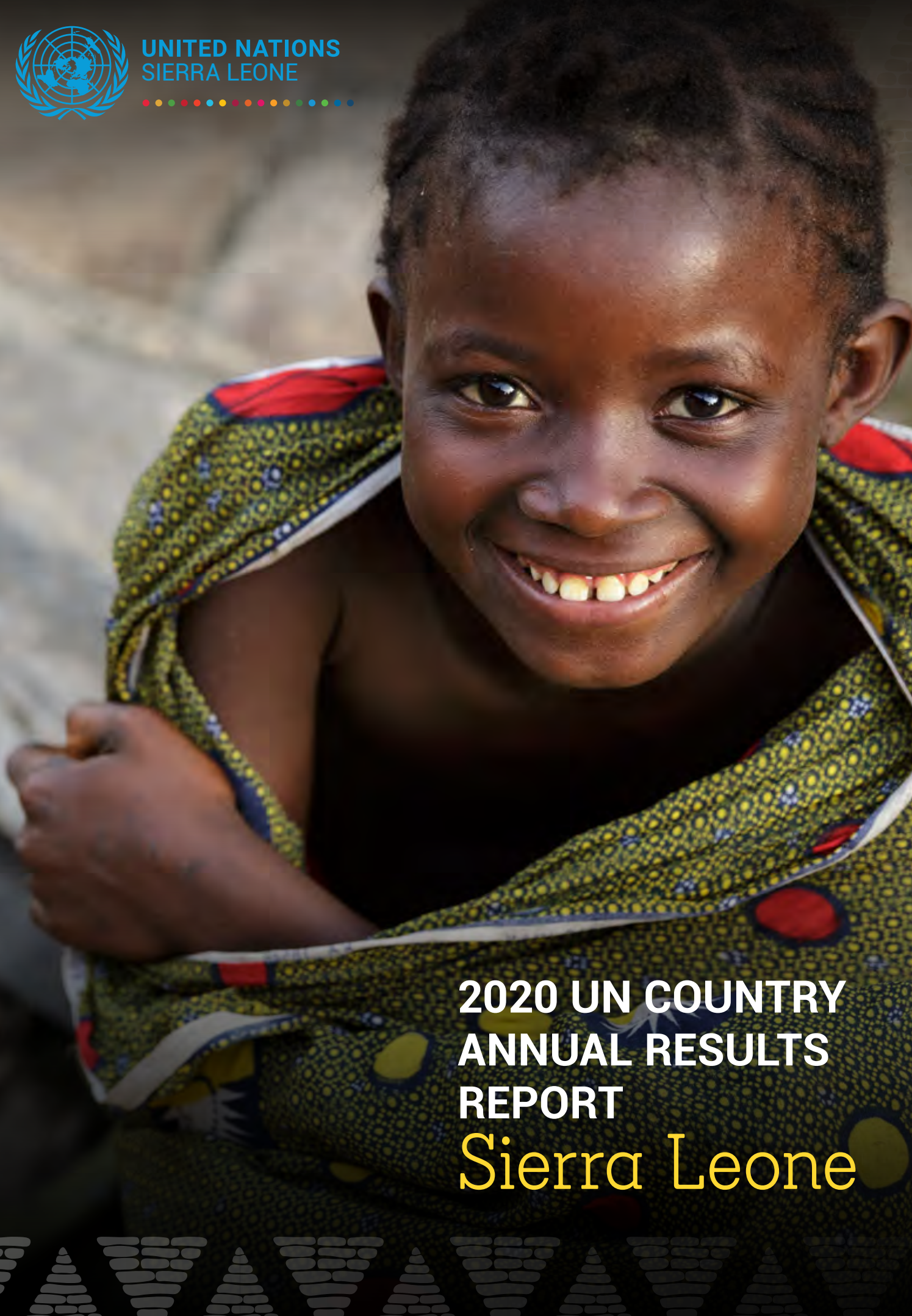




UNITED NATIONS  
SIERRA LEONE



**2020 UN COUNTRY  
ANNUAL RESULTS  
REPORT**  
Sierra Leone





UNITED NATIONS  
SIERRA LEONE



2020 UN COUNTRY  
ANNUAL RESULTS  
REPORT  
Sierra Leone

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UN CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS IN 2020



Government of Sierra Leone



European Union



Government of Japan



Government of Azerbaijan



Government of Norway



Government of Belgium



Government of South Korea



Government of China



Government of Sweden



Government of Denmark



Government of United Arab Emirates



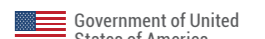
Government of Germany



Government of United Kingdom



Government of Iceland



Government of United States of America



Government of Ireland





## FOREWORD

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone, I am pleased to present to you the 2020 UN Country Annual Results Report on the progress made during the first implementation year of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2020-2023. The report shows the good progress we have made on the four results areas of the UNSDCF, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNSDCF is our roadmap towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Sierra Leone and it is aligned with Sierra Leone's development priorities set out in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019-2023. This report is, therefore, a collective effort by the UN system in Sierra Leone, comprising of 21 UN agencies to ensure that no one is left behind while delivering as One UN.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) for its commitment towards the SDGs and the alignment of the national development efforts with Agenda 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Human capital development, the heart of the MTNDP, fully aligns with the SDGs. GoSL's extensive collaboration and support to implement the strategic priorities set out in the UNSDCF made it possible for us to deliver 83 percent of our activities, despite the impact of COVID-19 on our socio-economic and political environment. On behalf of the Government, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development continues to support the UN family in Sierra Leone and co-chairs the Joint Steering Committee of the UNSDCF.

I appreciate our development partners for the strengthened relationships that have resulted in a significant increase in overall funding and a diversified funding base. Contributions to UN Sierra Leone particularly towards the attainment of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) especially during the COVID-19 pandemic has not waned. This was demonstrated with the support the UNCT received for the implementation of the UNSDCF, the UN COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan, and the Sierra Leone Humanitarian Response Plan. Continued support from development partners, particularly on activities directed to the most vulnerable groups—women and girls, children, and persons with disability is commended.

Finally, I wish to note the UN's growing engagement with civil society in Sierra Leone as evidenced in the development of the 2020 update to the Common Country Analysis, the socio-economic impact assessments of COVID-19, and active participation in the COVID-19 responses. CSOs' in-depth and granular understanding of the context of Sierra Leone has helped the UNCT with nuanced insights on emerging issues on the ground.



**Babatunde A. Ahonsi**  
United Nations Resident Coordinator  
Sierra Leone



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 31 October 2019, the United Nations System in Sierra Leone represented by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Planning and Economic Development signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2023. The UNSDCF 2020-2023 defines how the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone contributes to the national development priorities and strategies of the Government of Sierra Leone as established in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019-2023 and the progress towards the achievement of the global 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNSDCF is harmonized with the MTNDP clusters and incorporates the goals and principles that underpin the SDGs. The UNSDCF also upholds the principles of gender equality, human rights, and conflict sensitivity, ensuring that “no one is left behind”. The UNSDCF intends to advance the United Nations Secretary-General’s agenda on repositioning the United Nations development system and responds to the Secretary-General’s call for optimizing resources and improving effectiveness of UN support to countries.

This report documents the progress that has been made towards the implementation of the UNSDCF, on all four outcome areas in its first year of implementation (2020).

### **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:**

Sierra Leone witnessed an increased production of rice and improved nutritional status of school children. Livelihoods of farmers were protected while gains were made due to skills transfer on climate-resilient agronomic practices, entrepreneurship, and business development. Mangrove and forest areas are being rehabilitated and degraded land restored for agricultural production.

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE:**

Progress was made in the gender-responsiveness of justice and security services as well as women’s leadership participation in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Policies such as the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy 2020 were developed, making state institutions more responsive to gender equality, human rights, and rights of persons with disability. The establishment of virtual Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) courts increased reporting, and grievance mechanism in rural communities was enhanced.


### **ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES:**


Continuous learning was ensured during the pandemic through capacity building and direct support. School feeding programmes contributed to the enrolment, attendance, and retention of school children. Access to basic water supply services and renewable electricity through solar mini grids were improved. Sierra Leone made steady progress towards the implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmap developed in 2020. Support to referral hospitals and health workers have improved comprehensive reproductive and maternal health and nutrition, and family planning services.


### **PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE:**


Community engagement of youth and religious leaders has been strengthened. Continuous efforts were made to elicit behavioural change on issues of child protection, SGBV and girl child education. The country revised and ratified the Sexual Offences Act (2019) and other similar policies to deter and end SGBV. Progress has also been made in integrating a Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the school curricula.

## SIERRA LEONE AT GLANCE


POPULATION 7,092,113 


 41% Urban


 59% Rural

 42% of the population is under the age of 15


### FOOD SECURITY


 63% of the population = 4 million people is food insecure

 2 million people chronically hungry

 1.3 million people in IPC/CH Phase 3


### NUTRITION

 29.5% of children under 5 are stunted


 5% of children under 5 are acutely malnourished


### MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY


 1 in 32 babies die during their first month of life


 1 in 139 pregnant women die due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth


### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

 59.5% of households have access to improved drinking water, though only

 2% actually access water from safely managed sources


 17% still practice open defecation


 35% of peripheral healthcare units and 26% of primary schools do not have WASH facilities


More than  80% of under-five deaths at hospitals have environmental health and sanitation-related causes




### EDUCATION


Only  1 in 10 children aged 3-5 years attends an early education programme


About  half of children aged 3-5 years are developmentally on track, but the majority have below average literacy and numeracy skills


 82% of primary school-aged children attend school


 For every 5 students who enter primary school, only 1 student completes their last year of senior secondary school

### SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

 83% of girls and women and aged 15 to 49 years have undergone some form of FGM, with

 61% of girls aged 15 to 19 years having already undergone FGM

 1 in 7 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 are currently married

Approximately  half of all women believe a husband is justified in beating his wife



# 1. COUNTRY CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Sierra Leone has demonstrated resilience by achieving significant progress in building state institutions of governance and maintaining stability as part of its post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction agenda, since the civil war ended in 2002. Progress has been reflected in a number of policy and legal reforms aimed at enhancing institutional capacity for service delivery in sectors relating to economic growth, justice, security, human rights, peace, and democratic governance.

## MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Sierra Leone has made efforts in maintaining macroeconomic stability in the post-conflict period. However, the country's economic growth has been slow and has remained factor driven. The country is again contending with both an economic and health crisis that has jeopardized gains already made since the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. Most macroeconomic indicators are projected to worsen, compared to pre-crisis estimates. The economy is projected to shrink by 1.3 percent in 2020-2022. Youth structural unemployment rate is amongst the highest in the West African region, posing risks to peace and stability. The added pressure brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded the macroeconomic environment, impacting livelihoods and food security.

## POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Sierra Leone has demonstrated resilience by achieving significant progress in building state institutions of governance and maintaining stability as part of its post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction agenda. Progress has been reflected in policy and legal reforms aimed at enhancing institutional capacity for service delivery. However, these have been undermined by significant systemic and structural challenges. Public service delivery institutions are challenged by weak accountability mechanisms, while effective administration of justice is hampered by limitations in institutional capacity

and application of the rule of law. Pervasive corruption and allegations of mismanagement of public funds continue to permeate. Despite the acclamation of the elections being peaceful, they are still characterized by heightened political tension and violence, resulting to perceptions of diminishing social cohesion. Mistrust between political parties and the ruling government has incumbered COVID-19 measures and may continue to challenge consensus on response measures to the pandemic.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the key factors that stand in the way of the country's environmental sustainability. Sierra Leone's coastal areas are projected to be adversely affected by future incidences of inundation, waterlogging, increased flooding, erosion, and salinization due to sea-level rise. In the last 15 years, intense and frequent storms, and flash floods have affected more than 220,000 people along the coast of the capital, Freetown. Floods account for 85 percent of disaster-related mortality in the country, followed by landslides, storms and fire accidents. However, it should be noted that during the 2020 rainy season, there were minimal flooding events nationally and in Freetown vis-à-vis 2019. This reflects lower than average rainfall levels. The ripple effects of these conditions would be felt by the dependent sectors of the economy.





### FOOD SECURITY

Food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further in 2021 due to the yearly lean season with an estimated 1.4 million Sierra Leoneans facing a food crisis. Sierra Leone is among the 15 worst performing countries in the world in terms of food security. The country was already experiencing a deteriorating food security situation before COVID-19. According to the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS), national food insecurity was 47.7 percent in January 2020 but has increased to 63 percent by June 2020. A Cadre Harmonise (CH) analysis conducted in October 2020 confirmed that the food security situation remains alarming in all districts due to COVID-19 restrictions, including inter-district lockdowns, curfews, and the closure of periodic markets. Around 852,383 Sierra Leoneans are in crisis and beyond (phases CH 3, 4 and 5).

### SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Although vulnerability in Sierra Leone is almost universal, certain segments of the society face additional challenges that impede their participation in the country's sustainable development and are most at risk of being left behind. Despite strides towards social inclusion, the most vulnerable groups continue to face barriers in accessing social services, including education, health services, legal rights and

public participation and representation. COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges of the following most marginalized groups: women and girls; persons with disabilities (PWDs); youth; sexual minorities; people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA), and; older persons.

### FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a significant increase in investment and diverse sources of financing for achieving the SDGs. The Development Finance Assessment reveals that the financing landscape in Sierra Leone is dominated by public external finance – both government finance and development cooperation with very small private sector. Public revenues were growing rapidly before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, total domestic revenue is projected to decrease to 13 percent of GDP in 2020 from 14.6 percent in 2019 owing to the contraction of economic activities and weak tax compliance. Moreover, Official Development Assistance a significant part of the financing landscape, and private financing remain small with low levels of domestic commercial and foreign investments. Remittances continue to be an important part of the financing landscape, providing a vital source of financing for many communities as well as a key source of foreign exchange for the country.

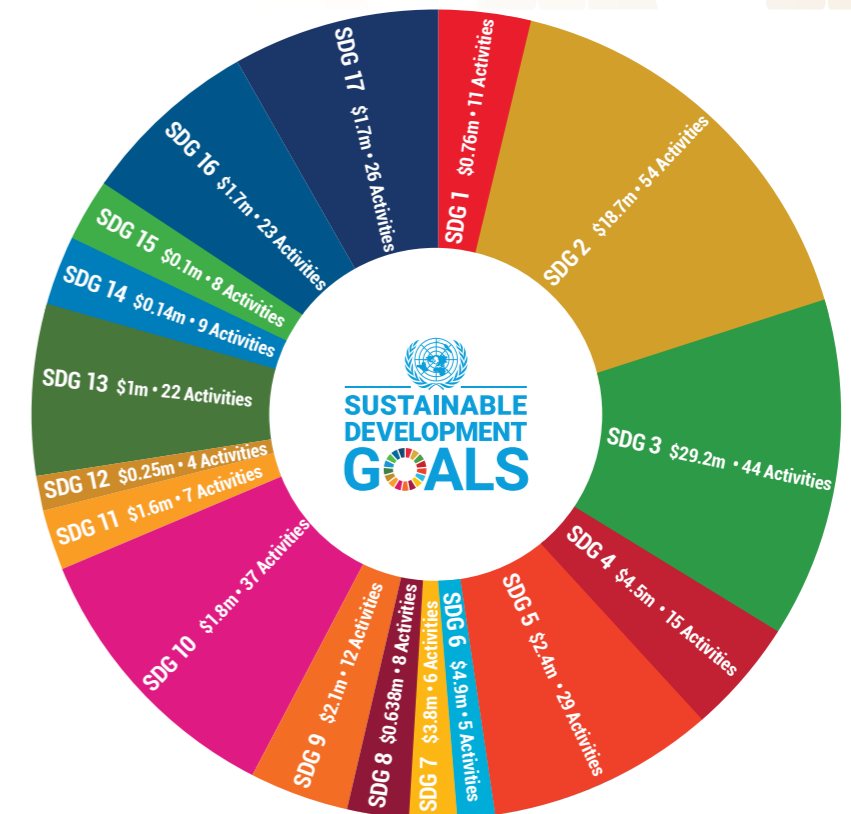
## UN SIERRA LEONE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs

**21 Agencies** under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2023

**74.3 Million USD** spent on programme and operations reaching over **4.2 million** people directly

All **17** SDGs supported

### 2020 EXPENDITURE PER SDG



### 2020 EXPENDITURE (USD) By Top three SDGs per Results Area

| SDG | Expenditure (USD) | Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience | Transformational Governance | Access to Basic Services | Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable |
|-----|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1   | 763,924           | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |
| 2   | 18.7m             | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |
| 3   | 29.2m             | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |
| 4   | 4.5m              | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |
| 5   | 2.4m              | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |
| 10  | 1.8m              | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |
| 16  | 1.7m              | •  | •                           | •                        | •   |



## 2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2020 PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS

### 2.1. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

**By 2023, Sierra Leone benefits from a more productive, commercialized and sustainable agriculture, improved food and nutrition security, and increased resilience to climate change and other shocks.**

#### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- 4,330 hectares of inland valley swamps and 92 hectares of land cultivated through support to small scale farmers, contributing to an increase of 3,800MT tons of rice produced, from 1.5 MT in 2019 to 4.8MT in 2020, positively impacting food security.
- 2,050 vegetable producers and small-scale farmers in 4 districts and border communities received skills training on agronomic practices, irrigation technologies, reconstruction of inland valley swamps and the supply of inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds.
- 291 (209 men, 82 men) youth from 20 fishing groups supported out of the 400 (75 percent men, 25 percent women) beneficiaries of the Youth in Fisheries Project.
- 123 farmers and 10 Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) supported through introduction of key technologies along cassava, palm oil and cocoa value chains. Eight (8) trainings were organised for Sierra Leone Standards Bureau staff and provided equipment and reagents.
- Strengthened production, market access, and competitiveness of Agri-Business Centres (ABCs) through capacity development, provision of tools, equipment, machineries, and training, improving quantity and quality of produce leading to increased income.
- Increased availability of food security, livelihood, and vulnerability data. Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis and FSMS data used to analyse food security situation of the country and plan sustainable interventions.

- Conducted a study to support local technologies and strengthen the capacities of farmers to reduce post-harvest loss. An assessment was conducted on trade flows for cassava, cocoa, and palm oil to support trade competitiveness.

#### FOOD AND NUTRITION

- 13,288 smallholder farmers including women and youth have increased income, sustained livelihoods, and employment due to trainings and critical production inputs. Supported smallholder producers and youth entrepreneurship with critical production inputs, including training in Good Agronomic Practices and Post-Harvest Loss Management, contributing to an increase in production and productivity.
- 9,022 children aged 6-23 months supported with specialized nutritious food across 9 districts in Sierra Leone to reduce malnutrition. The food assistance support and sensitization of pregnant, lactating mothers and girls along with the Social Behaviour Change strategy also contributed to improved health and nutrition practices.
- 560 women and 190 men with increased capacity in gender and land rights, who have started supporting communities in Bo, Kenema, Port Loko and Bombali districts on land rights and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Land-related disputes and discriminatory practices against rural women's access and ownership of land, other productive assets have been reduced, and women's decision-making has increased. Women can now advocate for and own land and plantations. Consultations in land use and distribution of land owned by women has also improved.

## RESULTS AREA 1: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

FAO IAEA IFAD ILO IOM UNDP UNICEF UNIDO WFP WHO

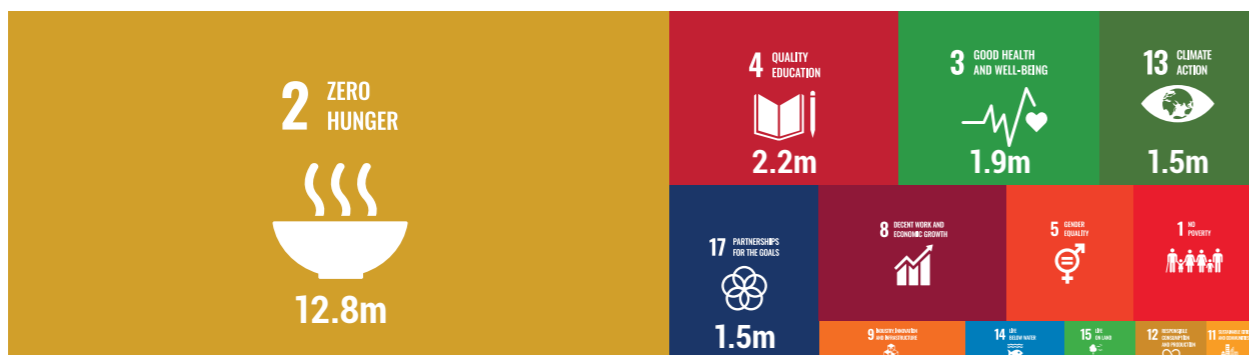
**17.6 Million USD**  
Total Expenditure

**350,000+**  
people reached

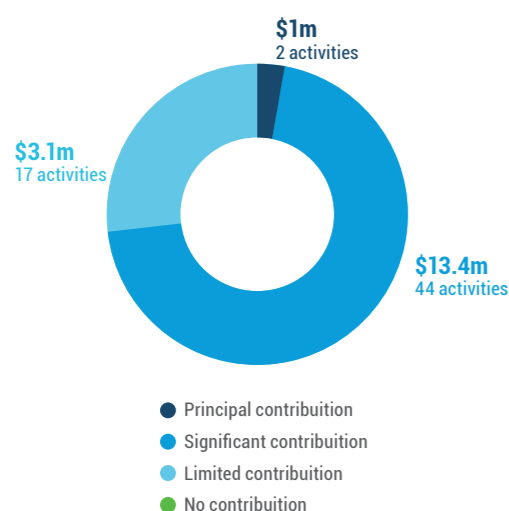
### 5 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



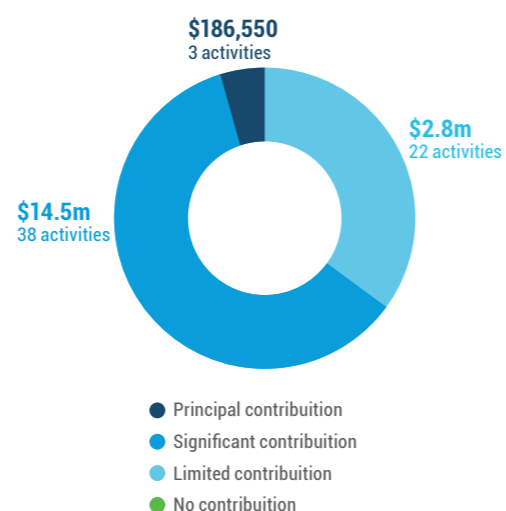
### TOP 5 CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs



### GENDER MARKER



### HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER



"I was able to gain access to improved tools, seeds, fertilizers, and knowledge to go back to my garden, produce, and feed my children," Hawa said.

### IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD PRODUCTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

In Mofombo village of Moyamba District, 54 years old Hawa Moiwo gleefully harvests her vegetables. A single mother of five children, Hawa is among the most vulnerable women farmers, who benefitted from the Anticipatory Action Project, funded by SFERA Early Action to provide critical agricultural production inputs to vulnerable and farming households affected by COVID-19.

According to Hawa, the Early Warning – Early Action support was timely and very useful, as it cushioned the shock resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. As a single parent who lost her husband several years ago, she relied on agriculture to sustain herself and her children. With the COVID-19 pandemic, she was constrained with labour, access to the market to purchase seeds and sell produce, and restriction of movement to farm during the lockdown. Ultimately, she lost her produce during the lockdown because she did not have market access to sell. "Life is getting better as we can now eat from the vegetables I grow. The profits I get from the sale, I use for other household expenses," Hawa emphasized.

Through UN support, 2,070 vegetable farmers (81.3 percent women) in Kenema, Moyamba, Bo, and Western rural Districts of Sierra Leone, have been provided with assorted, improved, and short duration vegetable seeds, garden tools and fertilizers to improve vegetable production. The beneficiaries also went through hands-on training on Good Agronomic Practices of vegetable production and post-harvest loss management. According to the beneficiaries, the support was timely, resulting to avoidance of losing crop and income, thereby, ensuring food and nutrition security of vulnerable households.

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Distributed 20,000 trees to communities for reforestation of mangrove and forests.
- 110 hectares of degraded mangrove rehabilitated to reduce the risk of climate vulnerabilities. Recovery of degraded land through rehabilitation increased access to arable land for agricultural production. Facilitated skills transfer to the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the communities along the Fouta Djallon and Little Scarcies river on watershed.
- 555 persons with increased capacities in community disaster preparedness and management enabling them to better respond to emergencies.
- 5,259 livestock farmers' livelihoods protected through livestock vaccination. Government capacity is strengthened in transboundary disease surveillance.
- Provided refrigerant items to the National Ozone Unit in the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to phase out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons.
- Supported the development and integration of provisions that would reflect refugees' needs, returned migrant, stateless, and displaced population in the current legal, policy, and procedural reform initiatives. Through this, the Disaster Management Department of the Office of National Security and partners validated a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Teaching Manual for schools. The guidelines will help teachers in facilitating the protection of children against potential disaster risks.

## 2.2. TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE

By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable, and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and protection of boys and girls, women and men including those with disability.

### SOCIAL COHESION AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION

- Increased women participation in leading emergency response at the district level through the Parliamentary Female Caucus engagement with NACOVERC and local authorities.
- 150 (30 women, 120 men) border security officers and community residents were trained on COVID-19, resulting to a reduction of new infections.
- Supported conduct of people living with HIV (PLHIV) Stigma Index 2.0 survey, now used to measure Sierra Leone's performance on the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
- 160 participants (90 women, 70 men) provided with Legal Literacy training by the Legal AID Board and Sierra Leone Police on national and local laws and human rights.



- 27 Grievance Redress Committees, three Multi-Stakeholders Platforms and two Community Development Committees were established in rural communities in Moyamba and Pujehun Districts to enhance social cohesion and peace. Ensured a minimum of 45 percent representation of women on the committees and women's issues included in the agenda of these meetings.
- Women sensitized on land rights, access to land, and human rights in Lower and Upper Banta Chiefdoms and Makpele and Malen Chiefdoms in Pujehun District.
- Introduced the Migration Government Index (MGI) to monitor government's response regarding migration and to elicit interest and conversation on migration policy structures.

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Improved gender-responsiveness of justice delivery and security services through support to the Judiciary, Sierra Leone Correctional Services, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, and Independent Police Complaints Board. Established pilot virtual SGBV courts to expedite access to justice for the victims of sexual violence.
- 600 complainants, including 180 women supported through innovative complaint handling procedure by the Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone.
- 199 reported cases received by SGBV courts and 19 convictions were finalized, demonstrating the Judiciary's resolve to address growing impunity for SGBV cases and the establishment of sustainable and accessible mechanism to address sexual and domestic violence offenses.
- Trained 109 state and non-state actors in identification, referral and provision of protection assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking, together with the MSW and Minister of Justice (MoJ).

## RESULTS AREA 2: TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE

ILO IOM UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UNODC UNOPS UNWOMEN

**2.9 Million USD**  
Total Expenditure

**1,000+**  
people reached

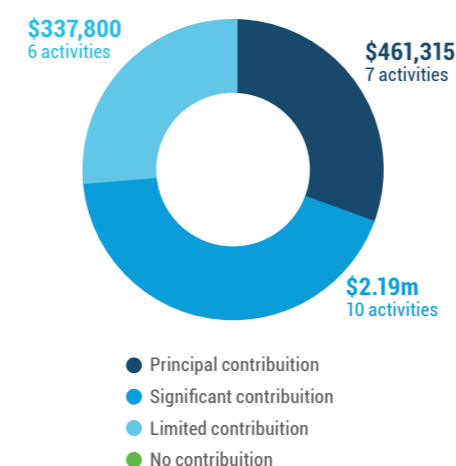
### 5 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



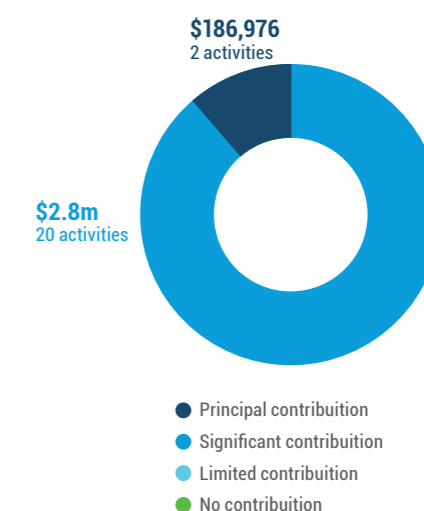
### TOP 5 CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs



### GENDER MARKER



### HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER





## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES

- 6 local councils have gender-responsive plans in place to ensure women's active participation in political leadership and decision-making.
- Development and launch of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy 2020, promoting women's empowerment, leadership, and gender equality at all levels.
- Review of the Parliamentary Service Act (2007) to improve transparency, inclusiveness, and de-politicize parliamentary staff work, which will enable Parliament to be more independent and conduct effective oversight of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).
- Increased capacity of the Parliamentary Budget Office to ensure that deliberations of the Members of the Parliament are data-driven and evidence-based.
- Parliamentary Female Caucus supported to develop the Affirmative Action Bill (Safe Seats) for increased women's representation in leadership positions. 120 women from Female Parliamentary Caucus enrolled in a pilot mentorship programme.
- Supported new proposals to increase enforcement of Human Rights Commission decisions through the review of Act 2004.
- Supported digitization of government tax collection through provision of Minimum Viable Products to increase revenue mobilization, transparency, and accountability.
- Developed the Data Protection Policy, Bill and Regulations to reinforce review and harmonization of the NCR Act 2016 by the National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA).
- 3.5 million IDs digitized through support to NCR Act to launch the National Digital ID Platform.
- Supported the conduct of the baseline survey on the NCR Act and Public Elections Act.
- Supported the development of the National Monitoring and Evaluation Management Information System. The system is GIS-supported and web-enabled to manage performance of projects; strengthen the role of M&E policies, programmes, and projects in all MDAs to improve effectiveness and efficiency of programme delivery.

## LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- Supported capacity assessment for local governance structures with plans to improve capacities and devolved functions. The Ministry of Local Government and 22 local councils now have a three-year capacity development plan (2021-2023).
- 22 Local Councils were supported to review, validate, and endorse the by-laws for COVID-19 response in communities. Further support enabled them to monitor, track and address gaps in the COVID-19 response delivered by the emergency centres.
- 64 members (40 percent women) of the Local Councils Association of Sierra Leone reviewed

the association's constitution to align with the Government's Mid-Term National Development Plan (MNTDP). This served as catalyst for the association's involvement in working with their membership nationwide on COVID-19 response.

- Community Development Committees (CDCs) in Pujehun and Moyamba Districts were trained in participatory approaches to development, through support given to Decentralization Secretariat. The CDCs were reactivated in Masan and Komende communities. Priority initiatives in support of women and children were identified resulting to the construction of quarters for Maternal and Child Health staff and the rehabilitation of a school building.

## FIGHTING COVID-19 WITH MUSIC WHILST ADVOCATING FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

"Hey there! I have a message for you. Yes you. You know Corona Virus...wash your hands, wear your mask when in public places, call 117 in case you have it... and together we will win this fight...for the future of our beloved country-Sierra Leone's development", sang Sierra Leone's famous musicians.

"Corona Fet Na We All Fet" (Fighting COVID-19 together), is catchy jingle sang by celebrated Sierra Leonean music artists as part of COVID-19 risk communication and social mobilization strategy.

Radio and TV channels have played the song, which has been heard throughout the country, boosting awareness on COVID-19 prevention and response. "The country loves these young men and women. They are very influential and highly revered among our people so the idea was just right to have them join and lead the fight for their country," said Solomon Jamiru, National Spokesperson for the COVID-19 response and also the brains behind the development of the song. "Song and music have ability to attract attention and drive home messages faster and more effectively as a means of communication," added Solomon.

"And we Sierra Leoneans love our music so much that everyone is actually a musician, singer and or dancer in their own right," said FantaCee Wiz one of the country's folk singers and co-manager of the group, Artists for Peace.

Supported by the UN through the National COVID-19 Emergency Response Centre (NaCOVERC) Risk Communication and Social Mobilization pillar, the COVID-19 theme song was developed and performed by a collection of various Sierra Leonean musicians

drawn from across the country including from historically fragile districts of Moyamba and Kono. This is symbolic of the unity and social cohesion against COVID-19 and for development the artists sing about. Sang in the various languages spoken in the country, the lyrics raise awareness about the pandemic but also prepares people for a hopeful future based on peace and solidarity.

UN Sierra Leone has previously worked with the "Artists for Peace" forum on various projects especially around peacebuilding. "We want to emerge from the victorious side of this [COVID-19] fight and much more stronger to walk into a brighter future as a country," said Wahid, Team Leader of the group and a famous Sierra Leonean music artist well-known for his advocacy work on peace and development.



Sierra Leone's most famous musicians including Famous, Star Zee and Rapper Kao Denero during the live recording of the music video in Freetown. ©UNDP Sierra Leone/2020/Mayalle

### 2.3. ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

By 2023, the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, will benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality education, healthcare, energy and water, and sanitation and hygiene services, including during emergencies.



#### EDUCATION

- 15 percent of primary students provided with teaching and learning materials to ensure continuous learning through the pandemic. Supported the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and the Teaching Service Commission to provide distance teacher training for over 3,400 early grade teachers. 1,291 schools in eight districts were provided with handwashing stations.
- Over 329,000 children received school feeding in 1149 primary schools, contributing to enrolment, attendance and retention by improving their access to daily nutritious meals in schools. Raised awareness of over 2225 members of the communities to support and participate in the implementation of the National School Feeding Programme.
- Technical support provided on adherence to National School Safety Protocols and Psychosocial Training Manuals, COVID-19 prevention, and school reopening using SMS messaging via EduTrac and the Situation Room.
- Supported the MBSSE and Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) to undertake the

Comprehensive Education Sector Analysis (ESA) accompanied with the Financial simulation model to inform the development of the next Education Sector Plan 2022-2026.

- Strengthened real time data collection and information management system for evidence-based education planning and decision-making.
- Significant progress by the Government through EduTrac in generating quality data used in planning interventions. Significant improvement in the institutional and human capacity of the Education Ministries both at national and district levels resulting in improved decentralized data collection, analysis and utilization.
- 19 percent more of pre-primary schools provided with Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits and picture books, benefitting 14 percent of children enrolled in ECD centres. Systems and capacity strengthening of MBSSE lead to expanded access and quality of ECD including more ECD centres.
- Supported teacher training institutions to provide school management training to Headteachers.
- Ensured continuous skills development programme for adolescents through learning passport and other digital platforms during COVID 19.
- Began efforts to improve delivery of gender sensitive STEM education through Micro Science kits in partnership with MTHE and Sierra Leone National Commission of UNESCO. Strengthened capacity of 60 education professionals and 12 ICT experts from 4 universities to prepare them to deliver online learning to students. Online learning platform procured.
- Supported the MTHE and three Government Technical institutes in Freetown, Bo and Kailahun) with motorcycles and ICT equipment to capacity and skills training.

## RESULTS AREA 3: ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES/MATE RESILIENCE

IAEA IOM UNAIDS UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UNICEF UNIDO UNOPS WHO

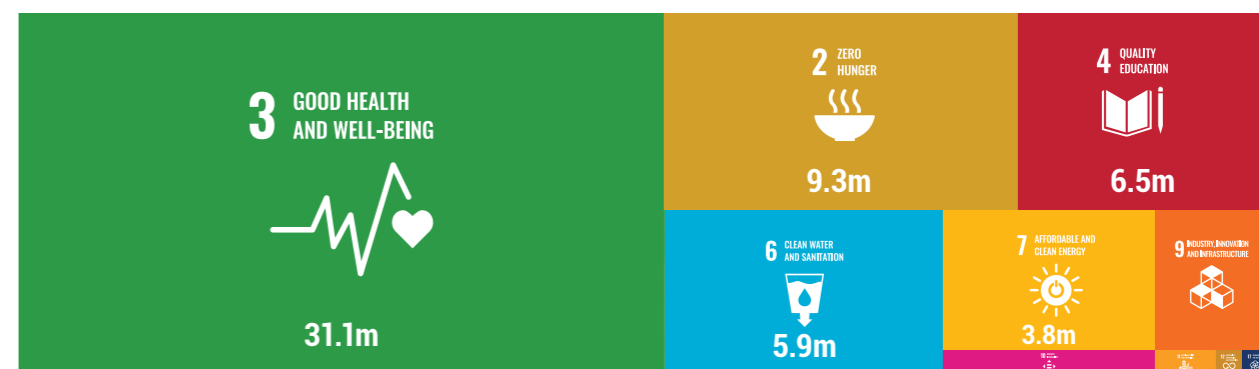
**50.7 Million USD**  
Total Expenditure

**3.9+ Million**  
people reached

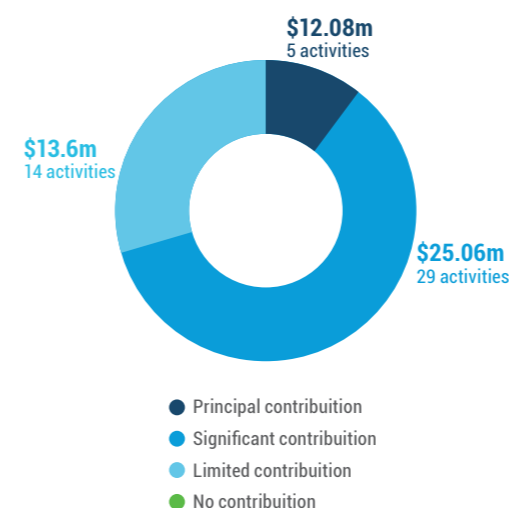
#### 5 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



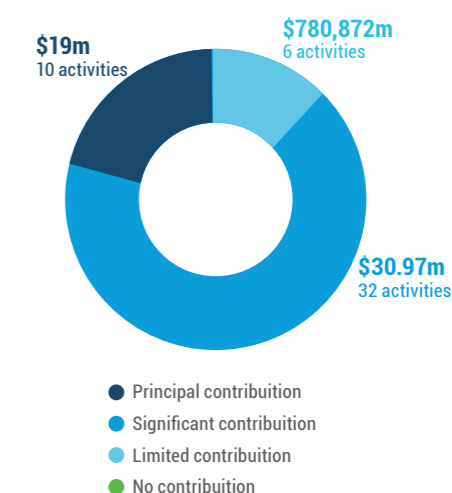
#### TOP 5 CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs



#### GENDER MARKER



#### HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER





### WASH

- 45,140 people including women and children have access to basic water supply services through the construction of gravity-fed systems and solar powered motorized boreholes.
- 43,000 persons reached with access to water supply services through the rehabilitation of 86 community water reservoirs. Furthermore, 6 health care facilities and 4 primary schools were also provided access to water supply.
- 34,512 people now living in 68 open defecation free communities, including 29,071 beneficiaries of newly constructed 5,328 improved latrines in selected districts.
- 131,648 persons were reached with Hygiene promotion messages and campaigns. Distributed 4,500 handwashing buckets and 75,000 bars of soap to 4,000 households and 27 schools in the six districts, reaching 13,225 pupils/students.
- The National Strategy/Roadmap for Sanitation and Hygiene and the National Strategy on Water Safety Planning were finalized and launched with UN support. A Draft WASH policy has been developed and will be finalized in 2021. The National Strategy for Water Safety Plans was launched with 94 officers trained to rollout the strategy.
- 200 (24 women) youth supported through capacity building and supply of motorized waste collection tricycles, contributing to Freetown's solid waste initiative.



Lighting households and communities with renewable energy.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Increased access to renewable electricity through the installation of solar mini grids with over 5,723 connections. This includes 5,165 households, 54 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 440 businesses, 68 schools and 50 other institutions in rural communities and towns.
- 43,266 household beneficiaries, 6,563 entrepreneurs and 29,108 students are benefiting from the electricity generated through 49 solar grids. Around 60,000 CHC patients access health services through the 54 mini-grid electrified CHCs.
- Finalized regulations for mini-grids with the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC) and developed a cost-reflective mini-grid tariff calculation tool. Guidelines were prepared in partnership with EPA for renewable and mini-grid projects, which were adopted by the EWRC Board, significantly impacting the level of effort and cost associated with obtaining the Environmental Impact Assessment licenses. The combination of these achievements has generated interest in further investment and mini-grid sector growth.
- 14,612 beneficiaries of the grants programme, including 8 grantees from 17 locations as part of initiatives in stimulation of market development through productive use of energy. This also includes developing private sector engagement and strengthening strategy.
- Secured nearly USD \$10.8M of financing from the private sector to procure and install generation assets resulting from Private-Public-Partnership agreements signed with three private sector operators. Regulations and guidelines were also ratified.

### UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

#### Health Policies

- Supported progressive implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmap, including strengthening capacity of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS).
- Technical support provided to revise the Community Health Workers (CHW) Policy to consolidate and institutionalize the CHW programme as a sustainable component of Primary Health Care.
- Regulation of Breastmilk Substitutes bill was drafted by MoHS.
- Progressive strengthening of health workforce through support for the development of Preceptorship Policy and Implementation Guidelines for pre-service Midwifery education; Clinical Guidelines for management of SGBV survivors; National Guidelines for the care of pregnant adolescents and first-time adolescent mothers.
- Provided technical and financial support to the development of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB National Strategic and M&E plans, that are evidence informed, people-centred, right-based and aligned to the MTNDP and UHC. These plans were utilized in the development of the Global Fund Grant.

#### Health System/Capacity Strengthening

- Saved 4,145 new-born infants out of 5,032 sick new-borns admitted, with the survival rate of 82.4 percent.
- Increased Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) and Deworming coverage to 97 percent of infants 6–11 months in Semester 1 of 2020 from 78 percent in 2017. However, VAS was discontinued resulting to 26 percent decline of coverage among children 6 - 59 months.
- Improved comprehensive RMNCAH+N services through successful surgery of 129 survivors from obstetric fistula; support to referral hospitals resulting to improved quality of Maternal and New-born health services, with over 5000 deliveries; establishment of High Dependence Units, at three main referral facilities to manage critically ill pregnant and postnatal women; revision of national Integrated

Management of New-born and Childhood Illnesses training guidelines and job aids, and; training of 34 national master trainers and 210 district/chiefdom supervisors.

- Ensured continuity of essential RMNCAH+N services during COVID-19, by developing SOPs/protocols/training packages and training 2,500 health workers.
- Trained 218 clinical health workers, 158 midwives, 30 nurse anaesthetists and 7 surgical assistants. Trained 110 health staff on improving quality of care and prevention of institutional maternal and new-born mortality.
- Supported the development and roll-out of “First Time Adolescent Mothers guidelines” and development of Quality Improvement framework.
- Established five (5) Special Care Baby Units, increasing the total number to Nine.
- Supported quality data generation including the finalization and dissemination 2019 of Sierra Leone Demographic Health Survey 2019.
- Supported the strengthening of interoperability between Health Management Information System and District Health Information Software and electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response system for improved data quality and use.
- Provided technical assistance to airport reopening by strengthening COVID -19 prevention and response through: development of Standards and Procedures (SOPs) for surveillance, training, and provision supplies for infection prevention and control.





## HEALTH SECURITY AND EMERGENCY, AND VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

- Supported adaption and roll-out of the 3rd edition of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system technical guidelines. Trainings included 40 national staff as Trainers, 120 District Health Management Team members and 1352 health facility staff in 15 out of the 16 districts in the country. 1500 updated copies of IDSR weekly summary reporting forms were printed and distributed to all sixteen districts in the country.
- A multisectoral workshop was conducted to complete the SPAR reporting and JEE self-assessment for 2020. Results from both activities indicate that the SPAR score improved from 40 percent in 2019 to 49 percent in 2020, and the JEE indicators improved by 27 percent for human and 26 percent for animal health in 2020.

## FAMILY PLANNING

- 3.9 million people nationwide and 645,000 people in Freetown, including adolescent girls and young women were reached by the 16 Days of Activism Against SGBV campaign.
- Contributed to improved high-quality integrated rights-based family planning, adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health and HIV services--developed guidelines for

providing quality care to pregnant adolescents and first-time adolescent mothers; procurement of more than 90 percent of the national contraceptive needs; and the development of Information, Education and Communication materials to improve knowledge on contraceptives' method mix and new family planning methods.

- Supported Fambul Initiative Network for Equality Sierra Leone to orientate the Male Advocacy Peer Educator (MAPE) network; used male engagement strategy to promote ending child marriage in communities, in three project district towns; Kambia, Koinadugu, and Pujehun, reaching 60 MAPEs, and increased demand for sexual and reproductive health and SGBV services.
- Progressive achievement in galvanizing multi-stakeholders' partnerships for the implementation of the family planning costed workplan (2018-2022) and reproductive health commodity security strategy, evidenced by: completion of multi-year contraceptive forecast and supply plan; four rounds of contraceptive distribution nationwide, estimated to produce 897,000 Couple Years of protection; improvement in Last Mile Assurance process through the installation of physical security equipment (CCTV cameras) and fire control equipment at the Central Medical Stores to ensure safety, and; conducted a diagnostic analysis of the Health Supply Chain Management System in Sierra Leone.

## REDUCING MATERNAL AND CHILD MORTALITY IN SIERRA LEONE

It is immunisation day at the George Brook Community Health Centre in Freetown. A group of pregnant women and parents, most from the rocky and sloppy hills of George Brook, chat and giggle as they wait for their babies' turn to get vaccinated.

The nurses appeared visibly busy, each strategically located to ensure that various units including triage and weighing stations are covered. According to Nurse Adama Kallah, focal person for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) at the health center, the unit administers a variety of vaccines to an average of 900 children every month. The huge influx of babies in the unit is partially due to the sensitisation activities by the nurses and community health workers through routine outreach activities and radio programmes.

"Our outreaches to the community give us an extra opportunity to educate parents about the importance of vaccines to their children, trace defaulters and ensure their children get vaccinated," said Nurse Adama. "We want to contribute to the fight against the high rates of infant morbidity and mortality in the country and so we endeavour to go the extra mile to ensure that we reach out to children who have missed taking one or more of the vaccines."

Sierra Leone has one of the highest rates of under-five mortality in the world with 94 deaths per 1,000 live births according to the 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey report. One of the key health strategies for reducing these deaths is vaccination programmes, which has proven to be very effective over the years.

With funds from the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI), the United Nations has been working with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to improve the delivery of essential services including vaccination drugs and kits. The support provided includes procurement of vaccines, procurement and installation of cold chain equipment/solar refrigerators, supply transportation to all district stores, training of personnel and providing incentives to staff at health facilities to be able to deliver immunization services in the communities, so that more mothers and babies are reached with life-saving interventions.



"We are really grateful for all the support that we have been receiving to improve immunisation services in our country," says nurse Adama. "The availability of vaccination services at health facilities encourages parents to bring their babies to be vaccinated. This will contribute to efforts being made to reduce the number of children and women dying of preventable causes in the country."



Fifteen-month-old Rashida Konomani receives her second dose of measles vaccine at the George Brook Community Health Center in Freetown. ©UNICEFSierraLeone/2021/Mason



## 2.4. PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

**By 2023, the most vulnerable, particularly women, youth, adolescents and children (especially girls), and persons living with disabilities are empowered and benefit from increased social protection services, economic and social opportunities.**



### BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

- 15,927 children (8,444 boys, 7,483 girls) participated in intergenerational dialogue sessions led by 3,600 leaders from the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone, who were trained on key child protection measures. Support was provided to the development of a booklet capturing religious quotes on positive child-rearing and protection behaviours.
- 100 male youth ambassadors pledged as advocates for the HeForShe Campaign and were trained to sensitize communities on National Male Involvement Strategy and the amended Sexual Offences Act 2019. 100 religious leaders were sensitized on Ending Violence Against Women using the HeForShe Strategy.
- 150 government and civil society organization (CSO) affiliated social workers trained to support the implementation and expansion of the national child protection case management system.
- 20 Community Peace Ambassadors trained on COVID-19, Gender and SGBV.
- Increased public awareness by installing 72 billboards across 16 districts, radio broadcasts on girl child education, and roll out of sanitary kits to prevent SGBV.

- Increased accessibility to public buildings such as the Parliament through provision of disability-friendly toilets; the construction of a covered ramp for wheelchair access; and installment of an elevator. Construction of disability-friendly facilities in Reproductive Health Centres and hospitals provided to increase access to health services of PWDs.

### POLICIES AND REFORMS

- Provided technical assistance to review and develop new legislation and policies including Child Rights Act; Human Resource Strategy for Social Workforce; Child Justice Strategy (2014-2018); Strategy to Address Situation of Children Living and Working on the Street; Diversion and Child Friendly Legal Assistance Framework; and Alternatives to Detention Strategy, and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2020).
- The Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) and the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MoGCA) were supported to develop a positive parenting education package. MoGCA was supported to develop a National Male Involvement Strategy to accelerate SGBV prevention.
- Supported the implementation of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage, including a review of the Strategy's communication plan, increasing public discourse on adolescent pregnancy, child marriage and SGBV.
- Supported the GoSL to develop the National Migration Policy and National Action Plan for Trafficking in Persons (2020-2023).
- Supported Justice Sector Coordination Office to advance legal and policy reform to respond to harmful practices and child protection issues.
- Established technical committee to oversee drafting of the Social Protection bill.

- Conducted a survey on social and behavioural drivers for child marriage to guide the development of programmes to reduce child marriage. An ethnographic study on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was concluded and recommendations are being used to guide decision-making and program-planning processes.
- Supported the review of the 2014 National Youth Policy, resulting in the establishment of the "Youth Basket Fund".
- Provided support to the Sexual and Reproductive Health Taskforce to finalize the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) road map. MBBSE was supported to integrate CSE in basic education curriculum and the syllabi of 5 key subjects. MoHS and MBBSE were supported to develop and roll out a School Health Policy to promote safe schools.
- Provided financial and technical resources to review the Persons with Disability (PWD) Act 2011, which resulted to the completion of the draft PWD Bill 2020.
- Supported the development of a disability strategy that guides programmes on the protection of rights of women, children and people living with disabilities. To ensure that this strategy is fully implemented, seven (7) National Commission for UNESCO staff were trained.

### PROTECTION OF THE VULNERABLE IN COVID-19 CONTEXT

- 15,841 children and family members were reached by the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Service (MHPSS). 587 children (296 girls, 291 boys) affected by COVID-19 were provided with case management services. A Psychosocial First Aid Manual was produced.
- 38,607 calls, an average of 7,721 calls per month were logged by the 116-hotline from May-October 2020. The SGBV '116' toll-free hotline was established in partnership with MoGCA to provide counselling and referral services to SGBV survivors, particularly during the pandemic. A total 297 incidents of gender-based violence were reported, of which 175 sexual penetration and 98 domestic violence incidents were reported.
- 1,426 survivors of SGBV, including 12 with disabilities were aided by One Stop Centres, established to provide medical treatment, legal services, and psychosocial support to both male and female survivors of SGBV. MoGCA was

supported to open 6 government-run One Stop centres, that reached 532 survivors.

- 1,012 Sierra Leonean migrants stranded in North Africa, Sahel Region and the middle east were provided protection assistance, psychosocial support and reintegration services.
- 6 women's groups were supported to engage communities on ending SGBV and accessing One Stop centres. Awareness raising activities on radio and through social media messages reached over 20,000 community members.
- 35 members of the Sierra Leone Women Lawyers Association trained to provide comprehensive post-SGBV treatment and evidenced-based recording and reporting of testimonies, in partnership with the Office of the First Lady and Rainbo Centre.
- 64 PWDs were recruited and trained on COVID-19 management in 8 districts. Main participants included persons with albinism, physically challenged (polio survivors, amputees and war wounded), visually impaired, speech and hearing impaired, leprosy survivors, little people, and stroke survivors.
- 400 children with disabilities benefited from the food items distributed with MSW, district councils, Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues and Program of Support. Education materials such as FM Radio, notebooks and pens and protective equipment to children with severe and multiple disabilities were also provided.
- 600 girls and young women with disabilities and children of PWDs received 600 dignity kits and were trained on sexual and reproductive health rights. They were also linked to health centres in 8 districts. The support was provided through local CSOs and district health workers.



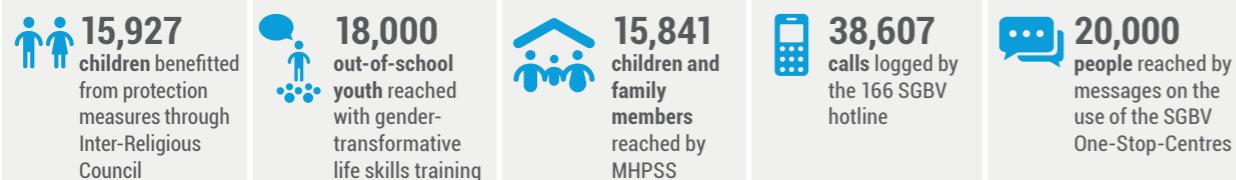
## RESULTS AREA 4: PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

ILO IOM UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP UNESCO UNFPA UNICEF UNODC UNWOMEN WFP WHO

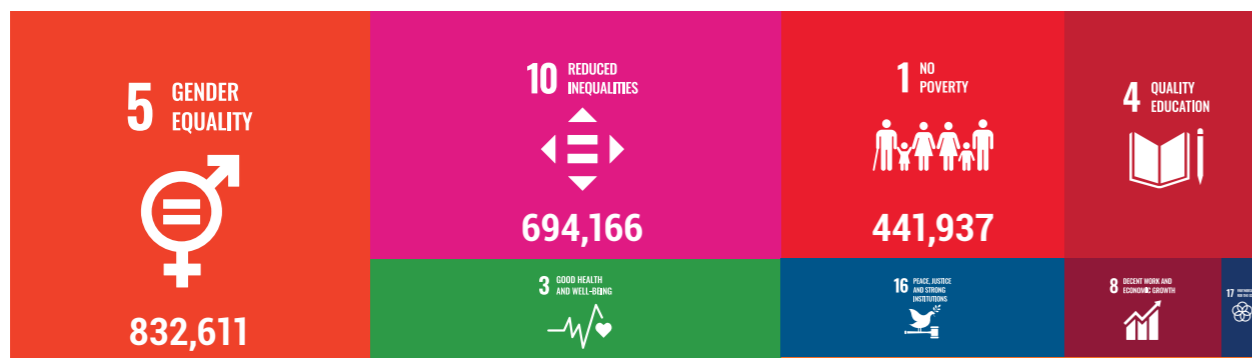
**3 Million USD**  
Total Expenditure

**75,000+**  
people reached

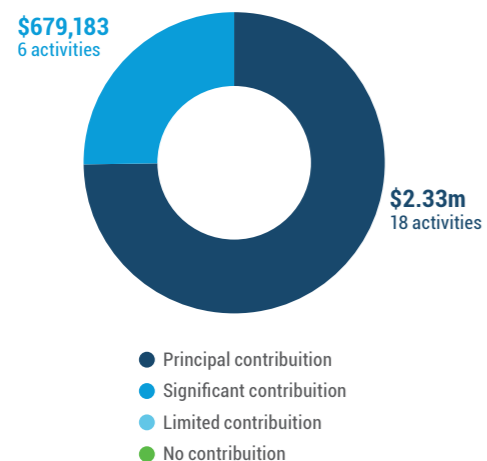
### 5 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



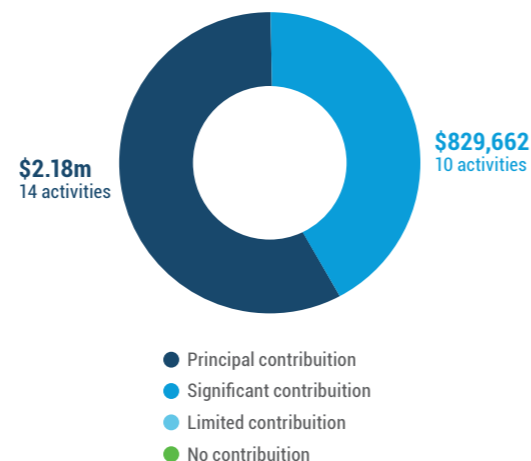
### TOP 5 CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs



### GENDER MARKER



### HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER



### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND DATA COLLECTION

- Supported Social Transfer Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan which was used during the pandemic as a basis for emergency cash transfers implementation manuals. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was supported to undertake monitoring of payments and beneficiary verifications for COVID-19 cash transfer programmes. The capacity of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been improved on SGBV, which enabled GRM community monitors to develop contacts with social workers.
- Supported the use of text messaging to ease communication and coordination with beneficiaries, in partnership with the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation, the National Commission for Social Action, and ACC.
- MoGCA was supported to generate sex-disaggregated data from all COVID-19 Response Pillars. Statistics Sierra Leone implemented the Rapid Gender Assessment on the effect of COVID-19 on the well-being on women and men, with UN support.
- Improved data collection systems to inform future humanitarian responses, including initiatives to set up a social registry system. Populations in disaster-prone areas in four districts were pre-registered to expand the existing registry system.
- Supported MSW and MoGCA to train 16 case managers on Primero, the Child Protection Information Management System.

### CAPACITY-STRENGTHENING FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

- 18,000 out-of-school youth (12,000 girls, 6,000 boys) age 10-19 years old, including those with disabilities reached through gender-transformative skills training in 200 safe spaces.
- 110 radio lessons on the National Life Skills Manual aired nationwide was supported through the MBBSE. Representative sample indicated that 800 out of 2000 marginalized girls listened regularly to the Life Skills Radio Teaching Programme.
- 3,459 youth (2057 men, 1402 women), including 1012 returning migrants (854 men, 158 women), and 70 PWDs were trained on entrepreneurship, micro business management, vocational skills. 219 of these trained youth benefitted from 70 fishing boats provided by the GoSL. Some of the youths trained were also supported with motorized waste collection tricycles to contribute to proper waste management practices.
- 940 community volunteer mobilisers were trained in 190 chiefdoms nationwide to raise public awareness on COVID-19. 300 youth councillors were trained on SGBV prevention, sexual and reproductive health, COVID-19, and transferable life skills.
- 445 Graduate interns were trained in transformational leadership, professional development and life skills by the National Youth Commission. 240 of graduate interns trained (144 men, 96 women) were placed in 58 apprenticeship positions.



### YOUTH CHAMPION BREAKING BARRIERS FOR DISABILITY

When Salimatu from Moyamba District was just four years old, she was treated at a local hospital for a high fever that left her mobility impaired and required her to use crutches. At eight years old, Salimatu moved to Freetown where she lived was left homeless when her adoptive father passed away. "It was very challenging for me at this time," explained Salimatu. "I couldn't afford to pay my school fees and wasn't able to sit my exams."

With no school and no home, Salimatu found a derelict building, where she lived with over 120 other disabled men and women. Whilst living in the building, she met a man who agreed to financially support her studies in exchange for sexual favours. Without any knowledge of family planning, Salimatu fell pregnant at the age of 16. "I was vulnerable at the time, and at that age. I received no counselling or advice on how to avoid getting pregnant," revealed Salimatu.

Adolescent pregnancy and child marriage continue to be challenging issues in Sierra Leone, with one in six women aged 20-49 having married by the age of 15 years and 28 per cent of adolescents aged 15 to 19 have begun childbearing. Adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years are at a high risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, with 47 per cent of female deaths amongst adolescents being maternal.

After giving birth to a baby girl, Salimatu started begging on the streets, struggling to pay for food and financially look after her daughter. In 2013, Salimatu completed a three-month internship at



Salimatu at the Youth Advisory Panel training ©UNFPASierraLeone

OneFamilyPeople – an organisation that provides impact-orientated services for persons with disabilities, their families and their communities. Wowed by her singing talents, staff at OneFamilyPeople supported Salimatu to establish the Great Walpoleans Band who deliver advocacy messages on disability rights through their songs. "At OneFamilyPeople, I learned that disabled people are important in society and that we can participate at all levels," said Salimatu. "Before I didn't think I was important. But now through my singing, people know what I'm fighting to achieve".

Salimatu eventually worked as a Field Officer at OneFamilyPeople, providing outreach services such as life skills to adolescents aged 12- 18 years in deprived communities in Western Freetown Urban. "I work in areas where there is not much knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights and information in the communities," explained Salimatu. "I work in partnership with various community stakeholders including, parents, religious leaders, the police, nurses and others to collectively address the issues faced by young people, especially girls," she added.

Recognising Salimatu's passion and drive, her manager informed her about the call for applications for people with disabilities for the UN-supported Youth Advisory Panel. Excited by the opportunity, Salimatu submitted her application, was interviewed, and a month later notified that she was successful. As a youth advisory panel member, Salimatu now attends high-level multi-sectorial meetings chaired by the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy to advise government ministries and its partners. "I felt good attending this meeting for the first time because so many different issues were raised around girls such as early marriage and sexual and reproductive health and rights," said Salimatu. More recently, Salimatu and her peers in the youth advisory panel, organised a community event for 70- 80 adolescent boys and girls for a sexual and reproductive health discussion, and held a debate on comprehensive sexuality education.

Now living with her ten-year-old daughter in her own private residence, Salimatu has big dreams for the future. "I really want to develop different structures for adolescent groups such as Girls Clubs to be held on Saturdays. At these clubs, girls could learn about managing money, being healthy, being confident, assertive and valuing themselves as girls. I also want to work with primary and secondary schools to engage adolescents on sexual and reproductive health and rights," asserted Salimatu.





# 3. UN COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE (SERP)

 **98 Million USD**  
Total Funding Requirement

**27 Million USD**  
Funded 

 **3.2+ million**  
people targeted

The UN COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan (SERP) aims to support the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods and to address the pre-existing and underlying structural weaknesses in the economy. The SERP complements the Government of Sierra Leone's

Quick Action Economic Recovery Programme (QAERP), contents of the Supplementary Budget submitted to Parliament in June 2020 and the MTNDP. Aligned to the UNSDCF 2020-2023, the SERP was completed on 23 October 2020 and costed at USD \$98 million. Around USD\$ 27 million (27.5 percent) have been funded thus far.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>HEALTH FIRST</b><br/>Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 57,414 beneficiaries reached by activities on promoting maternal health.</li> <li>• 31,597 children (6-59 months) were reached by nutrition programmes.</li> <li>• Developed health sector policies addressing at-risk populations as identified by the COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessments.</li> <li>• Supported integration of MHPSS in the public health response.</li> <li>• Supported health facilities to maintain essential immunization services.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>PROTECTING PEOPLE</b><br/>Social protection and basic services</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 314,674 primary school children received meals.</li> <li>• Supported the GoSL to establish 116 SGBV hotline.</li> <li>• Scaled-up WASH activities, including provision of hygiene and handwashing facilities and equipment.</li> <li>• Enhanced capacity of protection services for the most vulnerable, including distance learning for children, legal aid, human rights protection and psychosocial support services.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY</b><br/>Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47,985 direct beneficiaries of food supply protection regimes, including provision of agricultural inputs and technical and post-harvest loss management support.</li> <li>• Supported MSMEs and other private sector companies to drive employment generation.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported policy development through socio-economic impact and needs assessments of COVID-19 in Sierra Leone. The results of these impact and needs assessments have been used to inform macroeconomic policies focusing on at-risk populations. These include fiscal policy and women's empowerment policy.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built capacity of community-based organizations in COVID-19 response and efforts to tackle challenges linked to the pandemic, such as domestic violence, stigma and other forms of discrimination.</li> <li>• Facilitated spaces, including for at-risk groups, for social dialogue, advocacy and/or political engagement at national and sub-national levels.</li> </ul>   |



# 4. SIERRA LEONE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN (SLHRP)

 **62.9 Million USD** Total Funding Requirement  
 **20 Million USD** Funded  
 **3.4+ million** people targeted

The Sierra Leone Humanitarian Response Plan (SLHRP) was developed to tackle critical humanitarian needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and included in the UN Secretary General's COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. SLHRP identified immediate humanitarian needs including WASH, food security and nutrition, livelihood and agriculture, sustainable provision of critical services, psychosocial support, education and logistics and supply chain. The activities undertaken to address these needs are tracked in the SERP results framework, which was developed after the SLHRP. Whilst the SLHRP addresses the immediate humanitarian impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it also contributes to the Strategic Priorities of the UNSDCF 2020-2023.

The SLHRP was established to complement measures introduced by the GoSL, such as the COVID-19 Health Response Plan and QAERP. The overriding purpose was to proactively take steps to control escalation of COVID-19 in Sierra Leone and avoid devastating impacts like those of Ebola Virus Disease. However, the overarching challenge to the COVID-19 response was the lack of funding. The SLHRP total funding requirement was USD \$62.90 million, of which only 31.9 percent (\$20,093,035) is funded; 51.8 percent of the funding came from Government donors and 46.5 percent came from Multilateral Development Banks.

| FIELD CLUSTER/SECTOR             | CURRENT REQUIREMENTS US\$ | FUNDING US\$        |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Education                        | \$4,498,800               | \$0                 |
| Food Security                    | \$19,600,000              | \$3,900,000         |
| Health                           | \$12,193,674              | \$2,606,069         |
| Livelihood                       | \$5,836,701               | \$0                 |
| Logistics and Supply Chain       | \$6,150,000               | \$0                 |
| Not specified                    | \$0                       | \$9,714,482         |
| Nutrition                        | \$3,705,000               | \$0                 |
| Protection                       | \$4,793,550               | \$0                 |
| WASH                             | \$6,130,000               | \$2,890,789         |
| Multiple Field clusters (shared) |                           | \$981,695           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$62,907,725</b>       | <b>\$20,093,035</b> |



## 5. ONE UN SIERRA LEONE: COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

### OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM (OMT)

The Operations Management Team (OMT) supported the Local Salary Survey Committee to facilitate an interim local salary survey. The survey resulted in around 60 percent increase in local salary and implemented retroactively from January 2020. The OMT also harmonized fuel costs among all UN agencies. For COVID-19 response, the OMT supported the UNCT in procurement and establishment of a 14-bedroom COVID-19 facility at 34 military hospital. WFP and UNFPA co-led the effort. Moreover, the OMT, with WFP's leadership supported the Global Aviation Passenger and Light Air Cargo Services.

To support effective programme delivery, monitoring and evaluation and reporting on common operations, the OMT launched the development of the Business Operations Strategy. Twelve (12) UN organizations are participating in BOS Sierra Leone: FAO, IOM, UN (RCO), UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, UN WOMEN, WFP, and WHO. Implementation of the BOS is expected to result in net cost avoidance of USD \$1,288,301 through harmonization of business operations over the 3-year period of 2021-2023.

### UN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (UNCG)

As a response to COVID-19, the United Nations Coordination Group (UNCG) formed the Crisis Communications Team (CCT) that developed a strategy and an action plan to support the UNCT with internal and external communications. The CCT provided technical expertise on generating messages on COVID-19, enhanced coordinated dissemination of information on COVID-19 response, contributed to the UN Duty of Care and critical non-COVID-19 related measures affecting UN personnel. It coordinated dissemination of information on UN efforts to support of the

Government's response to the pandemic. The CCT also regularly updated the UN Sierra Leone website with COVID-19 SitReps, monitored the media daily to counter misinformation, understand public opinion and any developments that could affect the UN system and staff in the country. The UNCG prepared and disseminated a video on joint UN efforts on COVID-19. The UNCG also prepared newsletters to highlight COVID-19 efforts, prevention measures and UN75 information. Moreover, the UN Day was celebrated with a virtual event to engage with development partners, including the GoSL and a hybrid event for staff. During the staff event, the 75th year anniversary of the UN was celebrated by recognizing the longest serving UN personnel.

### UN Risk Communication and Social Mobilization (RCSM)

In 2020, UNCT supported the establishment of a dedicated UN Risk Communication and Social Mobilization (RCSM) group to strengthen UN support to COVID-19 risk communication and social mobilization interventions. The Group aimed to facilitate information exchange and coordination among UN agencies, and between UN agencies and the national Public Information, Risk Communication and Social Mobilization (PIRCSM) pillar. RCSM mapped critical areas of support to address priority gaps in communication and social mobilization of COVID-19 response. High-level engagements were conducted between UN agencies leads/UN RCSM Group with the National COVID-19 Emergency PIRCSM leadership, helping in coordinating support on communication and social mobilization priorities related to land border re-opening, participatory community engagement, and enhanced partnership with media and social media influencers on COVID-19 preventative measures.

### GENDER THEMATIC GROUP (GTG)

The UN Gender Thematic Group played a key role in mitigating gender inequalities within the national COVID-19 response, through highlighting gender concerns and gender gaps within the various pillars. The GTG led the development of a position paper on Concerns and Requests of the Social Protection Pillar of the GoSL Response to COVID-19 as well as a paper on Women, Peace and Security within the Context of COVID-19, in partnership with the Gender Development Partners Group. The GTG also supported awareness campaigns and activities for “16-Days of Activism to Influence SGBV in Sierra LEONE”.

The GTG developed a PSEA Action Plan 2020-2021 as part of UNCT contribution to global efforts to strengthen support to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and men, boys and girls. To raise awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse and mitigate it within the UN, the GTG trained 250 members of staff on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, over a five-day period. Heads of Agencies facilitated the discussions, with one done in the local language. Moreover, all staff were provided No Excuse Cards, a concise and portable statement of the UN rules and prohibitions related to sexual exploitation and abuse, which provide contact details for reporting allegations.

### YOUTH TASK TEAM (YTT)

Through the Youth Task Team, UN Agencies coordinated the provision of support to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the National Youth Commission, including the finalization of the National Youth Strategy. The Strategy has been moved to Cabinet for approval. Other areas of engagement of agencies included youth social and economic participation, enhanced capacities of youth in entrepreneurship, preparation for the launching of Generation Unlimited, development of the school health policy and strategy, implementation of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. The Youth Group has also been instrumental in supporting the development of the Youth at Risk Project, approved by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for USD \$3 million. The project aims to empower youths at risk to become resources for sustained peace, community resilience and social cohesion in the targeted districts.

### UN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL'S VISITS TO SIERRA LEONE

On 14 November 2020, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Ms. Amina J. Mohammed arrived in Sierra Leone, for a two-day visit as part of her solidarity mission to West Africa and the Sahel. The DSG's visit aimed at looking at progress towards strengthening existing peace and stability through the SDGs including COVID -19 socio-economic response and recovery, the contribution of the extractive industry, and addressing issues of gender-based violence.

The success of the DSG's visit to Sierra Leone demonstrated the strong inter-agency coordination and commitment of the UNCT. Operating on their comparative advantages, UN agencies provided support in the following areas: logistics and security led by UNDSS; communications led by UNICEF; transportation led by WFP and UNDP; COVID-19 tests and protocols led by WHO; and ICT support led by UNDP, while UNFPA, UNIDO, UNOPS and FAO supported the field events and outreach. The overall coordination was provided by the RCO.



UN Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed on a boat-ride to Freetown ©EOSG/2020/Getachew



### INTER-AGENCY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP (EPR)

A key output of the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Group (EPR) was the UN Flood Response Plan, whereby the group identified resource needs and available EPR stocks in alignment to the National Flood Response Plan scenario of 25,000 affected beneficiaries. Furthermore, EPR focal points and alternates per agency were identified in readiness for response. The EPR also strengthened the capacity of the Office of National Security (ONS) at central and district levels in using digitalized crisis response tools, including the Multi Indicator Rapid Assessment and beneficiary targeting application using the Open Data Kit platform. To augment national capabilities to collect data using these tools, 100 Personal Digital Assistants were loaned to ONS and two data analysts deployed in ONS national situation room to support data analysis. Demonstrating the impact of this support was the ability for ONS to independently collect and analyse crisis response data in a timely manner to enable the delivery of life-saving assistance.

### JOINT HIV GROUP

To strengthen the capacity of National AIDS Secretariat and community-led organizations aimed at ensuring effective coordination, management and sustainability of the National AIDS response, the UN Joint Team on HIV & AIDS supported: 2 M&E trainings and capacity assessment; and regular M&E meetings for timely review of performance to improve the functionality of the M&E system within the national response. The UN Joint Team on HIV & AIDS also supported PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 survey which contributes to strategic planning for the national response. It is now used to measure the performance of the country towards Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Moreover, the UN Joint programme on HIV/AIDS supported and facilitated a peer review meeting of key population organizations (KPOs) (involving 12 KPOs and CSOs). Through the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) funding, a detailed situational and bottleneck analysis of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) programme was conducted, leading to the drafting of the national EMTCT and prevention of mother-to-child transmission strategy. An operational plan was developed thereafter. The findings and recommendations of the operational plan informed the development of the new national HIV/AIDS strategic plan and M&E plans 2021-2025.

### DISABILITY INCLUSION GROUP (DIG)

The UN Disability Inclusion Group (DIG) supported the Ministry of the Social Welfare through the National Commission for Persons with Disability in commemorating the International Day for Persons with Disability. The DIG also supported UNCT efforts in COVID-19 response, ensuring inclusion of PWDs in programme activities. The DIG has also been instrumental in ensuring that disability inclusion is mainstreamed in the Business Operations Plan and other UN common services. The DIG has proved instrumental in initiating the expression of interest on behalf of the UNCT for the Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). The expression of interest was initiated in 2020 for UNPRPD's fourth funding call and UNCT Sierra Leone has been shortlisted to implement the Inception Phase with funding of USD \$100,000. The fund has a total grant of USD \$700,000, to be implemented in a two-year period.

### HUMAN RIGHTS

The UNCT planned and developed a report to the Human Rights Council for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sierra Leone's performance on protection of Human Rights. The report was successfully submitted and considered of high-quality standard by OHCHR. Sierra Leone will undergo a full review in 2021. The UNCT coordinated with development partners, Human Rights Commission, Association of Journalists, and human rights defenders on advocacy for the abolishment of the criminal libel law and death penalty. The criminal libel law was abolished by the Parliament in November 2020, which marked a historic achievement of Sierra Leone, in support of freedom of speech. Journalists and opposition members detained based on the criminal libel law were discharged by the Courts, notably decreasing political tensions. The abolishment of the death penalty is currently under review.

### UN75 SURVEY: A GLOBAL CONVERSATION ON BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL

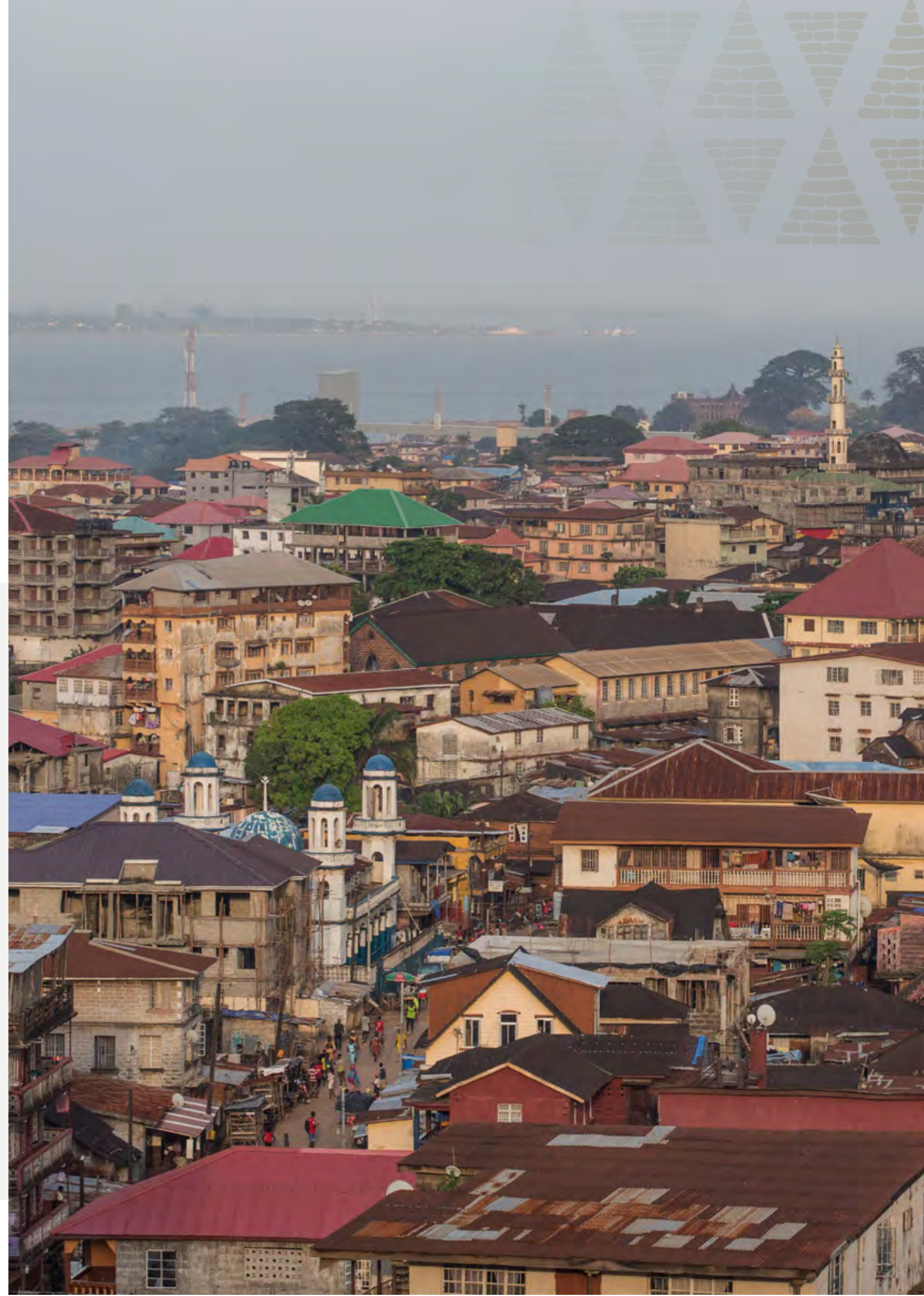


As a result, 6,444 responded to the survey either via face-to-face engagement, online or via the U-report (SMS engagement). The Results indicated that both, women and men have the same vision on what should be prioritized to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic. The main concern was the investment in human capital development, to ensure better education and investment on youth programmes.

When Sierra Leoneans were asked to picture the world in 25 years, they indicated a world with better access to education. This talks directly to the Government's vision stated in the MTNDP. Free Quality School Education is the Government's flagship programme to provide a solid base to enhance human capital development and facilitate the transformation of the economy. Regarding global issues and trends that can affect our future, the main worry stated by the those responding to the survey indicated armed conflict and politically motivated violence.

UN75 was launched to ignite a people's debate on the 75th anniversary of the UN. UN75 was envisioned to be the largest and furthest-reaching global conversation ever on building the future people want. In Sierra Leone, the consultations were carried out between July and August 2020 and took different formats to capture the voices of all citizens, including those of vulnerable groups. Consultations were through a plethora of platforms—TV, radio, newspapers, online dialogues, SMS reporting, and face-to-face engagement. The UN Resident Coordinator, Heads of UN agencies, influencers, students, and community volunteers were all engaged to lead, promote and facilitate the dialogues.

The purpose of the campaign was to generate renewed support for multilateralism from all segments of the society. Fifty (50) percent of the respondents indicated that with the pandemic, renewed commitment to international cooperation is needed. Indeed, Covid-19 is a stark reminder of the need for cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. Through UN75, the United Nations in Sierra Leone encouraged people to put their heads together to define how enhanced international cooperation can help realize a better world by 2045, the UN's 100th anniversary. It was an opportunity to encourage individuals to take actions in their own lives, in line with what they have heard and learned.







# 6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

## COMMON BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

The UNCT in Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) endorsed the UNSDCF Joint Workplan 2020-2023 in May 2020. The Joint Workplan, with a multi-year budgetary framework for UNSDCF strategic priorities, was prepared by the four UNCT Results Groups, one for each Outcome Area. The framework responds to the requirement of the UN Funding

Compact and includes the amount, type, source, duration, and sequence of financial resources, including the required amounts, available resources and resource mobilisation needs to implement the UNSDCF. The following table provides a general overview of the framework for the entire programme cycle 2020-2023 and the 2020 Common Budgetary Framework, with calculated delivery rates.

## UNSDCF FUNDING FRAMEWORK

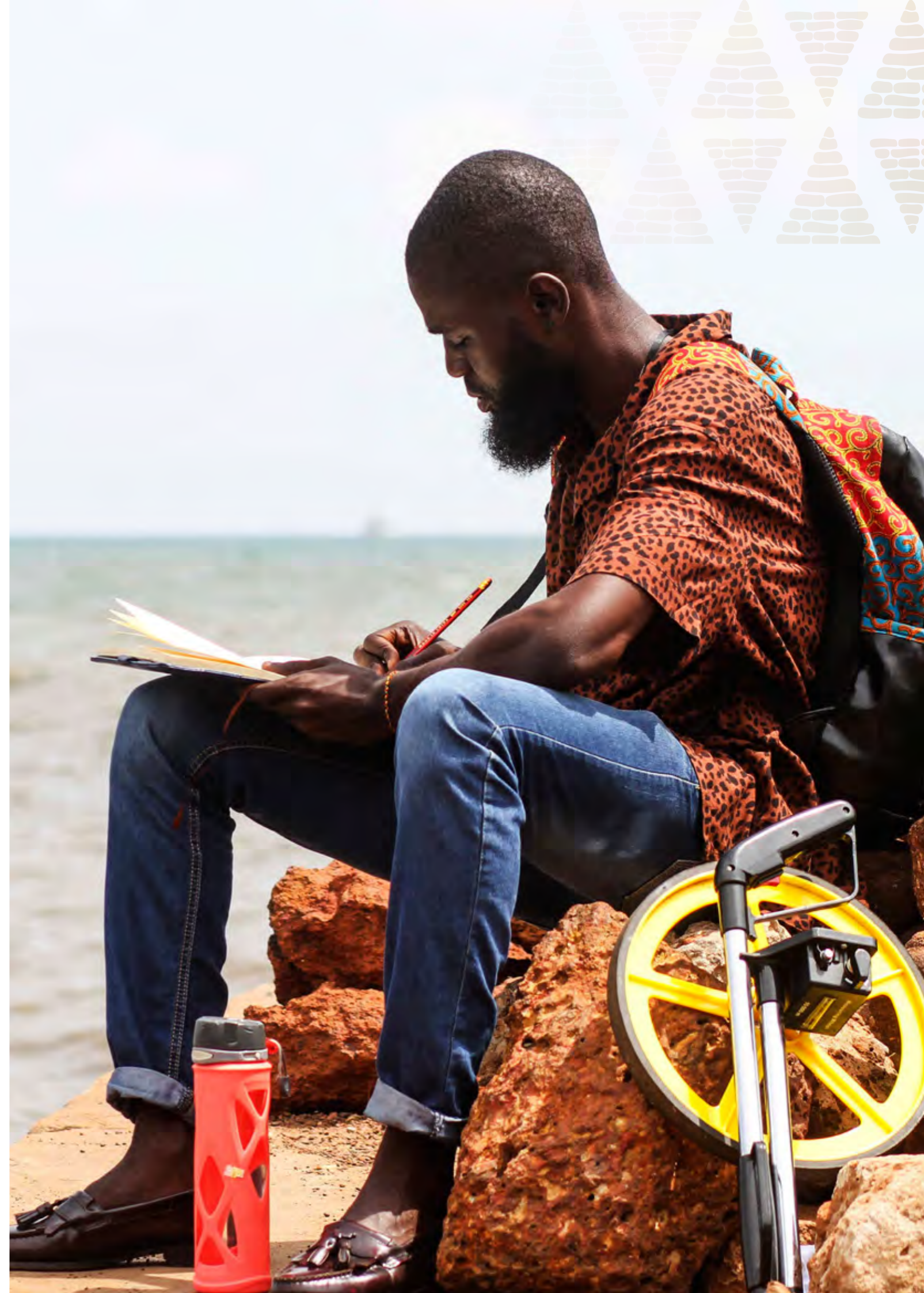
| UNSDCF Outcome Areas   | 2020-2023 Common Budgetary Framework |                      |                      | 2020 Common Budgetary Framework |                     |                     | Delivery Rate (Expenditures vs. Available Resources) |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
|  | Total Required Resources             | Available Resources  | To be mobilized      | Total Required Resources        | Available Resources | Expenditures        |  |
| <b>Outcome 1:</b> Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience | \$128,387,714                        | \$77,077,285         | \$51,310,429         | \$32,046,248                    | \$24,700,992        | \$17,615,776        | 71%  |
| <b>Outcome 2:</b> Transformational Governance  | \$17,809,344                         | \$13,582,172         | \$4,227,172          | \$3,231,118                     | \$2,737,418         | \$2,992,418         | 109%   |
| <b>Outcome 3:</b> Access to Basic Services   | \$210,464,856                        | \$100,839,396        | \$109,625,460        | \$56,617,080                    | \$59,864,728        | \$50,754,250        | 85%  |
| <b>Outcome 4:</b> Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable                            | \$14,686,034                         | \$8,370,409          | \$6,315,625          | \$2,952,023                     | \$2,918,519         | \$3,010,086         | 103%   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$371,347,948</b>                 | <b>\$199,869,262</b> | <b>\$171,478,686</b> | <b>\$94,846,469</b>             | <b>\$90,221,657</b> | <b>\$74,372,530</b> | <b>82%</b>   |

**RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

UNCT was awarded funding for six joint programmes in 2020 through several multi-partner trust funds (MPTF) and similar financing facilities. Total funding applied for was USD \$11,582,000, and the amount awarded was USD \$6,082,000. This includes funding from the Peacebuilding Fund, amounting to USD \$3 million. PBF has an existing portfolio of USD \$5 million on women’s access to

land, empowerment of women and girls against SGBV, and mitigation of localized conflicts between extractive industries and communities. The President of Sierra Leone co-hosted with the UN Secretary-General the PBF replenishment conference held in January 2021 and pledged USD \$1 million over the next 5 years, as a demonstration of the relevance of PBF to the Government.

| FUND NAME  | PROGRAM TITLE   | TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Legal Identify for All (Funding Facility)                            | Strengthening CRVS system in Sierra Leone to ensure Legal Identity for All  | \$192,000              |
| Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Fund          | To be determined during the Situational Analysis phase.   | \$700,000              |
| Human Security Trust Fund  | Strengthening Human Security in the remote Chiefdoms of Gbense, Soa, and Kamara in Kono District of Sierra Leone                    | \$1,010,000            |
| Peacebuilding Recovery Facility 2020                                 | Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience in Tonkolili & Kenema districts in Sierra Leone | \$3,000,000            |
| Migration MPTF (Sierra Leone portion of Guinea-based program)        | Strengthening border management, social cohesion and cross-border security in the Parrot’s Beak area                                | \$250,000              |
| Joint SDG Fund (Component 1) Improve national financial architecture | Strengthening Domestic Resources Mobilisation for SDGs Financing in Sierra Leone – 24-month program                                 | \$930,000              |
|  | <b>Total of Above</b>   | <b>\$6,082,000</b>     |





## 7. LESSONS LEARNED

The UNSDCF implementation in 2020 has contributed significantly to the progress made in the achievement of Agenda 2030, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone was able to deliver on the four outcome areas identified in the UNSDCF, particularly in providing cushion and protection to the most vulnerable groups. Sustainable practices in agriculture continued to be promoted, and protection of the livelihood of farmers and nutritional status of children were improved. Moreover, progress was made in the gender-responsiveness of justice and security services as well as women's leadership participation in the response to COVID-19. Significant policies were ratified to advance gender equality, human rights, and rights of persons with disability. School-feeding programme continued and cash-transfer mechanisms provided cushion to the most vulnerable, food insecure households. Progress was made towards the implementation of Universal Health Coverage while comprehensive Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition, and Family Planning services have been enhanced.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the health, socio-political, and economic well-being of Sierra Leone, the pandemic also presented an opportunity for the UNCT to be more cohesive and efficient in delivering as One UN. This is exemplified through coordinated efforts of the UNCT to respond to COVID-19, particularly on the support provided to the Government's response. The UNCT and its coordination structures were able to coherently mobilize and harness UN Agencies' comparative advantages to respond to the humanitarian, health, and socio-economic ramifications of the pandemic. Continuing the synergy between the members of the UNCT would be critical not just to the

implementation of development programmes in 2021, but also to ensuring that the structures and partnerships built during the pandemic are resilient and dynamic to adapt to any potential shocks due to health, climate, food insecurity or other crises that the country is vulnerable to.

Sierra Leone is characterized by a narrow fiscal space and a small private sector. Funds from traditional donors have been impacted by COVID-19. For 2020, however, joint programming proved to be a successful resource mobilization instrument. Bringing a total of USD \$6 million in 2020, it demonstrates that the UN is leveraging additional resources, addressing duplications, and soliciting greater levels of support from the Government, development partners and other development actors. The UN's investment in peacebuilding initiatives, especially the development of the Youth at Risk Project, has drawn unprecedented levels of support from Government counterparts and other development actors. This catalytic effort of the UNCT to work towards joint programmes should be supplemented by a renewed and strengthened accountability to deliver for results in 2021. Routine monitoring, evaluation and reporting of results while leveraging existing partnerships and continued outreach may positively impact resource mobilization while ensuring results delivery.

To accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind, data should be of quality and easily accessible to affect policymaking, programme implementation and reporting. For 2021, a renewed focus on building partnerships towards coherent data collection, building repositories and data banks, and expanding accessibility would be even more important.

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>CH</b>       | Cadre Harmonise   |
| <b>CHW</b>      | Community Health Workers  |
| <b>COVID-19</b> | Coronavirus Disease 2019  |
| <b>CSO</b>      | Civil Society Organisation  |
| <b>ECD</b>      | Early Childhood Development   |
| <b>FSMS</b>     | Food Security Monitoring System   |
| <b>GAVI</b>     | Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunisation                                |
| <b>GDP</b>      | Gross Domestic Product  |
| <b>GoSL</b>     | Government of Sierra Leone  |
| <b>GRM</b>      | Grievance Redress Mechanism   |
| <b>M&amp;E</b>  | Monitoring and Evaluation   |
| <b>MAF</b>      | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  |
| <b>MBSSE</b>    | Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education                            |
| <b>MHPSS</b>    | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support                                      |
| <b>MoGCA</b>    | Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs                                   |
| <b>MoHS</b>     | Ministry of Health and Sanitation   |
| <b>MOJ</b>      | Ministry of Justice   |
| <b>MoPED</b>    | Ministry of Planning and Economic Development                               |
| <b>MPTF</b>     | Multi-Partner Trust Fund  |
| <b>MSME</b>     | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise  |
| <b>MSW</b>      | Ministry of Social Welfare  |
| <b>MT</b>       | Metric Tonnes   |
| <b>MTHE</b>     | Ministry of Technical and Higher Education                                  |
| <b>MTNDP</b>    | Medium-Term National Development Plan                                       |
| <b>NCRA</b>     | National Civil Registration Authority                                       |
| <b>ONS</b>      | Office of National Security   |
| <b>PLWA</b>     | People Living with HIV/AIDS   |
| <b>PSEA</b>     | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse                                 |
| <b>PWD</b>      | Person with Disabilities  |
| <b>QAERP</b>    | Quick Action Economic Recovery Programme                                    |
| <b>QCPR</b>     | Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review                                     |
| <b>RCO</b>      | United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office                                |
| <b>RMNCAH+N</b> | Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition |
| <b>SDG</b>      | Sustainable Development Goal  |
| <b>SERP</b>     | United Nations COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan                        |
| <b>SGBV</b>     | Sexual and Gender Based Violence  |
| <b>SLHRP</b>    | Sierra Leone Humanitarian Response Plan                                     |
| <b>UHC</b>      | Universal Health Coverage   |
| <b>UNCT</b>     | United Nations Country Team   |
| <b>UNPRPD</b>   | United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities       |
| <b>UNSDCF</b>   | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework                |
| <b>WASH</b>     | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene   |





**UNITED NATIONS**  
**SIERRA LEONE**



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