



UNITED NATIONS
SIERRA LEONE
.....



The Republic of Sierra Leone

Joint Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy

A COMPANION PIECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
SIERRA LEONE 2020-2023





Copyright © May 2021
United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone

Please refer to this publication as: United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone (2020), Joint Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy. United Nations: United Nations.

Cover Image © UN-RCO/2020/Rebizzi



UNITED NATIONS
SIERRA LEONE



The Republic of Sierra Leone





The United Nations Country Team Sierra Leone





Table of Contents

1. Introduction	7
2. UNSDCF Funding Framework	8
3. Sierra Leone Financial Landscape Analysis	9
4. Global Sustainable Development Finance Architecture	10
4.1 Addis Ababa Action Agenda	10
4.2 Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development	11
5. Recent Finance Developments	13
5.1 COVID-19 Related	13
5.2 Remittances	14
5.3 Climate Finance	14
5.4 Humanitarian Aid	14
5.5 Blended Finance	15
6. Development Finance Mechanisms	16
6.1 Pooled Funds	16
6.2 South-South Cooperation	17
6.3 Philanthropy	18
6.4 Private Sector-led Development	19
6.5 Innovation Focus	20
6.6 NGO Grant Programmes	21
7. SDG Finance in Sierra Leone	22
7.1 Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)	22
7.2 Development Spending Monitoring	24
7.3 Official Development Assistance Tracking	26
7.4 External Funding	27
8. Mapping Potential SDG Funding	29
8.1 Potential Partners	29
8.2 Possible UNSDCF Pooled Funds	29
8.3 In-kind Contributions	31
8.4 Non-Financial Partnership Possibilities	31
9. UNSDCF Results Group Strategies	32
9.1 Results Group 1	32
9.2 Results Group 2	33
9.3 Results Group 3	34
9.4 Results Group 4	35
10. Strategy Implementation	36
References	38
Annex A	39
Annex B	42
Annex C	43
Annex D	45
Acronyms and Abbreviations	47





1. Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework–2020-2023 ([UNSDCF](#)) was signed between the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and the UN Country Team (UNCT) in October 2019. It outlines four Outcome Areas that are the focus of work for the UNCT’s 21 agencies and funds. These four Outcomes Areas are fully aligned with the country’s Medium-Term National Development Plan-2019-2023 (MTNDP). They are:

1. Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience
2. Transformational Governance
3. Access to Basic Services
4. Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable

The primary objective of this Joint Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy is to support the 2020-2023 UNSDCF cycle joint funding and financing framework. This strategy intends to provide relevant background information, strategic focus and practical guidance to UNCT efforts to mobilize financial and other resources in support of joint partnerships under the UNSDCF.

This strategy begins with a presentation of the UNSDCF Funding and Financing Framework that shows funding requirements and gaps. It then discusses the Sierra Leone Financial Landscape, the global context on development finance, and different finance mechanisms, including bilateral and multilateral flows, philanthropy, and the private sector.

Later in the document, details are provided on the country’s integrated national financing framework document, prepared in 2018-2019 with UN support. Recommendations from that document offer several entry points where targeted UN support could advance domestic and external SDG finance.

The last part of this strategy maps potential funding sources relative to UNSDCF Outcome Areas and suggests coordinated efforts for UNCT in pursuit of funding opportunities.

This strategy complements efforts of individual UN agencies to secure funding for activities outlined in the UNSDCF. While the focus is on resources for joint programmes, there are also topics discussed that may be most relevant to single agency programmes, for reasons of comparative advantage, specialization, or other consideration. Along the same lines, some resource opportunities may relate most to NGOs or other types of partners with ability to contribute to UNSDCF planned results.


2. UNSDCF Funding 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 mobilization needs to implement the UNSDCF. Table 1 provides a general overview of the framework, while a more detailed table disaggregated at output level is found in Annex A.

Table 1. UNSDCF Funding Framework

UNSDCF Outcome Areas	Funds Available	To be mobilized	Total Funding Requirement
Outcome 1: Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security <i>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.</i>	\$77,077,285	\$51,310,429	\$128,387,714
Outcome 2: Transformational Governance <i>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 (children, girls), women and men including those with disabilities.</i>	\$13,582,172	\$4,227,172	\$17,809,344
Outcome 3: Access to Basic Services <i>By 2023, the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most vulnerable, will benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality education, healthcare, energy and water, sanitation and hygiene services, including during emergencies</i>	\$100,839,396	\$109,625,460	\$210,464,856
Outcome 4: Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable <i>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</i>	\$8,370,409	\$6,315,625	\$14,686,034



3. Sierra Leone Financial Landscape Analysis

Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sierra Leone requires investing, sourcing, and consolidating diverse sources of finance. Therefore, it is important to understand the current financial landscape and trends in public and private flows that contribute to the SDGs in Sierra Leone. This section overviews these topics, drawing on the UN Common Country Analysis: 2020 Update which can be consulted for more detailed information.

In Sierra Leone, public finance dominates (both government and development cooperation), with a very small private sector contribution as compared to other countries. There are low levels of domestic and foreign commercial investment, however remittances remain a vital financing stream, providing finance for many communities as well as being a key source of foreign exchange. A Development Finance Assessment process undertaken by the country in 2018-2019 culminated in a report that outlined various steps to strengthen both public and private financing. Section 7.0 goes into depth on these findings, while more recent aspects of the financial landscape are discussed here.

Economic Effects of the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely undermined growth prospects in Sierra Leone. In 2019, the economy grew by 5.4 per cent, but it is projected to contract by 3.1 per cent in 2020 due to a sharp tightening of the service sector, reflecting temporary suspension of international flights, closure of land borders and business contraction, especially in the hospitality sector. Growth in agriculture is slow, with disruptions in labour supply due to periodic lockdowns and delayed delivery of key inputs such as seeds

and fertilizers. These challenges are posing a significant threat to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The COVID-19 outbreak has put excessive pressure on public sources of finance. Government revenue is projected to decrease to 13.0 percent of GDP in 2020 from 14.6 percent in 2019, owing to the contraction of economic activities as well as weak tax compliance. Revenue as a share of GDP is expected to rebound as the economic revival drives up tax revenue and measures adopted to improve tax administration help to achieve a targeted revenue-GDP ratio of 16.4 percent by 2022. Plus, external demand for the country's key exports, (diamond, rutile and bauxite) will rise as global conditions improve and this will drive up mineral royalties and excise duty receipts.

The severe decline in revenue during 2020, coupled with higher spending on healthcare and social welfare because of the pandemic, have led to an estimated 2020 fiscal deficit of 8 per cent of GDP. The deficit is forecasted to contract to 6.2 percent of GDP in 2021, and 4.7 percent of GDP in 2022, as economic activity starts to recover and spending on pandemic-related socioeconomic measures declines.

Domestic borrowing and concessional loan/grants from donors finance the fiscal deficits. The Bank of Sierra Leone implemented measures to boost financial sector liquidity and to ensure foreign-exchange and credit availability for essential commodities during

the pandemic. To curb high inflation, the Bank of Sierra Leone has kept monetary policy tight. Commercial lending rates, which are already high because of structural constraints and an uncompetitive credit market, remain elevated.

4. Global Sustainable Development Finance Architecture

This section looks at the global Financing for Development architecture, including trends in bi-lateral and multi-lateral assistance, which play a large role in the SDG financing environment of Sierra Leone. Material is drawn from relevant websites and reports published by the UN and other international entities. Links to websites and source documents are included for easy reference.

4.1 Addis Ababa Action Agenda

The [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) was adopted at the [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) in 2015 and subsequently endorsed by the UN General Assembly. It serves as a guide for actions by governments, international organizations, the business sector, civil society, and philanthropists, providing a global framework for aligning financing flows with economic, social and environmental priorities as articulated in the SDGs. The Agenda includes a comprehensive set of policy actions drawing on relevant information on finance, technology, innovation, trade, debt and data. Among other things, there was a commitment by many developed countries to allocate 0.7

per cent of gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of that amount to least developed countries. Multi-lateral Development Banks (MDB) were called on to better leverage their balance sheets to increase lending for sustainable development. Other commitments in the Agenda included a global infrastructure forum, technology facilitation, enhanced international tax cooperation, and mainstreaming women's empowerment into Financing for Development.

4.2 Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

Following the Addis Ababa Conference, an [Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development](#) was convened by the UN Secretary-General. It is comprised of more than 60 UN agencies, programmes and offices, regional economic commissions and other relevant international institutions. The Task Force annually publishes a report on Financing for Sustainable Development. Major institutional stakeholders play a central role, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Development Programme. The Financing for Sustainable Development Office within UN DESA serves as the coordinator of the Task Force.

The recently issued [Financing for Sustainable Development Report \(2021\)](#) from the Task Force provides a comprehensive assessment of the state of sustainable finance. Highlights of the Report with most relevance to this strategy are presented in Feature Box 1. The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic crisis have aggravated debt and other vulnerabilities, and disproportionately affected countries at the lower end of the skills spectrum, with sharp increases in unemployment, poverty, hunger, and inequality, disproportionately affecting women, the young, and marginalized segments of society. Societies with greater pre-existing inequalities are more vulnerable to such shocks. The Report notes that the crisis presents an opportunity for countries to focus on tax reform and recommends that countries aim to enhance revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems that reflect improved fairness, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Last year's Financing for Sustainable Development Report (2020) highlighted

downward trends in official development assistance (ODA). In 2018, ODA provided by members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) amounted to 0.31 per cent of the combined GNI of the DAC, well below the 0.7 per cent target. Five DAC members (Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) have met or exceeded the 0.7 per cent target. Some non-DAC countries also exceeded the target, including Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. A data update for 2019 showed that ODA increased by 1.4 per cent in real terms compared to 2018, but that it still amounted to only 0.30 per cent of GNI. Grants make up the majority of bilateral ODA to developing countries (83 per cent), followed by concessional loans (16 per cent) and equity investment (1 per cent). South-South Cooperation (SSC) continues to expand in scope, volume, and geographical reach.

The 2020 Report also identified two key trends to accelerate the transition toward sustainable finance: 1) rapid growth of digital technologies, and 2) growing interest in sustainable investing. The UN Secretary General's [Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs](#) was formed in 2018 to recommend ways to harness digitalization. In August 2020, the group published a flagship report: [People's Money: Harnessing Digitalization to Finance a Sustainable Future](#). To promote sustainable investing, the UN is seeking to create a clear understanding of what sustainable investment means, so that investors and those facilitating investments can make informed and impactful decisions.

Feature Box 1. Financing for Sustainable Development Report (2021) Key Findings

Global Economic Outlook

- World gross product contracted by 4.3 percent in 2020, the largest since the great depression.
- Global economic recovery is projected by the UN at 4.7 percent in 2021, expected to be uneven and largely fragile, owing to several unknowns, ranging from vaccine access to spread of the virus.
- Many developing countries face historic drops in revenues and high pre-existing debt burdens, and therefore lack the fiscal space to implement large recovery packages.

ODA Levels

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on ODA outcomes for 2020 is not yet clear, however the OECD outlined three possible scenarios:

- ODA volumes and share of donor country GNI may have increased, with some major donors, such as Germany and France, having increased their aid budgets despite domestic fiscal pressures.
- Second, donors may have maintained the same ODA levels as 2019, although 'ODA as a share of GNI' would actually have increased due to the fall in GNI in donor countries, such as the USA, or
- Donors may have succumbed to domestic fiscal pressure, which could result in an estimated decline of \$11 billion to \$14 billion in net ODA. In this case, 'ODA as a share of GNI' would decline if the fall in ODA is more than the decline in GNI

Recommendations for International Development Assistance

- ODA commitments must be met, liquidity and concessional financing facilities replenished, and debt service suspension extended.
- ODA providers should meet their commitments of 0.7 per cent of ODA per gross national income.
- Grant finance rather than loans should be prioritized for vulnerable countries, such as least developed countries, and the decline in ODA to health should be reversed.
- Governments need to mainstream risk analysis in public planning processes, for example in the context of an integrated national financing framework.
- Governments must invest in human capital, social protection systems, and in sustainable resilient infrastructure and technology; the international community must support countries in such efforts, including those with already high debt burdens.
- Policy makers can facilitate a new business model that works for everyone, including by pricing externalities such as carbon emissions, and reorienting capital markets toward sustainability.
- The international community must ensure that taxation proposals in the context of a digitalizing economy, the multilateral trading system, international debt architecture and the global financial safety net are fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and meet the needs of developing countries.

Source: United Nations, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, *Financing for Sustainable Development Reports 2020 and 2021*. (New York: United Nations, 2020, 2021), available from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/jfsdr2020> and <https://developmentfinance.un.org/jfsdr2021>.



5. Recent Finance Developments

This section profiles recent finance developments at the global level that are perceived to have relevance to Sierra Leone, in no particular order.

5.1 COVID-19 Related

The UN Secretary-General took steps early in 2020 to manage the global socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One initiative was the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund ([COVID-19 Fund](#)), an inter-agency funding mechanism established by the UN Secretary-General stemming from the a March 2020 [UN report on socio-economic impacts](#). This Fund helps to support low- and middle-income countries overcome the health and development crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including support to persons most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption. A COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Appeal was also issued and is discussed later in this report.

As of January 2021, the global COVID-19 Fund has received more than USD \$70 million in contributions and roughly 50 countries have received grants, most in the range of USD \$0.5 to USD \$1.0 million. In addition to the above initiatives, several UN agencies established special COVID-related funding facilities, including UNDP's Rapid Response Facility and IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility.

Another COVID-19 finance initiative is related to the global sustainable development finance

architecture. In May 2020, there was a High-Level Event on [Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond](#), convened by the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica and the UN Secretary-General. It highlighted the need for international cooperation to find urgent financing solutions to the COVID-19 emergency and for 'build back better' programmes.

[Six Discussion Groups](#) were formed after the conference, each co-chaired by select countries and facilitated by one or more UN entities. The Groups cover diverse topics, including remittances, jobs and inclusive growth, debt vulnerability, private sector creditor engagement, and illicit financial flows. Policy options developed by each group suggest actions by countries, international financial institutions, regional organizations, and the global community at large to overcome the crisis and steer recovery towards attainment of Agenda 2030. International Financial Institutions are very engaged in the Discussion Groups, including The World Bank Group, the IMF, and the Islamic Development Bank.

5.2 Remittances

The inclusion of remittances as a topic in one of the Discussion Groups mentioned above prompted specific initiatives related to resilience and recovery of the remittance market. These initiatives are directed to UN Member States, remittance service providers, and diaspora groups. They aim to maintain a flow of fast, cheap and safe remittances during and after COVID-19. Two key initiatives are:

- [A Remittance Community Task Force](#) was launched to deliver a comprehensive set of measurable actions, with about 40 organizations, including IFAD, African Union and UN Women, plus a group of government representatives and national development agencies.
- The World Bank outlined actions to support the remittance sector over the near and medium terms, to accelerate efforts to reduce remittance costs and to respond to the challenges of widespread unemployment and the plight of migrant communities in host countries.

5.3 Climate Finance

There has been significant growth in international climate funds, stemming from global climate negotiations and related forums. These include the [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#) for developing countries (see Feature Box 2) and climate-related funds under the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#)¹. These mechanisms facilitate financial flows from developed to developing countries for climate mitigation (efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases) and adaptation (process of adjusting to current or expected climate change effects). Funding comes in various forms: grants, concessional loans, guarantees and equity. Many multilateral funds only accept applications from accredited entities, which in some cases

¹ The Global Environmental Facility is available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of all international environmental conventions and agreements.

are governments and in others include select UN agencies and MDBs².

Total Multilateral climate finance, through global funds and MDBs, was estimated at USD \$27.5 billion globally in 2017 (OECD, 2019). In 2018, MDBs pledged to contribute USD \$43.1 billion - from equity and external resources channelled through them - as climate finance for developing and emerging countries. The World Bank Group is by far the largest contributor among the MDBs. Almost 70 per cent of these resources are intended for mitigation and around 30 per cent for adaptation (ECOWAS et al., 2019).

Looking at just the 17 West African countries, multilateral climate finance allocations have been lower than to other regions. Total allocations to these 17 countries for the period from 2003 to February 2019 are estimated at USD \$1.38 billion (ECOWAS et al., 2019; CFU, 2019). Sierra Leone was second to last among the 17 countries when ranked on climate funds received, even though the country is among the top 15 per cent of countries most vulnerable to climate impacts globally (Notre Dame University, 2019).

5.4 Humanitarian Aid

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([OCHA](#)) of the UN Secretariat is responsible for coordinating responses to emergencies, built on the belief that coordinated, system-wide approach to humanitarian relief is essential in providing assistance quickly and efficiently to those in need. Countries can be invited by OCHA to issue a global Appeal should circumstances warrant such. Select UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations with a humanitarian mandate may receive funds collected through an appeal.

² African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank.

Some key trends in UN global Humanitarian funding are noted in the: [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report](#) (2020) prepared by Development Initiatives:

- In 2019, total global humanitarian aid (through UN and elsewhere) dropped for the first time since 2012, from USD \$31.2 billion to USD \$29.6 billion. Reduced support from governments and EU institutions contributed to this 5 per cent drop over 2018 levels.
- UN-specific appeals in 2019 were USD \$30.4 billion, but funding committed was only USD \$19.3 billion; more than a third of appeal requirements were unmet.
- UN appeal requirements reached a record high of USD \$37.4 billion in June 2020, impacted by COVID-19 related appeals. This was 25 per cent higher than at the same time in 2019.

Another recent development in global humanitarian aid is the formation of the [Global Humanitarian Action Executive Alliance](#), established during the 2020 Annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland³.

³ The Alliance includes the senior executives of Ericsson, GlaxoSmithKline, the GSMA, Henry Schein, Mastercard, Salesforce.org, Qatar Financial Centre, UPS Foundation and Willis Towers Watson, among others.

The global CEOs founding the Alliance had met earlier with the heads of OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and IOM in 2019. They explored collaboration models for effective, principled private sector engagement in emergency preparedness and response, and ways to maximize collective expertise, knowledge and resources.

5.5 Blended Finance

Blended finance is used to unlock private sector investment that would not otherwise occur in support of sustainable development priorities. Public resources (domestic government funds or ODA) can be applied in the form of grants, subsidies, low-cost debt, risk guarantees and equity to attract private capital to an investment that would otherwise not meet investment criteria.

Most blended finance currently goes to middle-income countries, motivated by the size and ease of transactions, with only a small portion going to Least Developed Countries (LDC). Between 2012 and 2018, around USD \$13.4 billion was mobilised in

Feature Box 2. Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established by 194 governments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

GCF invests in four areas – built environment; energy & industry; human security, livelihoods and wellbeing; and land-use, forests and ecosystems. It issues periodic requests for proposals in specific areas and also works with more than 200 Accredited Entities to develop funding proposals in close consultation with National Designated Authorities or focal points, based on the climate finance needs of individual developing countries. Several UN agencies and funds are among the Accredited Entities.

A core GCF principle is to follow a country-driven approach, which means that recipient countries lead programming and implementation. GCF can structure its financial support through a flexible combination of grants, concessional debt, guarantees or equity instruments to leverage other finance and crowd-in private investment for climate action in developing countries.

Source: Green Climate Fund website: <https://www.greenclimate.fund>, accessed January 20, 2021.

LDCs – a mere 6 per cent of all total blended finance. Deals in LDCs also tend to mobilize less private finance. Guarantees are the top instrument, having mobilised almost half of private finance for LDCs in 2017–2018. Most private finance to LDCs made possible through blended finance is concentrated in a handful of revenue-generating sectors with high profitability prospects, such as energy,

banking and financial services (OECD/UNCDF, 2020).

The low proportion of deals in LDCs (as well as in conflict and post-conflict countries) highlights the fact that blended finance is drawn to countries with lower barriers to private capital mobilization.

6. Development Finance Mechanisms

This section is intended to provide an understanding of differing types of development finance mechanisms, focusing on those that are new or have gained momentum in recent years. Under each category, only representative examples are discussed. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

6.1 Pooled Funds


UN Interagency Pooled Funds

UN pooled funds are financing mechanisms for multi-stakeholder partnerships, intended to promote aid coherence, alignment and effectiveness, and to counterbalance fragmentation caused by the single-donor and single-programmes. Contributions to a pooled fund can be made by a wide variety of contributors: UN Member States, multilateral organizations, NGOs, private sector, sub-national governments, etc. Contributions are co-mingled, not allocated to a specific UN agency. Fund allocation is made by a UN-led steering committee based on agreed and publicized criteria for each funding round. A potential drawback of such mechanisms is the risk of competition with existing agency-based funding mechanisms and higher transaction costs, including the one per cent administrative agent fee.

Pooled funds, including multi-partner trust funds (MPTF), provide the UN system with more flexible and predictable earmarked funding for collective UN action in areas such as the following, with examples provided:

- Development: Joint SDG Fund; Central African Forest Initiative; Human Security Fund
- Transition/Peacebuilding: Peacebuilding Fund; Colombia post-conflict MPTF
- Humanitarian: Central Emergency Response Fund; Country Humanitarian Fund
- Combination of above: Ebola Response Fund; Women Peace and Humanitarian Trust Fund

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is the largest UN pooled fund with an annual capitalization of around USD \$500 million.



Another prominent fund, The Peacebuilding Fund, bridges the silos between humanitarian, peace and security and development assistance in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. It invests funds with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations.

Pooled funds at the country level are a subset of this category and are often aligned closely with the UNSDCF. This approach avoids multiple proposals from UN agencies to donors by having a solicitation framework built around the UNSDCF. Pooled funds can also be an easy entry point for non-traditional donors, such as private sector, foundations, and diaspora, while giving donors a sense of the big picture and valuable synergies.

Overall, pooled funds make up only a small portion of non-core funds to UN agencies (8 per cent on average in 2014-2016) and the number of countries that use inter-agency pooled funds to deliver substantial volume of their programmes remains low⁴. The trend is flat and only about one-third of pooled fund contributions are received for non-humanitarian purposes. The UN Secretary General in 2017 called for doubling contributions to UN inter-agency pooled funds over the coming five years.

Global Pooled Funds

Other pooled funds target a specific development issue or theme, many of them designed to advance health- and climate-related global public goods. They appeal to a range of development partners through clearly stated goals, funding linked to visible outcomes, and transparency. They also have proven an ability to attract private donor funds. For some of these funds, UN agencies and other actors are eligible to apply; others exclusively fund government actors.

In the health sector, The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria ([Global Fund](#)) and

⁴ UN inter-agency Pooled Funds Explanatory note, February 2018.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance ([GAVI](#)), accounted for almost a quarter of total global ODA for health between 2015 and 2017. For climate, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has several dedicated climate funds, as discussed in an earlier section. These include the [Green Climate Fund](#), [The Adaptation Fund](#), and the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) with its [Least Developed Country Fund \(LDCF\)](#) and [Special Climate Change Fund](#). Outside the UNFCCC financial mechanism, there are other pooled climate-related funds managed by various UN agencies and MDBs.

In late 2020, the [Sanitation and Hygiene Fund](#) was launched with the strong support of the UN Deputy Secretary-General. It is placed within UNOPS and builds on 30 years of expertise working to improve sanitation and hygiene. The Fund will invest in country-led programmes to accelerate progress and sustainable impact, aiming to fill a void in the international response to the sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health crisis, taking response to a new level. Proposal and application guidelines are being developed alongside technical briefs to help governments decide on best implementation approaches.

6.2 South-South Cooperation

[South-South Cooperation \(SSC\)](#) is technical cooperation among developing countries in the Global South to share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives. Financial cooperation is typically provided in the form of loans rather than grants, often with medium to long time maturities. Many SSC providers emphasize infrastructure and the productive sectors of the economy in these partnerships, including China who is a dominant player in SSC. Global COVID-19 response efforts have included a wide range of South-South cooperation activities.

The [China-Africa Development Fund \(CADFund\)](#) was introduced by the People's Republic of China in 2006. It is China's first private equity fund focusing on investment

in Africa, aiming at boosting Africa's industrialization process and enhancing Africa's sustainable development capacity through investment. Investments are undertaken by China Development Bank with capital of USD \$10 billion. The aim of the fund is to stimulate investment in Africa by Chinese companies in power generation, transportation infrastructure, natural resources, manufacturing, and other sectors.

The [Islamic Development Bank](#) sees South-South Cooperation as an effective tool and has Reverse Linkage, a technical cooperation mechanism whereby member countries exchange knowledge, expertise, technology, and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for development. Through this mechanism, IsDB plays the role of a facilitator and connector to mobilize resources and identify development solutions from across the globe (South and North) to meet member country challenges.

The international community outlined key principles of SSC in the [Nairobi Declaration of the UN Conference on South-South Cooperation](#) (2009). They called for alignment with national priorities, mutual benefit, sovereignty, ownership, equality, non-conditionality and non-interference. A major UN High-level [Conference on South-South Cooperation](#) took place in Argentina in early 2019 and there is a UN Fund for South-South Cooperation that implements development activities across the Global South characterized by broad and inclusive partnership.

6.3 Philanthropy

Established private foundations, including well-known names such as the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), [Open Society Foundations](#) and [Ford Foundation](#) focus their giving on specific sectors and issues that are well-aligned with the SDGs. Accordingly, applicants must understand and adhere to foundation guidelines on project type, qualifying entities, application format, and


timing of submissions. These foundations may affiliate with individuals or corporate/business entities.

In Africa, the [Tony Elumelu Foundation](#) (founded by the United Bank for Africa Chairman) has a USD \$100 million programme to identify, train, mentor and fund 10,000 young African entrepreneurs, with business development training and seed funding of up to USD \$5,000. This programme is currently partnering with UNDP in Mali and recently established a partnership with the European Union to support economic empowerment of women across Africa with increased access to finance and venture capital.

Larger foundations are often pioneering in the world of philanthropy. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation explores new technologies for solving development challenges and, if proven, works to attract further investment from foundations, global health funders, governments, and other partners. Ford Foundation recently issue a social bond—the first ever by a foundation on the US taxable corporate bond market. The proceeds of the bond will enable a near doubling of annual grant making by the foundation.

High net-worth individuals, some new to global philanthropy, may still be learning about SDG giving opportunities and seeking information/advice on how to best channel their donations. New mechanisms and private advisory services are being formed to address these needs. One high-profile philanthropist is Jack Ma of the China-based Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation that donated medical supplies to WHO for the global response to COVID-19. He has been active in SDG giving for some time and even serves as a UN global [SDG Advocate](#).

Also within the UN system, the [SDG Philanthropy Platform](#), led by UNDP, is a facilitator that helps optimize donated resources and efforts to achieve the SDGs. It has an online collaboration platform that provides access to information on what partners are doing, real-time data on relevant



SDGs, and profiles of events and solutions that funders and other philanthropists are supporting. Its objectives include to educate on the SDGs, connect through philanthropic networks, and catalyse collaboration among philanthropy, businesses, the UN, governments and broader civil society. The Platform is collaborating with [WINGS](#), a community of thought leaders and changemakers committed to philanthropy as a catalyst for social progress.

6.4 Private Sector-led Development

There is growing interest within the development cooperation community to partner with the private sector to deliver improved development solutions that emphasize effectiveness and impact. Partners may range from large multi-national companies to SMEs. The [Kampala Principles on Effective Private Sector Engagement in Development Cooperation](#) were developed in 2019 as a collective effort to promote country ownership, a focus on results and targeted impact, inclusive dialogue, learning, and scaling up successes, as well as recognizing and sharing risks among all partners. A few large-scale programmes are profiled here, although there are many others that operate at a smaller scale, such as micro-finance projects.

The [International Finance Corporation](#) (IFC)—a member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. IFC works in more than 100 countries to create markets and opportunities for leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.

IFC in Sierra Leone supports the private sector through country advisory and investment engagements. It addresses key development challenges through various programmes, including helping the Bank of Sierra Leone

to establish a Collateral Registry, supporting Business Environment Reform programmes, advancing the West African Venture fund (SME Fund) and more recently, a US\$60 million investment in Sierra Rutile Limited as it expands operations and improves its community development programmes. IFC has a Creating Market Strategy that will continue to support innovative business developments for transformational projects, notably in infrastructure.

The [International Development Association](#) (IDA), a member of the World Bank Group, offers concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest developing countries. Sierra Leone is eligible for the new IDA Fragility, Conflict and Violence Envelope, a private sector window created in 2019 to catalyse private sector investment. This programme enables IDA to seize opportunities and respond with greater agility to the dynamic needs of IDA Fragile and Conflict-affected states.

Another example of private sector development programmes is the new [U.S. Development Finance Corporation](#) (DFC), a development bank established in 2019, combining two previous U.S. government entities. DFC partners with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world, including in energy, healthcare, critical infrastructure, and technology. DFC also provides financing for small businesses and women entrepreneurs to create jobs in emerging markets. DFC's Inaugural Development Strategy outlined investments of over \$25 billion and a goal to mobilize an additional \$50 billion in private sector capital—catalyzing a total of \$75 billion—by the end of 2025. DFC investments adhere to high standards of responsibility and respect the environment, human rights, and worker rights.

The [USAID Global Development Alliance](#), which entails extensive collaboration between USAID and the private sector from programme design to implementation, to

foster sustainable and transformational development impact, achieve related business objectives, and promote market-led solutions to development challenges. USAID and the private sector jointly identify compelling business/development problems and how they can be solved, sharing risks and responsibilities. The partnerships leverage assets, expertise and resources.

Another USAID example is the [West Africa Trade and Investment Hub](#), which aims to catalyse economic growth in West Africa with a market-based approach. Its Co-Investment Fund, aimed at small and mid-sized private businesses, is expected to attract USD \$300 million of new private investment to increase regional and international trade over a 5-year period. Targeted businesses will receive technical assistance to ensure they can scale up and contribute to economic growth.

[Norfund](#) is owned and funded by the Norwegian Government and is an important tool for strengthening the private sector in developing countries, ultimately reducing poverty. Norfund's role is to assist in building sustainable businesses and industries by providing equity and other risk capital.

In Sierra Leone, the GoSL recently launched the The MUNAFA Fund, a national micro-credit scheme that sets aside 40 per cent of the loans for women entrepreneurs. The MoF agreed to initial funding of LE 100 billion and fund modalities are under development.

6.5 Innovation Focus


Closely related to private sector-oriented programmes are those focused on innovative solutions to development challenges. The [Global Innovation Fund](#) is a non-profit innovation fund headquartered in London with an office in Washington D.C. It invests in the development, rigorous testing, and scaling of innovations targeted at improving the lives of the world's poorest people through grants and risk capital financing, ranging from USD

\$50,000 to USD \$15 million. The Fund accepts applications from for-profit firms, non-profit organisations, researchers, and government agencies, seeking to maximise their impact. Innovations can be in any sector but must demonstrate ability to improve the lives of those living on less than USD \$5 PPP per day, especially those living on less than USD \$2 PPP per day.

USAID's [Development Innovation Ventures](#) is an open innovation programme that supports implementers and researchers to test and scale creative solutions to global development challenges. It provides flexible, tiered grant funding that allows for testing new ideas, taking strategic risks, building evidence and advancing the best solutions. It relies on rigorous evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, and a viable pathway to scale and sustainability. The programme supports applicants to test new ideas, take strategic risks, build evidence of what works, and eventually scale-up high impact and cost-effective solutions.

The previously-mentioned Adaptation Fund (AF) recently established an [Innovation Facility](#) to to accelerate, encourage and enable innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change. Innovation themes covered will include advancing gender equality, disaster risk reduction, enhancing cultural heritage, inclusion of youth, enhancing communities, urban adaptation, nature-based solutions, social innovation, water and food security, and innovative adaptation financing. Grants of up to USD \$5 million each will be available to AF accredited entities to roll out proven solutions in new countries and regions or to scale up innovations already demonstrated to work. An initial call for proposals for USD \$30 million will go out in early 2021.

The Islamic Development Bank's new [Transform Fund](#) supports eligible scientists, innovators, SMEs and institutions that need initial funding and growth capital for their ideas/projects. These should result in technologies and solutions that will



contribute to development effectiveness in ISDB Member Countries (and Muslim communities in non-member countries) by addressing challenges related to specific SDGs, including those on hunger, health, education, water and sanitation, and clean energy. The competitive funding is awarded as grants, equity participation, and quasi-equity participation, depending on the nature of the recipient organization and the stage of idea development.

6.6 NGO Grant Programmes

Included in the landscape of development finance are mechanisms that direct funds to local NGOs with potential to contribute to SDG realization. Donors recognize their role in advancing development objectives and empowering groups outside of traditional power structures. Two fund examples are:

The [UN Democracy Fund](#) projects that empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Most UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations -- both in the transition and consolidation phases of democratization in a country. In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and unique role in complementing the UN's more traditional work with government partners in a country to strengthen democratic governance.

The [Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund](#) supports local women's civil society organizations on a range of projects contributing to peacebuilding and humanitarian action. Similarly, [the Spotlight Initiative](#), a multi-year partnership between the European Union and the UN to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, suggests that about half of programme funding goes to local CSOs.

7. SDG Finance in Sierra Leone

This section provides an overview of development finance in Sierra Leone, including the recently prepared integrated national financing framework. The discussion is meant to highlight recent developments and orient the reader to financing mechanisms recommended for Sierra Leone following a country-specific analysis. UN support can play a pivotal role in implementing the recommendations.

7.1 Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)

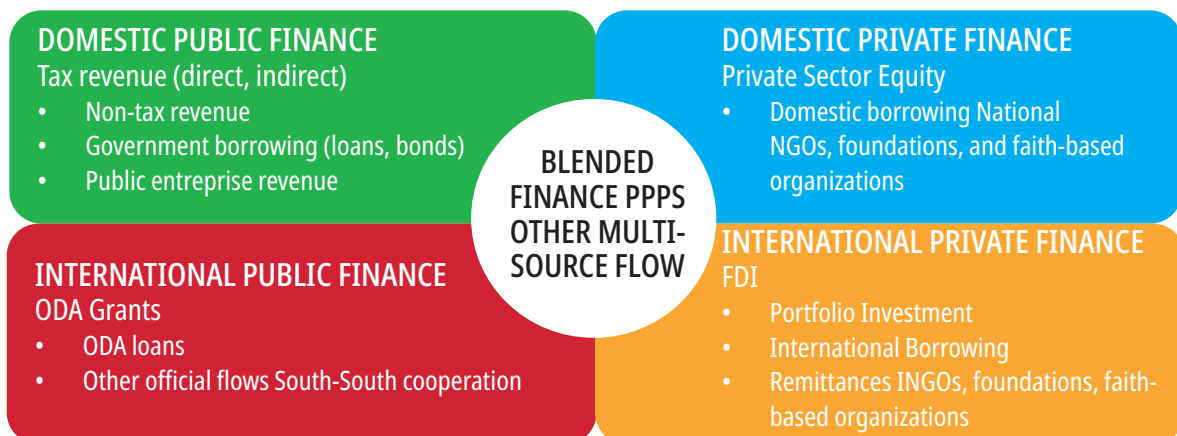
The Addis Ababa Action Agenda introduced the concept of [Integrated National Financing Frameworks \(INFF\)](#) as part of a vision for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that both public and private finance have important roles to play in advancing sustainable development. Sierra Leone was among an initial group of 16 countries that prepared an INFF in 2018-2019, led by MoPED with support from UNDP.

An INFF can help overcome impediments to financing sustainable development and the

SDGs at the national level, while strengthening government planning processes and country ownership. It lays out a full range of financing sources as shown in Figure 1 and considers how government can facilitate financial flows in all these areas.

Country-led and country-owned, the INFF helps national policymakers map the landscape for financing sustainable development and lay out a strategy to: increase and effectively use investments; coordinate technical and financial cooperation; manage financial and non-financial risks; and ultimately achieve priorities articulated in a national development strategy or plan.

Figure 1. Sources of SDG Finance



Source: UN Development Coordination Office, (2020). *SDG Financing and Funding the Cooperation Framework: Cooperation Framework Companion Piece*.

Feature Box 3. Key Roles for INFFs

- **Government:** Lead and provide clear mandate for the exercise. The development and implementation of the INFF will be under government leadership in its entirety.
- **UN Resident Coordinator:** Lead engagement with the highest levels of government; ensure strategic direction; convene partners, notably the government, UN, EU, World Bank and IMF.
- **UNDP Resident Representative:** Technical leadership in designing INFF; engage UN agencies and partners to share technical expertise; support government oversight committees.
- **EU Head of Delegation:** Work with the Resident Coordinator to mobilise political support and engage with UNDP, other agencies, and EU Member States in development/implementation.
- **UNCT and EU Delegation:** Work with the international community to harmonise and align support behind government leadership and contribute to the INFF development process.

Source: *Interagency Task Force on Financing for Development, (2020). Integrated National Financing Frameworks: Inception Phase (working draft).*

The INFF development process is based on guidance material from the Task Force on Financing for Development, as well as the Secretary-General's [Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda](#) and its Roadmap of actions. The identified roles for UN and external partners in developing and implementing an INFF are shown in Feature Box 3.

The initial step in developing a country INFF is the [Development Finance Assessment](#) (DFA), an analytic instrument that identifies: 1) financing needs (costing), financial landscape with resource flow analysis to understand the financing gap; 2) risks, and 3) policy, institutional and capacity constraints to finance. The Sierra Leone DFA outlines a wide range of funding mechanisms that can potentially support the country's MTNDP. Feature Box 4 presents highlights from the Sierra Leone DFA report prepared in 2018-2019. It found that the overall financial landscape is one in which public finance and development assistance dominate, and private finance remains nascent.

The INFF outlines the pathways by which finance can advance and many of the recommendations require specialized expertise, such as increasing tax revenues, reinvesting pension assets, and establishing a Diaspora Bond. Progress on INFF

recommendations will strengthen the country's ability to forge a development path with reduced reliance on external finance. It will also have catalytic impact on UNSDCF Outcome Area objectives.

With the Sierra Leone DFA and INFF in hand, UNDP and UNCDF submitted a joint programme to the UN Joint SDG Fund in 2020 and secured almost \$1 million for two INFF-related activities to be implemented by 2022: 1) enhanced government revenue collection to, among other things, reduce the level of government borrowing; and 2) increased domestic capital accumulation with expanded financial inclusion to, among other things, increase capital available for lending to the private sector.

This type of focused support from the UN system and other partners will be crucial to implementing INFF recommendations and transforming domestic SDG finance to sustain and expand MTNDP initiatives such as free quality education, universal health care, and private sector growth. Key players include the World Bank, EU, AfDB, IMF, UNDP, and UNCDF.

7.2 Development Spending Monitoring

The INFF found that GoSL's public finance management systems allow for tracking spending towards many national sustainable development priorities, but there are gaps in monitoring spending on cross-cutting priorities, such as gender equality, disability inclusion, and climate change resilience. Monitoring systems managed by the Bank of Sierra Leone track key aspects of private finance, such as credit to the private sector and foreign direct investment. However, these often provide only broad monitoring – foreign direct investment, for example, cannot be disaggregated by sector.

Consultations conducted during INFF development identified examples of investments being unable to progress due to a lack supporting data. Some relate to international public finance – for example the country has struggled to access certain thematic funds due to a lack of sufficient data about the current context to make an evidence-based case for funding. Other commercial investments, in agribusiness for example, reportedly fell through due to the lack of sufficient evidence for potential investors to develop their business case, such as data on agricultural production and climate.

Feature Box 4. Sierra Leone 'Development Finance Assessment' Highlights

Public Finance

Public finance accounted for about one-third of total financing in 2017 and state-owned enterprises play a critical role in key areas such as energy, transport and other infrastructure. Development spending is concentrated within a few ministries, with the Ministry of Works and Public Assets accounting for more than half of the total.

Education spending is set to rise significantly from about 20 per cent of non-salary, non-interest recurrent spending to more than 30 per cent, driven primarily by increased allocation to technical and higher education, alongside increased spending on free quality education at the lower levels. Investment in healthcare improvement is also set to rise rapidly with continued movement towards universal health coverage.

Despite these plans, there is limited space to support a significant increase in public finance in line with these and other investment requirements of the MTNDP. A key reason is the increase in the level of public borrowing in recent years. New foreign loans almost doubled from 2016 to 2017. Interest payments have risen sharply and were equivalent to 18 per cent of total government revenue in 2017.

Non-State Finance

Finance also enters the public sphere through external entities, such as development banks and the EU that provide direct budget support to Sierra Leone. Policies governing non-state financing are disbursed among ministries, including the Ministry of Trade and Industry, responsible for aspects of the business environment and investor engagement, MoPED, which leads international aid coordination, and the Office of Diaspora Affairs, which engages with the diaspora overseas.

Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)

International public finance includes ODA which accounts for more than a quarter of total financing captured in the DFA. The majority of ODA is in the form of grants, although the loan portion has increased in the post-Ebola period. The health sector is the largest ODA recipient sector, accounting for 35 per cent of ODA in 2017, including funding from GAVI and the Global Fund.

Private Sector

Private finance accounts for a relatively small proportion of total finance, although levels can fluctuate significantly year-on-year due to large one-off investments. Underdevelopment of capital and financial markets limits domestic business access to commercial funding, especially long-term borrowing.

The most significant obstacle to growth identified by businesses in Sierra Leone is access to finance, cited by 40 per cent of firms compared to 22.5 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole. Credit issued to the private sector, a proxy for domestic private investment, accounted for just 4 per cent of domestic lending in 2017. Public sector dominance in domestic lending markets 'crowds-out' private sector borrowers.

Another proxy for domestic lending to the private sector is outstanding private debt as a portion of GDP, which was just 6.4 per cent at the end of 2016. The commerce, finance, and construction sectors are the largest borrowers, while agriculture, forestry and fisheries, important MTNDP sectors, account for only 6 per cent of outstanding credit. Domestic credit to the energy and water sectors is also low.

Other Funding Opportunities

Non-traditional funding sources are underutilized. While the country has accessed some international climate funds, there is greater possibility to scale up funding for climate and the environment. Other potential sources include Islamic finance instruments, with specific criteria on types of projects, and re-activating the Sierra Leone stock exchange to allow for equity investment in qualifying businesses.

Pension fund assets held by the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) could also be unlocked for enhanced SDG investment, particularly large-scale, long-term projects. Limited access to key financial information for NASSIT limited the ability of the DFA to fully assess the scale of financing that could be unlocked with modifications to NASSIT's investment approach.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-Private Partnerships in Sierra Leone are limited; most have been in the energy and power sectors, although potential exists in agriculture, fisheries and tourism. Partnerships can fund infrastructure investments to enhance public services while meeting equity and efficiency goals.

Development impact bonds are a model of public-private partnership designed to generate specified, pre-agreed sustainable development outcomes at affordable costs. Risks are shared between the government (or a development partner), and private actors who deliver an intervention designed to achieve pre-agreed outcomes. Both the United Kingdom and the United States have used development impact bonds for other country programmes.

Diaspora Investment

A 2015 World Bank Survey of the Sierra Leone diaspora revealed interest in investing in education, healthcare, agriculture, ICT, energy, construction and manufacturing. Fifty-six per cent of respondents showed interest in direct investments, compared to 5 per cent who have made one. The lack of a one-stop shop for diaspora investors was cited as a significant obstacle to investment*.

Forty-five per cent of survey respondents showed interest in diaspora bonds, instruments that allow the government to borrow from members of the overseas diaspora. These can be attractive, as they provide a mechanism for borrowing in hard currency, often at lower cost and with longer maturities than is possible through other avenues, however the complexity requires careful management.

Remittances

Overall remittance levels to Sierra Leone are difficult to assess. There is a large volume of informal remittances, due at least partly to the fact that Sierra Leone is one of few countries in the world to tax receipt of remittances. Transfers to the country are subject to the 20 per cent goods and services tax.

An estimated 77 per cent of remittances to Sierra Leone in 2017 came from persons living in Guinea, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Reducing the cost of remittance transfers is an objective in cluster eight the MTNDP and would help address the informal flows. Further, policies that promote fintech services and interoperability between financial service providers would also reduce transaction fees and lower costs associated with sending remittances.

* World Bank, 2015, *Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study*.

7.3 Official Development Assistance Tracking

The Development Assistance Coordination Office within MoPED annually produces a Development Assistance Report that draws on information reported by development partners active in the country. The most recent report covers the 2018-2019 period. Table 2 below documents overall aid flows by development partner appears. In 2019, the partners with the highest monetary value of assistance were the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and the World Bank, followed closely by the UN and the EU. Project support accounted for 69 percent of total inflows, whilst direct budget support and funds channelled through NGOs accounted for 29 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

The report includes a breakdown of each partner's assistance by MTNDP cluster area, for example, Human Capital Development and Youth Employment, Sports and Migration. It does not attempt to assess the impact of the aid on achievement of the objectives under each cluster area, something that would admittedly be a complex undertaking. While online access to the report is not available, the source database (Development Assistance Database, or DAD) is accessible to a non-registered public user. The database allows for filtering of data and production of customized reports. Elements include number of projects by development partner and committed vs. disbursed funding.

In addition to country-level tracking, two multilateral systems track development aid and cover Sierra Leone. These are both managed by OECD and profiled in Annex B.

Table 2. Development Assistance to Sierra Leone by Development Partner (2018-2019), in USD \$

Development Partner/ Agency	2018	2019	Total	Per cent
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK)	107.90	99.00	206.90	22.03
World Bank	42.00	135.10	177.10	18.86
United Nations	85.86	60.39	146.25	15.57
European Union	73.30	72.00	145.30	15.47
The International Monetary Fund	21.52	21.59	43.11	4.59
Government of Germany	23.56	19.21	42.77	4.55
US Agency for International Development	22.06	18.66	40.72	4.34
African Development Bank	10.20	28.50	38.70	4.12
Korea Exim Bank	10.94	17.18	28.12	2.99
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)	10.20	10.72	20.92	2.23
Irish Aid	6.60	7.60	14.20	1.51
OPEC Fund for International Development	-	14.06	14.06	1.50
Saudi Fund for Development	5.00	2.65	7.65	0.81
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	-	5.99	5.99	0.64
Canadian International Development Agency	1.50	3.00	4.50	0.48
Government of Japan	1.60	0.10	1.70	0.18
Government of Norway	0.50	-	0.50	0.05
Government of Italy	0.10	0.30	0.40	0.04
India Exim Bank	-	0.15	0.15	0.02
Government of Switzerland	0.12	0.02	0.14	0.01
TOTAL	422.96	516.22	939.18	100.00

Source: Sierra Leone Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Development Assistance Coordination Office, (2020). Development Assistance Report 2018-2019.

7.4 External Funding

With a continued focus on the financial landscape of the country, the following discussion profiles several recent financing developments linked to external sources of finance.

COVID-19 Response Funding

Sierra Leone was invited by OCHA to join the global [COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan](#). To-date, \$20.1 million has been received against the \$62.9 million [Appeal for Sierra Leone](#) (32 per cent fulfilment), which is the median level of fulfilment for about 50 countries in the appeal. The largest contributors to the Sierra Leone appeal are Islamic Development Bank and Government of the United States, followed by the World Bank, Government of Germany, and Government of the United Kingdom.

Sierra Leone also prepared a [COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan \(SERP\)](#) in September 2020 in response to a call from the UN Secretary-General for countries to develop such plans. The plan analyses five COVID-19 response pillars and suggests eight potential programme areas with costing. Available financial resources were assessed for the programmes and the total gap in financing was calculated at approximately \$71 million. With a SERP, Sierra Leone is eligible to apply for the next funding round of the global COVID-19 Fund. It is reasonable to expect that any funding received for Sierra Leone would be in the range of \$0.5 to 1.0 million, based on country allocations to-date.

Millennium Challenge Corporation

The [Millennium Challenge Corporation \(MCC\)](#), a foreign assistance programme of the US Government since 2004, builds partnerships with developing countries who are committed to good governance, economic freedom and investing in their citizens. MCC provides grants for promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, and strengthening institutions. These investments not only support stability and prosperity in partner countries but also

enhance American interests. Sierra Leone has been a recipient of an MCC Threshold Programme (at \$44.4 million), with funds directed toward improving the financial viability of the electricity and water sectors in the greater Freetown area. The Threshold programme will end in early 2021.

In December 2020, Sierra Leone became eligible to develop a full MCC Compact. In this process, the country leads a constraints analysis that determines which sectors are limiting economic growth. This analysis is then used in partnership with MCC to design a 5-year Compact Programme to tackle the constraints. The final investment amount, in the form of a grant, will depend on the strength of the projects and their ability to support long-term economic growth in a country. The Compact development process for Sierra Leone is expected to take 2 years, with an additional 6 months before the funds are received. While the value of the Compact is not yet set, and will depend on many factors, the average Compact value in other countries is in the \$300 million range.

Climate Finance

A listing of climate finance grant awards to Sierra Leone as of February 2019 appears as Annex C, some of which are through regional programmes. There is, however, much untapped potential for the country to benefit from climate finance mechanisms. Given its multiple vulnerabilities to climate impacts, (e.g., coastal degradation, lowered agricultural production and natural disasters), along with potential for clean energy development, well prepared proposals that align with specific fund criteria should have good prospects for success. Several UN agencies in Sierra Leone have submitted proposals to the climate funds and recent UN applications / awards also appear in Annex C.

Global Fund for AIDs, TB, and Malaria

In December 2019, [The Global Fund](#) informed the Sierra Leone Country Coordinating Mechanism of an allocation to the country of approximately \$126 million for HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Resilient and

Sustainable Systems for Health programmes, covering the period of July 2021 to June 2024. Allocation amounts per country were determined according to a methodology primarily based on disease burden and income level of a country.

Global Partnership for Education

The [Global Partnership for Education](#) is a multi-stakeholder partnership and funding platform that aims to strengthen education systems in developing countries. Sierra Leone received a \$17.2 million grant in 2019 to increase equitable access to education and improve learning outcomes for approximately 1 million children in public schools, with a focus on the most vulnerable children. UNICEF is the agent for this grant. In 2020, Sierra Leone was provided an additional \$7 million through the World Bank for COVID-19 response that includes support for distance learning and WASH supplies.

IsDB Innovation Fund

WHO Sierra Leone was awarded a modest grant from the IsDB innovation-focused [Transform Fund](#), competing in a 2020 funding round focused on COVID-19 response. The successful project was for an electronic case-based disease surveillance system for COVID-19 and other disease reporting, to replace a largely paper-based system. This win demonstrates how a case can be made for 'innovation' in the context of Sierra Leone not only linked to business, but in social sectors as well.

UN MPTF Awards

UNCT Sierra Leone was successful with funding proposals to several MPTFs in 2019 and 2020:

- UN Peacebuilding Fund: (WFP and UNDP) Mitigating Localized Resource-based Conflicts and Increasing Community Resilience in Pujehun and Moyamba districts of Sierra Leone
- UN Peacebuilding Fund: (FAO, UNDP, and UNFPA) Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience in Tonkolili & Kenema districts in Sierra Leone.

- Joint SDG Fund: (UNDP and UNCDF) Strengthening Domestic Resources Mobilization for SDGs Financing in Sierra Leone
- Human Security Trust Fund: (UNDP and FAO) Strengthening Human Security in in the remote Chiefdoms of Gbense, Soa, and Kamara in Kono District of Sierra Leone
- Migration MPTF: (IOM and UNESCO) Addressing Drivers of Irregular Migration among Youth in Sierra Leone
- UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Fund – agencies and programme title to be determined during the Inception Phase in early 2021.

Other UN Funding Models

There are other special purpose funds active or under development in the UN system. Some provide capital, while others are models to be used for attracting funds. Here are some examples:

AgrInvest: an investment model that attracts and de-risks private-sector investment in agri-food systems and value chains, based on a collaboration between FAO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; countries must raise their own funds to activate.

Accelerator for Agriculture and Agro-Industry Development (3ADI+): a joint value chain and market systems development programme co-led by FAO and UNIDO that supports the sustainable development of prioritized agri-food value chains that have great potential for SDG impact; creates partnerships and facilitates linkages to help identify investment funds.

Alliances for Action: a partnership of ITC with IFAD, FAO and other stakeholders in a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together private and public actors with the aim to promote competitiveness and income-risk diversification for smallholder farmers and SMEs; facilitates partnerships but does not provide investment capital.



SDG500 Platform Investment Opportunity: an impact investment platform dedicated to financing the SDGs launched by a coalition of partners including UNCDF, IFAD, ITC, and CARE USA. UNCDF is close to establishing and funding an LDC Bridge Facility that would be accessible to Sierra Leone. The Facility will

issue catalytic loans and guarantees to enterprises and project developers that meet rigorous standards for development impact and financial viability, enabling both UNCDF's direct investment operations (with demonstration value) and third-party managed investments.

8. Mapping Potential UNSDCF Funding

This section explores potential sources of funding to address the UNSDCF funding gaps shown in Section 2.0. It begins with information on current and potential funding partners and then explores the option for a UNSDCF country-level pooled fund. It also discusses strategies to expand in-kind contributions and non-financial partnerships.

8.1 Potential Partners

Table 3 overviews bi-lateral and multilateral development finance partners active in Sierra Leone. Given the ever-changing development environment and ongoing revisions to individual partner portfolios, it should be viewed as provisional and subject to change.

To fully meet UNSDCF funding gaps, it is crucial to not only connect with existing funding partners, but also to look to the other mechanisms profiled in this report and strategize on how projects can be developed to meet their criteria. Table 4 broadly summarizes these other types of opportunities.

In 2020, a UNCT presentation was done on

8.2 Possible UNSDCF Pooled Fund

the possibility of a country-level pooled fund to support the UNSDCF. Several UN agencies

expressed interest, enough to raise this idea with select development partners present in Sierra Leone.

Initial response from these partners was tentative, owing to the fact that many operate on different funding cycles that would not correspond to the UNSDCF timeframe, and many already have specific sectoral areas of focus which are only a subset of those covered by the four Outcome Areas of the UNSDCF. While the possibility exists to create more than one pooled fund, thus allowing them to have a sectoral focus, such an approach can work against benefits often associated with pooled funds, including streamlined administration, as each fund would require a steering committee and separate reporting procedures. Creation of a UNSDCF pooled fund at this stage is also complicated by the fact that the UNSDCF is already one-year into implementation.

Table 3. Bi-lateral and Multilateral Development Finance Partners

	Partner	Profile / Focus Areas	Mapping to UNSCDF Outcome Areas			
			1	2	3	4
RESIDENT PARTNERS IN SIERRA LEONE	World Bank Group	Refer to Country Partnership Framework (FY21-FY26) / Energy, Human Development (education, health, etc.), Agriculture	X	X	X	X
	International Finance Corporation	Refer to Country Strategy (FY20-FY24). Private sector focus through financial resources, technical expertise, global experience, and innovation / Agribusiness, Energy, Mining	X		X	
	International Development Association	Concessional Loans and Grants; Fragility, Conflict and Violence private-sector window / Human Capital, Agriculture, Agri-processing, Energy, Extractive Sector: strengthening the regulatory and institutional capacity	X		X	X
	Islamic Development Bank	Loans and grants to Government; Transform Innovation Fund; some philanthropic / Health System Strengthening; Performance-based Financing for the Health Sector			X	
	African Development Bank	Refer to Country Strategy 2020-2024; MOUs in place with some UN agencies / Infrastructure Development (WASH, transport), Inclusive Growth, Agriculture	X		X	
	European Union	Preparing 2021-2027 Cooperation Programme / Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries; Modern and Renewable Energy; Environmental Protection; Education; Democratic, Social & Economic Governance	X	X	X	
	United Kingdom	Programmes have transitioned to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office / Human Development, Economic Growth, Governance, Social Development		X		X
	United States	Some funds awarded locally and some through HQ / Maternal and Child Health, COVID-19 Response, President's Malaria Initiative, Food for Peace, Agriculture, Democracy & Governance.		X	X	
	Germany	Bi-lateral German development assistance is planned to transition to regional programmes after 2023 / Health, Jobs Promotion, Technical Cooperation, Transparency, Alternative Energy, Agriculture, Education	X		X	
	Ireland	Mid-way through a 5-year development strategy; support to CSOs is significant / Education, Nutrition, Governance and Gender as a cross-cutting theme		X	X	X
	Japan	Human Security, Clean Energy, Health, Youth Employment, Private Sector			X	X
	Egypt	Programmes are under the Egyptian Agency of Partnership / Enhanced Trade and Investment; select training programmes	X		X	
	Turkey	Programmes relate to Turkey's Africa Policy / Enhanced Trade and Investment, Humanitarian Support, Energy Supply	X		X	
	China	Joint project planning with government / Infrastructure, Education, Health, Agriculture	X		X	
India	New presence in Sierra Leone / Agriculture, Energy, Water	X		X		
NON-RESIDENT PARTNERS	Ghana	Support to GoSL on development issues / Government Capacity Building; TVET Trainers; Specialized Consultants		X	X	
	Brazil	Expecting to expand development programmes in Sierra Leone; some COVID-19 supplies / Interest in Maternal Health, Agriculture, Banking, Smallholder Farming, Ecotourism	X	X	X	
	The Netherlands	Chamber of Commerce office in Freetown and an HQ-based Enterprise Agency / Private Sector Development, Logistics for Trade; interest in WASH and Agriculture	X		X	
	Norway	No direct bi-lateral programmes with Sierra Leone, but can partner with the UN / Sustainable Fisheries; interest in Hydropower	X		X	
	Canada	No bi-lateral programmes; have an honorary consul and support NGOs / Nutrition, Education, Micro-Agriculture, Health	X		X	X

Table 4. Other Potential Sources of Development Finance, to be expanded or explored

Programme Type	Funding Criteria
COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund	Provides funds to implement a COVID-19 Social and Economic Recovery Plan
Humanitarian Response Appeal for Sierra Leone	Opportunity exists to appeal to a range of donors to provide funds earmarked for programmes in the Sierra Leone
Global Climate Funds	Criteria differs by fund, but all relate to climate change mitigation/adaptation; some welcome regional programme applications (multiple countries)
Global Health Funds	Criteria relate to programmes that address varied public health needs
UN MPTFs	Funding rounds specify criteria in accordance with a MPTF mandate
Private Sector Growth	Projects that show positive development impact from private sector growth
Innovation Funds	Ideas that demonstrate significant development impact through innovation
Philanthropy	Focus areas are usually specified by a philanthropic foundation or individual, but others may be open to a range of proposals
Grants to NGOs	Specific criteria linked to NGOs advancing the SDGs are specified by the donor
South-South Cooperation	Diverse possibilities related to knowledge sharing, projects, trade, and in-kind contributions

8.3 In-kind Contributions

There are several recent examples of medical supply in-kind contributions during the response period to COVID-19. Medical supplies, including face masks for use by medical personnel, were donated by United Arab Emirates, Brazil, and a Chinese foundation, among others. As valuable as the above donations are, there is a need to explore other in-kind contributions at large scale to support key sectors in addition to health. Examples include cold storage devices for use by fisherman, general storage containers for use by farming cooperatives, vehicles to transport pharmaceuticals/medical supplies, and ICT equipment to enable internet access in government and other public buildings.

8.4 Non-Financial Partnership Possibilities

There are compelling SDG partnership opportunities beyond finance and material contributions. These relate to programming and activities for higher education, sustainable cities, and SDG promotion among other topics. Many programmes are geared to government and other domestic public entities, but some are relevant for UN programmes.

Annex D profiles select non-financial partnership programmes that can be explored for possible benefit to Sierra Leone. Some are under the auspices of the UN and others are operated by private individuals and organizations with a passion for supporting the global community in SDG realization.



9. UNSDCF Results Group Strategies

This section outlines resource mobilization strategies of the four results groups drawing on information presented in this report. The strategies were developed by considering which of the resource categories presented in this report are best suited to each Results Group's financing needs. Figure 2 is an overview of the different resource categories.

9.1 Results Group 1

Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security

South-South Cooperation (SSC) may be pursued to enhance agricultural outputs and value chain development in Sierra Leone, including arranging technical experts to act as advisors/trainers and establishing links between agricultural research institutions within and outside of Sierra Leone. On the production side, this cooperation could include construction of agricultural storage and processing facilities, donations of labour-saving machinery, and importation of seeds for seed improvement and multiplication – a process that helps enrich the biodiversity of a local area by making available new seed varieties to farmers. Production activities could then pursue additional financial resources from development funds for private sector growth.

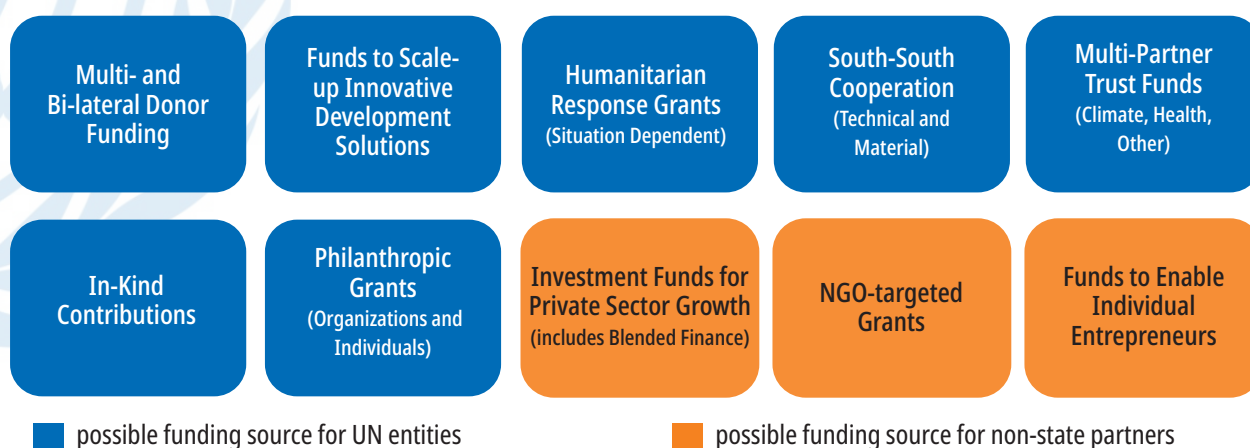
These activities may support expansion of processing and manufacturing operations for an enhanced agricultural value chain and also benefit producers, including cooperatives with women and youth as members. Possible partners are China, Brazil, Vietnam, India, Japan, Kenya, and Nigeria, some of which

already have existing activities in Sierra Leone.

Results Group 1 also sees opportunities to apply to global climate change funds to help the country's agriculture sector adapt to current and anticipated climate change impacts, the urgency of which is magnified due to high food insecurity in Sierra Leone. Farmers need technical knowledge, inputs, and appropriate equipment to effectively manage natural resources such as land, energy, and water in the context of climate change to boost and sustain agricultural production over the long-term. Equally important is a policy and regulatory framework that supports these objectives. More investment towards sustainable use of land, energy, water, and marine ecosystems, combined with the technical advice proposed above under SSC, may together build a resilient agriculture sector. A related activity may be to approach bi-lateral donors to support targeted interventions to boost nutritional content in diets, especially among children under five.

Climate finance may also be pursued to mitigate practices in Sierra Leone that contribute negatively to climate change, including deforestation, forest degradation, and pollution of water and marine resources.

Figure 2. Resource Categories to Support UNSDCF Objectives



These practices not only harm the Sierra Leone environment but also have negative global implications. They reduce the planet's available forest cover to absorb carbon that otherwise enters the earth's atmosphere, and they harm the habitat for the region's marine life, flora and fauna, many of which have distinct biodiversity value on a global scale. Well-developed programmes that address forest and marine conservation and management priorities may receive due consideration from climate funds, including projects that reduce dependency on biomass cooking fuels and those that provide alternative livelihoods for forest-dependent communities.

Inadequate disaster management also poses threats to a resilient agriculture sector. Results Group 1 may explore opportunities through the GEF Special Climate Change Fund and similar programmes to fund the technical work needed around these issues. Areas of support needed include disaster risk management, effective weather forecasting, and early warning systems. There is also a need to develop disaster and weather-risk insurance products that increase the ability of government, business, agricultural producers, and low-income populations to respond more quickly and resiliently to disasters. Finance may be explored through the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a global partnership that helps

developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

9.2 Results Group 2

Transformational Governance

Results Group 2 is interested in funding to support use of modern technology to increase numbers of women and persons with disabilities in elected office, both of which are currently under-represented. Social media platforms may be employed to increase knowledge of democratic institutions and representative government processes. Technology-based projects may also be pursued to strengthen cross-border security activities and partnerships for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Kambia and Pujehun Districts. In addition, there are also opportunities for e-governance platforms to be established to improve government transparency and citizen engagement. Potential funding sources for these activities are multi-donor trust funds, SSC, in-kind contributions, innovation grants, and grants to NGOs.

Another priority for Results Group 2 is operationalizing the One Fambul framework for local-level governance in six priority districts of Sierra Leone. The One Fambul framework, rooted in community ownership, is an innovative form of local governance

that has been shown to reduce conflict and increase local development where it has been adopted in Sierra Leone. NGO grant funding proposal may be developed in partnership with Fambul Tok NGO that would target support to rural communities and enhance the role of often marginalized groups. Related to this are projects to strengthen SDG-centred decentralization and local governance, including for revenue management and integrated public financial management.

In the area of gender, innovation and philanthropy funding may be pursued for an integrated local and national evidence-based reporting system on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and also to advance recently introduced gender-responsive reforms in the country's justice and security systems. By linking locally collected data systems with the national system, a more comprehensive picture of the country's SGBV challenges may be developed to inform prevention and response programmes.

9.3 Results Group 3

Access to Basic Services

Results Group 3 has a broad sector coverage, (health, education, water and sanitation, and energy), and has, therefore, outlined programme areas that may be further elaborated for proposal development by technical specialists.


As part of UNCT support to Government SDG investments, health specialists in Results Group 3 are providing support to the NASSIT pension fund for large-scale investments under consideration for the health sector. Such collaboration may help to identify projects with the greatest potential for positive health outcomes, in terms of location, services, and technology/equipment requirements for a well-functioning facility in the context of Sierra Leone.

There is potential for more SSC in the TVET sector, directed towards training programmes

in priority sectors identified by recent studies in Sierra Leone. This may include SSC technical experts to advise on programme design and conduct 'train the trainer' activities to establish a team of trainers to introduce specialized programmes in the Districts. This builds on examples from countries such as Ethiopia and Philippines. To facilitate this, Results Group 3 members may support Government in outreach to potential SSC partners by compiling data and developing materials that profile TVET sectors of interest, such as agriculture and agribusiness, tourism and hospitality, solar engineering, fisheries, ICT, and manufacturing. Desired sectoral expertise exists among development partners active in Sierra Leone, as well as among non-resident partners.

Another area for SSC is to promote greater availability of energy-saving devices in Sierra Leone, including through 1) donations of specific devices to meet Government-identified needs (in-kind contributions); 2) increased importation of devices for sale, supported by customs and other policies that incentivize these imports; and 3) establishment of local device production when feasible and if local demand is sufficient. Results Group 3 technical experts on clean energy, trade, and enterprise development may all support these activities in different ways. In addition to SSC, other funding categories that may apply are development funds geared to the private sector and climate funds.

Waste management in Sierra Leone, in both urban and rural areas, has need for improvement, and Results Group 3 may encourage new enterprises that operate in an environmentally friendly way, especially those that recycle waste into other productive uses such as energy. An important role for the Results Group may be to support the Government in evaluating the suitability of new waste management technologies to the Sierra Leone context and in preparing fund applications to appropriate sources such as climate funds, entrepreneurial funds, NGO grant funds, and innovation funds.



The expansion of solar energy in Sierra Leone has created a need for environmentally responsible solar battery disposal and recycling operations. Although solar projects are generally environmentally positive (reduction of greenhouse gasses, clean energy etc), the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency has requested a solution to the challenge of battery disposal and made it a condition of issuing licences for solar projects. The commercial viability of battery disposal operations on financial terms is challenging at present due to the small size of the in-country market. However, such operations would likely be profitable if serving the Mano River Union sub-region. Concessional development funds and/or equipment donation may be sought to establish the operations by demonstrating the eventual transition to profitability as demand for battery (and other e-waste) disposal services increases within the sub-region. Possible funding sources suited to this project may be innovation funds, climate funds, or SSC. These same funding sources may be explored for other clean energy projects, including potential hydropower projects in Sierra Leone that have undergone feasibility studies.

The UNCT may support private sector investment in key sectors by serving as an impartial source of information for potential investors, to include evidence-based quantitative and qualitative data. This has proved valuable in the past as a complement to information provided to potential investors by local private sector entities and/or government.

9.4 Results Group 4

Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable

Results Group 4 may explore ideas with links to several funding categories. Traditional sources of funding, such as multi-lateral and bi-lateral funders, may be pursued to expand SGBV services, sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes,

HIV education and response services, and women's and girls' empowerment, as these types of programmes often link well with funding priorities of traditional development partners. Philanthropic organizations are another potential source of funds for these programmes, as many have underlying social and equality objectives.

In innovation, there is an idea to develop an app and related podcast to educate adolescents about sexual and reproductive health topics and available services. Funding opportunities in innovation may also support entrepreneurship training programmes for skills training and empowerment of vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, adolescents, and persons with disabilities. NGO grants may be pursued for prevention and treatment of HIV, to promote women's participation in political activities, to promote economic empowerment of vulnerable groups, and to enhance SGBV response services.

SSC offers opportunities to increase finance access for vulnerable groups, including through the UN Office of South-South Cooperation's India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund, which focuses on capacity-building among beneficiaries, built-in project sustainability, and knowledge sharing among Southern experts and institutions. IBSA currently has a digital financial service project in Sierra Leone.

As funding opportunities become available through multi-partner trust funds or under Humanitarian Response Plans, funding may be pursued for disability inclusion, human rights advancement, HIV treatment and response, and provision of dignity kits and other supplies, as circumstances demand.



10. Strategy Implementation

The UNCT has prepared an internal 2021 Action Plan linked to this Strategy. It outlines activities led by the UNCT Results Groups with coordination support from the RCO.

Ongoing discussions and efforts are planned with the M&E Group to reinforce comprehensive monitoring and reporting on each Outcome Area in UNINFO, which is emerging as an important digital tool for communicating progress to partners by reporting on identified indicators under each Outcome Area.

Discussions are also planned within the UN Communications Group (UNCG) on how to best communicate UNCT activities and impact to current and potential partners, using both traditional and innovative communication tools. These actions may strengthen outreach to existing donors, as well as proposals for new types of funding.

Each Results Group will operationalize their strategies by identifying a lead agency and supporting agencies for different proposal ideas. They may extend/initiate partnerships

with Government and non-state actors as warranted by each proposal idea, so as to take advantage of synergies and maximize joint efforts.

There will be regular dialogue and feedback among actors on Action Plan progress. It is also suggested to conduct a more comprehensive review of activity implementation at the end of each calendar quarter to allow for modifications and shifting of resources, as needed. In an ever-changing funding environment, it will be important to maintain flexibility to pursue promising funding and partnerships opportunities as they develop.

Following implementation of the 2021 Action Plan, subsequent annual plans will be prepared for each of the remaining two years of the UNSDCF. With well-coordinated and targeted actions on the part of the Results Groups and the UNCT, resource opportunities for the UNSDCF may be expanded and contribute to broader SDG attainment in Sierra Leone.





References

Climate Finance Update (CFU) database (2019). <https://climatefundsupdate.org/>

ECOWAS, Ndiaye, Déthié and European Union, (2019). Mapping of Climate Finance Flows to the ECOWAS-CILSS-WAEMU Zone (Multilateral public funding).

Government of Sierra Leone, (2020). Sierra Leone Integrated National Financing Framework: Towards Walking Out of Fragility by 2023 in the Country.

Government of Sierra Leone and United Nations Development Programme, (2020). Sierra Leone Development Finance Assessment.

Government of Sierra Leone and UNDP, (2019). Development Finance Assessment.

Multilateral Development Banks, (2019). Joint report on Multilateral Development Banks' climate finance in 2018.

OECD, (2019). Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013-17, OECD Publishing, Paris.

OECD, (2020). The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis on development finance.

OECD/UNCDF (2020), Blended Finance in the Least Developed Countries 2020: Supporting a Resilient COVID-19 Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/57620d04-en>.

United Nations, (2020). Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond: Menu of Options for the Consideration of Ministers of Finance, Parts 1 and 2.

United Nations, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020. (New York: United Nations, 2020), available from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/fsdr2020>.

United Nations, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021. (New York: United Nations, 2021), available from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/fsdr2021>.

United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone, (2020). United Nations COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan for Sierra Leone.

United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone, (2020). Common Country Analysis: 2020 Update.

University of Notre Dame, (2020). Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative: Vulnerability Rankings for 2018

Annex A: UNSDCF Funding Requirements

Table A-1 provides a detailed UNSDCF financing framework, expanding on the summary information presented in Table 1. One year into implementation, several outputs are partially funded.

Table A-1. UNSDCF Detailed Funding Requirements and Gaps (as of Q2 2020)

Outcome 1: Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security	Funds Available	To be mobilized	Total Funding Requirement
Output 1.1 Farmers especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups have equal access to information and decision-making opportunities on land tenure, improved agricultural practices, inputs, technology, financial services, linkage to markets, leveraging appropriate technologies and innovations	\$21,988,285	\$18,138,285	\$3,850,000
Output 1.2 Land and other natural resources (forests, minerals, marine, wetlands, etc.) are utilized in a sustainable and equitable manner	\$6,381,000	\$1,600,000	\$4,781,000
Output 1.3 Access to diversified, nutritious and safe food is increased, and adequate dietary intake improved	\$48,292,942	\$19,005,000	\$29,287,942
Output 1.4 An enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition (regulatory, institutional, research and policy framework) is in place	\$9,508,487	\$1,157,000	\$8,351,487
Output 1.5 Improved competitiveness and trade compliance of select value chains	\$24,287,000	\$24,247,000	\$40,000
Output 1.6 Preparedness systems in place and functional at community level to mitigate the impact of climate change	\$17,930,000	\$12,930,000	\$5,000,000
Total	\$128,387,714	\$77,077,285	\$51,310,429

Outcome 2: Transformational Governance	Funds Available	To be mobilized	Total Funding Requirement
Output 2.1: Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disabilities in elected offices is institutionalized	\$1,306,000	\$653,000	\$653,000
Output 2.2: Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) strengthened for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion.	\$1,473,144	\$736,572	\$736,572
Output 2.3: Access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, women, men, including persons with disabilities are fully protected	\$2,432,000	\$1,366,000	\$1,066,000
Output 2.4: Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions	\$7,003,200	\$6,251,600	\$751,600
Output 2.5: Local governance institutions are well resourced, service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented	\$4,570,000	\$4,100,000	\$470,000
Output 2.6: Government has strengthened Public Financial Management	\$660,000	\$330,000	\$330,000
Output 2.7: Government-wide national M&E system of development results strengthened	\$365,000	\$145,000	\$220,000
Total	\$17,809,344	\$13,582,172	\$4,227,172

Outcome 3: Access to Basic Services	Funds Available	To be mobilized	Total Funding Requirement
Output 3.1 Children, adolescents, young women and youth have increased access to comprehensive quality education services with improved learning outcomes	\$55,127,088	\$19,950,984	\$35,176,104
Output 3.2 The population has improved WASH coverage, quality services and positive WASH behaviours	\$20,995,372	\$4,997,500	\$15,997,872
Output 3.3 The population has access to integrated people-centered health services to achieve Universal Health Coverage	\$88,457,250	\$34,005,766	\$54,451,484
Output 3.4 Population has improved access to renewable energy in rural areas	\$45,885,146	\$41,885,146	\$4,000,000
Total	\$210,464,856	\$100,839,396	\$109,625,460

Outcome 4: Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable	Funds Available	To be mobilized	Total Funding Requirement
Output 4.1 Community behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of these rights	\$1,050,000	\$575,000	\$475,000
Output 4.2 Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented	\$800,000	\$390,000	\$410,000
Output 4.3 Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, protection services related to GBV, and other harmful practices (child marriage, FGM, child labour, trafficking)	\$4,336,034	\$2,735,409	\$1,600,625
Output 4.4 Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality and HIV education)	\$1,500,000	\$1,050,000	\$450,000
Output 4.5 Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and financial literacy, and employability	\$5,839,000	\$2,529,000	\$3,310,000
Output 4.6 Quality data is available and used for decision-making	\$941,000	\$871,000	\$70,000
Output 4.7 Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$0
Total	\$14,686,034	\$8,370,409	\$6,315,625

Annex B: Development Assistance Tracking



Two development aid tracking systems are managed by OECD and profiled below. The first is limited in scope to 30 countries and the second is a newer system that includes a wider range of donors and finance flows.

OECD Development Assistance Committee

The OECD [Development Assistance Committee](#) (DAC) is an international forum of many of the largest aid providers, comprised of 30 countries who are also OECD member states. The DAC tracks ODA by DAC members and its statistics also break down information by recipient country. The DAC [International Development Statistics](#) (IDS) online databases cover bilateral, multilateral aid and private providers' aid and other resource flows to developing countries, with comprehensive aggregate historical and forward-looking data on the volume, origin and destination of resource flows. Further, the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) provides detailed information on individual aid activities, such as sectors, countries, project descriptions etc. The IDS aggregate data is derived from the CRS.

OECD Total Official Support for Sustainable Development

[Total Official Support for Sustainable Development](#) (TOSSD) is a new OECD international statistical measure that provides a complete picture of all official resources and private finance mobilised by official interventions in support of sustainable development in developing countries. It goes beyond the above-mentioned DAC reporting systems, which are limited to DAC member countries and only track certain types of flows.

TOSSD receives reports from both Multi-lateral and Bi-lateral entities, including trust funds. It complements traditional ODA measures, such as the DAC measures, by capturing other types of support, including non-concessional flows, South-South co-operation, triangular co-operation, expenditures for international public goods, and private finance mobilised by official interventions.

TOSSD data is presented in two pillars: cross-border resources (Pillar I), and support to international public goods and global challenges, such as peace and security (Pillar II). Another innovative feature of TOSSD is that Items reported are screened as to what extent they support the SDGs. The first data reporting occurred in 2019, using 2017 data. Data can be accessed by category (bi-lateral, multi-lateral, etc.), sector, SDG focus and geographical location.

Annex C: Global Climate Funds and Sierra Leone

Table C-1. Climate Funds Received by Sierra Leone (excluding co-finance), as of February 2019

Programme Title	Fund	Approved (US\$ M)	Disbursed (US\$ M)
South-South Cooperation Grant (Readiness support package)	Adaptation fund	0.1	0.1
Adapting to Climate Change Induced Coastal Risks Management in Sierra Leone	Least-Developed Country Fund	10.0	ongoing
Building adaptive capacity to catalyse active public and private sector participation to manage the exposure and sensitivity of water supply services to climate change	Least-Developed Country Fund	2.9	2.9
Building Resilience to Climate Change in the Water Supply & Sanitation Sector	Least-Developed Country Fund	4.0	ongoing
Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Agricultural Production and Food Security in Sierra Leone	Least-Developed Country Fund	2.6	2.6
Preparation of a National Programme of Action for Adaptation to Climate Change	Least-Developed Country Fund	0.2	0.2
Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Western and Central Africa for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change	Least-Developed Country Fund	4.0	4.0
SPWA-CC Promoting Mini Grids Based on Small Hydropower for Productive Uses in Sierra Leone	Global Env. Facility - Round 4	1.8	1.8
Energy Efficient Production and Utilization of Charcoal through Innovative Technologies and Private Sector Involvement	Global Env. Facility - Round 5	1.8	1.8
REDD+ capacity building in Sierra Leone	Global Climate Change Alliance	5.6	1.9

Table C-2. Recent Applications / Awards of UN System in Sierra Leone
Some in collaboration with GoSL and other implementing partners

Fund Name	UN Entity, programme details
Least-Developed Country Fund	<p>UNIDO (2020 concept approved): Deployment of adaptation technologies, products and services in the water, agriculture and energy sector, \$9 million, 6-year programme.</p> <p>UNDP (2017-2022): Adapting to climate change induced coastal risks management in Sierra Leone, approximately \$10 million grant being implemented.</p>
Green Climate Fund	AfDB (2020 concept note) Freetown WASH and Aquatic Environment Revamping Programme, \$50 million, 5-year programme.
NAMA Fund	UNDP (2020 proposal submitted), Scaling up clean cooking in Sierra Leone, multi-year programme.
Adaptation Fund	IFAD (2019 funding approved): Sustaining agricultural production and increasing food security and nutrition of vulnerable poor communities, \$10 million, 6-year programme.
GEF Trust Fund	UNDP (2017 concept approved): Sustainable and Integrated landscape management of the Western Area Peninsula, 5.2 million.



Annex D: SDG Non-Financial Partnership Opportunities

A range of non-financial partnership opportunities exist that may be accessed by government and other entities to further the SDGs in Sierra Leone. The UNCT may play a role in orienting partners to these opportunities and facilitating connections. These partnerships have the potential to provide educational, technical, and public outreach resources to further SDG realization in Sierra Leone. Below are some relevant partnership information sources.

The [UN Office for Partnerships](#) is a platform for partners to connect so they may find opportunities and solutions to realize the SDGs. The office works globally, regionally and in countries. Recent initiatives have related to COVID-19 Response and Women Rise for All, a programme in support of women leaders. They also sponsor the SDG Action Zone during the annual UN General Assembly, a collaborative space for engaging world leaders and emerging leaders. The office also hosts the UN Democracy Fund and the global [SDG Advocates](#) programme.

[African Renaissance and Diaspora Network](#) (ARDN) revolves around supporting and furthering the sustainable development processes of the UN as they relate to Africa and the African Diaspora, with emphasis on the SDGs. ARDN mobilizes the passion of government, educators, artists, intellectuals, the private sector, civil society and youth, using the power of sport and culture as vectors for achieving the SDGs. ARDN also serves as secretariat for the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and the Diaspora, established by the Cali and Cartagena Declaration and Plan of Action for Africans and People of African Descent, which mobilizes local government to create a better world.

[Parliamentarians for the Global Goals](#) is a new global network of individual parliamentarians and national all-party groups or caucuses who are engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The group is a peer-to-peer, non-partisan initiative, open to all elected members of officially recognized local, national, regional legislative bodies.

City Partnerships

Several global networking institutions support SDG realization in cities with information resources, possible twinning arrangements, and potential funding opportunities. Four examples are noted here:

[ICLEI](#) – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, they influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Members and experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

[Cities Alliance](#) - Cities Alliance is a global partnership fighting urban poverty and promoting the role of

cities to deliver sustainable development. Cities Alliance promotes long-term programmatic approaches that support national and local governments to develop appropriate policy frameworks, strengthen local skills and capacity, undertake strategic city planning, and facilitate investment.

[United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG) - a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations, is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments to leave no-one and no place behind. Through collaboration, dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing, we work to advance global response and action through groundbreaking commitments and agreements. UCLG is a convener of the whole global local and regional governments constituency through the [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments](#), the mechanism through which the local and regional governments constituency deliberate and agree upon its political voice in the international agenda.

[C40 Cities](#) - C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. C40 networks connect city practitioners and Mayors around the world to enable stronger collective climate action.

Learning Institutions

Partnerships could be developed between universities in Sierra Leone and in other countries for institutional development and knowledge exchange. The [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) is a global network of knowledge-generating institutions, mainly universities, created to mobilize scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. Universities who commit to a set of SDG-related activities may join this network at no cost.

The [SDG Academy](#) creates and curates free, massive, open online courses and educational materials on the Sustainable Development Goals. Most courses are offered over a few weeks period, some self-paced and others through group learning. Educational content covers headline issues on climate change and other interdisciplinary topics related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Courses feature lectures by world-class sustainable development experts.

SDG Teaching in Schools

Programmes geared towards teaching the SDGs to school-age children provide a range of resources for schools and educators. A few of these programmes are listed below.

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education/sdgs/material> (UNESCO affiliated)

<https://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/> (UNICEF affiliated)

<http://www.teachsdgs.org/>

<https://innovationlabschools.com/sdgcurriculum.html>

Programmes to Popularize the SDGs

[Project Everyone](#): seeks to put the power of great communication behind the SDGs. Although private, this group has strong ties to the UN and the creator, film director Richard Curtis, is a UN global SDG Advocate. It is a team of communications and campaign specialists who sit at the heart of a global network of campaigning organisations, private sector partners, brands, governments, UN agencies, public figures, and social influencers. A not-for-profit agency, they create campaigns, short films, multiplatform content, convene partners, and put on unique events to accelerate SDG progress.

[Global Citizen](#): An NGO focused on ending global poverty, with strong celebrity engagement. It organizes massive global campaigns to amplify the actions of citizens from around the world. Global Citizen works in partnership with the NGO sector and with corporate sponsors to deliver audience value in innovative and impactful ways to achieve demonstrable policy success.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DEPAC	Development Partnership Committee
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
DPG	Development Partners Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GNI	Gross National Income
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
JP	Joint Programme
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Country Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MDA	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MoPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MTNDP	Medium-Term National Development Plan
NASSIT	National Social Security and Insurance Trust
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plan
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SME	Small- and Medium-size Enterprises
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TOSSD	Total Official Support for Sustainable Development
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



UNITED NATIONS
SIERRA LEONE



www.sierraleone.un.org



@UNSierraLeone