



**SIERRA LEONE**

# **WESTERN AREA RURAL**

**NDPBA DISTRICT PROFILE**

# SIERRA LEONE

## WESTERN AREA RURAL

### CAPITAL: WATERLOO

Area: 544 km<sup>2</sup>

Western Area Rural District is in the western horn of Sierra Leone, occupying the entire Freetown Peninsula outside the city boundaries. It borders the country's capital Freetown to the east and west; Port Loko District to the north; and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and east. The district capital and largest city is Waterloo which is home to many different ethnic groups, including a significant population of the Krio and Sherbro people. The Freetown peninsula is the star attraction of Sierra Leone's tourist industry consisting of three roughly parallel ranges of highlands that are narrow but extend about 30 km south of Freetown. The hills and mountains in the highlands rise from 200m to 1000m above the low-lying narrow coastal area with a stretch of beaches along the Peninsula. Rural-urban fringe activities like mixed cropping and market gardening, quarrying and sand mining on the beaches, animal rearing, fishing, small-scale manufacturing, tourism, services and other trades can be found within the district.



## RISK AND VULNERABILITY

### COMPONENT SCORE



#### MULTI-HAZARD RISK (MHR) - Very Low

Score: 0.409 • Rank: 12/14



#### RESILIENCE (R) - High

Score: 0.629 • Rank: 3/14



#### MULTI-HAZARD EXPOSURE (MHE) - Moderate

Score: 0.485 • Rank: 6/14



#### VULNERABILITY (V) - Very Low

Score: 0.427 • Rank: 12/14



#### COPING CAPACITY (CC) - Very High

Score: 0.685 • Rank: 1/14



Population (2015)

**444,270**



Infant Mortality Rate

**60**



Illiterate population

**33.8%**



Access to improved water

**71.9%**



Average life expectancy

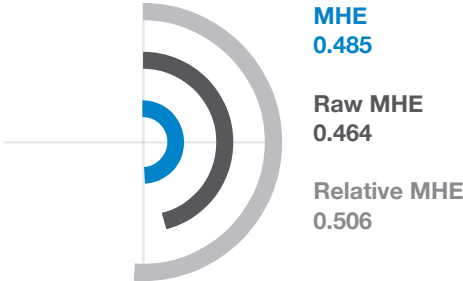
**44.9 years**

\*For more information on data and components please visit: <https://bit.ly/2LqVoUO>





# MULTI-HAZARD EXPOSURE (MHE)


RANK: 6 / 14 DISTRICTS  
SCORE: 0.485




## ESTIMATED POPULATION AND CAPITAL EXPOSED TO EACH HAZARD:

 Inland Flood  
**30.0%**  
82,602

 Coastal Flood  
**0.9%**  
2,369

 Landslide  
**74.2%**  
204,547

 Drought  
**0.0%**  
0

 Wildfire  
**19.4%**  
53,491



## VULNERABILITY (V)

**RANK: 12 / 14 DISTRICTS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.427**

Vulnerability in Western Area Rural is primarily driven by Gender Inequality and Population Pressures. The bar chart indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the district's overall Vulnerability score.



### Environmental Stress

**Rank: 7/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>0.7%</b>	<b>22.29</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
Average Annual Forest Loss	Livestock Density (per sq km)	Erosion Potential	Ecological Change	Area Affected by Mining



### Vulnerable Health Status

**Rank: 5/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>44.9</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>318.3</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
Life Expectancy (years)	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	Maternal Mortality Ratio	Acute Malnutrition (Children <5)	Population with Disability	Tuberculosis Incidence (per 100,000 persons)	Malaria Prevalance (per 100,000 persons)	HIV Prevalance (per 100,000 persons)



### Clean Water Vulnerability

**Rank: 11/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>71.9%</b>	<b>59.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>
Households with Improved Water Source	Households with Improved Sanitation	Population at High Risk of Fecal Contamination	Water Source > 30 minutes from Home



### Information Access Vulnerability

**Rank: 13/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>33.8%</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>
Illiteracy Rate (Age 10+)	Primary School Attendance Ratio	Upper Secondary Completion Rate	Households with Internet	Households with Television	Households with Internet



### Economic Constraints

**Rank: 13/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>74.04</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
Economic Dependency Ratio	Population in Poorest Wealth Quintile	Income Inequality (GINI)	Child Labor Participation (Age 10-14)



### Gender Inequality

**Rank: 1/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
Female to Male Land Ownership*	Female to Male Home Ownership*	Female to Male Labor Participation*	Female to Male Secondary Education*	Female Seats in Local Council

\*Values closer to 1 represent greater gender parity.



### Population Pressures

**Rank: 4/14 Districts Assessed**

<b>8.5%</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>372.82</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>33.9%</b>
Average Annual Population Change	Average Annual Urban Population Change	Net Migration Rate	Population that is Food Insecure	Ratio of Youth (15-24) to Adult (15+)



## COPING CAPACITY (CC)

**RANK: 1 / 14 DISTRICTS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.685**

Western Area Rural exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Health Care Capacity and Energy Capacity. The bar chart indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the district's overall Coping Capacity score.



### Economic Capacity



Rank: 5/14 Districts Assessed

**26.5%**

Households with Bank Account

**91.1%**

Income per Capita

**25.3%**

Population in Highest Wealth Quintile

**2.47**

Financial Institutions per 100k Persons



### Governance



Rank: 7/14 Districts Assessed

**1.35**

Conflict Events per 100k Persons

**79.6%**

Voter Participation



### Environmental Capacity



Rank: 1/14 Districts Assessed

**30.4%**

Protected Area



### Infrastructure Capacity



Rank: 2/14 Districts Assessed



### Health Care Capacity Rank: 7/14 Districts Assessed

**4**

Hospital Beds per 10,000 People

**1.1**

Physicians per 10,000 People

**3.53**

Nurses per 10,000 People

**3.05**

Average Distance to Nearest Hospital (km<sup>2</sup>)

**59.0%**

Vaccination Coverage



### Transportation Capacity Rank: 2/14 Districts Assessed

**2.34**

Road Density (km per sq. km)

**9.23**

Distance to Airport or Seaport (km)



### Communications Capacity Rank: 2/14 Districts Assessed

**91.6%**

Households with Mobile Phone

**15.32**

Cellular Towers per 100k Persons



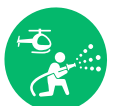
### Energy Capacity Rank: 4/14 Districts Assessed

**13.8%**

Households Connected to Electric Grid

**1.18**

Fuel Stations per 100k Persons



### Emergency Service Capacity



Rank: 2/14 Districts Assessed

**5.4**

Firefighters per 100k Persons

**1.58**

Search and Rescue Teams per 100k Persons

**0.23**

Fire Vehicles per 100k Persons



## RESILIENCE (R)

**RANK: 3 / 14 DISTRICTS**  
**SCORE: 0.629**

Western Area Rural's score and ranking are due to Very Low Vulnerability combined with Very High Coping Capacity scores.

**Below are the four thematic areas with the weakest relative scores:**



**Gender Inequality**



**Population Pressures**



**Health Care Capacity**



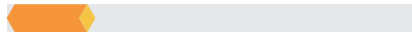
**Energy Capacity**



## HAZARD-SPECIFIC RISK



**Coastal Flood**



**SCORE: 0.21/14**  
**RANK: 7**



**Inland Flood**



**SCORE: 0.30**  
**RANK: 2**



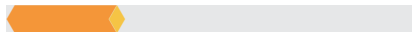
**Drought**



**SCORE: 0.00/14**  
**RANK: 7**



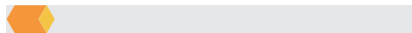
**Landslide**



**SCORE: 0.30/14**  
**RANK: 3**



**Wildfire**



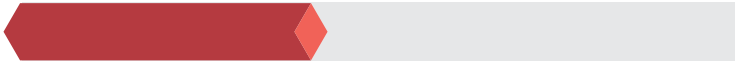
**SCORE: 0.09/14**  
**RANK: 10**



# MULTI-HAZARD RISK (MHR)

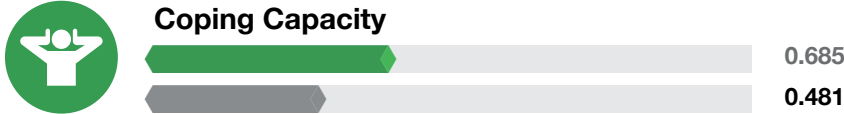
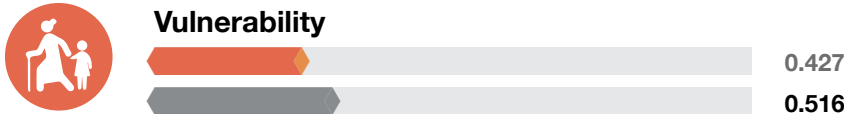
**12 / 14**

Rank within districts  
Score: 0.409



Western Area Rural's score and ranking are due to Moderate Multi-hazard exposure combined with Very Low Vulnerability and Very High Coping Capacity scores.

## Multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores:



District score  
Country score



# WESTERN AREA RURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1

### Gender Inequality

Marginalized populations are less likely to have their needs met under pre-disaster conditions, and therefore become even more susceptible to harm during times of disaster. Increase gender-based inclusion in all phases of DM, ensuring the implementation at the district and local levels. Course of action must recognize the role of women in society and support changes to policies and programs to promote gender-equal access.

Focus efforts to support equal labor participation by diversifying economic opportunities for women in the district.

Encourage women to participate in the planning and decision-making process through inclusion in the district disaster management committee and representation in local council.

## 2

### Population Pressures

Rapid changes in population size and distribution can alter population vulnerability characteristics presenting planning challenges and destabilizing social, economic, and environmental systems. Increased population pressures require disaster managers to realign needs, institutional structures, and available resources to support delivery of basic resources before, during, and after an event.

Western Area Rural saw the largest net migration of any district between 2004 and 2015, with average annual total population growth at 8.5% and urban population growth of 37%.

With rapid population growth and urbanization, closely monitor population changes and implement security measures and development plans to anticipate pressures on district resources and infrastructure that could give way to instability or put undue stress on the environment.

Western Area Rural is highly exposed to landslides and inland flooding, as evidenced by the 2017 Sugarloaf Landslide disaster. Wildfires and coastal flood represent additional hazards of concern. Extreme population pressures compound this exposure by giving rise to informal development. Establish multi-hazard preparedness and response planning at the district level and perform regular updates to plans and SOPs to account for increases in population.



# WESTERN AREA RURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1

### Health Care Capacity

Robust access to skilled caregivers and the dedicated facilities for the treatment of injury and disease during non-disaster times greatly enhances the ability of the served population to absorb and manage post-disaster impacts to health, and increases the likelihood that disaster associated health and medical impacts may be addressed.

Findings show that Western Area Rural has just 4 inpatient hospital beds per 10,000 persons, with low rate of vaccine coverage, scoring 12th of 14 districts in MoHS' 2017 assessment of overall health service readiness.

Focus on increasing inpatient hospital infrastructure and services to ensure service readiness for an increasing population.

Promote community-level vaccination campaigns to improve coverage and reduce of burden of preventable diseases.

## 2

### Energy Capacity

Homes, businesses, industry, and government all rely on access to energy resources for continuity of daily activities. Expanding, strengthening, and securing the energy network and increasing the availability and quantity of energy reserves in Western Area Rural will contribute to economic development and increase the speed of recovery processes in the aftermath of a disaster.

Just 14% of homes in Western Area Rural are connected to the electrical grid, compared to 74% in neighboring Western Area Urban. Focus development programs on increasing and extending the existing transmission and distribution network from the urban area and constructing sustainable power sources in the district.

**Better solutions.  
Fewer disasters.**

# Safer world.

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