



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%

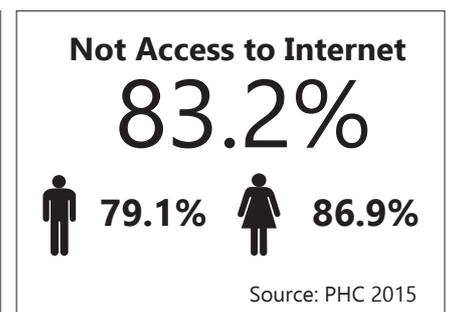
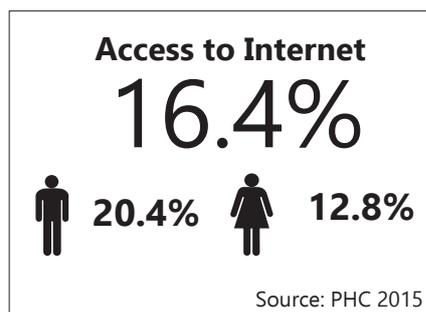
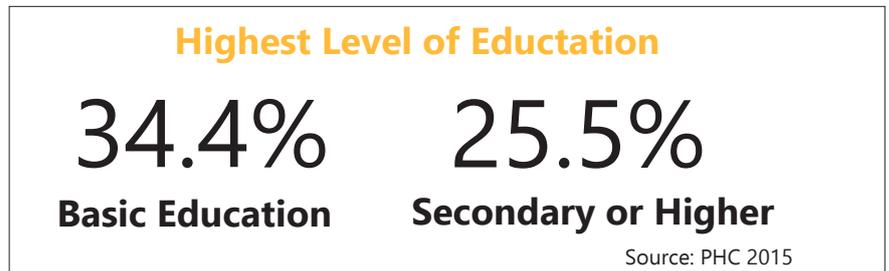
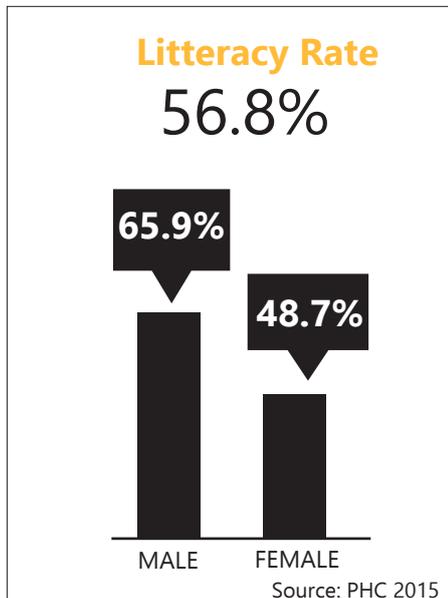
57.4% 53.3%

Source: PHC 2015

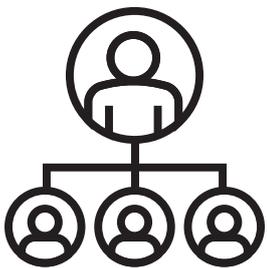
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Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

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 to 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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Employment & Entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone



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Investment in **Employment & Entrepreneurship** targeting both female and male youth is critical to ensure Sierra Leone can harness the demographic dividend. Engagement of youth in the formal or non-form sectors will bolster the capacity of the nation to fully utilize their skills and energies.

The lack of critical relevant skills limit the capacity of young people to take advantage of existing market conditions. As a pre requisite for economic growth it is key that there is a skilled labour force and convenient working conditions.

Employment status among youth (15-35 years)

 **53.4%** Employed

 **2.9%** Unemployed

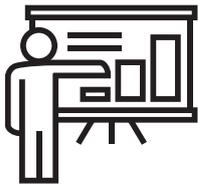
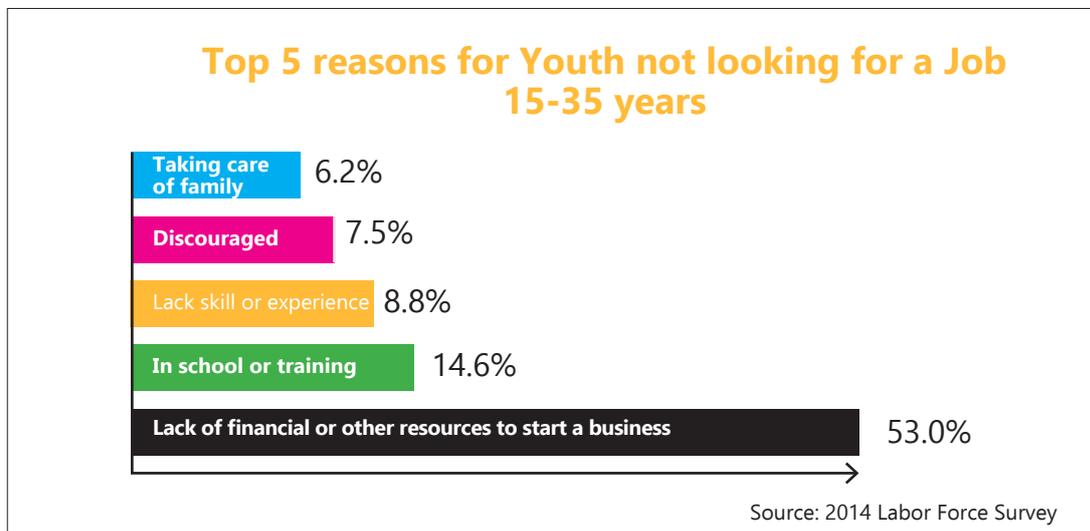
 **43.6%** Not in the labor market

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

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Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

Low skills levels and financial constraints result in difficulties for the youth in finding jobs in the formal sector ...



55%

of individuals in the working age population have never been to school

8/10

of individuals in the labor force have at most primary education

57%

of individuals in the working age population can neither read nor write

Source: 2014 Labor Force Survey

Key Actions to promote Employment & Entrepreneurship among Youth in Sierra Leone



- Develop and implement strategies aimed at **reducing the proportion of youth unemployed** by at least a quarter
- Improve **access to credit facilities** for youth
- Invest in sectors with **high job-multiplier effects**, including Information and Communications, Technology (ICT), manufacturing, agriculture and agroindustries in order to generate employment and spur inclusive growth
- Promote the **National Youth Service Scheme**

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Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth



Rights, Governance & Youth Empowerment in Sierra Leone



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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**

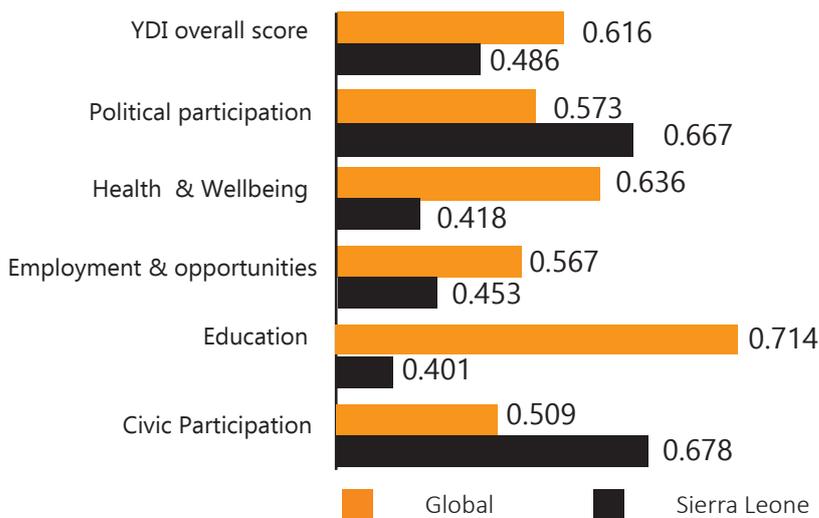
Source: UNDP 2015 Human Development Report

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Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

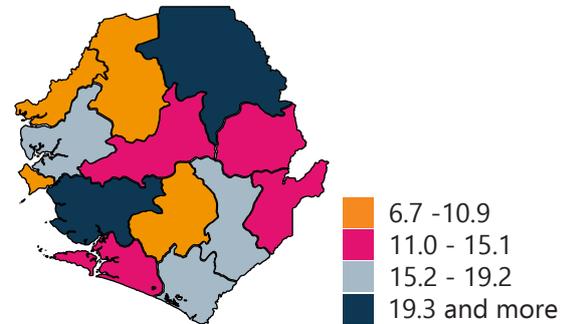
Youth Development Index

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.



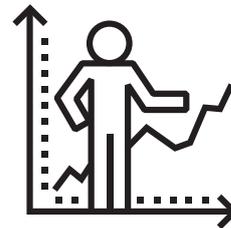
Source: Youth Development Index

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.

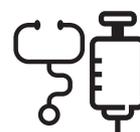
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Health & Wellbeing in Sierra Leone



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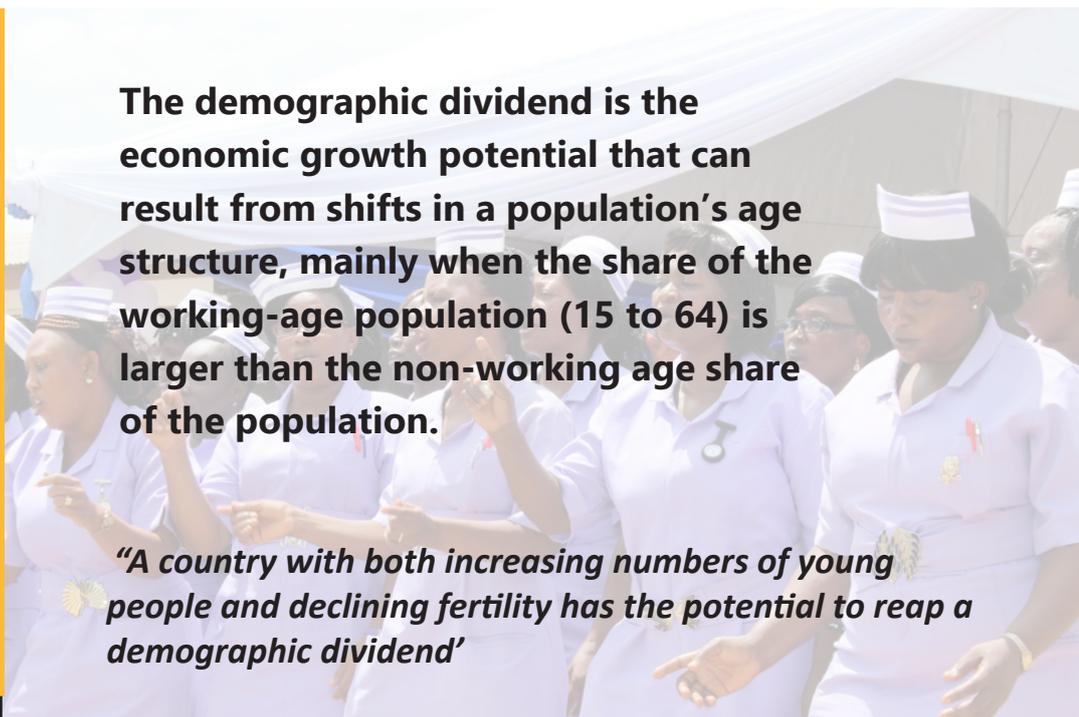
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Source: DHS 2013

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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

125	215	222	197
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.

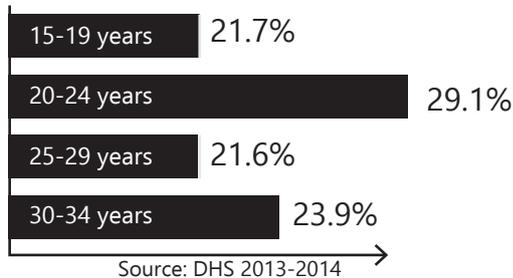
Source: DHS 2013

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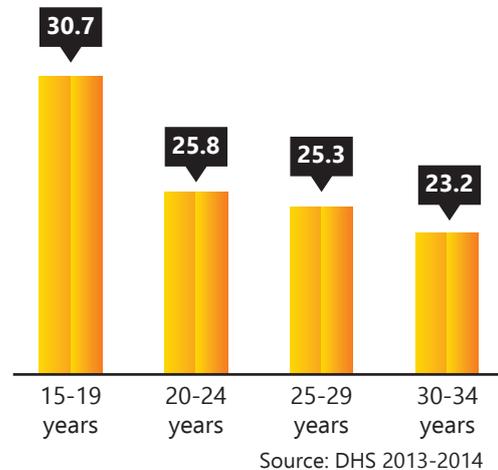
Youth Shaping the future of Sierra Leone

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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