

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 5.4%** **Stunting: 29.5%** **Proportion of population underweight: 13.6%**

Source: Government of Sierra Leone (DHS,2019)

Strong Performance

- Spending on agriculture (16.4% of public spending in 2018) meets government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- 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. This has been the case for an extended period.
- 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 2018.
- The Government of Sierra Leone promotes complementary feeding practices.
- In Sierra Leone 97.9% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2019.
- In Sierra Leone, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.














Areas for improvement

- Sierra Leone's spending in its health sector (7.9% of public spending in 2017) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- The Government of Sierra Leone has not ensured tenure security for rural populations. Land titling is weak and land markets do not function well.
- In Sierra Leone, the law does not give women economic rights equal to men. Men and women have equal legal access to agricultural land, but this is not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- The Government of Sierra Leone has not enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of Sierra Leone has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for only 69% of children in 2018.
- Weak access to an improved source of drinking water (69.8% in 2017) and an improved sanitation facility (15.7% in 2017) prevents positive outcomes for hunger and nutrition in Sierra Leone.
- In Sierra Leone, constitutional protection of the right to food is weak.
- Social safety nets in Sierra Leone are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.



Key data for Sierra Leone


Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	 16.4%	2018	1st
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ²	 7.9%	2017	21st
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ³	 Weak	2019	Joint 36th
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ³	 Very Strong	2019	4th
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	 81.1%	2017	16th
 Functioning of social protection systems ³	 Weak	2018	Joint 25th
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³	 Weak	2016	Joint 29th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴	 In Law, not in Practice	2019	Joint 27th
 Equality of women's economic rights ⁴	 Not in Law	2019	Joint 16th
 Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)	 Yes	2006	Joint 1st

























¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agri. spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Maputo Declaration)  >=75% & <100%  >=100%

² Possible scores are:  <75% of health spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration)  >=75% & <100%  >=100%

³ Possible scores are:  Very Weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very 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	2019	Joint 1st
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	 69%	2018	22nd
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	 Yes	2015	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	 69.8%	2017	37th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	 15.7%	2017	41st
 Health care visits for pregnant women	 97.9%	2019	6th
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	 Moderate	2019-2023	26th
 National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	 Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	 Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	 Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	 Yes	2018	Joint 1st
Laws			
 ICMBMS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	 Not Enshrined in Law	2019	Joint 33rd

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

² Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Few/Many Aspects Enshrined  Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes