



Country Sheet

Sierra Leone

(in Mano River
Program)

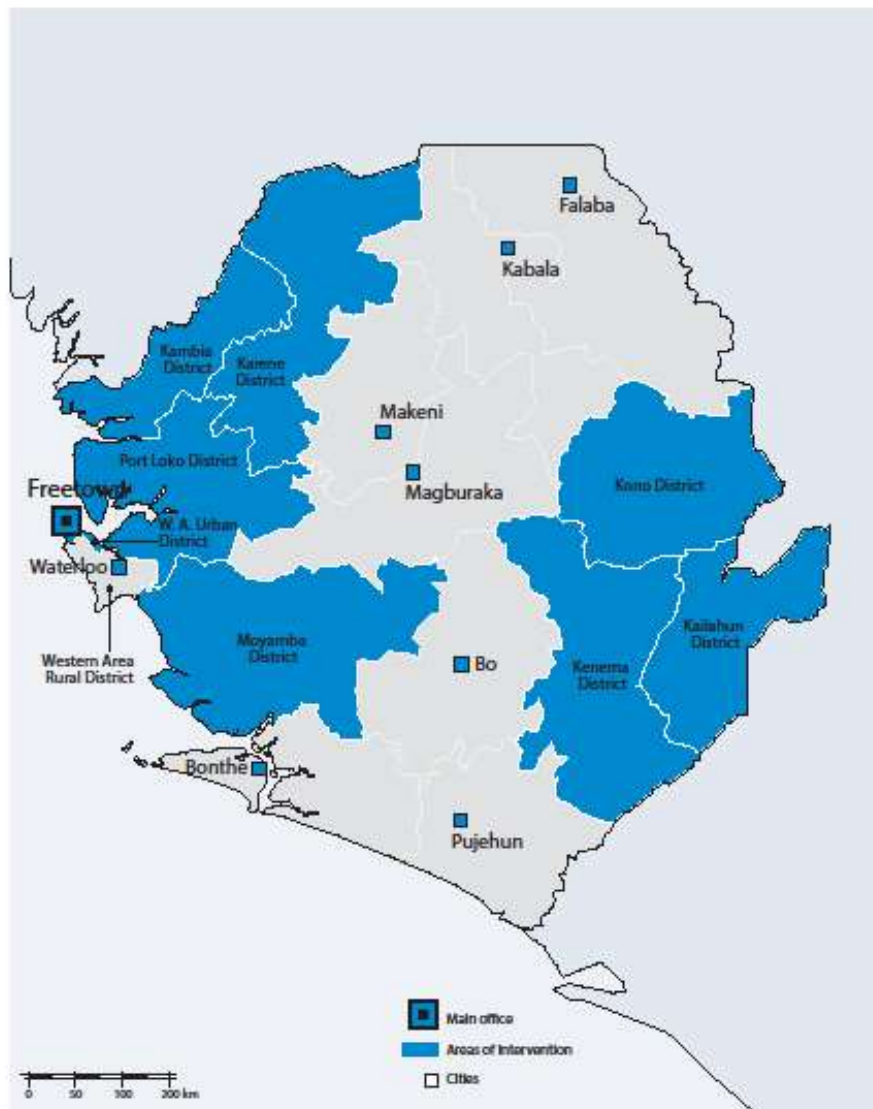




HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Sierra Leone program has 24 staff members.

Sierra Leone





General data of the country

a. General data context

Indicator	Sierra Leone	Liberia	France
Population	8,141,343	5,180,208	67,499,343
IHDI	0.291	0.325	0.82
Gender Development Index	0.88	0.89	0.99
Maternal mortality	1,778	949	4
GINI index	35.7	35.3	32.4
Population within UNHCR mandate	345	17,987	580,898
INFORM index	5.3	5.4	2.3
Fragile State Index	82.4	88.2	30.9
Public social protection	4.4	6.20	100
Net ODA (development aid)	594.64	597.31	0

b. 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



c. Geopolitical analysis

1. 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 the third most vulnerable country to adverse effects of climate change, 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).

2. Political context

In March-April 2018, Sierra Leone went through a new presidential election process. Both turns of the elections process unfolded in a tensed context but without major violence. In 2022, local elections were conducted at the same time as the start of the Presidential and Parliamentary campaigns for elections to happen in 2023.

3. Economic elements

The Gross Domestic Product in Sierra Leone was worth 3.87 billion US dollars in 2020, according to official data from the World Bank and projections from Trading Economics. The GDP value of Sierra Leone represents less than 0.01 percent of the world economy. Sierra Multi Poverty Index report (2019) indicated that almost two-thirds (64.8 %) of the population in Sierra Leone is multi dimensionally poor. Results also show that the incidence of poverty in rural area is more than double than that of urban areas (86.3% and 37.6% respectively). In addition, the intensity of rural poverty is 10 percent higher than urban poverty (60.3% and 50.9% respectively).

The macroeconomic situation remained challenging during the year of 2020 as COVID impact, inflationary pressure and exchange rate depreciation increased. Inflation, which moderated from 18.2 to 16.8% in 2018, increased to 17.2% in 2019 reflecting a sharp depreciation of exchange rate and elevated non-food prices due mainly to the increase in fuel prices. The Leone came under intense pressure in 2019, depreciating by 4.8% and 6.5% at the official and parallel markets, respectively, reflecting lower-than-expected export receipts and donor inflows as well as increased demand for foreign exchange to finance imports.



The country remains at a “high risk” of debt distress for both external public debt and overall public debt as the total public debt stands at 60.9% of GDP in 2018 and is expected to increase. The outbreak of COVID-19 has exacerbated state fragility by reducing economic activities and widening political divides due to rising unemployment, commodity prices and food insecurity. 4.7 million people are food insecure. This represent the highest percentage of people living in Severe Food Insecurity since the past 10 years.

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 and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships.

Project title and main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final beneficiaries	Partner(s)	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 	Multi-country project; location in Sierra Leone is Freetown	01.2022-12.2025	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 • Conduct awareness sessions • Train health care workers • Train and supervise community stakeholders • Support the refurbishment of the Sierra Leone Psychiatric and Teaching Hospital. 	<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 		01.2022-12.2025	AFD
SGP Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support • Capacity building • Create gender support group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,300 men, boys women and girls including 900 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbo Initiative • Care International 	Bombali, Bo and Western area districts	09.2019-03.2022	Rainbo Initiative



Protection against violence and abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and train gender-based violence focal points Community sensitization Advocacy 	<p>people with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15,000 school children 					
<p>Inclusive Education Initiative</p> <p>Inclusive Education Research Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct research to understand the effectiveness of innovative approaches used to support continuous professional development. To investigate the process and effect of coaching and mentoring for teachers who previously received inclusive education training Evaluate factors that turn initial training outcomes into concrete inclusive teaching practice in classrooms. 	<p>This research will identify gaps in post-training teacher support mechanisms and contribute to strengthening the work of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and the Teaching Service Commission.</p>	100 beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourah Bay College Freetown Teachers College Njala University, 	Freetown & Kono	01.2022-02.2023	World Bank
Economic Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Western Area Urban of Freetown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 persons with disabilities have improved capacity in finance, business development, savings management, etc. 50 persons with disabilities have improved access to the necessary financial resources and services to support their business initiatives. 	50 persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations of persons with disabilities Ministry of Social Welfare 	Freetown	08.2022 – 09.2022	UNDP

Donors

<p>AFD</p> 	<p>Rainbo Initiative</p>
<p>UNDP</p> 	<p>World Bank</p>