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal rights and adequate educational opportunities for all citizens at all levels by [...] safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups, such as children, women and the disabled."

In various sections of the constitution, articles permit discrimination in areas such as, adoption, marriage, divorce, burial and devolution of poverty upon death, which relate directly to the rights of the women. This contradiction means that in theory, the government is making great strides in promoting equality, but in practice, it is permitting prejudicial customary law that contributes to the diminished status of women.

Under the Local Courts Act of 1963, the local court is the only institution permitted to adjudicate customary law. The local courts' jurisdiction includes all cases related to traditional affairs, for instance those that relate to marriage, divorce, debt, succession and land tenure. Additionally, in rural Sierra Leone, chiefs have a tremendous impact on women's access to justice. They have even exceeded their authority under the law by imposing punishments that violate women human rights. As a result, the chief's role and actions in dealing with gender violence and sexual abuse have resulted in the perpetuation of violence at the community level. Only a small number of women, primarily those who are either rich or live in the Western Area, have access to the formal court system, as they are the only group that can afford to pay for judicial services (lawyers, judges, trials, etc) and because they are not so dependent on male guardianship.

In addition to legal injustices, gender inequality is a constraint for economical growth and development. Many of the humanitarian development programmes give priority to women, because by giving women access to monetary and educational funds, such programmes help to mobilise women's productive capacities in order to reduce poverty and maximise economic output. Providing access to social and human resources will both establish and reinforce their autonomy. Economical services are offered primarily to women, because they are a statistically better credit risk than men, and because they are much more likely to use the money to improve the lives of their children. Women benefit from the creation of social networks and increased levels of empowerment. The group structure found in most micro lending projects offers a source of mutual and collective support.

The main problems that women face in Sierra Leone include a lack of confidence to claim political or legal rights, a lack of local (i.e. customary) and constitutional rights to own household assets and a lack of female representation in government.

8.3 ~ WOMEN AND VIOLENCE

Women are generally more affected during situations of armed conflict, and afterwards their situation can be far worse than before the conflict. A total of 250,000 women and girls were sexually assaulted during the civil war that began in 1991. Women and girls in Sierra Leone continue to be victims of sexual violence, which is attributed to the inadequacy of national laws to prosecute crimes of sexual violence, such as rape and sexual harassment⁷.

Rebel forces used rape as a terror tactic and forced women and girls to act as sexual slaves. They also kidnapped young boys and girls and forced them into servitude, including sexual slavery. Due to these extreme violations of human rights, especially by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), over 100,000 women fled to Guinea during the war. Since August 2000, however, their security in Guinea has diminished. Several rapes, including gang rapes, were reported after the 9 September assaults by Guinean security forces, police and civilians on Sierra Leonean refugees. Since these attacks, refugees have started returning to Sierra Leone.

Violence against women, especially domestic abuse, is common in Sierra Leone. The police are unlikely to intervene in marital disputes, except in cases involving severe injury or death. Domestic violence is not recognised as a societal problem. However, rape is recognised as such, with a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment. There is also a significant amount of prostitution in the country. Many women, especially those displaced from their homes and with few resources, resort to prostitution to secure income for themselves and their children.

One of the main factors that hinder gender equality is the persistence of stereotyped attitudes based on traditional values. The government and local chiefs have failed to protect women due to a lack of legislation that mandates equality. In 2002, under Article XXIX of the Lomé Peace Agreement, a commission was formed by Parliament. The act did not make any specific reference to women, but the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) interpreted the provision to mean that special attention was needed for women and girls in light of the sexual violence perpetrated during the civil war.

The TRC proposed a reparations programme that would largely focus on the rehabilitation of the victims through the distribution of service packages and symbolic measures to acknowledge the harm done in order to give the victims closure. The TRC adopted its reparations programme as a means of redress for victims of human rights abuse because legal recourse through civil courts and prosecution would not have been feasible given the countrywide destruction of judicial infrastructure, as a result of the civil war. Amputees and those wounded as well as women who suffered sexual abuse, children and war-widows have been acknowledged as victims and classified as needing urgent care and assistance.

In response to violence in 2000⁸, just months after the Commission legislation was drawn, a proposal for a hybrid tribunal with both international and national judges, prosecutors, and staff was put forward to prosecute those 'bearing the greatest responsibility' for past violations to human rights. The tribunal, established in 2002 through an

agreement between the UN and the Sierra Leonean government, investigates crimes dating back to 1996, thus, overlapping the jurisdiction of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by nearly three years.

After a difficult start, by mid-2003 the TRC began to play a prominent role in the country by gaining the support of civil society organizations and political personalities. The government cooperates with requests and allows it to work without interference. Several NGOs have asked the TRC to extend its reach further through additional hearings. Focused research and targeted interviewing of key political figures and other important actors are still ongoing.

8.4 - WOMEN AND HEALTH

One of the most important issues concerning Sierra Leone is the preventable dangers faced by women during motherhood. Maternal mortality in the country is among the highest in the world. Thousands of women and girls die every year as a result of treatable complications in pregnancy and childbirth. A Sierra Leonean woman faces a one in eight chance of dying from complications during pregnancy or childbirth.

Obstructed labour⁹ (15 %), haemorrhage (15 %), anaemia (15 %), a ruptured uterus (11%), complications from an unsafe abortion (8 %), and eclampsia (7 %), are the leading causes of fatality in pregnant women. A shortage of safe blood transfusions is also a major cause of death. These complications are easy to treat and completely preventable. Obstructed labour is one of the most common preventable causes of maternal and perinatal mortality worldwide, representing 8% of deaths, but in Sierra Leone the average is almost double at 15%.



FIGURE 1 - Percentage of Causes of maternal death in Africa (1997-2002) SOURCE: UNICEF, *Progress for Children*, 2008.

It is also extremely difficult to attract highly trained surgeons to rural areas. Hospitals in rural areas are staffed by general surgeons and many lack adequate medical equipment. Access to reproductive health services is crucial in efforts to reduce maternal mortality and should be considered a basic human right.

A pandemic sweeping the African continent, of HIV and AIDS must also be taken into consideration. The Violence Against Women (VAW) initiative, for instance, is bringing the need for the feminisation of the HIV and AIDS pandemic relief efforts to the forefront, as well as the need for factoring in the intersection between violence against women and HIV and AIDS. Activities such as prostitution, with little or no education about HIV and AIDS prevention have also contributed the problem. Fortunately, there is a sincere political commitment to fighting the illnesses. A national HIV and AIDS policy and strategic plan have been developed and the National AIDS Secretariat was launched by the government to provide coordination and technical support, and to ensure the implementation of the Sierra Leone HIV and AIDS Response Programme (SHARP) with the support of the World Bank.

Another important issue that should be taken into account is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)¹⁰. The causes of female genital mutilation stem from a mixture of cultural, religious and social factors within families and communities. Many Sierra Leoneans are initiated into secret societies (cf. CHAPTER 1) that are still shrouded in secrecy.

Reports on FGM in Sierra Leone have estimated a national prevalence rate of between 70% and 90%. In 2006, *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) stated that FGM in Sierra Leone is practiced across all ethnic groups, except the Christian Krio in the Western region. The same report stated that the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 90% of the female population has been circumcised. If we assume that the Temne, Mende, Limba, and Kono all practice FGC since there is evidence to this effect, then 78% of ethnic groups in the country practice FGC. In addition, assuming that FGC has a prevalence of 75%, then the national prevalence of FGC in Sierra Leone is approximately 59%¹¹. While the ritual of female genital mutilation is common within regions and ethnic groups in a number of countries in Africa, Sierra Leone stands out as a society in which the practice is particularly pronounced.

Women who have undergone FGM of the type typically practiced in Sierra Leone are 32% more likely to experience stillbirths, according to a WHO study released in 2006¹².

According to Koso-Thomas, practitioners from 'secret societies' exclude men and non-mutilated women, and are widely seen as influential. Women carry out the cuttings in secrecy and the procedure itself is not discussed with outsiders. Politicians routinely try to win the support of these societies by offering to pay for the mutilation of girls and to win the votes and support of their parents. With the country's new democracy, changing the shape of public debate and news of mass genital cuttings is spreading fast, and has made the ritual a recent focus of widespread public discussion for the first time¹³. Although Sierra Leone signed the CEDAW in 1988, the government has passed no laws outlawing female circumcision. Even though these customs are being downgraded, traditional values, symbolised by female circumcision continue to persist.

8.5 - WOMEN AND EDUCATION

The national and regional literacy rates of men are higher than that of women. As illustrated in TABLE 3, the national literacy rate for men is 49% compared to 29% for women. The difference in literacy rates between males and females also seems to increase with age. The male and female literacy rates of the Urban Western Area are 76% and 60%, respectively, and are the highest nationally. The literacy rate of the Kenema district at 13% is the lowest in the whole of Sierra Leone.

While only 33% of males aged 6 to 29 have never attended school, the figure for females is 47%. For children aged 6 to 11, the percentages are 29% and 30%, respectively, indicating a much narrower margin and relatively more equality in primary school education. The highest school attendance for females between ages 6 and 29 is in Bonthe Town with 61% and the lowest is in the Koinadugu District with 26%¹⁴.

LITERACY RATE IN %		
	MALE	EMALE
LITERACY RATES	49	29
LITERACY RATES IN URBAN WETERN AREA	76	60
POPULATION THAT DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL BETWEEN 6 TO 29 YEARS	33	47
POPULATION THAT DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL BETWEEN 6 TO 11 YEARS	29	30

TABLE 2

Because educating girls is not a priority, women are generally not as well educated as men. In their homes women do not take part the decision making process and, traditionally, their role underestimates their intelligence. Banks and financial institutions do not view women as a potential target because of their lack of education, therefore limiting the mobility of women even further.

8.6 - CONSTRAINTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Empowering women is a multi-faceted issue, which affects women physically, emotionally, psychologically, financially, and politically. A woman must challenge the existing norms that pervade patriarchal society in which she lives in order to substantially improve her well being. Economic factors are extremely significant in empowering women. The behavioural changes of women, their spouses and the other members of their community also have a significant impact on female empowerment. This means recognising the position of women as valuable participants in society, not only in relation to their husbands and families, but also in the local community by identifying and changing their legal and customary rights.

¹ Adult literacy rate is the percentage of persons aged 15 and over who can read and write.

² Contraception prevalence is the percentage of women aged 15-49 using contraception.

³ Antenatal care coverage is the percentage of women attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel.

⁴ Skilled attendant at birth is the percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel.

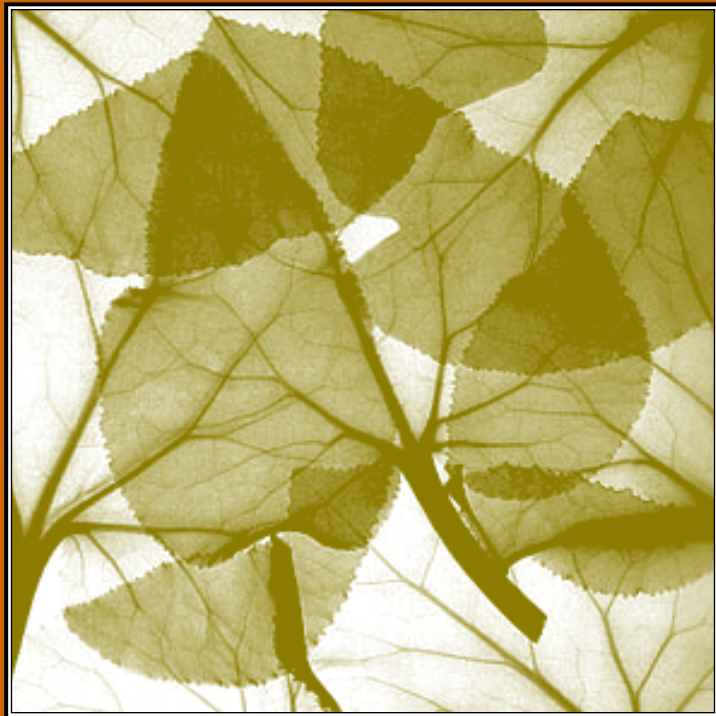
- ⁵ Maternal mortality ratio reported is the annual number of reported deaths by women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births.
- ⁶ Adopted in 1979 by the UN Assembly.
- Combined Recommendations on gender and peacekeeping operations from UNIFEM Commissioned Independent Experts, *Assessment : Women, War and Peace*, 2002.
- ⁷ Maisva E., *Human rights violations against women and truth commission*, 2009.
- ⁸ Peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone on 7 July 1999. Article XXI introduces the Special Fund for War Victims.
- ⁹ In July 1999, USA, UN and Sierra Leone signed the Lomé Treaty. However, the UN was not in agreement with the amnesty. Sankoh, the leader of the rebels was released. In May 2000, Sankoh had been appointed Minister in charge of the diamond mines. The peace was disrupted in the country and another trail of violence was triggered.
- ¹⁰ Amnesty International Report, *Sierra Leone: Out of Reach: The cost of maternal health in Sierra Leone*, 2009.
- ¹¹ Obstructed labour occurs when the passage of the foetus through the pelvis is mechanically obstructed. When it is not diagnosed quickly, or when it is improperly managed, obstructed labour can cause significant complications. It is a major cause of maternal mortality, accounting for 1-5 deaths/1000 live births.
- ¹² FMG comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Since FMG is performed by removing and damaging healthy and normal genital tissue, it interferes with the natural functions of girl's and women's bodies.
- ¹³ The FGC figure of 75% seems plausible because survey data from Senegal and neighbouring Guinea indicate that among the groups practicing FGC, 70% to 80% of women have been circumcised. In USAID, Yoder P. S., Khan, S., *Numbers of women circumcised in Africa: The Production of a Total*, 2008.
- ¹⁴ Bowers E., *FGM Practitioners Sway Elections in Sierra Leone*, September 7, 2007 (<http://www.womensenews.org>).
- ¹⁵ French, H.W., *The Ritual: Disfiguring, Hurtful, Wildly Festive*, New Yor Times, 31st January 1997 (<http://www.nytimes.com/1997/01/31/world/the-ritual-disfiguring-hurtful-wildly-festive.html?pagewanted=all>).



Photo credit: Robert Crossman, UNICEF/HQ95-0954.



X-ray photographs of vegetal species, Sierra Leone.



9 - POVERTY



9.1 - OVERVIEW

DESPITE THE STEADY progress that Sierra Leone has made since the end of 11-year civil war in 2002, much still awaits to be done. The successful 2007 government elections and a steady six to seven percent growth rate has encouraged the country along its path to democracy and economic growth. However, addressing a number of social and economic threats is essential in order to avoid civil war and destruction from reoccurring. The majority of the population lives in abject poverty and an ever-growing mass of young and socially alienated people are a threat to the security of the country. Patronage networks and identity politics continue to influence government decisions; therefore, corruption continues to undermine the credibility of the government.

After the war, the Revolutionary United Front and other armed groups released their combatants, many of whom were very young and subsequently became unemployed. According to the 2004 official census, 42% of the population is under fifteen and 34% is aged fifteen to thirty-five. There is a chance that these socially alienated individuals could return to violence if they feel that there are no other options available to them, and could destabilize the somewhat precarious balance of the country. Nonetheless, the social fabric appears to be strong, with moral pressures being imposed on wealthier families to support youths and the rural poor. In urban areas, youths can rely on cooperative associations and credit clubs for survival. Donor aid and peace building interventions have targeted skills training and civic education, and have provided young people with renewed means for non-violent mobilisation. The post-war reconstruction has increased the number of jobs and training programmes available to young people. In both urban and rural areas, most youths have found employment in the informal sector, and many are self-employed. These attempts, however, have been short-lived. Reconstruction efforts have decreased in scale and intensity and might no longer provide opportunities for young people.

After the 2007 elections, in which Ernest Bai Koroma and his All People's Congress (APC) won the control of Parliament, a legacy system has returned. The president himself has reintroduced civil service as a top priority on his agenda. Increased individualism and interest in voluntary association are beginning to replace the old system of patronage networks and the employment of extended families. This change is more visible in urban areas as opposed to rural. However, continued struggles for access to development resources have resulted in a resurgence of identity politics; the North has aligned itself to the APC while the South has aligned to the former ruling party.

The new government has been called to tackle the serious issue of corruption. In 2007, Sierra Leone was 159th out of 180 countries on the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (TICPI) and in the bottom ten among African countries. In a study that took place in 2004, 67% of service users and 20% of service managers admitted paying bribes to obtain public services. The Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2000 for this purpose, but the lack of resources and its failure in securing the convictions of those at the top are a clear sign that the fight against corruption lacks direction and focus.

9.2 - POVERTY

Statistics Sierra Leone, the official statistical office of Sierra Leone, collected the data from the 2004 poverty report.

The nature of poverty is subject to difficulties in definition and measurement. The economist Galbraith defines poverty as 'states in which people do not have resources and abilities to meet their basic needs for food, clothing and shelter on a daily basis'. Traditionally, researchers have defined poverty in one-dimensional terms: people are classified as being poor if they fall below a defined threshold of income and consumption. However, it is increasingly recognised that poverty is a multi-dimensional concept. The term also refers to inadequate access to healthcare, education, housing, infrastructure and services necessary to ensure a decent living.

The study conceptualises poverty as a dynamic multi-dimensional situation in which people have limited access to infrastructure (housing poverty), agricultural production units (agricultural poverty), and consumable and durable assets (asset poverty). The main objective of this study is to describe the geographical differences in the level of poverty in Sierra Leonean households. The indicators used to measure poverty were non-monetary and aggregated at the household level.

FIGURE 1 below illustrates the variation in poverty among poor households. The relative proportion of households that were poor and non-poor is shown in FIGURE 2. On average, 71% were defined as poor, which in absolute figures concerns an average of 582,912 people.

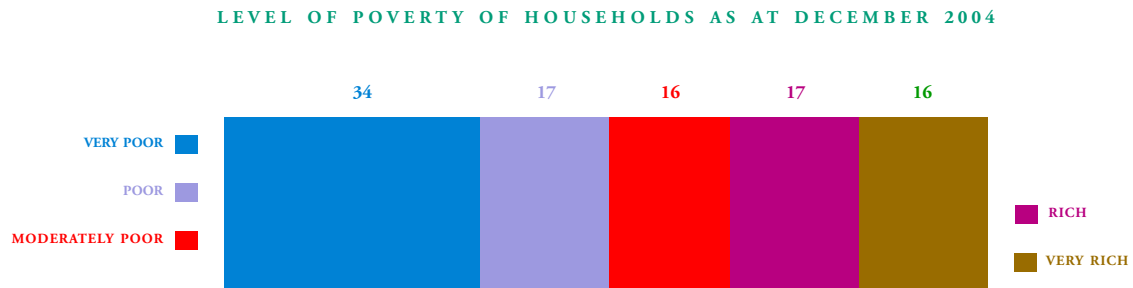
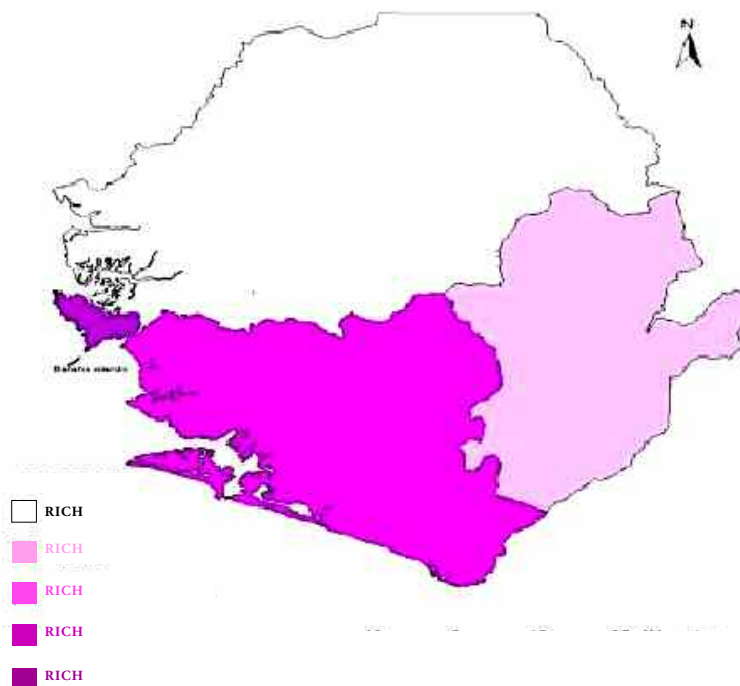


FIGURE 1 - Variations of poverty SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.



FIGURE 2 - Distribution of poor and non-poor. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The report also demonstrated geographic and sectoral distributions. FIGURE 3 shows that the poorest households are concentrated in the Northern region. TABLE 1 provides a further indication, with a poverty score of 44.21, while the Western region scored 54.72.



PROVINCE AND DISTRICT	MEAN SCORE	POVERTY SCALE	MEANING OF POVERTY SCALE
EASTERN REGION	44.27	2	POOR
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	43.10	1	VERY POOR
KENEMA LG DISTRICT	44.78	2	POOR
KONO LG DISTRICT	44.93	3	MODERATELY POOR
NORTHERN REGION	44.21	1	VERY POOR
BOMBALI LG DISTRICT	44.84	3	MODERATELY POOR
KAMBIA DISTRICT	42.80	1	VERY POOR
KONIADUGU DISTRICT	45.47	4	RICH
PORT LOKO DISTRICT	43.36	1	VERY POOR
TONKOLILI DISTRICT	47.30	4	RICH
SOUTHERN REGION	44.78	3	MODERATELY POOR
BO LG DISTRICT	47.30	4	RICH
BONTE LG DISTRICT	44.36	1	VERY POOR
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	42.80	1	VERY POOR
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	44.64	2	POOR
WESTERN AREA	54.72	4	RICH
WEST URBAN AREA	51.80	5	VERY RICH
WEST RURAL AREA	57.65	5	VERY RICH

TABLE 1 - Aggregate poverty score and scale distribution by region and district. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The poorest regions were those that most suffered from the 11-year civil war. The 2004 poverty report by Statistics Sierra Leone was compared with the 2001 Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP). As illustrated in TABLE 2, what emerged was that the poverty distribution pattern has remained unchanged. The Northern region was reported as the poorest across the two time periods, while the situation in the Western and Eastern regions had slightly improved. Overall, poverty has slightly increased in the Southern districts of Moyamba, Pujehun and Koinadugu in the North. In the other districts, it has either declined or remained stable. This pattern is attributed to the effects of the civil war, which started and ended in the Eastern region, where it lasted relatively longer than in the South and the West, therefore making them the least affected statistically.

NO	DISTRICT	LEVEL OF POVERTY (SCALE) AS AT DECEMBER 2004	% TOTAL POOR BEFORE DECEMBER 2004 (SOURCE: PRSP 2005:25)	COMMENTS ON CHANGES IN POVERTY
	KAILAHUN	VERY POOR (1)	92	NO CHANGE
	KOINADUGU	VERY POOR (1)	77	INCREASE
	BONTHE	VERY POOR (1)	85	NO CHANGE
	MOYAMBA	VERY POOR (1)	68	INCREASE
	PUJEHUN	POOR (2)	59	NO CHANGE
	WESTERN URBAN	VERY RICH (5)	15	DECREASE
	KENEMA	POOR (2)	88	DECREASE
	KAMBIA	POOR (2)	69	DECREASE
	WESTERN RURAL	VERY RICH (5)	45	DECREASE
	KONO	MODERATELY POOR (3)	66	DECREASE
	BOMBALI	POOR (2)	89	DECREASE
	BO	RICH (4)	64	DECREASE
	PORT LOKO	RICH (4)	82	DECREASE
	TONKOLILI	VERY POOR (1)	84	SAME

TABLE 2 - Distribution of level and poverty by district. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

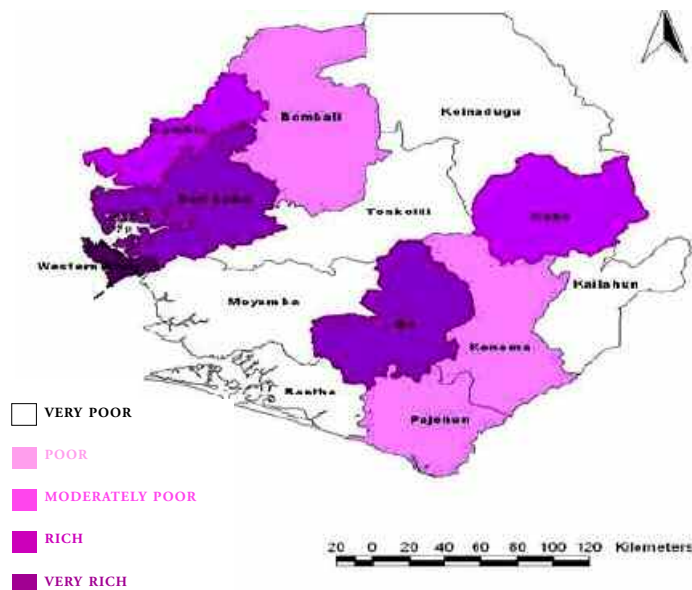


FIGURE 4 - Distribution of poverty by district. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

The richest district is in the Western Urban Area, with a mean poverty score of 57.65. With the exception of Bo, which is in the hinterland, the richest districts have a coastal area. Poor physical conditions of soil, rocks, roads and accessibility explain the impoverished state of these areas and, in the Southern districts of Bonthe, Pujehun and Moyamba, war has contributed greatly to the disruption of lives and infrastructures. For example, the major mining activities (bauxite and rutile) in the Moyamba and Bothe districts were destroyed and a civic defense rule was introduced, which inhibited the early penetration of aid agencies.

9.3 ~ SECTOR ANALYSIS

It is also important to understand poverty from the perspective of specific sectors. TABLE 3 details the distribution of agricultural poverty by region and district. The Southern region is moderately poor with a mean score of 18.13 as compared to the Western region, which has a mean score of 1.96. This is because the majority of the Western area is largely built-up, with little space for extensive farming. In the North, the poor state of agriculture in the Koinadugu and Tonkolili districts can be explained by the loss of agricultural assets and resources suffered by most of the population. In the East, (see Table 4a in Appendix) including the Kissi, Kama and Kissi Teng chiefdoms in the Kailahun district, the poor agricultural status of the area has been associated with the effects of the war and low world market prices.

PROVINCE AND DISTRICT	MEAN SCORE	POVERTY SCALE	MEANING OF POVERTY SCALE
EASTERN REGION	44.27	2	POOR
KAILAHUN DISTRICT	43.10	1	VERY POOR
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TONKOLILI DISTRICT	47.30	4	RICH
SOUTHERN REGION	44.78	3	MODERATELY POOR
BO LG DISTRICT	47.30	4	RICH
BONTE LG DISTRICT	44.36	1	VERY POOR
MOYAMBA DISTRICT	42.80	1	VERY POOR
PUJEHUN DISTRICT	44.64	2	POOR
WESTERN AREA	54.72	4	RICH
WEST URBAN AREA	51.80	5	VERY RICH
WEST RURAL AREA	57.65	5	VERY RICH

TABLE 3 - Agricultural poverty score and scale by region and district. SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

Levels of poverty by household, using the housing indicator, are shown in FIGURE 5 below. The Western region, once again, is the richest overall and the Northern region has the worst housing status. A similar pattern is observed at the district and chiefdom level. Where agricultural poverty is concerned, the war has had a severe negative impact on the Northern (particularly Tonkolili and Koinadugu districts) and Eastern regions (the three Kissi districts), where it started and lasted for the longest duration of time. The relatively high level of infrastructure in the East was destroyed during the conflict and the declaration of the Eastern and Northern areas as safe for resettlement occurred later than in other areas.

The following data relates to asset poverty. FIGURE 6 shows that the Western region is the richest, with a mean score of 12.23, in comparison to the poorer Northern region, which obtained a mean score of 4.83.

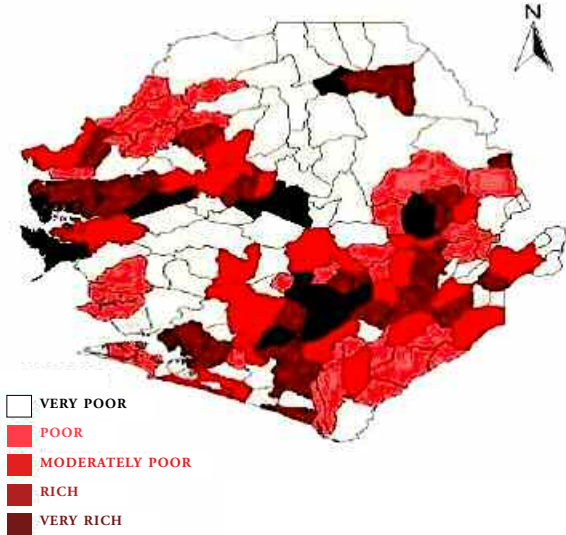


FIGURE 5 - Distribution of housing poverty by chiefdom.
SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

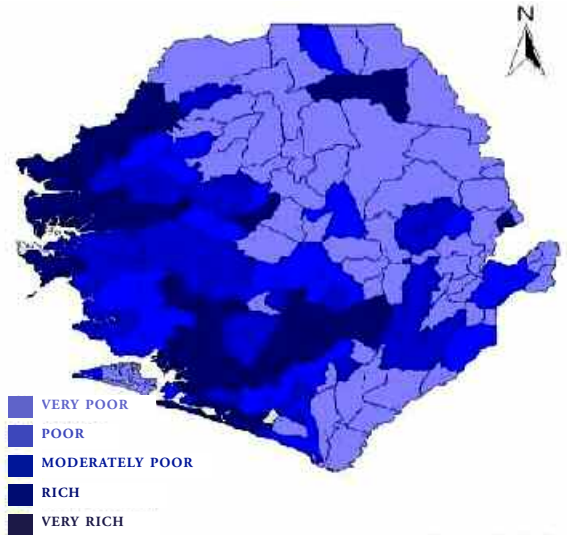


FIGURE 6 - Distribution of asset poverty by chiefdom.
SOURCE: Statistics Sierra Leone.

In conclusion, the data reveals that the majority of Sierra Leonean households live in poverty. The tables in the Appendix illustrate that geographical differences in poverty levels are not markedly pronounced, exemplifying the fact that although certain areas are better off than others, poverty is still a widespread phenomenon in the country. Poverty seems to be particularly concentrated in the Northern and Eastern regions, in which the Koinadugu district in the North and Kailahun district in the East demand urgent attention.





Hramattan baze in Sierra Leone.

10.1 - OVERVIEW

The country has a typically hot and humid tropical climate. The rainy season occurs from May to December and the dry season from December to April. The average annual precipitation is between 1475 and 2474mm in the Northeast and between 2475 and 4974mm in the Southwest¹. Notably, water levels have never been a serious concern for development in Sierra Leone.

Natural hazards include draught, sand-laden *harmattan* (December to February), sandstorms and/or duststorms.

Water pollution is a significant problem in Sierra Leone due to mining by-products and sewage. In 2008, the nation had 160 cubic kilometers of renewable water resource available, and there is no water entering or leaving the country². In 2009, 0.38 km³ was used, with 92% utilised for farming, 3% for industrial purposes and 5% for domestic usage³. Only 75% of the nation's city dwellers and 46% of those living in rural areas have safe drinking water⁴ (Cf. Health Report). There is a general lack of solid waste collection throughout the country, except for in some urban areas. This is also an issue concerning sewage disposal and hospital waste⁵. These problems are, among other things, due to a lack of infrastructure.



The rapid growth of the population (2.282% in 2009), leading to an agricultural expansion, has resulted in soil depletion, while lumbering, cattle grazing, and slash-

and-burn farming have decimated the primary forest. Farming lands are gradually replacing forest areas due to the growing need for food, as a population has virtually doubled during the period between 1963 and 2000. Hunting for food caused a decline in wild animals, and poachers have exploited Cutamba Killimi National Park, which is home to some very rare species native to West Africa. As of 2003, only 4.5% of Sierra Leone's total land mass has been protected⁶.

Rapid population growth is also damaging the environment due to the overharvesting of timber, the expansion cattle grazing, and slash-and-burn agriculture, which result in soil exhaustion and deforestation. Between 2000 and 2005, clearing caused 20,800 hectares of forest to disappear each year. It is estimated that 18% of the total forest area has been destroyed⁷.

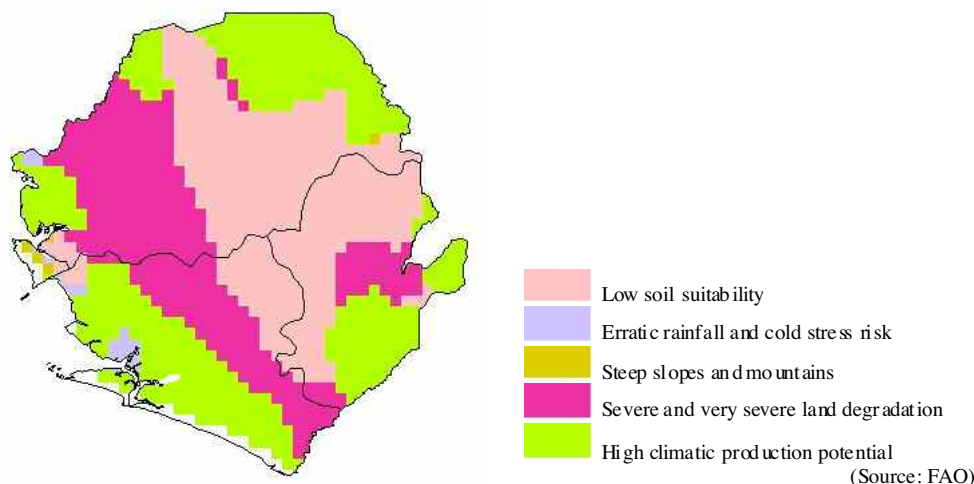


A tendency to overfish has endangered the renewal of fish stocks. Furthermore, the civil war depleted the country's natural resources⁸. In an attempt to resolve these issues, the country has taken part in several environment agreements concerning biodiversity, climate change (Kyoto Protocol between others), desertification, endangered species, law of the sea, marine life conservation, ozone layer protection, ship pollution, and the wetlands⁹.

10.2 ~ A FEW DATA¹⁰

TOTAL RENEWABLE WATER RESSOURCE (CUBIC KILOMETERS/YEAR IN 2008) ¹¹	160
TOTAL RENEWABLE WATER RESSOURCE PRO CAPITE (M ³ /INHAB/YEAR IN 2003-2007)	27
TOTAL WATER WITHDRAWAL PER CAPITA (M ³ /INHAB/YEAR IN 2002)	77.2
DESALINATED WATER PRODUCED (2000)	0

10.3 ~ A FEW DATA¹⁰



¹ FAO, *Precipitation*, (<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/Maps/SLE/06/pp/index.html>).

² FAO – Aquastat, *Sierra Leone Report*, 2009 (<http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquasta/data/query/results.html>).

³ Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).

⁴ Nation Encyclopedia, *Sierra Leone Environment*, (<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Sierra-Leone-ENVIRONMENT.html>)

⁵ Turay S. - Glenwright D., *Tourists Deterred By Hospital Waste Dumped in Ocean*, Concord Times December 17, 2007, (<http://allafrica.com/stories/200712171420.html>).

⁶ Earthtrends, *Biodiversity and Protected Areas Sierra Leone*, 2003, (http://earthtrends.wri.org/pdf_library/country_profiles/bio_cou_694.pdf).

⁷ Encarta, *Sierra Leone*, (http://fr.encyclopedia.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563681_5/Sierra_Leone.html).

⁸ Central Intelligence Agency, *Report 2009*, (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sl.html>).

⁹ *Ibidem*

¹⁰ FAO – Aquastat, *Sierra Leone Report*, 2009, (<http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquasta/data/query/results.html>).

¹¹ Renewable water is water continuously renewed within reasonable time spans by the hydrological cycle, such as that in streams, reservoirs, or aquifers that refill from precipitation, runoff, or groundwater recharge (<http://www.aas.org/international/ehn/waterpop/gloss.htm>).



CLIMATE CHANGE represents one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing our planet today. The average surface temperature has risen by 0.76° C since 1850. Global warming has now been proven by observations to the increase of the global average in air and ocean temperatures, the widespread melting of snow and polar ice caps, and a rise in sea levels. Not surprisingly, mankind is mostly to blame for the rapid temperature increases that have developed over the last fifty years.

The Earth's climate is influenced by many factors, such as the amount of greenhouse gases and aerosols in the atmosphere, the amount of energy coming from the sun and the properties on the Earth's surface. Changes to these factors through human-related or natural processes, have a warming or a cooling effect on the planet, as they alter how much of this solar energy is retained or reflected back into space. Concentrated greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) have all increased markedly since 1850, and now far exceed pre-industrial levels. Carbon dioxide is the most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas. Its concentration in the atmosphere (379ppm in 2005) is now far higher than the natural level over the last 650,000 years (180 to 300ppm) and is growing at the fastest rate since measurement began in 1960. This is mainly due to fossil fuel use and, to a lesser extent, to changes in land usage¹.

The effects of climate change are already apparent. Snow and polar ice caps are melting and ground that was once considered permanently frozen is now thawing. The number of glacial lakes is increasing and so is ground instability in permafrost regions. The flow of rivers that are fed by melting snow and glaciers has increased and the temperature of lakes and rivers has risen. Migrations are beginning earlier and the geographical spread of various species is extending towards the poles. In addition, the CO₂ emitted by human activities has caused an increase in ocean acidity, an issue poorly understood, but with a potentially dangerous impact.

Poor communities, particularly those concentrated in high-risk areas are most vulnerable. They tend to have more limited adaptive capacity and are more dependent on climate-sensitive resources, such as local water and food supplies. The effects of climate change are already visible in Sierra Leone and must be taken into consideration. Some of the effects of regional climate change have only recently emerged and remain difficult to discern as some regions have adapted well. Sierra Leone is already experiencing seasonal droughts, strong winds, thunderstorms, landslides, heat waves, flooding, changed rainfall patterns, higher temperatures, and the spreading of the Sahara Desert. These changes drastically affect crop production, forest management, the number of heat related deaths and the spread of diseases such as malaria. Lacking modern meteorological² equipment – as reported in an investigation by Africa News – the country has no means by which to warn its citizens or protect its resources. A country representative of the UN Global Health Agency has also observed that the issue of climate change and its devastating effect on health could affect the country's chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015³.

Health is one of the areas most impacted by climate change. Children in congested environments lacking clean water and proper sanitation, as well as limited access to safe and adequate food supplies are most vulnerable to disease. In Sierra Leone, health issues that are at least partly induced by climate change, include malnutrition and the resurgence, spread, and intensification of vector borne, waterborne and enteric diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery, and diarrhoea. The PCC⁴ indicates that rises in temperature will increase the likelihood of vector diseases, and malaria in particular. Droughts and flooding, where sanitary infrastructure is inadequate, will result in a higher frequency of epidemics and enteric diseases. Furthermore, increased temperatures in coastal waters could set off cholera epidemics in coastal areas⁵.

Malaria is one of the most serious and complex public health problems in the world. The disease is caused by four different species of plasmodium parasite transmitted between individuals by Anopheline mosquitoes. Malaria is undergoing a global resurgence due to a variety of factors, including complacency and policy changes that have led to reduced funding for malaria control programmes, the emergence of insecticide and drug resistance, human population growth and movement, changes in land usage, and the deterioration of the public health's infrastructure. Variations in the transmission of malaria are also associated with changes in temperature, rainfall, and humidity, as well as changes

in immunity levels⁶. Micro- and macro-environmental changes also affect malaria transmission, such as deforestation, which can elevate local temperatures. Changes in housing types may change indoor temperatures that provide better breeding environments for vectors. In Africa, deforestation, vegetation clearance, and irrigation can all provide the open, sunlit pools that are preferred by mosquitoes, therefore increasing transmission.

Climate change is also severely affecting the economy of Sierra Leone, as the country depends heavily on its natural resources. Agriculture is the largest economic sector in Sierra Leone contributing approximately 46% of GDP in 2006 and employing over 65% of the labour force. Rice is the main agricultural production and it is mainly cultivated for subsistence purposes. Fish, accounting for approximately 75% of total animal protein intake, relies entirely on the sustainability of marine resources and is being affected by rising ocean temperatures.

The continuation and development of ecosystems and forest formation largely depends on the rainfall variability, which is moderated by vegetation dynamics in the various geographical regions of Sierra Leone. Less rainfall and a potential increase in evapotranspiration could affect the distribution of plant and animal species. Climate change is also expected to alter the frequency, intensity, and extent of vegetation fires. Potential increases in the frequency and severity of droughts are likely to exacerbate desertification. Sierra Leone, unfortunately, has a variety of ecosystems that are vulnerable to accelerated land erosion on unprotected hillsides. Land erosion and deforestation will enhance the risk of landslides for hillside settlements.

The rising sea level, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, and flooding will have significant impacts for Sierra Leone's coastline infrastructure, socio-economic activities and communities. Roads, buildings, and substantial government investments will be at particular risk. With a higher sea level, sea front plains, estuaries and mangroves could lose their agricultural and fishery potential. Affected drinking water sources and damaged sanitary infrastructure could prompt waterborne epidemics

¹ GreenFacts, *Scientific Facts on Climate Change*, 2007, <http://www.greenfacts.org/en/climate-change-ar4/1-3/1-human-natural-causes.htm#0p0>.

² Kamara, M.M., *Climate change is a reality in Sierra Leone*, 2008, Sierra Leone, http://www.africanews.com/site/Climate_change_is_a_reality_in_Sierra_Leone/list_messages/17253.

³ Morris, S., *Climate Change May Affect MDGs*, 2008, Sierra Leone, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200804040375.html>.

⁴ Pulverised coal combustion.

⁵ NAPA, National Adaptation Plan of Action, 2006, Sierra Leone.

⁶ Lindsay and Birley, "Effect of topography on the risk of malaria infection in the Usambara Mountains, Tanzania", in *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 98, 7 (1996): 400-408.

⁷ NAPA, National Adaptation Plan of Action, 2006, Sierra Leone.



12 - ENERGY



12.1 - OVERVIEW

MUCH OF SIERRA LEONE'S power supply was damaged during the civil war. Frequent blackouts throughout the country mean that electricity is only available for a few hours each week. The country's energy supply *pro capite* is the equivalent of 0.20 tons of oil versus the 0.70ton average in the rest of Africa. Twenty percent of the country's total energy is supplied by approximately 200,000 tons of imported petroleum products. Due to interruptions and shortages, many households rely on charcoal and kerosene for cooking and lighting, whilst those who can afford it install their own generators.

The country relies on its forests to provide the remaining 80% of the energy supply. Seventy percent of firewood is utilized as fuel in households for cooking and the rest is used in small-scale industries, such as fisheries, bakeries and potteries. Thirty percent of the firewood is converted into charcoal before it is used, which results in as much as 75% of the wood's energy loss.

From a geographic perspective, about 90% of Sierra Leone's electricity is consumed in the country's four main cities. Freetown uses 82% of the country's electrical power, followed distantly Kenema (3%), Bo (3%) and Makeni (2%).

The National Power Authority (NPA), which is state owned and was recently privatised, operates a major electricity network in the Freetown area and smaller ones in Bo and Kenema. Freetown's electricity supply comes from the oil-powered Kingtom power generating station, which struggles to provide a continual and uninterrupted power supply. NPA has around 50,000 customers, amounting to approximately 10% of the population. A thermal power station with the capacity of 27MW, supplies electricity to the Freetown area, although the base demand is 34MW. The gap in the generating capacity coupled with the unreliability of the generators leads to power outages, resulting in customers receiving on average 12 hours of electricity in a given 48 hour period. Additionally, the inefficiency in the transmission and distribution system results in a 33% electricity loss. To increase the country's electricity supply, the government has resumed the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project (BHP), implementation of which was suspended at the onset of the civil war.

12.2 - RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

The country has a wealth of renewable energy resources, specifically biomass, hydro and solar energy. Eighty-six percent of Sierra Leone's land area is covered by natural forest and 80% of primary energy comes from domestic biomass, whilst crude oil and its by-products supply the rest. Regarding biomass, 656,000 tons of crop wastes are produced annually in Sierra Leone.

Biomass consists of residues, existing forests, and deforested or otherwise degraded lands on which energy plantations can be cultivated. The total annual production of crop wastes is equivalent to 2,706GWh. The existing forests undergo a total incremental growth of between 0.9 hectares and 1.5 hectares annually and deforestation is estimated at 3000 hectares per year. Through the fermentation of biomass, it is possible to derive the liquid fuel known as ethanol. The production of ethanol involves the washing, fermentation and distillation of biomass. The long-term economic costs and benefits need to be weighed carefully before developing these systems, as the production of liquid fuel requires high volumes of water to be used in the production process and the large amounts of liquid residue that are generated can damage soil and contaminate lakes and streams.

Solar radiation averages between 1,460 and 1,800kWh per square metre annually.

Limited data on wind velocities indicate a nationwide average of between 3 and 5 m/s.

Hydropower has been exhaustively researched and documented in the 1996 Power Sector Master Plan. According to the plan, the country's potential capacity is estimated at 1,200 MW.

12.3 - EXISTING PROJECTS

One of the largest renewable energy projects run by the country targeted its rich hydric resources. In 1997, the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project began; however, it was suspended during the civil war after 85% of it had already been completed. Nonetheless, in June 2005, the World Bank approved the resumption of its construction. The project entails

a hydropower complex, located on the Seli River in the valleys of the Sula Mountains, which is approximately 200km Northeast of Freetown in the Kalansogoia Chiefdom of the Tonkolili district. The construction encompasses: an 88m high rock-fill dam with a concrete upstream face; a 50MW power station located at the top of the dam that houses two turbine-generator units of 25MW each; a transmission system consisting of 200km of 161 kV transmission line from the power station to Freetown; a sub station in Freetown to feed power into the Western Area grid; and a separate power service to Makeni, Lunsar and Port Loko. Targeted for completion in August 2009, the incorporation of the BHP into the current network will greatly improve the supply and reliability of electricity, therefore increasing the likelihood of meeting the country's needs for low costs and sustainability. Moreover, the electricity generated by the BHP will provide power to Makeni, Lunsar and Port Loko, towns currently not on the power grid.

In January 2009, President Ernest Bai Konoma launched a \$200 million project that would see the production of renewable energy and employ more than 4,000 Sierra Leoneans in Lungi Acre, part of the Makari Gbanti Chiefdom in the Bombali district. The project involves 20,000 hectares of sugarcane plantations (15 times more than the Magbass Sugar Complex in the Tonkolili district). The ethanol distillery/factory will produce more than 1,200,000 litres of ethanol per year, and will create a 30MW power plant. It is evident that the issue of energy resources is being taken seriously in Sierra Leone and the benefits of the projects undertaken will hopefully be visible in the near future.



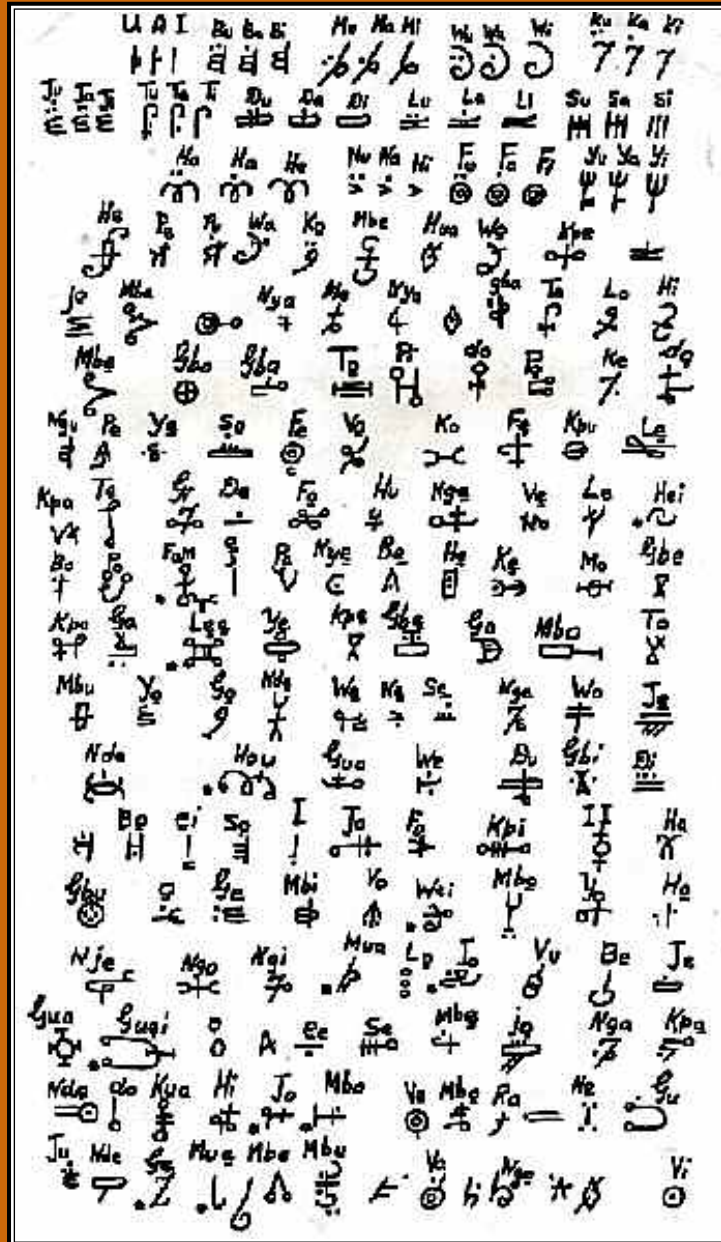
Koidu Town, center of Sierra Leone's diamond mining industry.
Photo credit: Matthew Genasci, Revenue Watch Institute.





Here comes more ... just for you.





Mende script, Sierra Leone, 19th century AD.

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