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# Sierra Leone

**Total area:**

71,740 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:**

7,075,641 (2015)

**Literacy:**

35%

**Official languages:**

English

**GDP (PPP) per capita:**

\$1,760 (2017 est.)

**Life expectancy:**

57 years

**Religions:**

63% Muslim, 18% indigenous beliefs, 5% Catholic, 14% Protestant

## Prayer points

**Slum solutions for Sierra Leone**

Pray for Home Leone in their Kingdom Vision to enable thousands to exit Sierra Leone's horrific slums. Thank God for Destiny Village and the first 200 people who have moved. Pray for breakthrough funding such that thousands can be re-housed in vibrant communities. Pray for the church and the school that they will reflect God's love to all who move, come to learn and live in the surrounding area. Pray for the Sierra Leone government that they will go deeper in slum solutions. (Home Leone - July 2021)

**Protection over Sierra Leone**

We thank God for very low rates of Covid-19 in Sierra Leone so far. Children have gradually returned to school, we pray for continued protection from coronavirus and for the children at our New Hope School, that they will catch up with the learning they missed and come to know Jesus for themselves, as they learn about His love for them. (International Aid Trust - November 2020)

**Health and hygiene**

International Aid Trust gives thanks for the outreach from New Hope Church, which takes the gospel to the surrounding villages, and also for the medical care that is part of the outreach. Please pray for good health and protection from the coronavirus in this very poor area, pray that the teaching about handwashing and social distancing will help keep people safe. (International Aid Trust - May 2020)

**Church garden provides welcome vegetables**

Please join us in giving thanks that the security wall and gates are now complete at New Hope School/ Church, Lungi and that the church family are now able to grow vegetables in the grounds. Please pray that this food is a blessing and support to very poor families in the area, and also a help in the church's witness as they share Jesus's love. (International Aid Trust - February 2020)

### **Hands of Dorcas tailoring training project**

We thank God for the Hands of Dorcas tailoring training project. We pray for the women taking part that as they develop their skills, they will also grow in confidence, be able to earn a living and that those who aren't Christians yet will want to learn more about Jesus. (International Aid Trust - February 2021)

### **PTSD Counselling**

50,000 people died in the civil war in Sierra Leone, and nearly 4,000 were lost during the Ebola crisis. As a result it is estimated that almost 10 percent of the population suffer from anxiety disorders such as post-traumatic stress syndrome. In the entire country there's only one psychiatrist, two nurse practitioners and very few mental health workers operating. In this vacuum, Christian groups are now training pastors and church leaders to become counsellors supported by a drop-in counselling centre in Freetown. Many of the 3,000 people who've visited the centre so far had heard about the service through a local Christian radio station which also operates a late-night call-in show to help traumatized listeners. Pray that the counsellors and employees at the centre and the radio station will have increased opportunities to free people from the wounds of the past and to share the hope of Jesus for the future. (Reach Beyond - November 2016)

### **Ebola**

Since February, more than 900 people have died as a result of Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, with suspected cases in Nigeria. Tearfund partners are working with churches to improve awareness and understanding of Ebola among their communities and to help prevent the spread of the disease. Pray for the disease to be contained, for the recovery of those already going through treatment, and for the international community to provide additional health expertise swiftly. (Tearfund - September 2014)

### **Legal advice for women**

In Sierra Leone, poverty, lack of knowledge about their rights and a small legal profession has resulted in most women being unable to access legal representation or advice. AdvocAid helps by facilitating access to legal representation, organising legal education workshops and literacy programmes for the female prison population. Due to their legal aid work, there is now a notable decrease in the number of female prisoners. Thank God that, with His help, such a significant difference has been made in so many lives. Pray that such blessings will continue. (Tearfund - July 2012)

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