

Sierra Leone's Free Health Care Initiative for Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Under-Fives

Gender Equality · Good practice · Sierra Leone

Quality score: 85/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 2010, Sierra Leone has given free healthcare to pregnant women, lactating mothers and under-fives. Institutional deliveries rose from 27% to 57% in 3 years, and maternal mortality fell 74% (2000–2020) — though wealth-based inequity persists.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	2/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	1/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-17

[Government of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Health and Sanitation](#) — accessed 2026-07-17

[WHO AFRO — Improving Quality of Care to Save Lives in Sierra Leone](#) — accessed 2026-07-17

[Jalloh et al. 2019, BMC Health Services Research \(via PMC\)](#) — Impact of the free healthcare initiative on wealth-related inequity — accessed 2026-07-17

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