



Sierra Leone

Country Fact Sheet 2024

Funded by:



Federal Office
for Migration
and Refugees



Publisher

International Organization For Migration (IOM) Germany

Charlottenstraße 68
10117 Berlin
Germany
T. +49 911 43 000
F. +49 911 43 00 260

iom-germany@iom.int
<https://germany.iom.int/>

This project is funded by the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).



The information contained in this Country Fact Sheet was researched with best intentions and care. However, IOM Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Furthermore, IOM Germany cannot be held accountable for conclusions or decisions drawn from the information provided in this Country Fact Sheet.

For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

© IOM July 2024 - Please note that information provided herein may be outdated due to dynamic developments in the country.

Table of contents

- 1. Health Care _____
- 2. Labour Market _____
- 3. Housing _____
- 4. Social Welfare _____
- 5. Education _____
- 6. Children _____
- 7. Contacts _____
- 8. At a Glance _____

1 Health Care

General information on health care

Sierra Leone's public healthcare system is extensive, and is provided by a mixture of government, private and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The healthcare system in Sierra Leone is divided into two levels: Peripheral Healthcare Units (PHUs), with extended community health program and secondary care facilities.¹ The Peripheral Healthcare Units (PHUs) are the primary healthcare delivery points and provide health care at the district-level.² The National Health Action Plan mandates that each unit include a Community Health Centre, a Community Health Post, and a Maternal and Child Health Post in every Chiefdom. Secondary healthcare is administered within district hospitals, which receive referrals from primary care facilities, as well as walk-in patients. Regional hospitals offer specialized care and handle referrals for complex cases beyond the scope of district hospitals.³ Registered private facilities tend to provide care paid through user fees at points of service and operate mainly in urban areas and most healthcare costs are paid out-of-pocket. The 2021 Sierra Leone Health Financing Progress Matrix Report identifies nine health financing schemes, including the government health budget, Free Health Care initiative, and disease-specific programs (malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB).⁴ Private health insurance covers less than 1% of the population. These packages typically offer coverage for a range of medical services, including consultations, hospitalizations, surgeries, and medications. The extent and specifics of coverage can vary significantly between different insurance providers. Also, some hospitals like [Choithram](#)

[Memorial Hospital](#) offer health check packages namely Full body checkup, well women checkup, Quick checks and Health at home, with specific regulations.

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

In Sierra Leone 94% registered health facilities are government-owned, while the remaining 6% are privately owned and operated.⁵ According to the 2023 WHO Sierra Leone Annual Report, there are over 50 hospitals and more than 1500 Primary Health Care Units in Sierra Leone⁷. Hospital services in Sierra Leone are provided by a network of government, military, educational, religious missions, industrial, NGO, and private facilities. Government hospitals are primarily located in Freetown and major population centres. Sierra Leone has a few tertiary-level hospitals, all situated in the capital, Freetown. These include Connaught Hospital, Ola During Children's Hospital, Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, Lakka Hospital, Kissy Mental Hospital, and Jui Hospital.

Admission to medical facilities

Sierra Leone's healthcare system is structured with primary healthcare facilities at the foundation, providing basic and preventive care. Above them, district hospitals offer secondary care, including surgeries and obstetrics, and receive referrals from primary facilities. Regional hospitals provide tertiary care for complex cases, while specialized services are available at specific facilities.⁸ This tiered system ensures comprehensive healthcare coverage nationwide. All health facilities: public, private, educational, mission, industrial, NGO, and military

1 Health Care

are open to everyone. However, patients must have a registered folder and cover the costs for services like consultations, medical exams, prescriptions, and hospital stays.

Availability and costs of medication

According to the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone, there were 220 licensed Pharmacists and over 500 medical outlets in Sierra Leone as of December 2021.⁹ However, medication availability depends on factors like location, healthcare infrastructure, and government efforts. Essential drugs for common illnesses are generally accessible, but specialized treatments may be scarce, especially in rural areas. Costs for medication vary widely, often requiring out-of-pocket payments. Factors influencing costs include the type of medication, healthcare provider, and associated fees.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Without any discrimination, return migrants have access to health care in hospitals and health centres.

They do not benefit from any special insurance or specific coverage linked to their status. They are treated like the rest of the population and can only benefit from social protection measures for which they are eligible. Services for specific groups such as prenatal care, under 5 children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers are free in government hospitals. Malaria, HIV&AIDS and Tuberculosis treatment is also free for all in government hospitals.

Registration procedure: Returning migrants can apply to any existing insurance company and take out a policy that corresponds to the coverage they require and their income. They may be required to undergo a medical check-up, take certain vaccinations, fill out forms and pay the required fees. Specific procedures may be in force at different insurance companies.

Required documents: The basic required document will be a nationally accepted Identification card and any specific procedures or additional documents as required by the individual insurance company.



Photo: IOM 2015

2 Labour market

General information on labour market

Sierra Leone's labour productivity remains lower than the Western African average, impacted by factors such as cumbersome business regulations and a weak manufacturing sector.¹⁰ The country's employment is distributed across various sectors. The labour market is characterized by a high level of informality and a heavy reliance on small-scale agriculture. Most of the population, approximately 59%, is self-employed in agriculture, including forestry, fishing, animal production, and crop farming, with the service sector growing to 35%, and the industry sector holding 5.6%. The labour force participation rate shows disparities between men and women, with women having a lower unemployment rate (2.2%) compared to men (4.3%). Youth unemployment is higher, at 3.6%, with young men facing a higher rate (4.9%) than young women (2.6%)¹¹. The non-agricultural sector, which includes small household enterprises, employs about 31% of the population, with a significant portion being female (63.8%).¹² Additionally, income disparities exist based on education levels, with higher-educated individuals generally earning more and having better employment prospects.

Finding employment

Finding employment in Sierra Leone involves using formal and informal networks. Government support includes the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security (MELSS) for labour policies and the Ministry of Youth Affairs for job placements and skills training. The National Youth Employment and

Entrepreneurship Fair (NYEEF), organized by the Office of the Vice President and other ministries, connects young people aged 18-35 with employers, recruiters, and institutions to promote employment, entrepreneurship, and skills development.¹³ Support for job seekers is available through various private organizations and employment agencies or job brokering entities which are specialized in matching job seekers to vacancies such as : Afriqia Solutions (<https://www.afriqia-solutions.com>), AfRecruit (<http://afrecruit.com/index.html>), SierraLeoneJob.com (<https://www.sierraleonejob.com>), JobSearch (<https://www.jobsearchsl.com>). Other key websites for job posting such as <https://nyeef.org/resources/recruitment-websites>.

Unemployment assistance

Sierra Leone lacks regular unemployment benefits via insurance schemes, pushing most workers towards informal activities. Limited social protection schemes cover around 4.4% of the population, with some receiving retirement pensions.¹⁴ Support for the unemployed includes vocational training and skills development programs aimed at enhancing employability. Services range from vocational training and skills development to financial support for starting small enterprises largely implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs' National Youth Commission in partnership with other key actors. There is also a focus on supporting adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)¹⁵ through tailored programs. The Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA) program by BRAC is one such initiative focused on AGYW. Key

2 Labour market

organizations include the Ministries of Employment, Labour and Social Security, Technical and Higher Education, Trade and Industry, Youth Affairs, Social

Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs and various Organisations such as GIZ and Orange Foundation working on business development support and



Photo: Unsplash 2021/ Random Institute

2 Labour Market

youth employment and empowerment.¹⁶ Unemployed individuals are generally expected to participate in available training programs and actively seek employment opportunities.

Further education and training

Sierra Leone offers a variety of vocational training programs through both public and private institutions, providing certification, qualification, and diploma courses. These training centres are available across the country and cater to diverse fields and skill sets such as food processing, catering, hairdressing, plumbing, pottery, car mechanics, carpentry, sewing, recycling and more. Examples of such institutions are: Reaps Technical and Vocational Education and Training Centre: 35 Circular Road, Freetown: <http://www.efsl.evang.org>; Gateway Training Institute: 18 Jenneh Street, Kenema; National Centre for Vocational Studies: 7 Campbell Street, Freetown and Mugbotima Skills Training Centre: 28 Somalia Street, Kenema. Additionally, several NGOs run vocational training programs, focusing on skills development for vulnerable groups, including returnees and youth. This includes: World Vision Sierra Leone: <https://www.wvi.org/sierra-leone>; Send Sierra Leone: <https://sendsierraleone.com> and BRAC Sierra Leone: <https://www.bracinternational.org>

General information on housing

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: All these centres have varying eligibility criteria and access costs, depending on the type of training, duration, and qualification obtained upon course completion. They are open to all who meet the conditions for access, without discrimination. Basic education and a willingness to participate in training programs are typical requirements. However, various challenges for access include limited accommodation facilities and the burden of transport cost on the trainees to attend the trainings.

Registration procedure: Returnees have access to various forms of assistance, including vocational training and small business support, without specific restrictions. They must meet general eligibility criteria, such as proof of Nationality and identification documents. Returnees should register with local vocational centres or relevant NGOs. The next steps typically involve attending orientation sessions and enrolling in specific training programs. Required documents: Required documents usually include identification, proof of residency, and in some cases, educational certificates or health clearances, depending on the nature of the training or assistance being provided.

3 Housing

General information on housing: Based on World Bank estimates from 2022, Sierra Leone's urban population is expected to grow at an annual rate of over 3%.¹⁷ This urbanization trend is driven by people mostly relocating from rural areas and neighbouring countries in search of improved living conditions and new opportunities. The influx of new residents has increased the demand for housing, with housing stock inadequate to meet the growing population's needs.¹⁸ In urban areas, 46.4% of households rent their dwellings, with Western Urban area having the highest proportion of rented dwellings (63.9%).¹⁹ There is a high demand for housing, especially in Freetown, leading to overcrowded conditions and high rental prices. However, in rural areas, the demand for housing is lower compared to the urban areas and the owner-occupied dwellings are more common (69.8%). Many rural houses are made from traditional materials, but the quality is generally poor and lack basic amenities. In the 2018 integrated household survey report, the average annual rent paid by households in Sierra Leone in the new currency was SLE 1,871 (approx. USD 80). Urban residents pay a higher average annual rent of SLE 2,013 (approx. USD 85), while in rural areas, the average rent is significantly lower at SLE 27 (approx. USD 2). The Western region reports the highest average rent (SLE 2,794, approx. USD 120).²⁰ However, the monthly rental for a newly constructed house in local currency units is SLE 25,000 (approx. USD 1,060) according to the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa (CAHF).²¹ A significant percentage of Sierra Leone's population lacks access to basic water and sanitation

facilities, only about 16% have access to basic sanitation facilities, and only 42% have access to piped water services. According to the CAHF, access to electricity is limited in both rural and urban areas, in terms of reliability and affordability, with only a few hours of supply per day in some areas and extensive power cuts in others.

Finding accommodation

Finding accommodation in Sierra Leone involves utilizing resources from both public and private organizations. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MoLHCP) (<https://molhcp.gov.sl>) and the Sierra Leone Housing Corporation (SALHOC) are the key public bodies engaged in housing provision. These organizations play a crucial role in managing and facilitating access to housing across the country.

On the other hand, numerous private real estate agencies predominantly operate in urban areas, offering a wide range of rental and purchase services tailored to meet the needs of diverse clients. Apartments and houses for rent are commonly advertised on dedicated websites such as Sierra Leone Property Solutions (<https://www.sierraleonepropertyolutions.com/properties-for-rent-in-sierra-leone>) and Sierra Leone Housing (https://wn.com/Sierra_leone_housing), Expat.Com (<https://www.expats.com/en/housing/africa/sierra-leone>), along with local classifieds. These platforms provide comprehensive listings that include various housing options, ranging from modest apartments to more luxurious residences. Prospective tenants and buyers

3 Housing

can utilize these resources to explore available properties and make informed decisions based on their preferences and budget constraints. In addition to online platforms, traditional methods of finding housing remain prevalent. Local real estate listings, housing agencies, and community networking are essential avenues through which individuals can locate suitable accommodation. Housing options are frequently advertised on local notice boards and community centres, and word of mouth continues to be a valuable tool for discovering available properties. Networking within communities can also yield beneficial connections and insights into the housing market.

Social grants for housing

There are no social grants available for housing in Sierra Leone.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: There is one temporary housing shelter available for a specific category of vulnerable returnees. The shelter is run by the NGO World Hope International with very limited availability. The World Hope International Recovery Centre (<https://worldhope.ca/recovery-centre-campaign>) provides shelter and psychosocial counselling to women and children who are victims of trafficking, with services available free of charge and requiring a referral from the Government of Sierra Leone and other relevant stakeholders. There is no such shelter for men.

Registration procedure: There is no opportunities available for social housing in Sierra Leone.

Required documents: To gain access to the WHI Shelter, VOTs require a referral from the Ministry of Social Welfare or other agencies such as IOM.

4 Social Welfare

Social welfare system

Social Welfare programs are available with limited access. The welfare system struggles in providing support to vulnerable groups. The system aims to support vulnerable groups through various programs and benefits. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Gender, and Children's Affairs, National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT), National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and other related ministries are responsible for implementing these schemes. Based on the [National Social Protection Strategy](#) for Sierra Leone (2022-2026), Sierra Leone's social protection schemes include various programs targeting vulnerable populations. The Social Safety Net (SSN) Programme aims to provide cash transfers to the poorest households. Child Grants aim to support pregnant women and children under five. Educational Incentives and Waivers aim to reduce educational costs for low-income families. The Home-Grown School Feeding Programme aims to offer nutritious meals to school children. Youth Skills Training and Employment Support aims to provide vocational training for youth. Social Insurance and Labour Market Policies aim to ensure financial security for working-age individuals. The pension system, managed by NASSIT, aims to offer pensions starting at age 60. Disability Grants aim to assist individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those living in extreme poverty. However, specific eligibility criteria vary by program but often include means testing, vulnerability assessments, and specific demographic targeting (e.g., age, disability status). For example, the pension Scheme is eligible for individuals typically 60 years, provided the individual has made sufficient contributions to the pension scheme for a specified minimum period, during their working years. Therefore, returnees who have previously contributed to the national pension system and meet the required contribution period are eligible for pension benefits. This eligibility is contingent on the individual having a valid contribution history with NASSIT.

Registration procedure: The process usually involves registering with the Ministries of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and other relevant or serving organizations. Applicants need to visit the local office to fill out the necessary forms. For instance, for Pension benefits returnees need to visit a NASSIT office to apply for pension benefits. The application process involves completing necessary forms and submitting required documentation.

Required documents: In general, the basic required documents for any social support are Identification (ID card or passport), Proof of citizenship/residency. Any additional documentation will be specific to the type of assistance being sought. For Pension benefit, the documents needed include identification, proof of previous contributions to NASSIT, and employment history records. These documents help verify the individual's eligibility and ensure that they receive the correct benefits.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: For general eligibility, the various social protection programs are targeted towards the most



Photo: IOM/ 2025 Nicholas Bishop

4 Social Welfare

Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups in Sierra Leone include women, children, the elderly, disabled individuals, trafficked individuals. These groups often face significant barriers to accessing public services such as health insurance, pensions, and other social welfare programs. Social stigma, limited funding, inadequate infrastructure as well as spatial inequalities in income in the various regions exacerbate these challenges. Despite these barriers, various government and non-governmental organizations provide support to vulnerable groups such as [Handicap International Sierra Leone \(HI\)](#) that work to improve the quality of life and mental health of people suffering from psychological distress or mental disorder. HI also promotes economic inclusion by providing technical resources for an inclusive agriculture project aimed at vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities, HIV and AIDs, and survivors of gender-based violence.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Vulnerable returnees are eligible for social assistance and support if they meet specific criteria, such as being below the poverty line or having a disability.

Registration procedure: The registration process involves visiting relevant social service offices or organizations and completing application forms.

Required documents: Documents required can include identification, medical reports (for disabilities), and proof of vulnerability or income level.



Photo: IOM 2024 François-Xavier Ada



Photo: IOM/ 2009 Nick Danziger

5 Education

General information on education

The education sector in Sierra Leone is managed by two ministries: the Ministry of Basic and Senior School and the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. The system includes pre-primary education for ages three to five, six years of primary education, three years of junior secondary education, and three years of senior secondary education. Higher education, including universities and vocational institutions, covers four years. Education is compulsory up to age fifteen, ensuring basic literacy and numeracy. Government programs support one year of free, compulsory pre-school education for five-year-olds, although all-day care varies. There is a notable disparity between urban and rural areas in the availability and quality of schools, with ongoing efforts to improve educational infrastructure in rural regions.²² Here is a link to some approved schools in the country: <https://mbsse.gov.sl/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2017-School-List.pdf>

Cost, loans, and stipends

Primary and junior secondary education are generally free of charge under the Free Quality School Education (FQSE) program, an initiative funded by the government and international partners.²³ However, not every cost is universally covered under this program. Various NGOs and community initiatives often step in to provide other materials such as uniforms, books and so on to students from low-income families. There are few scholarships and financial support programs available for secondary and higher education. These are typically

targeted at students from low-income families,²⁴ those who excel academically, and vulnerable groups. Eligibility criteria for scholarships usually include academic merit, financial need, and sometimes specific demographic factors such as gender or regional background.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Degrees/ diplomas/ certificates obtained abroad from accredited institutions are recognized and accepted in Sierra Leone.

Access for returnees

Registration: Returnees can apply for scholarships if they meet the specific eligibility criteria, which generally include academic performance, financial need, and enrolment in recognized educational institutions. There are very few scholarship opportunities in Sierra Leone. **Registration procedure:** The registration procedure for accessing scholarships and educational support involves applying to the relevant educational authorities or scholarship bodies. This typically includes filling out application forms, providing necessary documentation, and sometimes attending interviews or assessments.

Required documents: Commonly required documents include identification documents such as a passport or national ID, proof of previous education including transcripts and diplomas, proof of residency, and financial status documents for needs-based scholarships. Specific application forms for the scholarship or educational institution are also required.

6 Children

General situation of children and infants

Sierra Leone faces significant challenges including early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, child labour, female genital mutilation, and gender-based violence. These risks are exacerbated by systemic poverty, poor health conditions, and educational challenges, threatening their overall well-being and rights of children. As a low-income nation, it is making strides towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for children but grapples with high poverty rates, inflation, and climate change impacts. The general living conditions for children are harsh, with 54.5% experiencing food poverty and 59.2% living in poverty, particularly in rural areas.²⁵ These socio-economic factors have exacerbated the menace of child trafficking

and labour and significantly influenced by the local phenomenon known as “men-pikin,” a term referring to the relocation of children from their biological families under the promise of better opportunities, often educational. Children’s access to health care and education is heavily influenced by the social background of their parents, with poorer families in hard-to reach rural areas facing more barriers. Despite improvements in reducing under-five and maternal mortality rates, these rates remain high, compromising the country’s chances of achieving SDG 3 targets. Measures to protect children include efforts to reduce neonatal and under-five mortality, combat malnutrition, and improve access to clean water and sanitation. However, only 4.4% of the population are covered by at least one



6 Children

social protection benefit, and just 0.8% of children are covered by social protection systems.²⁶

International and Non-Governmental Organisations dealing with children's well-being and rights

Several organizations are dedicated to promoting the welfare, rights, and protection of children in Sierra Leone. UNICEF plays a significant role, focusing on health, nutrition, education, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), child protection, and social policy, aiming to ensure children thrive, learn, are protected, and have access to safe WASH services. Other organizations include Save the Children, which focuses on child health, education, and protection; Plan International, which works on child rights and gender equality; and World Vision, which provides child protection, education, and health services. These organizations aim to improve living conditions for children, ensure access to education and healthcare, and protect children from abuse and exploitation.

Access for returnees

Registration: Returnees with children must consider several bureaucratic details upon returning to Sierra Leone. Children may need birth certificates and specific documents such as vaccination records to ensure their health and educational access. International birth certificates are generally recognized and accepted.

Registration procedure: The registration procedure involves enrolling children in school or kindergarten, which may require providing proof of identity, previous educational records, and health documents. There are deadlines and requirements for school access that must be adhered to, which vary by institution.

Required documents: For accessing health and educational services, returnees need to prepare various documents. These include birth certificates, vaccination records, proof of previous education (such as transcripts and diplomas), and identification documents (like a passport or national ID). Specific requirements may vary depending on the service being accessed and the policies of the local institutions.

7 Contacts

Aberdeen Women's Center
Maternity care, fistula repair, outpatient children's clinic, support to pregnant teenage girls.
416 Cape Road, Aberdeen Roundabout, Freetown
<https://freedomfromfistula.org.uk/projects/sierra-leone>

Connaught Hospital
Provides comprehensive health-care services including emergency care and specialized treatments.
1 Percival St, Freetown, Sierra Leone, +232 34 343092, info@connaughthospital.org, <https://connaughthospital.org>

Ola During Children's Hospital
Pediatric care, Child health. Specializes in healthcare services for children, providing both inpatient and outpatient care.
Fourah Bay Rd, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone, +232 76 634486

Princess Christian Maternity Hospital
Focuses on maternity service.
Fourah Bay Rd, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone +232 99 149087
pcmhnew@gmail.com

Choithram Memorial Hospital
Routine wellness, preventive health care, innovative diagnostics
Hill Station, Freetown, Sierra Leone, +232 76980000, cmhfreetown@yahoo.com
<https://www.cmhfreetown.com>

Jui Hospital
Provides comprehensive healthcare services including specialized treatments.
1 SORRIE LANE KOSSOH TOWN, JUI WATERLOO HIGHWAY 0000 Freetown, Sierra Leone, +232 75 444455, contehsk@gmail.com

Cotton Tree Medical Group
Provider of medical services.
17 Pademba Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone, +232-30611664 or +202-361-9155, customerservice@cottontreemedicalgroup.com, www.cottontreemedicalgroup.com

People's Pharmacy
People's Pharmacy provides a wide range of healthcare services and products.
34 Regent Road, Freetown, +232 76 695903, +232-76-131-089, wholesales@pepharmacy.com, www.pepharmacy.com

EcoMed (SL) Ltd.
SL's most advanced medical diagnostics center
19 Off Upper Kingharman Road, (100 meters from Ministry of Tourism), Brookfields, Freetown, +232 30 999 529, info@ecomeds.l, www.ecomeds.l

Afriqia Solutions
Database of active job seekers used to recruit for client companies.
78 Circular Road, Freetown, m.darwich@afriqia-solutions.com, <https://www.afriqia-solutions.com>

Orange Foundation
Orange Foundation supports education and vocational training.
20 Wilkinson Road, Freetown +232 76 964207, contact@orange.sl, <https://www.orange.sl/en/foundation-education.html>

Lettie Stuart Pottery Training Centre and Co-operative
Trainings on pottery making.
Campbell town, Waterloo, +232078682841, lettiestuartpotterycenter@gmail.com, <https://www.aurorafoundation.is/en/lettie-stuart-pottery>

World Vision Sierra Leone
Child welfare, Community development
35 Wilkinson Road, Freetown Sierra Leone, +232 76 862 391
wvsierra-leone@wvi.org
Website: <https://www.wvi.org/sierra-leone>

Send Sierra Leone
Education, Health, Livelihood.
3 Amie-Jay Drive, Reservation Road, Kenema Sierra Leone +232 7280 6853
info@sendsierraleone.com, <https://sendsierraleone.com>

BRAC Sierra Leone
Empowering women and children with financial services, education and health.
No. 2 Samuel Banister Drive Wilberforce, (opposite Easy Solar HQ) towards Hill Cut Junction, Freetown, <https://www.bracinternational.org>

Measures to be taken before return

- **Virtual counselling:** Upon request by the host country, IOM SL mission can provide virtual counselling to returning migrant to answer questions with regards making and informed decision to return. This also includes sharing the current realities in the country of origin (COO) and opportunities available for to achieve sustainable reintegration if they decide to return.
- **Coordination with national partners and families for the reception:** Once the arrival date is confirmed, the Reintegration Officer of IOM in Sierra Leone ensures the government partners involved in the reception of returnees are notified about the planned movement through official letters and/or official emails to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), keeping the Sierra Leone Immigration Department (SLID) and the Office of National Security (ONS) in copy. The government has the prerogative to request a hold, postpone or cancellation of the proposed movement if certain procedures are unclear to them.

Measures to be taken upon arrival

- **IOM:** When receiving returnees arrived on commercial flights, IOM Staff will meet the migrants upon entrance into the arrival hall and proceed with them through the Immigration passport control, support with luggage collection and deliver the welcome address before leaving the arrival hall.

Endnotes

- 1 https://scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_artt&ext&pid=S2071-29362019000100047
- 2 <https://mohs.gov.sl/history/>
- 3 Sierra Leone Basic Package of Essential Health Services: https://mohs2017.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/gosl_2015_basic-package-of-essential-health-services-2015-2020.pdf
- 4 https://portal.mohs.gov.sl/download/33/publications/1652/sierra-leone-health-financing-progress-matrix-report_web.pdf
- 5 Private" includes all non-governmental entities, including not-for-profit (NGO), for-profit, and faith-based institutions.
- 6 GoSL, NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025
- 7 WHO Sierra Leone Annual Report 2023 Final.pdf
- 8 Sierra Leone Basic Package of Essential Health Services: https://mohs2017.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/gosl_2015_basic-package-of-essential-health-services-2015-2020.pdf
- 9 <https://pharmacyboard.gov.sl/admin/gallery/3b0646cca6ebb51a29a37af7cca15ae8.pdf>
- 10 Danish Trade Union Development Agency Sierra Leone Labour Market Profile 2023/2024. <https://www.ulandssekretariatet.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Sierra-Leone-LMP-2023-final.pdf>
- 11 *ibid.*
- 12 Job Demand and Employment Market Analysis: Sierra Leone. <https://bracusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Sierra-Leone-LMA-Report-1.pdf>
- 13 The National Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Fair (NYEEF): <https://nyeeef.org/about>
- 14 Danish Trade Union Development Agency Sierra Leone Labour Market Profile 2023/2024. [https://www.ulandssekretariatet.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Job-Demand-and-Employment-Market-Analysis: Sierra Leone. <https://bracusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Sierra-Leone-LMA-Report-1.pdf>](https://www.ulandssekretariatet.dk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Job-Demand-and-Employment-Market-Analysis-Sierra-Leone-https://bracusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Sierra-Leone-LMA-Report-1.pdf)
- 15 Job Demand and Employment Market Analysis: Sierra Leone. <https://bracusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Sierra-Leone-LMA-Report-1.pdf>
- 16 *ibid.*
- 17 World Bank staff estimates based on the United Nations Population Division's World Urbanization Prospects: 2018 Revision. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.GROW?locations=SL>
- 18 Unlocking Opportunities In The Sierra Leone Housing Market: <https://africa-housing.com/unlocking-opportunities-in-the-sierra-leone-housing-market>
- 19 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) Report 2018: https://www.statistics.sl/images/StatisticsSL/Documents/SLIHS2018/SLIHS_2018_New/sierra_leone_integrated_household_survey2018_report.pdf
- 20 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) Report 2018: https://www.statistics.sl/images/StatisticsSL/Documents/SLIHS2018/SLIHS_2018_New/sierra_leone_integrated_household_survey2018_report.pdf
- 21 Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa: https://housingfinanceafrica.org/countries/sierra-leone/#_ftn3
- 22 National Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools: <https://mbsse.gov.sl/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Radical-Inclusion-Policy.pdf>
- 23 The Free Quality School Education (FQSE) program covers tuition fees and provides teaching and learning materials (Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act 2023). While tuition fees are covered under the FQSE program, the costs for school supplies such as books, notebooks, uniforms, and other materials are not universally covered.
- 24 Sierra Leone Education Sector Plan 2022 - 2026.pdf: <https://www.unicef.org/sierraleone/media/1306/file/Sierra%20Leone%20Education%20Sector%20Plan%202022%20-%202026.pdf>
- 25 Children and adolescents in Sierra Leone: A snapshot Report: <https://www.unicef.org/sierraleone/media/2021/file/Sierra%20Leone%20SitAn.pdf>
- 26 As of 2023, the maternal mortality rate was 443 per 100,000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate was 104.7 per 1,000 live births: UNICEF in Sierra Leone Transforming lives and building resilience <https://www.unicef.org/sierraleone/media/2271/file/UNICEF%20Sierra%20Leone-%202023%20Annual%20report.pdf>