

Trend Analysis: Physical and Sexual Assault Cases in Sierra Leone

Status: OFF TRACK

Strategic Objective

Consolidate and promote gains from state investment in women empowerment, while mainstreaming gender into national, sectoral and local policies, plans, budgets and programmes to narrow gender inequality.

2017

4,000+

Rape cases reported in 2017. Cases more than doubled to over 8,500 in 2018.

Source: BBC

2023

2,939

MTNDP planning baseline uses 2022 MGCA reported physical and sexual assault cases.

Source: MTNDP 2024-2030 p.87 citing MGCA

2025

3,053

Reported cases to Rainbow Centres in 2025, compiled with police reporting.

Source: Rainbow Centre & SLP reports

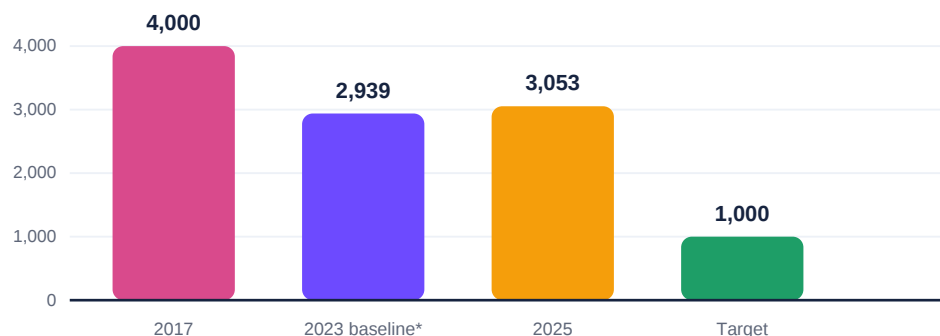
Target

1,000

Policy promise target for physical and sexual assault cases.

Source: MTNDP 2024-2030 p.87

Case trend against the 1,000 target



*The 2023 scorecard point is treated as the MTNDP baseline period because the available figure is 2,939 cases in 2022. The direction from baseline to 2025 shows a rise from 2,939 to 3,053, leaving the indicator far above the 1,000 target.

IGR trend interpretation

2017 position

Rape cases were already high at more than 4,000, signalling a serious protection and justice challenge for women and girls.

2023 baseline

The MTNDP baseline of 2,939 cases shows reported physical and sexual assault remained a major national concern.

2025 delivery status

Reported Rainbow Centre cases increased to 3,053. Separate police reporting also shows wider violence against women and children remains high.

Scorecard judgement

The 2025 evidence suggests the promise to reduce cases to 1,000 is unlikely to be met without stronger prevention, reporting and prosecution reforms.

Target 1,000

2025 3,053

Scorecard action signal: Strengthen prevention, survivor-centred reporting, Rainbow Centre capacity, police case management, prosecution speed, community protection systems, and district-level GBV data verification.