



Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth



Rights, Governance & Youth Empowerment 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%

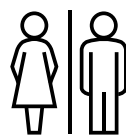
Source: 2015 PHC

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"

Good Governance, promotion of human rights and youth empowerment is needed to ensure the efficient delivery of public services, minimize wastage of public resources and curb corruption.

Sierra Leone has had 4 democratic elections and sustained economic growth that put Sierra Leone on a positive trajectory for sustainable economic growth then the Ebola Virus Epidemic struck. Sierra Leone needs to regain its positive economic growth, the youth have a critical role to play.



Gender Inequality Index

A composite measure reflecting inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market.

Sierra Leone **0.65**

Africa **0.57**

Global **0.44**

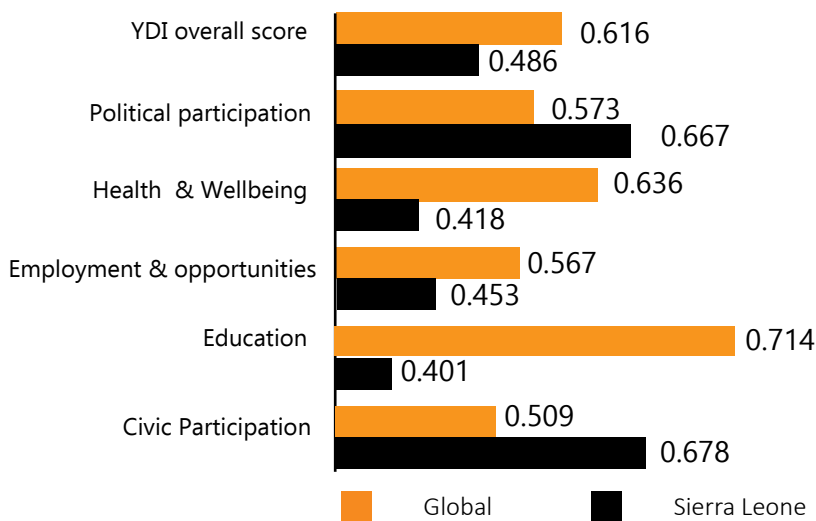
Source: UNDP 2015 Human Development Report

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Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

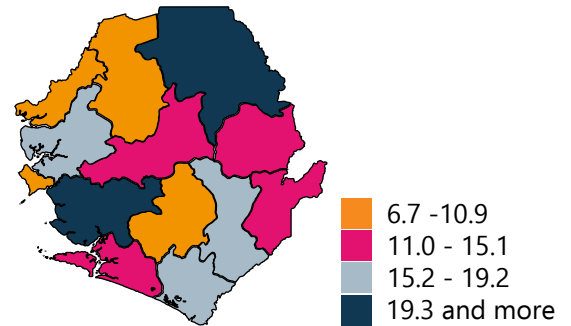
Youth Development Index

The Youth Development Index is a composite index of 18 indicators that collectively measure youth development in 183 countries. It has five domains measuring levels of education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, political and civic participation for young people.



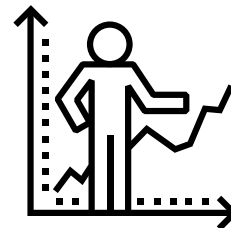
Source: Youth Development Index

Percentage of Women aged 20-24 who got married before age 15



Source: UNFPA Adolescent and youth Dashboard

Promote youth rights and protect young people from harmful practices like child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence.



Key Actions to promote Rights, Governance & Empowerment of youth in Sierra Leone



- Fully implementation of the **African Youth Charter (AYC)**
- Specifically, institute the regular production of the **State of Youth Report** that incorporates reports from National Youth Councils and various stakeholders
- Eliminate barriers to **active participation of youth in nation building** including in political spaces.
- Enhance the empowerment of youth through the **integration of civic education** in national educational curricula, media platforms and other channels
- Review, revise, amend or **abolish all laws**, regulations, policies, practices and customs that have a **discriminatory impact on youth** especially girls and young women
- Strengthen **independent youth formations, networks and organizations**
- Institute **youth leadership and empowerment trainings** aimed at realizing the aspirations in the youth.

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