



Existing rates of: **Wasting: 9.4%** **Stunting: 37.9%** **Proportion of population underweight: 18.1%**

Source: Gov. of Sierra Leone (DHS, 2013)

Strong Performance

- The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Sierra Leone's medium/long term national development policy (PRSP III) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Sierra Leone instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Sierra Leone benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2013.
- The Government of Sierra Leone promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 99% of children in 2013.
- In Sierra Leone 97.1% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2013.
- In Sierra Leone, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.

Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (6.18% of public spending in 2013), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Sierra Leone's spending in its health sector (12.3% of public spending in 2012) is close to, yet not fully meeting government commitments set out in the African Union's Abuja Declaration (15% of public spending).
- In Sierra Leone, law does neither give women economic rights or agricultural land access rights equal to men. This increases women and children's vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- The Government of Sierra Leone has not enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- Weak access to an improved source of drinking water (60.1% in 2012) and an improved sanitation facility (13% in 2012) prevents positive outcomes for hunger and nutrition in Sierra Leone.
- In Sierra Leone, constitutional protection of the right to food is weak.

Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	 6.18%	2013	14th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	 12.3%	2012	15th
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ²	 Moderate	2013	Joint 33rd
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ²	 Strong	2013	Joint 14th
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	 78%	2010	Joint 13rd
 Functioning of social protection systems ²	 Weak	2014	Joint 20th
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²	 Weak	2011	Joint 18th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ³	 Not in Law	2014	Joint 41st
 Equality of women's economic rights ³	 Not in Law	2011	Joint 26th
 Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	 Yes	2006	Joint 1st

¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges  >=75 % and <100%  >=100%

² Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong

⁴ Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	 99%	2013	Joint 2nd
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	 60.1%	2012	34th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	 13%	2012	41st
 Health care visits for pregnant women	 97.1%	2013	Joint 7th
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	 Strong	2013-2018	8th
 National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	 Yes	2013	Joint 1st
Laws			
 ICMSB [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	 Not Enshrined in Law	2014	Joint 35th

¹ Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Voluntary Adoption  Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes