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Country card

**Sierra Leone**

(in Mano River  
Program)

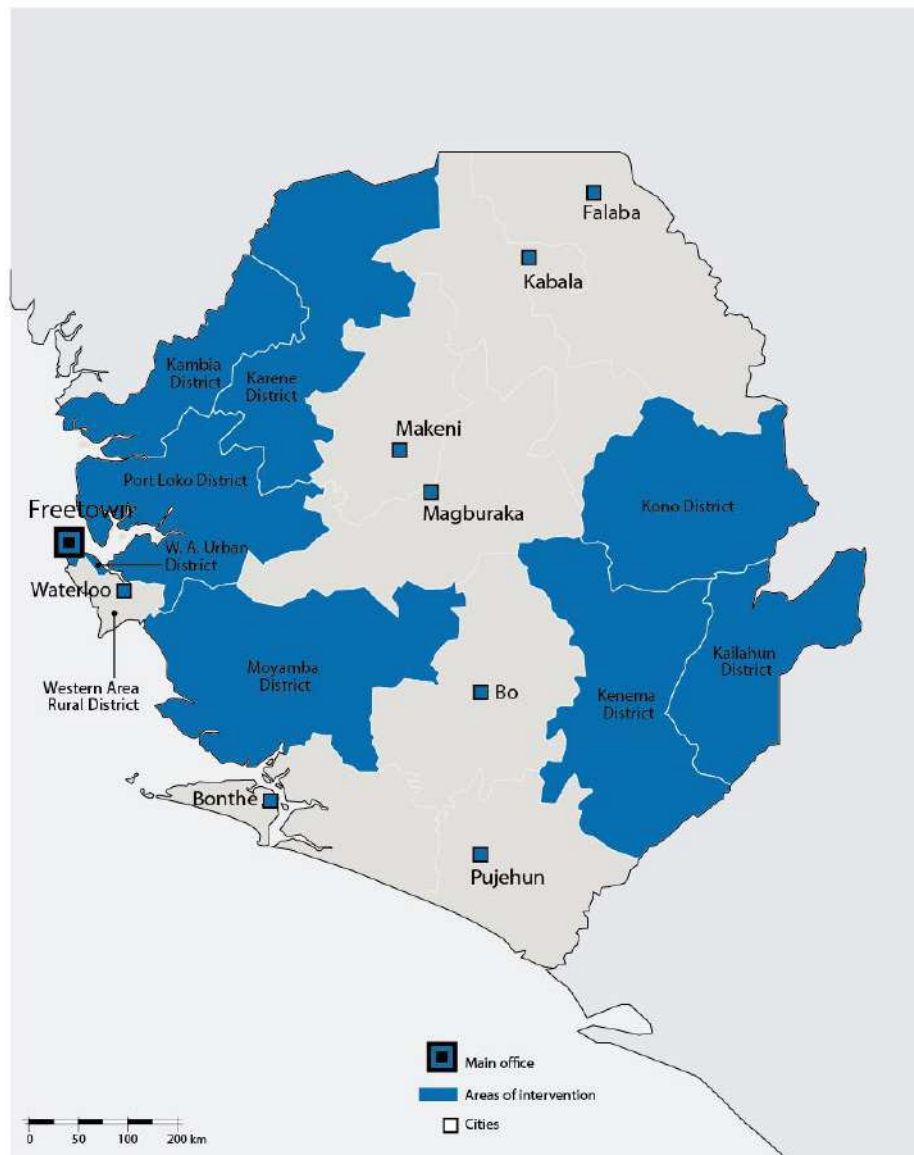




# HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Sierra Leone program has 61 staff members.

## Sierra Leone





# General data of the country

## a. General data

Indicator	Sierra Leone	Liberia	France
Population	7,976,985	6,871,287	67,391,582
IHDI	0.452	0.48	0.809
Gender Development Index	0.884	0.89	0.98
Maternal mortality	1120	661	10
GINI index	35.7	35.3	31.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	592	9,122	368,352
INFORM index	5.2	5.1	2.2
Fragile State Index	84.4	90	30.5
Public social protection	4.2	3.3	31.7
Net ODA (development aid)	759.6	819.1	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 the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 will be 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 (GDP) 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 % 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	Objective(s) of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
Mental health and psychosocial support  <b>Touching Minds</b> <b>Raising Dignity</b>	Develop and implement community based prevention and response strategies, leading to an improvement in the quality of life and wellbeing / positive mental health of people suffering from psychosocial distress and/or living with a mental health disorder in 4 countries in a crisis or post-crisis situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the mental health working group</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Support the formulation of new mental health law and policy</li> <li>• Capacitate user's association</li> <li>• Make community visits and referral</li> <li>• Organize community support groups</li> <li>• Conduct awareness sessions</li> <li>• Train health care workers</li> <li>• Train and supervise community stakeholders</li> <li>• Support the refurbishment of the Sierra Leone</li> </ul>	2,630 individuals and 1 psychiatric hospital		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Health and Sanitation</li> <li>• Community Association for Psychosocial Services</li> <li>• Service User's and Family Members Association</li> </ul>	Multi-country project; location in Sierra Leone is Freetown	01.2020-12.2021  <b>AFD</b>



		Psychiatric and Teaching Hospital.					
Protection against violence and abuse  <b>SGP Project</b>	Strengthen gender equality and empowerment of women & girls including those with disabilities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> <li>• Create gender support group</li> <li>• Identify and train gender-based violence focal points</li> <li>• Community sensitization</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,300 men, boys women and girls including 900 people with disabilities</li> <li>• 15,000 school children</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainbo Initiative</li> <li>• Care International</li> </ul>	Bombali, Bo and Western area districts	09.2019-03.2022  <b>Rainbo Initiative</b>
Inclusive Education  <b>COVID-19 Response - Free Education Project</b>	Improve access to school and COVID response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of COVID messages</li> <li>• Support children back to school</li> <li>• Community sensitization</li> <li>• Learning Circle</li> <li>• Inclusive education training</li> <li>• Hygiene and safety training</li> <li>• Assistive Device</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28,036 children</li> <li>• 76 schools</li> <li>• 80 Master trainers (supervisor)</li> <li>• 1,750 teachers and community leaders</li> <li>• 1,750 parents / caregivers</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save the children (lead)</li> <li>• Concerns</li> <li>• Plan</li> <li>• Focus 1000</li> <li>• Forut</li> <li>• Street Child</li> </ul>	Kenema (HI's lead)  All the district	03-12.202120212021  <b>World Bank</b>
Protection against violence and abuse  <b>A Whole School Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% of schools, communities and district authorities in the targeted chiefdoms have enhanced capacity to prevent and respond to reported cases of School Related-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening Local Structure &amp; Actors</li> <li>• Review National Policies</li> <li>• Advocacy to State Actors</li> <li>• Community Awareness and community dialogue</li> <li>• Reporting mechanism</li> <li>• Mapping/Referral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,600 Junior Secondary School and Senior Secondary School school children</li> <li>• 1,200 community members</li> <li>• 204 schools authorities</li> <li>• 480 parents</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainbo Initiative</li> </ul>	Kambia and Kenema	04-12.2021  <b>UNICEF</b>







	<p>Gender Based Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least 5,540 parents, community members and children from children clubs actively participate in initiatives that strengthen School Related-Gender Based Violence prevention and monitoring in schools</li><li>• Community members in the four chiefdoms of the targeted two districts have access to inclusive and child-friendly monitoring and reporting systems</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Family Support Unit staff</li><li>• 40 members of Gender Based Violence actors</li></ul>				
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## Donors

<p>AFD</p>  <p><b>AFD</b> AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT</p>	<p><b>Rainbo Initiative</b></p>
<p>UNICEF</p>  <p><b>unicef</b></p>	<p><b>World Bank</b></p>