

Seek the welfare of the place where I have sent you...pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

SIERRA LEONE

Population: 5,743,725

HIV Prevalence: 1.5%

Life Expectancy at birth: 46 years

Infant mortality 117 deaths/1000 live births
(US 6 deaths/1000)

Number of **Orphans:** 370,000

Child marriage: 44% before age 18

Gross National Income: \$1,815 per person per year

Adult Literacy: Male: 55% **Female:** 33%

Human Development Index Rating: 180
Scale of all countries 1-182 from
highest quality of living to lowest

Major Religions:

Christian 10%
Muslim 60%
Indigenous beliefs 30%

Economy: Sierra Leone is an extremely poor country. Nearly half of the working-age population engages in subsistence agriculture. The country has rich resources: rutile, diamonds, bauxite, iron ore, oil, agriculture and fishery. However, the country is still recovering from a civil war that ended in 2002 and destroyed most institutions. In recent years, economic growth has been driven by mining, particularly iron ore and oil exploration.

Government: Constitutional Democracy

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Government: Constitutional Democracy

Brief Political History: Sierra Leone has special significance in the history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade as it was the departure point for thousands of west African captives. Democracy is slowly being reestablished after the civil war from 1991 to 2002 that resulted in the deaths of about a third of the population. The military took over security following departure of the UN peacekeepers, and continues to maintain the country's stability, although the UN Integrated Peacekeeping Office maintained a staff of 122 until 2014. The government's priorities include furthering development, creating jobs, and stamping out endemic corruption.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Partner Churches and Organizations:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Council of Churches in Sierra Leone

Challenges:

Sierra Leone was the first West African country to be evangelized. The first Protestant Church was started in Freetown, among freed slaves, in 1785.

Yet, after over 200 years only 10% of the country claim to be Christian. The newer, more dynamic groups tend to be spiritually shallow and overly focused on prosperity teaching and miracles.

Pray for churches that balance the Word and the Spirit for a deep desire to reach out in loving witness to the non-Christian majority. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to gift and empower many churches to minister to humanitarian needs. **Pray** for forgiveness and healing for the many who committed

or endured atrocities including orphans, those forced to be child soldiers or slaves of rebels, victims of amputation, mutilation or rape, and mental trauma.

Pray as you are led. Consider praying for sustainable economic growth, wise governance, and practical solutions that can be implemented effectively.

Resources:
Operation World 2015
CIA World Fact Book 2015
UNDP 2014 Human Development Index
Unicef- State of the World's Children 2015
www.pcusa.org/worldwide

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