



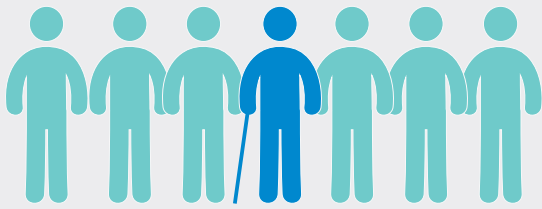
# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



## 6 Factsheets on Disability

Sierra Leone & Global Context  
2019 – 2020





**1 in 7 people** = **1 Billion**  
live with a disability people globally

**80%** living in developing countries

According to the Sierra Leone government, **1.3% of the country's population** have a disability (census 2015). **54% are men** and **46% are women**. **67% live in rural areas**.



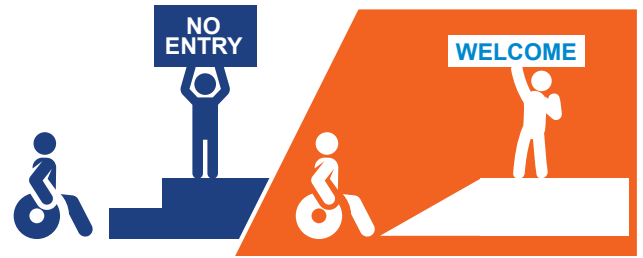
The prevalence of disability is on the rise. This is mostly due to ageing populations and a global increase in chronic health conditions.



#### The leading causes of disability

- 1) Diseases or illnesses
- 2) Congenital Disabilities
- 3) Accidents
- 4) Conflicts

**Persons with disabilities** include those who have long-term **physical, mental, intellectual** or **sensory** impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.



Impairment	Loss in structure or function related to	in SL %
<b>Physical</b>	Mobility & physical function	55%
<b>Sensory</b>	Vision, hearing, taste, touch & smell	33%
<b>Intellectual</b>	Learning and cognition	8%
<b>Mental</b>	Psychological and psychosocial	4%



# Disability



The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (2006) aims to **promote, protect and ensure** the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. The GoSL will present its 1st country report in 2020.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: **Leaving no one behind**: None of the 17 goals should be met unless they are met for everyone. SL presented a VNR in 2019



**Sierra Leone's Constitution** (1991) on article 27 talks about protection against discrimination, including disability.

**In SL, the Persons with Disability Act** was issued in 2011 and in 2012 the **National Commission of Persons with Disabilities** was established. The National Development plan (2019-2023), "Education for Development" discusses inclusion, inclusive education and accessibility.

#### Remember these dates!

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities** – 3 December

**World Mental health Day** – 10 October



proclamation no 1157



**Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action** - World Humanitarian Summit 2016

**Persons with disabilities are Persons First**  
and should not be defined by their condition or impairment!



**Social protection systems** help the poor and vulnerable cope with crises and unexpected circumstances, find jobs, invest in the health and education of their children, and protect the aging population.

It aims to:



provide income or financial aid as safety nets

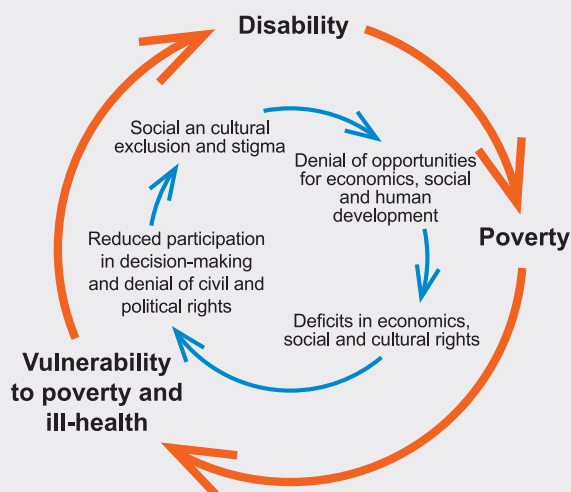


protect against livelihood risks



enhance social status

### Poverty and disability cycle



In SL **57%** live below the poverty line (1 million are extremely poor)

Food insecurity **50%**.

Child labor rate **31%**

Child marriage rate **39%**

**10 highest** teenage pregnancy rate in the world. **Sierra Leone is a source, transit and destination for human trafficking.**



**150 million girls** and **73 million boys** worldwide have experience sexual violence.

In Sierra Leone **14%** of students (boys and girls) have experienced sexual abuse and **2/3** of girls reported having experienced sexual violence with **30%** of incidents being school related.



humanity & inclusion  
the new name of  
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## Social Protection

1 NO POVERTY



The **UN SDG's (Goal 1.3)** calls for the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems including sets of basic social security guarantees achieving substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable by 2030.



In late 2018, the First Lady of Sierra Leone launched the **"Hands off our girls" campaign** to fight child marriage, teenage pregnancy and gender based violence.

GoSL, with the support of the World Bank & UNICEF, has established a social protection policy in 2011. **Social Safety Net Programme** of SL is to support extremely poor households.



Under the **Persons with Disability Act, 2011**, people with disabilities are entitled to **free health care**.



- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child** is signed and ratified in 1990
- Its optional protocols on **Involvement of children in Armed Conflict** (2002) and on **Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography** (2001)
- **The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act** (2005)
- **The Child Rights Acts** (2007)
- **The Sexual Offences Act** (2012)

National budget for Social Protection is still **under 1% GDP**

**80%** of health care needs for persons with disabilities are similar to the ones of the rest of the population.

### Persons with disabilities are

**2x** more likely to find health care providers' skills and facilities inadequate

**3x** more likely to be denied health care

**4x** more likely to be treated badly in the healthcare system



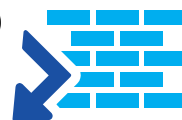
National life expectancy:

**52** yrs old

- **53%** of rural population does not have access to drinking water
- Infant mortality rate: **66/1,000**
- Highest maternal mortality rate: **1,360/100,000**
- **Malaria** is the leading cause of death for people under 20 years old.
- **40%** of disabilities are linked to disease or illness
- **Only 56.5%** of children under 5 are fully immunized.
- **16%** of People with Disabilities have no access to health care

### Main Barriers for access to health:

- 1) Inaccessibility (buildings, services)
- 2) Negative attitudes of health professionals
- 3) Lack of specialised professionals



**In Sierra Leone, there are only 0.2 Physicians per 1,000 habitants.**

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. **70 million** of people need a wheelchair 5 to 15% have access. **1/2** people with disabilities cannot afford treatment

**Diabetes** is one of the primary causes of non-traumatic amputation among adults worldwide.



**1 adult** in 11 is diabetic



**Mental conditions rank third in terms of disease prevalence** and are responsible for a quarter of all disabilities (World Health Organization.)



## Health Services for all

### Services and Benefits at Primary Health Units, District, Regional and National Hospitals.

**Sexual & reproductive health (SRH):** early detection, intervention & prevention of impairments and referral to specialists.



**Early detection and care management of non-communicable diseases** as Diabetes and stroke.

**The National Rehabilitation Program of SL** was relaunched in 2017 looking to improve rehabilitation services in the country.



A college in Tonkolili district has started the first full BSc in Physiotherapy in the country. There are currently **12 Physiotherapists** in the country (at various levels), **14 P&O technicians**, all actively working together to strengthen rehabilitation in SL and **4 Rehabilitation Centers** (NRC in Freetown).

**Kissy Hospital** is the only mental health hospital in SL.

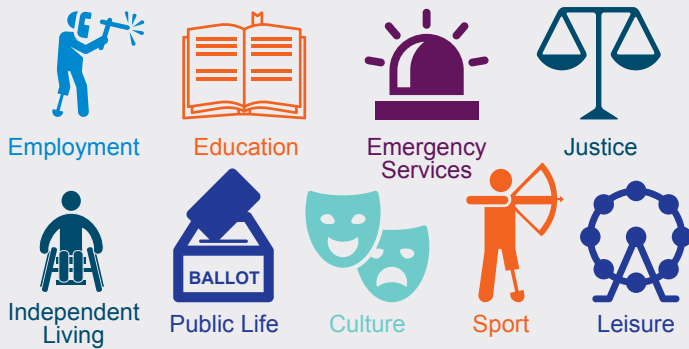
**In country, only 2 psychiatrists, 20 MH nurses (allocated at MH units in GVT Hospitals).**



**Art17**

Under the **Persons with Disability Act**, in art17, all people with disabilities are entitled to free health care.

Accessibility is fundamental to guarantee access to:



**An accessible environment is:**

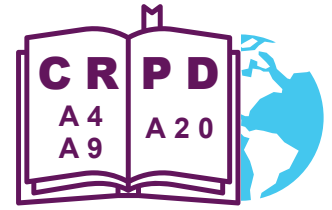
- a space that allows free and safe movement, function and access for all, regardless of age, sex or condition,
- a space or a set of services that can be accessed by all, without obstacles, with dignity and with as much independence as possible

**UNCRPD:** To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and achieve a full and active participation on society, the identification and removal of barriers is needed to ensure their access to:



**UNCRPD: Article 4:**

Research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities at affordable cost. **Article 9:** Accessibility. **Article 20:** Personal mobility.



**Transform Freetown Plan 2019-2022** Accessibility is a precondition for persons with disabilities to fulfil their rights in an inclusive society.



**National plan of Sierra Leone 2019-2023** enhance the mobility of persons with disability by requiring buildings, schools and public utilities to install facilities and other devices, to become more accessible and inclusive.



# Accessibility



## Accessible Information and Communication

Person with visual impairment



Person with hearing impairment



Persons with intellectual/ mental impairments



**Think of the R.E.C.U. Principle (Reach, Enter, Circulate, Use)!**

**Reach:** moving around to get to the service you wish to use from your home;



**Enter:** Being able to get inside the building you wish to use;



**Circulate:** Being able to move inside the building;



**Use:** Being able to use the services and facilities



**Access for all = inclusive society!**





It is generally believed that **gender inequality** is one of the root causes of vulnerability.



Women and girls are the majority of the **1.3 billion people living in the deepest poverty worldwide**.



Women with disabilities experience discrimination in multiple layers due to age, disability, gender, economic status.



**Women with disabilities** tend to have subordinate positions, less educational opportunities, less voice in decision-making and poorer employment.



**CEDAW:** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women



of 1979 – the international bill of rights of women with **3 main principles**:

- ✓ equality between men and women.
- ✓ elimination of all acts of discrimination against women.
- ✓ sets forth state obligations to set up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.



**UNICEF** estimates **FGM** (Female Genital Mutilation) rate in SL is **90%**, the highest level in the world.

**38%** of women with disabilities are in polygamous marriages.

**56%** of women have been victims of intimate partner violence within the last 12 months.



Women with disabilities are **2-3 times** more likely to be victims of violence than their non-disabled counterparts.



- SL ratified the **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women** in 1988, and its optional protocol in 2000.
- SL ratified the **Maputo Protocol**, an African Charter of women's rights 2003, that calls for the elimination of harmful practices (FGM).
- The **Domestic Violence Act** of 2007 was followed by the **Sexual Offence Act** in 2012, both looking to protect women
- In 2019, the government declared a **national state of emergency** on rape and GBV.
- **Gender Equality and women's Empowerment Bill** establishes a minimum of 30% representation of women in governance.



## Gender Equality



National average age of first child in SL is **19 years old**.  
The total fertility rate is **6 children per woman**

Female literacy rate is **34%**  
Pregnant and Mother teenagers are excluded from education.



**Lack of access to education including sexual, reproductive and health information** is believed to contribute to high pregnancy rate among women and girls in poverty.

**Women and girls including those with disabilities should be able to access services and participate with leadership positions in economic life, gender and development, political processes and other key sectors.**

**Inclusive education** increases participation and reducing exclusion that effectively responds to different needs of all learners.



Special education has only served 2% of the targeted 2 million children with disabilities who live without access education.



In SL **76%** of children with disabilities are out of school  
**67%** have never been to school  
**Girls with disabilities are twice more likely to be deprived of education.**



**1/3** out of 58 million children in the world who are out of school are children with disabilities.



Accessibility of school buildings, facilities, and transportation, communication and school personnel training for people with disabilities **remain a challenge.**

### Accessing educational services



Have your child undergo **assessment** with a development pediatrician or a clinical psychologist and **multidisciplinary rehabilitation services** such as occupational, speech and physical therapy if needed.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote **lifelong learning opportunities for all!**

According to the **MICS 2017**, above **1 in 4 children** have functional difficulties ranging from physical impairments (walking and mobility) to visual and hearing impairment to learning emotional and behavioral impairment.



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the new name of  
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## Education for All

### Laws and Policies

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** ensures an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning directed to full development.



The Constitution of Sierra Leone (1991) on article 19, highlights **the right to education and equal opportunities of ALL citizens.**

**The Education Act (2004)** establishes the principle of no-discrimination, including disability.

In 2018 the government launched the **Free Quality School Education (FQSE)** programme to ensure free education for all children in Sierra Leone.



The government has launched a **The National Development Plan (2019-2023)** in which it commits to promote inclusion, accessibility and inclusive education.



**HI** with other partners (ECDN) has been supporting the government in the development of an **Inclusive Education policy** which should be validated and implemented in 2019.

HI alongside other stakeholders and local partners are working towards **promoting and ensuring inclusive education.**

**Everyone deserves equal right to education!**