



Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth



Education & Skills Development in Sierra Leone



NATIONAL POPULATION

7,092 113

YOUTH POPULATION (15-35 YEARS)

2,794 883

39.4%

1,317,985
47.2%

1,476,898
52.8%

Source: PHC 2015

The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working age share of the population.

"A country with both increasing numbers of young people and declining fertility has the potential to reap a demographic dividend"

Providing quality **Education & Skills Development** (particularly female education and empowerment, and improving learning opportunities are key to developing a well-educated, skilled, and innovative labour force.

When young people are adequately equipped with knowledge and skills that expands their perspective, they can realize their full potential and contribute more meaningfully to economic and social transformation as current and future leaders.

It is therefore critical to adequately invest in quality, affordable and responsive education.

Educational Attainment of Youth 15-35 years

60.3%

68.0% 53.3%

Source: Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census (PHC)

Current Enrollment

55.5%

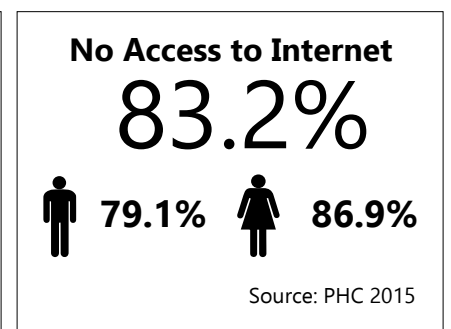
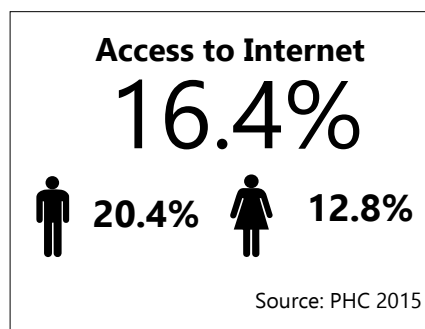
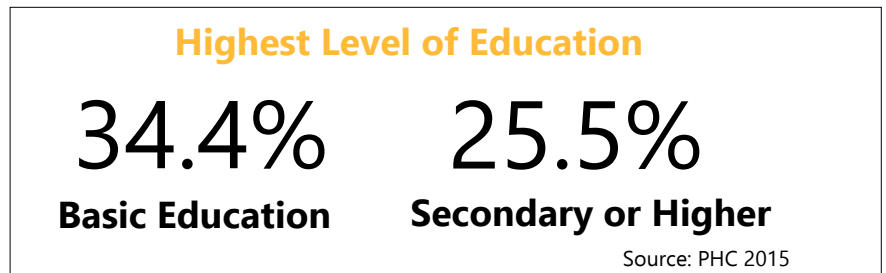
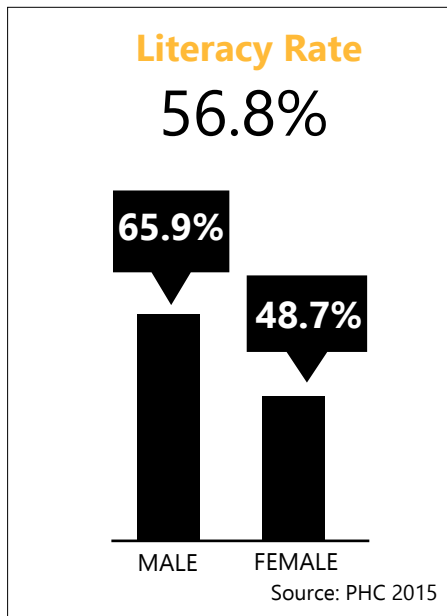
57.4% 53.3%

Source: PHC 2015

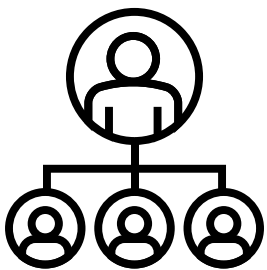
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Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

There is low productivity due to high illiteracy rate



Skills development opportunities are limited...



6.3%

of the working age population have done an apprenticeship

5.5%

of the working age population has received any vocational training

2.4

Average years of training

Source: 2014 Labor Force Survey

Key Actions to promote education among Youth in Sierra Leone



- Increase access to and **achievement of secondary education** for all, especially adolescent girls
- Increase **completion rates at primary and secondary schools** for adolescent girls
- Improve knowledge of **sexuality education**
- Increase and expand access to **technical and vocational training**
- Improve quality of education with an emphasis on skills development and a greater **focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics**

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