**Context:** Kono district is in the Eastern Province, and borders with Kenema district to the southwest, the Republic of Guinea to the east, Koinadugu district to the northeast and Kailahun district to the southeast. Its capital and the largest city is Koidu town. The other major towns in the district are Motema, Yengema, Tombodu, Jaiama Nimikoro and Sewafe. This district is divided into fourteen chiefdoms namely Fiama, Gbane, Gbane Kandor, Gbense, Gorama Kono, Kamara, Lei, Mafindor, Nimikoro, Nimiyama, Sandor, Soa, Tankoro, and Toli. The population is religiously mixed between Muslim and Christians and home to many ethnic groups. During the decade long civil war (1991-2002), heavy fighting caused many people to flee their homes and there was widespread looting. The rich reserves of diamonds in the area were one of the main reasons for the fighting.
**Population distribution**: As indicated in the projected population\textsuperscript{1} for 2014, some 53% of the residents are among the active workforce between the age group 15-64 years, while 26% fall between 5-14 years of age group and 17% are under the age of 5 years (see table aside). Nearly 67% of the district population resides in rural areas. The average family size\textsuperscript{1} is 5.6.

**Livelihood and Economy**: Kono district is the largest diamond producer\textsuperscript{3} in Sierra Leone, gold and alluvial diamond mining are important economic activities of the residents. Although agriculture has not been the main source of livelihood of the majority (less than 30% rely on farming), in some areas rice, cassava, corn, and beans are grown and small groups of residents grow coffee, cacao and palm oil. The diamond mining industry has attracted many people from other parts of the country to settle down in Kono, making the district a cosmopolitan one. Diamonds were first discovered in the area during the 1930s, local residents work as employees for the large foreign owned mining companies. 12% of the population\textsuperscript{8} are in poorest category and 30% fall into the medium poor category. Gini coefficient\textsuperscript{4} is 0.27 which is on the lower side (scale from 0-1).

**Education**: There are 480 schools\textsuperscript{9} in the district with 50 pre-primary, 349 primary, 59 junior secondary and 19 senior secondary schools as reported by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST). The district has 3 Vocational Technical Institutes. The majority of these schools (88\%) is either mission, community or privately owned while government owns only 12\% of the schools. The MEST census recorded 16 less schools in 2012-2013 compared to 2011-2012 school year. Three of the fourteen chiefdoms Gbane Kandor, Mafindor, Toli each have one primary school but none of these chiefdoms have a junior secondary school. NGOs supported a school feeding programme covering 115 schools (24\%) mostly at the primary level\textsuperscript{9}. The number of students enrolled in higher level of education is considerably lower (see graph aside), it is only 12\% of the total enrollment between primary 1 and 6. The net primary enrollment rate is just over 57\%\textsuperscript{4}.

### 2014 Projected district population by age group & sex\textsuperscript{1}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under 5</th>
<th>5 to 14</th>
<th>15-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>21048</td>
<td>32227</td>
<td>68475</td>
<td>5421</td>
<td>127171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20422</td>
<td>30958</td>
<td>58995</td>
<td>5176</td>
<td>115551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41470</td>
<td>63185</td>
<td>127470</td>
<td>10597</td>
<td>242722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of students by level and sex \textsuperscript{9}

- **Sr. Sec (15-17 yrs)**
  - Female: 2989
  - Male: 4193
- **Jr Sec (12-14 yrs)**
  - Female: 8501
  - Male: 8852
- **Primary (6-11 yrs)**
  - Female: 42403
  - Male: 43133
**Food Security:** According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment 2015 report, 44% of the district population falls under severe (10%) and moderate (34%) food insecurity. Food purchases accounted for 63% of household expenditure. Farmers lost 33% of the rice production in 2014 compared to 2013 level. The survey also revealed that 28% of household main priority need is food support followed by credit (financial support) and seeds. Chronic malnutrition prevalence rate was 31.5% (measured by stunting) among the children between aged between 6-59 months while the malnutrition rate measured by being underweight for the same age group was 14.5%, both the rates were moderately high.

**Health:** The 99 Health facilities in the district include one Government General Hospital, 11 Community Health Centers (CHC), 17 Community Health Posts, 62 Maternal and Child Health Posts and 8 Health Clinics. There are an average of 3,185 residents per health facility, and a bed for 2,389 residents. The vaccination coverage is 73.82% among children aged between 12-23 months old, 0.6% children of the same age group have never been vaccinated. The overall HIV prevalence rate is relatively high 2.5%, among women the prevalence rate is 3.6% and among men 1.2%.

**Water and Sanitation: (WASH):** For the supplies of water, the district residents use standpipe/ tap stand, hand-dug wells, boreholes and wells. During the comprehensive mapping exercise carried out in 2012 by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR) some 930 functional water sources were recorded and 305 sources were in need of repair. According to the census carried out by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) for the 2012-2013 school year, this indicated that the majority of the schools 71% (348) have toilet facilities in the school premises, the number is higher (90% schools) in the Koidu City Council area schools. While only 43% (211) of schools have access to safe drinking water (tap or boreholes) in the school compound.

**Ebola Emergency:** The last confirmed case of EVD was reported on 24 February 2015, since then the district remained transmission free. On 7 November 2015, the day Sierra Leone declared end of EVD transmission, the district had reached 255 days without any reported EVD case. According to the Comprehensive Programme for EVD survivors (CPES), the district has so far registered 97 survivors. Survivors receive free health care services from survivor clinics and a mobile/ outreach clinic. As until 15 December 2015, 81 survivors received ophthalmic examinations of which 8 survivors were found to have Uveitis (eye problems).
SIERRA LEONE — KONO

DISTRICT PROFILE

Operational Organization at the District level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Grant</td>
<td>WFP, NaCSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Action Aid, COOPI, Education For All, FTC, Handicap International, IBIS, IRC, MEST, Street Child, UNICEF, World Vision International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>FAO, WFP, GIZ/EPP, NaCSA, World Vision International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>WHO, UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>CADA, DSDM, OXFAM, SFYDP, SILPA, Health Education Department, ISLAG/CHRISTAG/MoHS/SMAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES:

2. SLIS Map Code 02 16 Nov 2006.
4. A poverty profile for Sierra Leone, the World Bank and Statistics Sierra Leone, June 2013 (Calculations based on Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey 2011).
5. Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey (SLDHS) 2013, published in July 2014. The survey was carried out by Statistics Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and supported by WHO, UNDP, WFP, UNFPA, FAO, UNICEF, UK Aid, ICF International, KfW Development Bank and the World Bank
7. The state of Food Security and Nutrition in Sierra Leone 2011. The study was undertaken by the WFP in partnership with relevant ministries of the GoSL.
8. Emergency Food Security Assessment Sierra Leone 2015, Data collected in March April and report published in June 2015. The assessment was a joint effort by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security and WFP, FAO, ACF, World Vision, ACDI/VOCA, Save the Children and CARE.
9. Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST) conducted school census for the year 2012-2013
10. The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) is a WFP indicator that measures the frequency and severity of the coping strategies households employ when faced with food shortages.
13. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR) conducted comprehensive mapping exercise of water points report 2012

** Definition: The Gini coefficient is often used to measure income inequality, a value of 0 expressing total equality and a value of 1 maximal inequality.**