



# Maternal and Child Health Indicators in Sierra Leone: A Multi-Level Geospatial and Predictive Analysis

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**GROUP 3 – FINAL PROJECT**

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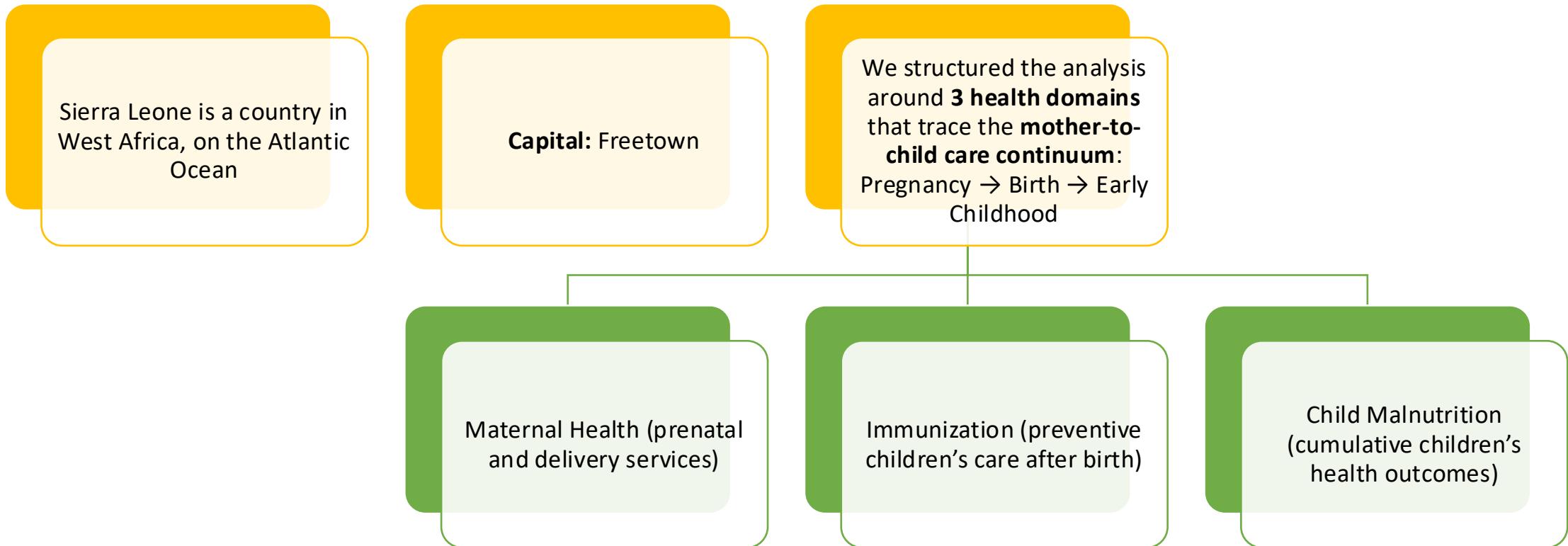
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# Project Overview and Organization



# Maternal Health



ANC

Skilled Birth  
Attendance

# Maternal Health - Definitions

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- **Antenatal Care (ANC):** Health services provided to pregnant women to monitor pregnancy and prevent complications.
- **Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT):** Malaria prevention during pregnancy using scheduled doses of antimalarial medicine (usually SP).
- **Skilled health personnel:** Professionals trained and certified to provide safe pregnancy, delivery, and newborn care.
  - **Midwives:** Primary provider specialized in pregnancy, labor, delivery, postpartum and newborn care.
  - **State Enrolled Community Health Nurse (SECHN):** Community-level nurse providing basic clinical care including maternal and child health services, immunizations, and outpatient care.
  - **Community Health Officer (CHO):** Mid-level clinician with both clinical and supervisory responsibilities at community health centers.
  - **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Aides:** Frontline community health worker focused on maternal and child health support.

# Question 1

## Antenatal Care Intermittent Preventive Treatment

**Review the trendline between ANC IPT 1 coverage and ANC IPT 2 coverage for all of Sierra Leone for all the months of 2024 and first 6 months of 2025 and mention the month in which the trendline met or will meet in the future.**

- Given to pregnant women during ANC visits to usually prevent malaria infection
- Important indicator in maternal and child health programs

Name	ANC IPT 1 Coverage	Name	ANC IPT 2 Coverage
Numerator description	IPT 1st dose total given	Numerator description	IPT 2 doses given total
Numerator expression	IPT 1st dose given at PHU Fixed+IPT 1st dose given at PHU Outreach+IPT 1st dose given by TBA Fixed+IPT 1st dose given by TBA Outreach	Numerator expression	IPT 2nd dose given at PHU Fixed+IPT 2nd dose given at PHU Outreach+IPT 2nd dose given by TBA Fixed+IPT 2nd dose given by TBA Outreach
Denominator description	ANC 1st visit total	Denominator description	ANC 1st visit total
Denominator expression	ANC 1st visit Fixed+ANC 1st visit Outreach	Denominator expression	ANC 2nd visit Fixed+ANC 2nd visit Outreach
Annualized	No	Annualized	No
Indicator type	Per cent, 100	Indicator type	Per cent, 100
Group membership	• ANC • Reproductive Health	Group membership	• ANC • Reproductive Health

## Steps:

### Data

#### Indicators

ANC IPT 1 Coverage  
ANC IPT 2 Coverage

#### Organisation unit

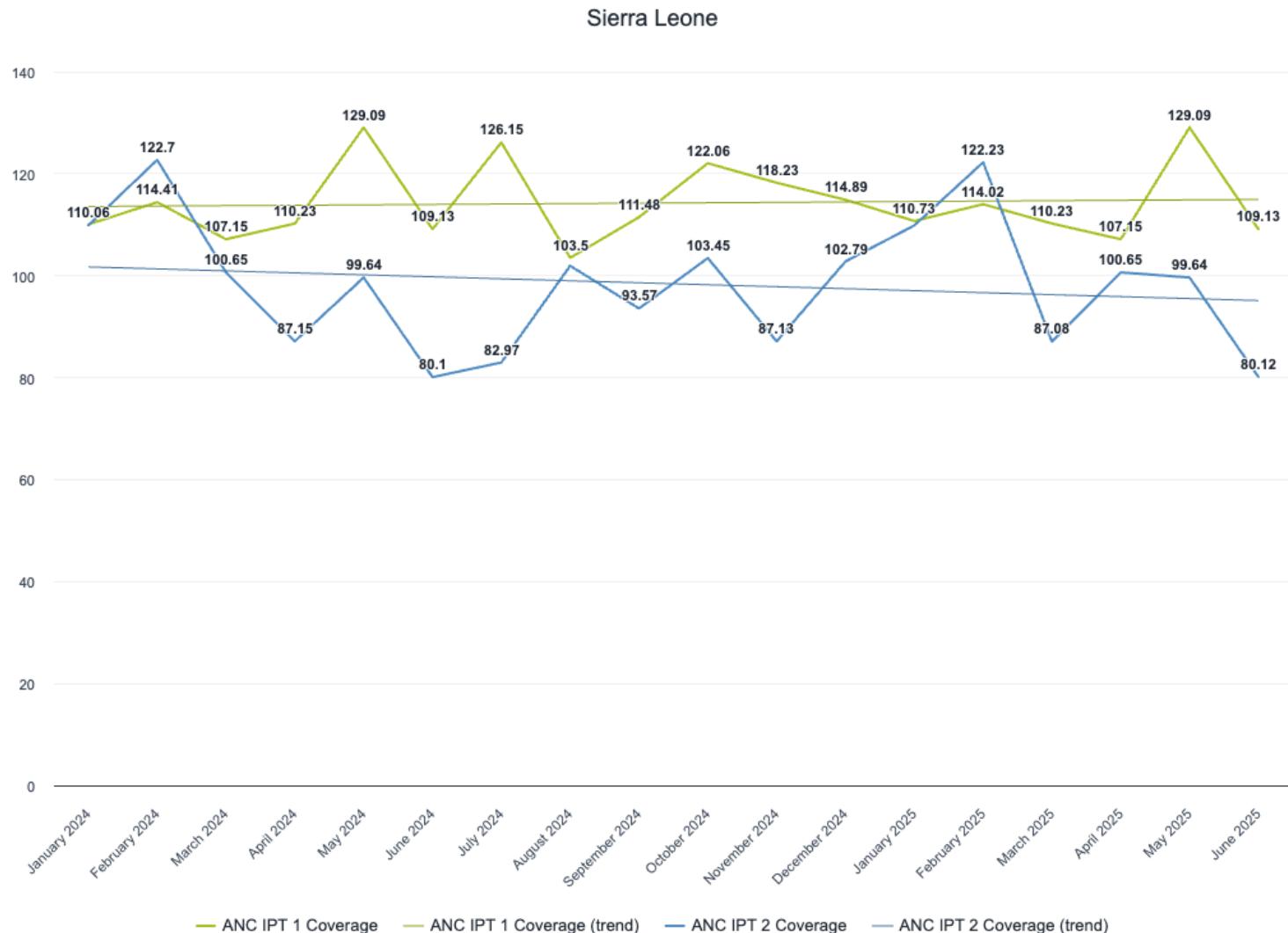
Sierra Leone (no filters)

#### Period

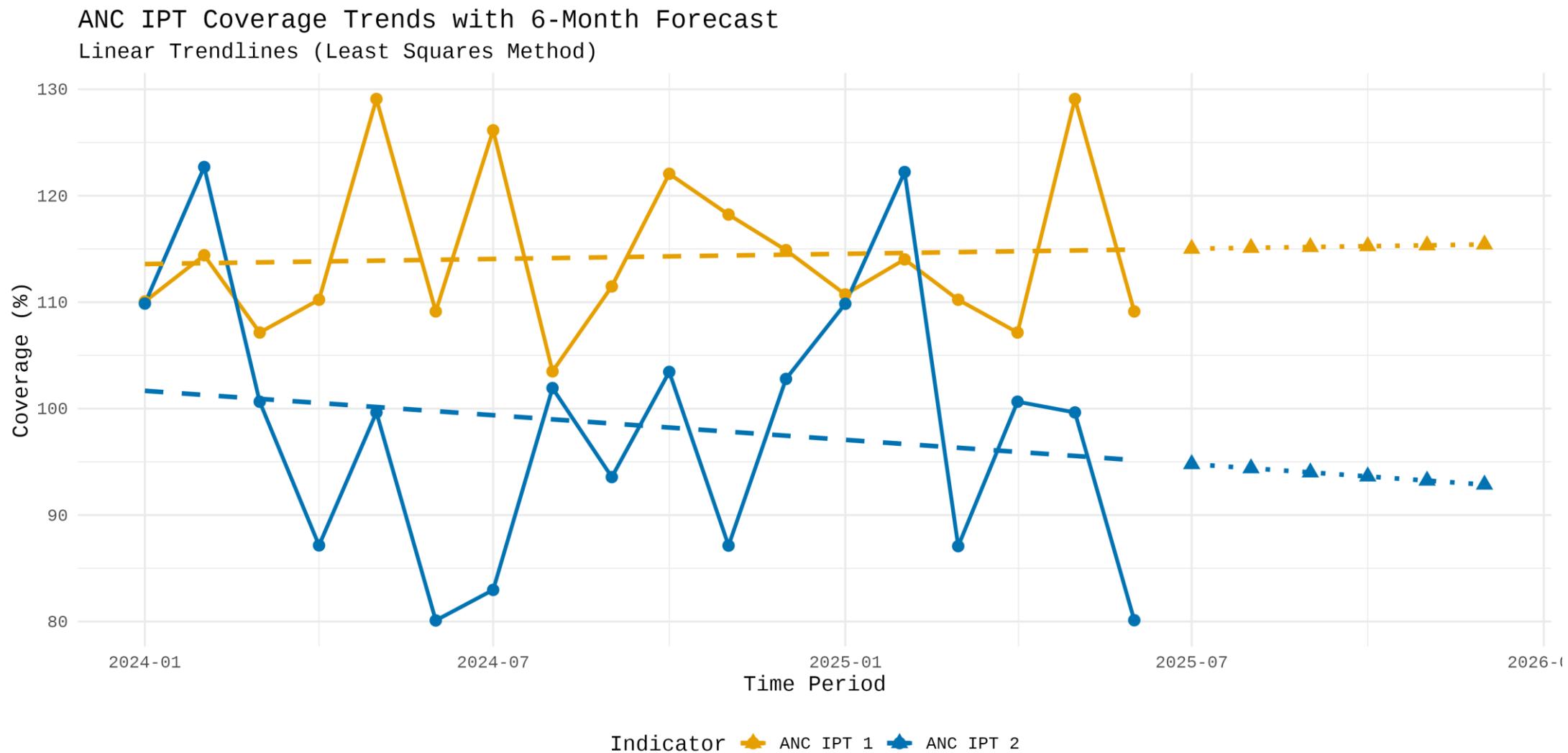
Period Type: Months  
January 2024 – June 2025

**IPT 1 is consistently higher than IPT 2**

**The trendlines for ANC IPT 1 Coverage and ANC IPT 2 Coverage do NOT intersect within the January 2024 to June 2025 period**



## Forecasting



## Interpretation

**The linear trendlines for ANC IPT 1 Coverage and ANC IPT 2 Coverage do NOT meet within the observed period (January 2024 - June 2025) or the 6-month forecast period (July 2025 - January 2026). The trendlines indicate worsening retention rates between first and second IPT doses. Extrapolating backward, the trendlines would have intersected sometime before January 2024.**

## Pros of our approach

- 18-month data + 6-month forecast enables proactive planning
- Linear regression is statistically sound and reproducible
- Dual indicator comparison reveals retention dynamics
- Diverging trendlines quantify urgency of intervention

## Cons of our approach

- Linear model cannot capture policy changes or seasonality
- National aggregation masks district-level disparities
- Does not identify root causes of declining retention

## Question 2

Using SES method, forecast the ANC IPT 2 coverage for the month of Dec 2025 for the Western Area district, using data from all the previous months of 2024 and 2025. (with 2 of your own choices of alpha). Check the error for the last 6 months.

## Steps:

### Data Indicators

#### ANC IPT 2 Coverage

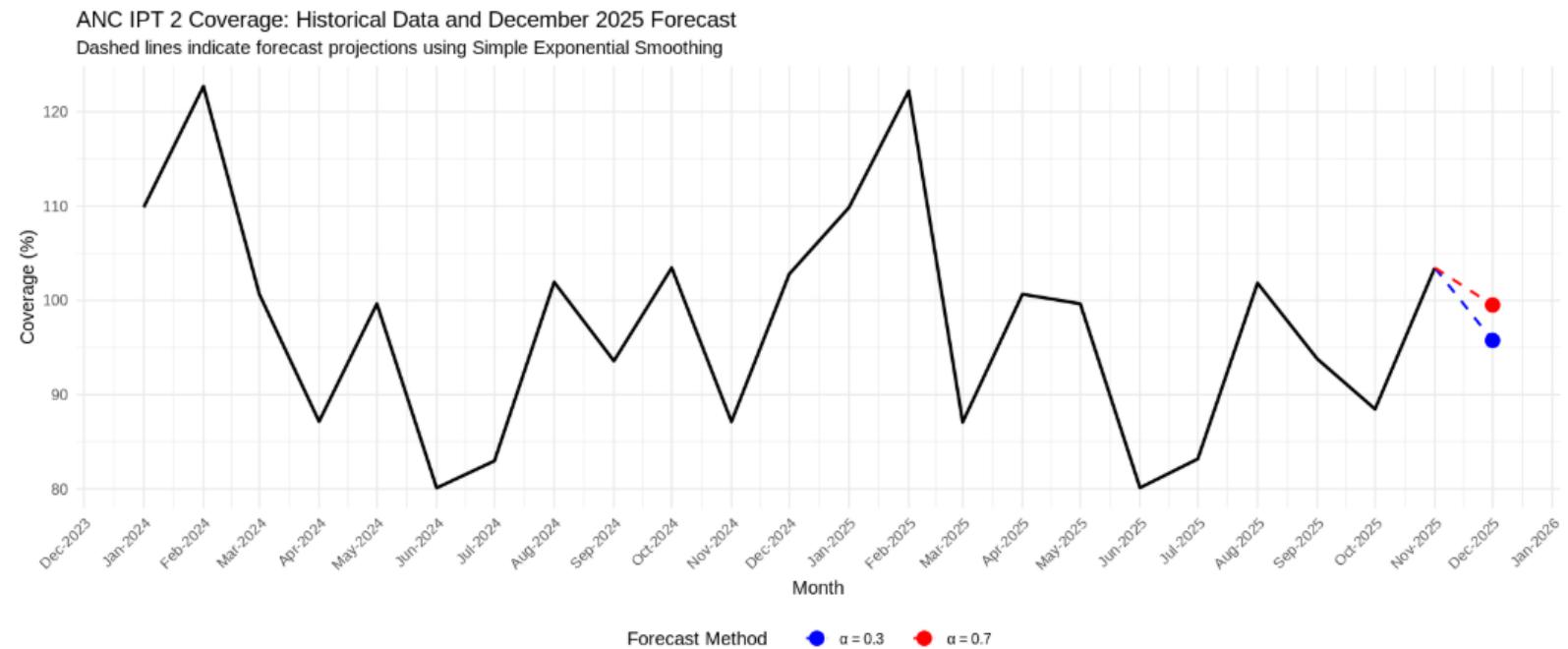
### Organisation Unit

#### Western Area

### Period

#### Period Type: Months

January 2024 – Nov 2025



### Interpretation:

Both SES models showed variable forecasting performance across the last six months (June - November 2025), with the  $\alpha = 0.3$  model achieving better overall accuracy (MAE = 9.97) compared to  $\alpha = 0.7$  (MAE = 10.33). While the  $\alpha = 0.7$  model responded more quickly to recent changes, it produced more volatile forecasts with some large errors, particularly in August 2025. In contrast, the  $\alpha = 0.3$  model provided more consistent forecasts by smoothing out short-term fluctuations. The December 2025 forecast values of 95.75% ( $\alpha = 0.3$ ) and 99.51% ( $\alpha = 0.7$ ) both fall within a reasonable range of recent observations. Overall, the smoother forecasting approach with  $\alpha = 0.3$  offered better short-term accuracy for this dataset, suggesting that ANC IPT 2 coverage data benefits from reducing the influence of month-to-month volatility.

A data.frame: 6 × 6

periodname	ANC IPT 2 Coverage	Forecast_alpha_0_3	Forecast_alpha_0_7	Error_alpha_0_3	Error_alpha_0_7
	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>
18	June 2025	80.12	100.57530	99.54488	-20.4552985
19	July 2025	83.18	94.43871	85.94746	-11.2587089
20	August 2025	101.83	91.06110	84.01024	10.7689037
21	September 2025	93.79	94.29177	96.48407	-0.5017674
22	October 2025	88.46	94.14124	94.59822	-5.6812372
23	November 2025	103.45	92.43687	90.30147	11.0131340

# Question 8

Describe the location where the districts with the lowest births by skilled attendants are performed in Sierra Leone for 2024.

## Steps

### **Initial Indicators:**

- Births attended by skilled health personnel (estimated pregnancies)
- Births attended by skilled health personnel (registered live births)
- Neither indicator told the full story – missing still births
- Neither indicator told right story – calculated as percentage

### **Derived Indicator:**

- All births with skilled attendants
  - Keeps 4 types of skilled attendants, adds still births
  - Replaces 'estimated pregnancies' or 'registered live births' denominators with 1 to create a factor data type

### **Data:**

#### Indicators

All births with skilled attendants

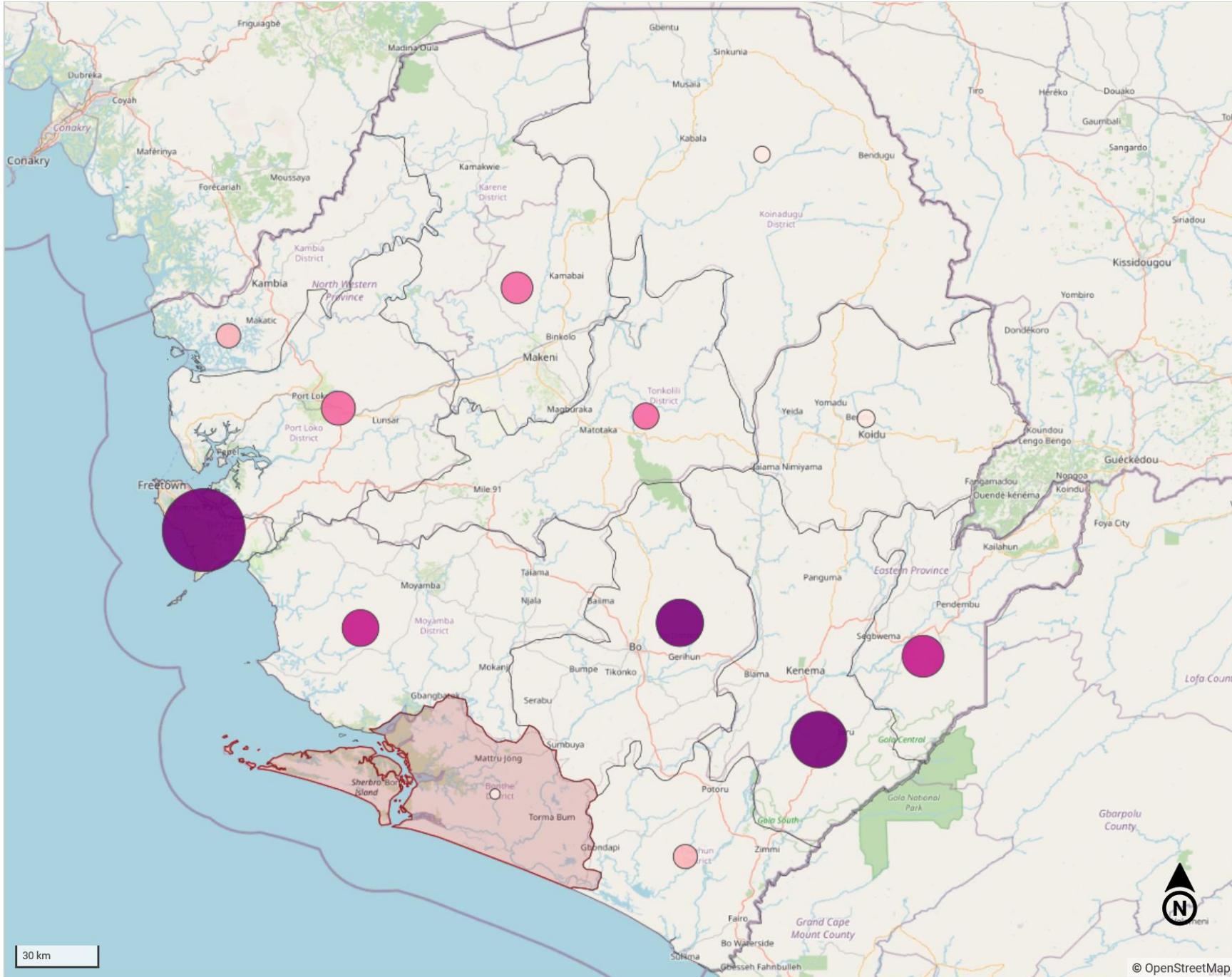
#### Organization unit

Districts

#### Period

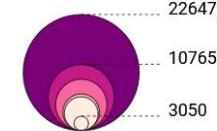
2024 (Yearly)



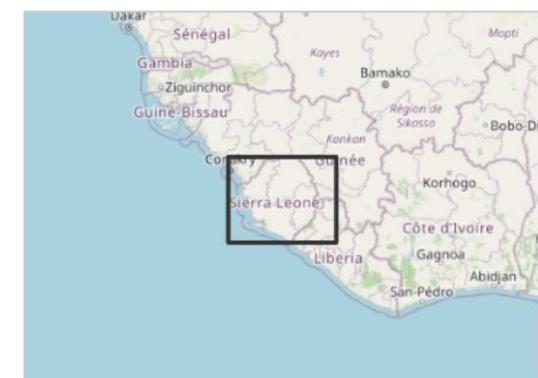


### G3\_Q8

All births with skilled attendants  
2024



- Bonthe** has the lowest births by skilled attendants
  - located in the far southern coastal region
  - with riverine/island terrain that limits overland access.
- Other low-performing districts (Koinadugu, Kono, Pujehun) share similar geographical challenges.
- All are far from Freetown and **lack major highways** (no primary or secondary road networks shown on the map).
- These districts are predominantly rural with low population density and **limited transport connectivity**.
- Remoteness, difficult terrain, and weak infrastructure** likely contribute to reduced access to skilled birth services.



# Childhood Immunization

Measles coverage

Dropout rates  
(Penta-Measles  
correlation)

# Question 4

Perform a visualization-based analysis of Measles coverage for children less than 1yr in all of Sierra Leone. In this analysis, we also want to see in which months in 2024 and 2025 the coverage target of 60% were missed.

## Steps

### **Indicator:**

- Measles Coverage <1y
  - Measles doses given Fixed, <1y + Measles doses given Outreach, <1y / Total population < 1 year

### **Data:**

Indicators

Measles Coverage <1y

Organization unit

National

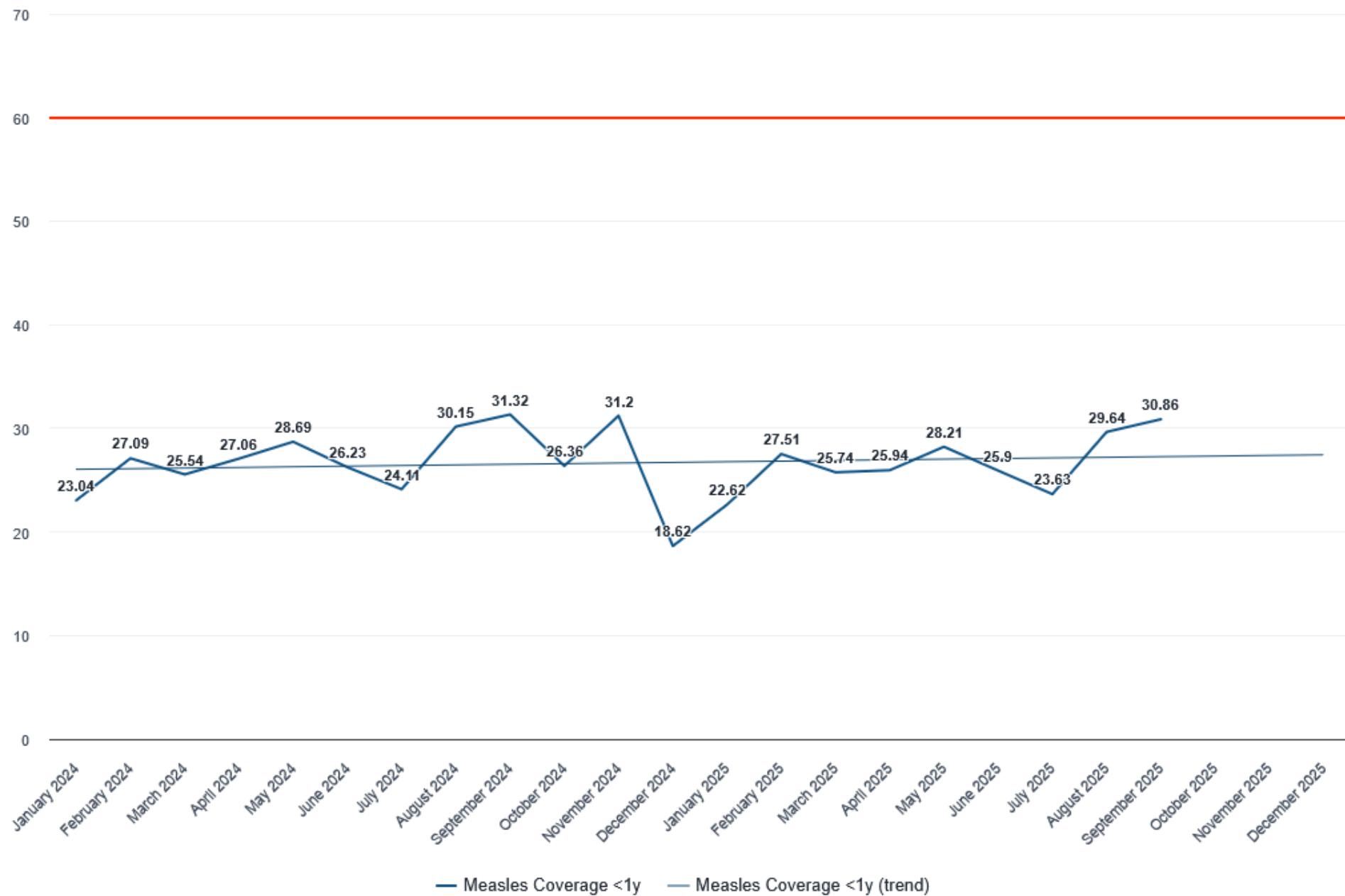
Period

Jan 2024 - Dec 2025 (Monthly)



## Monthly Measles Coverage (<1y)

2024 – 2025



The line chart shows monthly measles coverage for children under one year across Sierra Leone for 2024 and early 2025, plotted against the 60% performance target. Coverage remains consistently below the target for all months in the period, fluctuating between approximately **18% and 32%**, with no month approaching the expected threshold. Although there are small seasonal rises around August–October of both years, the overall trend reflects **persistent national underperformance relative to the 60% benchmark**. This suggests systemic challenges in measles vaccination uptake and/or data completeness across the country rather than isolated monthly declines.

# Question 5

Can you drill-down and identify specific districts, chiefdoms, and facilities that missed the target? What are some characteristics of these districts, chiefdoms, and facilities.

## Steps

### **Initial Indicators:**

- Measles Coverage <1y

### **Derived Indicator:**

- Measles Doses <1y
  - Keeps 2 types of locations where <1y received doses
  - Replaces 'Total population < 1 year' denominator with 1 to create a factor data type

### **Data:**

#### Indicators

Measles Coverage <1y

#### Organization unit

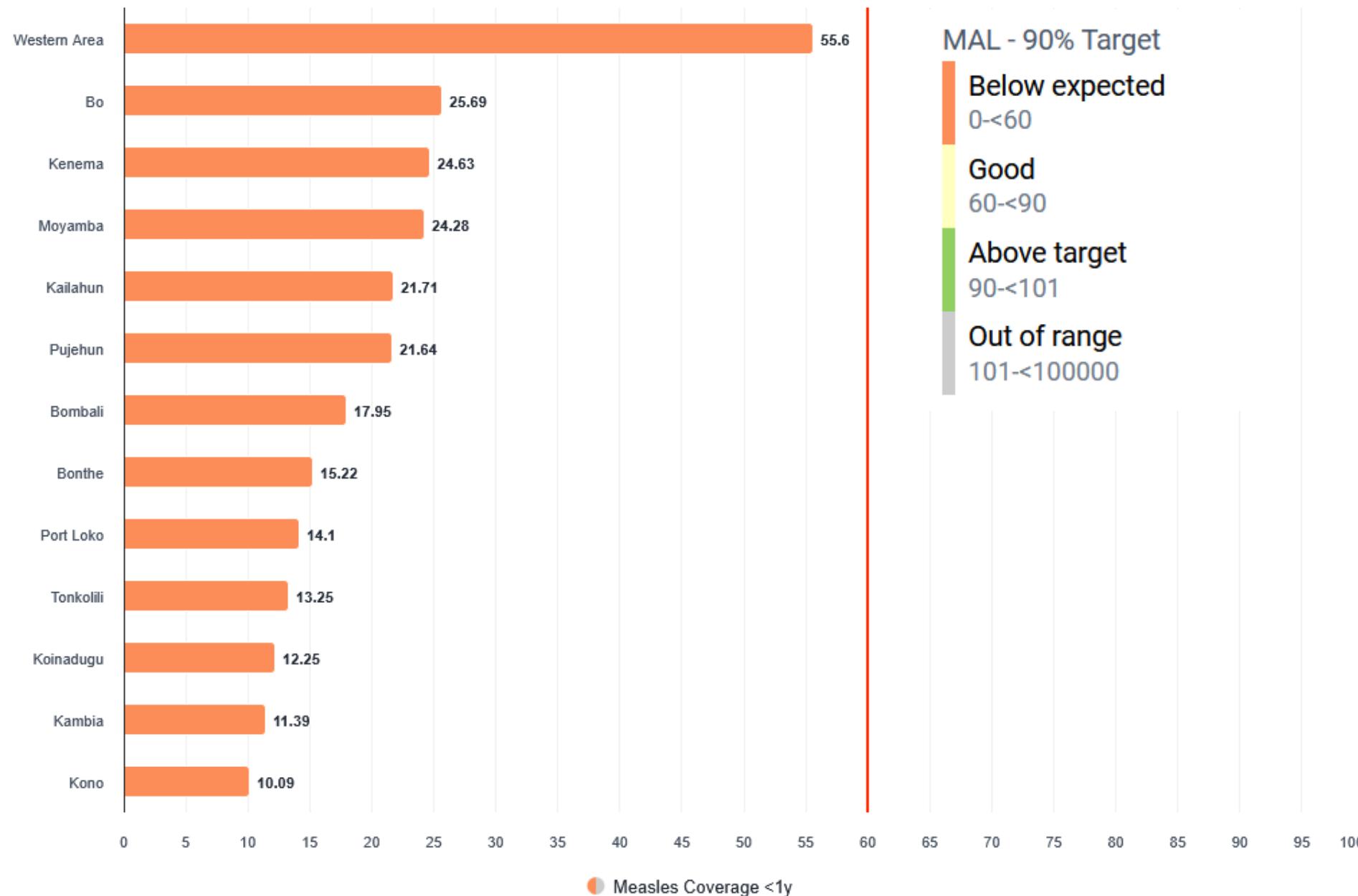
District, Chiefdom, Facility (allows for in-map drill-down)

#### Period

2024, 2025 (Yearly)

## Measles Coverage (<1 year) by District

2024 – 2025



District-level measles coverage remains far below the 60% benchmark across Sierra Leone, with even the highest-performing district (Western Area) reaching only 55.6%. Most districts fall between 10–26%, again highlighting a widespread national gap rather than isolated low-performing areas.

## G3\_Q5 - Drill-down Cheifdom and Facility Measles coverage

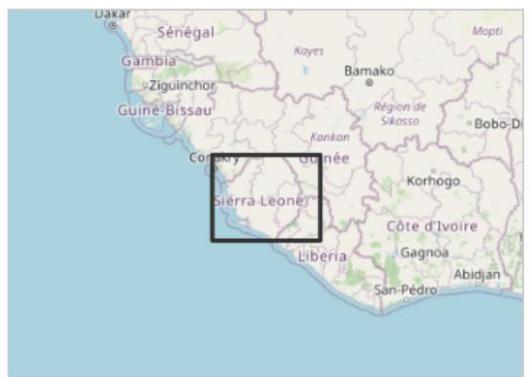
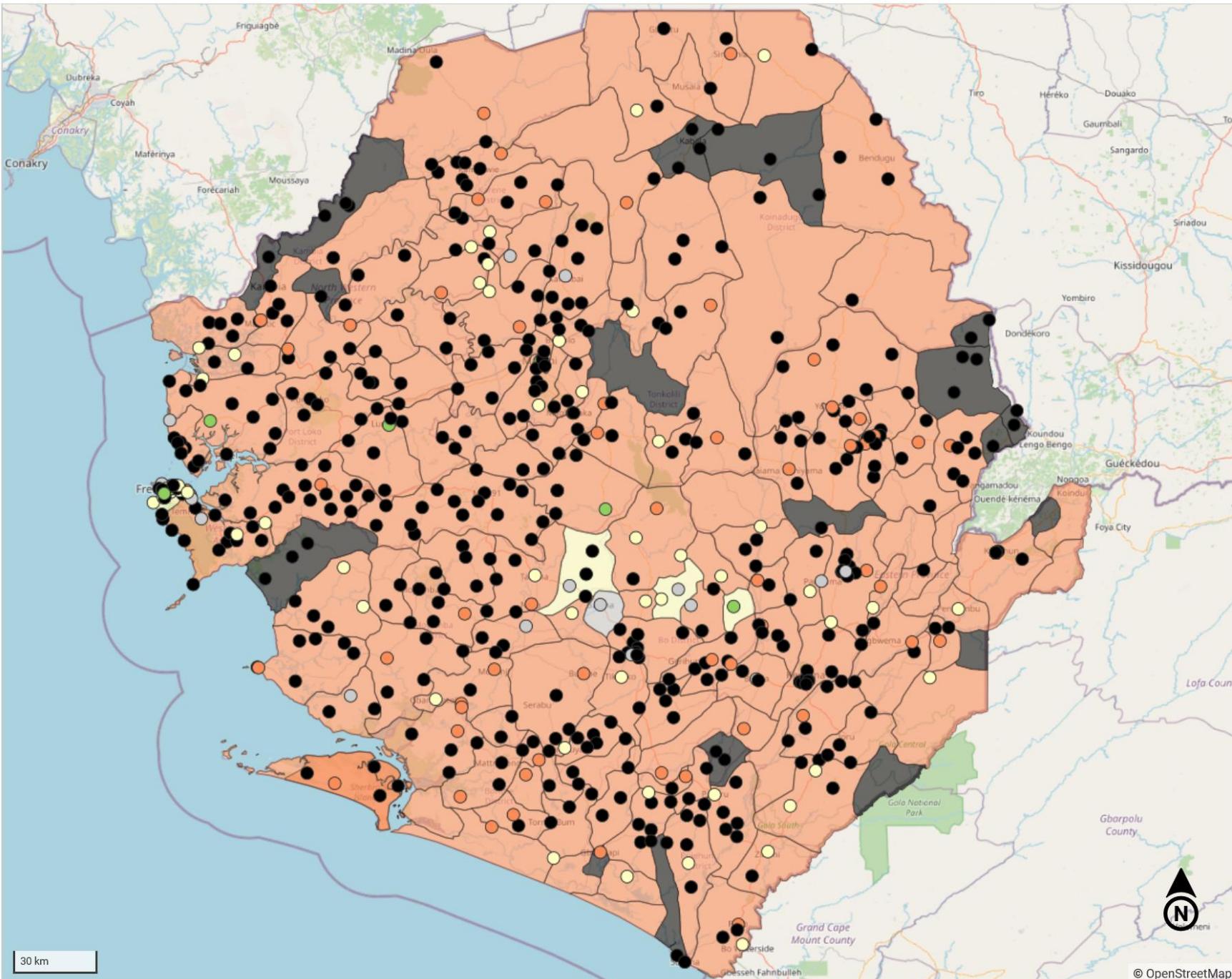
Analyzes measles coverage target (60%) for children less than 1yr, broken down by chiefdoms and facilities.

### Measles Coverage <1y 2024, 2025

- Below expected 0 - 60 (60)
- Good 60 - 90 (53)
- Above target 90 - 101 (10)
- Out of range 101 - 100000 (21)
- No data (457)

### Measles Coverage <1y 2024, 2025

- Below expected 0 - 60 (129)
- Good 60 - 90 (4)
- Above target 90 - 101 (0)
- Out of range 101 - 100000 (1)
- No data (18)



## Chiefdoms

2024, 2025

	Stock PHU dispensed Measles	Measles Doses <1y	Total population < 1 year	Measles Coverage <1y - Calc	Measles Coverage <1y
Bramaia	104		1 284.98	0	
Gbinleh Dixion	208		961.99	0	
Bendu Cha	228	62	123.5	8.1	25.37
Mafindor	244		250.5	0	
Toli	302		206	0	
Dema	318	92	215	18.6	21.37
Gbane Kandor	318		229.5	0	
Sittia	330	206	375.5	35.15	27.39
Mambolo	334	395	1 760.48	7.1	11.2
Kpanga Krim	342		177	0	
Gbo	344	241	118	91.53	101.98
Selenga	350	216	227.5	0	47.41
Langrama	382		187	0	

## Facilities

2024, 2025

	Stock PHU dispensed Measles	Measles Doses <1y	Total population < 1 year	Measles Coverage <1y - Calc	Measles Coverage <1y
Wellington Health Centre	4 674	3 990	1 375.48	38.39	144.84
Kissy Health Centre	3 630	2 483	1 328.98	35.97	93.29
Matotoka CHC	3 320	182	237.5	28.47	38.26
PMO Clinetown	2 880		2 474.47	0	
Kroo Bay CHC	2 802	2 090	687.99	153.35	151.68
Ginger Hall Health Centre	2 240	1 447	578.49	139.16	124.9
George Brook Health Centre	2 076	1 219	924.99	8	65.8
St Anthony clinic	1 976	1 708	1 254.48	13.39	67.98
Jenner Wright Clinic	1 912	1 292	682.99	42.17	94.45
Lunsar CHC	1 896	913	454.49	147.86	100.3
Tombo CHC	1 728	814	677.49	107.46	59.99
Masuba MCHP	1 722		1 393.98	0	
UFC Magburaka	1 720		777.49	0	

This map shows that measles coverage remains below the 60% target across nearly all chiefdoms, with the lowest-performing areas also containing the highest concentration of “no-data” facilities. The clustering of non-reporting facilities in remote, hard-to-reach regions suggests that the appearance of low coverage is driven by both true service gaps and significant under-reporting in these areas.

Additionally, many chiefdoms and facilities show high measles vaccine stock dispensed but zero or missing doses recorded, indicating data quality and reporting gaps rather than a true absence of immunization services. These reporting lapses are concentrated in rural and hard-to-reach areas, suggesting that low coverage values often reflect limited data visibility rather than low vaccination activity.

## Question 6

Based on the above evaluation, can you describe the type of trend of low measles vaccination coverage? Add the visualization that you think is most appropriate for such analysis on the slides.



- **Time-Based Trend:** Monthly measles coverage remains chronically low throughout 2024–2025, with all months falling far below the 60% threshold and showing only modest fluctuations—indicating persistent systemic challenges rather than temporary disruptions. There is a slight positive trend.
- **Geographic Trend:** Low coverage clusters in remote and hard-to-reach districts where facilities are dispersed, road access is limited, and chiefdoms show widespread gaps in service visibility, suggesting that geographic barriers strongly shape immunization outcomes.
- **Reporting/Data Quality Trend:** Many facilities display high measles stock issuance but zero or missing doses administered, revealing substantial under-reporting and data completeness issues that artificially depress coverage values and obscure true performance.

Together, the line graph, district bar chart, and drill-down map provide complementary perspectives—showing *when* coverage is low, *where* it is most affected, and *why* gaps in reporting and access contribute to the national shortfall.

## Question 7

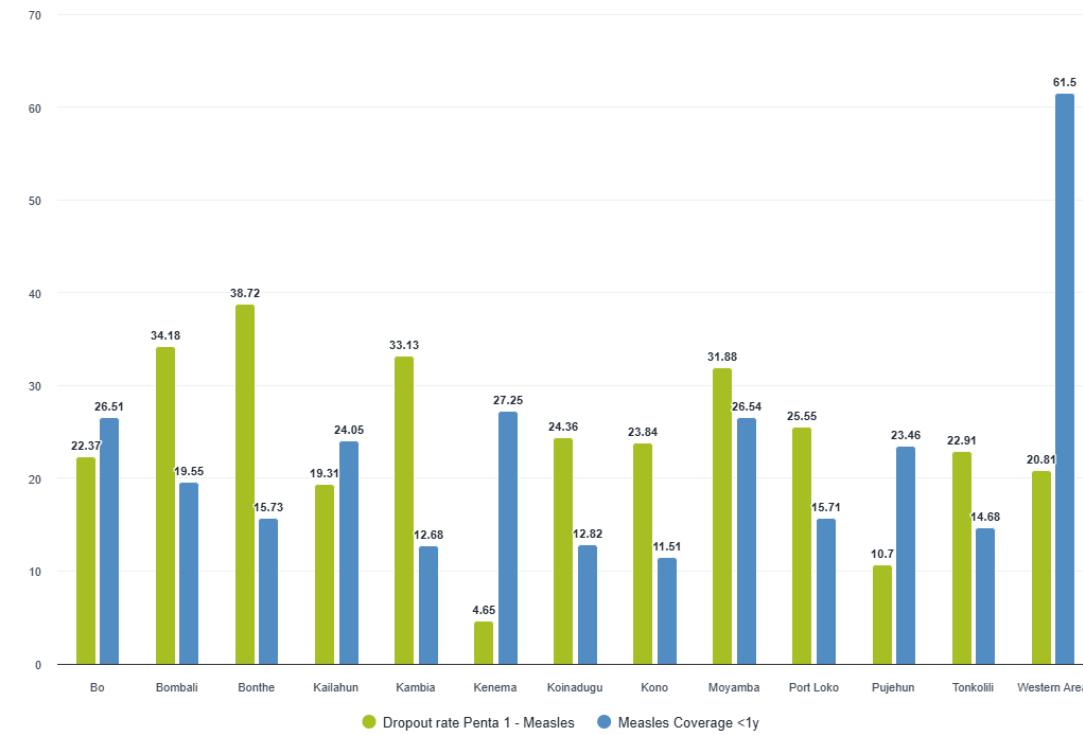
Create a bar chart comparing the Dropout Penta 1 -measles and measles coverage < 1y for all the districts in Sierra Leone for 2024 and the first 6 months of 2025. Do you see a correlation between these two indicators? Analyze the correlation and interpret the results.

## Q7: Results and Interpretation

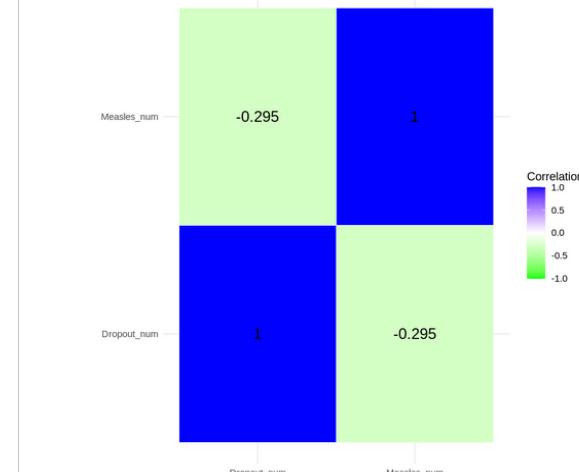
The bar chart compares Dropout rate (Penta1 → Measles) and Measles Coverage <1 year across all districts in Sierra Leone from January 2024 to June 2025. Overall, the chart reveals substantial variation across districts, with no strong or consistent inverse relationship between dropout rates and measles coverage.

The Pearson correlation coefficient between Dropout rate (Penta1 → Measles) and Measles Coverage <1 year is –0.295. This indicates a weak negative correlation. In practical terms, this means that districts with higher dropout rates tend to have slightly lower measles coverage, but the relationship is not strong.

While reducing dropout may contribute to small improvements in measles coverage, broader system-level and operational issues must also be addressed to achieve substantial gains in immunization performance.



```
[1] "Correlation coefficient: -0.295"
Dropout_num Measles_num
...
Dropout_num 1.0000000 -0.2949583
Measles_num -0.2949583 1.0000000
Correlation Heatmap: Dropout vs Measles Coverage (<1y)
```



# Child Malnutrition

General  
Malnutrition

Severe  
Malnutrition

## Question 3a

Where is the chiefdom with the lowest malnutrition rate located in the geography of Sierra Leone? Name the Chiefdoms near the capital city of Sierra Leone which have high malnutrition rate. Hint: Use Google streets layer to find the capital city.

## Steps

### **Initial Indicators:**

- Weight for height <70% rate
- Weight for height 70-79% rate

### **Derived Indicator:**

- Weight for height <79% rate
  - Encompasses both severe and moderate malnutrition

### **Data:**

#### Indicators

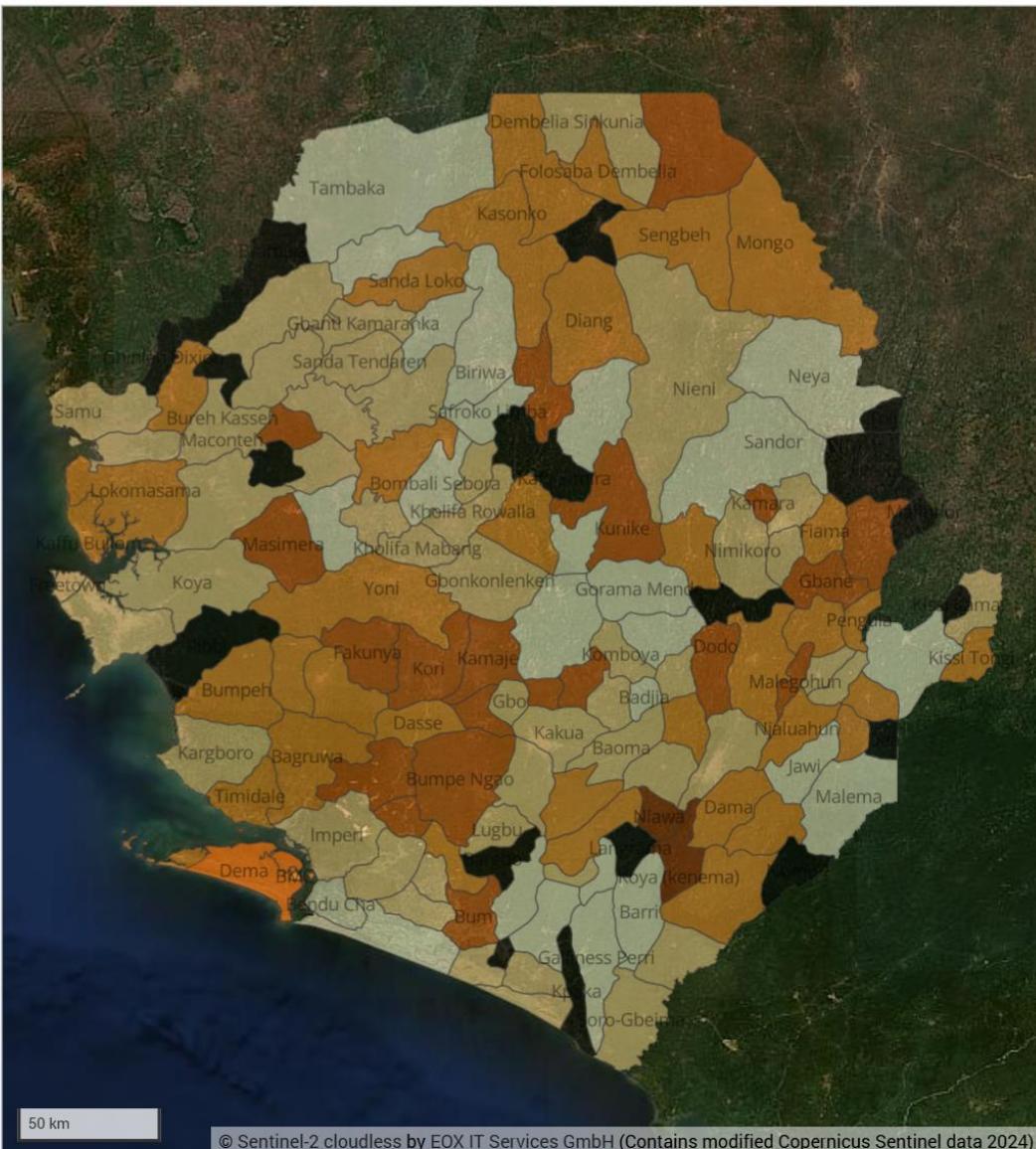
Weight for height <79% rate

Organization unit

Chiefdom

Period

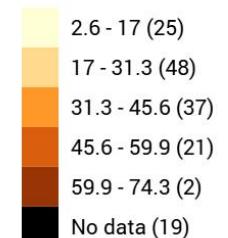
2024, 2025



### **G3\_Q3a - Total Malnutrition Rates**

Weight for height <79% rate

2024, January 2025, February 2025, March 2025, April 2025, May 2025, June 2025, July 2025, August 2025, September 2025



**Lowest: Malema (2.4)**

**Highest near Freetown:**  
Kaffu Bullom (33.21)  
Lokomasama (34.77)

Malnutrition

General  
Malnutrition

Severe  
Malnutrition

## Question 3b

By analyzing the monthly choropleth maps of 2024 and 2025 for severe malnutrition rate by district using a computer vision algorithm, how well can you predict (given the same legend) the severe malnutrition rate of Bo district for November 2025, if all the other districts malnutrition rate is shown on the map.

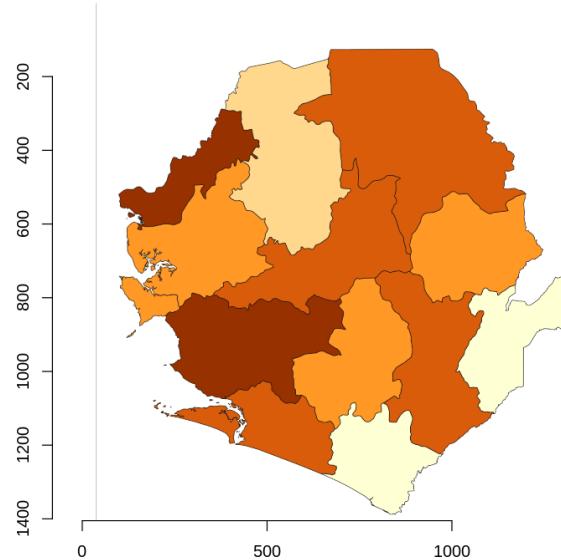
# Methodology: Data Preparation

- 1. Data Collection:** 21 monthly choropleth maps (Jan 2024–Sep 2025)
- 2. District Segmentation:** Generated district masks by selecting a representative pixel in each district and expanding it using a region-growing algorithm
- 3. Numeric Dataset:** Date, district name, malnutrition rate
- 4. Binning:** Created six bins based on data distribution
- 5. Legend and Map Recoloring:** Fixed palette (yellow → orange → red) based on bins; district masks recolored to match

**Result:** 21 standardized maps (.png)

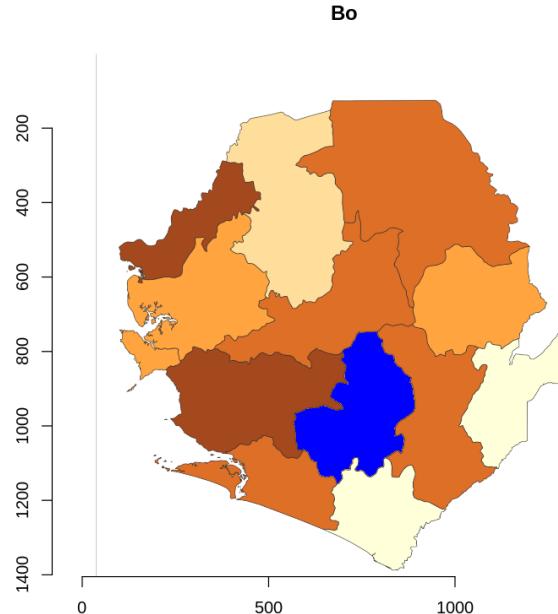
# Methodology: Data Preparation

1. Data Collection



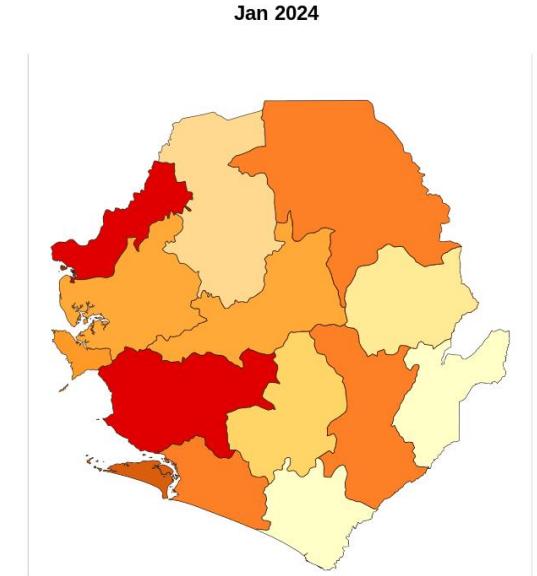
Original Map (Jan 2024)

2. District Segmentation



Growing Region for Bo

5. Legend and Map Recoloring



Recolored Map (Jan 2024)

# Methodology: Modeling

1. **Train/Test Split:** Months 1–14 for training and months 15–20 for testing. Month 21 (Sep 2025) was withheld to avoid information leakage.
2. **Image Preprocessing:** Each map was converted into a standardized numerical tensor, then stacked into 4D tensors suitable for CNNs.
3. **Label Preparation:** Extracted Bo district's malnutrition bin for each month converted it into integer and one-hot formats for model training.
4. **Model Build:** Used ResNet50 pretrained on ImageNet as a frozen feature extractor and added a small classification head (GAP → Dense → Dropout → Softmax) to predict 1 of 6 bins.
5. **Training:** Custom head was trained (ResNet50 frozen) using the training set for 30 epochs with a batch size of 2, and performance was validated on the test set.

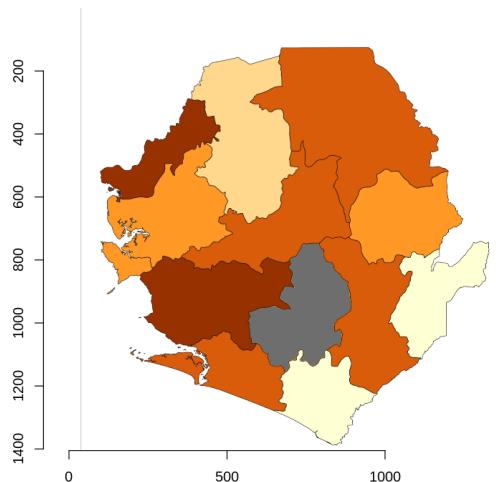
# Methodology: Modeling

## Unmasked Model:

- The model is trained and validated on full map images, **including Bo district**.

## Masked model:

- Bo district in each map is removed and replaced with a neutral color. The model must infer Bo's malnutrition bin using information from **other districts only**



# Results: Bo Malnutrition for Sep 2025

**True Bo Bin:** 4-<5

**True Malnutrition Rate:** 4.79

**Predicted Bin (Unmasked):** 5-<6

**Predicted Bin (Masked):** 5-<6

**F1 Score** for both: 0.667

bin	Unmasked prob	Masked prob
0-<4	0.008617246	0.011142994
4-<5	0.219855204	0.208571613
5-<6	0.421176523	0.444702476
6-<7	0.288796067	0.265611470
7-<9	0.053368282	0.062812224
9+	0.008186695	0.007159117

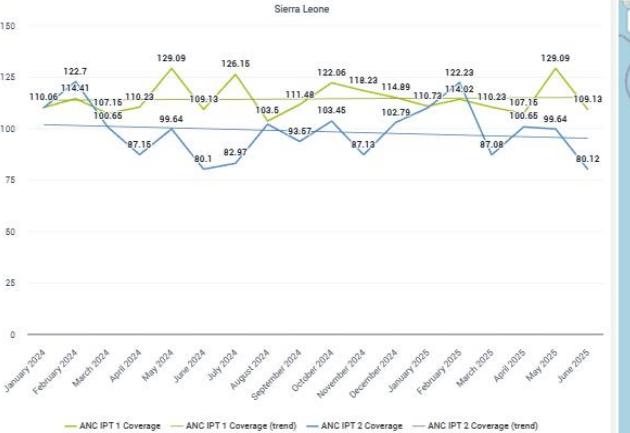
## Question 9

Create a new dashboard of the charts/maps/tables used to answer the above questions.

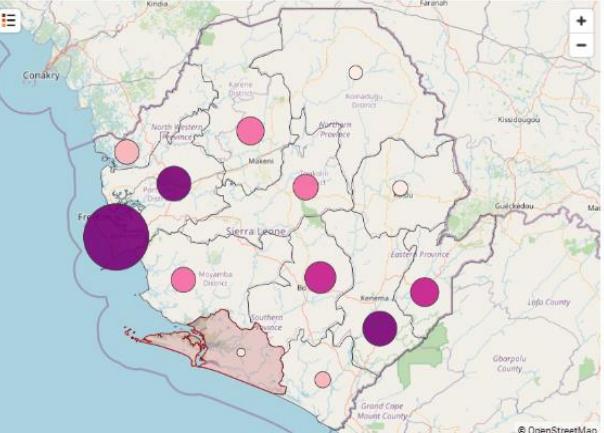


# Dashboard

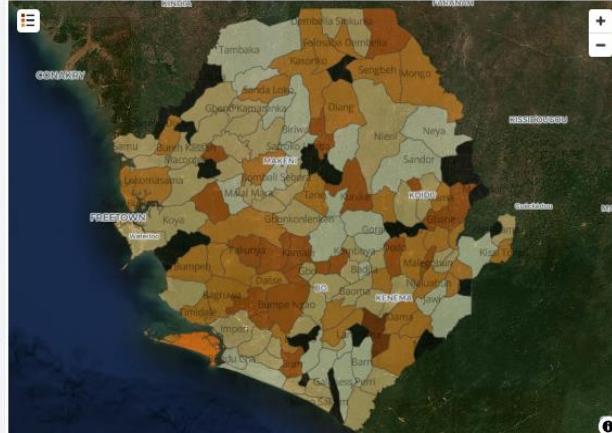
G3Q1 - ANC IPT Coverage Trends



G3\_Q8 - Births by Skilled Attendants



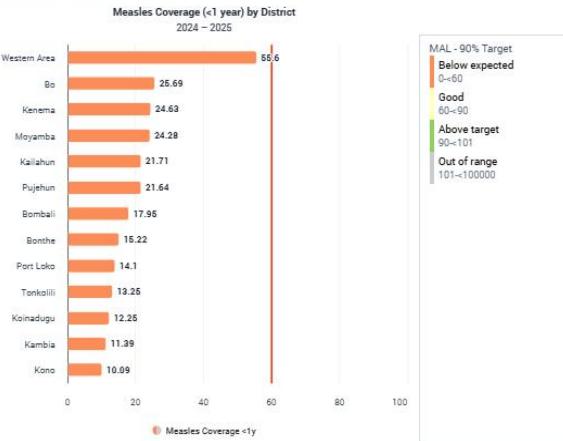
G3\_Q3a - Total Malnutrition Rates



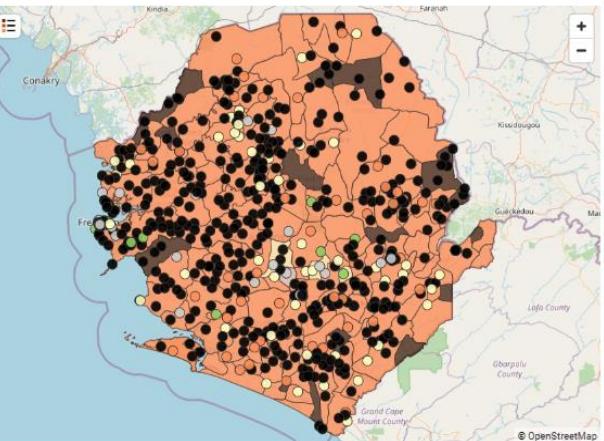
G3\_Q4 - National Measles Coverage



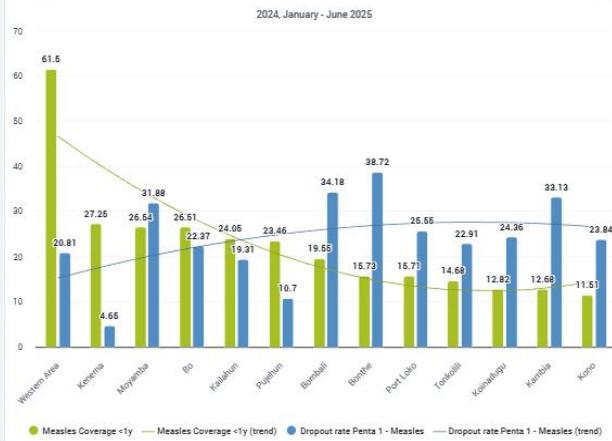
G3\_Q5 - District Measles Coverage



G3\_Q5 - Drill-down Cheifdom and Facility Measles coverage



G3\_Q7\_HR



## Question 10

Describe any three validation rules that are appropriate to validate data that you have used in your analysis (from any of the above questions). What are some of the quality issues with the data that you used for your analysis?



# Data Quality Issues Identified in the Analysis

## **1. Widespread missing values for doses administered (<1 year)**

Many facilities reported **stock but no doses**, leading to artificially low or zero coverage. This distorted district and chiefdom averages.

## **2. Inconsistent or outdated population denominators**

Some facilities showed extremely small or unusual “population <1” values, producing coverage estimates >100% or creating volatility across months.

## **3. Facilities not reporting at all despite receiving vaccines**

Black dots on the map (no-data facilities) often corresponded to remote locations; these non-reporting sites cause large geographic blind spots in the dataset.

## **4. Over-reporting or duplicate entries in high-volume urban facilities**

A few facilities showed implausibly high doses relative to expected catchment size, suggesting reporting duplication or incorrect data element selection.

## **5. Spatial reporting biases**

Urban facilities consistently reported complete data, while rural, riverine, and hard-to-reach chiefdoms showed data gaps—indicating systematic geographic bias in reporting.

# Validation Rules

## 1. Live births + Still births = Total births (consistency rule)

### Rule:

Live\_Births + Still\_Births = Total\_Births

### Rationale:

This ensures internal consistency in birth reporting. If the sum does not equal the reported total, it indicates data entry errors or incomplete reporting by the facility. This rule is important because total births are foundational denominators for maternal and child health indicators used in earlier questions.

## 2. Measles stock dispensed < Measles stock existing (inventory rule)

### Rule:

Measles\_Stock\_Dispensed ≤ Measles\_Stock\_On\_Hand

### Rationale:

A facility should never dispense more measles vaccine doses than the stock it has available. Violations indicate supply chain reporting errors, incorrect stock recordings, or misaligned reporting periods. In your dataset, some facilities reported high stock but zero doses, while others showed mismatches between stock flow and service delivery—making this an essential validation rule.

## 3. Population under 1 year < Population under 5 years (demographic rule)

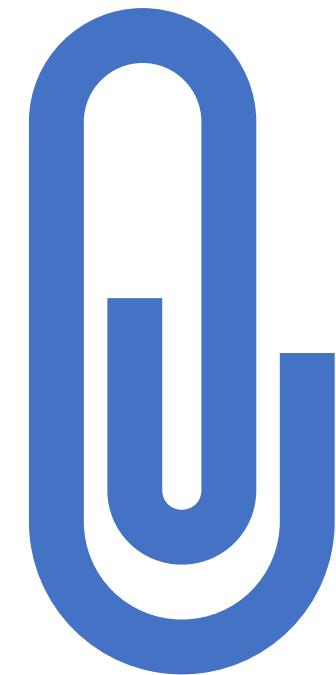
### Rule:

Population\_<1yr < Population\_<5yr

### Rationale:

Demographically, the number of children aged <1 should always be smaller than the number of children <5. If the <1 population exceeds the <5 population, it signals errors in population estimates, catchment definitions, or denominator assignments. This rule is critical because incorrect denominators lead to impossible coverage values such as >100% or erratic monthly fluctuations observed in the dataset.

## Appendix



## Question 2

### Step 1: Prepare the data

Import the ANC IPT 2 coverage data for Western Area (Jan 2024–Nov 2025) and convert it into a monthly time series object.

### Step 2: Fit SES models

Apply **Simple Exponential Smoothing (SES)** using two smoothing parameters:

- $\alpha = 0.3$  (gives smoother forecasts, less responsive to recent changes)
- $\alpha = 0.7$  (places stronger weight on recent observations)

Applied Simple Exponential Smoothing (SES), which models only the level component (no trend or seasonality).

### Step 3: Generate the December 2025 forecast

Use each SES model to produce a **one-step-ahead forecast** for December 2025.

### Step 4: Evaluate forecasting performance

Extract the model's **one-step-ahead fitted values** for the last six historical months (Jun–Nov 2025) and compare them with the actual data.

Compute:

- Forecast values
- Forecast errors for each month
- MAPE for the 6-month evaluation period

### Step 5: Visualize the results

Plot:

- Jan 2024–Nov 2025 actual coverage (black line)
- Forecast projections from November to December (dashed lines)
- Forecast points for December (blue for  $\alpha = 0.3$ , red for  $\alpha = 0.7$ )

## Question 3b Model Fit

Confusion Matrix						
Pred	0-<4	4-<5	5-<6	6-<7	7-<9	9+
Truth	0	0	0	0	0	0
0-<4	0	0	0	0	0	0
4-<5	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-<6	0	0	4	0	0	0
6-<7	0	0	2	0	0	0
7-<9	0	0	0	0	0	0
9+	0	0	0	0	0	0

