

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNANCE REFORM (IGR)

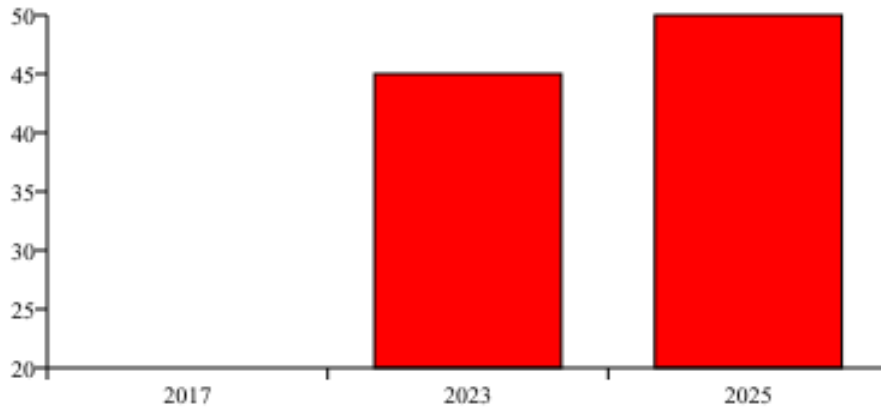
Security Sector Development Scorecard

Trend Analysis: 2017 – 2023 – 2025

Strategic Objective: By 2030, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) should be more modernized, robust, professional and capable of responding to national security threats and emergencies.

Executive Summary

The security sector has shown movement from a post-conflict stabilization posture in 2017 toward a modernization agenda by 2025. The strongest evidence of progress lies in policy commitments, institutional direction, and selected investments in naval assets, engineering services, and military agriculture. However, publicly available evidence of substantial operational transformation remains limited.



Indicative Modernization Trend

2017 represents a low-capability baseline. By 2023, government policy had shifted toward modernization. By 2025, foundational reforms and commitments were visible, although measurable operational gains remain modest.

Comparative Scorecard

Dimension	2017	2023	2025	Trend
Force Readiness	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	↑
Technology Integration	Low	Low	Low-Medium	↑
Air Wing Capacity	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	→
Naval Capability	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	↑
Engineering Services	Low	Medium	Medium	↑
Training & Learning	External Support	External Support	External Support	→
Agriculture Initiatives	Minimal	Emerging	Visible	↑
Modernization Policy	Weak	Established	Strengthened	↑

Key Findings

- The RSLAF has moved beyond its post-conflict stabilization identity.
- Modernization is currently driven more by policy commitment than by demonstrated operational transformation.
- Naval and engineering capabilities show the clearest signs of development.
- Military-supported agriculture initiatives (rice production and fishponds) demonstrate expanding national development contributions.
- Air capability remains a major modernization gap.
- Continued investment in technology, equipment, welfare, training, and force readiness will be necessary to achieve the 2030 target.

IGR Assessment

Status: PARTIALLY ON TRACK

Direction of Travel: Positive

Rate of Progress: Slow to Moderate

Evidence Strength: Moderate

While the Government of Sierra Leone and the military leadership have established a credible modernization vision, available evidence suggests that the sector remains in an early implementation phase. The period between 2023 and 2025 demonstrates commitment and foundational reforms rather than large-scale capability transformation.

Sources

- Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2024–2030, Page 165.
- Sierra Leone Medium-Term National Development Plan 2024–2030.
- Author verification and review of publicly available information (2025).