

Highlights



85% of Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora hold a bachelor's degree or higher



\$50K

Almost half of Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora have less than **US\$50K** as net investable wealth.



3 in 4 of the study sample are first generation diaspora



Majority of study sample engaged in managerial and professional occupations. Entrepreneurship holds the highest proportion (19%).



Many **Infrastructure** and **property right** issues were noted as important obstacles to investment.



Over the past 3 years, Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora have sent an average **US\$8,938 annually** in **total remittances** to Sierra Leone.



3 in 4 of study participants have visited Sierra Leone in the past 3 years.



Over the past 3 years, over half of Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora have spent at least one day **volunteering** in Sierra Leone annually.



Over the past 3 years, Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora have given an average of **US\$5,873 annually** to **charities** in Sierra Leone.



Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora find many sectors attractive for investment; the **education sector** garners the greatest amount of current investment interest



The desire to make a **social impact** is the strongest emotional motivation driving Sierra Leone diaspora investment interest.



Emotional and financial motivations, **not politics** drive the Sierra Leonean diaspora to invest in their home country.



Slightly more than half of study respondents (**52%**) do not claim to have a specific location (district) preference when considering investment in SL.



40% of the study sample has already invested in Sierra Leone.



An area of strong interest for investing among the SL diaspora is in **real estate, direct investment** (through entrepreneurship) and **portfolio investment**.



Other areas of strong interest for SL diaspora investment are **social impact investing** and **volunteerism and skills transfer**.



Large gaps exist between interest and current investment activity across a wide array of diaspora portfolio investment options.



TOP 5 PERCEIVED INFRASTRUCTURE BARRIERS



Difficulty Obtaining Energy



Lack of Strong Telecom Infrastructure



Difficulty in Identifying Suppliers



Lack of Skilled Mechanics



Lack of Strong Physical Infrastructure

TOP 5 PERCEIVED FINANCIAL BARRIERS



High Cost of Borrowing \$



High Transportation Costs



High Insurance Costs



Difficulty in \$ Transfer outside of SL



Difficulty in \$ Transfer within SL

TOP 5 PERCEIVED GOVERNMENT-RELATED ISSUES



EXIM Procedures



Import Delays



Lack of OneStop Shop for Diaspora Investors



Unpredictable Monetary Policies



Safety and Security

TOP 5 FINDINGS ON THE DIASPORA



The **No.1** area the Sierra Leone diaspora is most interested in investing back home is in education



The **No.2** area the Sierra Leone diaspora is most interested in investing back home is in healthcare



83% of Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora plan to one day return home to live in their home country



Many Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora want to volunteer on short-term missions



Most Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora are willing to invest in any district in Sierra Leone