



SIERRA LEONE

8,830,611
POPULATION*

\$1,727
GDP (PPP)*



27,000



ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY*

55.3/100



VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY*

*Global Slavery Index 2023 data. For more information on their findings, visit [GlobalSlaveryIndex.org](https://www.Globalslaveryindex.org)

TRAFFICKING IN SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Trafficking of children has not been properly understood as a child protection issue in Sierra Leone. As migration is common and most people do not know how to recognize trafficking, it is misunderstood as “normal” migration, particularly when it occurs within Sierra Leone. However, many of the preconditions for trafficking exist in Sierra Leone: economic causes (poverty and material aspiration); political and legal factors (corruption, porous borders, weak law enforcement); cultural factors (normative migration, child labor, early marriage, etc.); social conditions (limited education and violence in the home); and individual characteristics (rebellion and peer influence). The way children migrate, regardless of the movement being voluntary or forced, puts them at high risk of abuse and exploitation.

According to UNICEF, there are 650,000 children in Sierra Leone who are orphaned and at risk of being trafficked. Most of the individuals crossing the border are adolescents, and more girls than boys are reported to travel due to the possibility of earning a higher income from prostitution. Field reports and anecdotal incidences suggest that a majority of traffickers are relatives, friends, or people known to these children.





LJI SIERRA LEONE IMPACT SINCE 2019

528

INTERCEPTS

26

ARRESTS

4

STATIONS

10

STAFF

OUR TIMELINE

2019

Love Justice Sierra Leone is established and has their first interception in May, followed by their first arrest in June.

2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, we provide food and aid to more than 6,400 of those most desperately affected and hungry in Sierra Leone.

