



6 Key background facts on junior and senior secondary schools, teachers and principals in Sierra Leone



This summary presents six key facts on the background characteristics of schools, teachers and principals from the first annual secondary grade learning assessment survey conducted in all four regions of Sierra Leone in May and June 2017. In total 400 schools were surveyed (100 per province) with an equal number of junior (JS) and senior secondary (SS) schools. The data comes from teacher and principal background questionnaires administered to 1,173 English and math teachers and 392 principals. To provide estimates that are representative at regional level, observed values were analysed using survey weights.

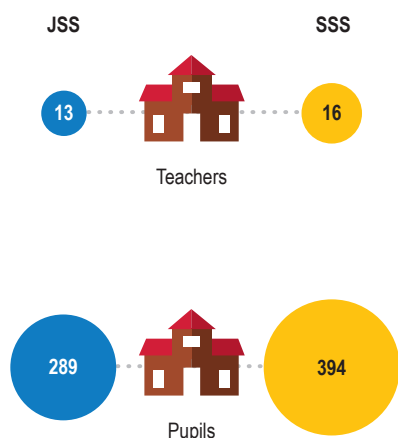
School characteristics

Fact 1

The typical secondary school in Sierra Leone has 22-23 pupils per teacher. A small percentage of these teachers are female.



The typical school has:



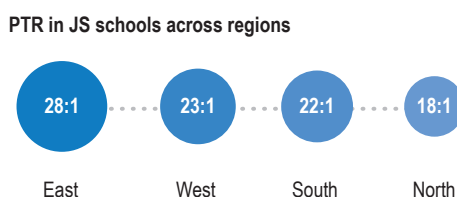
PTR is relatively small and similar across JS and SS schools



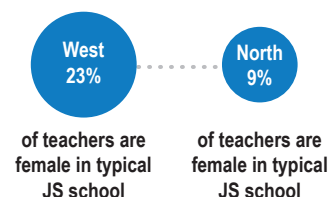
Proportion of female teachers in schools is very low



Notable differences between some regions



Large differences between regions

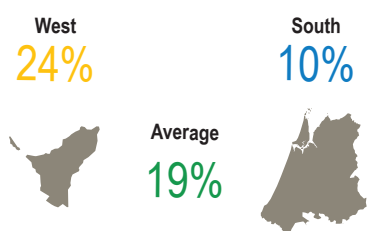


Fact 2

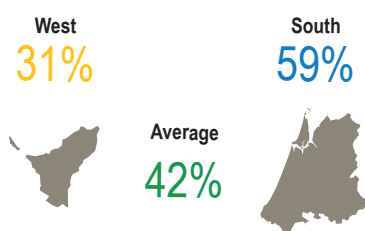
About a fifth of all secondary schools are government-owned, while the rest are privately owned. Over half of these private schools receive government assistance. Private schools are predominantly mission schools.

There are significant regional disparities

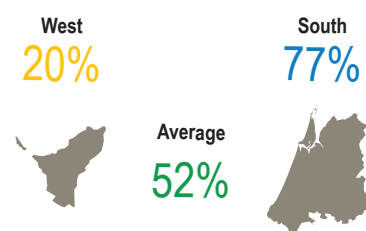
Total schools under government ownership



Total schools owned by missions

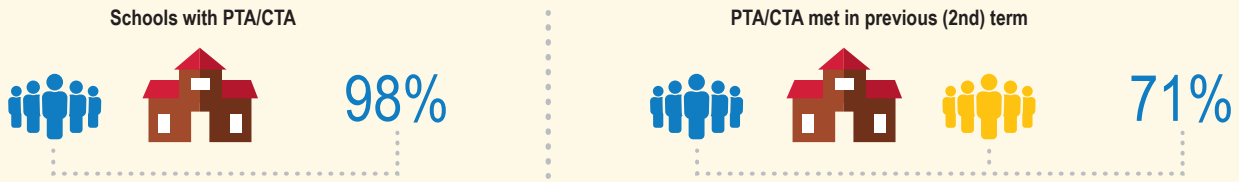


Private schools receiving government assistance



Fact 3

Nearly all JS and SS schools have parent-teacher or community-teacher associations (PTA/CTA). The majority of these bodies are active, having met at least once in the previous term.

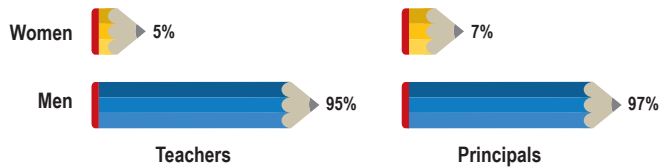


Teacher and principal background characteristics

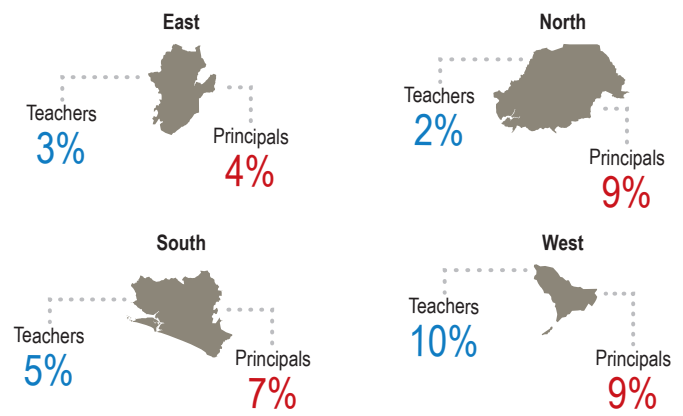
Fact 4

A small percentage of teachers and principals are female.

A small percentage of teachers and principals are female...



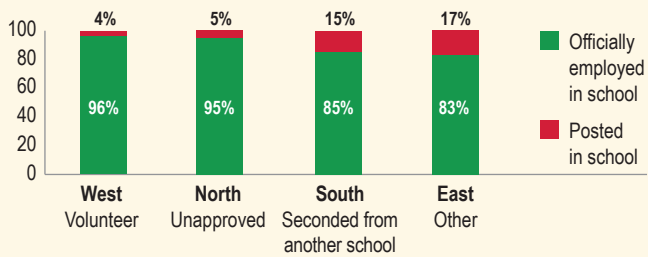
...with significant regional disparities ->



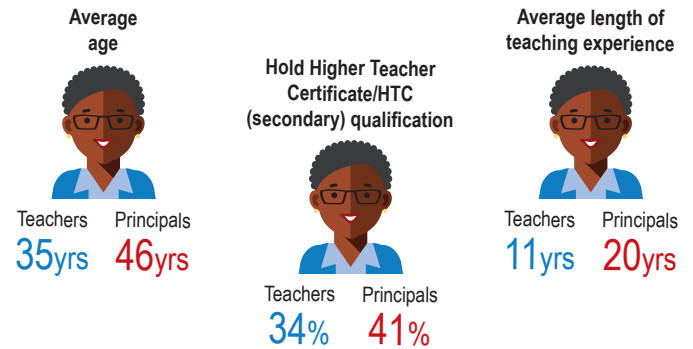
Fact 5

Nearly all teachers are officially employed/posted in their schools, while the remaining are volunteers, part-time, or teachers pending approval.

There is significant regional variations in teacher employment status



91% of teachers are formally employed



Hold Higher Teacher Certificate/HTC (secondary) qualification

Teachers: 34%
Principals: 41%

Fact 6

A significant proportion of principals (85%) are heading a school for the first time. The typical principal has 6 years of school leadership experience.

Experience in any school

6 years

Experience in current school

5 years

Regional variation



Contact details

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Any views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of UK Department for International Development (DFID) or the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST).