



SIERRA LEONE

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR		WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?	
		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

Sierra Leone has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The *Essential Health Services Package (EHSP)* prioritizes the prevention and response to FGM along a three-tier system, focused on raising awareness and community sensitization (SOWEL), counseling for youth, and emergency care.

FAMILY PLANNING

No provisions in the law require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian, or

adolescents to obtain parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Girls have the legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth under the *Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act, 2023*.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in Sierra Leone's legal and supportive frameworks across the five indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Sierra Leone may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The law does not ensure the right to SRH, access to SRH services, or explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex, gender, age, and marital status when accessing SRH services.

No SRH strategy or policies are currently operational, suggesting absence of targets and domestic budget for SRH service provision and awareness-raising campaigns.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FGM is criminalized only when committed against children. The law does not criminalize FGM against

adults or specifically penalize parents or guardians for allowing their children to undergo FGM, nor does it address cross-border FGM.

FAMILY PLANNING

The law does not guarantee access to SRH services in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

The government has not published any guidelines on family planning.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools.

Guidelines for CSE in schools have not been adopted.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The government has not adopted any policies to keep girls in school and to allow pregnant students or adolescent-parenting students to attend school.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	N/A	
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	N/A	
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	Yes	The Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act, 2023, Art. 19
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	Yes	The Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act, 2023, Art. 19

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	N/A	
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	N/A	
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	Yes	Essential Health Services Package for UHC 2022, Ministry of Health and Sanitation
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	No	Insufficient evidence located
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located

