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Country sheet

Sierra Leone

(in Mano River Program)

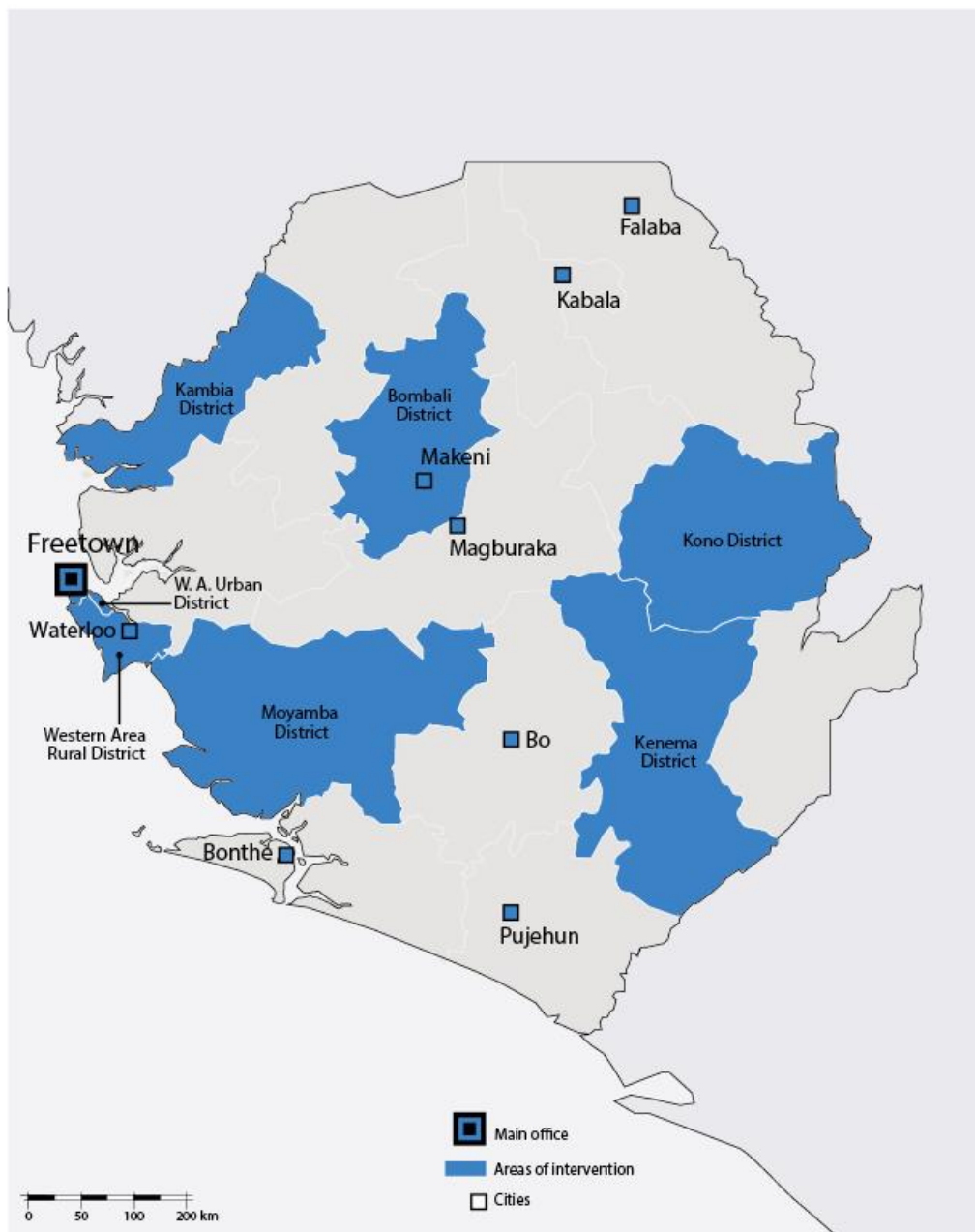




HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Sierra Leone program has 34 staff members (including 4 international staff).

Sierra Leone





General data of the country

General data

Indicator	Sierra Leone	Liberia	France
Population	8605718	5302681	67 935 660
IHDI	0,309	0,33	0,825
Gender Development Index	0,893	0.871	0,99
Maternal mortality	443	652	8
GINI index	35,7	35,3	30,7
Population within UNHCR mandate	324	1441	693 598
INFORM index	4,4	4,6	2,3
Fragile State Index	81,4	88,9	28,8
Public social protection %	4,4	6,20	100
Net ODA (development aid) (millions of USD)	696,8	599,0	0

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

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

Geopolitical analysis

Social/cultural/demographic elements

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



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

Political context

General elections were held in Sierra Leone on the 24th June 2023 to elect the president, members of parliament and local councils. The incumbent president Julius Maada Bio was re-elected with 56% of the vote and the Sierra Leone People's party won 81 seats in parliament compared to the main opposition party, the All-People's Congress, which won 54 seats. The result was contested by the All-People's Congress, which demanded a return, citing "glaring irregularities". European election observers stated that there was "statistical inconsistency" in the presidential results published, with the European Union Election Observation Mission saying that the election commission should "publish disaggregated results data per polling station to allow for public scrutiny of the results". Unless that happened, it said that transparency was compromised. Because of this there has been tension and disagreement between the two political parties. The opposition party has boycotted their sittings in parliament and local councils. Talks started on October 16th between the government and the APC to break the political deadlock. They are being held under the aegis of the African Union and CEDEAO.

Economic elements

Real GDP growth declined to 2.8% in 2022 from 4.1% in 2021 due to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Growth was driven by the mining export (iron ore) on the demand side and by the recovery in key sector on the supply side, inflation rose to 26.1% in 2022 from 11.9% in 2021, driven by food and fuel inflation and depreciation of the Leone. The fiscal deficit declined to an estimated 4.8% of GDP from 7.3% in 2021 due to high grants. Public debt increased to an estimated 92.9% of GDP from 79.8% in 2021. The country remains at high risk of debt distress. The current account deficit narrowed to an estimate to 10.3% of GDP from 15.0% in 2021, attributed to an improved trade balance and higher net transfers.

Gross foreign reserves fell to \$599.5 million (3.3 months of import covered) in September 2022 from \$932 million in December 2021 following measures to increase food and fuel supplies in local markets. The exchange rate depreciated sharply after mid-2021 due mainly to the widening trade deficit. The financial sector is underdeveloped but generally sound, with most indicators above the recommended minimum, except the nonperforming loans ratio (at 14.8% in 2021 against a regulatory



target of 10%). Sierra Leone is characterized by high poverty (59.2% in 2020), income inequality (Gini coefficient of 0.357 in 2018), and high youth unemployment (70%), compounded by skills mismatch.

Summary of HI presence in the country

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



Overview on ongoing projects

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

Project title and main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors
Touching Minds Raising Dignity Phase II Multiple Country Coordination Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of this multiple country project in Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Lebanon, Togo Advocacy and communication on Positive Mental Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to countries of implementations International community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries of Health and Sanitation Community Association for Psychosocial Services Service User's and Family Members Association 	Freetown	January 2022 - December 2025	AFD
Touching Minds Raising Dignity Phase II Mental health and psychosocial support – Project in Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the mental health working group Advocacy Support the formulation of new mental health law and policy Capacitate user's association Make community visits and referral Organize community support groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,320 individuals 1 psychiatric hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health and Sanitation Community Association for Psychosocial Services Service User's and Family Members Association 	Western Area Urban District (Looking Town and Susan Bay Community)	January 2022 - December 2025	AFD



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct awareness sessions • Train health care workers • Train and supervise community stakeholders • Support the refurbishment of the Sierra Leone Psychiatric and Teaching Hospital. 					
<p>Agricultural Farm Project Inclusive Agricultural Farm Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support • Capacity building • Farmers trainings • IGA & VSLA trainings • Provision of seed capital • Farm tourism • Community sensitization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 vulnerable people (persons living with disabilities, persons living with HIV and survivors of gender-based violence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of HIV positive in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS) • Visit Sierra Leone VSL) Travel 	<p>Western Area Urban and Moyamba Districts</p>	<p>January 2023 – December 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz • Famille Leibundgut • Fondation Lord Michelham

Donors

AFD



FONDATION PHILANTHROPIQUE
FAMILLE SANDOZ

FAMILLE LEIBUNDGUT

FONDATION LORD MICHELHAM