

Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

Sierra Leone

April 2019

The most recent household survey for which poverty data is available, the 2011 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS), estimated the incidence of poverty to be 52.9 percent at the national poverty line of Le 1,587,746. This represents a 13.5 percentage point decrease from 66.4 percent in 2003, the first poverty statistic available following the end of the civil war. However, the number of poor remained nearly constant, at around 3.5 million, over this period. Sierra Leone's poverty rate was 52.2 percent in 2011 using international poverty line (\$1.90 2011 PPP). The 2018 SLIHS was just concluded last December. Preliminary analysis suggests that poverty remains high, at more than 50%. New comparable estimations are expected in coming months to understand the evolution of poverty since 2011.

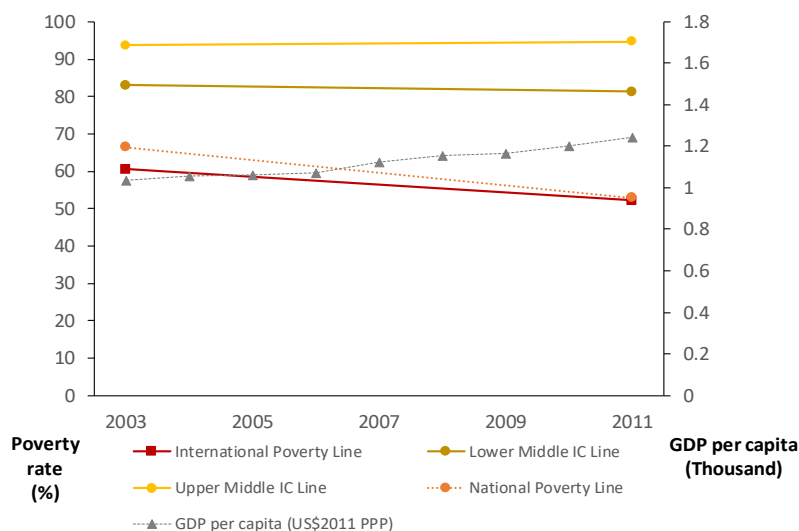
Shared prosperity between 2003 and 2011 was positive at 2.1 percent, suggesting that the bottom 40 percent of the population experienced a faster increase in their consumption. The shared prosperity premium (the difference between the average growth of the bottom 40 percent and the total population) was positive at 2.0 percentage points.

Overall inequality fell between 2003 and 2011, as evidenced by the decrease in the Gini coefficient from 0.39 to 0.34 over the period.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	3.5	52.9	2011
International Poverty Line 3357.7 in Sierra Leonean leone (2011) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	3.5	52.2	2011
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 5655 in Sierra Leonean leone (2011) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	5.4	81.3	2011
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 9719.5 in Sierra Leonean leone (2011) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	6.3	94.7	2011
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		34.0	2011
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		3.1	2006-2011
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of March 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

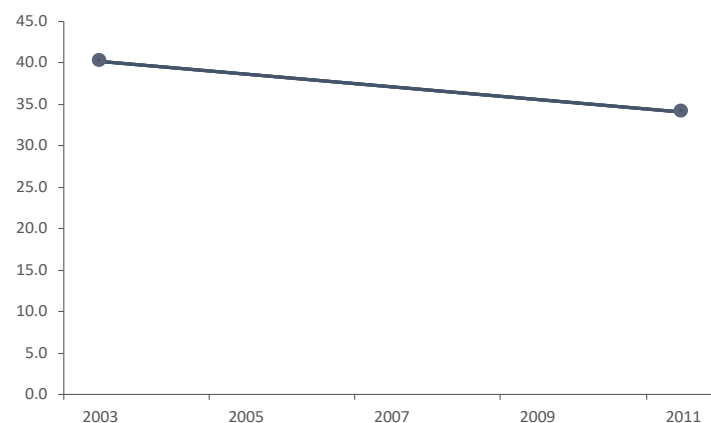
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2003-2011



Source: World Bank using SLIHS/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2003-2011

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using SLIHS/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	74	26	17	83	2011
Rural population	32	68	54	46	2011
Males	47	53	40	60	2011
Females	48	52	40	60	2011
0 to 14 years old	42	58	45	55	2011
15 to 64 years old	52	48	36	64	2011
65 and older	46	54	40	60	2011
Without education (age 16 and older)	40	60	46	54	2011
Primary education (age 16 and older)	51	49	36	64	2011
Secondary education (age 16 and older)	71	29	21	79	2011
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)	88	12	8	92	2011

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The 2018 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey is the most recent household survey available to estimate poverty in the country. It will inform the evolution of poverty since 2011, when the last SLIHS was conducted. Due to the loss of government revenue resulting from the contraction of the mining sector and the extraordinary expenses associated with the Ebola crisis and the 2017 flood slides in Freetown, funding for statistics is scarce. The World Bank is currently assisting the implementation of the 2018 household survey with a grant of \$1.33m from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, but a commitment to long term financing is needed. The World Bank is planning a five-year statistical support project (2019–2023) with emphasis on the production and dissemination of a core package of social and economic statistics. Such a package is in conformity with the government's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and is designed to support the implementation of the NSDS's strategic focus areas.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 44 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.