

Educate the Next Generation of Leaders in Freetown



by [Develop Africa, Inc.](#)

Summary

This project strengthens families and schools in the area of education in Sierra Leone. It addresses the education and character development of children and youths in Sierra Leone. It strategically targets weak areas that need support - including scholarships, school and teaching supplies, and leadership training. Succession planning is a way of preparing young people for the future to take over responsibilities in society. By 2030, a bulk of the world's workforce will live in Africa. Already, experts project that at current rates, Africa's population will snowball to 2.5 billion by 2050, which should translate to a demographic dividend which will feed the continent's growth. Yet it is clear that without certain investments in policy and education, this dividend along with the benefits of hosting the world's workforce will remain elusive. In order for the next generation of leaders to be ready in Sierra Leone, they should have the required education and training for leadership.

Challenge

Sierra Leone ranks at the bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2015) Data Center, the percentage of the population aged 15 and older who can, with understanding, both read and write a short simple statement on their everyday life is 44.5%. As we go to higher and tertiary education levels, the percentage drops abysmally. Thousands of families live below the bread line and simply cannot afford to send their children and youths to school. Many families and schools do not have the resources to provide much-needed school and teaching supplies. Many of the problems in Africa are

leadership-related as they are partly or wholly a result of wrong decision-making and poor leadership. Simply put, the current state of higher education in Sierra Leone is a real threat to the dream of new generation of leaders. Access to higher education and university education is limited for many. For perspective, Africa's tertiary enrollment rate today stands at an average of 7% while that of the U.S. is just over 72%. In providing the tools for education and training and increased access to higher education, immense benefits will be created for future leadership as future leaders will be well prepared to take over the mantle of leadership.

Solution

This project provides scholarships, teaching and school supplies, workshops and personal development resources. This project will also empower mentors to take young students under their wings, which will create a win-win situation. By doing so, we help reduce illiteracy and school drop-out rates, and empower students to become forward-thinking leaders of our nation. Sustainability is not a choice. It is a way of doing business which can no longer be ignored. Therefore, we have to prepare young people adequately to maintain sustainable development. These students we are preparing for future leadership roles will be in the best position to learn how to become the best responsible and sustainable leaders.

Long-Term Impact

The project is an effective long-term investment that will help provide quality educational opportunities for more youths and young adults so that they can rise above poverty and become better decision makers. Good leaders do not fall from the sky. The experience of successful nations, the world over, emphatically points to the centrality of strong education institutions and good opportunities, and particularly robust higher education systems in deliberately training the leaders who take societies to great heights. In the best of these institutions, leaders are not only imparted with the hard skills of leadership, but also socialized on value systems that make them the creators and custodians of social ideals. Training young people in Sierra Leone will have a strong future impact for the development of the country.

Resources

- <http://www.developafrica.org/FreetownEducation>
- [UN Human Development Report - Sierra Leone](#)
- [UN Country Information - Sierra Leone](#)
- <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/101406>
- <http://www.unfpa.org/news/african-presidents-urge-investment-youth-continent-sees-rare-demographic-opportunity>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/sep/19/why-are-63-million-girls-missing-out-on-education-podcast-transcript>
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/out-of-school-children-un_us_57dfe748e4b08cb14096a687
- <http://allafrica.com/stories/201609201194.html>





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Empowering lives in Africa so that they can better themselves, their communities and their nations

Develop Africa was established in 2006 and is a 501c3 non-profit organization is working to establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa. Develop Africa was birthed out of the vision that human resource development is the key to improving nation building capacity in Africa. Develop Africa is involved in a range of programs in Africa supporting education, microfinance and small businesses, job skills / leadership development training etc.

Through training, scholarship, investment and partnerships Develop Africa is helping to develop Africa's people through the promotion of transformational education, resource development, investment training and strategic empowerment. Our premise is based on the notion that in order to change one's personal, national or organizational status there must necessarily be a "change in the thinking and processing pattern of the mind."

We envision an African continent fully developed in terms of its human and resource capacity, free from poverty; ignorance, and civil conflict and where the poorest and most vulnerable people become "leaders" and effectively manage their national resources.

We are involved in the following targeted activities:

- care for orphans

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment for health workers etc.

Examples of specific activity: We provide -

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms etc.

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Sierra Leone- Full Country Profile available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone

Sierra Leone (ⁱ/sɪˈɛərə lɪˈoʊni, -lɪˈoʊn/^[5] officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone**, is a country in [West Africa](#). It is bordered by [Guinea](#) on the north, [Liberia](#) in the south-east, and the [Atlantic Ocean](#) in the south-west. Sierra Leone has a [tropical climate](#), with a diverse environment ranging from [savannah](#) to [rainforests](#). Sierra Leone has a total area of 71,740 km² (27,699 sq mi)^[6] and a population of 7,075,641 (based on 2015 national census).^[1] Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical regions: the [Northern Province](#), [Eastern Province](#), [Southern Province](#) and the [Western Area](#), which are subdivided into [fourteen districts](#). [Freetown](#) is the capital, largest city and its economic and political centre. [Bo](#) is the second largest city. The other major cities are [Kenema](#), [Makeni](#), and [Koidu Town](#).

About sixteen [ethnic groups](#) inhabit Sierra Leone, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the [Temne](#) and the [Mende people](#). The Temne are predominantly found in the north of the country, while the Mende are predominant in the south-east. Although English is the [official language](#) spoken at schools and government administration, the [Krio language](#) is the most widely spoken language across Sierra Leone and is spoken by 97% of the country's population. The Krio language unites all the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other.

Sierra Leone is a predominantly [Muslim](#) country,^{[7][8][9]} though with an influential [Christian](#) minority.^[10] Sierra Leone is regarded as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. Muslims and Christians collaborate and interact with each other peacefully. Religious violence is very rare in the country.

Sierra Leone has relied on mining, especially [diamonds](#), for its economic base. It is also among the largest producers of [titanium](#) and [bauxite](#), a major producer of [gold](#), and has one of the world's largest deposits of [rutile](#). Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbour in the world. Despite exploitation of this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in [poverty](#).^[11]

Sierra Leone became independent in 1961. [Government corruption](#) and mismanagement of the country's natural resources contributed to the [Sierra Leone Civil War](#) (1991 to 2002), which for more than a decade devastated the country. This proxy war left more than 50,000 people dead, much of the country's infrastructure destroyed, and over two million people displaced as [refugees](#) in neighbouring countries.

More recently, the [2014 Ebola outbreak](#) overburdened the weak healthcare infrastructure, leading to more deaths from medical neglect than Ebola itself. It created a [humanitarian crisis](#) situation and a negative spiral of weaker economic growth. The country has an extremely low [life expectancy](#) at 57.8 years.^[10]

Sierra Leone is a member of many international organisations, including the [United Nations](#), the [African Union](#), the [Economic Community of West African States](#) (ECOWAS), the [Mano River Union](#), the [Commonwealth of Nations](#), the [African Development Bank](#), and the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](#).