



Sierra Leone



Introduction to SIERRA LEONE

THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, tucked on Africa's western coast, had over a third of its population displaced by a recent civil war. The country has been rebuilding since the war's end in 2002, and is now focused on eliminating corruption and creating jobs for its citizens. Despite this new era of peace, Sierra Leone remains extremely poor and wealth is unequally distributed.

The SIERRA LEONEAN people

Total population:	6,440,053
Children under 15:	2,867,592
Average Life Expectancy:	41.24 years
Per capita annual income:	\$900
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	7 years
Literacy rate:	35.1%
Internet users:	13,900
Cell phones in use:	1.009 million
Major/official language(s):	
	English
	Mende
	Temne
	Krio

Risk issues impacting children:

UNICEF does not currently offer children at risk statistics for this country.

More about SIERRA LEONE

Capital city:	Freetown
Type of government:	Constitutional Democracy
Square kilometers:	71,740
General terrain:	Coastal belt of mangrove swamps, wooded hill country, upland plateau, mountains in east
Major industries/jobs:	Diamonds, agriculture, manufacturing, petroleum
National motto:	"Unity, Freedom, Justice"
Major airport(s):	Lungi International

Reaching SIERRA LEONE

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

Muslim	- 60%
Indigenous	- 30%
Christian	- 10%

Christian groups:

Protestant	- 46.1%
Roman Catholic	- 25.5%
Independent	- 22.9%
Anglican	- 4.6%
Other	- 0.9%

Unreached People Groups:	12 (20% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.027
Average annual baptisms:	61,061
Foreign missionaries:	740
Per million:	132.46
National Christian workers/pastors:	1,200
Per million:	214.81
Number of churches/congregations:	1,939

Children's ministry in SIERRA LEONE

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Sierra Leone. The following information regards general children's ministry in West Africa, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

Overview: • Children's ministry has been growing in some regions of West Africa, with many pastors coming to understand the importance of ministry to children as part of a church's role. These churches are giving some space, resources and priority to work with children. In outlying areas and villages, a strategic focus on children is less common.

- Some nations in the region have strong Muslim or indigenous religious influences which present significant challenge to reaching and discipling children.
- Lack of finances, resources, and training continue to slow the growth of children's ministry in this area.
- A substantial number of outside teams do ministry to children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
1,939 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
2,867,592 children for Christ