

SIERRA LEONE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2019



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Sierra Leone
Multidimensional Poverty Index
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CONTENTS

<i>List of tables</i>	i
<i>List of figures</i>	ii
<i>Foreword</i>	iii
<i>Statement from the UNDP Resident Representative</i>	v
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
1. Introduction	1
2. Alkire-Foster method	3
3. Structure of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index of Sierra Leone	4
4. Multidimensional Poverty Index results for Sierra Leone	6
4.1 National uncensored headcount ratios of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index indicators	6
4.2 National Multidimensional Poverty Index results	6
4.3 Disaggregation by rural and urban areas, regions, and districts	8
4.4 Disaggregation by age group	19
4.5 Disaggregation by sex of the household head	22
4.6 Disaggregation by disability status	22
5. Policy recommendations	24
<i>Annex</i>	25

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Dimensions, indicators, deprivation cut-offs, and weights of the National MPI	5
Table 2: Incidence, intensity, and MPI	7
Table 3: Multidimensional poverty by rural/urban areas, 2017	9
Table 4: Multidimensional poverty by regions, 2017	13
Table 5: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group, 2017	19
Table 6: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group (Sierra Leone–specific youth categorization)	20
Table 7: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group and sex (Sierra Leone–specific youth categorization)	20
Table 8: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group and region	21
Table 9: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by sex of household head and region	23
Table 10: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by disability	23
Table A1: Censored headcount ratios by district	25
Table A2: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)	26
Table A3: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)	26
Table A4: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)	27
Table A5: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)	27
Table A6: Percentage contribution of each indicator to MPI by district	28
Table A7: MPI by district	29
Table A8: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for 14 years and below by district	29
Table A9: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for youths (15–35 years) by district	30
Table A10: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for 36–64 years by district	30
Table A11: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for 65 years and above by district	31
Table A12: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for male-headed households by district	31
Table A13: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for female-headed households by district	32

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: National uncensored headcount ratios, 2017	7
Figure 2: National censored headcount ratios, 2017	9
Figure 3: Percentage contribution of each indicator to the MPI, 2017	10
Figure 4: Censored headcount ratios by urban and rural areas, 2017	11
Figure 5: Percentage contribution of each indicator to rural and urban MPI, 2017	12
Figure 6: Censored headcount ratios of each indicator by region, 2017	13
Figure 7: Percentage contribution of each indicator to rural and urban MPI, 2017	15
Figure 8: Incidence of multidimensional poverty by district, 2017	16
Figure 9: Intensity of multidimensional poverty by district, 2017	17
Figure 10: MPI by district, 2017	17
Figure 11: Percentage contribution of each indicator to district MPI, 2017	18

ACRONYMS

MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

FOREWORD

Sierra Leone is on its development trajectory towards achieving a middle-income status by 2035. Achieving this vision will require putting in place policies and institutions to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, diversifying economic activities, developing human capital, promoting the agriculture sector, strengthening governance and ensuring that natural resources especially from the extractives sector are utilized wisely.

The Government of Sierra Leone launched its Medium Term National Development Plan (MTNDP: 2019–2023) titled “Education for Development” in February 2019. The overarching goal of the National Development Plan is to reduce poverty in all its forms by improving the lives of the people through education, inclusive sustainable growth and building a resilient economy. The plan is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

This Multidimensional poverty profile is produced by Oxford Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Statistics Sierra Leone and UNDP. I am pleased to note that the Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPI) used the 2017 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) data and is based on five dimensions (education, health, housing, living standards and energy) and fourteen indicators, determined and agreed on by a team of local experts led by Statistics Sierra Leone. This profile presents disaggregated MPI statistics at national, regional and district levels and is the first of its kind to be produced in Sierra Leone and the Mano River Union (MRU) region.

The profile indicates that 64.8% of the population in Sierra Leone was multidimensionally poor in 2017. The Southern and Northern regions had the highest poverty rates with 76.0% and 75.8% respectively, while the Western region had the lowest poverty rate of 36.2%. At the District level, Pujehun recorded the highest incidence of poverty. The profile also notes that female-headed households had higher multidimensional poverty rates (65.9%) compared to male-headed households (64.2%).

The Government of Sierra Leone is aware of the importance of these assessments as it guides its approach towards meaningful development planning. Government will therefore ensure that multidimensional poverty profiles are done periodically to complement the income poverty estimates produced by the World Bank in collaboration with Statistics Sierra Leone.



In 2018, Sierra Leone became a member of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN), a network which seeks to eradicate poverty by bringing poverty measures closer to the realities of poor people's lives by promoting MPI estimations and informed policies that are targeted, better designed and more effective in alleviating poverty in all its dimensions.

The MPI statistics in this profile provides critical baselines for the implementation of the MTNDP. Thus, I highly recommend that it is used by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders to inform formulation of service delivery projects. Specifically, it will help identify the most vulnerable people – the poorest among the poor by revealing poverty patterns within regions and districts and invariably empower Government and other stakeholders to target resources and design policies more effectively. It will also facilitate monitoring of the achievement of SDG 1. As a government, we strongly believe in the principles of leaving no one behind and therefore, the benefits of growth must reach all segments of society, especially the marginalized groups.

To this end, I wish to thank the UNDP for securing the support of OPHI to undertake this estimation in collaboration with my Ministry and Statistics Sierra Leone. The information contained in the profile was utilised in developing our current national plan.

Hon. Minister Nabeela Tunis
Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

STATEMENT FROM THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The *Sierra Leone Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019* was a collaborative effort among the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, Statistics Sierra Leone, and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, with financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme.

I am delighted with the publication of the index. As an official National Multidimensional Poverty Index, it sets the baseline for measuring progress in the country's drive to leave no one behind in the eradication of poverty along with all its miseries and indignities.

The report reveals that while eradicating poverty in Sierra Leone will be a Herculean task, it is not insurmountable. The country remains among those with the highest concentration of poverty: 64.8 percent (about two-thirds) of the population were identified as multidimensionally poor in 2017. Geographically, rural poverty is 86.3 percent, compared to 37 percent in urban areas. Multidimensional poverty among the majority of the rural population means they are deprived of access to affordable quality basic services – services that are critical to lifting and keeping them out of poverty.

President Retired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio has declared that his government is determined to wage war against poverty. The Government of Sierra Leone has already taken steps to address two of the most potent poverty traps through its free quality education initiative and the devolution of most service delivery functions to local authorities. Households headed by educated persons are far more likely to get out of poverty and become resilient to disasters compared to those headed by uneducated persons; access to basic services will meanwhile address many of the deprivations seen in multidimensional poverty.

UNDP has aligned itself with the government's vision. It will continue to support the people of Sierra Leone to eradicate poverty and build resilience to shocks and stresses. Our next Country Programme Document (2020–2023), which is designed to support the government's Medium-term National Development Plan 2019–2023, is anchored



on this vision. As part of UNDP's commitment to building national systems, we are working with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative to build the capacity of Statistics Sierra Leone to compute future MPIs.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index will serve as a compass to steer UNDP's support and as a tool to measure progress. I also hope that it will facilitate fruitful discussions among stakeholders (ministries, departments, agencies, development partners, other UN agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, etc.) as we implement the Medium-term National Development Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Sierra Leone – specifically the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Statistics Sierra Leone, and all other stakeholders involved in the different stages of producing this index – for their leadership and partnership.

Samuel Gbaydee Doe
UNDP Sierra Leone Resident Representative

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The data used to compute indices in the report is mainly from the 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey database, implemented by Statistics Sierra Leone with funding from UNICEF and partners.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the Sierra Leone National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The structure of the measure is the result of a long process of discussions led by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Statistics Sierra Leone, and UNDP Sierra Leone. The design and computation of the National MPI has included discussions and meetings with various stakeholders in the country. The purpose of Sierra Leone's National MPI is to monitor the reduction of poverty in all its dimensions and to provide relevant information to guide the implementation of social policies in the country.

Since the end of the civil war in 2002, the measurement of poverty in Sierra Leone has become a priority. The Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey is one of the most important tools to inform national policies on poverty reduction. This survey is complemented by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the Demographic and Health Survey, which are done every five years and provide more detailed information on important development indicators. All three surveys are implemented by Statistics Sierra Leone, the national statistics office.

Traditionally, poverty in Sierra Leone has been measured using the income/expenditure approach, which is the main tool to analyse the levels and distribution of poverty in the country. However, given the importance of other dimensions in the understanding of poverty, non-monetary measures have become an important tool for poverty analysis. Therefore, in 2017 Statistics Sierra Leone published a thematic report on poverty and durables using the National Population and Housing Census 2015, which included the results of a pilot National MPI for Sierra Leone based on the structure of the Global MPI.^{1,2} The results of that measure revealed that 68.3 percent of the population in Sierra Leone were multidimensionally poor in 2015. This report was the first input for the development of the National MPI of Sierra Leone presented in this document, which responds to national priorities and needs, and aims to measure poverty in all its dimensions, thus complementing the income/expenditure measure of poverty in the country.

The National MPI of Sierra Leone uses the Alkire-Foster method and has

¹ For more information, visit <https://www.statistics.sl/>.

² For more information on the Global MPI, visit <https://ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/global-mpi-2018/>.

Traditionally, poverty in Sierra Leone has been measured using the income/expenditure approach . . . However, given the importance of other dimensions in the understanding of poverty, non-monetary measures have become an important tool for poverty analysis

five dimensions and 14 indicators. Results for 2017 revealed that the rate of multidimensional poverty was 64.8 percent – that is, almost two-thirds of the population in the country was identified as ‘MPI poor’ (deprived in at least 40 percent of indicators). The intensity of poverty was 58.9 percent, meaning that, on average, poor people experience almost 60 percent of the possible weighted deprivations considered. The Multidimensional Poverty Index itself, which is the product of the incidence and the intensity of poverty, was 0.375.

Results also show that the incidence of poverty in rural areas is more than double that of urban areas (86.3 and 37.6 percent, respectively). In addition, the intensity of rural poverty is 10 percent higher than urban poverty (50.9 and 60.3 percent, respectively), and the MPI in rural areas is more than double that in urban areas (0.529 and 0.191, respectively).

When looking at the findings by region, results indicate that the southern (76 percent), northern (75.8 percent), and eastern (67.6 percent) regions had the highest poverty rates, while the western region had the lowest (36.2 percent). Similar results are

Almost two-thirds of the population in the country was identified as ‘MPI poor’

observed for the intensity of poverty, with the southern and northern regions presenting the highest average number of deprivations (60 and 59.6 percent, respectively), and the western region presenting the lowest (50.2 percent). Three districts were identified as having the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty in the country: Pujehun (87.2 percent), Koinadugu (86.5 percent), and Tonkolili (85.4 percent).

The lowest levels of poverty were found in the two districts of Western Area Urban (28.5 percent) and Western Area Rural (53 percent). Similar results are found for the intensity of poverty, with Western Area Urban as the district with the lowest average percentage of deprivation among the poor (48.9 percent) and Pujehun with the highest (62.4 percent). As expected, this latter district has the highest MPI (0.544) while Western Area Rural has the lowest (0.275).

2. ALKIRE-FOSTER METHOD

Sierra Leone's National MPI uses the Alkire-Foster method. A poverty profile is constructed for each person. This profile shows in which of the 14 indicators a person is deprived, according to national definitions. Next, the deprivations are aggregated for each person into a weighted deprivation score. The weights reflect normative judgements and accord equal importance to each of the five dimensions: education, health, living standards, energy, and housing. Each individual is then identified as poor or non-poor, depending on whether their deprivation score is less than a poverty cut-off (non-poor), or meets or exceeds the poverty cut-off (poor). The poverty cut-off is equal to 40 percent of the weighted indicators, or to be deprived in two or more dimensions.

To estimate the National MPI, information on the poor is aggregated into the adjusted headcount ratio or MPI. The MPI combines two aspects of poverty:

$$MPI = H \times A$$

1) Incidence (H) ~ the percentage of individuals who are poor, or the poverty rate or headcount ratio.

2) Intensity (A) ~ the average percentage of dimensions in which poor individuals are deprived, or the average deprivation score of poor persons.

The National MPI can be equivalently computed as the weighted sum of censored headcount ratios, which show the percentage of individuals who were identified as poor and are deprived in an indicator. Because of this structure, the MPI can be broken apart by indicators to show the composition of poverty. This feature of dimensional detail brings added policy relevance to the analysis. In addition, the MPI can be disaggregated by subnational population groups, such as urban/rural areas, regions, gender, age groups, etc.

A poverty profile is constructed for each person and shows in which of the 14 indicators a person is deprived . . . Next, the deprivations are aggregated for each person into a weighted deprivation score

3. STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX OF SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone's National MPI has five dimensions: health, education, living standards, housing, and energy

Sierra Leone's National MPI has five dimensions – health, education, living standards, housing, and energy – and 14 indicators. It uses the same weight for each dimension, and depending on the dimension each indicator will have different weight. For example, the weight of 'internet access' and 'bank account' is half of the weight of other indicators included in the dimensions of living standards and energy.

The main reason for this normative decision is that internet access and having a bank account are important indicators for tracking Sierra Leone's progress, but currently basic services such as water and sanitation are still a major priority for the country, and therefore their relative importance is higher.

Finally, the MPI uses a poverty line equal to 40 percent. Therefore, a person is multidimensionally poor if he or she is deprived in two or more dimensions or in more than 40 percent

of the weighted sum of indicators. Table 1 presents the dimensions, indicators, deprivation cut-offs, and weights of the National MPI of Sierra Leone.

Table 1: Dimensions, indicators, deprivation cut-offs, and weights of the National MPI

Dimension	Indicator	SDG and Target	Deprivation cut-off: a household is deprived if...	Weight
<i>Education</i>	Years of schooling	4.1.1	No household member older than school age has completed at least six years of schooling.	10%
	School attendance	4.1.1	At least one school-aged (six to 14 years) child is not attending school.	10%
<i>Health</i>	Nutrition	2.1.1	At least one child under five is underweight or stunted.	6.7%
	Child mortality	3.2.1	At least one child under five has died in the household in the five years prior to the survey.	6.7%
	Vaccination	3.b.1	At least one child under five has not received full vaccination according to his/her age.	6.7%
<i>Housing</i>	Housing materials	11.1.1	The house has earth/sand or dung floor, and it has walls or a roof made of natural or low-quality materials.*	6.7%
	Asset ownership	11.1.1	It does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone, bicycle, motorcycle, computer, animal cart, or refrigerator; it does not own a car or a truck.	6.7%
	Overcrowding	11.1.1	The number of persons per sleeping room is three or more.	6.7%
<i>Living standards</i>	Water	6.1.1	The main source of drinking water is an unprotected well, unprotected spring, tanker-truck, cart with small tank, water kiosk, or other, or it is a protected source of water but it takes more than 30 minutes (round trip) to collect it. (Households using bottled water are only considered to be using an improved source of water when they use water from an improved source for cooking and personal hygiene.)	8%
	Bank account Sanitation	8.10.2 6.2.1	No member has a bank account. There is no toilet facility or the main toilet facility is flush to open drain/unknown location, pit latrine, pit latrine without slab, open pit, bucket, hanging toilet, hanging latrine, or other, or it is improved but shared with other households.	4% 8%
<i>Energy</i>	Internet	17.8	There is no connection to the internet in the household.	4%
	Cooking fuel	7.1.2	The household uses as the main cookstove a liquid fuel stove, a manufactured solid fuel stove, a traditional solid fuel stove, or a three-stone stove/open fire/other type of stove, and the energy used is coal, charcoal, wood, crop residue, processed biomass, or other and it does not cook outside or the stove does not have a chimney.	8%
	Electricity	7.1.1	There is no electricity in the household.	8%

* It is considered deprived if the roof is non-existent or made of the following: thatch/palm leaf, sod, rustic mat, palm/bamboo, cardboard, or other materials. It is considered deprived if the walls are non-existent or made of the following: cane/palm/trunks, dirt, bamboo with mud, stone with mud, uncovered adobe, cardboard, or other materials.

4. MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX RESULTS FOR SIERRA LEONE

4.1 NATIONAL UNCENSORED HEADCOUNT RATIOS OF THE NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX INDICATORS

The uncensored headcount ratio of each indicator represents the proportion of people in Sierra Leone who are deprived in each indicator, irrespective of their poverty status. As Figure 1 shows, the highest deprivations are found for internet access (with 85.6 percent of people deprived in this indicator), sanitation (83.5 percent), bank account (80.8 percent), electricity (79.3 percent), and clean water (58.3 percent).

In turn, the indicators with the lowest incidence of deprivation are child mortality (19.3 percent), school attendance (21.1 percent), vaccinations (24.1 percent), and nutrition (27.2 percent). It is worth noticing that these indicators refer to children's conditions and, although headcounts of deprivation are

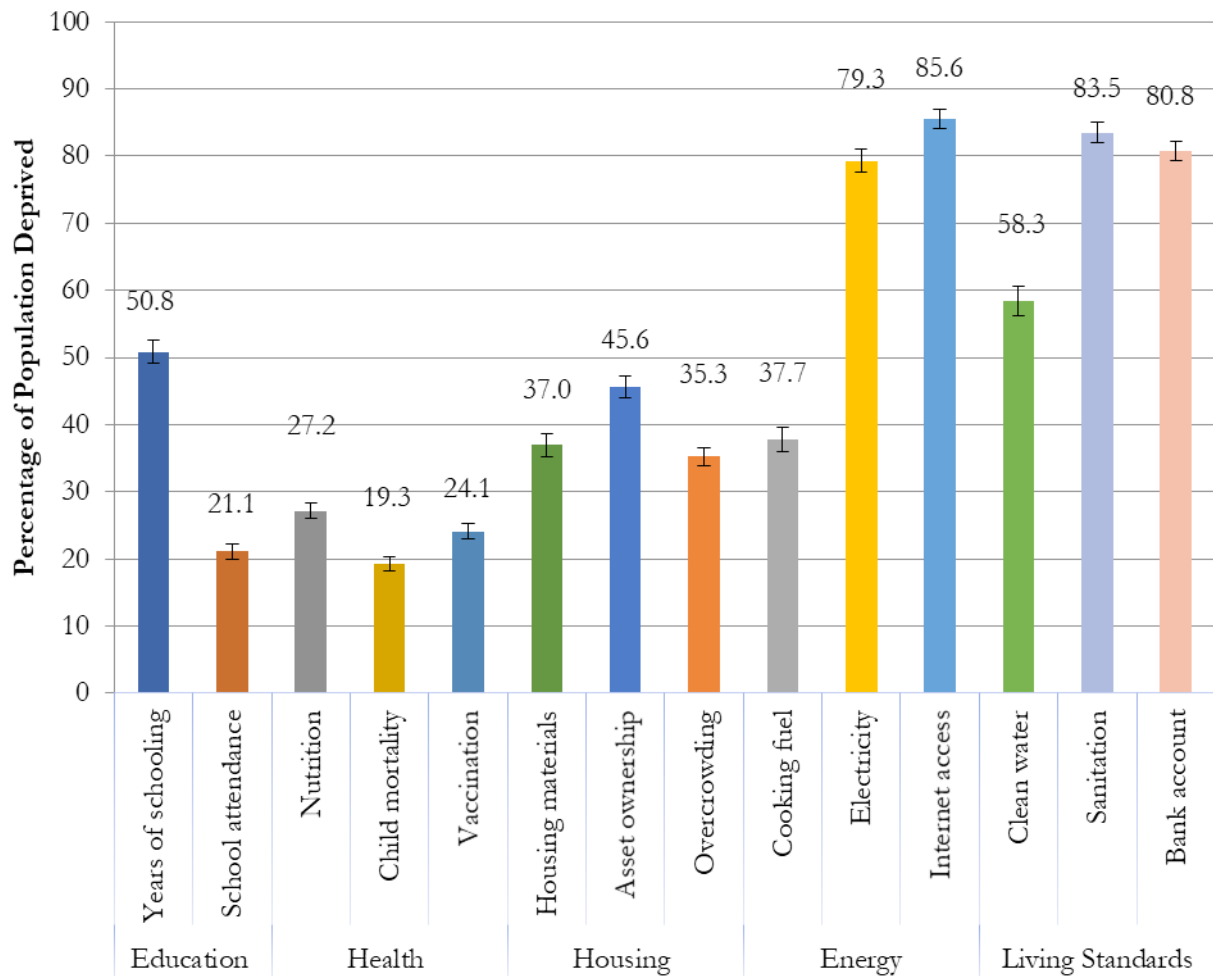
still quite high, there is hope in finding that indicators for children are showing better results, on average.

4.2 NATIONAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX RESULTS

Table 2 shows Sierra Leone's National MPI for 2017, as well as its partial indices: the incidence of poverty (or the proportion of people identified as multidimensionally poor – H) and the intensity of poverty (or the average proportion of weighted indicators in which the poor are deprived – A). As can be seen in the table, the incidence of multidimensional poverty is 64.8 percent.

This means that almost two-thirds of the population in Sierra Leone is identified as multidimensionally poor. In turn, the average intensity of poverty, which reflects the share of deprivations each poor person experiences on average, is 57.9 percent. That is, each poor person is, on average,

The incidence of multidimensional poverty in Sierra Leone is 64.8 percent

Figure 1: National uncensored headcount ratios, 2017**Table 2: Incidence, intensity, and MPI**

Poverty cut-off (<i>k</i>)	Index	Value	Confidence interval (95%)	
40%	MPI	0.375	0.363	0.386
	Headcount ratio (H, %)	64.8%	63.0%	66.5%
	Intensity (A, %)	57.9%	57.4%	58.3%

deprived in almost 60 percent of the dimensions included in the MPI. The National MPI, which is the product of the incidence and intensity of poverty, has a value of 0.375. This means that multidimensionally poor people in Sierra Leone experience 37.5 percent of the total deprivations that would be experienced if everyone was deprived in all indicators.

The censored headcount ratio of an indicator represents the proportion of individuals who are multidimensionally poor and also deprived in that indicator. The National MPI can also be computed as the sum of the weighted censored headcount ratios. Thus, reducing any of the censored headcount ratios reduces poverty. Figure 2 presents the censored headcount ratios for each indicator. Results show that the largest deprivation is in internet access (61.7 percent), bank account (61.1 percent), sanitation (60.9 percent), electricity (59.6 percent), and years of schooling (46.3 percent). The indicator with the lowest deprivation is child mortality, with 15.2 percent of individuals living in a multidimensionally poor household where at least one child has died in the last five years.

The contribution of each indicator to the National MPI in Sierra Leone revealed that the indicator with the highest contribution is sanitation with 13 percent, followed by electricity with 12.7 percent and years of schooling with 12.3 percent. In turn, the

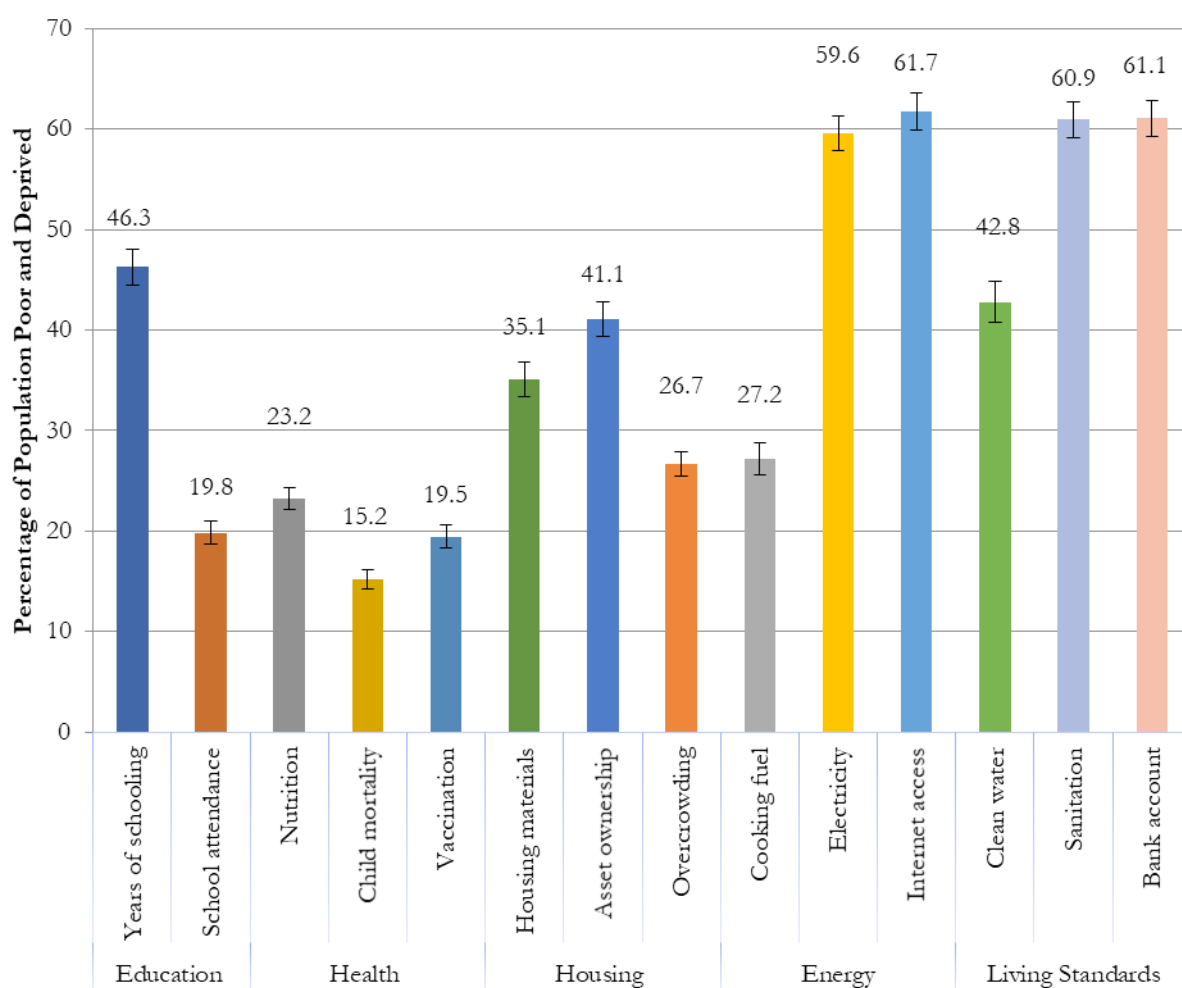
Multidimensionally poor people in Sierra Leone experience 37.5 percent of the total deprivations that would be experienced if everyone was deprived in all indicators

indicators that contribute the least to the MPI are child mortality (2.7 percent), vaccination (3.5 percent), and nutrition (4.1 percent).

4.3 DISAGGREGATION BY RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, REGIONS, AND DISTRICTS

To better understand the distribution of poverty across Sierra Leone, the profile disaggregated the levels of poverty by rural and urban areas, by regions, by districts, and by age groups. In Table 3, the National MPI and incidence and intensity of poverty are shown by urban and rural areas. As can be seen in the table, the rural poverty headcount ratio is more than double that for urban areas – 86.3 percent and 37.6 percent, respectively.

When comparing the levels of deprivation in each of the indicators for multidimensionally poor individuals living in rural and urban areas (Figure 4), the largest differences are observed in the indicators related to housing materials (54 percentage points), bank account (52 percentage points), internet access (51 percentage points), and electricity (49 percentage points).

Figure 2: National censored headcount ratios, 2017**Table 3: Multidimensional poverty by rural/urban areas, 2017**

Area	Population share (%)	MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Rural	55.7	0.520	0.507	0.534	86.3	84.5	88.1	60.3	59.8	60.8
Urban	44.3	0.191	0.177	0.206	37.6	35.0	40.3	50.9	50.2	51.6
National	100.0	0.375	0.363	0.386	64.8	63.0	66.5	57.9	57.4	58.3

Figure 3: Percentage contribution of each indicator to the MPI, 2017

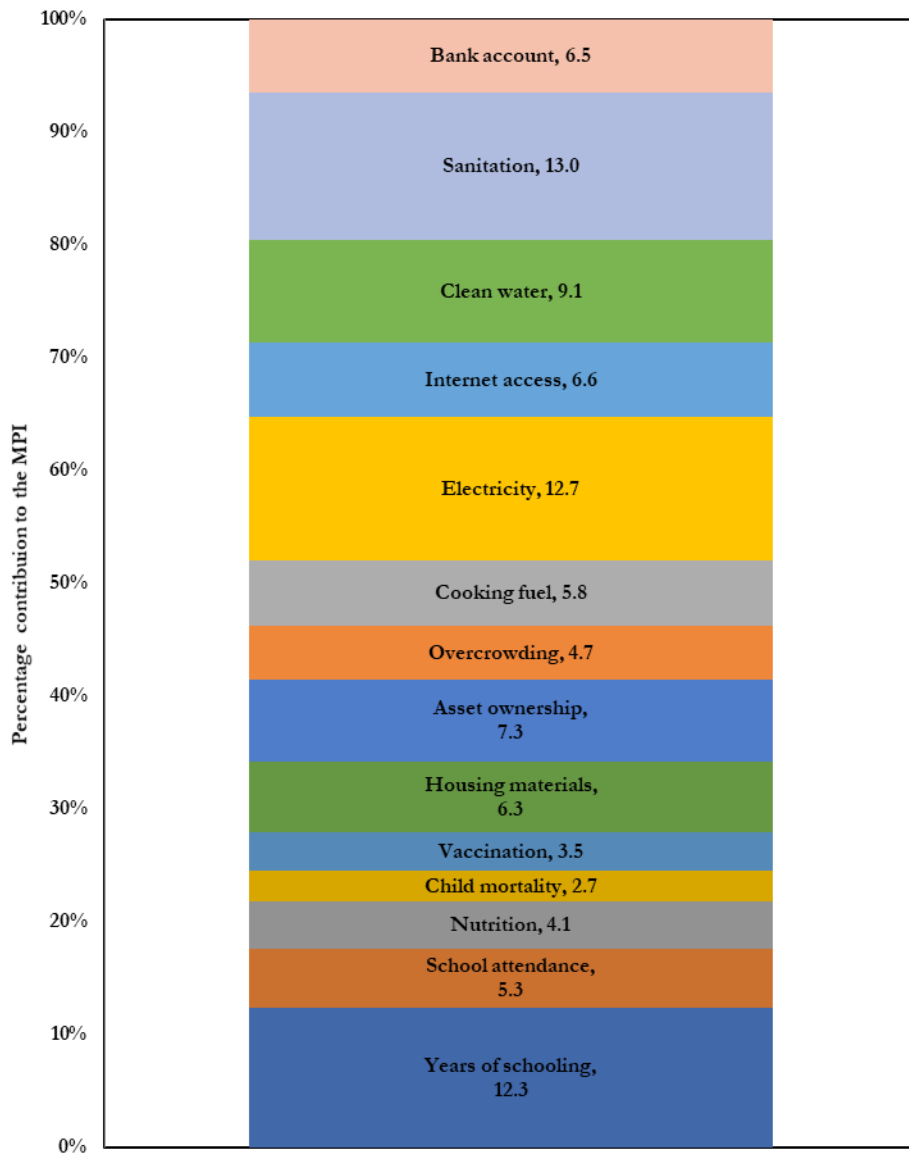
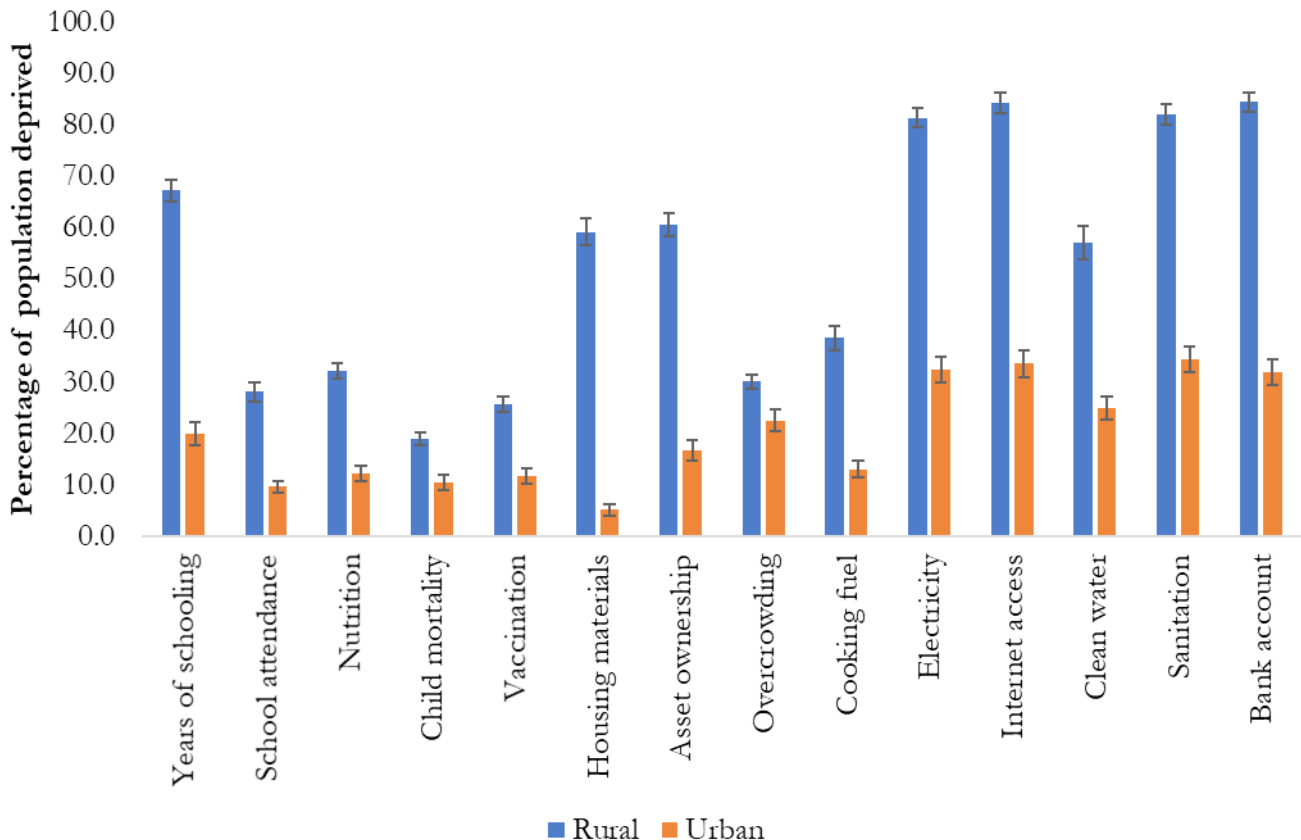


Figure 4: Censored headcount ratios by urban and rural areas, 2017



These indicators are also the ones with the highest deprivation among the poor (except for housing materials); thus, a high percentage of multidimensionally poor individuals in rural areas are facing these deprivations.

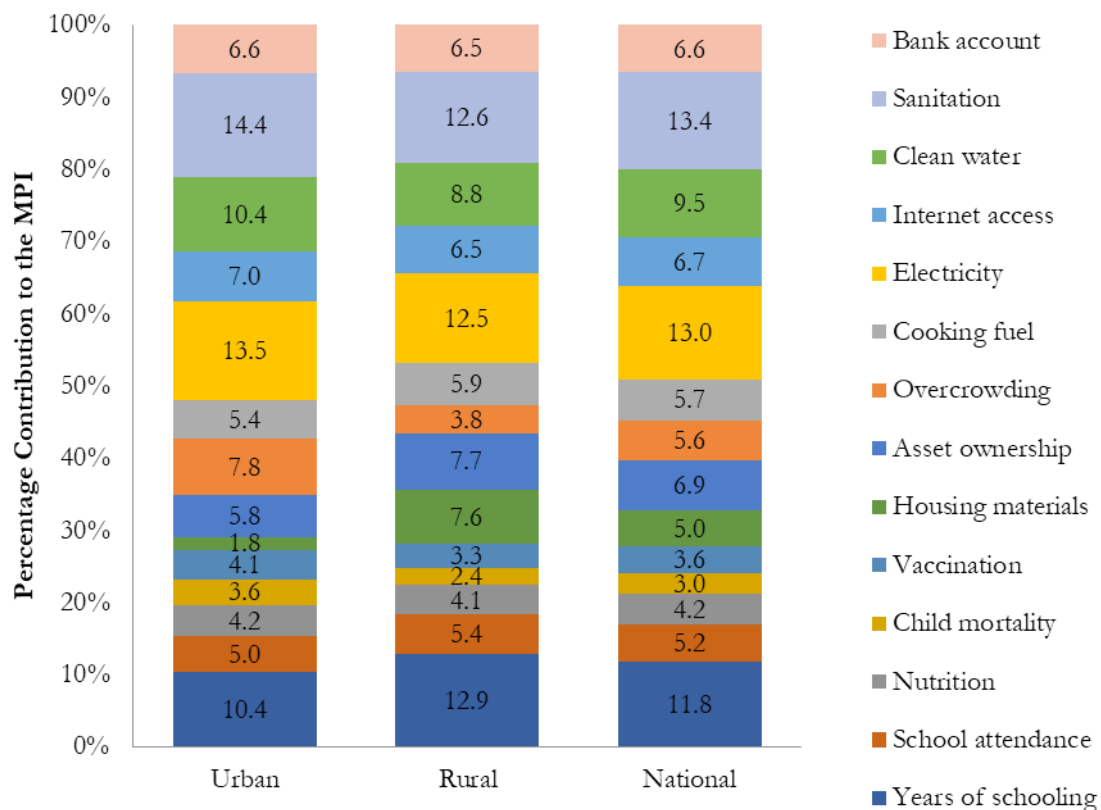
When we analyse the percentage contribution of each indicator to the MPI in rural and urban areas (Figure

5), we find that the contribution of each indicator to the MPI is quite similar. However, there are small differences between rural and urban areas. For example, the indicators with the highest contribution in rural areas are years of schooling (12.9 percent), sanitation (12.6 percent), and electricity (12.5 percent). In urban areas, sanitation (14.4 percent) and electricity

(13.5 percent) are the indicators with the highest contribution. The three indicators in the dimension of housing have the largest differences.

As can be seen in Figure 5, housing materials and asset ownership contribute more than 7 percent to the National MPI in rural areas in Sierra Leone, whereas in urban areas their

Figure 5: Percentage contribution of each indicator to rural and urban MPI, 2017



contribution is lower than 2 and 6 percent, respectively. Furthermore, overcrowding contributes almost 8 percent to the MPI in urban areas, whereas its contribution to the National MPI in rural areas is lower than 4 percent.

Table 4 shows the estimates for the National MPI, incidence of poverty, and intensity of poverty by region.

The broad pattern suggests that the southern and northern regions have the highest levels of MPI and incidence and intensity of poverty (the MPI is 0.456 and 0.452, respectively), while the western region experiences the lowest levels of poverty (MPI of 0.182).

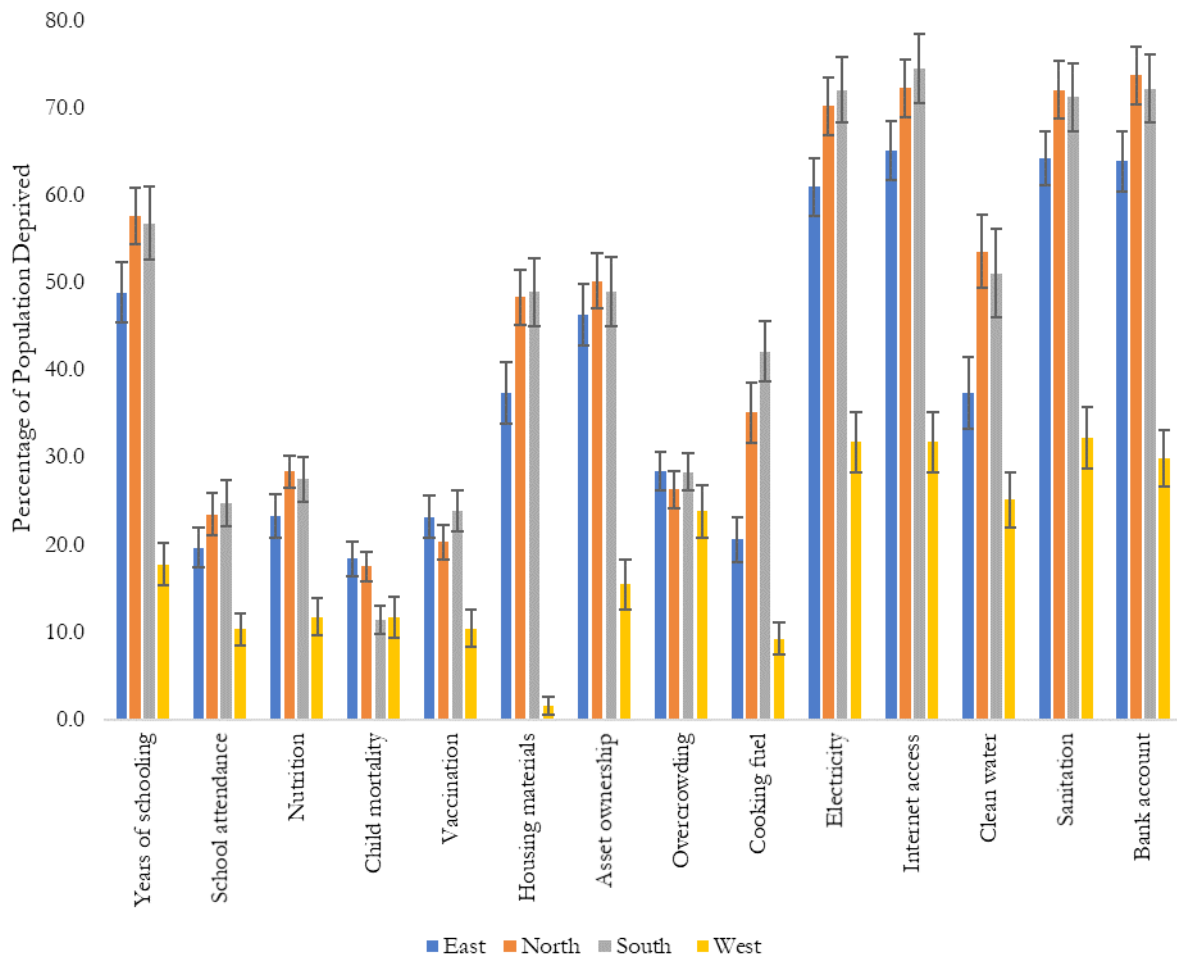
Figure 6 presents the censored headcount ratios for each indicator in the four regions of Sierra Leone.

The levels of deprivation of almost all indicators are higher in the north and south compared to the other regions. In the western region, deprivations are in most cases lower than in the other regions, except for child mortality. In this indicator, the levels of deprivation in the west and south are similar (no statistically significant differences). The only statistically significant differences are between the western region and all

Table 4: Multidimensional poverty by regions, 2017

Region	Population share (%)	MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
East	23.2	0.385	0.364	0.406	67.6	64.3	70.8	57.0	56.2	57.8
North	33.7	0.452	0.430	0.474	75.8	72.5	79.2	59.6	58.9	60.4
South	20.0	0.456	0.430	0.482	76.0	72.1	79.8	60.0	59.1	60.9
West	23.1	0.182	0.164	0.200	36.2	32.6	39.8	50.2	49.4	51.0
National	100.0	0.375	0.363	0.386	64.8	63.0	66.5	57.9	57.4	58.3

Figure 6: Censored headcount ratios of each indicator by region, 2017



other regions, in all indicators except child mortality and overcrowding.

The percentage contribution of each indicator to the regional MPI (Figure 7) reveals that sanitation, electricity, and years of schooling are the indicators that contribute the most to the MPI in each of the regions. In the case of the western region, the percentage contribution of housing materials is lower than 1 percent, but the contributions of overcrowding, child mortality, sanitation, clean water, and electricity are larger compared to the contribution of these indicators to the MPI in the northern, southern, and eastern regions.

Figure 8 presents the incidence of multidimensional poverty by district.¹ The results reveal that Pujehun is the poorest district in Sierra Leone, with an incidence of poverty of 87.2 percent. The second-poorest district in the country is Koinadugu, with 86.5 percent. Western Urban District meanwhile has the lowest levels of poverty, with 28.5 percent of its population living in poverty. Pujehun, Bonthe, and Tonkolili are the three districts with the highest intensity of multidimensional poverty (Figure 9).

Figure 10 presents the MPI in each of the 14 districts. As expected, Western Urban has the lowest MPI

(0.140) in the country. The district with the highest MPI is Pujehun in the southern region (0.544), followed by Tonkolili and Koinadugu in the northern region (0.528 and 0.521, respectively). No significant differences are found between the levels of MPI of these three districts. However, significant differences are found between the MPI of these districts and those with the lowest MPI – Western Urban (0.140), Western Rural (0.275), and Bo (0.367).

When the censored headcount ratios per indicator are analysed for each district (Table A1 in the annex), results reveal that in most regions the indicators related to electricity, sanitation, internet access, and bank account have the highest levels of deprivation. That is, multidimensionally poor individuals in most districts face deprivations in these indicators.

The percentage contribution of each indicator to district MPIs (Figure 11) shows similar patterns in most districts except for Western Rural and Western Urban. This is consistent with the previous findings, which show that indicators such as housing materials and overcrowding have a different contribution when comparing the western region with other regions and when comparing rural and urban areas.

Sanitation, electricity, and years of schooling are the indicators that contribute the most to the MPI in each of the regions

¹ Given that Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data was collected previous to the reorganization of the districts, it was only possible to disaggregate the data using information from the 14 districts.

Figure 7: Percentage contribution of each indicator to rural and urban MPI, 2017

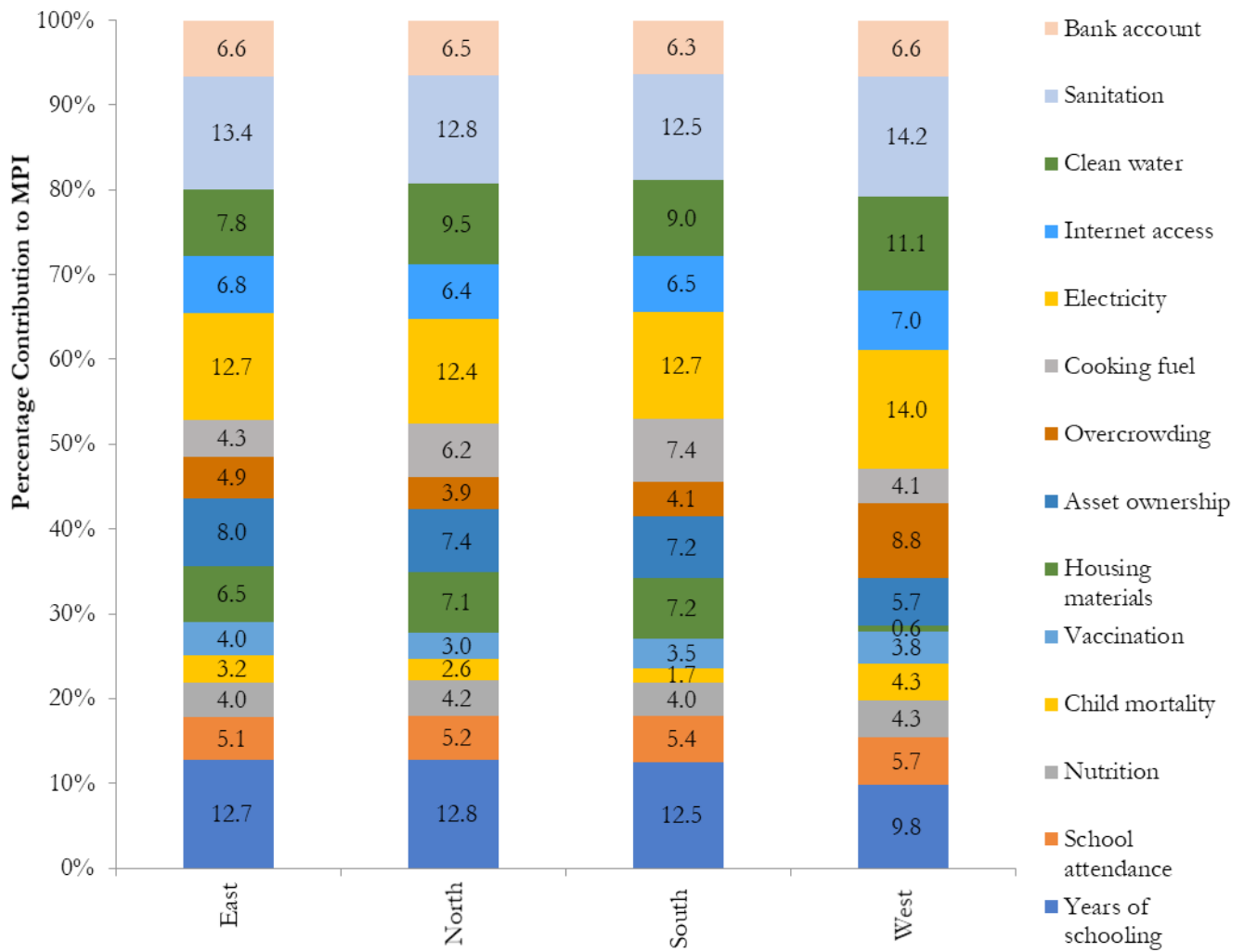
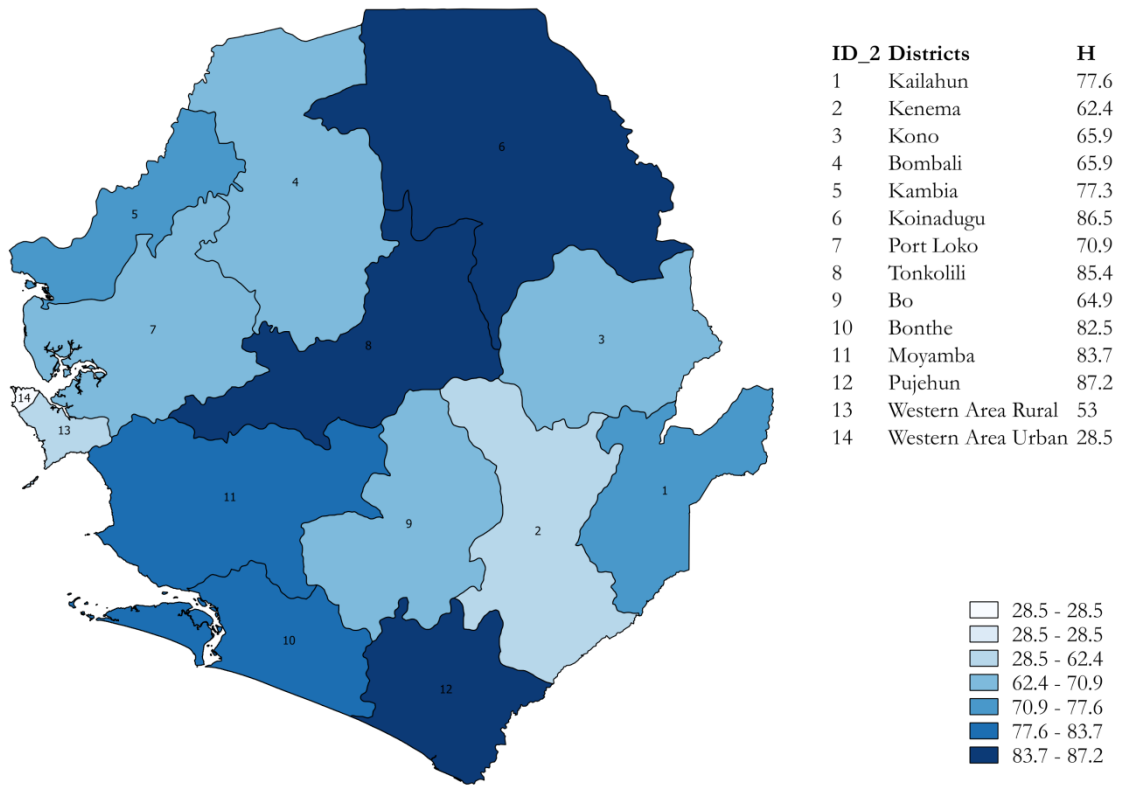


Figure 8: Incidence of multidimensional poverty by district,* 2017



* The 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data did not consider the new districts; as such, the MPI is presented in consistency with the 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey presentation.

Figure 9: Intensity of multidimensional poverty by district, 2017

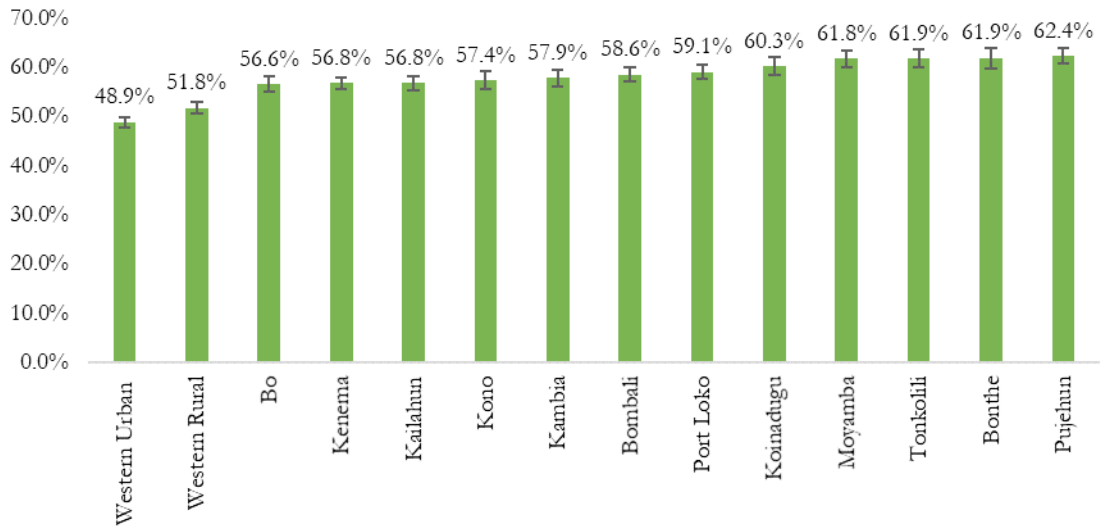


Figure 10: MPI by district, 2017

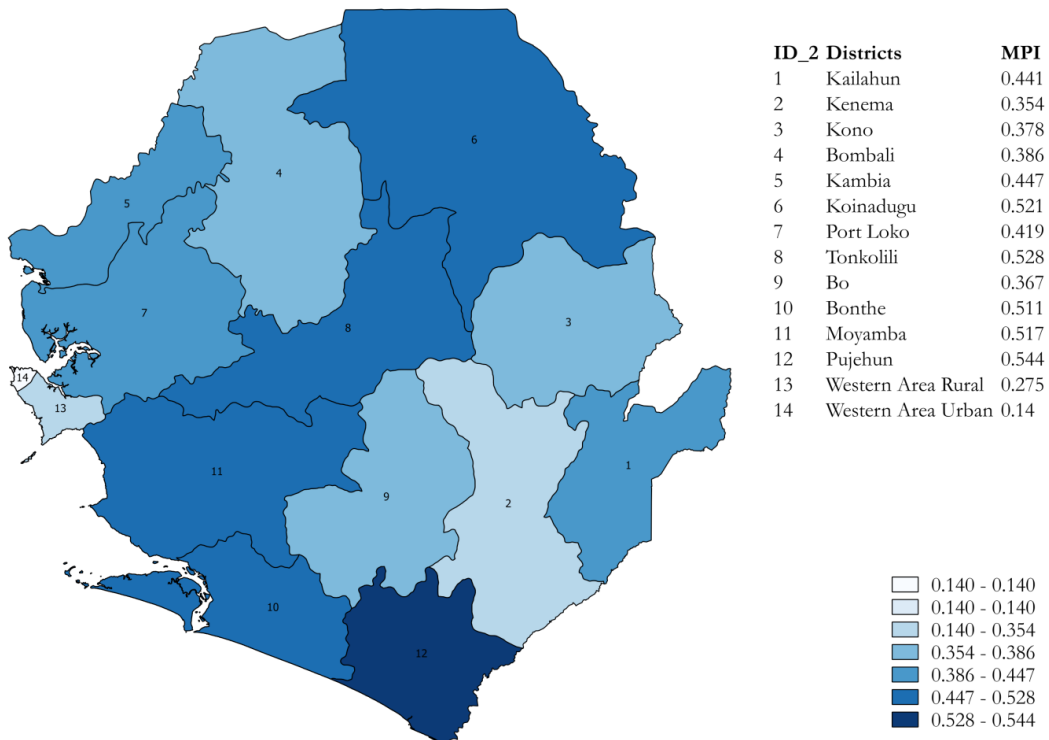
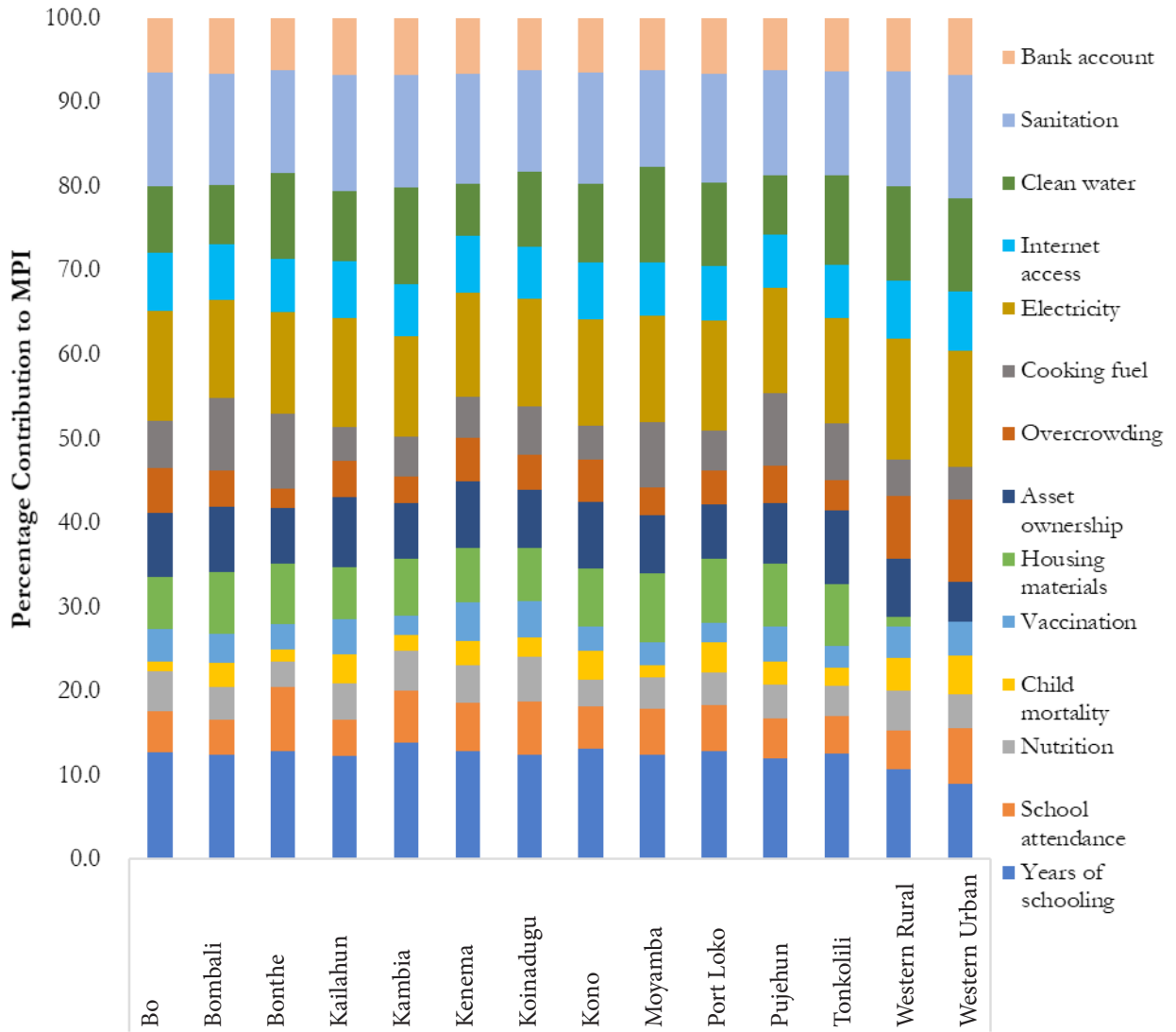


Figure 11: Percentage contribution of each indicator to district MPI, 2017



4.4 DISAGGREGATION BY AGE GROUP

Table 5 and 6 present the incidence and intensity of poverty and the MPI by age group. Table 5 presents the results based on the generally recognized age for someone to be considered an adult, i.e. 18 years and above. We observe that children younger than 18 years have the highest levels of multidimensional poverty (69.6 percent) compared to any other age group. The group with the lowest levels of poverty are working-age individuals (18 to 40 years old).

It should be noted that, as the national MPI of Sierra Leone identifies deprivations in each indicator at the household level, all members are equally identified as deprived or non-deprived

Children younger than 14 years have the highest levels of multidimensional poverty, followed by the elderly above the age of 65 years

in each indicator, and all members are equally classified as poor or non-poor. This implies that disaggregation by age group should not be taken as the percentage of people in each group that is poor, but rather the proportion of people living in poor households (for instance, the percentage of people living in poor households, or the percentage of working-age individuals living in poor households).

Table 6 presents the incidence and intensity of poverty and the MPI by age group, with classification adapted to the Sierra Leonean context. We observe that children younger than 14 years have the highest levels of multidimensional poverty (71.6 percent), followed by the elderly above the age of 65 years (69.4 percent). The group with the lowest levels of poverty is the youth (55.5 percent), followed by the middle-aged (36–64 years) group (65 percent).

Table 5: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group, 2017

Age group	Population share (%)	MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Younger than 18	48.4	0.409	0.397	0.421	69.6	67.8	71.4	58.7	58.2	59.2
18–40 years	31.8	0.322	0.310	0.335	56.6	54.6	58.5	57.0	56.5	57.5
40+	19.8	0.376	0.365	0.387	66.0	64.2	67.8	56.9	56.5	57.4
All age groups	100.0	0.375	0.363	0.386	64.8	63.0	66.5	57.9	57.4	58.3

Table 6: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group (Sierra Leone–specific youth categorization)

Age group	Population share (%)	MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
14 years and below	42.48	0.423	0.411	0.434	71.6	69.9	73.3	59.0	58.6	59.5
15–35 years	33.80	0.314	0.301	0.326	55.5	53.5	57.5	56.5	56.0	57.0
36–64 years	19.96	0.373	0.362	0.384	65.0	63.1	66.8	57.4	56.9	57.9
65 years and above	3.76	0.392	0.375	0.409	69.4	66.5	72.2	56.5	55.9	57.1
All age groups	100.0	0.375	0.363	0.386	64.8	63.0	66.5	57.9	57.4	58.3

Table 7: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group and sex (Sierra Leone–specific youth categorization)

Age group	Population share (%)	MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Male										
14 years and below	50.4	0.431	0.419	0.443	72.5	70.7	74.4	59.4	58.9	59.9
15–35 years	44.6	0.278	0.265	0.291	49.8	47.6	52.1	55.8	55.3	56.4
36–64 years	49.4	0.362	0.350	0.375	63.1	61.1	65.1	57.4	56.9	57.9
65 years and above	46.7	0.387	0.367	0.407	68.2	64.9	71.5	56.7	55.9	57.6
Female										
14 years and below	49.6	0.415	0.403	0.426	70.7	68.9	72.5	58.6	58.1	59.2
15–35 years	55.4	0.342	0.330	0.354	60.0	58.0	62.1	56.9	56.5	57.4
36–64 years	50.5	0.383	0.371	0.396	66.8	64.8	68.7	57.4	56.9	58.0
65 years and above	53.3	0.396	0.376	0.417	70.4	66.9	73.9	56.3	55.5	57.1

Table 8: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by age group and region

Region	Population share (%)	MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
14 years and below										
East	23.65	0.423	0.401	0.444	72.6	69.3	75.8	58.2	57.4	59.1
North	36.13	0.491	0.471	0.512	80.9	77.9	83.8	60.8	60.0	61.5
South	20.66	0.486	0.460	0.512	79.5	75.7	83.2	61.2	60.1	62.2
West	19.56	0.230	0.210	0.250	45.2	41.3	49.0	51.0	50.1	51.9
15–35 years										
East	21.78	0.330	0.307	0.354	59.3	55.4	63.2	55.7	54.9	56.6
North	31.02	0.394	0.368	0.420	67.4	63.3	71.5	58.5	57.7	59.2
South	18.20	0.410	0.380	0.439	69.4	65.0	73.8	59.0	58.1	59.9
West	29.01	0.155	0.137	0.172	31.2	27.6	34.8	49.6	48.8	50.3
36–64 years										
East	24.21	0.392	0.372	0.411	69.4	66.4	72.5	56.4	55.6	57.2
North	32.68	0.453	0.432	0.474	76.8	73.7	79.9	59.0	58.2	59.8
South	20.92	0.458	0.434	0.482	77.2	73.5	80.9	59.3	58.4	60.2
West	22.18	0.155	0.135	0.175	31.1	27.0	35.2	49.8	48.9	50.6
65 years and above										
East	25.18	0.381	0.354	0.407	70.0	65.5	74.6	54.4	53.3	55.5
North	36.03	0.455	0.424	0.486	78.6	73.4	83.8	57.9	57.0	58.8
South	23.63	0.466	0.437	0.495	80.3	75.8	84.8	58.0	56.7	59.4
West	15.16	0.144	0.106	0.181	29.2	21.9	36.5	49.3	47.0	51.6

Table 7 presents the incidence and intensity of poverty and the MPI by both age group and gender. We observe that, apart from the children (14 years and below), females have relatively higher poverty rates than their male counterparts. For instance,

female youths (15–35 years) are poorer (60 percent) compared to their male counterparts (49.8 percent).

Table 8 presents the incidence and intensity of poverty and the MPI by both age group and region. We observe

that in all regions poverty is highest among the children compared to other age groups.

We also observe that poverty is the lowest in Western Area for all age groups and highest in the northern

and southern regions. Poverty rates by age group and district are presented in Tables A8 to A11 in the annex.

4.5 DISAGGREGATION BY SEX OF THE HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Multidimensional poverty is analysed on the basis of the sex of the household head. Table 9 shows that generally female-headed households have a higher level of multidimensional poverty (65.9 percent) compared to male-headed households (64.2

percent). We also observe that poverty is higher in female-headed households in the northern region and in Western Area, whereas the opposite is the case in the southern and eastern regions.

The fact that poverty is higher in male-headed households in the south and east may be attributed to cultural factors that encourage empathy and support to a widow and the family of a deceased husband by brothers and other family members. The situation is different in the northern region and Western Area, where such bonds and cultural values are not that strong. The details for poverty by sex of the household head by district are presented in Tables A12 and A13 in the annex.

4.6 DISAGGREGATION BY DISABILITY STATUS

Table 10 presents multidimensional poverty based on disability defined as functional difficulties (18–49 years). We observe that people with functional difficulties are slightly poorer (68.1 percent) compared with those without functional difficulties (67.6 percent).



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Table 9: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by sex of household head and region

NATIONAL										
		MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
<i>Sex of head of household</i>	<i>Population share (%)</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Value (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Value (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>	
Male	69,46	0.374	0.361	0.386	64.2	62.3	66.1	58.2	57.6	58.7
Female	30,54	0.377	0.361	0.394	65.9	63.3	68.6	57.2	56.6	57.9

REGIONAL										
		MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
<i>Region</i>	<i>Population share (%)</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Value (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Value (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>	
Male										
East	24.59	0.389	0.368	0.411	68.1	64.8	71.5	57.2	56.2	58.1
North	31.43	0.453	0.431	0.475	75.6	72.5	78.7	59.9	59.1	60.8
South	20.48	0.472	0.446	0.498	78.0	74.4	81.6	60.5	59.5	61.5
West	23.50	0.164	0.144	0.185	33.0	28.8	37.1	49.9	49.0	50.8
Female										
East	20.02	0.373	0.339	0.407	66.1	60.5	71.7	56.4	55.4	57.5
North	38.79	0.451	0.420	0.481	76.2	71.4	81.0	59.1	58.2	60.1
South	18.82	0.415	0.380	0.450	70.8	64.9	76.7	58.6	57.3	59.9
West	22.37	0.223	0.196	0.249	43.8	38.6	49.1	50.8	49.4	52.2

Table 10: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI by disability

		MPI			Incidence (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
<i>Disability</i>	<i>Population share (%)</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Value (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Value (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>	
Has functional difficulty	10.70	0.398	0.381	0.416	68.1	65.3	70.9	58.5	57.8	59.2
Has no functional difficulty	89.30	0.395	0.384	0.407	67.6	65.8	69.4	58.5	58.0	59.0

5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the National MPI for Sierra Leone reveal important differences between rural and urban areas, and between Western Area and the other regions. The national results reveal that multidimensional poor individuals face high levels of deprivation in access to electricity, sanitation, internet services, and bank accounts.

Therefore, it is important to prioritize resources in order to reduce these relevant deprivations in the whole country. Given that the percentage of multidimensional individuals deprived in each of these indicators is different between regions and districts, it is important to prioritize actions depending on the percentage of individuals and households facing each deprivation.

It is important to recognize that the government should continue working on reducing child mortality, increasing the percentage of children with full vaccinations according to their age, and reducing child undernutrition and stunting.

Policies aiming to reduce multidimensional poverty in Sierra Leone should focus on reducing the multiple deprivations that the multidimensionally poor face. The results of the disaggregation of the MPI revealed that people living

in urban and rural areas face different deprivations; therefore, those should be prioritized in each area. In addition, three districts (Pujehun, Koinadugu, and Tonkolili) present the highest incidence of multidimensional poverty, while Pujehun also faces the highest intensity of poverty.

As a result, policies and programmes aiming to reduce multidimensional poverty in these districts should be a priority in the country.

Policies aiming to reduce multidimensional poverty in Sierra Leone should focus on reducing the multiple deprivations that the multidimensionally poor face

ANNEX

Table A1: Censored headcount ratios by district

	Bo			Bombali			Bonthe		
	<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>	
Years of schooling	46.6	40.2	53.1	48.0	42.8	53.1	65.3	59.4	71.2
School attendance	18.1	14.9	21.4	15.9	11.9	20.0	39.0	31.5	46.4
Nutrition	26.1	21.6	30.5	23.1	19.8	26.4	23.9	20.3	27.5
Child mortality	6.5	4.7	8.4	16.3	12.6	19.9	10.7	6.2	15.2
Vaccination	21.2	17.5	24.9	20.4	17.1	23.6	23.3	19.5	27.1
Housing materials	33.7	27.9	39.5	41.8	35.5	48.1	54.7	49.0	60.5
Asset ownership	42.2	36.4	48.0	45.5	40.1	50.9	50.8	43.6	58.0
Overcrowding	29.0	25.2	32.9	25.0	20.2	29.8	18.2	14.8	21.6
Cooking fuel	26.2	20.9	31.6	41.4	33.4	49.4	56.1	49.8	62.4
Electricity	59.9	53.8	66.0	56.3	49.9	62.7	77.4	72.1	82.8
Internet access	63.7	57.1	70.4	64.5	58.6	70.5	80.9	77.0	84.8
Clean water	36.3	28.7	43.8	33.9	26.2	41.6	65.3	55.1	75.6
Sanitation	61.6	55.3	68.0	63.9	58.0	69.9	78.4	73.1	83.7
Bank account	60.4	54.2	66.6	64.1	58.1	70.1	78.8	74.4	83.3

Table A2: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)

	Kailahun			Kambia			Kenema		
	Censored headcount ratio (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Censored headcount ratio (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Censored headcount ratio (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Years of schooling	54.0	48.6	59.3	61.9	56.2	67.7	45.4	40.9	49.8
School attendance	19.0	15.1	22.9	27.6	21.8	33.4	20.5	16.8	24.1
Nutrition	28.3	24.6	32.1	31.5	26.7	36.4	23.8	19.8	27.9
Child mortality	22.8	20.0	25.6	12.6	9.5	15.7	15.0	11.8	18.2
Vaccination	28.4	23.9	32.9	15.4	12.8	18.0	24.6	20.4	28.7
Housing materials	40.0	34.5	45.5	46.1	39.1	53.1	34.6	28.9	40.2
Asset ownership	55.3	50.3	60.4	44.5	39.7	49.3	41.6	36.6	46.6
Overcrowding	28.8	25.3	32.4	20.7	16.7	24.7	28.1	24.3	31.9
Cooking fuel	21.8	17.9	25.7	26.4	21.4	31.3	21.4	17.1	25.7
Electricity	71.3	66.9	75.7	67.2	61.6	72.9	55.1	50.1	60.1
Internet access	74.1	69.4	78.8	69.1	62.7	75.5	59.9	54.5	65.2
Clean water	46.1	37.1	55.2	63.9	55.7	72.1	27.2	22.1	32.3
Sanitation	76.6	72.3	81.0	74.5	68.1	80.8	57.7	53.1	62.3
Bank account	74.1	70.0	78.2	76.5	70.8	82.3	59.3	54.1	64.4

Table A3: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)

	Koinadugu			Kono			Moyamba		
	Censored headcount ratio (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Censored headcount ratio (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Censored headcount ratio (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Years of schooling	64.4	57.2	71.5	49.4	41.3	57.6	64.2	55.9	72.5
School attendance	33.5	27.3	39.7	19.3	15.0	23.6	28.5	22.3	34.7
Nutrition	41.5	37.6	45.4	18.2	13.4	22.9	28.2	24.5	31.8
Child mortality	17.3	14.2	20.4	19.4	15.6	23.1	12.2	8.7	15.7
Vaccination	33.8	26.2	41.4	16.6	13.3	19.9	20.6	16.1	25.2
Housing materials	49.7	43.4	56.1	39.2	32.2	46.2	63.9	56.2	71.7
Asset ownership	54.4	47.0	61.8	44.9	36.8	53.0	53.5	45.2	61.8
Overcrowding	32.4	27.4	37.5	28.5	24.7	32.3	25.3	21.4	29.2
Cooking fuel	37.8	28.2	47.4	18.5	13.7	23.3	50.7	45.3	56.0
Electricity	83.2	78.6	87.9	60.1	53.1	67.1	81.2	74.9	87.6
Internet access	80.7	75.8	85.6	64.6	57.9	71.4	82.4	76.1	88.6
Clean water	57.3	47.4	67.1	44.2	35.6	52.7	73.6	65.2	82.1
Sanitation	78.6	73.4	83.9	62.4	55.7	69.1	73.5	66.8	80.2
Bank account	81.9	76.6	87.1	61.3	53.9	68.8	81.2	74.2	88.1

Table A4: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)

	Port Loko			Pujehun			Tonkolili		
	<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>	
Years of schooling	54.0	45.1	62.9	65.3	56.2	74.4	66.7	61.2	72.2
School attendance	22.8	17.9	27.8	25.8	20.2	31.4	23.5	17.9	29.2
Nutrition	24.5	20.9	28.1	32.5	26.3	38.8	28.1	24.3	31.9
Child mortality	22.1	17.7	26.4	22.0	17.8	26.1	16.8	14.0	19.6
Vaccination	15.1	11.9	18.3	34.3	28.2	40.3	20.3	17.1	23.6
Housing materials	47.2	40.0	54.3	61.6	53.4	69.8	58.7	51.0	66.4
Asset ownership	41.1	33.5	48.7	57.9	48.3	67.6	68.9	63.1	74.8
Overcrowding	25.1	20.0	30.2	37.2	32.4	42.0	28.9	25.3	32.4
Cooking fuel	25.0	17.7	32.3	58.3	52.1	64.5	44.8	40.2	49.5
Electricity	68.8	59.6	78.1	85.0	77.2	92.9	81.9	76.8	87.1
Internet access	67.3	58.1	76.5	85.3	76.8	93.8	84.6	80.0	89.1
Clean water	52.2	42.0	62.3	48.1	36.1	60.2	70.4	62.2	78.6
Sanitation	67.7	58.5	76.9	85.5	76.5	94.4	81.5	76.3	86.6
Bank account	69.2	60.0	78.4	83.8	75.5	92.1	83.9	79.2	88.6

Table A5: Censored headcount ratios by district (continued)

	Western Area Rural			Western Area Urban		
	<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>		<i>Censored headcount ratio (%)</i>	<i>Confidence interval (95%)</i>	
Years of schooling	29.3	25.3	33.3	12.6	10.0	15.1
School attendance	12.9	9.1	16.7	9.2	7.1	11.3
Nutrition	19.5	15.1	23.8	8.3	6.1	10.5
Child mortality	16.0	12.7	19.3	9.9	6.8	12.9
Vaccination	15.5	11.8	19.2	8.2	5.7	10.7
Housing materials	4.6	1.4	7.8	0.2	0.0	0.5
Asset ownership	28.1	22.3	34.0	9.8	7.4	12.2
Overcrowding	31.2	25.3	37.0	20.6	17.4	23.8
Cooking fuel	14.9	11.2	18.5	6.7	4.7	8.7
Electricity	49.0	44.0	54.0	24.0	20.3	27.8
Internet access	47.5	42.2	52.8	24.7	21.1	28.4
Clean water	38.5	32.3	44.7	19.2	16.3	22.0
Sanitation	46.7	41.6	51.8	25.7	21.9	29.6
Bank account	44.1	39.9	48.4	23.6	19.8	27.4

Table A6: Percentage contribution of each indicator to MPI by district

	INDICATORS																			
	Education			Health			Housing			Energy			Living standards				Grand total			
	Years of schooling	School attendance	Total	Nutrition	Child mortality	Vaccination	Total	Housing materials	Asset ownership	Overcrowding	Total	Cooking fuel	Electricity	Internet access	Total	Clean water		Sanitation	Bank account	Total
Area																				
Rural	12.9	5.4	18.3	4.1	2.4	3.3	9.8	7.6	7.7	3.8	19.1	5.9	12.5	6.5	24.9	8.8	12.6	6.5	27.9	100
Urban	10.4	5.0	15.4	4.2	3.6	4.1	11.9	1.8	5.8	7.8	15.4	5.4	13.5	7.0	25.9	10.4	14.4	6.6	31.4	100
National	11.7	5.2	16.9	4.2	3.0	3.6	10.8	5.0	6.8	5.6	17.4	5.7	13.0	6.7	25.4	9.5	13.4	6.6	29.5	100
EAST	12.7	5.1	17.8	4.0	3.2	4.0	11.3	6.5	8.0	4.9	19.4	4.3	12.7	6.8	23.7	7.8	13.4	6.6	27.8	100
Kenema	12.8	5.8	18.6	4.5	2.8	4.6	11.9	6.5	7.8	5.3	19.6	4.8	12.4	6.8	24.0	6.1	13.0	6.7	25.8	100
Kailahun	12.3	4.3	16.6	4.3	3.4	4.3	12.0	6.0	8.4	4.4	18.8	4.0	13.0	6.7	23.6	8.4	13.9	6.7	29.0	100
Kono	13.1	5.1	18.2	3.2	3.4	2.9	9.5	6.9	7.9	5.0	19.8	3.9	12.7	6.8	23.4	9.3	13.2	6.5	29.0	100
NORTH	12.8	5.2	18.0	4.2	2.6	3.0	9.8	7.1	7.4	3.9	18.4	6.2	12.4	6.4	25.1	9.5	12.8	6.5	28.8	100
Kambia	13.8	6.2	20.0	4.7	1.9	2.3	8.9	6.9	6.6	3.1	16.6	4.7	12.0	6.2	22.9	11.4	13.3	6.8	31.6	100
Bombali	12.4	4.1	16.5	4.0	2.8	3.5	10.3	7.2	7.8	4.3	19.4	8.6	11.7	6.7	26.9	7.0	13.2	6.6	26.9	100
Port Loko	12.9	5.4	18.3	3.9	3.5	2.4	9.8	7.5	6.5	4.0	18.0	4.8	13.1	6.4	24.3	10.0	12.9	6.6	29.5	100
Koinadugu	12.4	6.4	18.8	5.3	2.2	4.3	11.8	6.4	7.0	4.2	17.5	5.8	12.8	6.2	24.8	8.8	12.1	6.3	27.1	100
Tonkolili	12.6	4.5	17.1	3.5	2.1	2.6	8.2	7.4	8.7	3.6	19.8	6.8	12.4	6.4	25.6	10.7	12.3	6.4	29.3	100
SOUTH	12.5	5.4	17.9	4.0	1.7	3.5	9.2	7.2	7.2	4.1	18.5	7.4	12.7	6.5	26.6	9.0	12.5	6.3	27.8	100
Bo	12.7	4.9	17.6	4.7	1.2	3.8	9.8	6.1	7.7	5.3	19.0	5.7	13.0	6.9	25.7	7.9	13.4	6.6	27.9	100
Moyamba	12.4	5.5	17.9	3.6	1.6	2.7	7.9	8.2	6.9	3.3	18.4	7.8	12.6	6.4	26.8	11.4	11.4	6.3	29.0	100
Bonthe	12.8	7.6	20.4	3.1	1.4	3.0	7.6	7.1	6.6	2.4	16.1	8.8	12.1	6.3	27.2	10.2	12.3	6.2	28.7	100
Pujehun	12.0	4.7	16.7	4.0	2.7	4.2	10.9	7.5	7.1	4.6	19.2	8.6	12.5	6.3	27.4	7.1	12.6	6.2	25.8	100
WEST	9.8	5.7	15.5	4.3	4.3	3.8	12.5	0.6	5.7	8.8	15.0	4.1	14.0	7.0	25.1	11.1	14.2	6.6	31.9	100
Western	10.7	4.7	15.4	4.7	3.9	3.8	12.4	1.1	6.8	7.6	15.5	4.3	14.3	6.9	25.5	11.2	13.6	6.4	31.3	100
Urban																				
Western	9.0	6.6	15.6	4.0	4.7	3.9	12.6	0.1	4.7	9.8	14.6	3.9	13.8	7.1	24.7	11.0	14.8	6.8	32.5	100
Rural																				

Table A7: MPI by district

District	Population (in hundreds)	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
			Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Western Urban	11,465	15.9	0.140	0.121	0.158	28.5	24.7	32.4	48.9	47.9	49.9
Western Rural	5,189	7.2	0.275	0.249	0.300	53.0	47.9	58.1	51.8	50.5	53.1
Bo	6,310	8.8	0.367	0.328	0.407	64.9	58.6	71.1	56.6	55.1	58.2
Kenema	7,175	10.0	0.354	0.324	0.385	62.4	57.3	67.5	56.8	55.7	57.9
Kailahun	4,573	6.4	0.441	0.411	0.470	77.6	73.5	81.7	56.8	55.5	58.2
Kono	4,933	6.9	0.378	0.333	0.424	65.9	59.1	72.7	57.4	55.7	59.2
Kambia	3,344	4.7	0.447	0.408	0.486	77.3	71.5	83.1	57.9	56.2	59.5
Bombali	6,035	8.4	0.386	0.347	0.425	65.9	59.9	72.0	58.6	57.1	60.2
Port Loko	6,329	8.8	0.419	0.359	0.479	70.9	61.3	80.5	59.1	57.7	60.5
Koinadugu	3,707	5.2	0.521	0.486	0.557	86.5	82.5	90.4	60.3	58.4	62.2
Moyamba	3,366	4.7	0.517	0.471	0.564	83.7	77.5	89.9	61.8	60.1	63.5
Tonkolili	4,811	6.7	0.528	0.491	0.566	85.4	81.1	89.9	61.9	60.1	63.6
Bonthe	1,869	2.6	0.511	0.476	0.546	82.5	78.8	86.2	61.9	59.9	64.0
Pujehun	2,824	3.9	0.544	0.487	0.601	87.2	79.1	95.4	62.4	60.9	63.9

Table A8: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for 14 years and below by district

District	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Bo	9.33	0.399	0.358	0.439	69.6	63.3	75.9	57.3	55.7	58.8
Bombali	8.46	0.441	0.404	0.479	73.8	68.3	79.3	59.8	58.1	61.5
Bonthe	2.65	0.546	0.510	0.582	85.8	82.0	89.7	63.6	61.2	66.0
Kailahun	6.49	0.472	0.444	0.501	81.3	77.5	85.0	58.1	56.7	59.5
Kambia	5.05	0.480	0.445	0.515	81.6	76.9	86.4	58.8	57.1	60.6
Kenema	9.78	0.399	0.368	0.429	68.8	64.0	73.5	58.0	56.8	59.1
Koinadugu	5.60	0.554	0.519	0.588	90.0	86.5	93.5	61.5	59.5	63.6
Kono	7.38	0.410	0.362	0.458	69.9	62.8	77.0	58.7	56.8	60.6
Moyamba	4.55	0.553	0.508	0.597	86.7	81.2	92.1	63.8	61.8	65.8
Port Loko	9.60	0.455	0.399	0.511	75.5	66.8	84.1	60.3	58.8	61.8
Pujehun	4.12	0.571	0.518	0.624	89.7	82.3	97.1	63.7	61.9	65.4
Tonkolili	7.42	0.557	0.523	0.590	88.5	84.9	92.2	62.9	61.1	64.6
Western Rural	6.93	0.319	0.294	0.343	60.6	56.4	64.9	52.5	51.1	53.9
Western Urban	12.63	0.182	0.158	0.206	36.7	32.0	41.4	49.6	48.5	50.7

Table A9: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for youths (15–35 years) by district

District	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Bo	7.76	0.311	0.269	0.352	55.5	48.8	62.3	56.0	54.4	57.5
Bombali	8.27	0.305	0.264	0.346	53.4	46.5	60.2	57.1	55.7	58.6
Bonthe	2.59	0.471	0.433	0.510	77.5	72.9	82.2	60.8	58.7	62.9
Kailahun	5.77	0.402	0.368	0.437	72.2	67.0	77.4	55.7	54.2	57.2
Kambia	4.21	0.404	0.360	0.448	71.4	64.3	78.5	56.6	55.1	58.1
Kenema	9.81	0.289	0.254	0.324	52.1	46.0	58.3	55.4	54.3	56.5
Koinadugu	4.87	0.487	0.448	0.525	82.6	77.8	87.4	58.9	57.0	60.8
Kono	6.20	0.328	0.280	0.377	58.5	51.1	65.9	56.1	54.3	58.0
Moyamba	4.47	0.468	0.415	0.522	78.2	70.5	86.0	59.9	58.1	61.6
Port Loko	7.90	0.357	0.288	0.426	61.6	50.0	73.1	58.0	56.6	59.3
Pujehun	3.38	0.511	0.441	0.581	83.4	73.1	93.7	61.3	59.7	62.9
Tonkolili	5.78	0.487	0.438	0.535	79.7	73.4	86.0	61.1	59.2	63.0
Western Rural	8.59	0.238	0.210	0.267	46.5	40.4	52.5	51.3	50.0	52.6
Western Urban	20.41	0.119	0.101	0.138	24.8	21.0	28.5	48.2	47.2	49.2

Table A10: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for 36–64 years by district

District	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Bo	9.20	0.377	0.339	0.415	66.9	60.5	73.4	56.3	54.8	57.8
Bombali	8.25	0.401	0.359	0.443	68.8	62.3	75.3	58.3	56.6	60.0
Bonthe	2.47	0.508	0.475	0.541	83.8	80.1	87.6	60.6	58.8	62.3
Kailahun	6.79	0.437	0.407	0.467	77.8	73.5	82.2	56.1	54.7	57.5
Kambia	4.29	0.432	0.383	0.481	75.4	68.0	82.8	57.3	55.4	59.3
Kenema	10.53	0.366	0.337	0.394	64.9	60.2	69.6	56.3	55.2	57.5
Koinadugu	5.06	0.503	0.466	0.541	84.3	79.8	88.8	59.7	57.8	61.6
Kono	6.89	0.387	0.344	0.430	68.0	61.9	74.2	56.8	55.0	58.7
Moyamba	4.91	0.515	0.471	0.560	84.7	78.4	90.9	60.9	59.4	62.3
Port Loko	8.39	0.427	0.377	0.477	73.4	65.4	81.4	58.2	56.7	59.7
Pujehun	4.34	0.537	0.485	0.589	86.7	79.5	94.0	61.9	60.3	63.5
Tonkolili	6.69	0.524	0.488	0.560	86.0	81.7	90.4	61.0	59.1	62.9
Western Rural	6.16	0.252	0.215	0.289	49.4	41.9	57.0	51.0	49.8	52.3
Western Urban	16.02	0.117	0.098	0.137	24.0	20.1	28.0	48.8	47.6	50.0

Table A11: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for 65 years and above by district

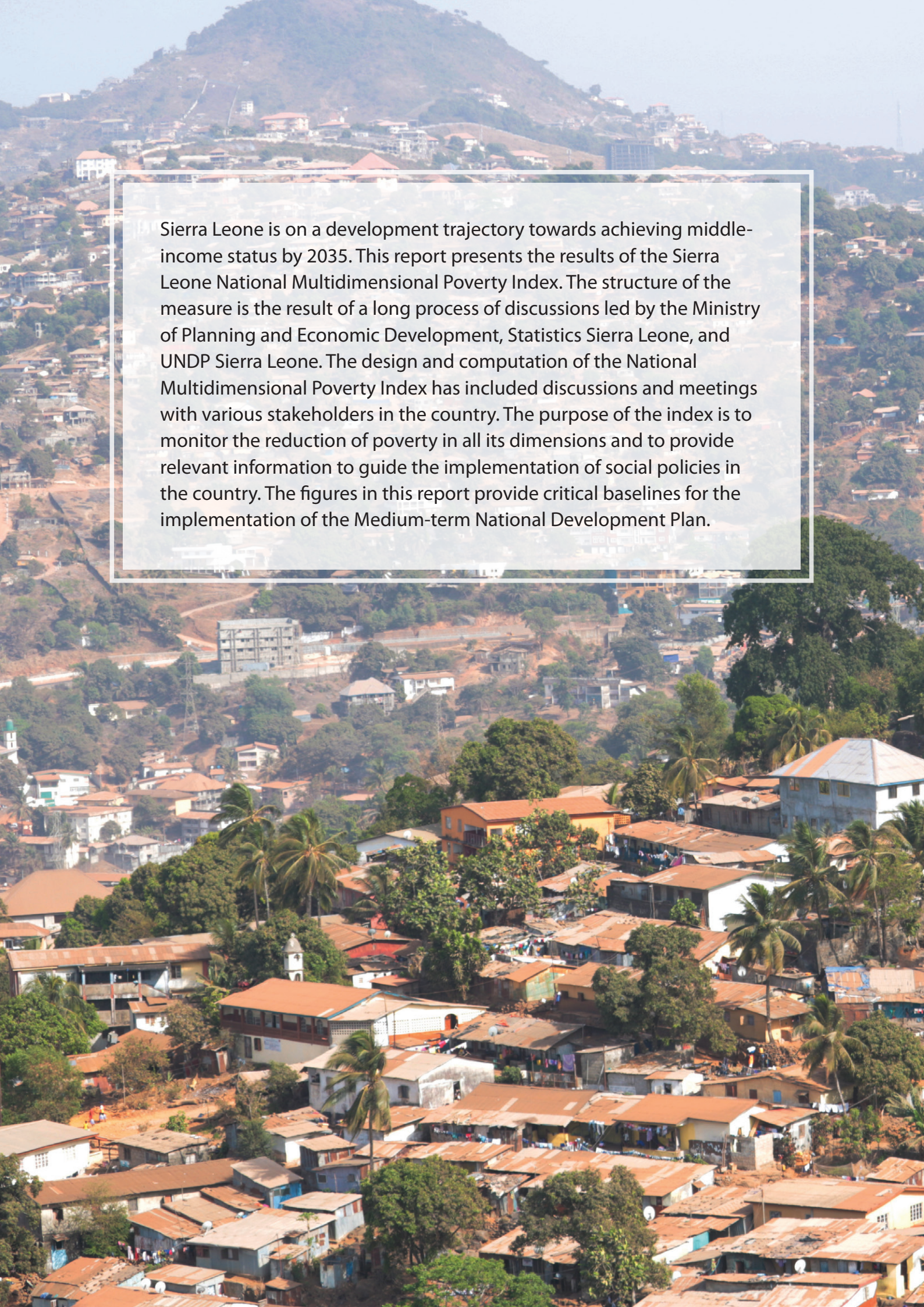
District	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Bo	9.68	0.388	0.340	0.436	70.0	61.7	78.3	55.4	53.0	57.9
Bombali	9.53	0.405	0.361	0.448	71.6	64.6	78.7	56.5	54.8	58.2
Bonthe	2.81	0.483	0.426	0.540	81.8	75.6	88.0	59.0	55.6	62.5
Kailahun	8.07	0.416	0.372	0.459	77.1	69.8	84.3	53.9	52.4	55.5
Kambia	5.86	0.466	0.416	0.515	79.6	71.6	87.6	58.5	56.6	60.4
Kenema	10.47	0.372	0.334	0.410	67.1	60.5	73.7	55.4	53.8	57.1
Koinadugu	3.46	0.505	0.451	0.558	87.1	80.7	93.4	58.0	54.9	61.0
Kono	6.64	0.352	0.295	0.410	66.1	56.1	76.0	53.4	50.6	56.1
Moyamba	6.69	0.539	0.493	0.585	88.6	82.9	94.2	60.9	58.8	63.0
Port Loko	10.24	0.435	0.348	0.521	76.1	61.0	91.3	57.1	55.6	58.7
Pujehun	4.45	0.516	0.464	0.568	89.5	80.9	98.1	57.7	55.9	59.5
Tonkolili	6.93	0.521	0.473	0.569	86.9	80.2	93.6	60.0	57.8	62.1
Western Rural	3.54	0.304	0.242	0.366	59.4	47.7	71.1	51.2	47.8	54.6
Western Urban	11.62	0.095	0.057	0.133	20.0	12.4	27.5	47.6	44.6	50.5

Table A12: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for male-headed households by district

District	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Bo	8.67	0.383	0.342	0.424	66.9	60.8	73.0	57.2	55.5	59.0
Bombali	7.86	0.383	0.339	0.428	64.8	58.1	71.4	59.1	57.4	60.9
Bonthe	2.90	0.524	0.485	0.562	83.9	79.8	88.0	62.4	60.3	64.5
Kailahun	6.50	0.427	0.393	0.460	75.6	70.9	80.3	56.5	54.9	58.1
Kambia	4.03	0.439	0.396	0.482	75.1	68.2	81.9	58.5	56.6	60.4
Kenema	11.14	0.368	0.337	0.398	64.2	59.1	69.3	57.3	56.2	58.4
Koinadugu	4.09	0.509	0.472	0.546	85.1	80.8	89.4	59.9	57.6	62.1
Kono	6.94	0.389	0.338	0.440	67.4	60.2	74.6	57.7	55.4	60.1
Moyamba	4.61	0.537	0.490	0.584	86.4	80.5	92.3	62.2	60.2	64.1
Port Loko	8.91	0.436	0.388	0.484	73.6	66.1	81.1	59.3	57.8	60.8
Pujehun	4.31	0.548	0.496	0.601	87.5	80.3	94.7	62.7	61.0	64.3
Tonkolili	6.54	0.533	0.487	0.579	85.6	80.2	91.1	62.2	60.2	64.2
Western Rural	6.89	0.258	0.222	0.294	50.4	43.2	57.6	51.2	49.5	52.8
Western Urban	16.61	0.126	0.105	0.147	25.8	21.5	30.0	48.9	47.7	50.0

Table A13: Incidence and intensity of poverty and MPI for female-headed households by district

District	Population share (%)	MPI			Headcount ratio (H, %)			Intensity (A, %)		
		Value	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)		Value (%)	Confidence interval (95%)	
Bo	9.00	0.333	0.280	0.387	60.4	50.4	70.4	55.2	53.2	57.2
Bombali	9.60	0.393	0.347	0.438	68.1	60.4	75.7	57.7	55.9	59.4
Bonthe	1.92	0.468	0.421	0.515	77.8	71.4	84.2	60.2	57.5	62.9
Kailahun	6.03	0.474	0.435	0.513	82.5	76.6	88.4	57.5	56.0	59.0
Kambia	6.05	0.459	0.420	0.499	80.7	75.3	86.1	56.9	55.0	58.9
Kenema	7.32	0.308	0.255	0.361	56.1	47.1	65.0	54.9	53.0	56.9
Koinadugu	7.58	0.536	0.489	0.583	88.1	83.5	92.7	60.8	58.2	63.4
Kono	6.67	0.353	0.286	0.419	62.3	51.2	73.4	56.6	54.8	58.5
Moyamba	4.84	0.473	0.413	0.533	77.7	68.7	86.7	60.9	58.8	63.1
Port Loko	8.55	0.378	0.286	0.471	64.5	49.0	80.1	58.6	56.8	60.5
Pujehun	3.06	0.530	0.451	0.609	86.3	74.3	98.2	61.4	59.5	63.3
Tonkolili	7.01	0.519	0.473	0.565	84.9	78.1	91.6	61.1	59.6	62.7
Western Rural	7.96	0.308	0.268	0.348	58.3	51.1	65.5	52.9	51.2	54.6
Western Urban	14.41	0.176	0.144	0.207	35.9	29.3	42.4	49.0	47.0	51.0



Sierra Leone is on a development trajectory towards achieving middle-income status by 2035. This report presents the results of the Sierra Leone National Multidimensional Poverty Index. The structure of the measure is the result of a long process of discussions led by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Statistics Sierra Leone, and UNDP Sierra Leone. The design and computation of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index has included discussions and meetings with various stakeholders in the country. The purpose of the index is to monitor the reduction of poverty in all its dimensions and to provide relevant information to guide the implementation of social policies in the country. The figures in this report provide critical baselines for the implementation of the Medium-term National Development Plan.