

SIERRA LEONE: 10 Key Results from 3 latest SierraPolls - Oct 4th, 2022.



Results based on four rounds of data collection. Feb-Aug 2022. In each round, 1,176 respondents were interviewed nationwide.

HATE SPEECH

1. Hate speech is a growing concern in Sierra Leone: One in three Sierra Leoneans say they had heard hate speech uttered against a group of people because of their gender or ethnicity.
2. Prevalent platforms for spread of hate speech: social media (58%); radio (20%); political party meetings (11%).

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, WOMEN & VIOLENCE

Most citizens (especially women) know very little about Sierra Leone's electoral system.

3. On average, 80% of Sierra Leoneans have never heard about the Proportional Representation (PR) system and the constituency based First Past the Post (FPTP) system practiced in Sierra Leone.
4. Most (74%) citizens can't name which electoral system we have in Sierra Leone including 81% of women and 67% of men.
5. 65% of Sierra Leoneans do not know or even care about which electoral system we should use in Sierra Leone
6. 81% of Citizens think it's a good idea to have a 30% quota for women's political participation in the constitution.
7. In 16 bye-elections in the last 24 months, nearly 1 in 4 Sierra Leoneans said they heard about violence, while 6% saw incidences of violence. Most (68%) people said their communities were largely peaceful on the day of bye-elections.

CITIZEN'S PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT BODIES (EMBs)

8. Sierra Leoneans felt that overall, the Electoral Commission (EC) did not do very well in enforcing COVID--19 protocols like mask-wearing, social distancing, and giving special treatment to people with special needs during the bye-elections. For example, just over half said the EC did a good job in giving special treatment to pregnant women and the elderly when voting.
9. The Police were seen as the least trusted institution in the most recent bye-elections - only 44% of respondents said they trusted the police a lot, compared to 57% who trust the army and 55% who trust the Electoral Commission.
10. Overall, a majority of citizens living in bye-election communities are very satisfied with EMB performance in the most recent bye-elections and also trusted the results. Nearly four in five (78%) citizens in bye-election areas say the results of the last bye-elections reflect the wishes of their community. 83% of citizens in bye-election areas say the Electoral Commission did a good job in managing elections in the last 24 months.