

Social Welfare and Social Protection in Sierra Leone

Trend analysis and infographic scorecard output for IGR development, focusing on child protection, disability inclusion, risk management, vulnerability reduction and community livelihood development.

86%

2017 child protection baseline

GAP

2023 reporting position

2,000

2025 child sexual abuse

+31.58%

2024 to 2025 change

Core trend interpretation

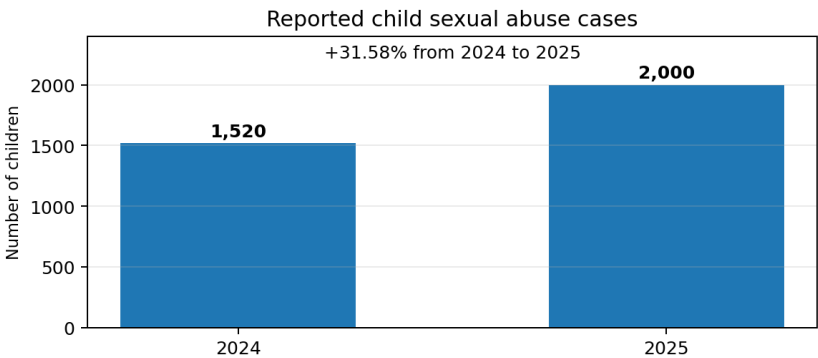
The available data points do not form a perfect like-for-like statistical series. However, they show a worrying pattern: a very high 2017 baseline for child exposure to violence, a major evidence gap in 2023 reporting, and a rise in reported child sexual abuse between 2024 and 2025. For IGR scorecard purposes, the sector should be rated as high priority, with progress dependent on stronger reporting, child protection financing, disability-inclusive services and community-level prevention.

Scorecard status: Watchlist / High Risk

The MTNDP target is to reduce violence, abuse and neglect drastically compared with 2023 levels. Because 2023 lacks child-specific disaggregation, the first priority is to establish a clean baseline and reporting system.

Key conclusion

The trend indicates serious child protection pressure and a weak evidence base. The 2025 rise should trigger urgent investment in child protection systems, district-level services, reporting quality and survivor support.



Year-by-year trend analysis

The three-year view combines a historic survey baseline, a reporting gap year and the latest police crime statistic supplied for child sexual abuse.

Year	Evidence available	What the trend says	IGR scorecard implication
2017	UNICEF MICS: 86% of children under 15 experienced violent discipline at home in the month before the survey.	Child protection risk was already extremely high. Violence against children was not isolated, but widespread within the household environment.	Use as historic baseline for violence prevention and social welfare programming.
2023	Police report did not state separate figures for women and children.	The absence of disaggregated data weakens accountability and makes trend measurement difficult.	Treat as a data gap year. Scorecard should flag weak reporting and require age and sex disaggregation.
2025	About 2,000 children suffered sexual abuse, up from 1,520 in 2024.	Reported child sexual abuse increased by 31.58% from 2024 to 2025. This indicates either worsening incidence, improved reporting, or both.	High risk. Urgent need for prevention, case management, survivor support, prosecution tracking and community protection systems.

Analytical judgement

- 2017: High household exposure to violent discipline shows that child protection problems were already systemic.
- 2023: Lack of disaggregated reporting means progress against the MTNDP target cannot be measured credibly.
- 2025: The increase in reported child sexual abuse requires urgent response, while also improving data systems to separate real incidence from improved reporting.

Infographic System Output: Indicator Logic and Action Priorities

A practical IGR scorecard structure for tracking social welfare and social protection performance from policy intent to measurable delivery.

1. Child Protection

Reduce violence, abuse and neglect; strengthen reporting, referral, case management and survivor support.

2. Disability Inclusion

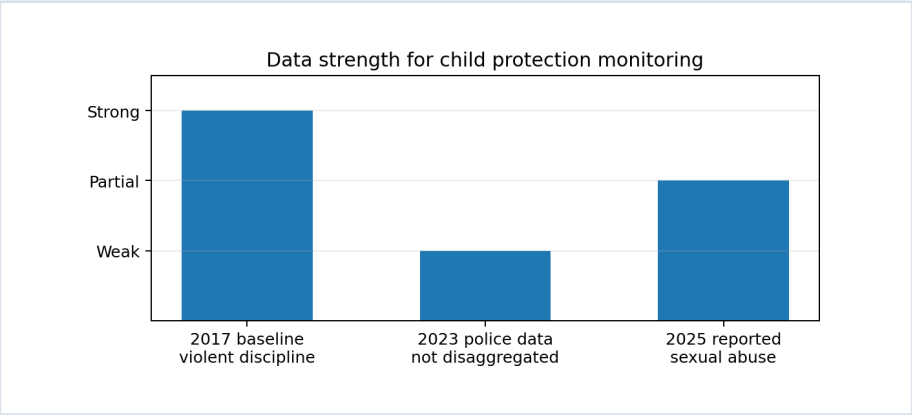
Review and implement disability laws; make public facilities accessible; improve special-needs teacher incentives.

3. Social Protection

Manage risks and vulnerability through targeted support, free health care for physically challenged persons, and livelihood assistance.

4. Social Cohesion

Build trust between state and citizens through inclusive services, community livelihood development and nation building.



Recommended IGR scorecard indicators

- Child protection incidents reported, investigated and resolved, disaggregated by age, sex, district and offence type.
- Percentage of cases receiving survivor support within 72 hours.
- Public facilities meeting disability accessibility standards.
- Budget allocation and expenditure for child protection and disability inclusion.
- Persons with disabilities receiving livelihood support and free health care access.
- Community protection committees active and reporting monthly.

Traffic-light Assessment for IGR Scorecard

A management view of status, evidence strength and the actions needed to make the MTNDP social welfare and social protection objective measurable.



* Direction is positive, but evidence and financing remain weak.

Detailed scorecard assessment

Area	Status	Reason	Priority action
Child protection outcomes	Red	2025 reported child sexual abuse cases rose sharply from 2024.	Scale prevention, survivor services and prosecution tracking.
Data quality	Amber	2023 police report lacked separate figures for women and children.	Mandate age and sex disaggregation across police, social welfare and health data.
Policy direction	Green direction, weak evidence	MTNDP sets clear objectives on disability inclusion, livelihoods, vulnerability and social cohesion.	Link policy targets to funded annual delivery indicators.
Resources	Red	AB data indicates resources for child protection are few and far between.	Create protected child protection budget lines and district-level service coverage targets.

Sources used: MTNDP 2024-2030, p.90; UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2017 as cited by Statistics Sierra Leone, 2018; Sierra Leone Police 2025 Crime Statistics; AB resource observation note supplied by user.