

# SIERRA LEONE



## SUMMARY

Sierra Leone is a constitutional parliamentary republic with three spheres of government: national government, local councils and chiefdom councils. There is no constitutional provision for local government and therefore the Local Government Act 2004 provides the main legal framework for local councils. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has responsibility for implementing decentralisation and local governance reforms. There are 19 local councils, made up of six city councils and one municipal council in the urban areas, and 15 district councils in the predominantly rural areas. Following the 2012 elections, 12.4% of elected representatives were women, and at the local level 19.1% of councillors were women. The turnout was 87.3%. The next local elections are scheduled for March 2018. In 2015/16 local government expenditure was 1.9% of total government expenditure. The Local Government Act 2004 gives both local councils and chiefdom councils powers to raise revenue including via local taxes, property rates, licences, fees and charges, and to receive mining revenues, interest and dividends etc. Transfers from national government include recurrent and development components, and are of three broad types: administrative grants, grants for devolved functions and local government development grants. Under the Local Government Act 2004, 80 functions should be devolved to local councils in principle; to date, 56 of the 80 have been devolved in practice.

## 1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Sierra Leone is a constitutional republic with a unicameral parliamentary system.<sup>39.1a</sup> The president is both head of state and head of the government, is directly elected for a five-year term and can serve no more than two consecutive terms. The president appoints a cabinet with the approval of parliament. Under the constitution members of parliament (MPs) are not permitted to hold office concurrently in the cabinet. The parliament has 124 members who serve five-year terms. Of these, 112 are elected to represent constituencies under the first-past-the-post system. The remaining 12 MPs are paramount chiefs, elected by an electoral college of chiefdom councillors in each of the 12 provincial districts. There is universal suffrage at age 18. Following the 2012 national elections, 12.4% (15/121) of MPs were women.<sup>39.1b</sup>

## 2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### 2.1 Constitutional provisions

The 1991 constitution<sup>39.2a</sup> makes no provision for local government. However, various official reports since have recommended that local government should be protected by the constitution. Sierra Leone's national decentralisation policy, approved by cabinet in 2010, recognises that the constitution should be revised to reflect the goals of decentralisation and devolution.

### 2.2 Main legislative texts

The Local Government Act 2004<sup>39.2b</sup> is the legal framework for the effective running and administration of local councils. It re-established local councils as they existed before 1972, when they were suspended (five town councils, 12 district councils and Freetown City Council).

It also created the Western Area rural district by merging the four former rural districts of Koya, Waterloo, Mountain and York. Through statutory instruments introduced in 2006, city status was granted to the former towns of Bo, Kenema, Koidu-New Sembehun and Makeni, and municipal status to Bonthe Town Council. The Local Government Act was amended in 2016,<sup>39.2c</sup> and again in 2017.<sup>39.2d</sup> The Local Government (Assumption of Functions) Regulations 2004 guide the process of devolution. This legislation specifies 80 functions to be devolved from national to local government, designates the devolving national ministry, department or agency, and sets a timetable for local councils to assume each function. About half of these functions were devolved within the timeframe set (2005-08) in the regulations. A programme to speed up devolution of the remaining functions has been underway since 2009. The Chieftaincy Act 2009 makes provision for the election of paramount chiefs and sub-chiefs. A candidate for paramount chieftaincy must be from a ruling house that existed at independence in 1961.

### 2.3 Proposed legislative changes

Among the recommendations of the constitutional review committee report of 2016 was the addition of a chapter in the constitution on local government and decentralisation.<sup>39.2e</sup>

### 2.4 National urban policy

There is no national urban policy; however a national housing policy was adopted in 2006.

## KEY FACTS

### POPULATION:

(2018 estimate): 7,570,565

### AREA (UN 2006):

71,740 sq km

### CAPITAL:

Freetown

### CURRENCY:

leone (SLL)

### HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT:

President Julius Maada Bio

### FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

constitutional republic

### PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:

unicameral

### STATE STRUCTURE:

unitary

### LANGUAGES:

English (official); Krio, Mende, Temne, Limba (recognised)

### NATIONAL ELECTIONS:

last: March 2018, turnout: 84%; next: 2023

### WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2012):

12.4%

### LOCAL ELECTIONS:

last: March 2018, turnout: na; next: 2023

### WOMEN COUNCILLORS (2012):

19.1%

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2015/16:

1.9%

**Table 39.1a Distribution of councils and population**

Province/area	District councils	City councils/municipal	Chiefdoms	Population (2015 Census)	Population (2018 est.)	% rural 2015
Eastern Province	3	2	na	1,642,370	na	66.5
Northern Province	4	1	na	2,508,201	na	75.5
North West Province	3	1	na		na	
Southern Province	4	2	na	1,441,308	na	80.3
Western Area	1	1	na	1,500,234	na	2.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>7,092,113</b>	<b>7,570,565</b>	<b>59.0</b>

Source: MLGRD communication with CLGF, 2015 Census<sup>39,3a</sup> and World Bank population estimate<sup>39,3b</sup>

### 3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 3.1 Local government within the state

Local government operates in a single tier with 15 district councils and seven city councils. All 22 local councils are governed by the Local Government Act 2004, which gives councils legislative, financial and administrative powers.

#### 3.2 Ministerial oversight

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development<sup>39,3c</sup> (MLGRD) has responsibility for implementing decentralisation and other local governance reforms. This includes specifying functions to be assigned to local councils, and coordination and implementation of the programme of devolution from national government to local councils. Under the Local Government Act 2004 the MLGRD is responsible for:

- monitoring and inspecting local council activities to ensure that they conform to legislation
- mediating and resolving disputes between councils, or between councils and government ministries
- promoting participatory processes and encouraging citizens' involvement in governance
- certifying local council by-laws and standardising by-laws (by statutory instrument)
- approving loans to the councils
- certifying that proposed delegation of functions or any agreement between a council and national or international organisation satisfies the requirement(s) of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralisation (see Section 7).

The MLGRD also determines the action and intervention required if a local council fails to discharge its responsibilities. It can assume temporary responsibility for a council's functions and devise a programme for developing the council's capacity. If a council refuses to comply, the minister may reduce or withhold grants or funds. In addition to the ministry's Directorate of

Local Government, the Decentralisation Secretariat was established as a technical division funded by a World Bank-coordinated project to support implementation and capacity-building for local government reforms (2006-11). Integration of the Secretariat's functions into the mainstream of the ministry's work is ongoing. The Secretariat currently also provides capacity-building and governance support to a World Bank- and EU-funded decentralised service delivery programme (2011 to date). Other government ministries have national policy-making, technical guidance and monitoring responsibilities for relevant devolved functions. For example, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) issues guidelines for the preparation of development plans. The president can establish new local councils as well as, subject to parliamentary approval, take over the functions of any local council for a period of 90 days, or up to 12 months if council elections are due within the year.

#### 3.3 Council types

There are 22 local councils: six city councils and one municipal council in the urban areas, and 15 district councils in the predominantly rural areas. Councils must establish a budgeting and finance committee, a development planning committee and a local technical planning committee to oversee the preparation and review of their local development plan. The Local Government Act 2004 confers discretion to establish other committees, which may also co-opt non-voting members.

#### 3.4 Traditional leadership

The paramount chieftaincy is an important institution in Sierra Leone's governance. Under the constitution 'the institution of chieftaincy, as established by customary law and usage, and its non-abolition by legislation is guaranteed and preserved'. The MLGRD has oversight of chieftaincy matters including aspects of paramount chieftaincy elections, chiefdom councils and chiefdom police, and also oversees

tribal headmen matters in the Western Area. The traditional component of local government administration is comprised of chiefdom administrations in the 190 chiefdoms in the provinces (each headed by a paramount chief who is elected for life from a ruling family of the chiefdom). The number of chiefdoms was increased in 2017 from 149 to 190 through the Provinces (Administrative Divisions) Order 2017.<sup>39,3d</sup> In the Western Area, tribal headmen are appointed by the president to advise on matters concerning the traditions of their ethnic group, and each village has an elected village headman. The basic administrative unit of a chiefdom is the 'section', made up of a number of towns or villages and headed by a section chief or sub-chief. The paramount chief has jurisdiction over the sections within the chiefdom. The paramount chief, chiefdom speaker (deputy) and section chiefs form the political hierarchy, together with town chiefs and village headmen. The administration of the chiefdom is undertaken by a chiefdom committee, presided over by the paramount chief, which serves as an executive body to the chiefdom council and comprises all the sub-chiefs and chiefdom councillors. In amalgamated chiefdoms (that is chiefdoms which comprise more than one former chiefdom amalgamated during the colonial period) crowning rotates between the parts of the amalgamated chiefdom. Paramount chiefs are elected by the councillors of the chiefdom, each chiefdom councillor representing every 20 local taxpayers in that chiefdom. The polling is supervised by the Electoral Commission. The paramount chief is elected for life, although s/he may be removed from office by the president following a judicial inquiry finding gross misconduct. The Chieftaincy Act 2009 specifies the functions of a paramount chief, including:

- supervising collection of local taxes, and assisting in collection of other lawful taxes
- maintaining order and good government
- preserving, promoting and, as appropriate, serving as guardian of, customs and traditions
- serving as an agent of development in the chiefdom
- supervising the election of sub-chiefs in the chiefdom.

Traditional leaders have a number of formal inputs into governance matters. At the national level, one paramount chief from each district serves as an MP. A National Council of Paramount Chiefs (NCP) was established in October 2003. Each district and city council in the three provinces includes paramount chief

councillors selected by the paramount chiefs of the district. Paramount chiefs are members of the local council's ward committee(s) within their chiefdom. The Local Government Act 2004 requires chiefdom councils to cooperate with local councils in the discharge of the local council's functions. The chiefdom councils continue to perform their traditional functions of preventing the commission of offences in their area, prohibiting or restricting illegal gambling, making and enforcing by-laws and holding land in trust for the people of the chiefdom. A local council may delegate any of its functions to a chiefdom council. A council may also consult a traditional authority where a local custom or tradition impedes development of the area or obstructs the council in carrying out its responsibilities. Where the situation is resolved, the council, through by-laws, can amend the custom or tradition. Either party can appeal to MLGRD where there is no resolution. There is no paramount chieftaincy system in the Western Area. A total of 17 tribal headmen are appointed by the president, with a mandate to advise national government on matters relating to the traditions of their ethnic groups within the Western Area and to communicate government messages to the people. Village headmen are elected by universal adult suffrage in the villages of the Western Area rural district to serve a three-year term. A national chiefdom governance and traditional administration policy was adopted by cabinet in November 2011. The policy reaffirms the importance of the institutions of chieftaincy and traditional administration; it aims to strengthen these institutions and their alignment with the decentralisation framework, introducing modern principles and systems of governance to institutions that are based on custom and traditional practices. The policy aims to ensure that chiefdoms

are well governed, peaceful and viable, and have a strong relationship with local councils so as to improve the effectiveness of the local councils as the principal organs for development and local service delivery. Implementation is underway, with a review of existing legal instruments (many of which are obsolete). Programmes for capacity-building, including training to modernise administration, improve governance and develop service standards in traditional dispute resolution, have been introduced. A Code of Ethics and Service Standards for Chiefs was launched in 2013, setting benchmarks for 'a good chief, handling conflicts of interest, service standards and self-regulation through the NCPC. The code is monitored by the MLGRD and NCPC. Salary payments from the national government consolidated fund to paramount chiefs and some chiefdom functionaries started in 2014.

#### 4. ELECTIONS

##### 4.1 Recent local elections

The last local elections took place in March 2018 at the same time as the presidential and parliamentary elections, the turnout figure is not available, however it was 87.3% at the 2012 election. Voter registration, civic education and the elections themselves are overseen by the National Electoral Commission.<sup>39/4a</sup> The next local elections will take place in 2024.

##### 4.2 Voting system

Local elections are conducted under the first-past-the-post system. Mayors/ chairpersons are elected by universal adult suffrage of all registered voters over 18 years old across the whole local council area, and councillors are elected on a ward basis. City councils have multi-member wards, with political parties able to field multiple candidates for each ward.

##### 4.3 Elected representatives

Wards return councillors on a single-member-per-ward basis in the 15 district councils (which have between 18 and 29 wards each) and in Freetown City Council (which has 48 wards). The other city and municipal councils have multi-member wards. Paramount chiefs may not stand for office as elected councillors. In local council areas where there is a paramount chieftaincy system (namely the three provinces), the paramount chiefs in the council's area select between one and three of their number to represent their interests on the local council. The term of office for elected councillors and paramount chief councillors is four years. The political head of a local council is the mayor (city council) or chairperson (district council). The 2008 local government elections introduced direct election for mayors and chairpersons. Mayors and chairpersons are also elected for a four-year term and are eligible for re-election once. The deputy mayor or chairperson is elected by the councillors from among their number.

##### 4.4 Women's representation

The number of women councillors following the 2018 elections was not available, however 14.3% (3/21) council heads 33.3% (2/6) mayors and 6.7% (1/15) chairpersons are women. Following the 2012 local government elections women accounted for 19.1% of all elected councillors (87/456), and 11.8% of nominated (paramount) chief councillors (4/34). 10.5% (2/19) mayors/ chairpersons were female. Every ward has a ward committee comprising the ward councillor, paramount chief and up to ten members elected by ward residents in a public meeting, whose main function is to champion self-help and developmental activities within the ward. Of the ten members at least five should be women.

#### 5. SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

##### 5.1 Legal requirement

The Local Government Act 2004 requires that residents of the locality are consulted before a council approves or reviews its development plan. The ward committee provides a focal point for discussion of local problems and for making recommendations to the council to remedy these; and also for mobilising residents of the ward on self-help and development projects and educating them on their rights and obligations in relation to local government.

**Table 39.1b Women councillors and mayors following the last two local elections**

Election	2012		2018	
	#	%	#	%
Councillors				
<b>Female councillors</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
Male councillors	369	80.9	na	na
<b>Total councillors</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Chairpersons/mayors	#	%	#	%
<b>Female chairpersons/mayors</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Male chairpersons/mayors	17	89.5	18	85.7
<b>Total chairpersons/mayors</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Chief councillors (nominated)	#	%	#	%
<b>Female chief councillors</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
Male chief councillors	30	88.2	na	na
<b>Total chief councillors</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: MLGRD correspondence with CLGF and National Election Commission 2018 results

## 5.2 Implementation

Transparency and accountability to the public is enhanced through requirements to publish council documents, budgets and accounts, development plans etc; and meetings of the council are open to the public. Most local councils rotate the location of their monthly council meeting between wards to take the council closer to the people. The capacity of civil society groups to monitor local government and service delivery is being enhanced through various initiatives, both to strengthen accountability of service providers to the poor and to provide feedback for policy-makers. This work includes: training community monitors in three districts in 2010 (under the 'Enhancing the interaction and interface between civil society and the state' programme); training of facilitators to involve communities in monitoring local service delivery; disseminating information on councils' activities to ward level; and developing monitoring and social accountability systems.

## 5.3 ICT use in citizen engagement

There is no e-government strategy in place. The ministry and a number of councils have websites. LoCASL does not currently have a website.

## 6. ORGANISED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Local Councils Association of Sierra Leone (LoCASL)<sup>39,6</sup> was formed in July 2004. LoCASL adopted a new constitution in 2011, providing for national and regional executive structures. It has a permanent secretariat to support its membership and implement its strategic priorities. All 19 councils are members of LoCASL, each with voting representation on its general assembly through the mayor/chairperson, deputy mayor/chairperson and two councillors – at least one of whom must be female – and the chief administrator.

## 7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Intergovernmental relations are formally established by the Local Government Act 2004. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Decentralisation is the highest political body nationally and is chaired by the vice-president of Sierra Leone. Its membership comprises the minister responsible for local government, the ministers responsible for finance and economic development, education, health and sanitation, works, and agriculture; and the attorney general. Four mayors or chairpersons of local councils, elected from their number, represent the local councils. The IMC is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Local Government Act 2004; overseeing the further development

and implementation of local government and decentralisation; protecting and promoting local democracy and participatory government; and arbitrating between ministries, departments and agencies of government, provincial administrations and local councils. A number of other mechanisms to facilitate intergovernmental relations also exist:

- in each of the three provinces, a provincial coordination committee (PCC) is responsible for coordinating the activities of local councils in the province, ensuring that they collaborate in the execution of joint programmes in which they have an interest, and reviewing and coordinating the provision of public services in the province. The PCC is chaired by the resident minister for the province and the committee's secretary is the provincial secretary. Its membership comprises the mayors/chairpersons and chief administrators of each local council in the province
- government ministries and departments are required to consult local councils about any projects affecting their areas
- local councils may establish joint committees, with power to co-opt for matters in which they have a common interest
- other agencies (eg NGOs) working in an area should coordinate their activities with the local council and operate in line with the local development plan
- in 2011 the government reinstated the position of district officer as the ministry's principal representative in each district of the three regions (excluding the Western Area), to enhance the ministry's role – in particular the interface with traditional authorities (chiefdom councils) and co-ordination of non-devolved functions of other ministries at district level.

## 8. MONITORING SYSTEMS

Statutory responsibility for inspecting and monitoring the 22 local councils rests with the MLGRD. The ministry does this by investigating matters that give rise to concern over a council's performance, regular monitoring visits and coordination of monitoring. A comprehensive local government performance assessment system (known as CLoGPAS) was designed in 2006 to serve as a sustainable mechanism for monitoring compliance and performance accountability for councils, devolving ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and civil society. The CLoGPAS results determine high-performing and low-performing councils, and guide the provision of capacity-

building support to local councils. In its first year (2006) CLoGPAS' results were used to design a performance incentive grant system. CLoGPAS was reviewed in 2010, and is being further developed, including indicators to reflect MDA collaboration with local councils with respect to devolved functions. A number of other monitoring and supervisory structures and mechanisms exist:

- the Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) was established under the Local Government Act 2004 to provide regulatory and performance management support and supervision to local councils. Its membership is appointed by the president and approved by parliament
- there is a parliamentary committee on local government, which has an oversight role in holding local councils and the ministry to account. The committee may conduct studies and summon the ministry and councils to answer questions on their stewardship and policy
- Parliament approves the annual budgets of national government and local councils
- the auditor general undertakes an annual audit of each local council's accounts and financial statements and reports both to the councils and to the minister. The audit reports are public documents. The minister reports to parliament on actions taken in response to matters raised in the report
- all councillors and appointed or assigned staff are subject to the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008, which also provides for the continued existence of a national anti-corruption commission (ACC) with a mandate for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of corruption and corrupt practices. Councillors and staff are required to declare their assets to the ACC. The ACC undertakes training and monitoring of councils' compliance with the Act, in cooperation with the ministry.
- A district budget oversight committee (DBOC) operates in each district. Its functions include: assisting in the formulation and monitoring of all poverty reduction activities; serving as a focal point for all discussions of the medium-term framework budget and public expenditure tracking surveys; monitoring the expenditure of all government allocations to councils; and, serving as intermediary between the government and the people concerning budgetary allocations for their districts.

The DBOCs report to MOFED every four months on the progress of budget execution in the districts, with copies of their reports sent to the parliamentary finance committee and the ACC.

**Table 39.2a Aggregate income and expenditure for local government 2013/14**

Income	LE (m)	Expenditure	LE (m)
<b>Transfers from national government</b>		<b>Administration</b>	
Direct	37,181.60	Staff	na
Administrative grant	1,200.00	Property	na
Education (direct)	3,205.70	Other	na
Unconditional block grant	5,166.90		
Social welfare	1,805.00	<b>Services</b>	
Health and sanitation	17,761.70	Water	na
Agriculture	6,472.30	Road maintenance	na
Rural water	1,570.00	Other	na
Indirect (DSDP, RCHP and SFS)	25,487.72		
<b>Locally raised revenue</b>			
Local tax	289.95		
Property tax	6,797.82		
Market dues	2,842.67		
Other fees and charges	1,617.11		
Licences	2,758.86		
Mining revenues	1,265.63		
Other local revenues	1,192.13		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>79,433.48</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>68,120.05</b>

Source: MLGRD communication with CLGF Key: RCHP = Reproductive and Child Health Project  
DSDP = Decentralised Service Delivery Programme SFS= school fees subsidy

## 9. FINANCE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

### 9.1 Local government expenditure

In 2013/14, local government expenditure was 1.9% of total government expenditure.

### 9.2 Locally raised revenue

The Local Government Act 2004 gives both local councils and chiefdom councils powers to raise revenue from sources including local taxes, property rates, licences, fees and charges, and to receive mining revenue, interest and dividends etc. The chiefdom councils also have traditional sources of revenue, mainly local taxes and fees from local markets. The law stipulates that they share some of these revenues. This has created tensions between the local councils and the chiefdom councils and has been identified as a barrier to revenue mobilisation by local councils. The new decentralisation policy and the proposed chiefdom governance and tribal administration policy seek to minimise conflict.

### 9.3 Transfers

Transfers to local councils are of two kinds: vertical and horizontal.

The vertical transfer from national government includes recurrent and development components. The recurrent component covers non-salary transfers for devolved functions and the operational (administrative) running costs of councils. The development component (local government development grant or LGDG) is used to finance local council development projects and is funded by donors and the national government. The vertical allocation is not based on any formula; however, the law guarantees that upon devolution of a function, the allocation for that function is at a minimum equal to the pre-devolution amount, to ensure that service provision does not deteriorate as a result of devolution. Also, the law stipulates that annual increments in the global allocation to local councils should at minimum match the rate of increase in the national government's operational budget. In the absence of a formula to determine the vertical allocation, ad-hoc methods through negotiations with the devolving MDAs are used. It is likely that negotiating the vertical pool with line ministries will continue until the effective costs of performing the devolved functions are fully established.

The second type of transfer is the horizontal distribution, which consists of a range of conditional or tied grants, based on varying formulae or criteria depending on the purpose of the transfer. Having determined the vertical pool and horizontal allocation, transfers are processed on a quarterly basis and funds disbursed directly to the local council. Councils have separate accounts for each sector grant. Councils submit monthly financial and quarterly technical reports to the ministry responsible for finance, and accessing the next quarter's grant is contingent upon submission of the above reports. There are three broad types of horizontal transfer: administrative grants, grants for devolved functions and LGDGs. The first two are stipulated in the Local Government Act 2004 and are financed solely by national government. The LGDG is co-financed by the national government and its development partners. It provides funds that allow councils to undertake development projects to meet priority needs of their localities, including non-discretionary funds meant to support broad national developmental objectives. All these transfers are conditional or tied grants, though in the case of LGDG the local council decides on which projects to fund in a given year.

### 9.4 Loans

The ministry can approve councils to take loans.

### 9.5 Local authority staff

Core staff of local councils are employed by the council following a recruitment process led by the LGSC in conjunction with the council, in accordance with LGSC guidelines and selection criteria. Councils must appoint a local council chief administrator, who is the head of the paid service. Councils must establish departments for administration, planning and development, finance, and internal audit. They may also establish 'thematic functional departments' after consulting the LGSC. Salaries for core staff are paid from national government grants. In respect of devolved functions, staff devolved from the parent MDA are paid by national government. Councils may pay for additional staff from their own-source revenue; the city councils in particular employ staff for additional functions, eg waste management and policing. Mayors/chairpersons receive a stipend paid by national government; councillors do not receive a salary, but receive travel allowances and sitting fees paid by national government on a quarterly basis to the councils.

**Table 39.2b Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure 2012–2016 (in LEbn)**

	2013 (actual)	2014 (actual)	2015 (actual)	2016 (provisional)	2017 (projected)
Total government expenditure	3,164	4,419	4,380	4,800	5,400
Total local government expenditure	na	68.1	na	na	na
of which transfers	na	na	92	94.9	96.
of which locally raised	na	na	na	na	na
<b>Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>

Source: Calculated by CLGF from Table 39.2a, MLGRD communication with CLGF and national budget statements 2013–17<sup>39.9</sup>

## 10. DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY

### 10.1 Overview of local government service delivery responsibility

Under devolution, responsibility for many basic social services has been transferred to local councils. Some city councils have established a metropolitan police force, particularly to support collection of revenue and compliance with by-laws. Contracting-out of services has been used by some councils, notably in revenue generation and waste collection/disposal. Out of 80 specified services, 56 have been devolved to date. These include:

- primary and secondary health (health service delivery, health promotion, procurement of drugs for both peripheral health units and district hospitals)
- primary and junior-secondary education (including the payment of school fee subsidies, and distribution of textbooks/teaching and learning materials)
- agricultural extension services (crop and animal)
- environmental healthcare, including access to safe drinking water and food quality and safety
- rural water supply
- solid waste management
- social welfare (including child welfare, gender and child advocacy, family case work, probation)
- registration of births and deaths
- civil marriages
- fire prevention education and non-technical firefighting
- licensing of canoes
- establishment and management of fish ponds
- provision of local public address equipment
- community development
- local economic development.

### 10.2 ICT use in service delivery

No information is available.

### 10.3 The role of local government in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2016, the president of Sierra Leone described how the country has taken action to quickly integrate the SDGs into its national development planning processes by linking each of the 17 goals and their 169 targets to the country's national development programme, the 'Agenda for Prosperity'.<sup>39.10</sup> The SDGs have also been aligned to the Agenda for Prosperity monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Separately, Sierra Leone has also adopted an international benchmarking system to address the challenges relating to statistical reliability and comparability. In July 2017 Sierra Leone was one of the 22 countries reviewed during the UN's ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

### REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

- 39.1a Sierra Leone national government [www.statehouse.gov.sl](http://www.statehouse.gov.sl)
- 39.1b Inter-Parliamentary Union (2017) 'Women in national parliaments' [www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm](http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm)
- 39.2a Constitution of Sierra Leone [www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/SCSL/SierraLeoneConstit.pdf](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/SCSL/SierraLeoneConstit.pdf)
- 39.2b Local Government Act 2004 [www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2004-1p.pdf](http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2004-1p.pdf)
- 39.2c Local Government Act (amendment 2016) [www.parliament.gov.sl/dnn5/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nBA10hLxL34%3D&tabid=79&mid=650](http://www.parliament.gov.sl/dnn5/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nBA10hLxL34%3D&tabid=79&mid=650)
- 39.2d The Local Government Amendment Act 2017 [www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2017-02.pdf](http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2017-02.pdf)
- 39.2e Report of the Constitutional Review Committee 2016 [www.democracy.gov.sl/media-center/report/186-report-of-the-constitutional-review-committee-2016](http://www.democracy.gov.sl/media-center/report/186-report-of-the-constitutional-review-committee-2016)
- 39.3a Housing and Population Census 2015 [www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/final-results\\_-2015\\_population\\_and\\_housing\\_census.pdf](http://www.statistics.sl/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/final-results_-2015_population_and_housing_census.pdf)
- 39.3b World Bank Population estimates <https://data.worldbank.org/country/sierra-leone>
- 39.3c Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development <http://mlgrd.gov.sl>
- 39.3d Provinces (Administrative Divisions) Order 2017
- 39.4a National Electoral Commission [www.nec-sierraleone.org](http://www.nec-sierraleone.org)
- 39.4b Local Council 2018 election results <http://necsl2018.org/election-results>
- 39.5 No reference for this section
- 39.6 Local Councils Association of Sierra Leone (LoCASL) [www.afriquelocale.org/fr/locasl](http://www.afriquelocale.org/fr/locasl)
- 39.7 No reference for this section
- 39.8 No reference for this section
- 39.9 Based on figure provided in the profile by the MLGRD and total budgeted central government expenditure 2013/14 of LE4.15trn <http://mofed.gov.sl/budgetspeeches.htm>
- 39.10 Statement delivered by President of Sierra Leone at the UN General Assembly 22 September 2016 [www.statehouse.gov.sl/index.php/presidents-speeches/1620-statement-delivered-by-his-excellency-dr-ernest-bai-koroma-president-of-the-republic-of-sierra-leone-at-the-71st-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-in-new-york-22nd-september-2016](http://www.statehouse.gov.sl/index.php/presidents-speeches/1620-statement-delivered-by-his-excellency-dr-ernest-bai-koroma-president-of-the-republic-of-sierra-leone-at-the-71st-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-in-new-york-22nd-september-2016)
- 39.11a UN statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 39.11b Commonwealth Local Government Forum knowledge hub [www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub](http://www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub)
- 39.11c UNDP Sierra Leone country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/SLE>

## Annex 39a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in Sierra Leone

Services	Delivering authority			Remarks
	National government	Local authorities	Chiefdom councils	
<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Police	■			+ basic firefighting
Fire protection	■	■		Local government probation services only
Civil protection	■			Local courts are responsible for maintaining customary law in areas with a paramount chieftaincy system
Criminal justice	■			
Civil status register		■		
Statistical office	■			
Electoral register	■			
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)				
Primary		■		
Secondary	■	■		+ education covering the first nine years of schooling
Vocational and technical	■			
Higher education	■			
Adult education				
<b>SOCIAL WELFARE</b>				
Family welfare services		■		
Welfare homes				
Social security				
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>				
Primary care		■		Including drug control and prevention matters
Hospitals	■	■		+ education on environmental, fire prevention and public health issues
Health protection		■		
<b>HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING</b>				
Housing				
Town planning		■		
Regional planning				
<b>TRANSPORT</b>				
Roads	■	■		
Transport	■			
Urban roads	■	■		Local authorities responsible for maintenance
Urban rail				
Ports	■			
Airports	■			
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION</b>				
Water and sanitation		■		
Refuse collection and disposal		■		
Cemeteries and crematoria		■		
Slaughterhouses		■		
Environmental protection	■	■		
Consumer protection		■		
<b>CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS</b>				
Theatres and concerts				
Museums and libraries		■		
Parks and open spaces				
Sports and leisure facilities		■		
Religious facilities				
<b>UTILITIES</b>				
Gas services				
District heating				
Water supply		■		
Electricity	■			
<b>ECONOMIC</b>				
Agriculture, forests and fisheries		■		
Local economic development/promotion		■		
Trade and industry				
Tourism		■		

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service