



Friday,  
14th February 2025

# Impact in Action: Stories That Matter

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# WFP and Njala University sign FeedSalone partnership to enhance food systems.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has signed a (MOU) with Njala University to enhance food systems focusing on research, climate-smart agriculture, and food security supporting the FeedSalone initiative.



The agreement, signed by WFP Country Director Yvonne Forsen and Vice-Chancellor Professor Bashiru M. Koroma, aims to foster cooperation to achieve shared goals. It will provide master's and PhD students opportunities for research related to WFP activities, such as school feeding and livelihood programs, and offer internships at WFP for practical experience.

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## IFAD supports over 200 farmers to harvest swamp rice to combat food insecurity.

An effort supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through its Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (AVDP) project and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) has led to over 200 rice farming communities in Sierra Leone actively harvesting their swamps.

**The initiative, aimed at** combating food insecurity and enhancing household incomes, aims to increase rice yields from less than two metric tons per hectare to an impressive average of 3.5 metric tons per hectare through the adoption of climate-smart practices.

Currently, the project is rehabilitating more than 2,300 hectares of land, leveraging the expertise of experienced Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) value chain technicians. They are working closely with farmers to promote sustainable production and productivity increases.

The results have been overwhelmingly positive, with farmers expressing optimism about the abundance of food and the potential for economic growth in their communities.

Farmers have noted that the IVS activities will help alleviate hunger and extreme poverty and address critical social issues such as youth unemployment. By providing economic opportunities, the project aims to reduce the rates of drug abuse and crime associated with a lack of prospects for young people.

**Using the Farmer Field School (FFS)** platform, the project emphasises a community-driven development approach. This community-driven approach has fostered collaboration and resilience among the farmers.

This model groups farmers together to implement climate-smart agronomic practices tailored to their local conditions, moving away from the previous service provider approach. This collective strategy enables farmers to share resources, learn from one another, and build resilience against potential climate shocks.

Additionally, the project provides quality input, including seeds, user-friendly farming equipment, fertilisers, irrigation systems, milling machines, storage facilities, and labour cost support.

**By equipping farmers with** the necessary tools and knowledge, the AVDP is paving the way for sustainable agricultural practices that can withstand the challenges posed by climate change. The efforts of the AVDP and its partners are transforming the landscape of rice farming in Sierra Leone. By focusing on sustainable practices and community empowerment, the project is improving food security and fostering economic growth and social stability.

# Ministry of Energy, EPA, and UNOPS conduct Public Disclosure tour of 6 Solar Mini-Grid sites in Bo.

In Bo District, a collaboration between the Ministry of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and UNOPS resulted in a public disclosure engagement regarding six solar mini-grid systems.



This initiative aimed to provide vital information and a platform for local voices, fostering trust and engagement among the community.

Funded by the Government of Japan, the Enhancing the Impact of Rural Renewable Energy Project targets areas like Naiagolehun and Petewoma, striving to boost electricity access and stimulate economic growth in these underserved rural communities.



# UNICEF enhances Sierra Leone's Mpox response with Water Tanks & Pressure Pumps to Connaught Hospital.

To support Sierra Leone's Mpox response, UNICEF has handed three 5,000L water storage tanks and pressure pumps to aid the supply of water to the Isolation Centre and Paediatric Ward of Connaught Hospital in #SierraLeone's capital Freetown (the main referral hospital in the country) and repaired its water supply system to help prevent the spread of the Mpox disease.



Additionally, 60,000 personal protective equipment worth \$ 450,000 were donated to the National Public Health Agency. UNICEF is also supporting education, sensitization, and social listening efforts to curtail the spread of the disease. The UNICEF-supported social listening report is based on data insights and trends gathered by monitoring online conversations related to public perceptions and sentiments regarding Mpox to strengthen GOSL and partners' preparedness and response efforts.

# UNICEF launches its new Country Program for 2025-2030.

UNICEF this week launched its New Country Programme for 2025-2030 at an engagement held at Foreign Service Academy in Freetown. It was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) with an inspiring panel debate with line ministers and key public policy influencers and adolescents on Public Finance for Children & Child Rights programme. External partners and other stakeholders graced the launching ceremony.





# UNDP Donates vehicle to Ministry of Environment and Climate for Western Area Peninsula Project Monitoring

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has successfully enhanced Sierra Leone's revenue mobilisation efforts by delivering eight official vehicles to the National Revenue Authority (NRA). This initiative, part of UNDP's Development Service Delivery program, features a fleet of six Land Cruiser Prados and two Toyotas, specifically designed to address the NRA's mobility challenges, particularly in remote border areas.



**She stated,** “This new fleet will greatly enhance our ability to generate revenue, especially in remote areas,” and highlighted the cost-effective nature of this procurement, which will allow the NRA to cover more territory and improve staff mobility. Looking ahead, UNDP aims to continue leveraging its global procurement networks to provide essential resources for additional government ministries and agencies, further contributing to Sierra Leone's development goals and maximizing the impact of its initiatives.

**At the handover ceremony,** UNDP's Resident Representative, Fredrick Ampiah, praised the collaboration, affirming, “Today's handover underscores the strong partnership between UNDP and vital national institutions like the NRA, enabling improved resource optimisation that boosts revenue collection and service delivery.”

With the new vehicles, the NRA can significantly expand its operational reach, enhancing its capability to collect revenue across the country. Deputy Commissioner General, Ann Marie Baby Harding, expressed her appreciation for the timely support, noting that outdated vehicles had previously hindered their efforts.



# UNDP enhances NRA's revenue mobilization capacity with 8 new vehicles.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has handed over eight official vehicles to Sierra Leone's National Revenue Authority (NRA) to support its revenue mobilisation efforts. The vehicles were procured through UNDP's Development Service Delivery initiative.



**UNDP's Resident Representative**, Fredrick Ampiah, highlighted the importance of the collaboration, saying, *"Today's handover is a testament to the strong partnership between UNDP and national institutions like NRA. By optimising their resources, we help improve revenue collection and service delivery"*.

The fleet consists of six Land Cruiser Prados and two Toyotas, to support the NRA's work. NRA, essential to the country's revenue mobilisation, often faces mobility challenges, particularly in remote border areas. The new vehicles will significantly enhance NRA's operational reach, improving revenue collection across Sierra Leone.

**Deputy Commissioner General**, Ann Marie Baby Harding expressed gratitude for the support, saying, *"Many of our vehicles are outdated, hindering our efforts. This new fleet will improve our ability to generate revenue, especially in remote areas."* She added that the procurement was cost-effective, helping NRA cover more ground and support staff mobility. UNDP plans to continue leveraging its global procurement networks to optimize resources for other government ministries and agencies, contributing to the country's development goals and expanding UNDP's impact.

# FAO discusses fishing needs with Ministers of Planning and Fisheries.

From February 3-7, 2025, Sierra Leone hosted a study tour for representatives from six Francophone countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, and Niger—to observe the successful implementation of the PEN-Plus program in Kono District.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in Sierra Leone, Saeed A. Bantie, and Assistant FAO Representative in charge of Programs, Harding Bockarie Wuyango, have held a fruitful meeting with the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Madam Kenyeh Barlay, and Minister of Fisheries Marine Resources, Madam Princess Dugba. Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration for the February 2025 closed fishing season and supporting alternative livelihoods for fishermen and fishmongers.

**In conclusion**, the meeting between FAO representatives and the Ministers of Planning and Fisheries underscored the commitment to enhancing sustainable fisheries management in Sierra Leone. By fostering collaboration on the February 2025 closed fishing season and exploring alternative livelihoods for fishermen and fishmongers, the discussions laid a strong foundation for strengthening food security, economic resilience, and marine conservation efforts. The engagement reflects a shared vision for responsible fisheries governance and the well-being of coastal communities.



# UN Resident Coordinator meets with Indian High Commissioner to strengthen partnerships.

This week, Resident Coordinator Seraphine Wakana welcomed H.E. B. C. Pradhan, High Commissioner of India to Sierra Leone for a courtesy call this week in Freetown. The meeting underscored a commitment to strengthening cooperation across key sectors, including business, the digital economy, health, and human capital development.



Discussions also centered on aligning efforts with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025-2030) and the Medium-Term National Development Plan (2024-2030), ensuring that international partnerships contribute effectively to national priorities.

A significant highlight of the discussions was the Indian Envoy's reaffirmation of support for the UN Country Team's disability program, emphasising the importance of inclusion in development initiatives.

This commitment aligns with the UN's mission to leave no one behind, reinforcing efforts to create an equitable and sustainable future for all.



# UN Sierra Leone prepares for its annual results reporting.

Through the Programme Management Team (PMT), the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone held its Annual Results Report Workshop, a key exercise to enhance the quality and coherence of the 2024 UN Annual Results Report.

The focus was to provide quality assurance and ensure that the report is result based and captures the transformative contributions of UN agencies to Sierra Leone's national development results and SDGS.



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SIERRA LEONE**



**On Day One**, participants discussed best practices, data validation, and evidence-based reporting, emphasizing the role of storytelling and data visualization in showcasing the transformative impact of UN interventions on socioeconomic progress and human capital development.

Day Two Day centered on drafting the Annual Results Report, with agencies collaborating to create a high-impact, results-oriented document aligned with Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan. The report aims to serve as an effective tool for accountability and advocacy. Overall, the workshop reinforced the UNCT's commitment to transparency and data-driven decision-making, paving the way for a strong Annual Report that highlights UN Sierra Leone's achievements and future priorities.

**The workshop reinforced** the UNCT's commitment to transparency, data-driven decision-making, and sustainable results, setting the stage for a strong, results-driven Annual Report highlighting UN Sierra Leone's achievements and future priorities.





# IOM reunites 5 unaccompanied minors to their families in the UK.

This week, IOM facilitated the movement of 5 unaccompanied minors (4 female and 1 male) to the United Kingdom to reunify with their families. This activity underscores the organization's commitment to reuniting families and ensuring the well-being of vulnerable children in the spirit of Leaving No One Behind.

Equally, IOM's support for medical cases, such as the transfer of a female migrant from Lebanon to Sierra Leone and her subsequent check-in at Choithram Hospital for proper medical follow-ups, demonstrates our care for the health of all migrants.



## Government assures IOM of support for returnees.

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Minister of Internal Affairs, has assured IOM of its commitment to supporting returnees with the needs required for them to be reintegrated into the community. This assurance was made at the Steering Committee Meeting for the Migrant Protection, Return, and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR-SSA) held at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Conference Room.

The meeting was marked by the sharing of inspiring updates, including success stories that serve as tangible evidence of the program's effectiveness, and a united vision for long-term impact, focusing on enhanced services and addressing challenges.



**In conclusion**, IOM's recent efforts in reuniting unaccompanied minors with their families in the UK and facilitating medical support for vulnerable migrants highlight its dedication to humanitarian assistance and migrant protection. Simultaneously, the Government of Sierra Leone's commitment to supporting returnees reinforces a collaborative approach to sustainable reintegration. These initiatives reflect a shared vision of ensuring dignity, safety, and long-term well-being for migrants, aligning with the broader goal of leaving no one behind.



**LEAVE  
NO ONE  
BEHIND**

# UNFPA & Planned Parenthood Association hold International Condom Day outreach with school pupils.

On February 13, #InternationalCondomDay, together with Planned Parenthood Association, UNFPA engaged pupils of the Rokel Government School with vital health messages—emphasizing the importance of bodily autonomy, staying safe, healthy choices and the power of abstinence.



# UNFPA and SLMDA -host symposium on Obstetric Fistula.

UNFPA this week used the platform of the 47th Sierra Leone Medical & Dental Association (SLMDA) Annual General and Scientific Meeting attended by the Vice President Dr Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, the Deputy Ministers of Health, and other key stakeholders to co-host a symposium on Obstetric Fistula. This important forum provides a platform to engage with healthcare professionals to advance maternal and reproductive health.



# UNFPA supports the graduation of a new cohort of healthcare providers.

UNFPA has supported the graduation ceremony of a new cohort of healthcare providers 16 (Surgical Assistant Community Health Officers (SACHOs) and 2 Medical Officers at Masanga, Bombali District, ready to deliver life-saving obstetric and surgical care in underserved areas in Sierra Leone! This effort is made possible with support from UNFPA, Ministry of Health, Iceland, Capacare and partners, working together to bridge critical gaps in maternal and newborn health.





# UN Women & Gender Ministry train Partners on the Sierra Leone National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security.

UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs has concluded a two-day training on the popularization of the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP III) on Women Peace and Security at the Atlantic Hotel in Freetown, Western Urban District. UN Women's Women Peace and Security Programme Specialist, Mariama Kosia Koiyia said, "Plans are underway to train more civil society organizations and key district stakeholders across the six districts in Sierra Leone." Thanks to the UN Peacebuilding Fund for supporting this initiative.



## UN Women holds consultative meetings for women farmers groups in Bombali and Kerene District.

**Ngoila Women** in Agriculture Cooperative Society with technical support from UN Women has successfully concluded its first consultative meetings with women farmers' groups as part of efforts to align economic empowerment strategies in Bombali and Kerene District covering 10 chiefdoms.



## UN Women, UNDP and partners hold District level stakeholder engagement in 5 Coastal Districts.

Through the "Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Gender Mainstreaming in Local Councils" project, supported by the Government of Iceland, and implemented by UN Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs and the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs has this week started district level stakeholders engagement in five (5) coastal Districts-Port Loko, Kambia, Bonthe, Moyamba, and Western Rural District.

As part of the UN Partnership for Gender Mainstreaming (GiM) initiative to promote the implementation of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act 2022. The initiative aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of local councils to implement the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act (GEWE Act), Policy, and other gender-related laws in Sierra Leone.

# UNCDF reviews progress on agency banking rollout with Rokel Commercial Bank.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) held a Project steering committee meeting with Rokel Commercial Bank (chaired by the bank CEO) to review progress on agency banking rollout in farming communities across the country to increase financial access points for farmers.



Commercial Bank and Guaranty Trust Bank partnered with UNCDF to extend financial access points to rural farming communities. Since Central Bank released the 'Agency banking Guidelines in 2020, 550 bank agents had been collectively deployed by 2024.

This project aims to triple the number of bank agents to 1550 by June 2026 evenly spread across the 16 districts whilst carrying out Digital & Financial Literacy for these communities.

**In conclusion**, the UNCDF's collaboration with Rokel Commercial Bank and Guaranty Trust Bank marks a significant step toward enhancing financial inclusion in rural farming communities. The review of the agency banking rollout underscores the progress made since the introduction of the Agency Banking Guidelines in 2020, with 550 agents already deployed. With an ambitious target to expand this network to 1,550 agents by June 2026 across all 16 districts, alongside Digital and Financial Literacy initiatives, this project is set to bridge financial gaps, empower farmers, and drive economic growth in underserved areas.





## Get in Touch with the UN Media.



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