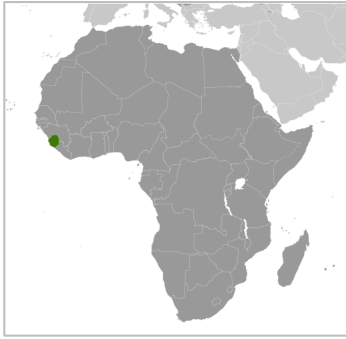




SIERRA LEONE



INTRODUCTION

The British set up a trading post near present-day Freetown in the 17th century. The colony gradually expanded inland during the course of the 19th century. Independence was attained in 1961. Recovering from a long civil war, the government's stated priorities include free primary and secondary education, economic growth, accountable governance, health, and infrastructure.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Julius Maada Bio

Head of Government

President Julius Maada Bio

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Freetown

Legislature

unicameral Parliament (146 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 71,740 sq km

Land: 71,620 sq km

Water: 120 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot, humid; summer rainy season (May to December); winter dry season (December to April)

Natural Resources

diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold, chromite

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

low-income West African economy; primarily subsistent agriculture; key iron and diamond mining activities suspended; slow recovery from 1990s civil war; systemic corruption; high-risk debt; high youth unemployment; natural resource rich

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$13.15 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1,600 (2020 est.)

Industries - diamond mining, iron ore, rutile and bauxite mining, small-scale manufacturing (beverages, textiles, footwear)

Agricultural products - cassava, rice, vegetables, oil palm fruit, sweet potatoes, milk, citrus fruit, groundnuts, fruit, pulses nes

Exports \$1.085 billion (2018 est.)

titanium, lumber, diamonds, aluminum, cocoa beans (2019)

partners: Belgium 26%, China 25%, Romania 9%, UAE 6%, Germany 5%, Netherlands 5% (2019)

Imports \$2.619 billion (2020 est.)

rice, plastics, packaged medicines, sauces/seasonings, cars (2019)

partners: China 27%, India 11%, US 6%, Ghana 5%, Turkey 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

6.8 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.44% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Temne 35.4%, Mende

30.8%, Limba 8.8%, Kono 4.3%, Korankoh 4%, Fullah 3.8%, Mandingo 2.8%, Loko 2%, Sherbro 1.9%, Creole 1.2%, other 5% (2019 est.)

Language

English (official, regular use limited to literate minority), Krio (English-based Creole, understood by 95%), Mende, Temne

Religion

Muslim 77.1%, Christian 22.9% (2019 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 43.4% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 3.02% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

