Economic and Public Financial Management

Trend analysis for Sierra Leone using the 2017 reference point, 2023 baseline, and 2025 delivery status for the IGR Development Scorecard.

Public debt, 2017
59.5%
Debt-to-GDP

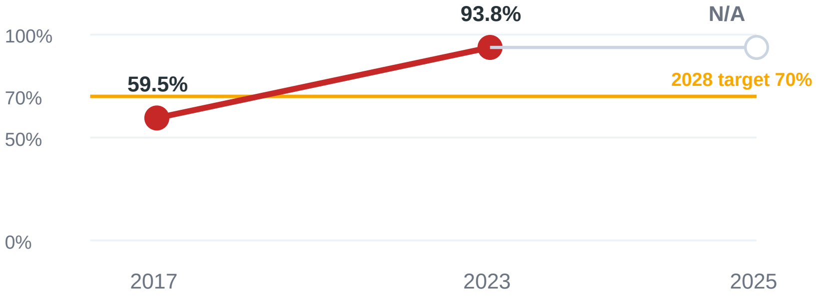
Public debt, 2023
93.8%
MTNDP baseline

Budget deficit, 2017
8.3%
Deficit-to-GDP

Budget deficit, 2025
3.1%
Near 3% target

Public debt-to-GDP trend

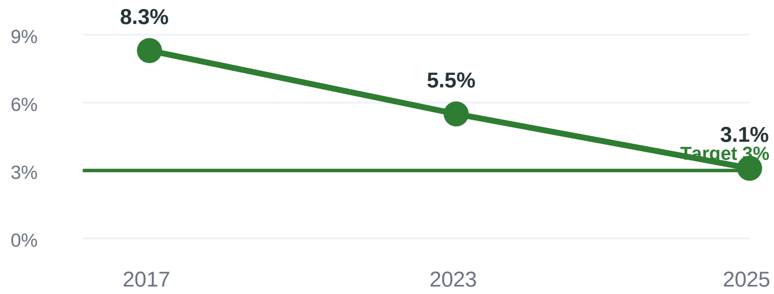
Nominal debt ratio. 2025 value not provided in supplied data.



Status: worsened to 2023 baseline. 2025 debt value needed to score delivery.

Budget deficit-to-GDP trend

Overall deficit ratio. Lower value indicates stronger fiscal consolidation.



Status: clear improvement from 8.3% in 2017 to 3.1% in 2025.

Scorecard interpretation

Indicator	2017	2023 baseline	2025 status	Trend assessment
Public debt-to-GDP	59.5%	93.8%	Not provided	Deteriorated between 2017 and 2023. Delivery cannot be fully scored for 2025 without a verified debt ratio. The 2028 nominal target is 70%.
Overall budget deficit-to-GDP	8.3%	5.5%	3.1%	Improving. Fiscal deficit narrowed by 5.2 percentage points from 2017 to 2025 and is close to the 3% target.

Overall IGR scorecard reading

Summary judgement and analytical notes for public use.

Overall trend signal

PFM delivery shows mixed performance. Debt sustainability remains the main risk because the debt ratio rose sharply between 2017 and the 2023 baseline. Budget discipline shows a stronger positive movement, with the deficit narrowing toward the 3% target by 2025.

Recommended IGR scorecard action

Classify budget deficit delivery as **Improving / Near Target**. Classify public debt delivery as **Data Gap / Needs Verification** for 2025, with a cautionary note that the 2023 baseline was well above the 2028 target.

Indicative scoring

Debt sustainability

40/100

Budget deficit control

82/100

Analytical notes and data assumptions

Area	Analysis
Strategic objective	Continue to ensure the prudent, efficient, effective and transparent use of public funds, consistent with the Public Financial Management Act 2016 and the PFM Strategy 2023-2027.
Debt sustainability	The debt indicator moves from 59.5% of GDP in 2017 to a 93.8% 2023 baseline. This is a negative movement of 34.3 percentage points and places the economy above the 2028 nominal target of 70%. Since no 2025 debt figure was supplied, the scorecard should avoid claiming delivery progress for 2025.
Budget deficit control	The deficit indicator improves from 8.3% of GDP in 2017 to 5.5% in 2023 and 3.1% in 2025. This is a reduction of 5.2 percentage points from 2017 to 2025 and leaves the country approximately 0.1 percentage points above the 3% target.
Context note	The deficit trend fluctuated due to major external shocks, including COVID-19 and the Ukraine war, but the 2025 estimate suggests consolidation after the 2022 pressure period.
Data quality note	For a final public-facing scorecard, insert the verified 2025 public debt-to-GDP ratio from the latest official debt bulletin, IMF/World Bank debt sustainability analysis, or Ministry of Finance publication.

Source references listed in user brief: MTNDP 2024-2030 page 44, Public Debt Management Bulletin 2017 page iv, Ministry of Finance budget deficit figures, and GoSL Budget 2026.