ISS | AFRICAN FUTURES

Sierra Leone

Sectoral Scenarios for Sierra Leone

Enoch Randy Aikins

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Sectoral Scenarios for Sierra Leone

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Stability scenario

Chart 13: Governance security in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
IFs index 0–1

Sierra Leone ▼

■ Sierra Leone, Curre... ■ Sierra Leone, Stability
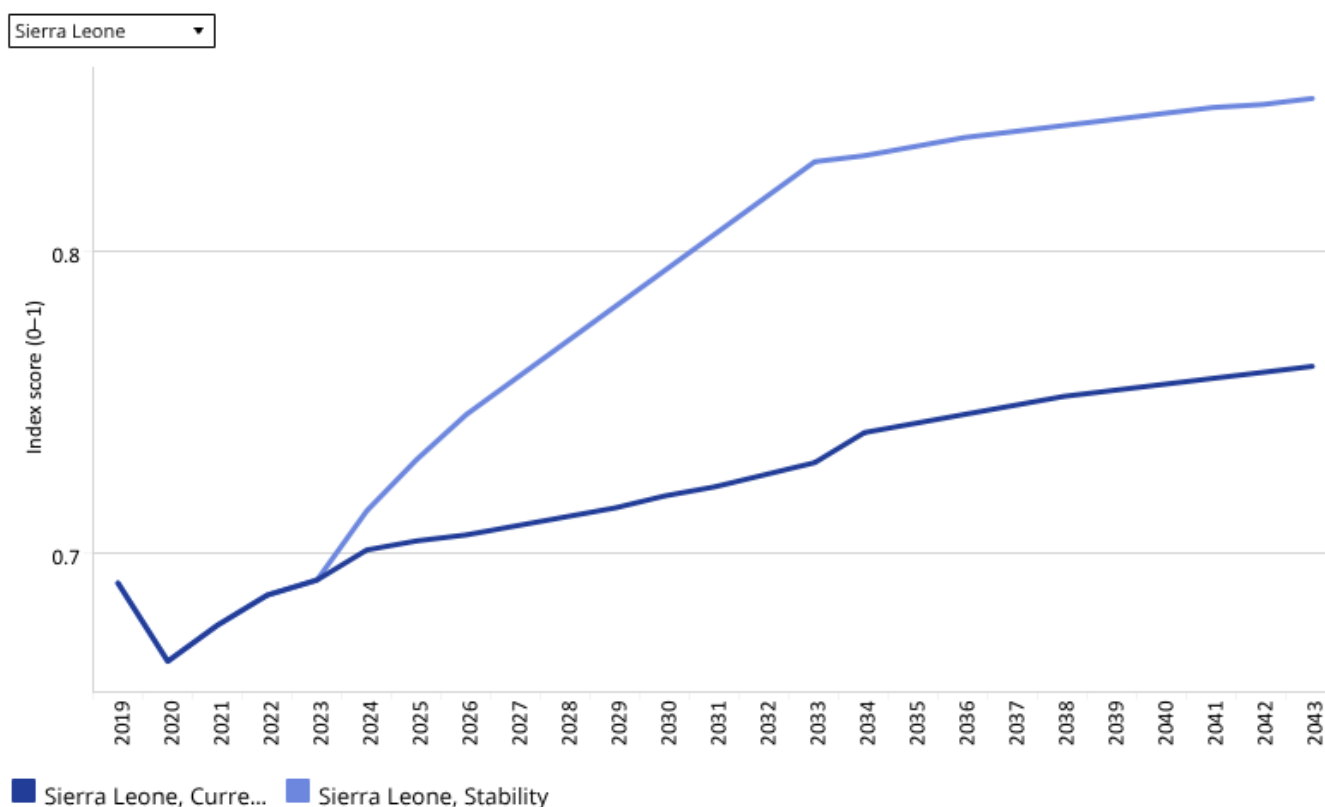
Source: IFs 7.63 goverance security index using internal war and government risk

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The Stability scenario represents reasonable but ambitious reductions in risk of regime instability and lower levels of

internal conflict. Stability is generally a prerequisite for other aspects of development and this would encourage inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) and improve business confidence. Better governance through the accountability that follows substantive democracy is modelled separately.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

The scenario generally signifies increased political stability, reduced internal conflict, high FDI inflows, improved and accountable governance and low levels of corruption in the country. Prior to the civil war, one political party — the All People's Congress (APC) — had ruled the country since 1968. The civil war destabilised the country and its political systems, as the period of the conflict was largely characterised by military takeovers and rule. The post-civil war political situation in the country has been relatively peaceful and stable. The first post-war election was won by the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). However, the APC regained power in 2007 and won a second term in 2012. In the 2018 general elections, the SLPP was elected in a keenly contested election amidst violent confrontations.

Despite the progress in peace and stability, corruption continues to be endemic and public service delivery is poor with weak state institutions. In 2019, Sierra Leone's score in the governance security index was 0.69, which was higher than the average of 0.64 for low-income countries in Africa. In the Stability scenario, the country's score on the governance security index is projected to rise from 0.69 to 0.85 in 2043, which is 0.09 points higher than the Current Path forecast in the same year. Compared to the average for low-income countries in Africa, Sierra Leone has a high level of governance security such that by 2043 Sierra Leone's score will be 0.14 higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 14: GDP per capita in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity
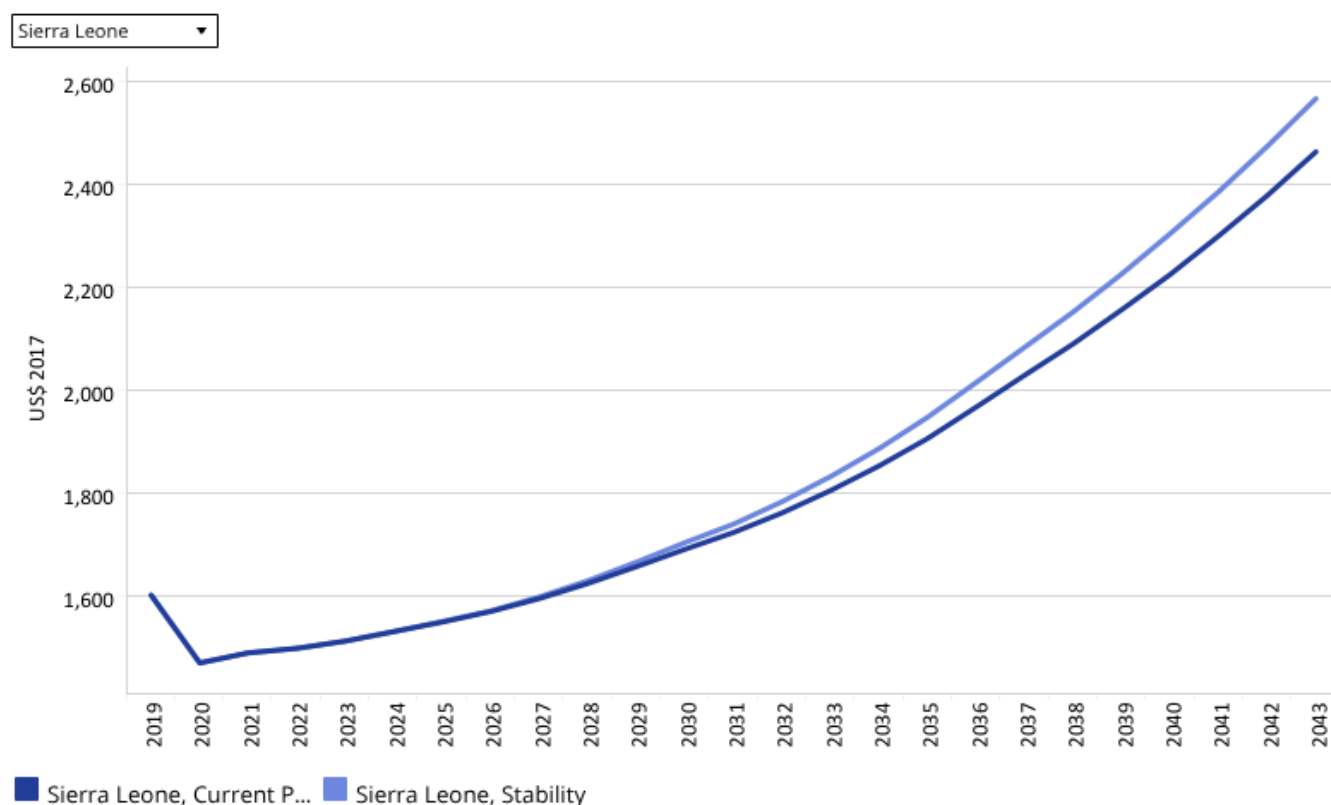
Sierra Leone ▾

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data
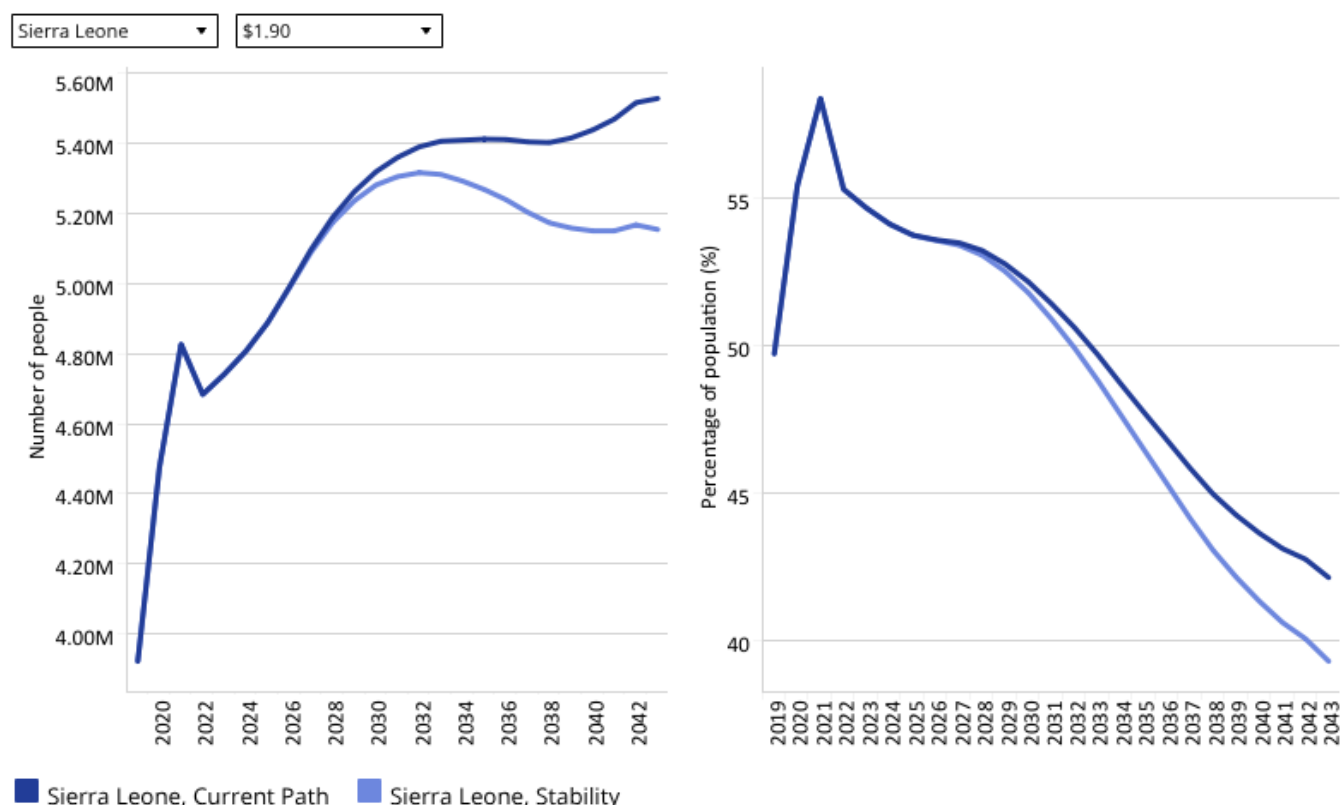
⁙ View on Tableau Public   ↺ ↻ ↶ ↷ ▾ | 🖵▾ 🔲 ⤳ Share

In 2019, the GDP per capita for Sierra Leone was US$1 601, which is US$59 less than the average for low-income countries in Africa. In the Stability scenario, the GDP per capita is projected to increase to US$2 568 by 2043. This will be US$104 more than in the Current Path forecast but US$1 222 below the average for low-income countries in Africa. Political stability and a peaceful environment inspire investor confidence and attract FDI into the country yielding a positive effect on economic growth. The government should therefore accelerate the implementation of its Medium-term National Development Plan (MTNDP, 2019–2023), which maps out short- and long-term development goals and commitment to transform from a fragile state into a stable democracy.

Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population

ISS | AFI

| Sierra Leone ▼ | $1.90 ▼ |

■ Sierra Leone, Current Path   ■ Sierra Leone, Stability

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

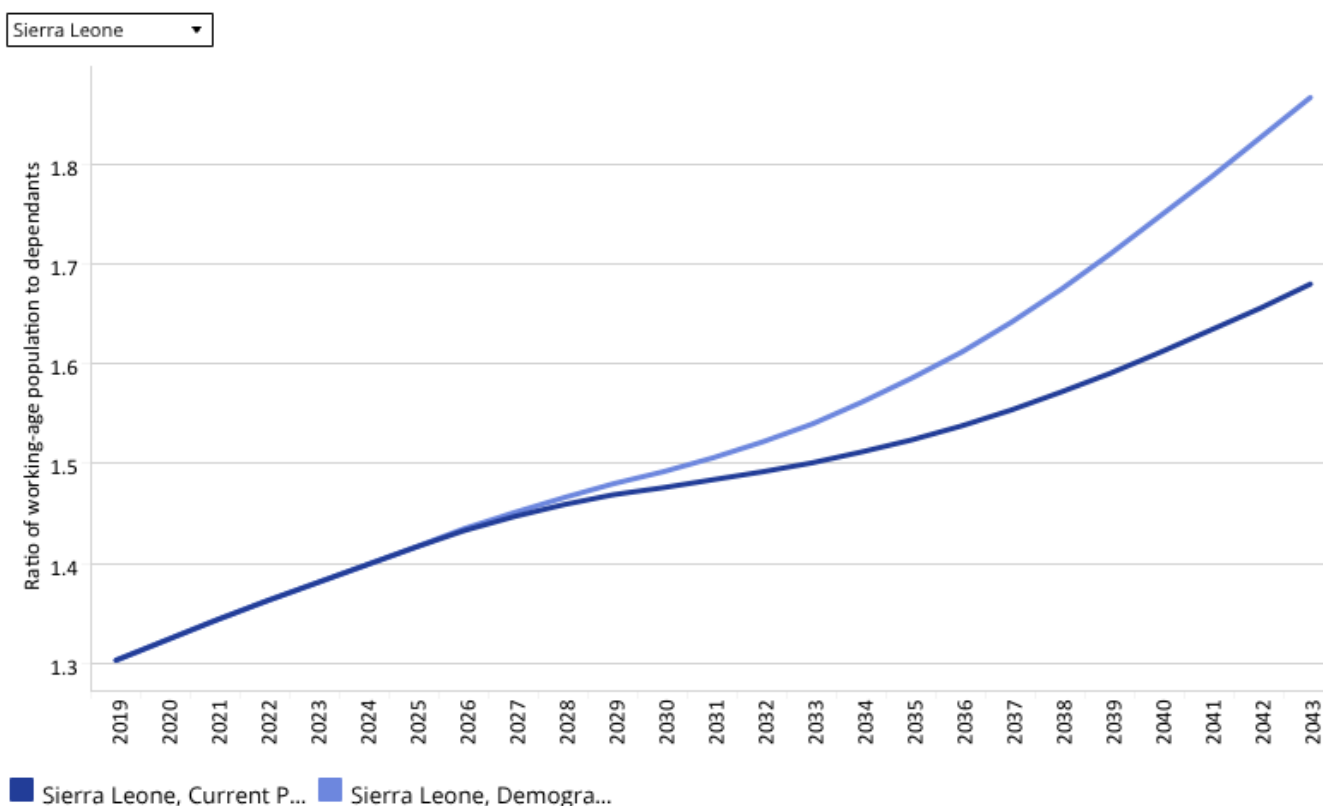⊕ View on Tableau Public   ↺ ↻ ↺ ↻ ▼ | ⬜ ▼ ⬚ ⚹ Share

As Sierra Leone is a low-income country, it uses the global benchmark of US$1.90 per day. In 2019, 3.9 million poor people (about 50% of the population) were living on less than US$1.90 per day. The Stability scenario reduces the portion of people living below the poverty line to 39.3% by 2043, which is 2.8 percentage points below the Current Path forecast. Nonetheless, the number of poor people will rise from 3.9 million people in 2019 to 5.2 million people in 2043 in the Stability scenario. This means that the materialisation of the Stability scenario could lead to 400 000 fewer poor people than in the Current Path forecast in 2043. Throughout the period, the proportion of poor people in Sierra Leone will be greater than the average for low-income African countries and the gap widens over time.

Demographic scenario

Chart 16: Demographic dividend in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Ratio of working-age population to dependants

Sierra Leone ▼

■ Sierra Leone, Current P... ■ Sierra Leone, Demogra...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects

⁜ View on Tableau Public   ↺ ↻ ↶ ↷ ▼ | 🖵 ▼ 🔲 ⓸ Share

This section presents the impact of a Demographic scenario that aims to hasten and increase the demographic dividend through reasonable but ambitious reductions in the communicable-disease burden for children under five, the maternal mortality ratio and increased access to modern contraception.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

Demographers typically differentiate between a first, second and even a third demographic dividend. We focus here on the contribution of the size of the labour force (between 15 and 64 years of age) relative to dependants (children and the elderly) as part of the first dividend. A window of opportunity opens when the ratio of the working-age population to dependants is equal to or surpasses 1.7.

In 2019, the ratio of working-age people to dependants was 1.3:1, meaning that there were 1.3 working-age persons for each dependant in the country. This is greater than the average of 1.2 for low-income countries in Africa. Generally, the demographic dividend materialises when the country reaches a minimum ratio of 1.7 working-age persons for each dependant. While the country will not reach its demographic dividend by 2043 in the Current Path forecast, in the Demographic scenario, Sierra Leone is expected to reach this minimum ratio by 2039 so that by 2043 the ratio of working-age people to dependants will be 1.87:1. This will be higher than the average of 1.53 for low-income African countries. The materialisation of the demographic dividend in the Demographic scenario can be explained by increased

access to modern contraceptives, which will lead to a decline in fertility rates. In the Demographic scenario, fertility rates are expected to decline to 2.4 births per woman in 2043 compared to 2.9 births per woman in the Current Path forecast within the same period.

Chart 17: Infant mortality in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births
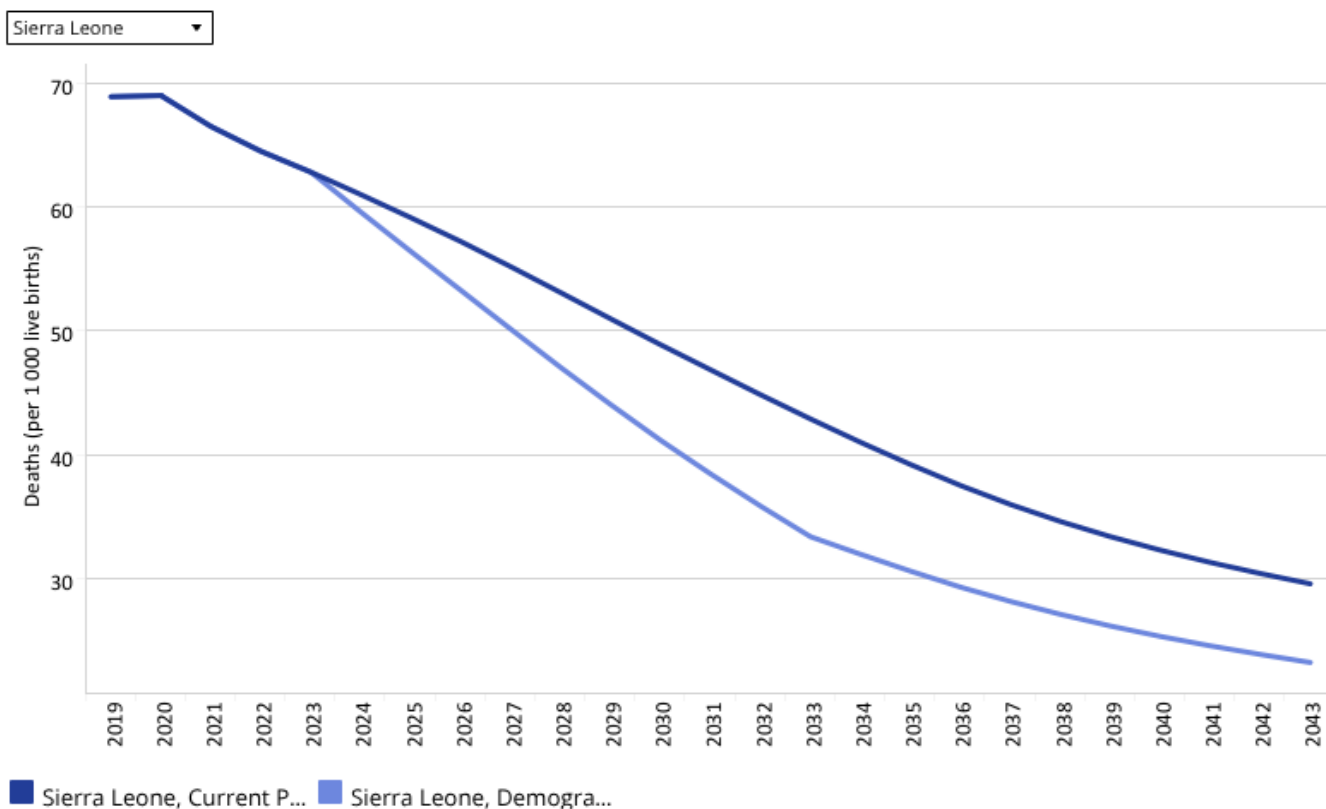
Sierra Leone ▼

Sierra Leone, Current P...   Sierra Leone, Demogra...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data
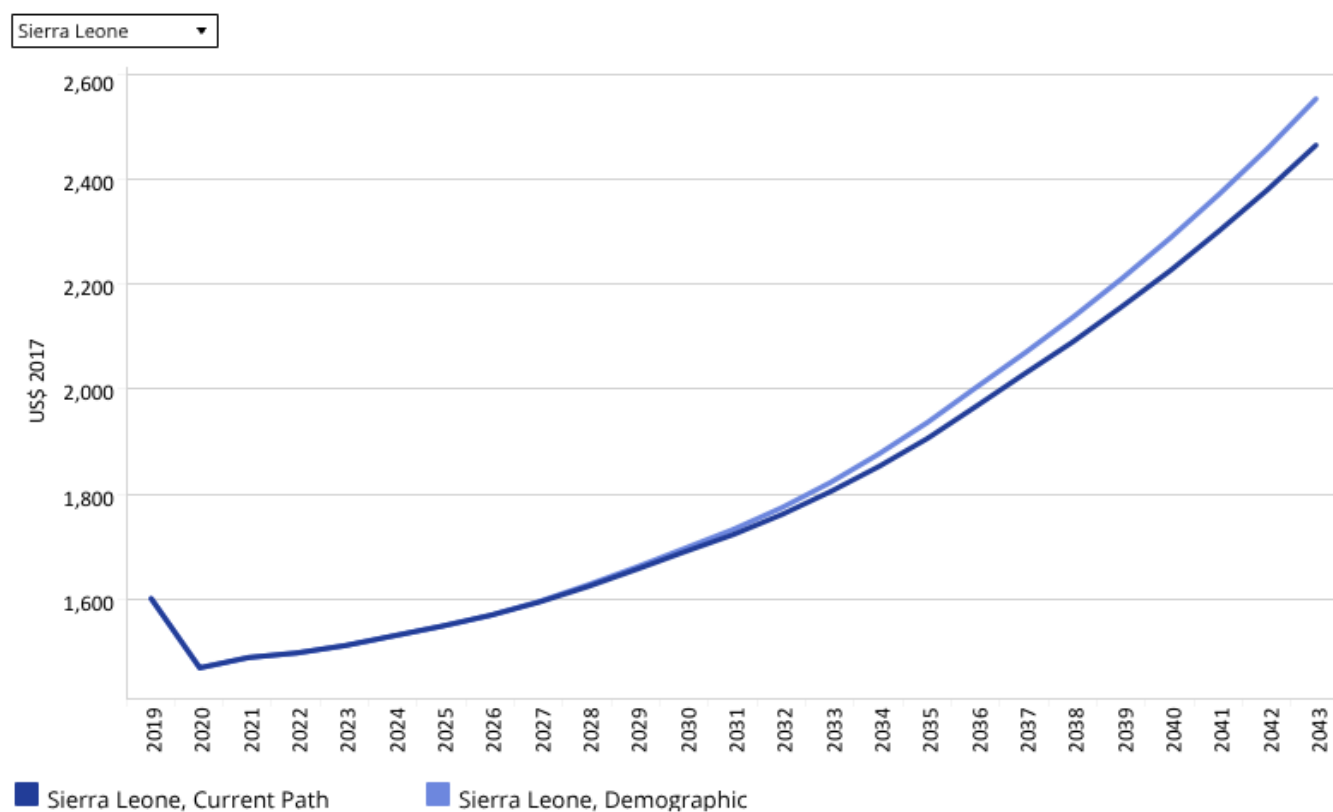
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The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

Sierra Leone is one of the countries in Africa with a high infant mortality rate. The infant mortality rate in Sierra Leone in 2019 was 68.9 deaths per 1 000 live births, meaning that for every 1 000 infants born, about 69 died. This figure is far above the average of 48.5 deaths for low-income countries in Africa. The Demographic scenario will lead to a decline in infant mortality (23.3 deaths per 1 000 live births) by 2043, which is 6.3 deaths fewer than in the Current Path forecast and 2.1 deaths more than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 18: GDP per capita in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity

ISS|AFI

Sierra Leone ▼

■ Sierra Leone, Current Path   ■ Sierra Leone, Demographic

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

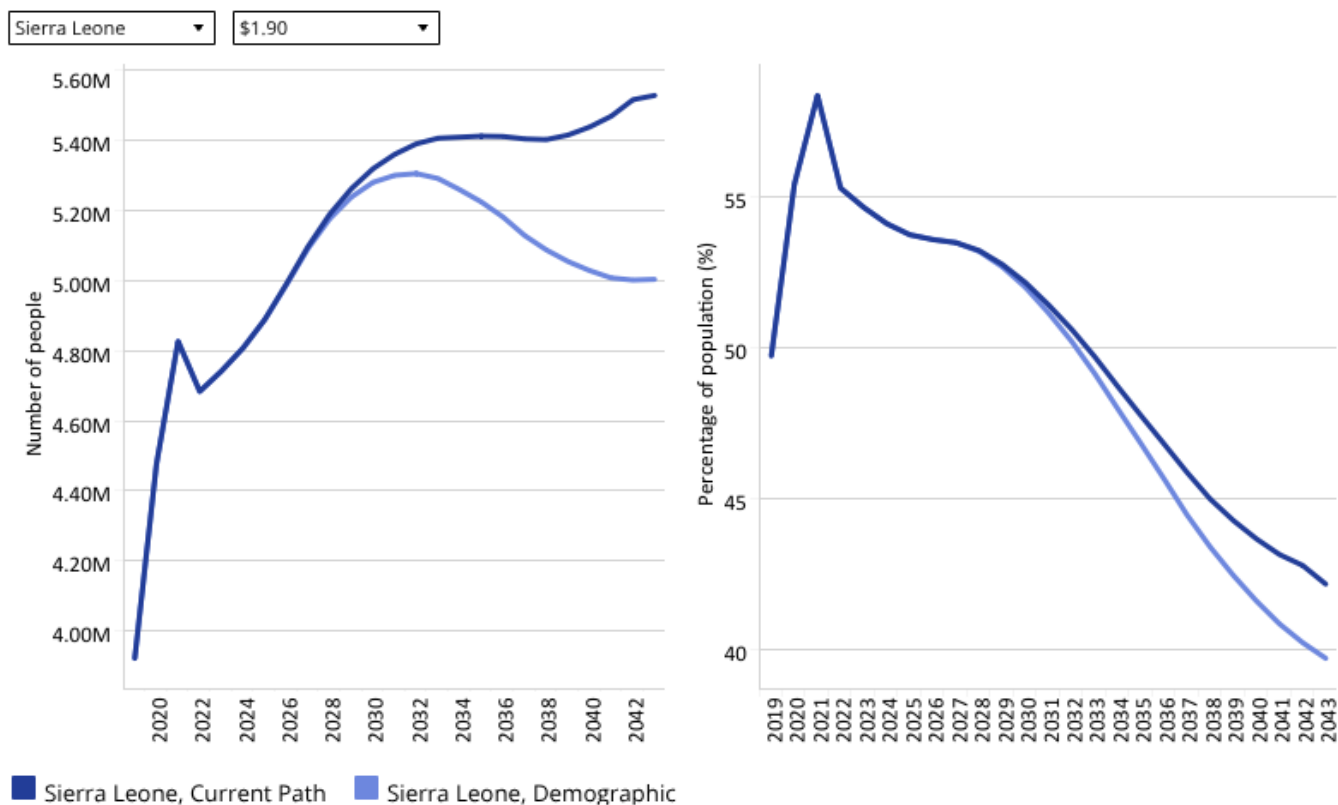⠿ View on Tableau Public   ↺ ↻ ↺ ↻ ▼ | ⬇▼ ⛶ ⤳ Share

In 2019, the GDP per capita for Sierra Leone was US$1 601, which was slightly below the average for low-income African countries. By 2043, based on the Demographic scenario, the GDP per capita will increase to US$2 553, which is US$89 more than the projected US$2 464 in the Current Path forecast in the same year. However, this will still be significantly below the US$3 790 average for low-income countries in Africa. The additional increase in the GDP per capita as a result of the Demographic scenario may be attributed to the reduction in population growth as a result of the decline in fertility rates emanating from improved access to contraceptives, or economic growth arising from the materialisation of the demographic dividend.

Chart 19: Poverty in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

As noted earlier, the number of people in Sierra Leone living below the poverty line of US$1.90 per day in 2019 was 3.9 million. In the Demographic scenario, this number will rise to 5 million people in 2043, which will be 500 000 fewer people than in the Current Path forecast. Similarly, the proportion of the poor population can be reduced to 39.7% in the Demographic scenario, which is about 2.5 percentage points lower than in the Current Path forecast, although it will be 15.5 percentage points higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa in 2043. The lower number and portion of poor people in the Demographic scenario reflect the decline in the population size as a result of modern contraceptive use which reduces fertility rates. The reduction of the size of the cohort of children under the age of 15 will allow households and the government to invest in child education more effectively, which has a positive effect on poverty reduction.

Health/WaSH scenario

Chart 20: Life expectancy in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043

| Sierra Leone ▾ | Total ▾ |

Sierra Leone, Current P... ■ Sierra Leone, Health/W...
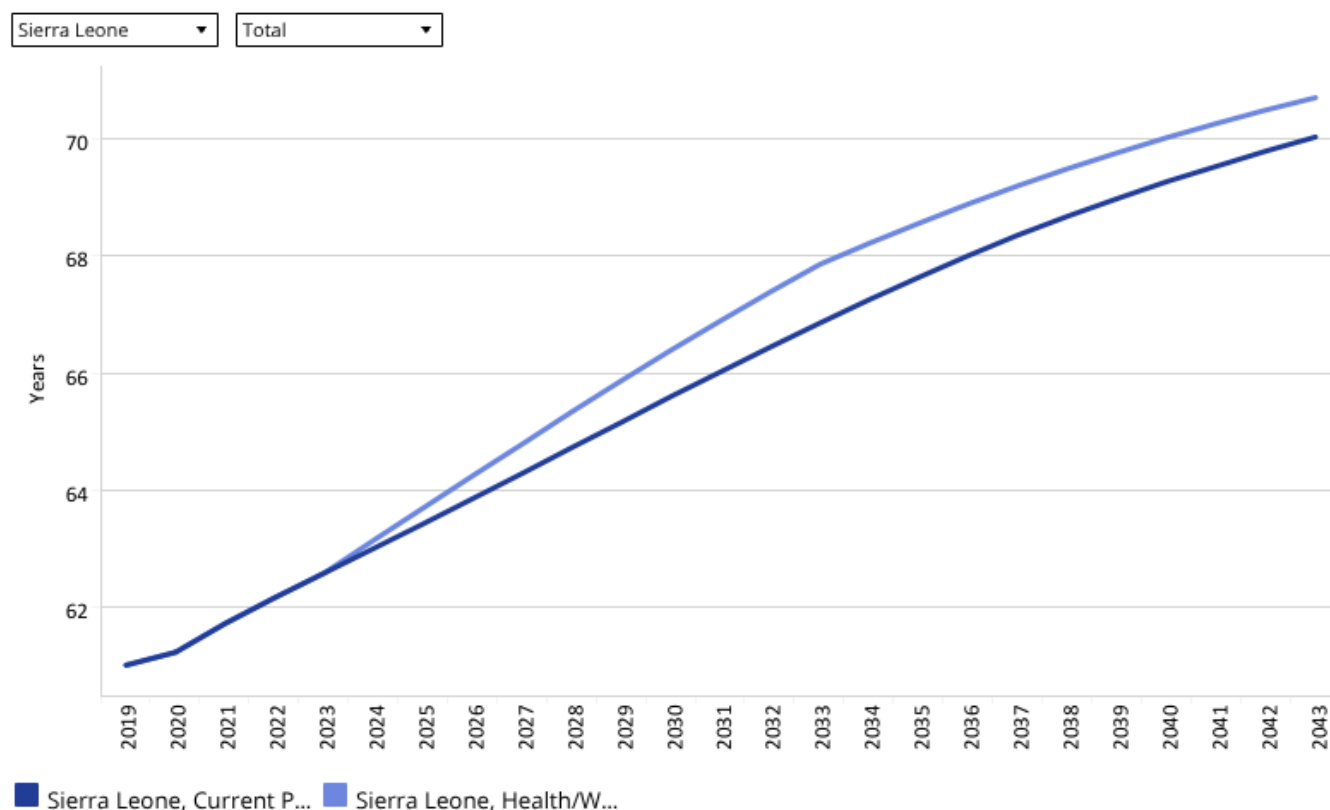
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation GBD Foresight Tool data

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This section presents reasonable but ambitious improvements in the Health/WaSH scenario, which include reductions in the mortality rate associated with both communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (e.g. diabetes), as well as improvements in access to safe water and better sanitation. The acronym WaSH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

The efficacy of a country's healthcare system can be gauged through indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and maternal mortality, among others. The decade-long civil war and the 2014 Ebola outbreak left Sierra Leone's healthcare system in a poor state, including inadequate infrastructure and a lack of staff. The life expectancy at birth for the average Sierra Leonean was 61 years in 2019, which was below the average of 63.8 for low-income countries in Africa. On average, females have a higher life expectancy at birth (62.2 years) than males (59.8 years). In the Health/WaSH scenario, life expectancy is estimated to increase to about 70.7 years by 2043, which is an increase of eight months above the Current Path forecast of 70 years and slightly below the average of 70.9 years for low-income African countries. This increased life expectancy in the country can be attributed to the expected improvement in access to safe water and

sanitation (100% of the population by 2043) as well as a reduction in mortality from communicable diseases. However, deaths from non-communicable diseases continue to be a problem. Females will continue to have a higher life expectancy than males with a difference of over four years by 2043.

Chart 21: Infant mortality in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births
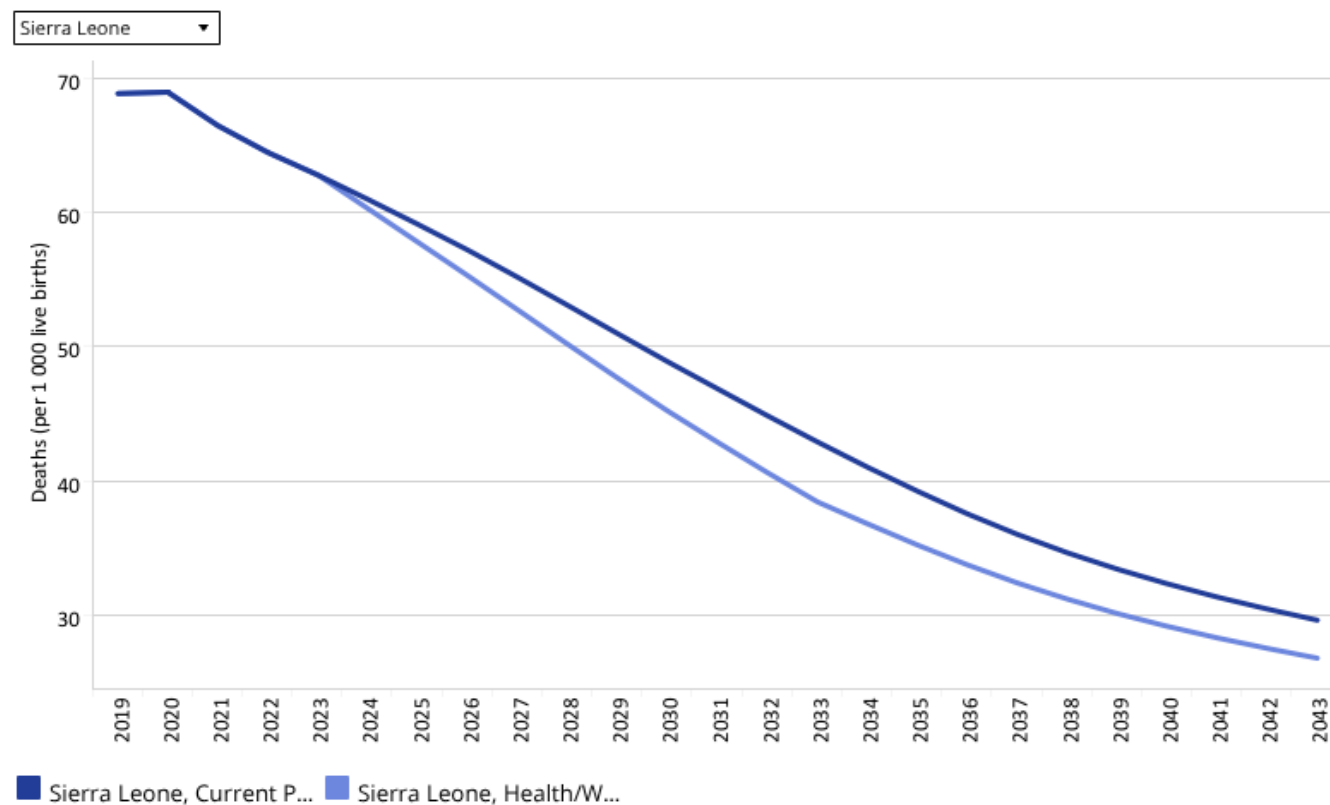
Sierra Leone ▾

Legend: ■ Sierra Leone, Current P...   ■ Sierra Leone, Health/W...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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The infant mortality rate per 1 000 live births in 2019 was 68.9 deaths, which is much higher than the 48.5 for low income countries. By 2043, infant mortality per 1 000 live births in the country will be 26.8 in the Health/WaSH scenario and 29.6 in the Current Path forecast. Healthcare in Sierra Leone is an issue that is complicated by the nation's high poverty rate, many endemic diseases and tumultuous political history. While shocking statistics, such as the country's high infant mortality rates, paint a grim picture, there are signs of progress being made and there is potential for much more change on the horizon.
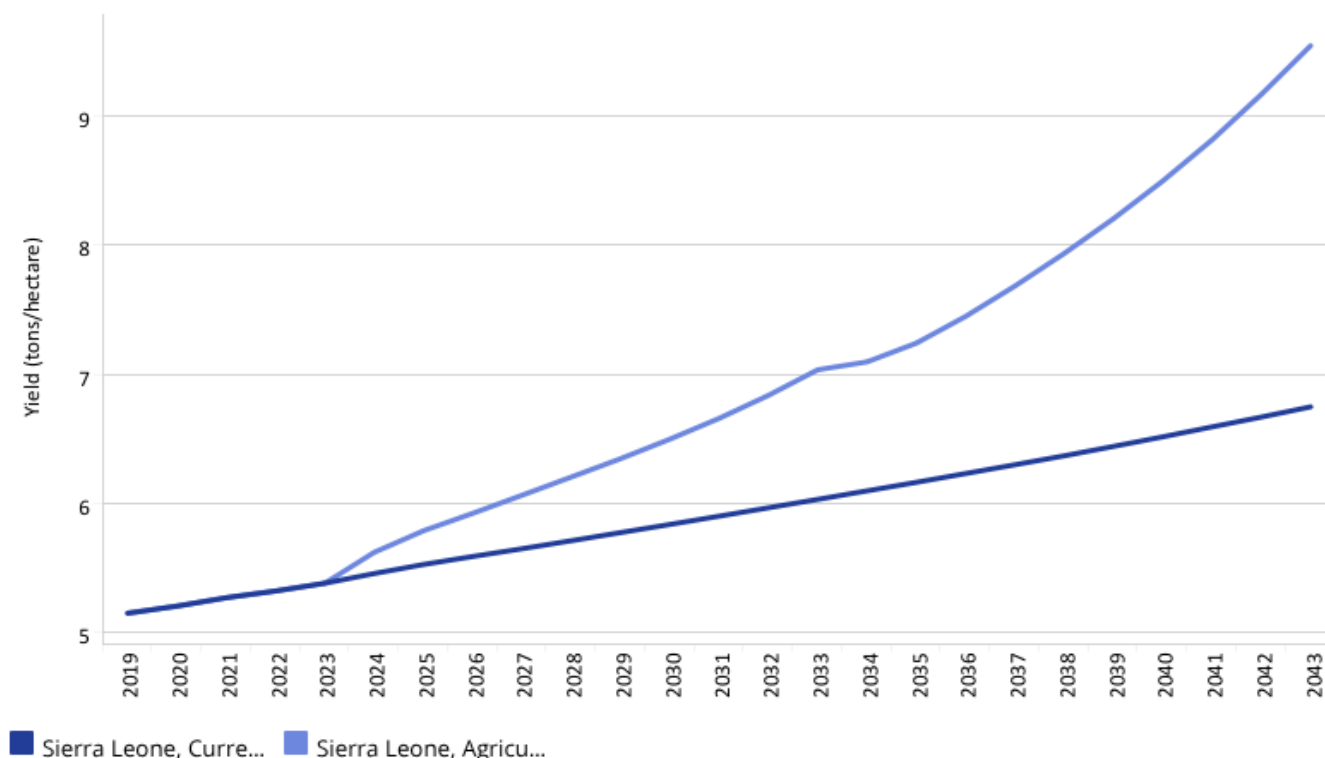
Agriculture scenario

Chart 22: Yield/hectare in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Pre-loss levels

Sierra Leone ▼

Sierra Leone, Curre... Sierra Leone, Agricu...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from FAOSTAT on-line statistical service data

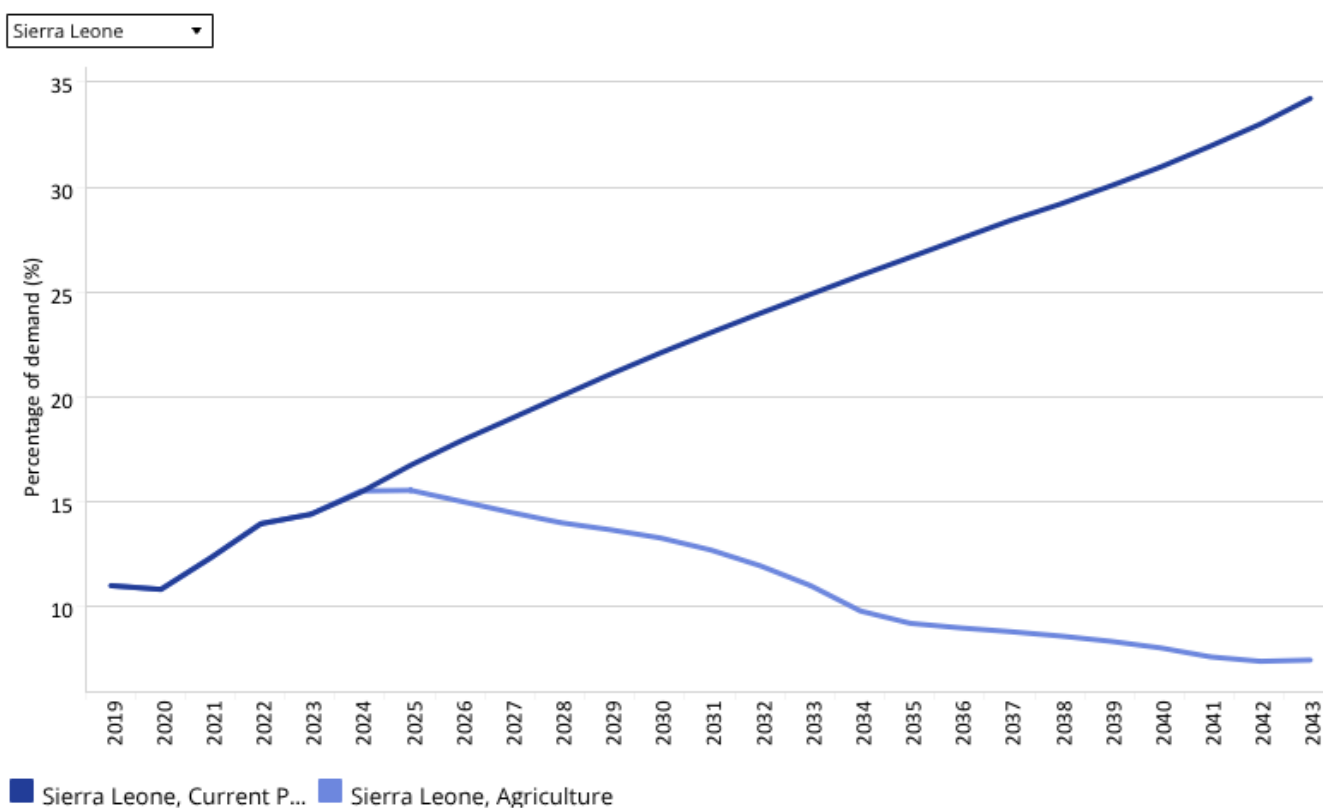⊹ View on Tableau Public   ↶ ↷ ↺ ↻ ▼ | ⬇▼ ⬒ ⤬ Share

The Agriculture scenario represents reasonable but ambitious increases in yields per hectare (reflecting better management and seed and fertiliser technology), increased land under irrigation and reduced loss and waste. Where appropriate, it includes an increase in calorie consumption, reflecting the prioritisation of food self-sufficiency above food exports as a desirable policy objective.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

The data on yield per hectare (in metric tons) is for crops but does not distinguish between different categories of crops.

In 2019, the average yield per hectare for crops was 5.2 metric tons per hectare, which was above the average of 2.7 metric tons per hectare for low-income countries in Africa. In the Current Path forecast, this is projected to increase to 6.8 metric tons per hectare by 2043. In the Agriculture scenario, the average yield will be 9.5 metric tons per hectare by 2043. This means that if the country is able to adopt modern methods of farming including the use of fertiliser and improved seeds, there will be a significant improvement in agricultural production compared to the Current Path forecast in 2043. Across the forecast horizon, crop yields in Sierra Leone remain above the average for low-income African countries.

Chart 23: Agriculture imports in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Net imports for meat, crops and fish, % of demand

Sierra Leone ▾

■ Sierra Leone, Current P...   ■ Sierra Leone, Agriculture

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets data
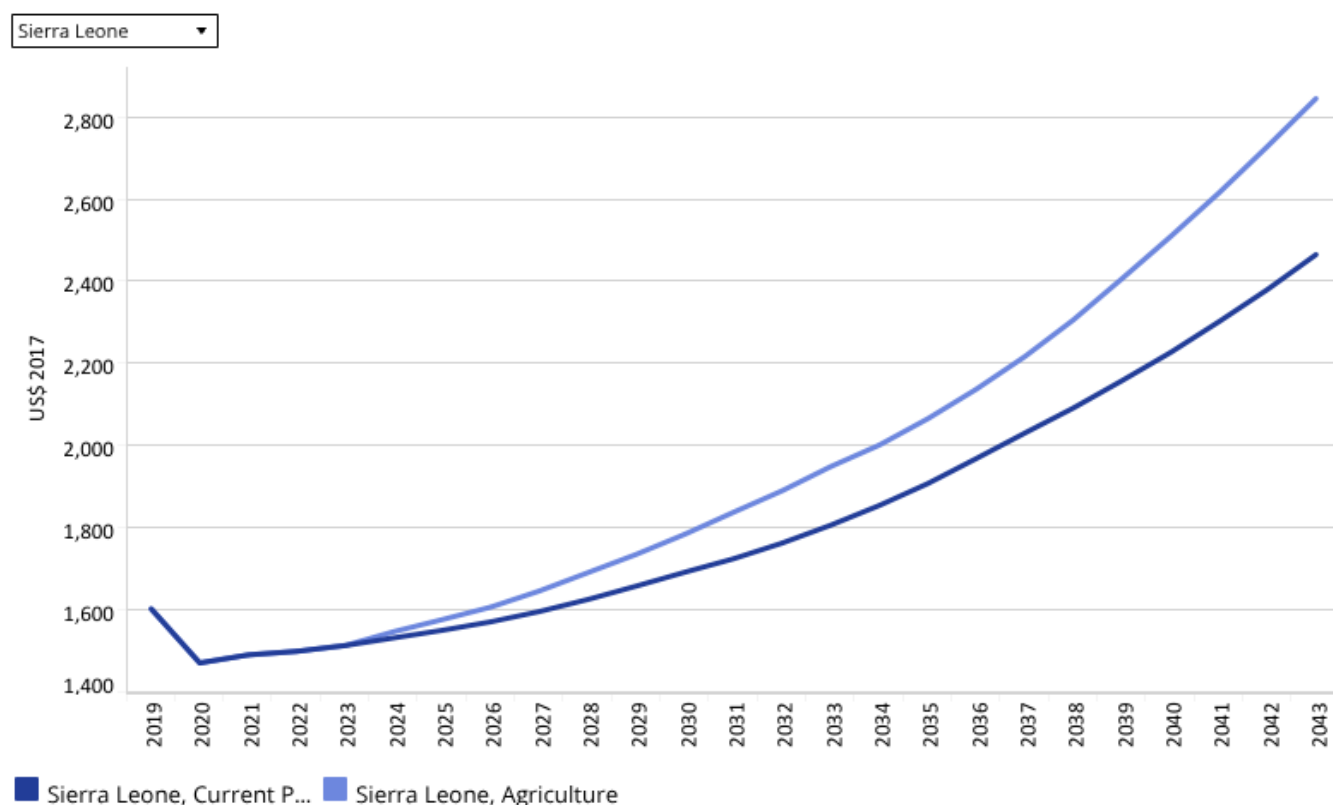
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In 2019, the net agricultural import was 11% of agricultural demand in the country, which was above the average for low-income countries in Africa. A structural problem common in most African economies is the dependence on importation and Sierra Leone is no exception to this phenomenon despite having 5.4 million hectares of arable land of which about 75% remains uncultivated. One of the main constraints on the agriculture sector is the lack of improved modern technology and equipment for farming. As a result, the country has always had a net positive import dependence as a per cent of total demand.

It is estimated that 80% of all foodstuffs consumed domestically are imported. In 2018, the annual importation of rice alone was estimated to be around US$108 million. In the Current Path forecast, it is estimated that import dependence will grow to 34.2% of total demand. The situation is mitigated in the Agriculture scenario such that by 2043 the country's net agricultural imports will reduce to 7.5%. This is lower than the average for low-income countries by about 24.8 percentage points, suggesting that there is a lot of potential that is yet to be tapped in terms of agriculture production.

Chart 24: GDP per capita in the CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity

Sierra Leone ▾

Sierra Leone, Current P... ■ Sierra Leone, Agriculture

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data
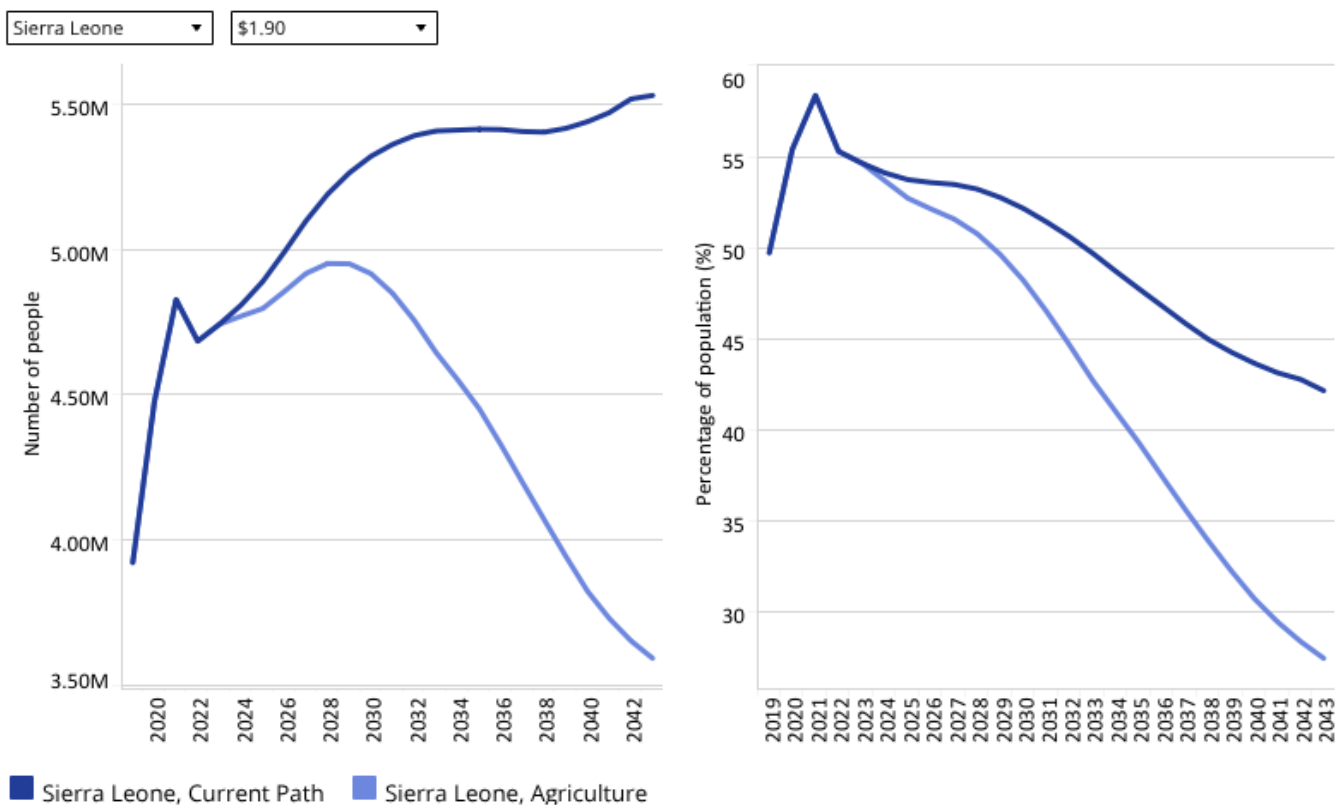
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The Agriculture scenario is expected to lead to an increase in the GDP per capita over the years. By 2043, the GDP per capita as a result of the Agriculture scenario will increase from US$1 601 in 2019 to US$2 845, constituting an increase of about 77.7% over the period. These estimates are greater than the projections in the Current Path forecast as, by 2043, the additional gains from the GDP per capita as a result of the Agriculture scenario will be US$381. In this scenario, Sierra Leone's GDP per capita will still remain below the average of US3 790 for low-income countries in Africa. Indeed, the gap in GDP per capita between Sierra Leone and its peer group is projected to widen in the Agriculture scenario.

Chart 25: Poverty in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population

Sierra Leone | $1.90

Sierra Leone, Current Path **Sierra Leone, Agriculture**

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

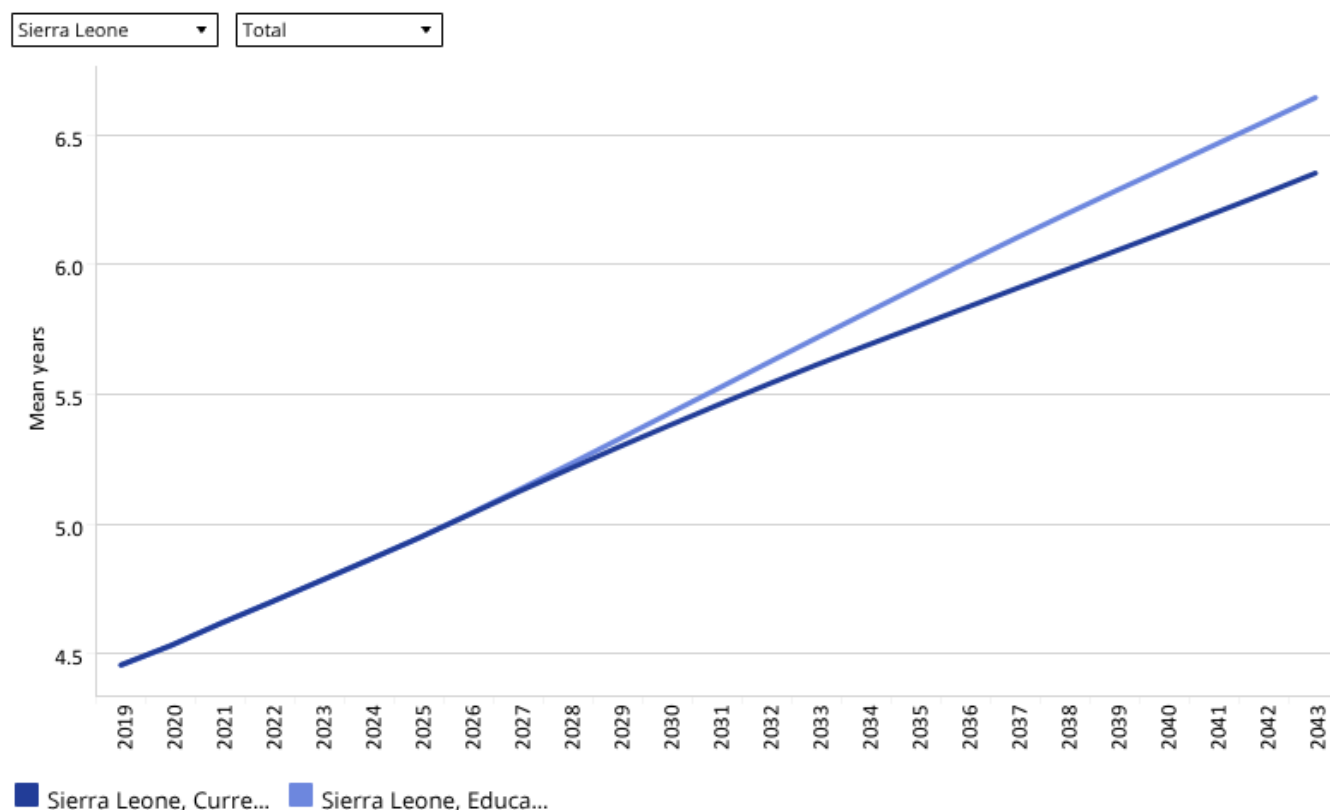⊹ View on Tableau Public   ↺ ↻ ↺ ↻ ▾ | ⬚▾ ⬚ ⋈ Share

Implementing good agricultural policies that result in increased yield per hectare and a reduction in waste appear to have a significant impact on poverty reduction in the country. In the Current Path forecast, 5.5 million people (42.2% of the population) are projected to be extremely poor by 2043. However, in the Agriculture scenario, the number of people below the poverty line of US$1.90 per day will reduce to 3.6 million, constituting 27.5% of the population. This means that the Agriculture scenario has 1.9 million fewer poor people than in the Current Path forecast in 2043. This is not surprising since the majority of the poor population in Sierra Leone are employed within the agriculture sector. Throughout the period, in the Agriculture scenario, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in Sierra Leone will be higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa. By 2043, the poverty rate in Sierra Leone in the scenario will be 2.3 percentage points above the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Education scenario

Chart 26: Mean years of education in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Mean years of adult (+15) education

Sierra Leone ▼   Total ▼

Sierra Leone, Curre...   Sierra Leone, Educa...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Barro-Lee data

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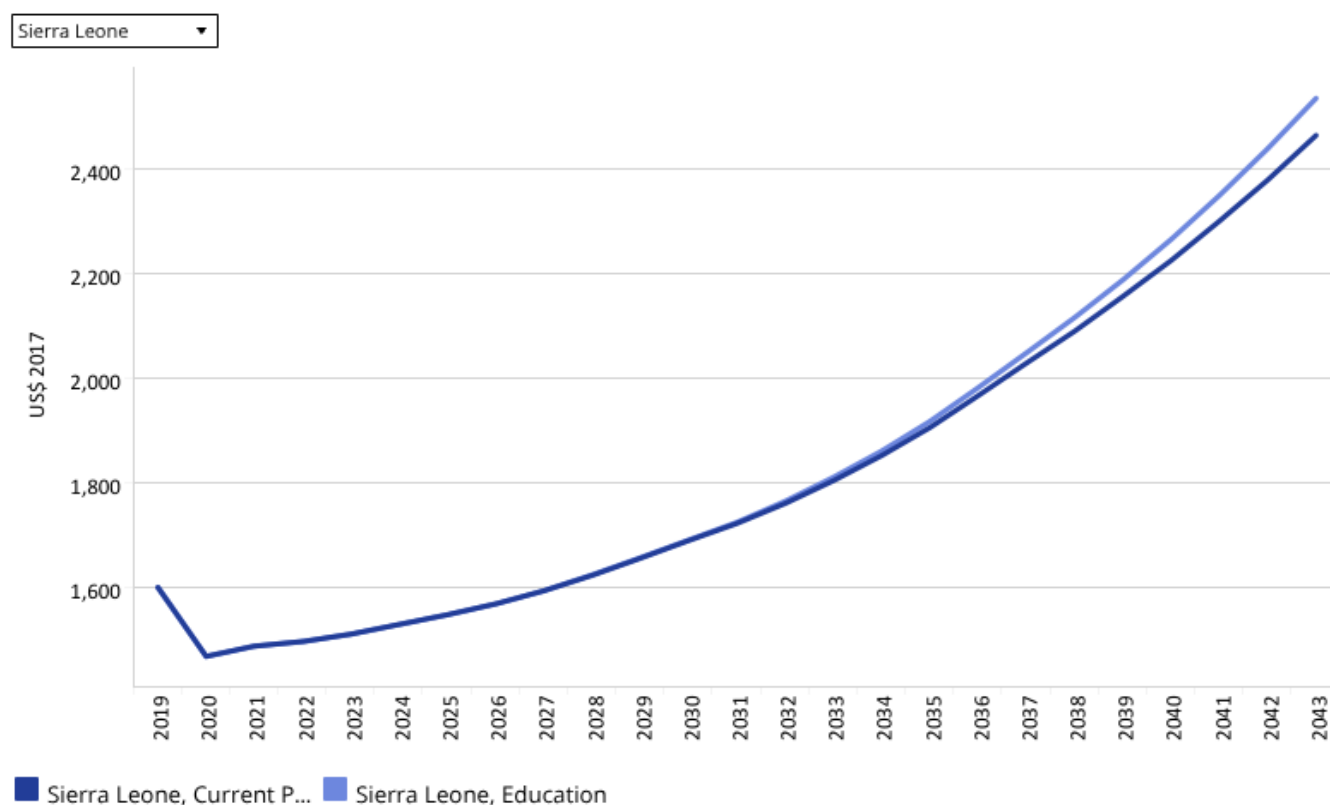
The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

The long period of civil war had devastating effects on the educational sector. Currently, there is disparity in educational facilities across regions in Sierra Leone, with the Western Area having more educational facilities than the other areas. Common problems in the educational sector include the shortage of teaching materials, overcrowded classrooms and the delay in and underpayment of teachers' salaries. The education system in Sierra Leone is under-resourced, with limited primary and secondary education. There is a high drop-out rate among secondary school learners, mainly due to expensive school fees and the cost of buying learning materials and school uniforms. Also, many secondary school learners drop out to make a living in the informal sector to support their households. In 2019, Sierra Leone's mean years of education was 4.5, which is above the average of 4.4 for low-income countries on the continent. This was probably due to the free education programme introduced in 2018 which abolished school- and examination fees. The programme also included a school feeding component as well as the provision of teaching and learning materials.

In terms of gender, the mean years of education for males is 5, which is 1.1 years more than females' average of 3.9. This means that on average, men are more likely to complete primary education than women. The gap in favour of men for mean years of education in Sierra Leone is lower than the average of 1.3 years for low-income countries in Africa. By 2043, in the Education scenario, the mean years of education will rise to 6.6 years — 0.2 years more than the Current Path estimates and 0.5 years more than the average for low-income countries in Africa. Technically, this means that most Sierra Leoneans will have at least primary education by 2043.

Also, in the Education scenario, the gender gap for mean years of education will close by 0.6 years by 2043, while the gender gap closes by 0.5 years for the average low-income countries in Africa within the same period.

Chart 27: Education quality in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Average test scores for primary and secondary learners

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank EDSTATS

The average test score for primary learners in Sierra Leone for 2019 was 24.5%, which was below the average of 27.7% for low-income countries in Africa, signifying a relatively poorer performance in this regard. The Education scenario increases the average test scores for primary learners to 36.1%, compared to the Current Path forecast estimate of 30.8%. Also, the Education scenario for 2043 will result in 5.5 percentage points higher scores than the continental average for low-income countries.

In 2019, the average test secondary learner score for Sierra Leone was 35.7%, which was only slightly below the average of 35.8% for low-income African countries. This suggests that Sierra Leone performs relatively better at the secondary level than at the primary level. By 2043, the average test score for secondary learners is projected to rise to 48.7%, which will be greater than the Current Path estimates of 40.4% and the average of 37.8% for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 28: GDP per capita in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity

Sierra Leone ▼

■ Sierra Leone, Current P... ■ Sierra Leone, Education

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data
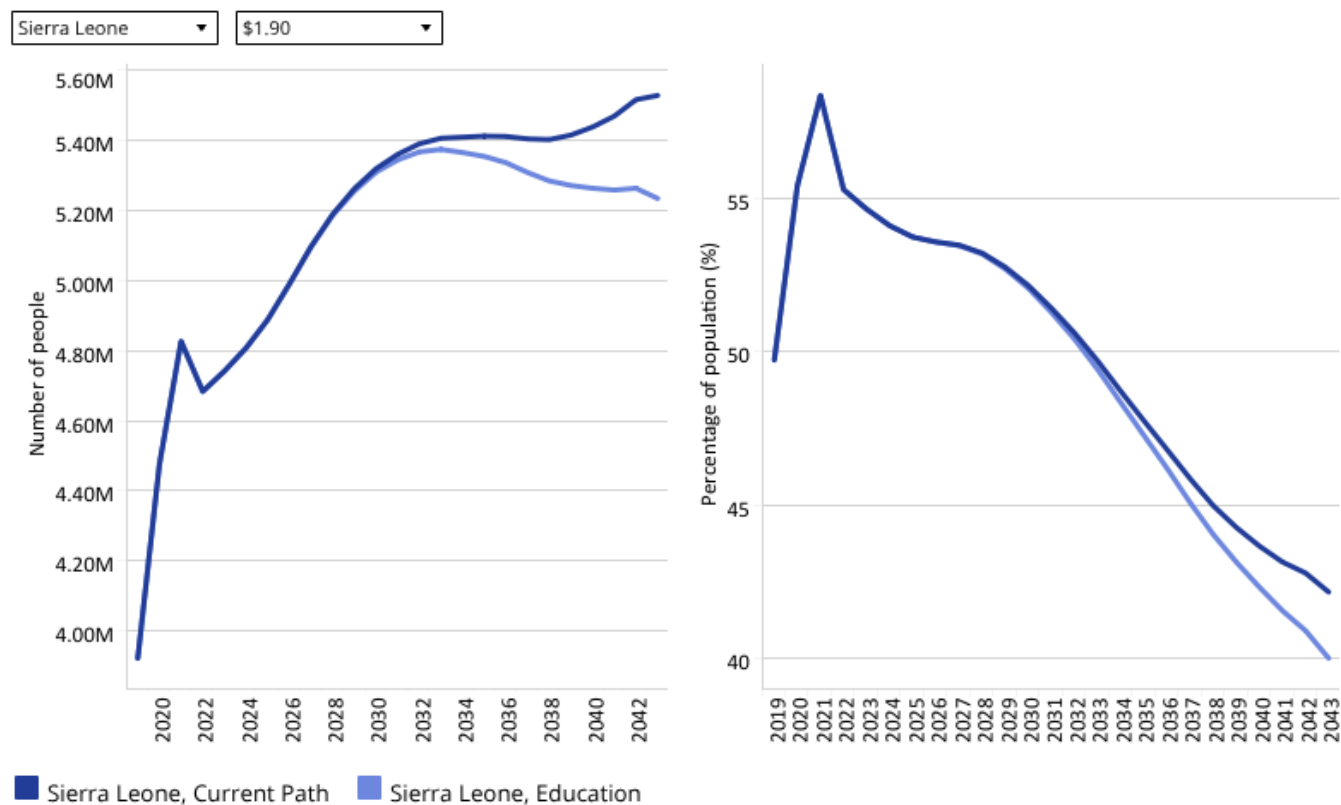
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By 2043, the increase in GDP per capita as a result of the Education scenario is estimated to be US$71 more than the projected US$2 464 in the Current Path forecast. This will still be US$1 388 less than the average of US$3 790 for low-income countries in Africa. Although education is a powerful way to improve productivity, growth and the income prospects of the poor, it takes time to yield results.

Chart 29: Poverty in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population

Sierra Leone | $1.90

■ Sierra Leone, Current Path   ■ Sierra Leone, Education

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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By 2043, in the Education scenario, there will be 5.2 million more poor people (40.0% of the population). This means that the Education scenario contributes to reducing the number of poor people by 294 000 people in 2043, compared to the Current Path forecast. This tallies with the fact that although education is a powerful tool for reducing poverty, it takes time, often decades, to produce the expected results. The proportion of poor people in the Education scenario in Sierra Leone will be 14.8 percentage points higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Manufacturing scenario

Chart 30: Value added by sector in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043

Absolute and % point difference GDP

Sierra Leone ▼
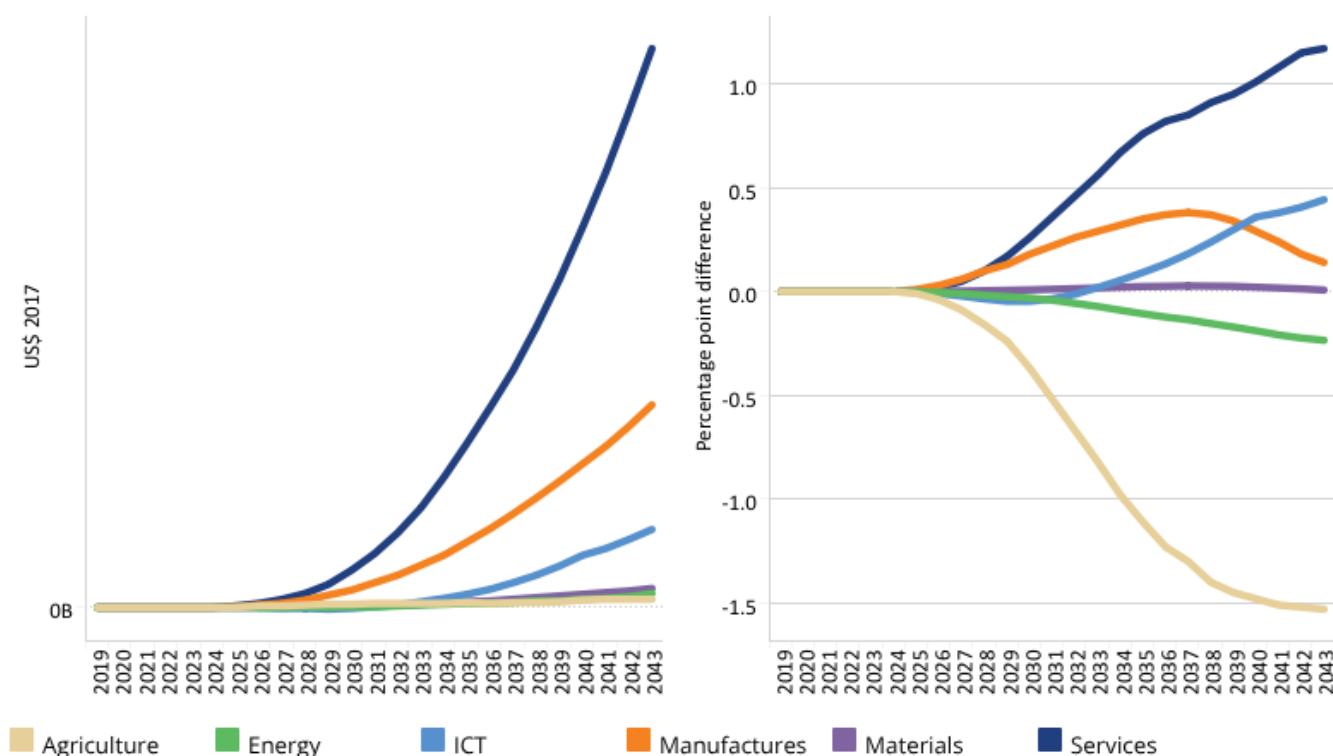
Agriculture Energy ICT Manufactures Materials Services

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario represents reasonable but ambitious manufacturing growth through greater investment in the economy, investments in research and development, and promotion of the export of manufactured goods. It is accompanied by an increase in welfare transfers (social grants) to moderate the initial increases in inequality that are typically associated with a manufacturing transition. To this end, the scenario improves tax administration and increases government revenues.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 30 should be read with Chart 8 that presents a stacked area graph on the contribution to GDP and size, in billion US$, of the Current Path economy for each of the sectors.

In the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, the absolute contribution of the service sector to GDP will experience the largest improvement compared to the Current Path in 2043. It is forecast to be US$0.73 billion larger than the Current Path forecast; this corresponds to 0.54% of GDP. The manufacturing sector, which is the second largest contributor, is also projected to contribute an additional US$0.27 billion to GDP compared to the Current Path in 2043, although its contribution as a share of GDP declines from 0.38 in 2037 to 0.148 percentage points above the Current Path forecast. Although the third largest contributor to GDP in Sierra Leone is ICT, with a contribution of US$0.10 billion more than the Current Path forecast in 2043, its contribution as a share of GDP will overtake manufacturing as the second largest

contributor from 2040, such that by 2043 it will contribute 0.3 percentage points more to GDP than the manufacturing sector. It is important to note that in 2043 the share of agriculture in GDP is 1.53 percentage points of GDP below the Current Path forecast.

Chart 31: Gov welfare transfers in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US$ 2017

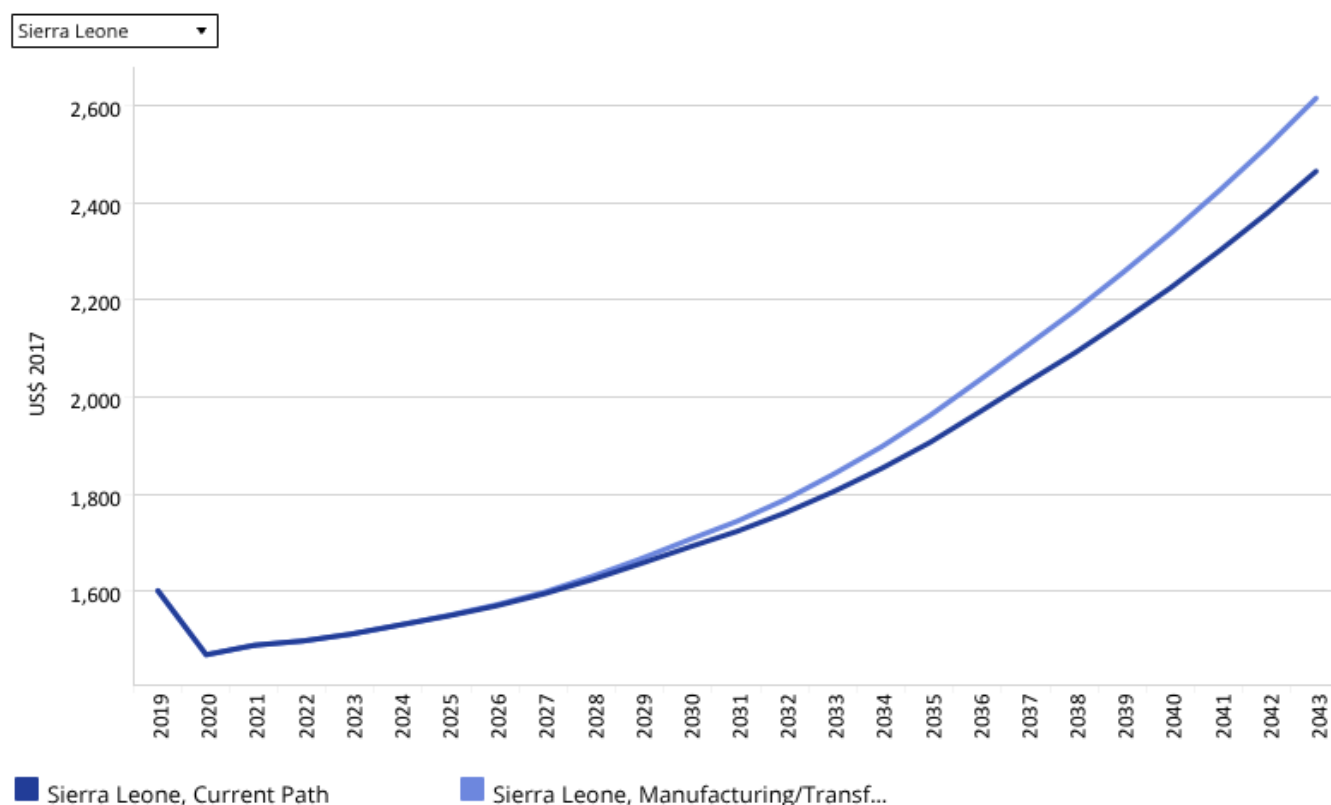Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data
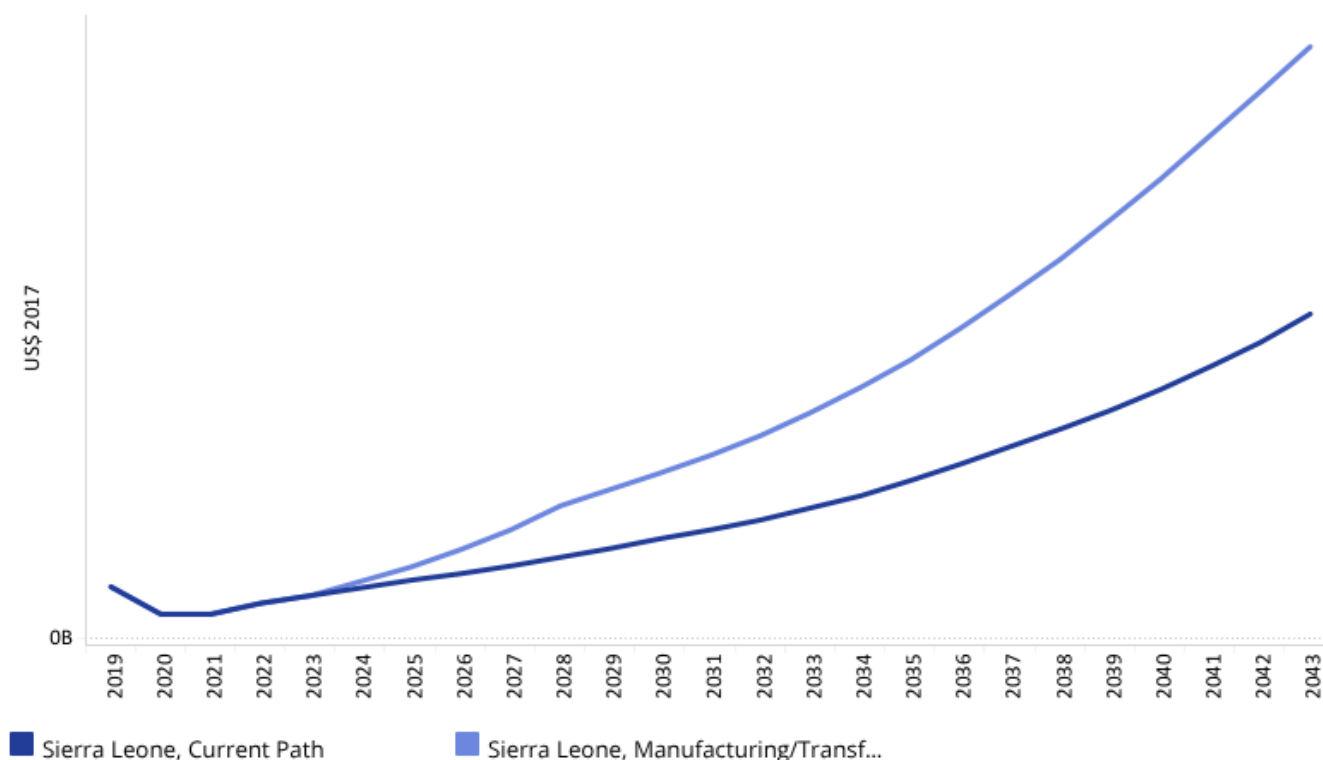
The Sierra Leonean government's welfare transfers to households are significantly low. In 2019, the total welfare transfers to households were US$0.05 billion. This is projected to increase to US$0.78 billion by 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, constituting over a 1 000% increase over the period. This amount is far greater than the US$0.49 billion estimated for 2043 in the Current Path, suggesting that the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario can lead to an improvement in government welfare transfers by an additional US$0.29 billion compared to the Current Path in 2043.

Chart 32: GDP per capita in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity

Sierra Leone ▼

■ Sierra Leone, Current Path ■ Sierra Leone, Manufacturing/Transf...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

⊹ View on Tableau Public

By 2043, it is estimated that the GDP per capita will rise to US$2 615, which is US$151 more than projections in the Current Path forecast in the same year. The GDP per capita for Sierra Leone by 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will however still be below the average of US$3 790 for low-income countries in Africa. Indeed, the gap between Sierra Leone and its African income peer group in terms of GDP per capita is projected to widen from US$59 in 2019 to a whopping US$1 175 in 2043.

Chart 33: Poverty in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population
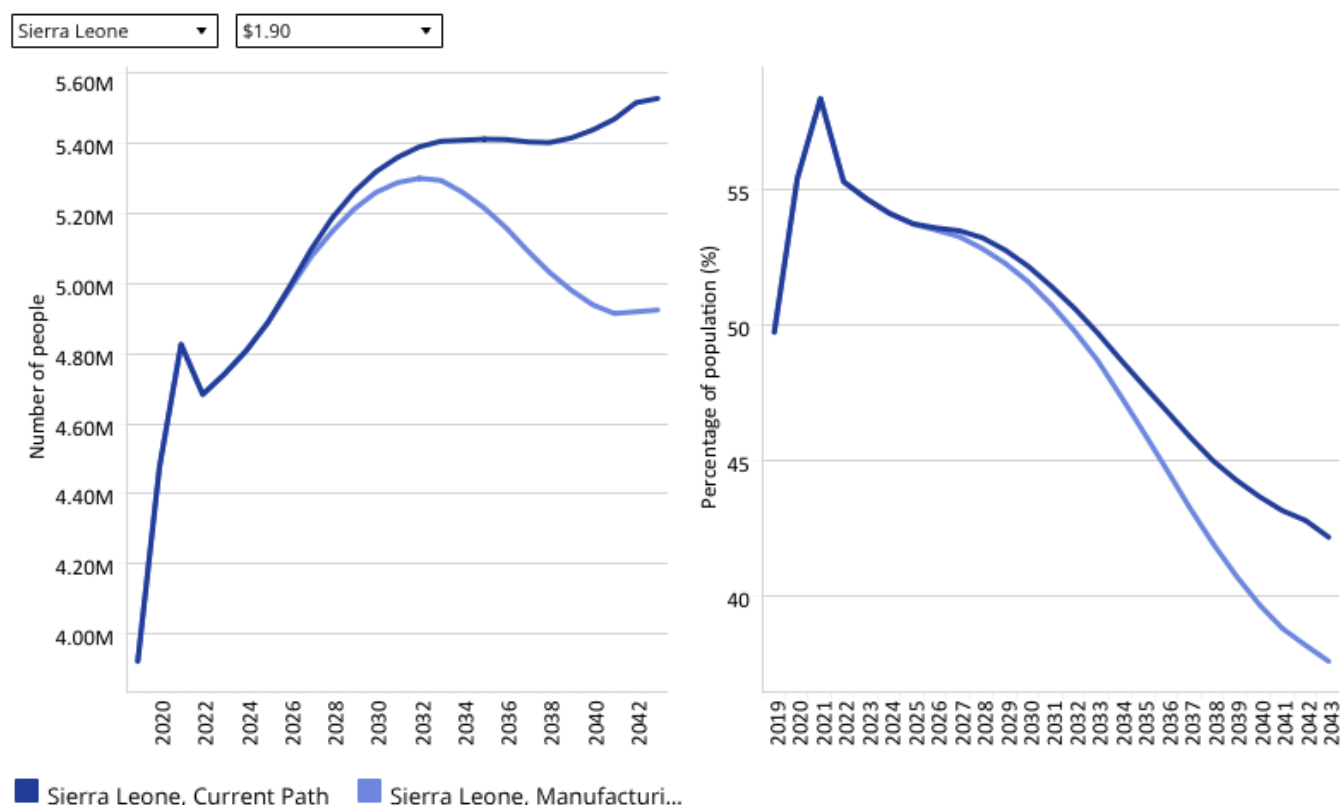
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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Within the period under consideration, the total number of poor people is projected to increase although the percentage of poor people is expected to decline. Compared to the Current Path forecast, the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario leads to a much quicker decline in poverty. The total number of poor people is projected to increase to 4.9 million (37.6% of the population) in 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. This suggests that the estimated number of people who can be lifted above the poverty line of US$1.90 as a result of the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario is 600 000, constituting about 10% of the population. This means that if the country embraces policies such as investment in the economy, research and development, as well as export promotion, the number of poor people below the Current Path forecast will be reduced. The proportion of poor people in Sierra Leone based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario in 2043 is about 12.4 percentage points above the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Leapfrogging scenario

Chart 34: Fixed broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people

Sierra Leone ▾
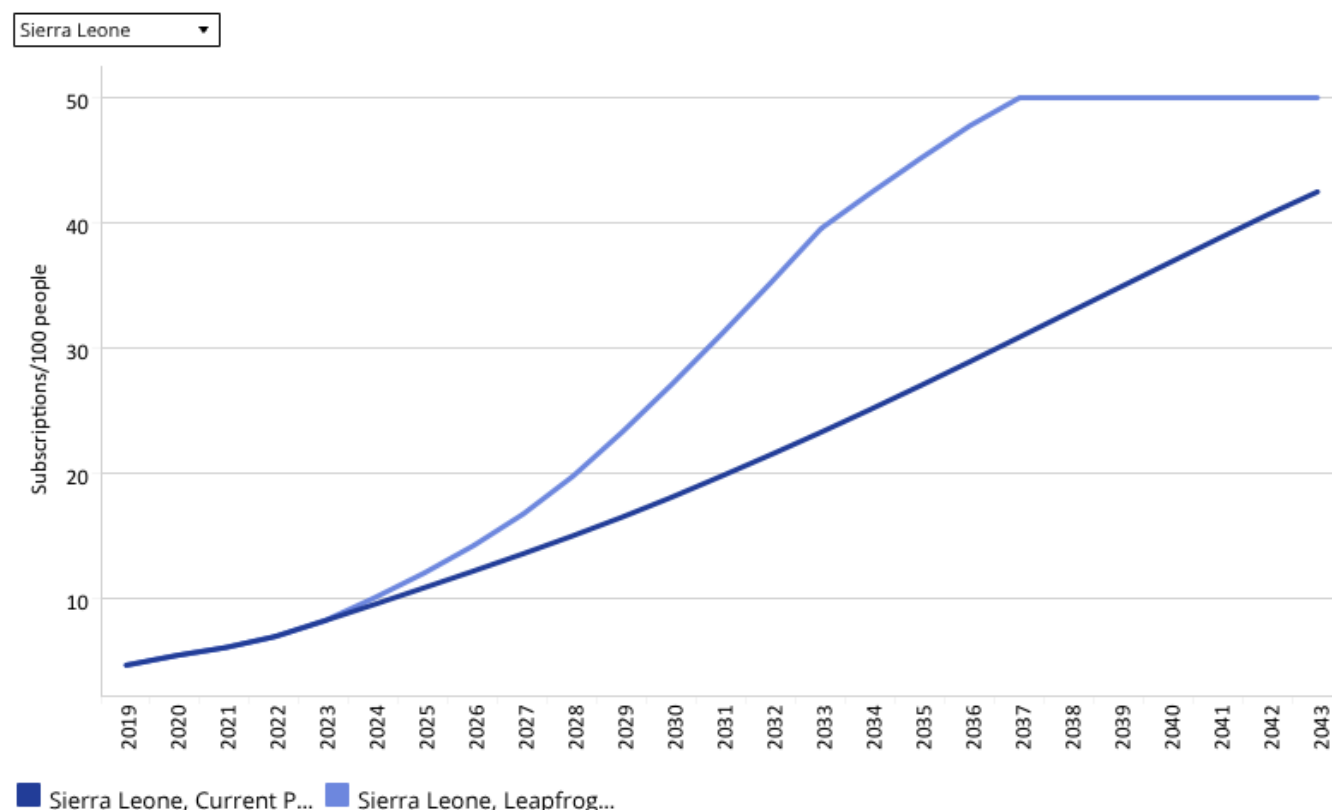
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

⬡ View on Tableau Public   ↶ ↷ ↺ ↻ ▾ | ⬇▾ ⬚ ⚹ Share

The Leapfrogging scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious adoption of and investment in renewable energy technologies, resulting in better access to electricity in urban and rural areas. The scenario includes accelerated access to mobile and fixed broadband and the adoption of modern technology that improves government efficiency and allows for the more rapid formalisation of the informal sector.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

Fixed broadband includes cable modem Internet connections, DSL Internet connections of at least 256 KB/s, fibre and other fixed broadband technology connections (such as satellite broadband Internet, ethernet local area networks, fixed-wireless access, wireless local area networks, WiMAX, etc.).

In 2019, the total number of fixed broadband subscriptions in Sierra Leone was 4.7 per 100 people, which was above the average of 2.3 for low-income countries in Africa. In the Current Path forecast, fixed broadband subscriptions are expected to rise to 42.5 per 100 people by 2043. The Leapfrogging scenario will lead to a greater increase in fixed broadband subscriptions compared to the Current Path forecast, with a difference of almost eight subscriptions per 100 people by 2043. The fixed broadband subscription in Sierra Leone will be higher than the average of 29 subscriptions for low-income African countries.

Chart 35: Mobile broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people

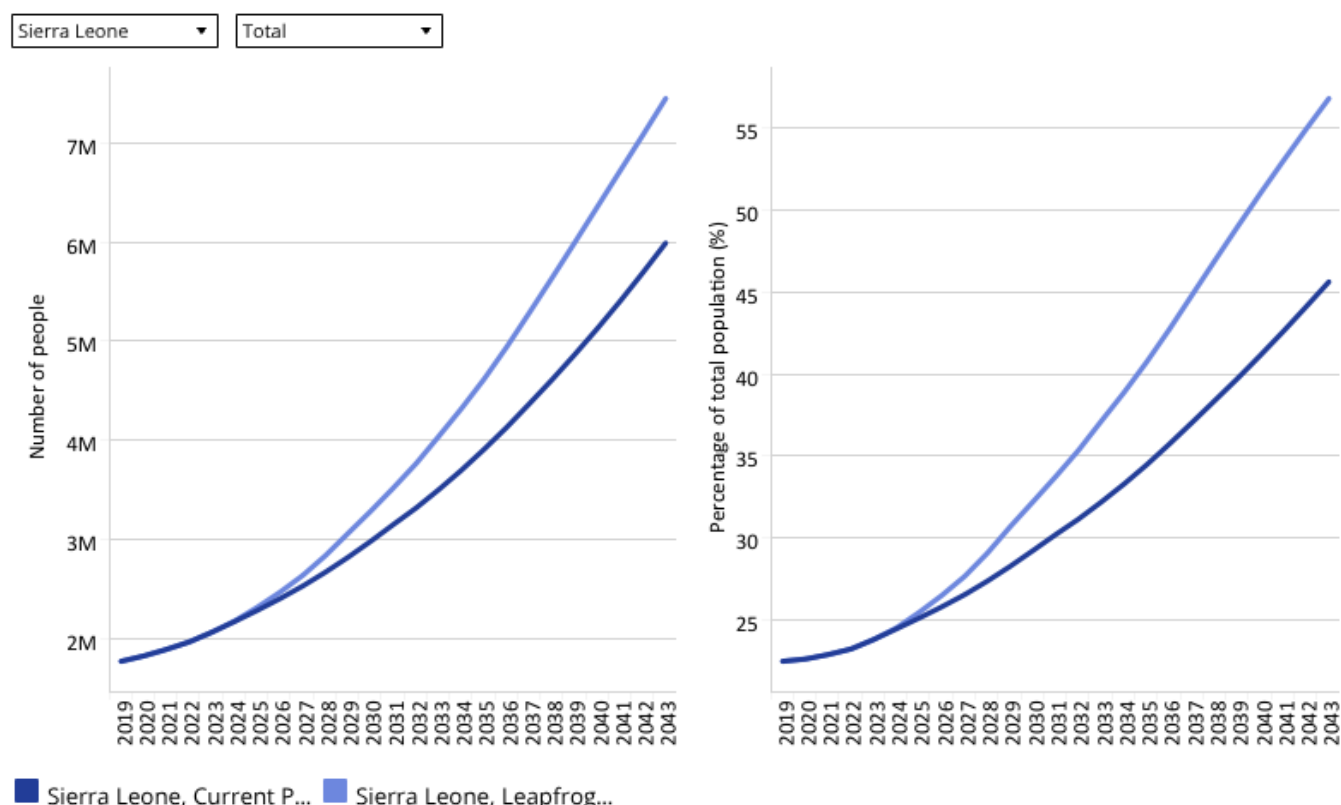Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

Mobile broadband refers to wireless Internet access delivered through cellular towers to computers and other digital devices.

Sierra Leone had mobile broadband subscriptions of 28.6 per 100 people in 2019 – greater than the average of 22.9 for low-income countries on the continent. Although between 2024 and 2028 mobile broadband subscriptions in the Leapfrogging scenario rise above the Current Path, in the long term, the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast converge and the gap narrows. By 2043, mobile broadband subscriptions in the Leapfrogging scenario increase to 154.7 per 100 people, only 2.8 higher than in the Current Path forecast and above the average of 133.9 for African low-income countries.

Chart 36: Electricity access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population

Sierra Leone, Current P...   Sierra Leone, Leapfrog...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

In 2019, 1.8 million people in Sierra Leone (22.5% of the total population) had access to electricity. This is far below the average of 32.2% for low-income countries in Africa. The country has a rural–urban disparity in terms of access to electricity. About 44.3% of people in urban centres had access to electricity, compared to the paltry 6.9% of those in the rural areas in 2019. In the Leapfrogging scenario, it is projected that by 2043, about 56.8% of Sierra Leoneans (7.4 million people), will have access to electricity. This is below the projected average for low-income countries but higher than the 45.6% (reflecting 6 million people) projected on the Current Path forecast, signifying that the Leapfrogging scenario can provide access to electricity to an additional 1.5 million people. By 2043, 68.5% and 74.4% of urban dwellers in Sierra Leone will have access to electricity in the Current Path forecast and the Leapfrogging scenario, respectively. However, in the case of rural dwellers, 40.5% and 24.3% will have access to electricity by 2043 based on the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast, respectively.

Chart 37: GDP per capita in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity
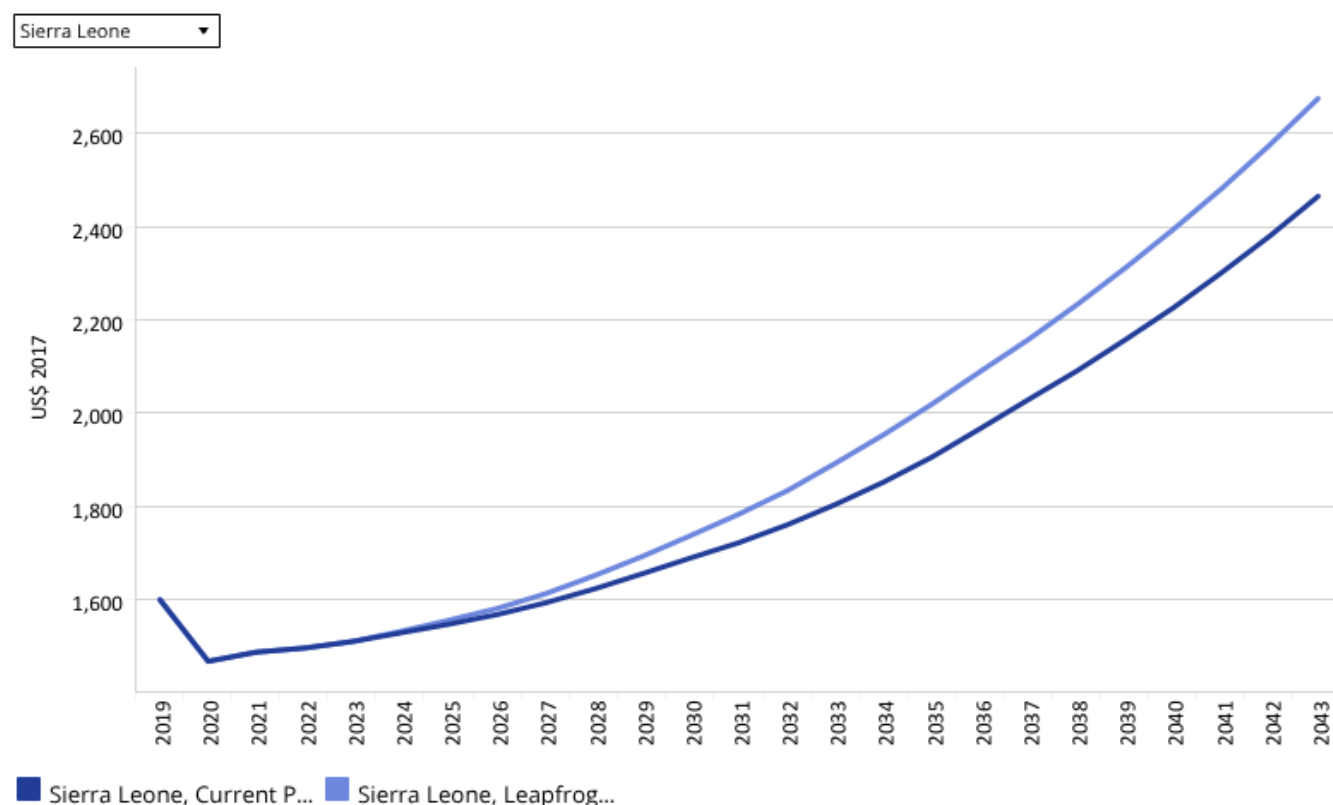
Sierra Leone ▼

Sierra Leone, Current P...   Sierra Leone, Leapfrog...

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data
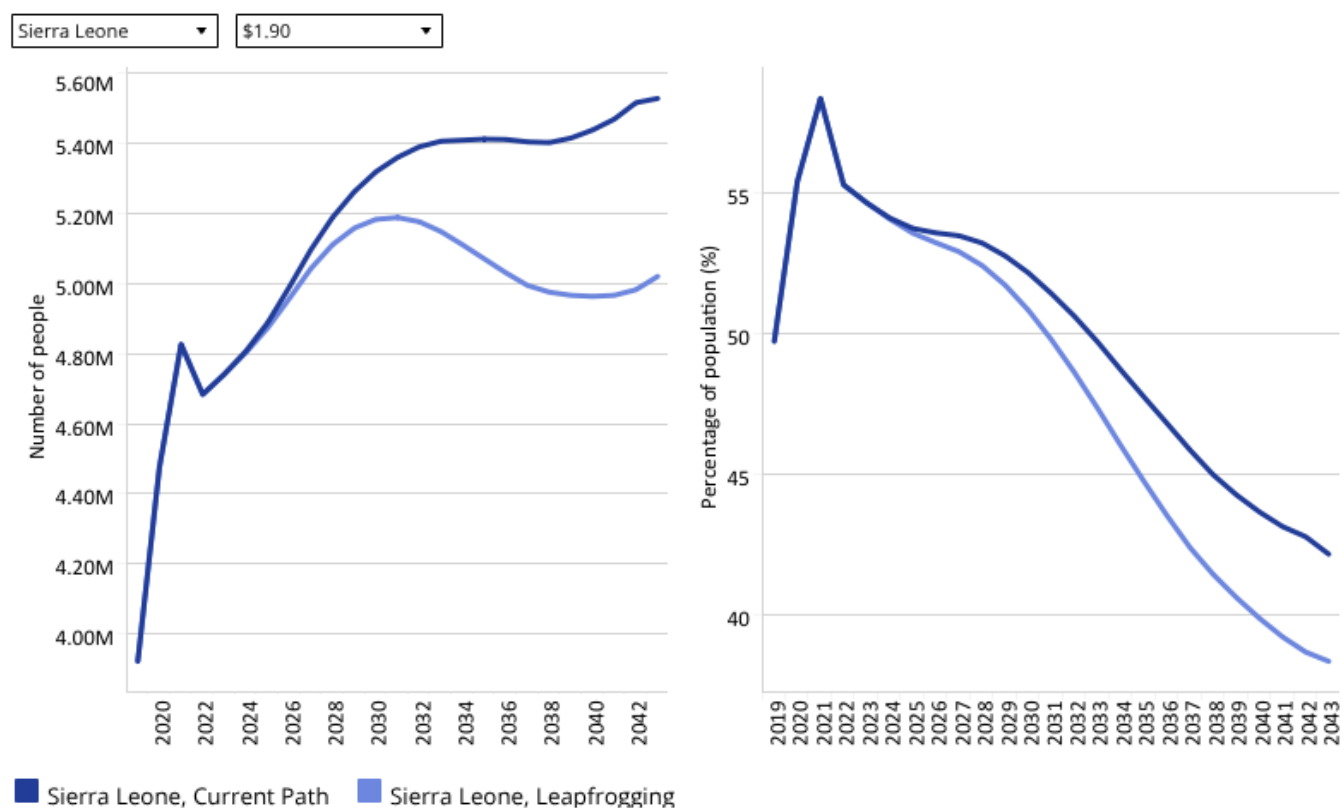
⁂ View on Tableau Public   ↺ ↻ ↺ ↻ ▾ | ⊡▾ ⊡ ⊗ Share

Sierra Leone's GDP per capita is projected to increase from US$1 601 in 2019 to US$2 674 in 2043 in the Leapfrogging scenario. This represents an increase of US$210 compared to the Current Path forecast in 2043. However, this still falls below the average of US$3 790 for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 38: Poverty in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population

| Sierra Leone ▼ | | $1.90 ▼ |

Sierra Leone, Current Path   **Sierra Leone, Leapfrogging**

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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In the Leapfrogging scenario, the number of poor people in 2043 is projected to be 5 million, representing 38.3% of the population. This projection is lower than the 5.5 million poor people estimated in the Current Path forecast in the same year, which suggests that the number of poor people in the Leapfrogging scenario is about 500 000 fewer than the Current Path forecast in 2043. The number of poor people projected in the Leapfrogging scenario is still 13.2 percentage points higher than the average for low-income African countries in 2043.

Chart 39: Trade balance in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP
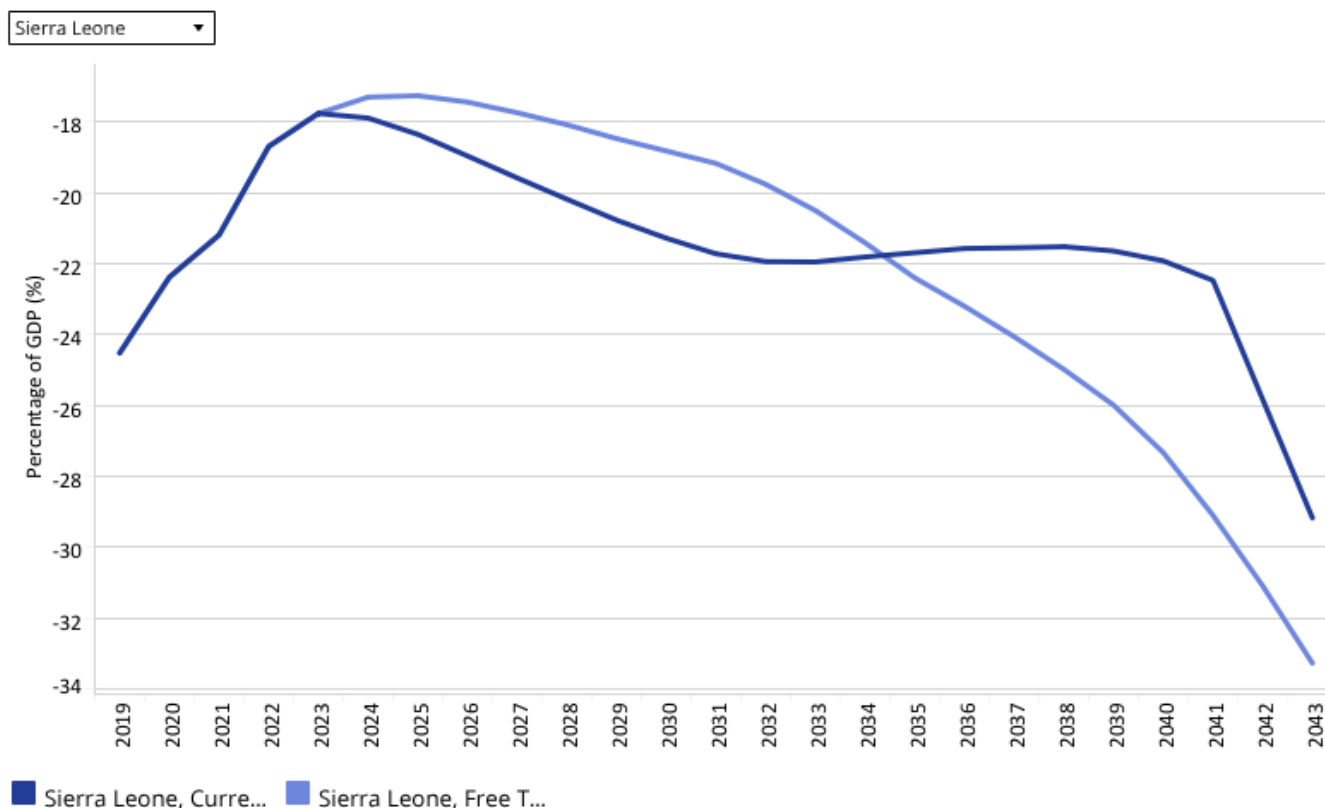
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

The Free Trade scenario represents the impact of the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 2034 through increases in exports, improved productivity and increased trade and economic freedom.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

The trade balance is the difference between the value of a country's exports and its imports. A country that imports more goods and services than it exports in terms of value has a trade deficit, while a country that exports more goods and services than it imports has a trade surplus.

Sierra Leone, like many African economies, is a net importer of goods and services. In 2019, Sierra Leone's trade deficit represented 24.5% of GDP, signifying that the country has a relatively high trade deficit. Main imports include machinery and transport equipment (representing about 50% of imports), fuel (representing about 50% of imports) and foodstuffs such as rice. The trade balance will improve until it peaks at 17.8% in 2023 after which it will start to decline. From 2024 to 2034, the Free Trade scenario leads to a much quicker improvement in the trade deficit compared to the Current Path forecast. However, the situation is reversed afterwards such that by 2043, the projected trade deficit of 33.3% in the Free Trade scenario is 4.1 percentage points higher than the estimated 29.2% in the Current Path forecast.

This suggests that the full implementation of the AfCFTA can improve the trade balance of Sierra Leone in the short term.

However, in the long term, intense competition from other African countries will reduce Sierra Leone's exports while imports will increase as a result of free trade. Throughout the forecast period, Sierra Leone's trade deficit as a percentage of GDP is higher than the average for low-income African countries, and by 2043, Sierra Leone's trade deficit will be 26.3 percentage points of GDP higher than the average for low-income African countries.

Chart 40: GDP per capita in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity
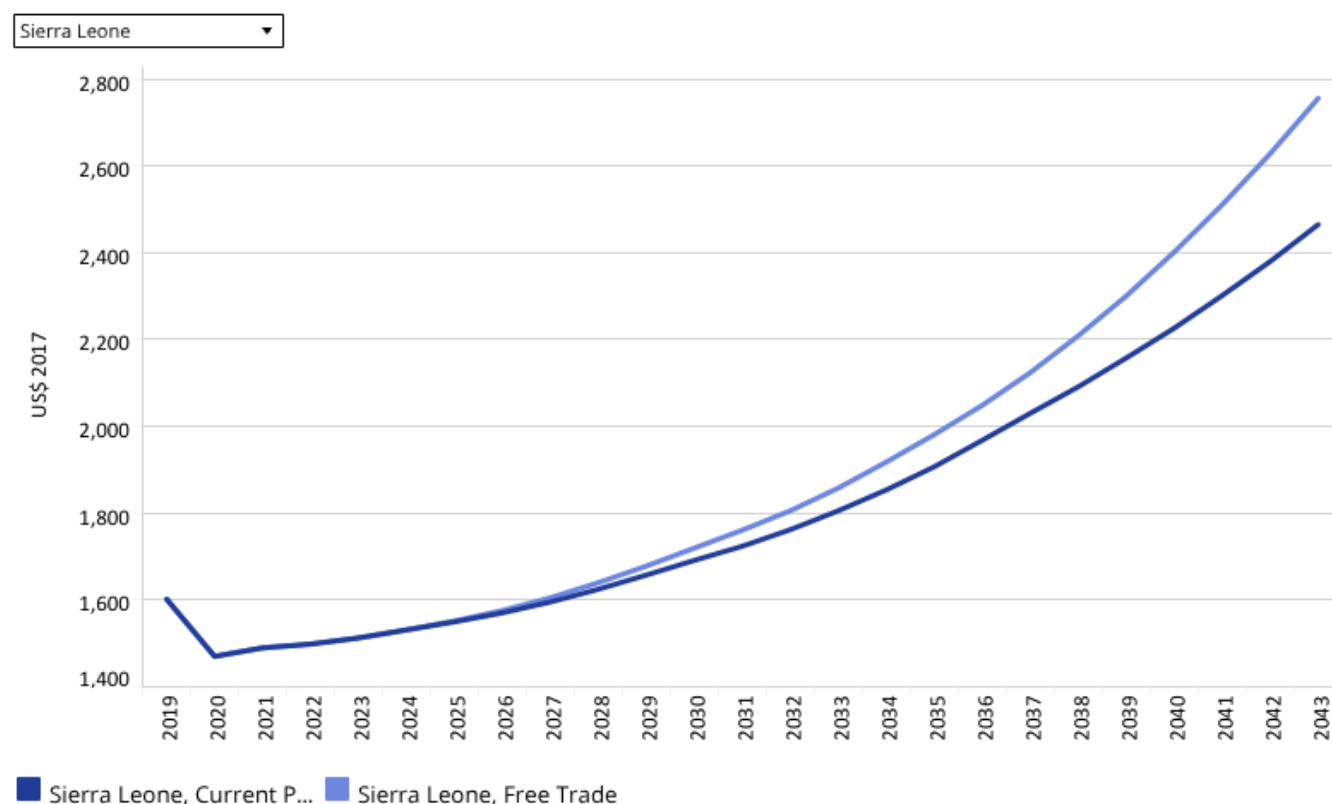
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

The GDP per capita for Sierra Leone is estimated to increase to US$2 756 by 2043 in the Free Trade scenario, which is US$292 more than the projections of the Current Path in 2043. This means that if Sierra Leone takes advantage of the AfCFTA to increase trade and productivity, it can raise its GDP per capita above the Current Path forecast in 2043. Nonetheless, the average GDP per capita of US$3 790 for low-income African countries is US$1 034 higher than the projected value for Sierra Leone in the Free Trade scenario.

Chart 41: Poverty in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population
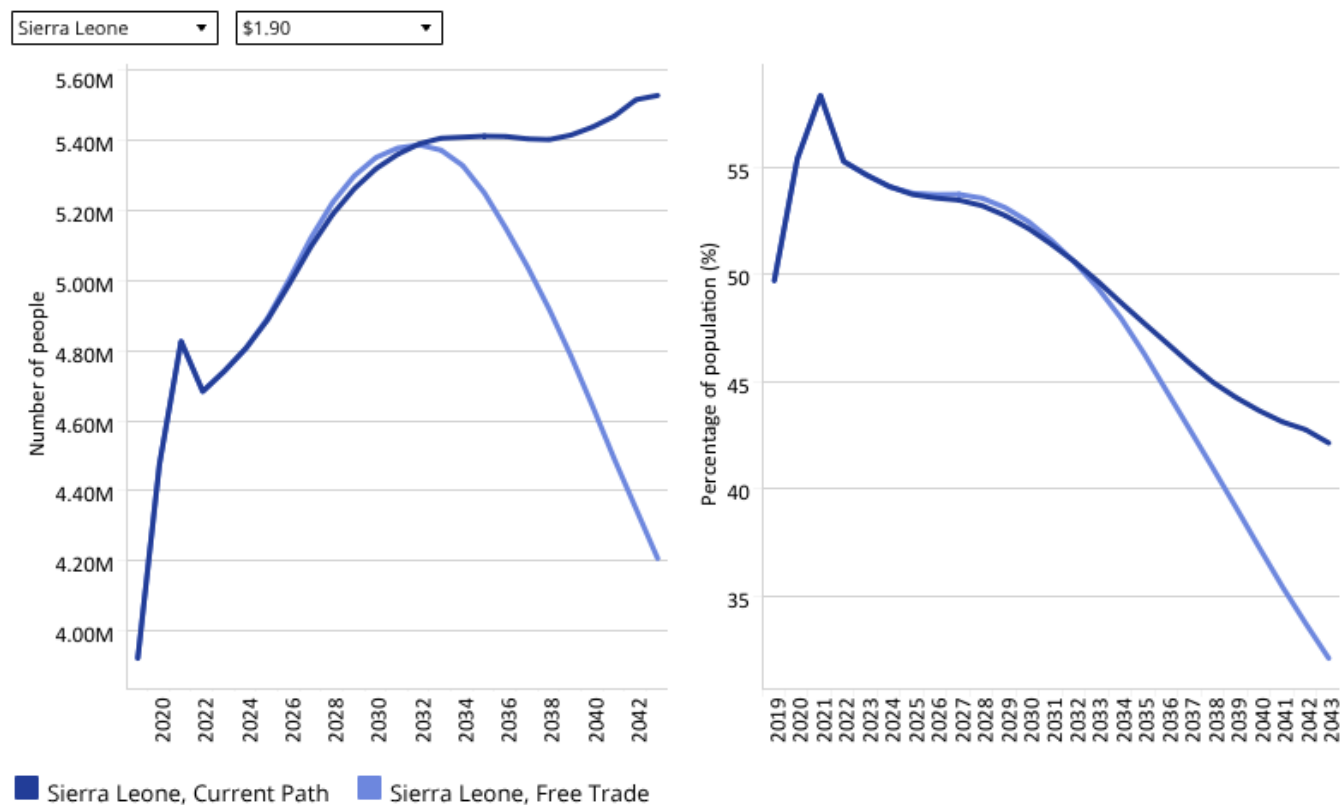
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data
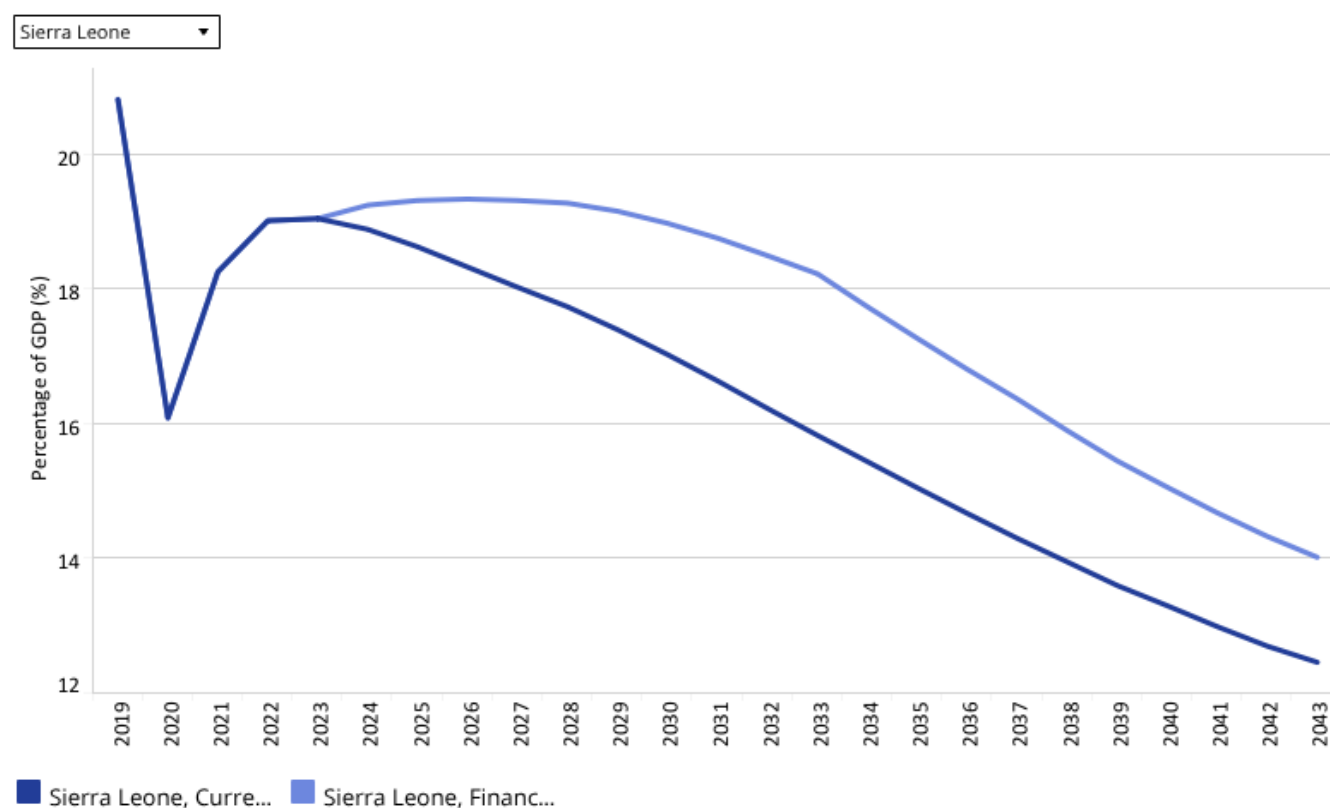
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By 2043, the number of people living below the poverty line of US$1.90 per day will be about 4.2 million people, representing 32.1% of the population. This is 10 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast, meaning that the Free Trade scenario has 1.3 million fewer poor people than the Current Path forecast by 2043. The proportion of poor people projected in the Free Trade scenario is still higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 42: Foreign aid in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP

Sierra Leone ▼

Legend: ■ Sierra Leone, Curre…   ■ Sierra Leone, Financ…

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Development Assistance Committee of the OECD data, and World Bank and OECD GNI estimates.

⁜ View on Tableau Public

The Financial Flows scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in worker remittances and aid flows to poor countries, and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows to middle-income countries. We also reduced outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

Sierra Leone is one of the most aid-dependent countries in the world, with total aid accounting for 50% of government revenue. Top bilateral donors to Sierra Leone include the UK, the US, Germany and Japan, while multinational donors like the UNDP, the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the US Agency for International Development also support the country. For instance, in November 2018, the country received an IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) totalling US$172.1 million. The total foreign aid received by Sierra Leone in 2019 was 20.8% of GDP, amounting to US$594.64 million — far greater than the average of 8.6% for low-income countries in Africa. Although foreign aid to Sierra Leone in absolute terms is projected to rise, foreign aid as a percentage of GDP is expected to decline such that by 2043, the total foreign aid received by the country is projected to be 14% of GDP in the Financial Flows scenario and 12.5% of GDP in the Current Path forecast. This suggests that in the Financial Flows scenario, foreign aid as a percentage of GDP is above the Current Path forecast in 2043. Notwithstanding, both of these projections are still higher than the average for low-income African countries.

Chart 43: Inflow of FDI in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
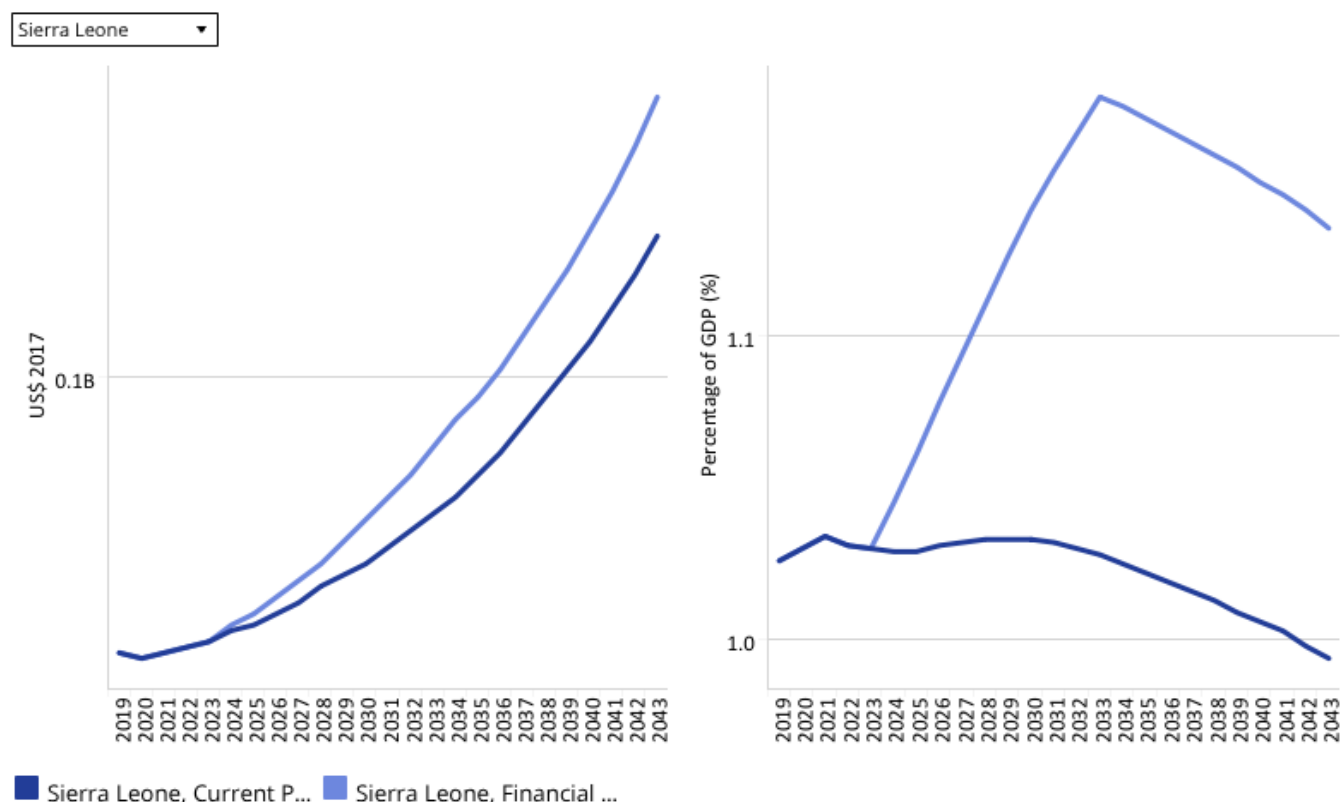% of GDP
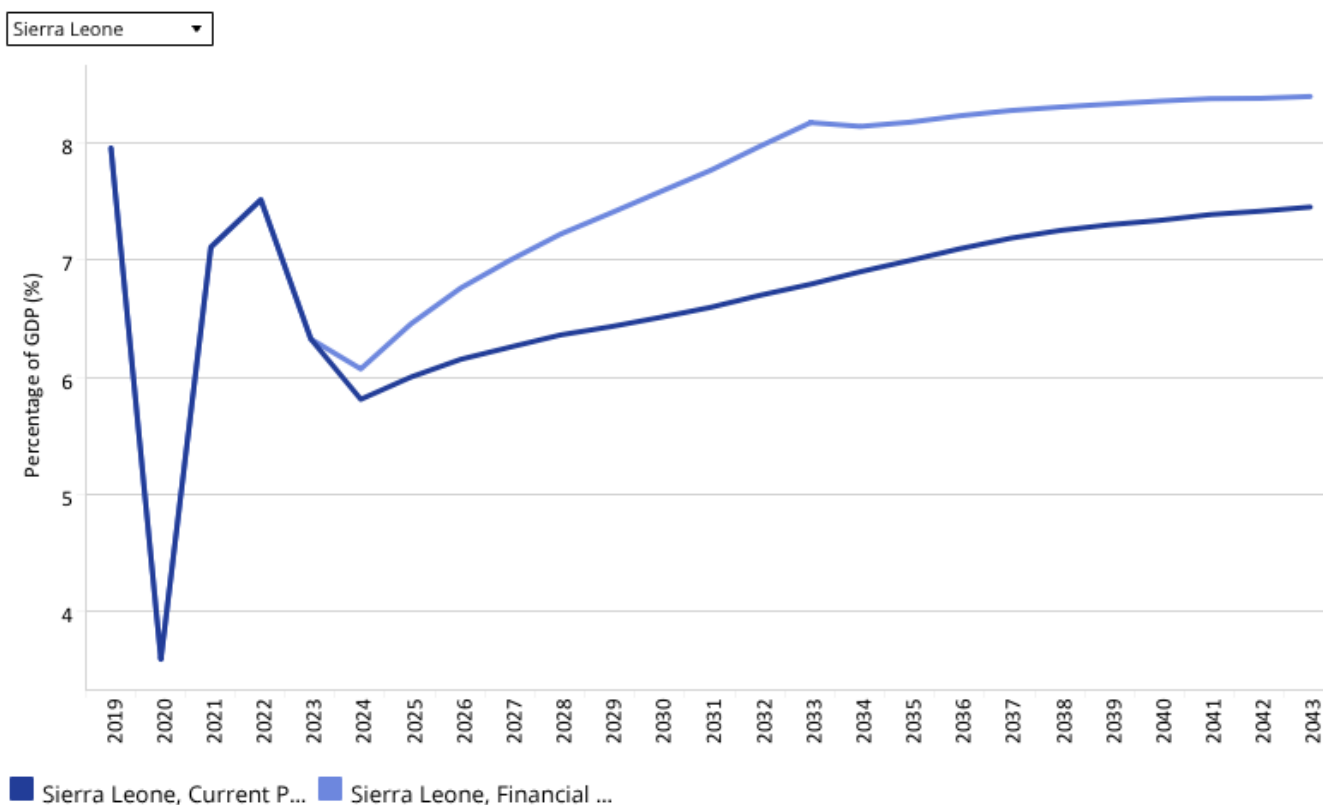
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

Sierra Leone's total FDI in 2019 amounted to about 8% of GDP, which is higher than the average of 4.3% for low-income African countries. However, the high cost of doing business in the country is impeding FDI inflows, as the country is ranked 163 out of 190 on the World Bank's Ease of doing business, a drop from the 140 rank it obtained in 2015. There are also ongoing disputes with foreign investors especially in the energy, mining and financial sectors which are likely to affect FDI inflows. By 2043, it is projected that the total FDI to the country will be about 7.5% of GDP in the Current Path forecast. In the Financial Flows scenario, FDI is projected to be around 8.4% of GDP in 2043, both of which are above the average for low-income countries on the continent.

Chart 44: Remittances in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US$ 2017 and % of GDP

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

In 2019, the total value of remittances that Sierra Leone received amounted to US$0.05 billion, which constituted about 1% of GDP. This is significantly lower than the average for low-income African countries. Both the absolute value of remittance and remittances as a percentage of GDP are projected to increase over the period until 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario. Remittances are projected to increase to US$0.15 billion, representing 1.14% of GDP in 2043 in the Financial Flow scenario. This is below the projected average of 1.3% of GDP projected for low-income countries in Africa. Remittances will decline in the Current Path forecast, such that by 2043 the total value of remittances in the country will be about US$0.13 billion (0.99% of GDP).

Chart 45: GDP per capita in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity
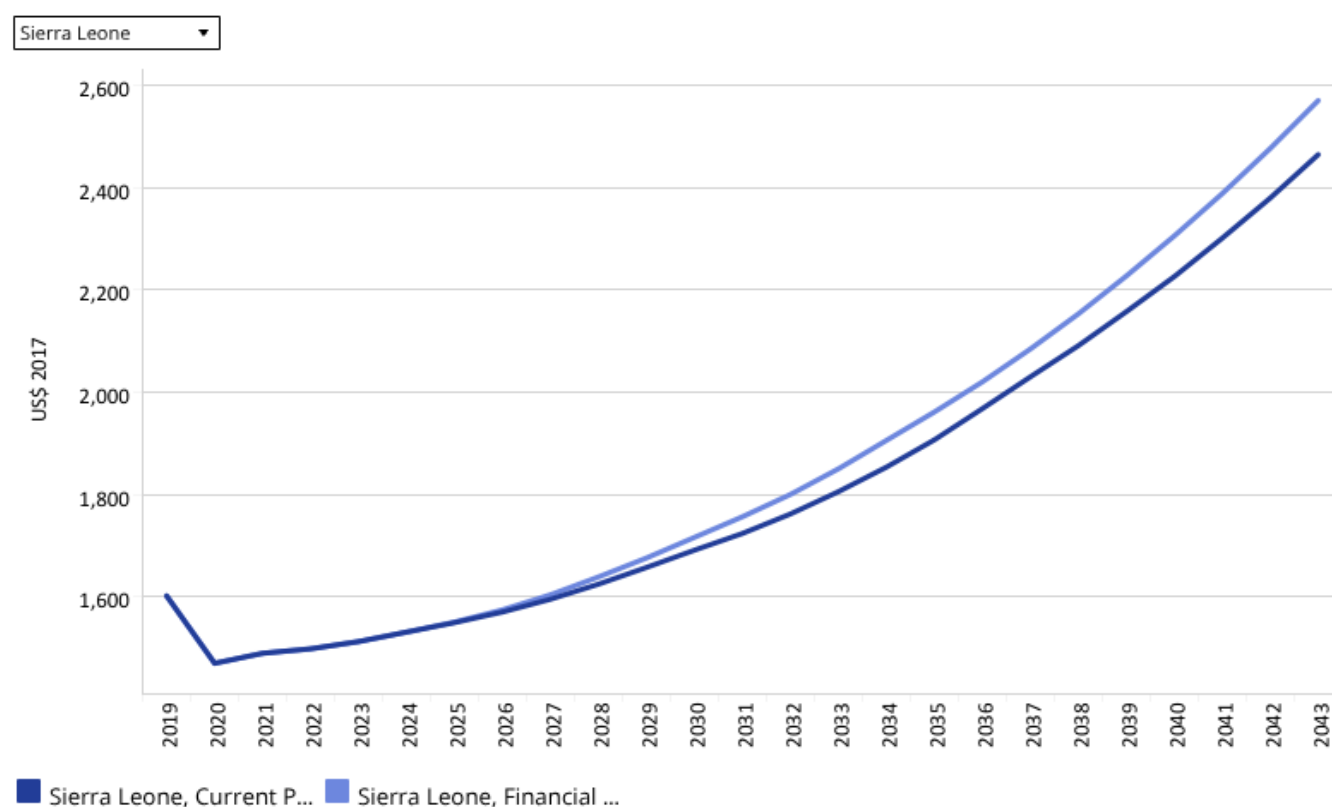
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

Sierra Leone's GDP per capita is estimated to increase to US$2 570 by 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario. This represents an increase of US$106 over the Current Path projection for the same year. The US$2 570 estimate is also far below the average for low-income countries in Africa, which is projected to be US$3 790 by 2043.

Chart 46: Poverty in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population
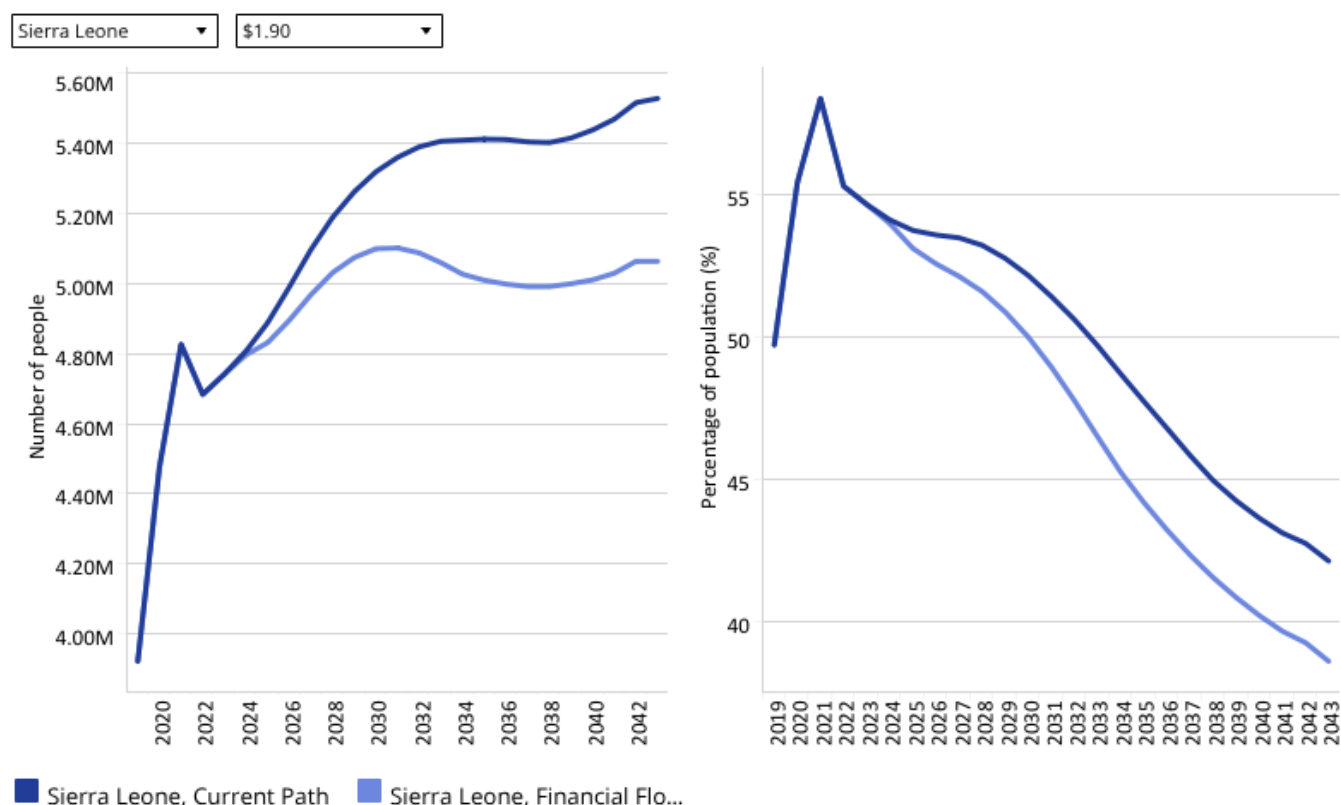
Sierra Leone | $1.90

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

Legend: Sierra Leone, Current Path | Sierra Leone, Financial Flo…

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Trade openness will reduce poverty in the long term after initially increasing it due to the redistributive effects of trade. Most African countries export primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing products, and therefore a continental free trade agreement (AfCFTA) that reduces tariffs and non-tariff barriers across Africa will increase competition among countries in primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing exports. Countries with inefficient, high-cost manufacturing sectors might be displaced as the AfCFTA is implemented, thereby pushing up poverty rates. In the long term, as the economy adjusts and produces and exports its comparatively advantaged (lower relative cost) goods and services, poverty rates will decline.

In the Financial Flows scenario, the total number of people projected to live below the poverty line of US$1.90 per day will decline to 5.1 million in 2043, representing 38.6% of the total population. This estimate constitutes a reduction of about 400 000 poor people compared to the Current Path in the same year. However, it is still much higher than the average of 25.2% of the total population for low-income countries in Africa.

Infrastructure scenario

Chart 47: Electricity access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population
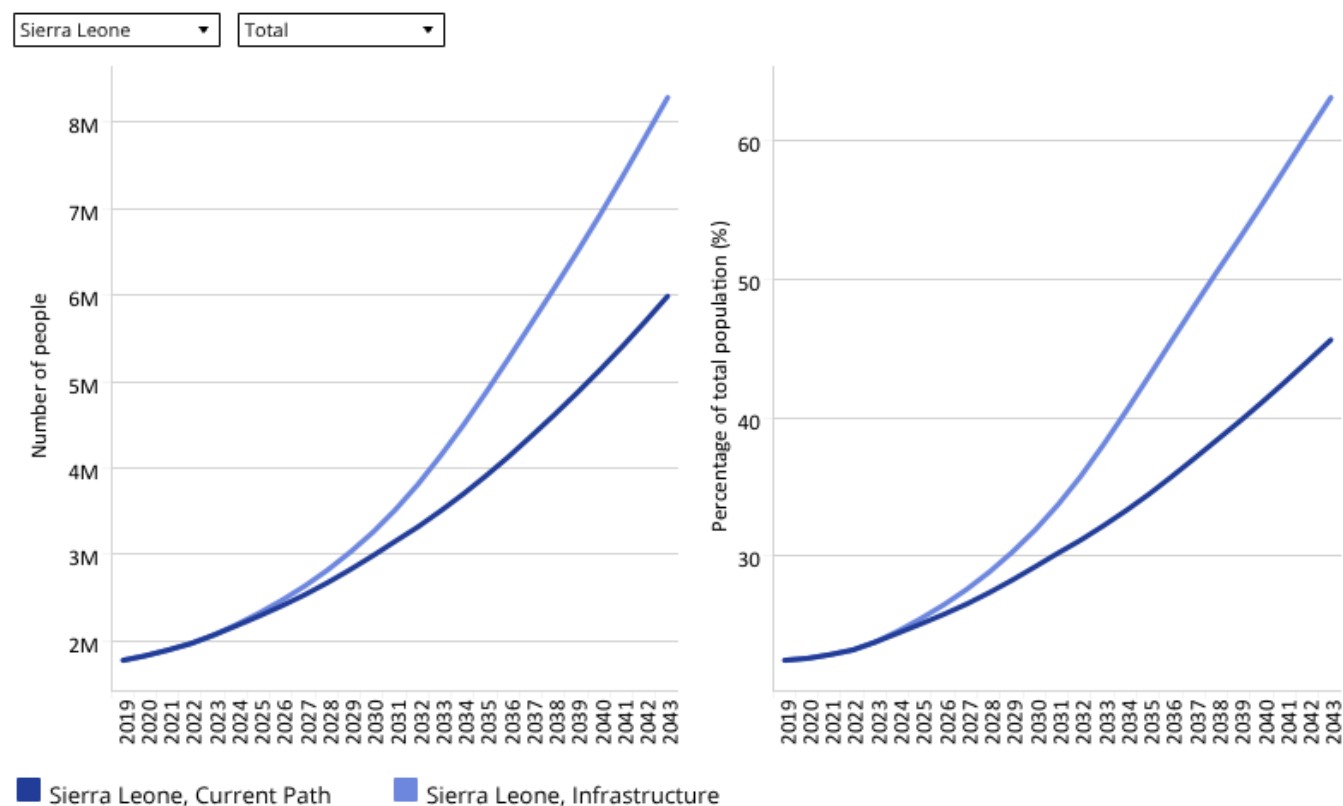
Sierra Leone ▾   Total ▾

■ Sierra Leone, Current Path   ■ Sierra Leone, Infrastructure

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Infrastructure scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in infrastructure spending across Africa, focusing on basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, electricity access and ICT) in low-income countries and increasing emphasis on advanced infrastructure (such as ports, airports, railway and electricity generation) in higher-income countries.

Note that health and sanitation infrastructure is included as part of the Health/WaSH scenario and that ICT infrastructure and more rapid uptake of renewables are part of the Leapfrogging scenario. The interventions there push directly on outcomes, whereas those modelled in this scenario increase infrastructure spending, indirectly boosting other forms of infrastructure, including that supporting health, sanitation and ICT.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

The total number of people with access to electricity in Sierra Leone is 1.8 million (22.5% of the population) and is expected to increase to 8.3 million (63.2% of the population) in 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This increase exceeds the projected value of 6 million people (45.6% of the population) in the Current Path forecast. It is also above the projected average of 60.5% for low-income African countries. In terms of rural–urban dichotomy, by 2043, it is projected that 68.5% and 77.5% of urban dwellers will have access to electricity in the Current Path forecast and the Infrastructure scenario, respectively. However, only 49.8% and 24.3% of rural dwellers in the Infrastructure scenario and in the Current Path

forecast respectively will have access to electricity in 2043, indicating a disparity in access to electricity between urban and rural dwellers in both the Current Path forecast and the Infrastructure scenario.

Chart 48: Rural road access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
% of rural population within 2 km of an all-weather road

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank Rural Access Index data
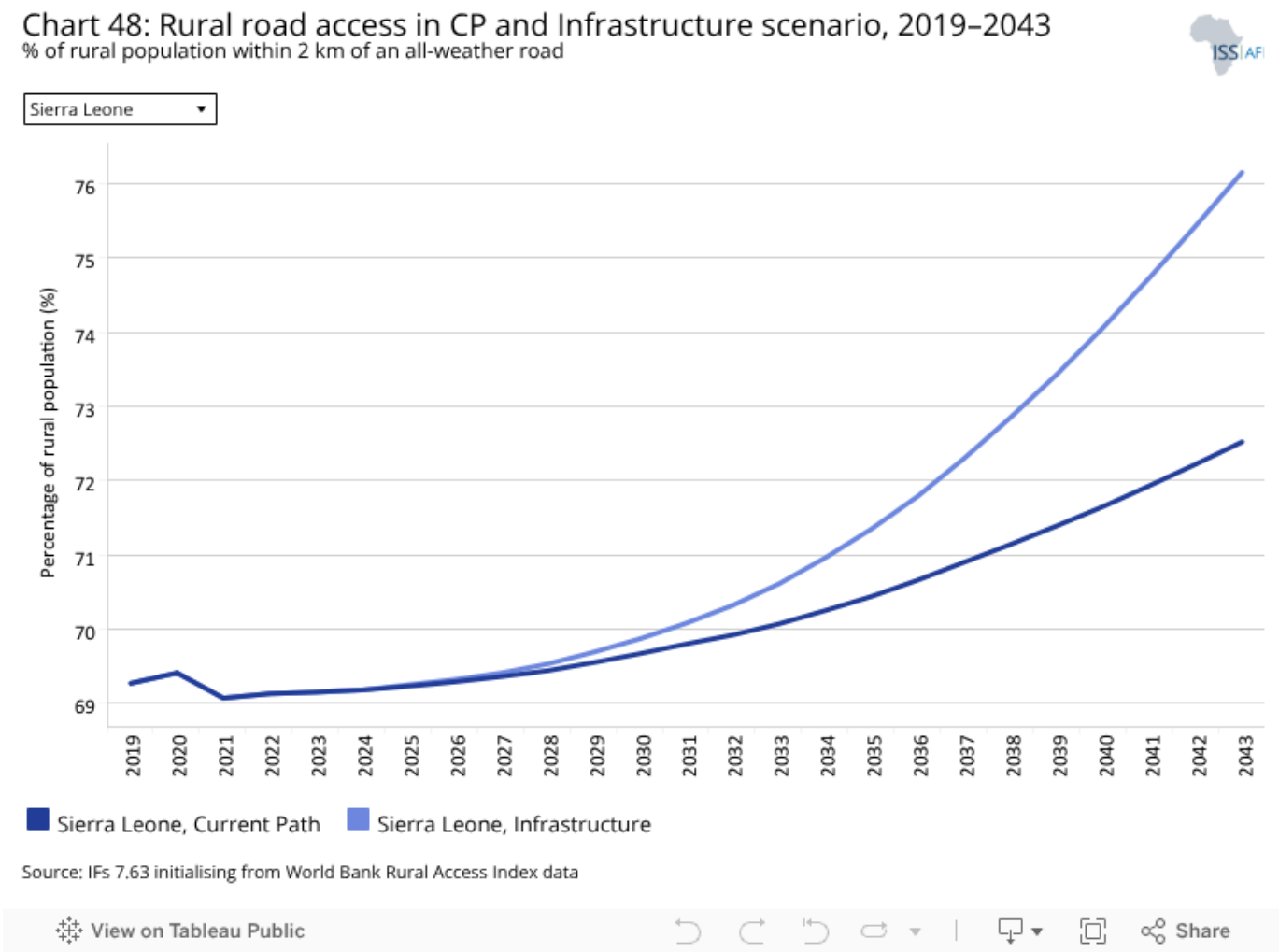
Indicator 9.1.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road and is captured in the Rural Access Index.

Accessibility to rural areas is important in spurring the socio-economic development of a country and improving the living standards of rural dwellers. It enables rural dwellers to enjoy amenities from nearby urban areas while allowing urban centres to also benefit from the agricultural products supplied by rural areas more easily. In 2019, 69.3% of all rural dwellers in Sierra Leone resided within 2 km from an all-weather road, which was higher than the average of 43% for low-income African countries. In the Infrastructure scenario, this is expected to rise to 76.2% by 2043, higher than the 72.5% projected in the Current Path forecast and the average of 51% for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 49: GDP per capita in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity
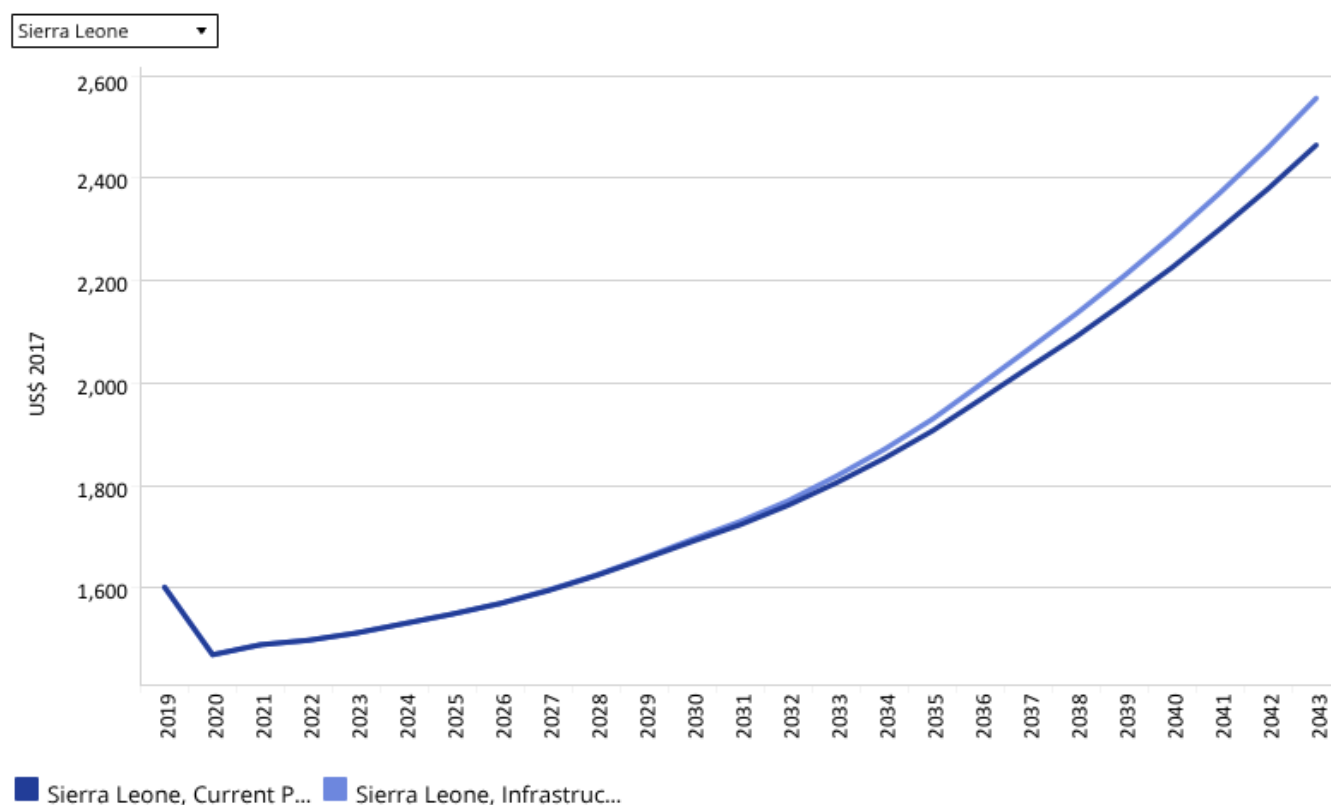
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data
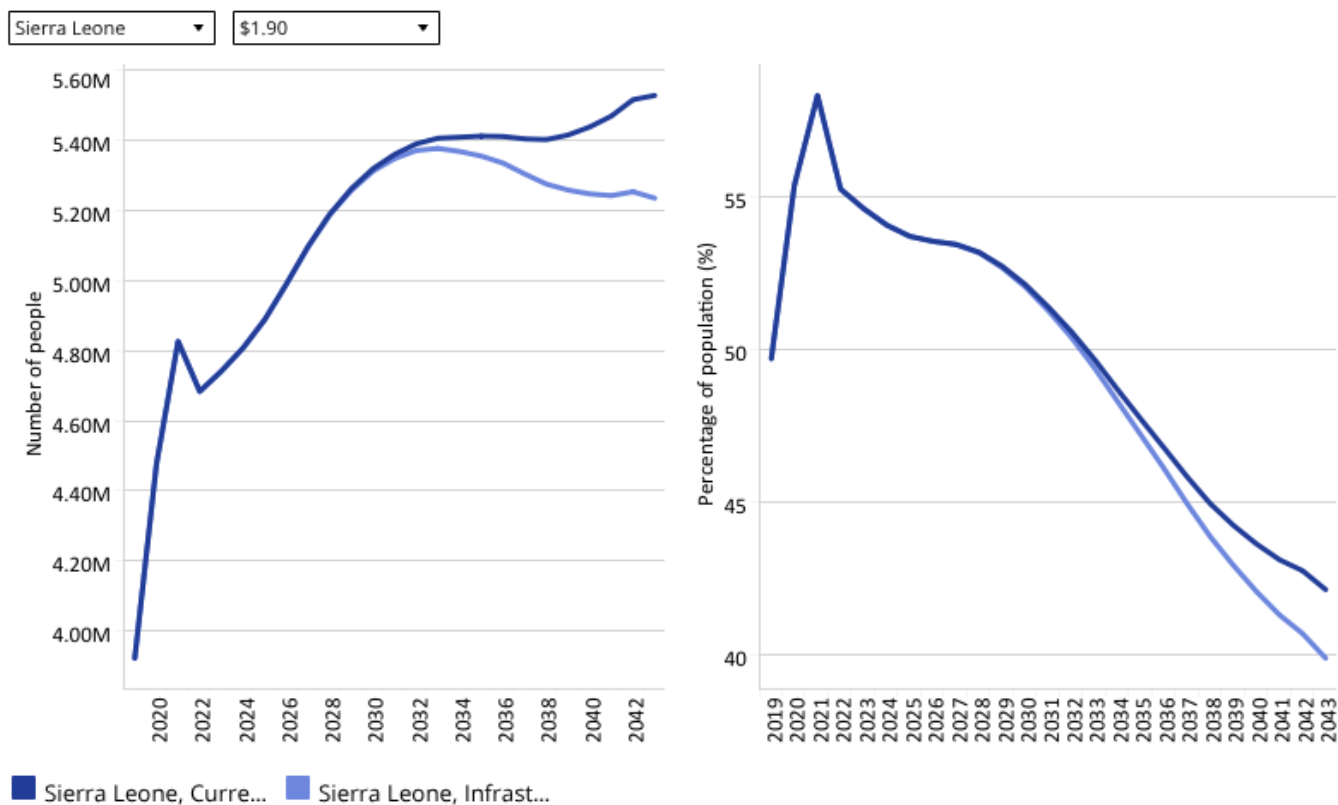
Sierra Leone's GDP per capita is estimated to rise to US$2 556 by 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This is US$92 more than the projection in the Current Path forecast in the same year, but below the average of US$3 790 for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 50: Poverty in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

By 2043, the proportion of the poor population is expected to decline from 49.7% in 2019 to 39.9% in the Infrastructure scenario. This corresponds to 5.2 million poor people in 2043 who will live below the poverty line. Comparing this with the projections in the Current Path suggests that there will be 290 000 fewer poor people in the Infrastructure scenario than in the Current Path forecast for the same year. This will however be higher than the estimated average of 25.2% for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 51: Gov effectiveness in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
World Bank quality index score for government effectiveness

ISS|AFI

Sierra Leone ▼
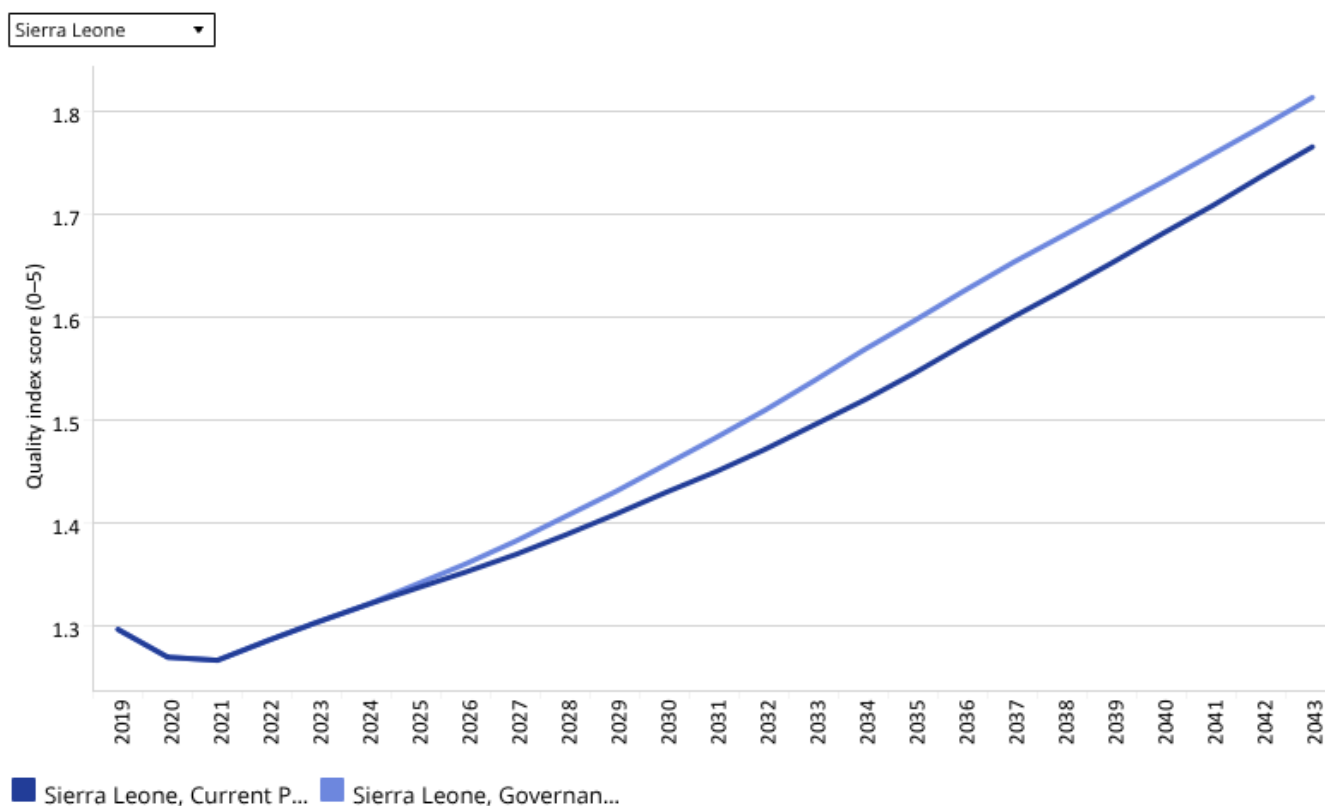
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010) data

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The Governance scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious improvement in accountability and reduces corruption, and hence improves the quality of service delivery by government.

The intervention is explained here in the thematic part of the website.

As defined by the World Bank, government effectiveness 'captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies'.

Chart 51 presents the impact of the interventions in the Governance scenario on government effectiveness.

In 2019, Sierra Leone's score for government effectiveness quality was 1.3, which was below the average of 1.4 for low-income countries in Africa. In both the Current Path forecast and the Governance scenario, government effectiveness is estimated to improve over the period, although the increase in the Governance scenario is higher than the increase in the Current Path forecast. The projected score for government effectiveness in the Governance scenario by 2043 is 1.81, which is 0.04 more than the projected score in the Current Path forecast. However, this score is 0.08 less than the projected average of low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 52: GDP per capita in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity
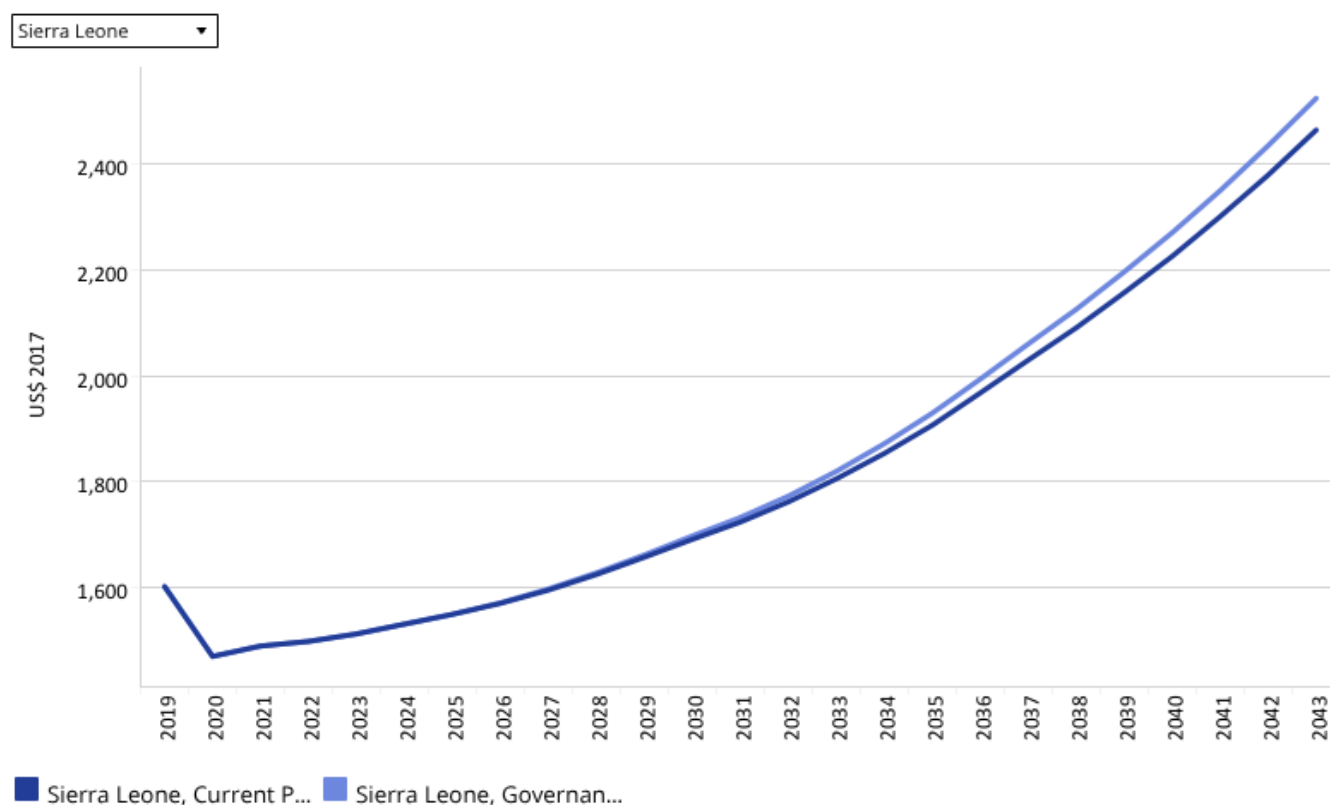
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

In the Governance scenario, Sierra Leone's GDP per capita is projected to increase to US$2 524 in 2043, which is US$60 more than the estimates in the Current Path forecast but lower than the average of US$3 790 for low-income countries on the continent in the same year. This suggests that good governance in the form of reducing corruption, improving the quality of service delivery and accountability can improve growth and income levels compared to the Current Path. Key determinants of growth depend on governance and institutional setting in a country. Authorities in Sierra Leone should improve governance to enhance economic growth and income levels.

Chart 53: Poverty in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population
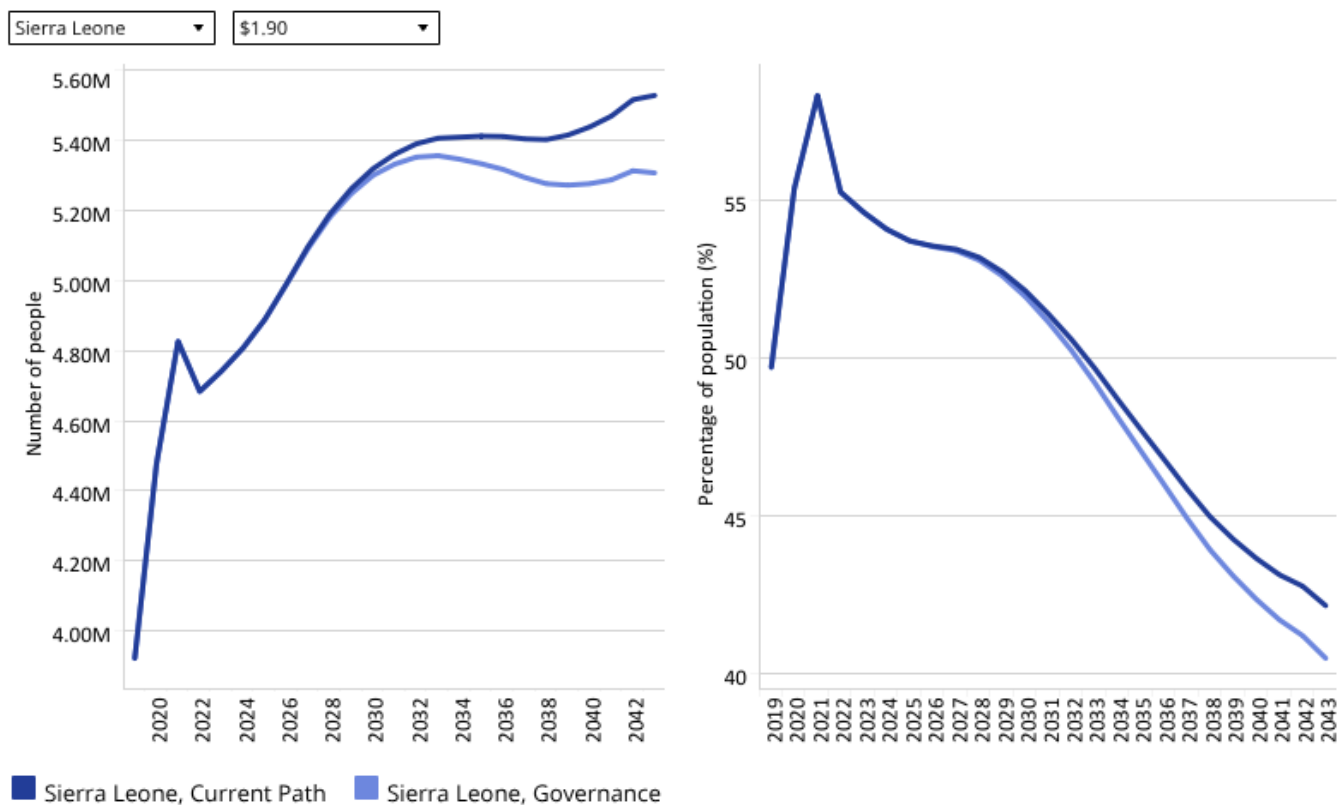
Sierra Leone | $1.90

■ Sierra Leone, Current Path ■ Sierra Leone, Governance

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

The proportion of people living below the poverty line of US$1.90 per day is expected to decline to 40.5% in 2043 in the Governance scenario, though this is far higher than the 25.2% average for low-income African countries by then. It also corresponds to about 220 000 fewer people than the 5.5 million poor people projected in the Current Path forecast for 2043.

Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions

Chart 54: Carbon emissions in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043
Million tons of carbon (note, not CO_2 equivalent)

ISS AF

| Sierra Leone ▼ | (Multiple values) ▼ |

Current Path **Free Trade**
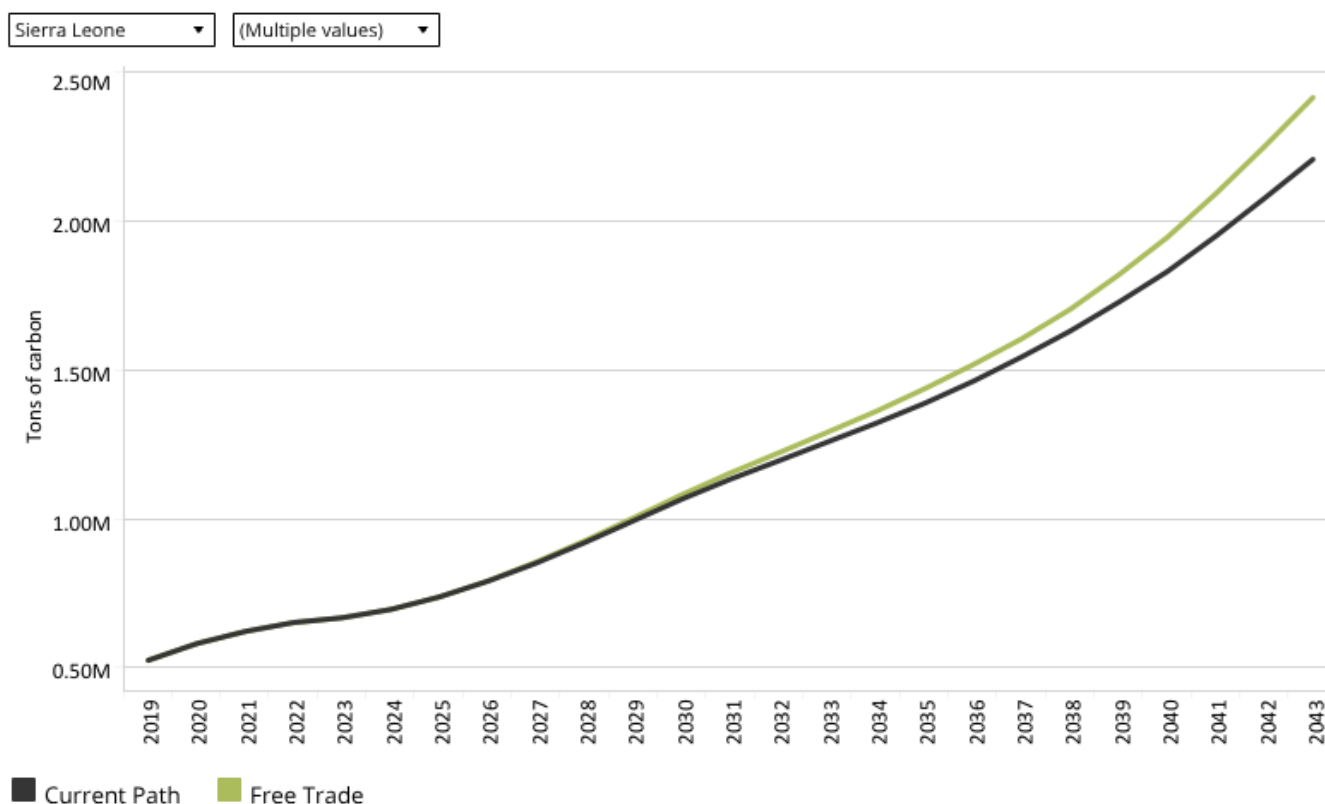
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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This section presents projections for carbon emissions in the Current Path for Sierra Leone and the 11 scenarios. Note that IFs uses carbon equivalents rather than CO_2 equivalents.

The total amount of carbon emitted by Sierra Leone in 2019 was 0.52 million tons. The intervention with the greatest impact on carbon emissions is the Agriculture scenario, which will lead to Sierra Leone's carbon emissions being 2.5 million tons of carbon in 2043. This is followed by the Free Trade and Leapfrogging scenarios with projected carbon emissions of 2.42 million tons and 2.34 million tons, respectively, by 2043. The intervention with the least impact on carbon emissions is the Demographic scenario.

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