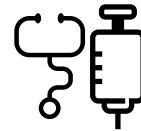




# Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth



## Health & Wellbeing in Sierra Leone




### NATIONAL POPULATION


7,092 113

### YOUTH POPULATION (15-35 YEARS)

2,794 883

39.4%

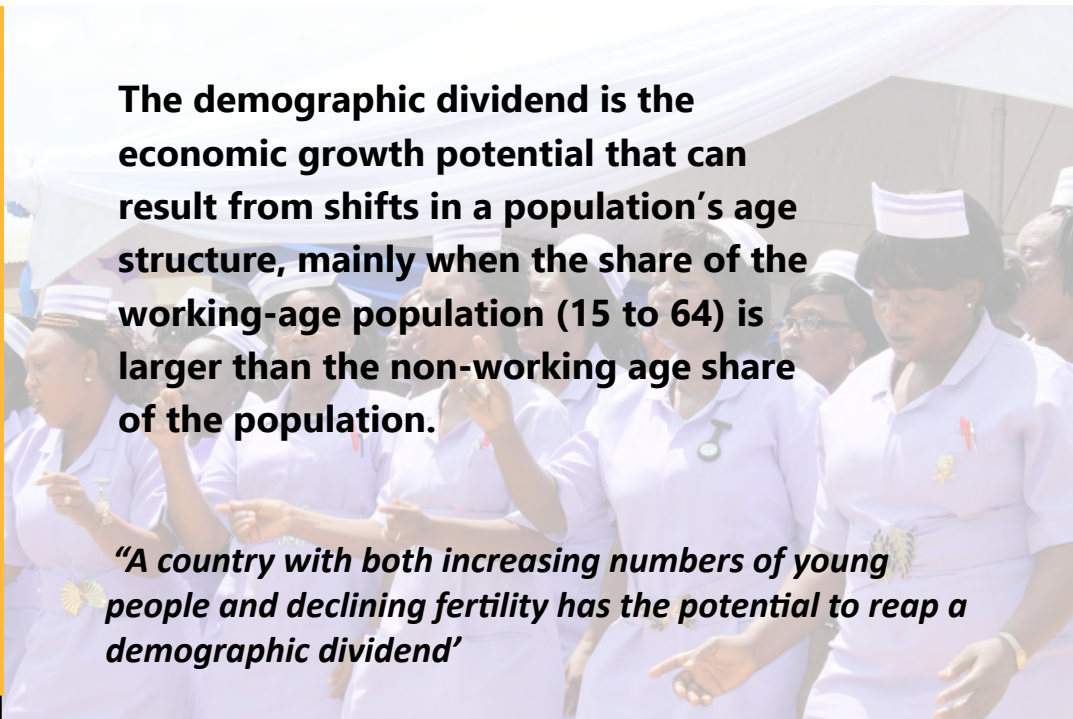
 1,317,985  
47.2%

 1,476,898  
52.8%

Source: DHS 2013

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 health** is key to harnessing the demographic dividend.

To reap the benefits of the increasing number of young people in the population we need to improve health outcomes; improving child survival and reducing youth vulnerability. Improving access to sexual and reproductive health services including family planning. Ensuring that women are empowered to decide on the number and spacing of their children can accelerate the demographic transition.

### Sierra Leone Youth have high fertility rates...

#### Age- Specific Fertility Rates

<b>125</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>197</b>
15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-35 years

The age-specific fertility rate measures the annual number of births to women of a specified age group per 1,000 women in that age group.

Source: DHS 2013



**22%**  
of adolescents girls have had a child.

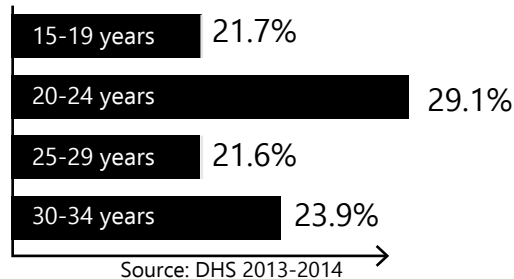
Source: DHS 2013

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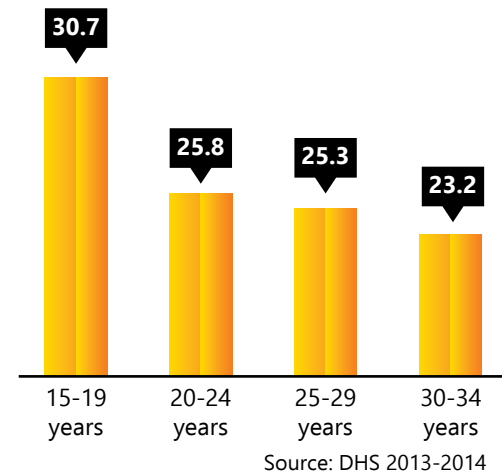
# Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

## Contraceptive Use is low..

### Current Contraceptive Use



### Unmet Need



## Death rates are high ...



**1,165/100,000**  
Maternal mortality rates



**46.8%** of maternal deaths are amongst teenagers

Source: DHS 2013

### Top Causes of Youth Mortality

Malaria **22.9%** |  | Ebola **24.0%**

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

## Key Actions to promote Health & Wellbeing among Youth in Sierra Leone



- Improve access to **contraception**
- Establish and promote **adolescent and youth friendly reproductive health services**
- **Invest in health systems** including in human resources and infrastructure
- Scale up age-appropriate and culturally sensitive **comprehensive sexuality education** to avert complications and challenges associated with unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections
- Foster **inter-sectoral action** for health at all levels
- Create an enabling environment by empowering communities and **strengthening the role of men** in improving access to sexual reproductive health and reproductive service

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