

Facts and Figures

INDICATOR

Primary net enrolment rate	65%
Primary gender parity index	0.9
Primary female teachers	26%
Primary school completion rate	87%
Qualified primary school teachers	49%
Junior secondary school net enrolment rate	13%



Government of Sierra Leone

EDUCATION

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Sector Overview

- Since the end of the civil war in 2002, there has been a steady and uninterrupted growth in access to education at all levels.
- Education has been diversified in the country following the operationalization of the 2001 Polytechnic Act and the 2004 University Act.
- The country now has two universities: the University of Sierra Leone and the University of Njala, located in the Western and Southern regions respectively.
- The greatest impact is at the primary level. The net and gross enrolment rates have been encouraging.
- Though gender parity in primary education has still not been achieved, it reduced from a ratio of 1.2:1 in 2004 to 1.1:1 in 2007.

Challenges currently facing the sector

- Clogging of school system by over-aged children and low primary school completion rate.
- Inadequate and inappropriate schools, shortage of teaching and learning materials.
- Inadequate human resources at all levels, poor internal efficiency and weak management of information.
- Overcrowded class rooms and high pupil teacher ratios in schools.

Sector Priorities

- Achieving universal primary education and completion.
- Improving quality and relevance of education.
- Meeting the human resource needs of the economy.
- Providing early childhood care and pre-school opportunities for more children.
- Providing improved governance, planning, management, and leadership in the sector.



Sector Strategies 2009 - 2011

Increasing access to and completion of primary schooling especially for girls and out-of-school children

- Extend school feeding programmes to schools in all districts.
- Promote take-home ration given as incentive for increasing attendance rate for girls in WFP supported schools.

Improving quality and relevance of primary education

- Provide books in sufficient quantities that children can read both at school and at home.
- Review curriculum regularly to ensure quality and relevance of the content.
- Recognising and addressing violence against children in schools, develop and enforce a code of conduct for teachers and other education personnel especially regarding sexual harassment of the girl child.
- Improve on the school environment for girls by enforcing the policy of providing separate toilet facilities for boys and girls.
- Provide adequate teaching and learning materials and library facilities for schools.
- Improve terms and conditions of service for teachers and conduct a special recruitment drive for female teachers in rural areas.

Improve capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver the education system

- Review the 6-3-3-4 system.
- Adopt the 2007 Child Rights Act and payment of examinations fees for National Primary School Examination (NPSE), Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WSASCE).
- Increase capacity by recruiting for vacant positions, and training Ministry of Education officials at national and district level.
- Focus recruitment of teachers on increased admission into teacher training colleges while ensuring that teacher training is affordable.
- Review policy on teacher recruitment and expand distance education for unqualified primary teachers.

Strengthen Education Management Information System (EMIS) and management of education records

- Prioritise the ongoing establishment of an EMIS Unit to organise the collection and analysis of reliable data on all aspects of education.
- Train inspectors and supervisors to support school heads and teachers.

Some Opportunities for Investment and Public-Private Partnerships

Technical/Vocational Education.

The 2004 Education Act promotes the establishment of Technical and Vocational institutions by private partners. This will facilitate the development of vocational, technical and entrepreneurial skills that will address the critical capacity gaps and promote sustainable employment opportunities.

Higher Education.

With a population of five million people, Sierra Leone only has two universities which is inadequate to meet the training needs of people in higher education. The Government is encouraging Private Investments in higher education to accelerate growth in higher education, produce a critical mass of key disciplines and promote technological advances required in this era.

Private Boarding Schools.

Private investments in boarding schools will provide students with required academic background as well promote discipline and high social values. Parents will be inclined to send their children to boarding schools if the facilities provided at the boarding schools are adequate.

Teaching and Learning Materials.

Most of the teaching learning materials used in our schools especially at the primary are produced outside the country. The Government is seeking Public Private Partnership with private sector operatives that will produce teaching and learning materials locally.

Sporting Complex.

The Government is seeking Public Private Partnerships in the construction and operation of a Sporting Complex. The Sporting Complex should have facilities for indoor and outdoor sports, a stadium that can accommodate up to 60,000 spectators and a hostel with 400 to 500 bed capacity.