

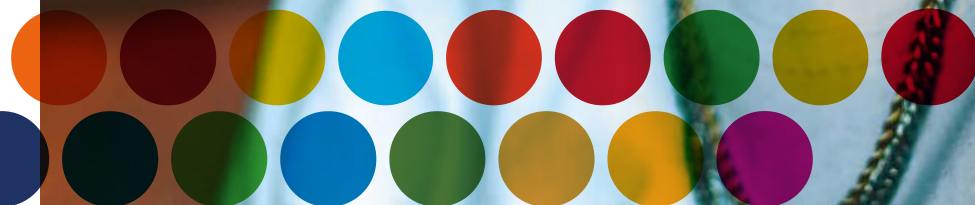


UNITED NATIONS  
SIERRA LEONE



# ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2024

Sierra  
Leone



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# Foreword

## by the Resident Coordinator

Sierra Leone's journey toward the 2030 agenda unfolds against a backdrop of resilience and transformation. Despite global economic challenges, climate pressures, and complex governance dynamics, the country has demonstrated unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable development, peace, and equity. The United Nations remains a steadfast partner in this journey, aligning our support with the Government's Medium-Term National Development Plan (2024–2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The implementation of our Cooperation Framework (2020–2024) has reinforced critical pathways to progress. Together, we advanced food security and climate resilience, expanded access to quality education and healthcare, and strengthened governance systems to foster inclusivity and accountability. Efforts to empower women, youth, and marginalized communities underscored our commitment to leaving no one behind, while partnerships with civil society, development actors, and the private sector amplified collective impact.

Yet, challenges persist. Economic uncertainties, climate vulnerabilities, and social inequalities demand sustained innovation and collaboration. As we transition to the new Cooperation Framework (2025–2030), our focus remains on transformative priorities such

as sustainable food systems, human capital development, and governance and economic transformation. These pillars will anchor Sierra Leone's journey toward equitable growth, peace, and resilience, leveraging innovation, data, and South-South cooperation to accelerate impact.

I extend deep gratitude to the Government, our partners, and the people of Sierra Leone for their trust and collaboration. Together, we are proving that even in challenging times, progress is possible when we unite for shared goals.

**Seraphine Wakana**  
UN Resident Coordinator




# UN Country Team

## Agencies with physical presence







## Agencies with no physical presence







# Key Development Partners

	 Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience	 Transformational Governance	 Access to Basic Services	 Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable
<b>Bilateral Partners</b>				
 European Union	◆	◆	◆	
 United Kingdom		◆		◆
 United States of America		◆	◆	
 Germany	◆		◆	
 Ireland		◆	◆	◆
 Japan			◆	◆
 Egypt	◆		◆	
 Turkey	◆		◆	
 China	◆		◆	
 India	◆		◆	
 Brazil	◆	◆	◆	
 The Netherlands	◆		◆	
 Norway	◆		◆	
 Canada	◆		◆	◆
<b>Multilateral Partners</b>				
 World Bank	◆	◆	◆	◆
 International Finance Corporation	◆		◆	
 International Development Association	◆		◆	◆
 Islamic Development Bank			◆	
 African Development Bank	◆		◆	
 IMF		◆	◆	
<b>Fund Partners</b>				
 Adaptation Fund	◆		◆	
 GPE-Transform Education			◆	
 GEF	◆		◆	
 Joint SDG Fund	◆	◆	◆	◆
 Migration Multi-Partner Fund		◆		◆
 The Global Fund	◆	◆	◆	◆
 United Nations Peace Building Fund	◆	◆	◆	◆



## Population

Total Population  
**9,013,032**

Female  
**51.4%**

Rural  
**58.2%**

Population growth rate  
**3.5%**

Life Expectancy  
**60 years**

Children Population  
**46%**



## Food security

Food insecure population  
**82%**

Chronically hungry  
**18%**

Prevalence of stunting in children under 5  
**26.2%**

Prevalence of malnutrition in children under 5  
**5.2%**



## Education

Total net primary enrolment rate  
**97%**

Total net lower secondary enrolment rate  
**82%**

Total net upper secondary enrolment rate  
**58%**

Primary school completion rate  
**68.3% in 2024**

Secondary school completion rate  
**46.5%**



## Governance

Country Policy & Institutional Assessment (CPIA)  
**3.2%**

Corruption perception index  
**45.4**

Peace Index ranking  
**1.993**



## Gender and Youth

FGM prevalence  
**83%**

Child marriage  
**30%**

GBV  
**61%**

Women in Cabinet  
**30%**

Women in Parliament  
**28.2%**

Youth in Parliament  
**46.31%**

Gender Inequality Index  
**184 out of 193**



## Economic Indicators

GDP per capita  
**\$757.9 (2023 WB)**

GDP growth rate  
**4.7%**

Inflation  
**13.7%**

Debt as % of GDP  
**46% (rebased GDP)**

Revenue as % of GDP  
**9.8% (rebased GDP)**



## WASH

Households with access to improved drinking water  
**62.6%**

Children using basic sanitation services  
**17.8%**

Open defecation (children)  
**25.1%**



## Poverty

Multidimensional Poverty rate  
**56.8%**

Extreme poverty  
**9%**



## Health

Maternal mortality rate  
**443 deaths**  
per 100,000 live births

Under-five mortality rate  
**101** per 1,000 lives

Infant mortality  
**31 deaths**  
per 1,000 live births

Proportion of skilled birth attendance  
**87%**

# Sierra Leone at a Glance

1

Key developments in the country and regional context

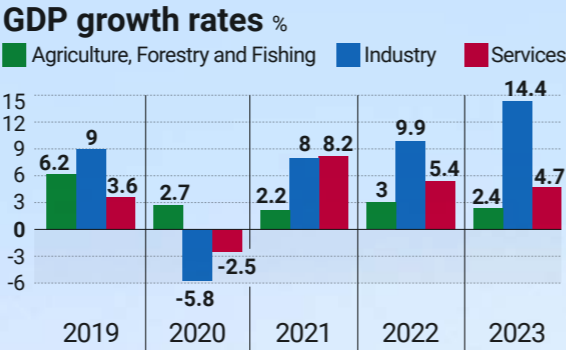
Country Context

According to the 2015 Population and Housing Census, Sierra Leone has a total population of approximately 9.0 million<sup>1</sup>. 56.8 percent of the population in Sierra Leone is multidimensionally poor while an additional 21.3 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty<sup>2</sup>. However, since 2021, poverty is estimated to have declined, albeit slowly, because GDP growth occurred mostly in the capital-intensive mining sector<sup>3</sup>. Sierra Leone is among the 7 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with the fastest annualized absolute reduction in Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)<sup>4</sup>.

In terms of living standards, Sierra Leone remains within the lower cluster. Despite showing minor improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI) score with an increase of 0.077 since 2021, the country's HDI value of 0.400 for 2024 puts it in the low human development category, ranking 184 out of 195 countries and territories<sup>5</sup>. Key findings of the World Food Programme, February 2024 report indicate that 82 percent of the population are food insecure among which 18 percent of households are severely food insecure<sup>6</sup>.

1 2022 World Bank indicators for Sierra Leone  
2 Global MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX-UNDP-2024  
3 2024 World Bank Economic Update  
4 Global MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX-UNDP- 2024  
5 Global MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX-UNDP- 2024  
6 Food Security Monitoring System Report - WFP Sierra Leone Country Office - February 2024. Annual National Consumer Price Inflation (year-on-year) for December 2024 stood at 13.478 percent, down by 1.63 percentage points from 15.41 percent.

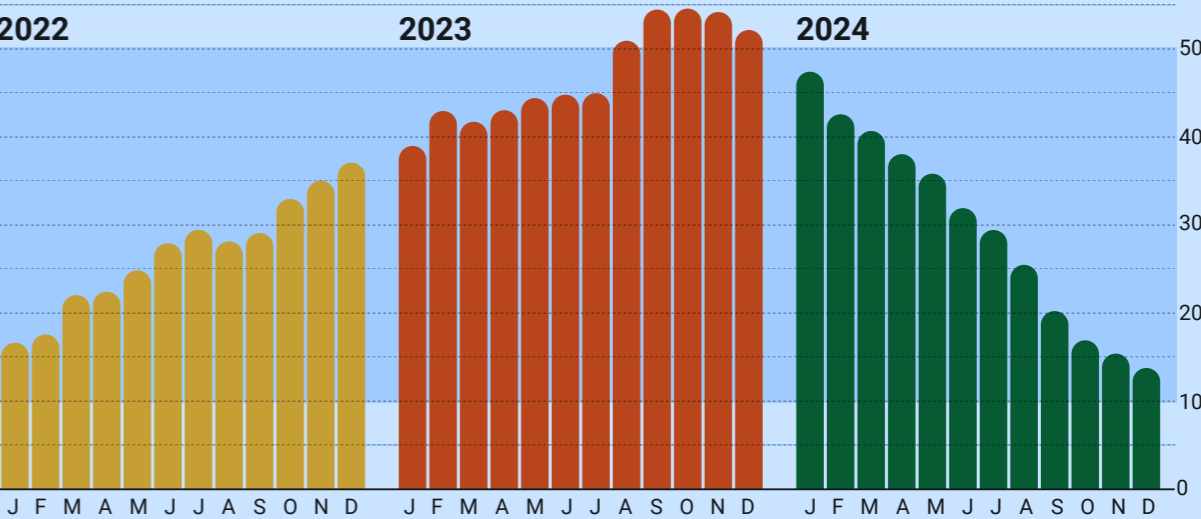
Growth was projected to increase to 4.7 percent in 2024 and 5.2 percent in 2025, driven by increased investment in agriculture, mining, and continued recovery in the services sector. See figure 1 below on sectoral growth rates.



Annual National Consumer Price Inflation (year-on-year) for December 2024 stood at 13.478 percent, down by 1.63 percentage points from 15.41 percent in November 2024, with food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation at 13.89 percent<sup>7</sup>. Growth was projected to increase to 4.7 percent in 2024 and 5.2 percent in 2025, driven by increased investment in agriculture, mining, and continued recovery in the services sector<sup>8</sup>.

7 StatsSL CPI – Dec 2024 Release  
8 2025 Budget Speech

Monthly inflation rate



Sierra Leone's political and governance space has witnessed political challenges over the past years. However, the country has made considerable effort in enacting various legislations and reforms that are aimed at improving the country's governance, development, and human rights landscape. Sierra Leone held its multi-tier elections in 2023, the outcome of which was disputed by the opposition. A cross-party committee on electoral systems and management bodies review was set up to examine the electoral systems, structures and processes and make recommendations that could enhance credibility of future elections in Sierra Leone that guarantee electoral justice. The committee comprised of the government, the main opposition party and the United Nations representing development partners.

The committee completed its mandate and submitted its recommendations in July 2024 on electoral reforms that will pave the way for more transparent and peaceful future elections.

To address the development challenges highlighted, Sierra Leone has launched an ambitious Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2024-2030). The plan is aligned to the SDGs and focuses on food systems, human capital development, infrastructure, technology and innovation, Transforming the Public Service Architecture, and youth employment schemes that target the creation of 500,000 jobs.

In a bid to support the above development aspirations of the country, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) developed the new Cooperation Framework (2025-2030) which contains three priority areas of intervention that is align with the Sierra Leone's Medium Term Development Plan (MTNDP 2024-2030).

## 2

## UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

### 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

National Priorities	Six transitions	CF Priorities (2020-2024)	Key achievements	Contribution to SDGs
<b>Big 5-1</b> Feed Salone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food systems</li> <li>Climate change, biodiversity loss and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outcome 1</b> Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced smallholder farmers' resilience and productivity through smart climate agriculture</li> <li>Strengthened national climate resilience through NDC implementation and community-based conservation</li> </ul>	
<b>Big 5-2</b> Human capital development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Jobs and social protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outcome 3</b> Access to Basic Services</li> <li><b>Outcome 4</b> Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved educational outcomes in rural areas through digital learning platforms and teacher training</li> <li>Expanded social protection coverage for informal workers and vulnerable populations</li> <li>Enacted pivotal legislation advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and child protection</li> <li>Pioneering integration of Persons with Disabilities into the national social registry</li> <li>Sustainable education reintegration for children of trafficking victims</li> <li>Expanded community-led HIV responses empowering people living with HIV</li> <li>Enactment of the Child Rights Bill with comprehensive child protection provisions</li> </ul>	
<b>Big 5-3</b> Youth employment schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Jobs and social protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outcome 3</b> Access to Basic Services</li> <li><b>Outcome 4</b> Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced life skills, improved entrepreneurial skills, and promoted financial inclusion for marginalized communities</li> <li>Skills training in micro-business management for returnees</li> <li>Established robust data protection mechanisms and modernized civil registration systems</li> </ul>	
<b>Big 5-4</b> Infrastructure, technology and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Access and affordability</li> <li>Digital connectivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outcome 3</b> Access to Basic Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased access to electricity, especially using renewable energy in rural areas</li> <li>Improved WASH services across the country, especially in underserved communities both in rural and urban areas</li> </ul>	
<b>Big 5-5</b> Transforming the Public Service Architecture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outcome 2</b> Transformational Governance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased participation of women and youth in decision-making processes and economic activities</li> <li>Reduced disinformation and misinformation and the spread of hate speech</li> <li>Strengthened decentralization by supporting local councils</li> </ul>	

## 2.2. Achieving Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

### Contributing agencies



# Outcome 1

Sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, and climate resilience

## Key results



4000

community seed banks established



1,475

students have nutritious meals through the home-grown school feeding programme



400

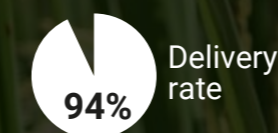
community members benefitted from disaster preparedness.



1800

smallholder farmers supported to diversify their food intake

## Expenditure



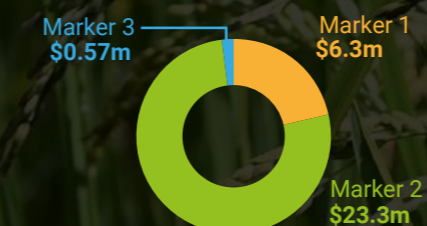
Available Resources  
\$31.9 million

Total Executed  
\$30.1 million

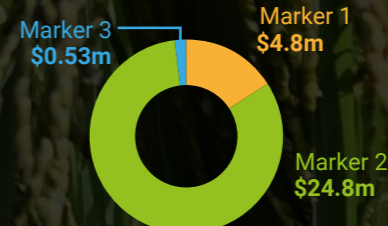


Expenditure by SDG USD million

## Expenditure by Gender Equality Marker



## Expenditure by Human Rights Marker



1 - Limited Contribution 2 - Significant contribution 3 - Principal objective



**Food security remains a challenge in Sierra Leone. The 2024 Food Security report indicate that 82 percent of the population are food insecure among which 18 percent of households are severely food insecure. In 2024, key initiatives by the UN in Sierra Leone involved empowering farmers with resources, access to technology and knowledge, rehabilitating degraded land, and increasing access to nutritious food through diversified crops and livestock support. Efforts extended to strengthening natural resource management policies, improving food safety standards, and bolstering trade competitiveness through International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications. Climate change resilience was addressed by strengthening disaster management and promoting sustainable practices. Feeder road maintenance further boosted market access for communities.**

#### **Empowering Farmers for Food Security: Boosting Productivity & Resilience**

The UN's intervention provided 4,000 farmers (including a significant number of women and youth) with access to improved seed varieties (rice and vegetables), essential agricultural tools, and crucial knowledge on modern farming techniques. This resulted in the establishment of 4000 community seed banks, ensuring increased agricultural productivity.

The cultivation of over 10 hectares of high-yielding rice not only boosted food production but also directly supported the Alternative Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, providing nutritious meals to 1,475 students in two secondary schools. The capacity building in climate-smart agriculture practices led to an increase in crop yields and improved the nutritional diversity of farmers' diets, contributing to healthier lifestyles. Furthermore, the construction of 18 livelihood infrastructure projects—including poultry farms, bakeries, cassava processing centers, and rice mills—stimulated economic activity and strengthened social cohesion within the communities.

#### **Sustainable Resources, Thriving Communities: Protecting Sierra Leone's Natural Wealth**

The UN's efforts in rehabilitating 1,200 hectares of degraded land—including 850 hectares of wetlands and 350 hectares of forest—have demonstrably increased agricultural land availability and enhanced biodiversity. The introduction of improved fish-drying methods to 80 women on Plantain and Yelibuya Islands reduced wood consumption, decreased smoke pollution, and significantly improved the quality and shelf life of their fish products, boosting their income. Strengthening the government's capacity for sustainable natural resource management through policy reviews (Forestry Act of 1988 and Wildlife Act of 1972) and in national forest inventories led to improved forest management practices and better conservation efforts. The development and implementation of an open-access spatial planning system for the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape increased efficient land-use planning and resource management. Public awareness campaigns on forest and wetland conservation directly resulted in improved understanding and responsible resource use by 400 community members (F:171 M: 229).



#### **Nourishing the Nation: Increased Access to Safe, Nutritious Food**

The UN's contribution to food security involved the cultivation and harvesting of 850 hectares of high-yielding rice across six districts (Kenema, Kailahun, Kambia, Moyamba, Tonkolili and Bo) for family and commercial use. This initiative directly benefited vulnerable farmers, improving their food self-sufficiency and household incomes. Furthermore, the distribution of assorted vegetable seeds to farmers in 44 communities promoted dietary diversification and improved nutritional intake. Training 88 Inland Valley Swamps (IVS) youth contractors (44 female) on IVS rehabilitation and development, water management, and improved agronomic practices resulted in an increase in rice yields. The capacity building of 251

livestock farmers (60% women) in good animal husbandry practices led to an increase in livestock production. The distribution of 5,374 poultry birds and 181 small ruminants reared by farmers provided alternative livelihoods and improved nutritional intake for vulnerable farmers. Mass animal treatment and vaccination campaigns in 21 Chiefdoms across eight districts reduced prevalence of occurrence of disease outbreaks in ruminants and poultry. The development and validation of four food safety standard operating procedures (SOPs) helped to meet the minimum requirement for international health regulations, strengthening food safety across the country. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) improved counselling for over 11,453 mothers, resulting in early initiation of breastfeeding for 83.1% of newborns within an hour of birth in 2024, up from 72.6% in 2023 in the 6 implementing facilities.

### Enabling environment for sustainable agriculture and boosting trade competitiveness

Through knowledge transfer of International Organization for Standardization ISO 9001 training materials to the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau, the UN significantly contributed to improve the country's capacity for quality control in food and agriculture production, thereby contributing to increasing the country's competitiveness in national and international markets.

Furthermore, the ISO 22000 certification of two SMEs—Jolaks and Capitol Foods—with UN support boosted their competitiveness in the food industry in both national and international markets. The UN's support to 1800 smallholder farmers and other actors along the cassava, oil palm, and vegetable value chains led to significant increases in diversification of food intake. The maintenance of 102.3km of feeder roads facilitated market access, generated a total workday of 88,842 by employing 2,278 unskilled and semi-skilled labour from the local communities. Women supplied about 27.0%

of the labour while persons with disability constituted an encouraging 3.4% of the labourers. In addition to increased market access, the communities benefited from skills transfer on feeder road maintenance, employment opportunities and increase incomes and revenue sources.

### Scaling up Community Resilience to Climate Change

The UN's support to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) enhanced its emergency response capabilities and established 16 Chiefdom Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs), empowering 400 community members (male 299, female 101) with disaster preparedness knowledge and resources. A comprehensive report on the coastal evolution of Plantain and Yelibuya Islands, highlighting the impacts of climate change on human mobility, now informs government policy. The establishment of five centres of excellence for refrigeration technician training is expected to reduce HFC gas emissions and adherence to the Montreal Protocol.

## Planting the Seeds of Peace in Falaba District



In Yendeya Village, Falaba District, 23-year-old Fatmata Samura transplants rice seedlings with the Lanaya Farmers Association. Once facing food insecurity and conflict between farmers and cattle herders, Fatmata's community is now thriving thanks to the World Food Programme's (WFP) initiative, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. The program provides farming tools, machinery, cash incentives, and introduces a village savings and loan scheme. This has empowered over 500 farmers, including widows like Tenneh Kamara, to diversify income and improve food security. Shared farming spaces have reduced disputes and fostered cooperation. Fatmata used her savings to start a small business, while Tenneh appreciates the tools and financial support. With increased agricultural productivity and peaceful coexistence, the initiative has turned hardship into hope. WFP aims to replicate this success in more communities, building sustainable, self-reliant villages where women lead the way in growing food—and peace.



Real stories.  
Real impact.  
ASL  
included—  
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# Outcome 2

## Transformational Governance

### Key results



**432,206**

young people, including influential opinion leaders, peace ambassadors reached on peaceful electioneering.

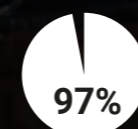


Developed the National Strategy for the Reduction of **Teenage Pregnancy and Child Marriage (2025-2030)**



Prohibition of **Child Marriage Act** and the Child Rights Act

### Expenditure



Delivery rate

Available Resources  
**\$7.8 million**

Total Executed  
**\$7.5 million**

2.8



2.0



Expenditure by SDG USD million

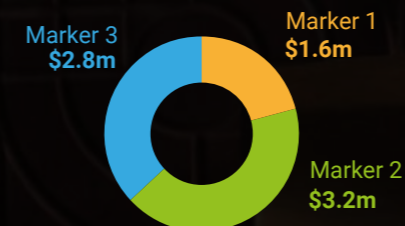
1.4



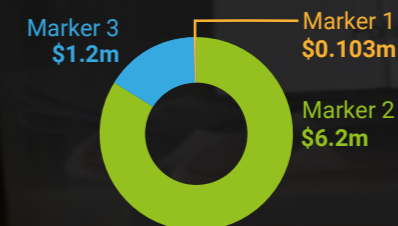
1.2



### Expenditure by Gender Equality Marker



### Expenditure by Human Rights Marker



1 - Limited Contribution 2 - Significant contribution 3 - Principal objective



### Contributing agencies



Sierra Leone, while having made progress in governance through a number of peaceful elections still grapples with governance challenges. The UN as a key partner continues to support the government in strengthening democratic institutions. In 2024, key initiatives under this outcome included establishing a media and civic education center, combating misinformation through platforms like iVerify, and conducting youth-focused sensitization campaigns to encourage peaceful and inclusive elections. Efforts also targeted promoting political tolerance through inter-party dialogues, supporting women in peacebuilding, and advancing legal frameworks related to child marriage and migration. Capacity building was a priority, particularly in disability rights, public sector reform, and agriculture insurance.

### Stronger Voices, Fairer Elections: Building Inclusive Democratic Institutions

Recognizing that informed and engaged citizens are essential for a healthy democracy, the UN supported the establishment of a dedicated media and civic education centre at the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL). This center serves as a hub for promoting civic engagement, enabling citizens to participate in informed electoral discourse and address issues relating to electoral processes, ultimately contributing to increased transparency, inclusivity, and public trust in the electoral system. In addition, the UN supported the development of the Cotton Tree National Civic Education Strategy 2024-2030, led by the Ministry of Information and Civic Education.

In addition, the UN supported efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation, which can undermine democratic processes and social cohesion. Through the iVerify platform, 360 stories have been meticulously verified and widely disseminated through the platform's website, social media channels, and radio programs, thereby significantly reducing the spread of false or misleading information and promoting a more informed public discourse.

Furthermore, the UN supported extensive mass sensitization campaigns targeting young people, who represent a significant portion of the electorate. These

campaigns reached 432,206 young people, including influential opinion leaders, peace ambassadors, mothers' groups, and youth leaders, with targeted messages designed to promote peaceful electioneering and increase female representation in political positions. These efforts aimed to empower young people to become active and responsible citizens, ensuring their participation in presidential, legislative and local council elections.

### Promoting Peace and Inclusion: Strengthening Frameworks for Social Cohesion

Three inter-party dialogues were held promoting political tolerance, pluralism, and resilience. Eight dialogue platforms (three national, five regional) were launched to enhance peace and cooperation. Recognising the significant role of women in peace building and social cohesion, 16 local community women were enrolled as members of a transhumance committee in Falaba District, and facilitated cross border peace for leveraging and sustaining peace between cattle herders and crop farmers along the Sierra Leone and Guinea border crossing points.

The UN provided technical input for the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and supported the development of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage

## Breaking Barriers in Politics

At 36, Aminata S. Bangura—Councilor Amzo P—is reshaping politics in Bombali District. A mother of four and expecting her fifth, she juggles leadership and studying Development Studies at the University of Makeni. Inspired by the Krio phrase “Gal pikin lapa nor dae lef na road,” she overcame early doubts through UN Women and UNDP’s capacity-building support. Funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, the programme offered workshops on public speaking and campaigning, helping her enter male-dominated spaces like ‘Ataya Bases’ and win a council seat. Now chairing the district development committee, Aminata is a symbol of transformative governance. Her journey, sparked by projects promoting women’s political participation and peace, also inspired her to pursue education and strengthened her family role. Over 100 women have followed her footsteps into leadership through this initiative. Councilor Amzo P is proof that investing in women creates leaders who uplift communities.



Real stories.  
Real impact.  
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Pregnancy and Child Marriage (2025-2030). A National Implementation Plan of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was developed and a national coordination mechanism established. The UN supported the 120-member CSO coalition in developing and launching the third generation National Action Plan 1325 (NAP III).

Through South-South Cooperation, the UN facilitated knowledge sharing/exchange between the Supreme, Appeal, and High Court judges, and magistrates of Sierra Leone and the counterpart in Kenya on mainstreaming human rights-based HIV in judicial and legal processes. This knowledge sharing will contribute to addressing legal human rights barriers through the tabling and operationalization of an “Equity Court”. The UN generated 2024 HIV and AIDS epidemiological estimates and submitted the Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) report, informing national response plan.

### Justice for All: Ensuring Equal Access and Protection of Rights

The UN strengthened the capacity of 200 duty bearers and rights holders on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), contributing to the establishment of a national development fund for persons with disabilities. The fund will strengthen the oversight organization of Persons with disability to better advocate for disability inclusion into national strategic planning and budgeting processes. Legal and regulatory frameworks were reviewed to implement components of the CRPD.

In addition, the UN convened stakeholders to review the national labour migration policy to enhance migration-related legal reforms.



### Building Trust: Strengthening Public Institutions for Quality Services

In collaboration with the World Bank and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED), a Public Sector Reform Strategy was developed, which aims to increase transparency and efficiency.

Through strategic partnerships, the UN strengthened the capacity of government and the private sector in agriculture insurance to increase resilience to natural disasters and the negative effects of climate change on agricultural productivity.

With UN support, a Strategic Plan was developed for the Female Caucus in Parliament to strategically drive gender equality and women empowerment interventions for female representatives in parliament.

### Empowering Local Communities: Improving Governance and Service Delivery

The UN has enhanced civil registry system by establishing sustainable local registration centres and setting up reliable network connectivity infrastructure between the central civil registration system and the district offices. This will increase transparency and facilitate the availability of timely data for evidence-based policy making.

With UN support, Falaba District Council is promoting social cohesion using Displacement Tracking Tool as an early warning system to mitigate conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in cross-border communities.



# Outcome 3

## Increased Access to Quality Basic Services

### Key results



5

million children vaccinated



1.9

million households benefited from ITNs



230,000

unintended pregnancies averted



85,000

unsafe abortions averted



740

maternal deaths averted



7,000

children reached in ECD



423,706

people reached in WASH services



66,312

benefitted from solarization projects

### Expenditure



Delivery rate  
86%

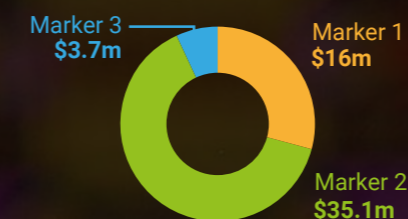
Available Resources  
\$63.7 million

Total Executed  
\$54.8 million

### Expenditure by SDG USD million



### Expenditure by Gender Equality Marker



### Funding by Human Rights Marker



1 - Limited Contribution 2 - Significant contribution 3 - Principal objective

### Contributing agencies



**Access to basic services remains a key priority of the Government of Sierra Leone. However, there are challenges in both access and quality of these services such as education, health, WASH and electricity. In 2024, key initiatives by the UN to improve access to quality basic services included enhancing education through modernized facilities, teacher training, and improved learning materials. WASH initiatives expanded access to clean water and sanitation, leading to ODF declarations. Health services were strengthened through capacity building, increased access to essential medicines, and disease prevention campaigns. Renewable energy access was expanded through mini-grids and solar power, benefiting communities, schools, and health facilities.**

#### Enhancing the Skills and Employability of Young People through Education

The UN supported the modernization of the Automotive Centre of Excellence at the Government Freetown Polytechnic Institute, equipping it with state-of-the-art tools and capacity building of 100 tutors in entrepreneurship. This initiative aims to enhance the skills and employability of young people in the automotive sector, by empowering them with the knowledge and skills to establish their own businesses and contribute to economic growth.

Curriculum development and standardization efforts, combined with teacher training initiatives, improved foundational literacy and numeracy skills for 500,000 children. The deployment of 620 pre-primary teachers addressed inequities in access to education. Integration of the school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) database into the GBVIMS+ system and training of 2,885 teachers improved school safety and inclusivity. The UN reached over 7,000 children aged 3–5 years in 59 early childhood development (ECD) centers, training over 193 teachers in play-based learning and provided teaching materials. Adolescent and youth empowerment initiatives (E-UPSHIFT, U-Report, Learning Passport) reached 21,287 young people (55% girls), providing them with digital, advocacy, and life skills. Improved skills of teachers and educators led to the elaboration of pedagogical guidelines in health and well-being education. 50 Schools and 346 teachers were trained to deliver Child and Adolescent Health Lifeskills education.

#### Clean Water and Sanitation for All: Improving WASH Coverage and Practices

The construction of 25 water kiosks in Freetown, managed by 16 women, provided access to clean and affordable water for an estimated 25,000 residents, thereby improving public health and well-being at community level. UN supported evidence generation through the conduct of the Climate Risk Informed WASH Bottleneck Analysis and WASH Joint Sector Review, resulting in Presidential WASH compact.

The development of faecal sludge management guidelines, city-wide inclusive sanitation plans, and WASH information management systems further strengthened WASH systems. An additional 61,330 people gained access to basic water services and 150,662 people gained improved access to sanitation services, with 21 chiefdoms declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).

Training 263 education managers in menstrual hygiene management fostered integrated programming between education and WASH. The UN, with support of development partners, contributed to SDG 6 by strengthening systems and supporting the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation to develop and implement gender-responsive and evidence-based WASH Strategy. Community and private sector engagement in WASH initiatives has proven crucial for sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure. Active involvement of residents in committees and Village Savings and Loan schemes

## A Life-Saving Surgery for Cervical Cancer in Sierra Leone

Ramatulai Kamara, 43, battled cervical cancer for four years, facing severe bleeding and fear. Diagnosed in Sierra Leone, she was told surgery was only available in Ghana—beyond her reach. Chemotherapy became her only hope until a breakthrough came: a successful life-saving surgery at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown. This historic moment was made possible through a South-South collaboration between Sierra Leone and Zambia, training local surgeons to perform advanced cervical cancer procedures. After six rounds of chemo, Ramatulai underwent a radical hysterectomy and is now cancer-free. Her gratitude is shared by two other women who also received similar care. This medical milestone marks a new chapter in Sierra Leone's healthcare system, offering life-saving hope to many women. Through global partnerships and skilled local professionals, access to quality cancer treatment is no longer a dream—it's becoming a reality.



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enhanced communities' sense of ownership, increased technical and financial capacity to ensure long-term maintenance of WASH facilities. This approach transforms infrastructure projects from external interventions to community-driven solutions, ultimately improving sustainability. The 2024-2025 Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water survey identified key gaps in national WASH standards and informed policy improvements. The establishment of national WASH accounts improved resource mobilization, allocation and management.

The construction of 16 solar-powered boreholes and one gravity-fed water supply system provided access to safe drinking water for 96,714 people, including those in correctional facilities. Technical studies supported by the UN improved water distribution efficiency in Freetown, benefiting 90,000 people.

#### Healthy Lives for All: Enhanced Access to Integrated People-Centered Health Services

To address low Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the UN supported the implementation of a Person-Centered Life Stage Framework for health service delivery and developed key strategies such as the Accelerated Action for the Health and Wellbeing of Adolescents and Young People (2025–2030), Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) guidelines, and a National Oral Health Strategic Plan. UN also provided support towards Pregnancy Registration and Service Tracking (PreSTrak), a digital application designed by the Ministry of Health and the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), to reduce maternal mortality by providing real-time tracking of pregnancies and identifying high-risk conditions early.



## Safe Water and Sanitation Transform Rural Life in Kailahun

In Giema Gpala village, Kailahun District, clean water was once a luxury. Women like Baindu Amara trekked daily to fetch water from unsafe sources, sacrificing time needed for farming and risking their family's health. Today, that's changed thanks to the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP), supported by the UN and Sierra Leone's Ministry of Agriculture. Solar-powered boreholes and VIP latrines now provide safe drinking water and improved hygienic burdens her children to help. "These boreholes have saved our lives," she says gratefully. Giema Gpala is one of 10 communities benefiting so far, with 20 more awaiting access. This project supports farming families growing cocoa, oil palm, swamp rice, and vegetables. Beyond boosting sanitation, it's improving productivity, health, and dignity in rural Sierra Leone—one water point at a time.



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Capacity building initiatives reached 1,649 health workers in maternal health, family planning, and other areas. Pre-service training of 481 midwives resulted in the deployment of 275 midwives. The countrywide distribution of contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines prevented an estimated 230,000 unintended pregnancies, 85,000 unsafe abortions and 740 maternal deaths. A further 370 women and girls has their dignity restored through fistula surgery and life skills training. Also, 8,695 adolescents and young women were reached with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services. Operational Special Care Baby Units (SCBUs) and oxygen plants in hospitals improved neonatal and maternal care. Cervical cancer screening reached 150 women and 60 national clinicians were skilled in cervical cancer management, through south-south cooperation with Zambian experts.

After the declaration of an alarming outbreak of circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Type 2 (cVDPV2), over 5 million children were vaccinated and protected from poliovirus, during the three national campaigns, fully supported by the UN.

The unified annual operational plan focusing on HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, Hepatitis, and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), led to increased enrolment in HIV treatment, now covering over 860 health facilities. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) coverage increased from 39% in 2019 to 83% in 2023, and the viral load suppression rate rose from 46% in 2023 to 66% in 2024. Approximately 1.9 million households benefited from

## Clean Water Restores Hope in Freetown's Blackhall Road



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For years, residents of Freetown's Blackhall Road battled waterborne diseases due to broken pipelines and contaminated water. That's changing, thanks to support from the Government of Japan, UNOPS, and Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC). With Japan's funding, old, damaged pipes are being replaced, leaks sealed, and new connections laid. Engineers and community leaders are working tirelessly to restore a steady, clean water supply. Residents like Stanley Jarret and Musu Kargbo express relief. "We can finally do everyday tasks without worrying about getting sick," says Musu. This project not only improves health but restores dignity and trust in public services. As fresh water now flows freely, the transformation brings joy and renewed hope. Blackhall Road is just one of many communities set to benefit. This collaborative effort is a powerful example of how clean water access builds healthier, stronger, and more resilient urban communities.

4,459,591 Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs), (92.23% coverage) showcasing the UN commitment to malaria prevention, particularly among vulnerable groups like children under five, pregnant women, and low-income rural populations.

UN facilitated the establishment and operationalization of the National Public Health Agency (NPHA), enhancing public health preparedness, surveillance, and response systems coordination.

### Powering Rural Communities: Expanding Access to Renewable Energy

The UN supported a review of mini-grid tariffs. Access to electricity was provided to 50,358 people through the commissioning of a 1 MW mini-grid in Moyamba, installation of 230 stand-alone solar PV systems in schools and hospitals, and handover of distribution grids to the Ministry of Energy in six villages.

The UN supported 5,000 women's businesses through the provision of 200 solar freezers. The UN provided basic electricity access to 15,954 people through solarization projects and partnered with the Global Fund to solarize 96 PHUs and five laboratories.



# Outcome 4

## Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable

### Key results



Established community structures to address **SGBV**

in collaboration with 120 communities

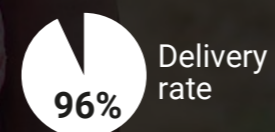


**Disability inclusion** dashboard established



Reintegrated **3,079** out-of-school adolescent girls

### Expenditure

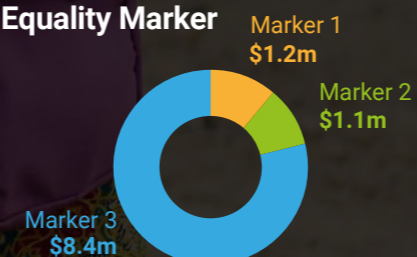


Available Resources  
**\$11.1 million**

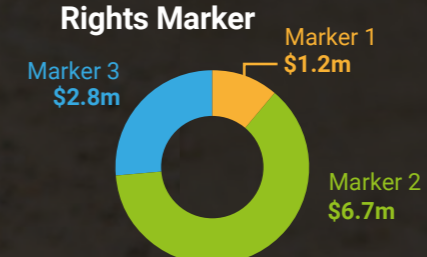
Total Executed  
**\$10.6 million**



### Expenditure by Gender Equality Marker

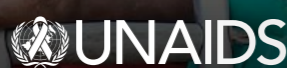


### Expenditure by Human Rights Marker



1 - Limited Contribution 2 - Significant contribution 3 - Principal objective

### Contributing agencies



Despite efforts by the government to improve the condition of vulnerable populations in Sierra Leone, key challenges remain, including in legislations, discrimination and other barriers. In 2024, the UN support to vulnerable populations included advocating for protective laws, supporting GBV survivors through care centers, and reintegrating vulnerable children and out-of-school girls. The UN also enhanced life skills, improved entrepreneurial skills, and promoted financial inclusion for marginalized communities. Efforts also focused on strengthening social protection and disaster resilience through national referral mechanisms and technical working groups.

### Protecting Rights: Transforming Community Attitudes Towards Women and Girls

46,904 community members were reached with information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), fistula prevention and gender-based violence (GBV) response services. Over 120 paramount chiefs engaged in dialogues on gendered social norms and established community structures to address SGBV. Capacity building on sexual offenses laws enhanced the knowledge and skills of 593 people, including duty bearers, and improved the capacity of 204 (F:75) police personnel and traffic wardens to handle sexual offense cases. Improved training for 62 bike riders (F: 13), police, and traffic wardens improved conflict prevention skills. Capacity building further reached an additional 180 police and traffic officers at the sub-regional level.

### Laws That Protect: Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks for Vulnerable Groups

The UN supported the passage of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and the Child Rights Act (including provisions against female genital mutilation [FGM]). The revised National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage (2025-2030) guides effort to reduce adolescent pregnancy and end child marriage through sustained, multi-sectoral interventions.

The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act operational plan was developed with UN technical support. Through advocacy and partnership, the UN facilitated the establishment of gender units in 30 government ministries and strengthened the capacities

of 30 gender officers to effectively undertake gender functions, including engendering policies, plans, budgets and systems as mandated by the GEWE Act 2022. The UN increased awareness and knowledge of 2,510 people on gender-related laws and influenced 50 private sector companies to make commitment for the implementation of the GEWE Act and promoted gender parity and women's empowerment within the private sector.

A disability dashboard was also pioneered and launched in 2024 by the UN which monitors SDG indicators on disability inclusion in National development plan and promotes accountability in MDAs on Disability inclusion.

### Safety and Support: Increasing Access to Prevention and Protection Services, and Reintegration Processes

The UN facilitated the safe return and reintegration of 508 (Boys 232, girls 276) vulnerable children stranded in 9 countries abroad and aided 288 (7 men, 277 women, 2 boys and 2 girls) victims of human trafficking through post arrival assistance. Seven one-stop care centers in 7 Districts (Koinadugu, Pujehun, Moyamba, Portloko, Kailahun, Western Area and Bonthe) provided comprehensive GBV response services, including medical care, legal aid, psychosocial counselling, and referral to safe homes to 1,117 survivors.

UN strengthened child protection mechanisms by building the capacity of 570 welfare and justice personnel and reaching 359,108 children (of which 212,685 female) with child- and adolescent-friendly services. The UN supported the development of a national harmonized guideline for addressing post-GBV cases.



### Equipping Vulnerable Groups with Essential Life Skills and Knowledge

The UN supported the reintegration of 3,079 out-of-school adolescent girls from 28 communities in Kambia, Koinadugu, Moyamba and Pujehun Districts back into formal education, providing remedial classes and life skills training. A total of 3,599 children (1,809 girls, 1,790 boys), including 86 persons with disabilities participated in life skills programs. A gender transformation program reached 5,935 marginalized girls, empowering them to challenge child marriage and claim their right to education.

### Improving Entrepreneurial Skills, Financial Inclusion and Employability

A banking model increased access to digital financial services for farming communities, enhancing digital and financial literacy for 769 people (405 Female, 364 Male), including youths. Economic reintegration support, including skills training and startup capital, was provided to 1,439 returnees. The UN strengthened the capacity of rural cooperatives and micro, small and medium enterprises to develop bankable business proposals.

About 1,786 rural people including women (36.79%) and persons with disabilities (3.25%) were capacitated. This will increase their capacity to mobilise resources from donors and private sector.

Two youth-led tech MSMEs scaled up their operations creating 177 permanent and 3,928 temporary jobs. In collaboration with the National Youth Commission and the Armed Forces Technical and Educational College, the UN enhanced livelihoods of 100 out-of-school women and girls by improving their employability skills in male-dominated areas of mechanical engineering, construction, electrical installation, and carpentry.

100 (50 females and 50 males) skilled workers were upskilled, certified, and equipped with practical technical knowledge to excel in air conditioning, refrigeration systems, and construction practices. Furthermore, 128 (42 females and 86 males) youth skills enhanced in the basics of Masonry and the production and use of Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEBs) and have all been engaged in full-time employment. Up to 200 young women received training in green energy solutions. A grant supported a youth-led tech company, upskilling 300 youths in digital skills such as in Animation, Cinematography, Video Editing, Drone Cinematography, Graphics design, and performance designs.





## E-UPSHIFT Empowers Girls with Green Skills

Adama Kargbo, 17, a student at St. Joseph's Girls School in Makeni, found her voice through UNICEF's E-UPSHIFT programme. Initially shy, she's now part of a youth-led movement tackling air pollution in Bombali District alongside peers Monica K Kanu and Hewanatu Ngobeh. Together, they organize awareness campaigns and collaborate with local leaders to advocate for clean air. Launched in 2021, E-UPSHIFT has reached over 10,000 young people in Sierra Leone, offering mentorship, seed funding, and training in entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and TVET skills. Despite infrastructure challenges, it's helping youth like Monica and Zainab Kanu develop public speaking, teamwork, and critical thinking abilities. Adama's Safe Refuse Disposal Team and Aminata Kamara's Green Champions are turning environmental concern into action. Supported by UNICEF Finland and partners, the programme is bridging the digital divide and preparing Sierra Leone's youth for a sustainable, empowered future.



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## Data-Driven Action: Using Quality Data to Improve Decision-Making

The UN conducted Local Multidimensional Poverty Index (LMPI) in 19 chiefdoms within the borderland districts of Kailahun, Kenema, and Pujehun to inform and transform local development strategies, ensuring that tailored interventions address specific needs of these communities. The LMPI is invaluable resource for policymakers, development practitioners, and researchers to also inform targeted planning and efforts aimed at deepening decentralization.

An assessment of Drop-In-Centers (DICs) and Key Population (KP) service outlets enhanced service quality in identifying strengths and areas for improvement in infrastructure, service delivery, staff capacity, and community engagement. Through UN support, a People Living with HIV (PLHIV) Stigma Index 2.0 study conducted in 2024 informed interventions to reduce stigma and discrimination.

The UN in collaboration with government MDAs and Organizations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) supported the development of a disability

dashboard to monitor disability inclusion in national development planning. It is an accountability tool that integrates disability indicators in National Development planning and monitors progress on targeted results.

## Stronger Safety Nets: Increasing Access to Social Protection and Disaster Resilience

The UN provided capacity enhancement support to 165 stakeholders (96 Males, 69 Females) on mainstreaming protection in return and reintegration services. Also, a national referral mechanism for return and reintegration was finalized, to facilitate the reintegration of migrant returnees into the society.

Eight Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with key government and non-governmental organizations to strengthen protection coordination and service delivery on return and reintegration and consular support. Through UN Support, three technical working groups were established on Return and Reintegration, Protection, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).



## Against the Odds: Young Women Driving Transformative Change

After facing hardship abroad, Mariama Bundu returned to Sierra Leone with support from the International Organization for Migration. Determined to help others avoid similar experiences, she co-founded Women and Girls Against Irregular Migration, a community-based organization supporting returnees and offering skills training to rebuild their lives. Her initiative was one of 40 winners of the Young Women Leading Change Innovation Challenge, launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and UNFPA to empower young women with leadership, entrepreneurship, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information. With seed funding, Mariama's organization now provides vocational training to young women, improving their livelihoods and boosting their confidence and agency.



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## 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In line with the UN Funding Compact's call to broaden development financing beyond traditional frameworks, the United Nations in Sierra Leone has prioritized innovative partnerships, South-South cooperation, and catalytic financing models to accelerate the 2030 Agenda. By leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships and aligning with national priorities such as the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), the UN is driving transformative outcomes in food security, climate resilience, digital inclusion, data empowerment, and cross-border stability, while mobilizing critical resources to bridge SDGs financing gaps.

In 2024, the UN demonstrated strong commitment to fostering strategic collaborations across bilateral and South-South Cooperation models. A notable example is the Ready Salone project, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and will be implemented by the UN over four years through ITC. The "READY Salone" project aims to support youth, young entrepreneurs, business support organizations, tech hubs and policymakers to harness opportunities in the digital economy. This initiative will play a crucial role in domesticating the Pact of the Future, which has a key focus on technology, innovation and digitalization. Also, through South-South Cooperation with Mercy Ships Australia, the UN is implementing a project, focusing on strengthening food security and nutrition through climate-smart agricultural practices. This initiative particularly supports women's empowerment in agriculture and promotes sustainable livestock management practices to reduce community tensions. The UN further strengthened its partnerships with the Governments of Ireland and Iceland, thus boosting support for initiatives that empower adolescent girls and address barriers to gender equality.

In addition, the innovative "Joint UN Nutrition Programme," supported by Irish Aid, exemplifies effective bilateral cooperation in addressing climate resilience and food security. This initiative brings together UNICEF, WFP, and WHO to support the government's Feed Salone strategy across five food-insecure districts, demonstrating the power of coordinated UN action, especially through joint programmes.

The joint efforts of WHO, UNICEF, FAO, and the World Bank in resource mobilization led to the Government of Sierra Leone winning the Pandemic Funds grant of USD 20



million for the period of 2025-2027. These funds will enable Sierra Leone to enhance the country's capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness, detection, and response. The grant aims to strengthen multi-sectoral early warning and disease surveillance systems, build a sustainable national laboratory system capable of promptly detecting and identifying pathogens, and bolster the existing health and community workforce capacity across the One Health sector.

The UN has also made significant strides in leveraging innovative financing mechanisms through partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs). A landmark achievement is the Livestock and Livelihoods Development Project (LLDP), jointly funded by IFAD (US\$30 million), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the OPEC Fund for International Development, totaling US\$105.5 million. This initiative targets poverty reduction initiatives and equitable resource access for rural families, prioritizing women and youths. Also, demonstrating how blended finance and technology can bridge infrastructure gaps, the UN through UNOPS in collaboration with the World Bank is expanding renewable energy access via solar mini grids, targeting 3,000 households, 500

schools, and 200 health facilities. Furthermore, the World Bank is supporting the UNCT to address financial barriers that restrict women and youths. This initiative aims to create an inclusive financing framework that encompasses a comprehensive guarantee fund, innovative financial products, and capacity-building programs. These initiatives exemplify the UN's role in convening International Financial Institutions (IFIs), bilateral partners, and national actors to scale climate adaptation and inclusive growth.

The UN is working with Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support climate adaptation technology, business model innovations, and entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone. This partnership aims at reducing vulnerability and increasing the resilience of vulnerable populations by supporting MSME-driven innovation and large-scale deployment of adaptation Technologies, Products, and Services (TPS) in the water, agriculture, and energy sectors in Sierra Leone.

As part of the innovative partnerships forged in 2024, Sierra is now part of the High Impact Global Initiative on the power of data, a new coalition to facilitate cutting-edge data partnerships building to strengthen SDGs monitoring

and promoting strategic investments in data ecosystems. The Power of Data initiative is another example of the collaboration between UN agencies and IFIs. The Initiative was launched in September 2023 alongside the SDGs summit, and it is co-led by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDESA, CCS-UN, the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

The UN is advancing regional stability through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)-backed "Resilience, Empowerment, Access, and Peacebuilding Initiative" along the Liberia-Sierra Leone border, addressing root causes of conflict. By enhancing collaboration and trust, the project enables the prevention and peaceful resolution of community conflicts and advances sustainable resource management on each side of the border region of Liberia and Sierra Leone and at the cross-border level.

These diverse partnerships and financing mechanisms demonstrate the UN's commitment to the Funding Compact's objectives and innovative approaches to financing the 2030 Agenda, while ensuring no one is left behind in Sierra Leone's sustainable development journey.

## 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In 2024, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone significantly advanced its collaborative efforts through the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2025-2030. This comprehensive framework was created through inclusive consultations with various stakeholders, including government sectors, civil society organizations, the private sector, development partners, and vulnerable groups, ensuring alignment with national priorities and the Six Transitions.

To effectively implement this Cooperation Framework, the UNCT conducted an extensive analysis of its configuration. This evaluation focused on assessing the technical and financial capacities necessary for successful implementation. The total budget required for the Cooperation Framework's execution is estimated at \$513,891,740.62, with 93% of the funding mobilized over the UNSDCF implementation period. This analysis has laid a solid foundation for coordinated efforts among UN entities, aligning their strategies and resource allocation with the overarching goals of the national development agenda.

Country Program Instruments and Documents were developed to fully derive from the Cooperation Framework, with many outcomes and outputs copied verbatim, thereby ensuring that initiatives are aligned with the CF instead of individual agency mandates. This approach has fostered synergy among the agencies, allowing for stronger coordination and effective allocation of both technical and financial resources in support of the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP).

Joint Programs (JPs) emerged as a pivotal tool in strengthening collaboration and resource mobilization, reinforcing the UN's role as a credible partner in supporting national development and peace-building agendas. In total, 18 JPs are currently in implementation, successfully mobilizing approximately \$54 million. Each program is tailored to address specific challenges, promote inclusivity, and enhance community resilience across various sectors (refer to the detailed table of JPs and their funding sources).



The Programme Management Team (PMT) has been instrumental in leading these efforts, overseeing the elaboration of the UNSDCF and providing technical assistance to develop the Voluntary National Review (VNR). Concurrently, the Operations Management Team (OMT) established a comprehensive Business Operations Strategy (BOS) designed to enhance efficiency through collaboration across six working groups. The BOS identifies common services, including human resources and finance, and has resulted in cost avoidance of USD734,111 for 2024 and an estimated USD10,326,945 over the next five years, exemplifying the UNCT's commitment to maximizing operational efficiency.

The Gender Thematic Group (GTG) has also played a crucial role in promoting gender equality within the UNCT. The implementation of the UNCT-SWAP Gender Scorecard action plan has made substantial progress, with three out of five gender parity indicators currently meeting minimum standards. The GTG conducted a gender parity assessment for the UNCT in February 2024, revealing a breakdown of 35% female and 65% male representation, with the Resident Coordinator's Office exceeding gender parity at 64% female.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) successfully conducted a comprehensive training and sensitization program on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) for UN Security Officers, Focal Points, and Drivers, as well as UN privately contracted staff, including Unarmed Private Security Guards, Cleaning, and Catering Staff (both Management and Non-Management). The initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of key actors to uphold the principles of the United Nations, ensuring that all personnel are well-equipped with the necessary knowledge to prevent and address sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.

The UN Coordination Group (UNCG) continues to amplify the work of the UNCT, strategically enhancing visibility for the 2030 Agenda. A robust Communication Strategy has been developed, effectively promoting UN initiatives and achievements. The UNCG's efforts include creating newsletters to highlight youth initiatives and organizing international commemorations, which have successfully engaged a wider audience through social media and traditional media outlets.

The Youth Thematic Team (YTT), alongside the UN Youth Advisory Group (UNYAG), collaborated with the Ministry of Youth Affairs to celebrate International

Youth Day and African Youth Day. Engaging youth in pivotal discussions on sustainable development and leveraging technology for social impact illustrates the UN's commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders.

Moreover, initiatives in disability inclusion have advanced significantly, with the development of a Disability Dashboard and comprehensive training tools to improve awareness and policy implementation. These efforts are contributing to a more inclusive society by promoting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

The collective efforts of the UNCT underline the importance of working together to achieve common goals. By fostering collaboration across different sectors and stakeholders, the UN is positioning itself as a leader in driving sustainable development and addressing complex challenges in Sierra Leone. The ongoing commitment to coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency will undoubtedly continue to yield positive outcomes as the UNCT works collaboratively towards the broader aspirations of the UNSDCF and the national development agenda.

## 2.5 Lessons Learned and Evaluations

As per Development Coordination Office (DCO) guidelines, the evaluation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2019-2024 was launched in the penultimate year of the implementation of the CF in May 2023. An international consultant was recruited to undertake an independent end-of-cycle evaluation of the UNSDCF. The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess whether planned UNSDCF results were achieved, and whether they made a durable contribution to national development processes and delivered on the commitment to leave no one behind. The evaluation assessed whether the planned outcomes were achieved, if they contributed sustainably to national development processes, and if they delivered on the initial theory of change developed.

The evaluation process started with the evaluators and stakeholders constructing a theory of change (TOC) that represents the UN CF's underlying assumptions, logic, and expected outcomes. The construction of the TOC involved a thorough analysis of the framework's goals, objectives, strategies, and interventions. The theory of change served as a visual representation or narrative that maps out the theory behind the framework's approach to achieving its intended impact.

An evaluation manager was appointed by the UNCT to guide the process and provide regular updates to the UNCT. The UNRCO also appointed a technical focal person to support the evaluation manager and the evaluation process throughout. The process was completed, and the evaluation report was shared with all stakeholders, including the host government.

Given that the evaluation process started a bit late in penultimate year of the CF, the following lessons were recorded during the CF evaluation.

It's crucial to allocate ample time to the inception phase and mission planning, especially when conducting an evaluation of this magnitude involving multiple stakeholders, including UN Agencies, government counterparts, CSOs, and donors. Rushing the process has the risk of adversely affecting the stakeholder sampling and selection procedures and hence the possibility for the Evaluation Team to guarantee adequate representation for all categories, including women and individuals with disabilities. The late start of the process results to crunched timelines that affect the field mission of the Team.

Moreover, it is important to schedule an evaluation programme off the lean seasons in Freetown. The weather during the lean is largely not friendly, which affected movement of the Evaluation Team to the provinces. Also, most Heads of Agencies choose this lean period for vacation.

Selecting an Evaluation Team that has knowledge of the UN reforms processes, UNSDCF evaluation guidelines and the SDGs is crucial for a successful evaluation outcome.

Willingness to take on board advice and suggestions from stakeholders would add value to the quality of the evaluation report. This involves flexibility in the construction of the Theory of Change (TOC).

Given that at the inception phase, multiple of agencies are required to review the inception report, extending beyond the initial timeframe, and factoring this aspect should be considered for future evaluation procedures.

Involvement of all stakeholders in the evaluation process was replicated in the drafting of the new cooperation framework.



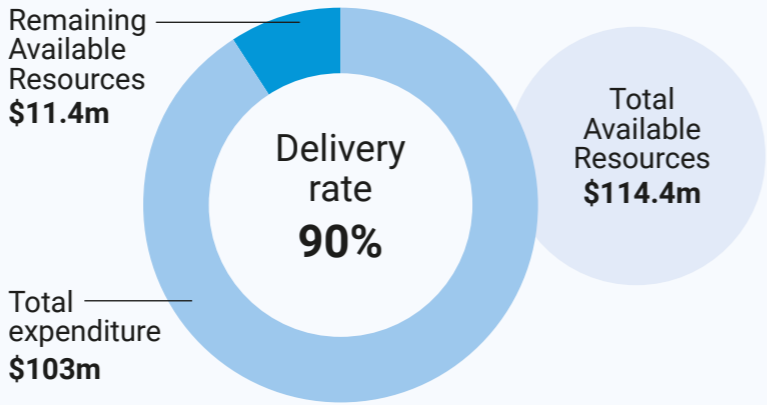
## 2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

The UNSDCF 2020-2024 had a total budget of \$513,891,740.62 for the five-year period, of which \$476,203,914.83 was available, thanks to the various resource mobilization initiatives of the UN in Sierra Leone over the UNSDCF period. The total expenditure for this ending Cooperation Framework is \$392,965,265.11, representing about 83% cumulative delivery rate.

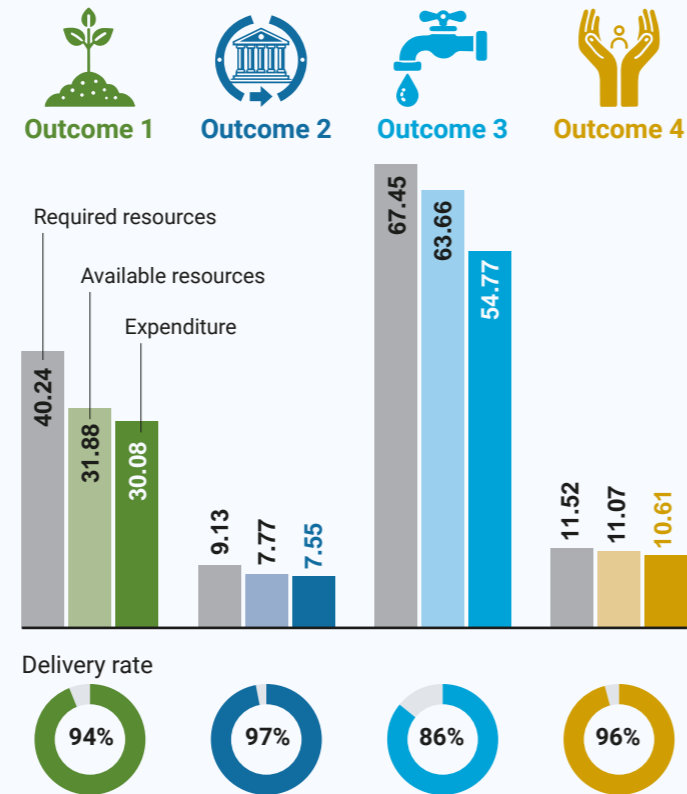
The UN Country Team in Sierra Leone developed and implemented a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy to coordinate and optimize funding efforts across all agencies, funds, and programmes operating in the country. This strategy established clear priorities aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2020-2024 and national development priorities.

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has played an instrumental role in Sierra Leone's recovery and sustainable development landscape, serving as both a catalyst and enabler of critical peace consolidation efforts. The PBF portfolio amounting to approximately \$14,700,000.00 as at December 2024 is used to fund several joint programmes addressing key drivers of conflict and instability.

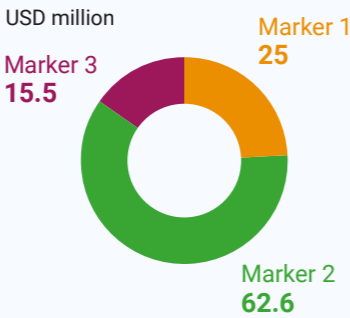
In 2024, total resources required to implement the Joint Work Plan (JWP) was estimated at \$128,336,239.00, out of which, the UNCT was able to mobilize about \$114,388,789.00, representing about 89% coverage of required resources for the year. Overall, a high delivery rate of 90% (\$103,012,943.00) was recorded in 2024, surpassing the previous years.



Resource coverage and execution by CF Outcome  
USD million

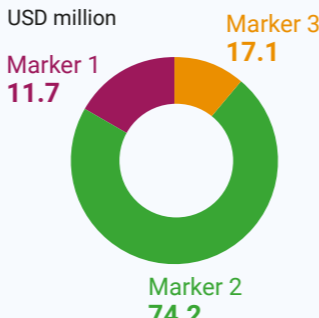


Expenditure by Gender Equality Marker

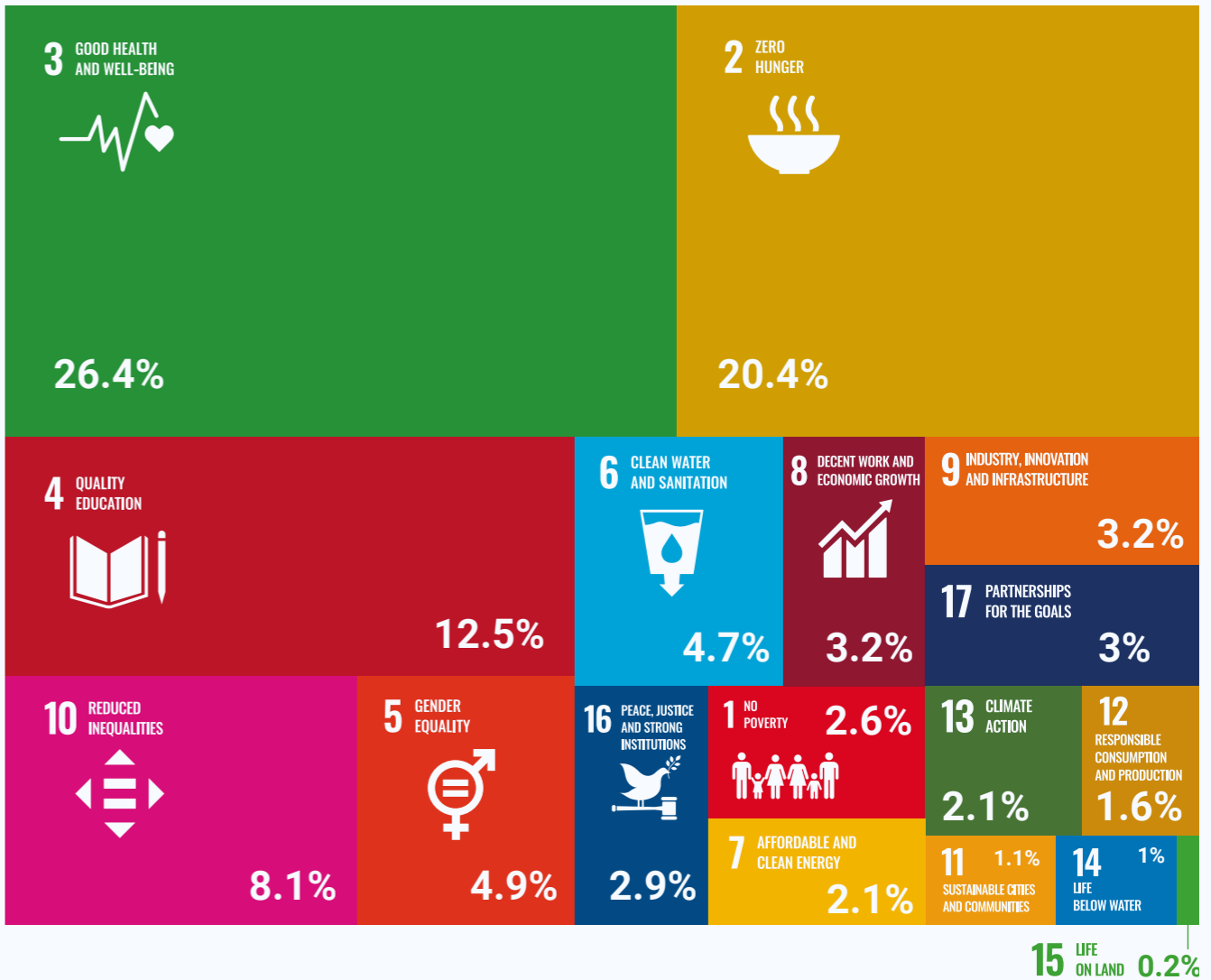


1 - Limited Contribution 2 - Significant contribution 3 - Principal objective

Expenditure by Gender Human Rights Marker



### Contribution of the UN to the SDGs



### Peacebuilding Fund Programmes

Funding Source	Programme Title	Implementing Partners	Approximate Funding
Peacebuilding Fund	Promote the creation of an enabling environment for the conduct of peaceful elections and the strengthening of social cohesion in Sierra Leone	UNDP/UNICEF	\$ 3 million
Peacebuilding Fund	Empowering Bike Riders As Sustainable Agents Of Peace In Sierra Leone	UNDP/UNCDF	\$ 1.9 million
Peacebuilding Fund	Youth in Politics and Peacebuilding	Catholic Relief Services	\$ 1.9 million
Peacebuilding Fund	Localizing for change: Positioning women's Civil Society Organizations for effective implementation of the WPS agenda	UN Women/ UNDP/ World Vision	\$ 2 million
Peacebuilding Fund	'Uman, Land En Kol At' (Women's Land for Peace) - Women Lead Transformative Pathways to Peace Through Natural Resources Management	Christian Aid Ireland	\$ 1.9 million

## 3

## Into the future UNCT key focus for next year

### I. Scaling up Joint programming and resource mobilization for the implementation of the 2025-2030 Cooperation Framework

In 2024, the UNCT developed a new CF (2025-2030) with three Pillars: (i) Food Systems, Natural Resource management and Climate Change; (ii) Human Capital, Essential Services and Employment; (iii) Governance and Economic Transformation. The UNCT also identified broad implementation strategies and developed a comprehensive joint Resource mobilization strategy clearly mapping out the funding required, funding available as well as the funding gap for the implementation of the CF.

During the first year of the implementation of the CF, the UNCT will:

- Develop three joint flagship Programs in line with the three CF pillars and mobilize resources to operationalize its implementation. Other pipeline Joint Programmes include Power of data, nutrition, and social cohesion.
- To monitor progress and ensure implementation of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) programmes, the UNCT will conduct a comprehensive Gender Score card Assessment, update and implement the PSEA and Disability Inclusion action plans.
- Conduct the PBF portfolio evaluation in Sierra Leone to support Sierra Leone in application for request for re-eligibility, to be able to receive Peacebuilding Funds, through the Peacebuilding Recovery Facility towards efforts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

### II. Strengthen the capacities of national institutions to avail quality data for evidence based policy making and accountability to rightsholders

The Government of Sierra Leone has planned to conduct usual decennial National Housing and Population Census (NHPC) in 2025-2026. The UN in collaboration with Development Partners will support the national Statistics office (Statistics Sierra Leone) to ensure the results of the census are credible and up to international standards. Through a UNCT Joint Program on Data, the UN will leverage on the Power of Data global initiative to pool technical and financial resources to strengthen data ecosystem in the country to support monitoring of the implementation of the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) and the SDGs.

The UN will partner with Government to popularize the MTNDP and the Pact of the Future at district levels.



UNITED NATIONS  
SIERRA LEONE

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# Annual Results Report 2024

