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### DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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### COI QUERY RESPONSE

#### SIERRA LEONE – HEALTH

In May 2024 the *Associated Press* states that: “Healthcare services are severely limited.”<sup>1</sup>

In April 2024 the *WHO* points out that: “According to data from WHO, in 2021 the UHC service coverage index in Sierra Leone was 41 out of 100, a medium ranking. The service coverage index uses a selection of indicators to represent overall coverage of essential health services across the entire population in a country, ranked from zero (worst) to 100 (best) and is used to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals related to UHC. Sierra Leone’s has almost tripled since 2000, when it was ranked very low at 14 out of 100. The country has made efforts to improve health services amid challenges including the devastating Ebola outbreak in 2014 and the COVID-19 pandemic, which stretched the health system to the limit.”<sup>2</sup>

A report published in March 2024 by the *United Nations World Food Programme* states that: “Sierra Leone continues to struggle with malnutrition and poor health outcomes.”<sup>3</sup>

In March 2024 the *World Bank* states that: “...Sierra Leone must improve access to quality education and health...”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Associated Press (27 May 2024) A synthetic drug ravages youth in Sierra Leone. There's little help, and some people are chained

<sup>2</sup> WHO (5 April 2024) *Entrenching person-centred life-stages care to advance the right to health in Sierra Leone*

<sup>3</sup> United Nations World Food Programme (31 March 2024) Sierra Leone: Annual Country Report 2023 [Overview; Operational context], p.3

<sup>4</sup> World Bank (13 March 2024) Sierra Leone Human Capital Review, p.3

This document also notes the: “...country’s poor quality of healthcare. Sierra Leone also experiences shortages of skilled healthcare workers...”<sup>5</sup>

A report issued in March 2024 by *Bertelsmann Stiftung* states that: “The government has not been able to fix the damage that was done to the already deficient health sector during the Ebola crisis. Sierra Leone lost around 7% of its health workers (including doctors, nurses and midwives) due to the outbreak, which exacerbated existing skills shortages.”<sup>6</sup>

A publication issued in December 2023 by the *International Journal for Equity in Health* points out that: “...Sierra Leone’s health outcomes languish at the bottom of many league tables. Sierra Leone is among the ten worst performing countries when it comes to neonatal mortality, infant and under-five mortality, stillbirth and child death rates...”<sup>7</sup>

The *Guardian* in September 2023 points out that: “There is...a shortage of healthcare professionals in Sierra Leone, which has the lowest density of medical doctors in west Africa with about three doctors per 100,000 individuals according to data from 2020.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *ibid*, p.4

<sup>6</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung (19 March 2024) *BTI 2024 Country Report Sierra Leone*, p.31

<sup>7</sup> International Journal for Equity in Health (9 December 2023) *Unsalaries health workers in Sierra Leone: a scoping review of the literature to establish their impact on healthcare delivery*, p.2).

<sup>8</sup> Guardian (4 September 2023) *‘It is for us, who will give birth here’: the women breaking barriers to build Sierra Leone’s new maternity unit*, p.3

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