



# FAMILY PLANNING & SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERING PEOPLE, DEVELOPING NATIONS

Family planning allows people to attain their desired number of children and determine the spacing of pregnancies. It is achieved through use of contraceptive methods and the treatment of infertility.

Source: WHO 2016

Family planning contributes to the achievement of national development goals.

Women with choices and greater reproductive health are better empowered to seek and keep better jobs, and contribute more to their families, nations and global prosperity.

## Economic activity for women and men in Sierra Leone



53.4%

Total employment 15 years and above



59.2%

(15-49 years)



63.5%

(15-59 years)



43.2%

Not in labor force



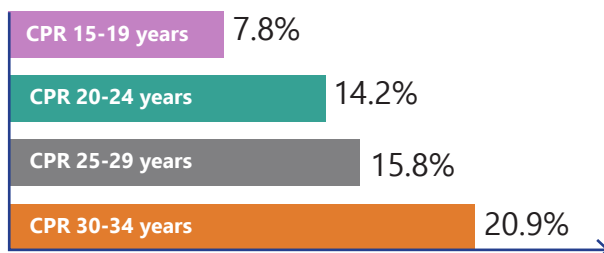
2.4%

Unemployed

Source: Population and Housing Census 2015

It is estimated that an extra USD 6 million annual investment in family planning will boost up the \*\*Contraceptive Prevalence Rate by 50%, halve the number of maternal deaths and prevent 15,000 infant deaths by 2035.

## Overall CPR in Sierra Leone: 16%



\*\* Contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is the proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who are using (or whose partner is using) a contraceptive method at a given point in time.

Source: SLDHS 2013

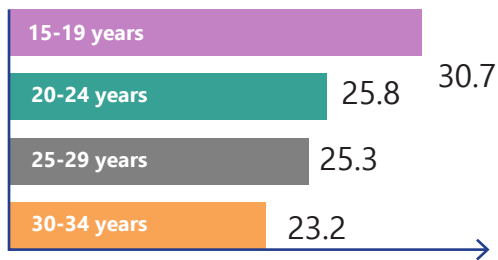
**Mek wi sev uman dem laif na Salone**

## One in four women of reproductive age in Sierra Leone want to use family planning but don't have access.

The Unmet Need \*for married women (15 – 49 years) **25%**, **17%** for spacing and **8%** limiting.

Catering to women's unmet need for family planning is among the most cost-effective investments overall and would allow more women to be better able to plan their lives, to invest in each child and to generate an income.

### Total unmet need by age group



\* The Unmet Need for family planning refers to fertile women who are not using contraception but who wish to postpone their next birth (spacing) or stop childbearing altogether (limiting).

Source: SLDHS 2013

Women empowered through access to family planning services are better off financially and their children receive better education, helping trigger a cycle of prosperity that produces demographic dividends.

### Contraceptive use by wealth quintiles

Lowest **12.5%**  
Second **12.1%**  
Middle **12.8%**  
Fourth **20.4%**  
Highest **28.1%**

### Contraceptive use by level of education

No education **14.3%**  
Primary education **19.3%**  
Sec/higher education **26%**



**Family planning is a “best buy”** among health investments and one of the most cost-effective, high-yield interventions that exists today. The United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) family planning Cost Benefit Analysis (2013) projected that for each US dollar spent on family planning in Sierra Leone will save USD 2 in achieving coverage goals for five essential social services - primary education, immunization, malaria, maternal health, water and sanitation.

Countries that invest in family planning can reap immediate investment savings in the health and education sectors, and experience social and environmental benefits that extend well beyond a single generation. An extra USD **6 million** annual investment in family planning in Sierra Leone will generate a net benefit of USD **66.8 million** over the time period 2013-2035 and the net benefit will come from the following sectors:



**USD 42m** in primary education



**USD 3m** in provision of insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria



**USD 44m** in child immunization



**USD 40m** in maternal health services



**USD 4m** in provision of improved drinking water

Spending 7500 Leones (USD 1) for contraceptive services reduces the cost of pregnancy-related care, including care for women living with HIV, by over 11,000 Leones (USD 1.46).



## Family planning:

- Helps governments achieve national and international development goals
- Mitigates population growth effects on access to water and sanitation
- Contributes to economic growth

## Family planning is a powerful tool in combating poverty

Achieving the world's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will depend significantly on how well the sexual and reproductive health, and rights of women and young people are fulfilled. Having fewer, healthier children can reduce the economic burden on poor families and allow them to invest more in each child's care and schooling, helping to break the cycle of poverty.

### Key actions to promote family planning include:

- Generating a broad coalition of support at the global, national and local levels.
- Providing adequate and consistent funding to provide universal access to contraception and pertinent information.
- Ensuring universal access to contraception education and materials, as well as to sexuality, health and reproductive rights counselling.
- Conducting mass media campaigns to educate people on the benefits of family planning.
- Providing access to a range of safe and effective contraceptive methods in health facilities and through social marketing and local outreach.
- Encouraging national and local debate on the rights of men and women in relation to their bodies, health, education and access to economic and social resources.
- Involving men in promoting family planning.

