



Monday–Friday,
10th–14th March 2025

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Table of Contents

- 01 • **UNCT discusses with Chief Minister on efficient support to Gov't's development agenda**
- 02 • **UNICEF First Aid kits for 8, 187 schools arrive in Freetown.**
- 03 • **Res Coord, UN Women & UNFPA Heads visit to Rehab. Centre.**
- 04 • **ITC trains Tech Hub coaches to support startup growth in Sierra Leone.**
- 05 • **FAO MAFS & Statistics Sierra Leone participate in 10-Day capacity-building training on data privacy.**
- 06 • **UN Women & Indian High Commission Partner to Advance Women's Empowerment in Sierra Leone**
- 07 • **ILO Conteh Industries in Port Loko district benefits from Opportunity Salone programmes.**
- 08 • **WHO Sierra Leone boosts EMTCT efforts with frontline health worker training.**
- 09 • **ILO hands over 21.5km Feeder Road to Bo communities, enhancing livelihoods and market access.**
- 10 • **Sierra Leone enhances TB Data Quality with new tools and training.**
- 07 • **UNCDF Empowering Youth Bike Riders for Peace and Resilience in Sierra Leone**
- 09 • **UNDP supports Sierra Leone's Police transition to a service.**
- 10 • **IOM in collaborates on Global Compact for Migration consultations.**

UNCT discusses with Chief Minister on efficient support to Govt's development agenda .

On Thursday, UN Resident Coordinator Seraphine Wakana led the UN Country Team (UNCT) in a meeting with Chief Minister Dr. David Moinina Sengh. The UNCT, committed to supporting Sierra Leone's Development Agenda, discussed global funding challenges, prioritization of development interventions, and alternative financing options.

At State House, the RC commended the Government for ensuring prudent public financial management and accountability. She emphasized the UN's readiness to explore alternative financial windows and innovations to support the country's priorities.

A key submission was for the Government to fully exploit opportunities from the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, regional economic communities, and other intergovernmental institutions to mobilize domestic resources and boost economic growth and revenue generation.



The RC informed the Chief Minister of the upcoming mission to Sierra Leone by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Director of the Sub Regional Office for North Africa to support debt restructuring.

The Chief Minister welcomed the submissions and promised to convey them to the President and Vice President. He informed the RC that his office is leading an initiative on capital investment prioritization in collaboration with capital-intensive ministries.

She underscored the importance of the visit and the need for Sierra Leone's active participation in the upcoming UN International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain, in June.

He also mentioned the development project prioritization that the government is adopting, which considers metrics such as impact and percentage of completion.



Res Coord, UN Women & UNFPA heads visit to rehab centre.

On Wednesday, UN Resident Coordinator Seraphine Wakana, along with Heads of Agency from UN Women and UNFPA, Setcheme Mongbo and Sibeso Mululuma, and colleagues from the Resident Coordinator's Office, visited the Mahanahiem Residential Rehabilitation Centre in Grafton, Freetown.

The visit aimed to "To have a first-hand view of the challenges faced by OPDs, especially children with disabilities and their caregivers and assess the long and short-term needs of children with disabilities and align with the UNDIG, CF interventions, and advocacy plan.

They engaged with children, caregivers, and staff at the orphanage to understand their needs and aspirations and identify potential partnerships and resources to enhance the quality of life and opportunities for the children.



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The RC pledged to advocate for those left behind, especially those with disabilities at the Centre. The Centre houses 42 residents, mostly orphans aged 2 to 16 with severe and multiple disabilities. It also cares for three pupils without disabilities. Stigma and accusations of witchcraft have led to some residents being abandoned, including two children left at the gate last week.

Edward Emmanuel, Executive Director of OFF, stated their goal is to reach more individuals affected by disability. The UN Sierra Leone has been involved in various activities and programs related to disability inclusion, such as the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, ensuring outcomes and outputs include persons with disabilities.



First Aid kits for 8,187 schools arrive in Freetown.

A shipment of 2,400 first aid kits has arrived in Sierra Leone to equip 8,187 schools across all 16 districts, reinforcing health and safety measures for 2.3 million students.



According to UNICEF, this initiative, part of the Free Education Project, is a major step toward ensuring that schools have the necessary resources to respond to medical emergencies and provide a safer learning environment for children across the country.

To maximize the impact of the first aid kits, 152 master trainers will be deployed to train teachers on their proper use. This effort will equip educators with the skills needed to handle injuries and medical emergencies effectively, preventing minor incidents from escalating into severe health risks.

This initiative is made possible through the collaboration of the Government of Sierra Leone, UNICEF, and the World Bank, with Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA playing a key role in transporting 7.2 tons of first aid equipment from Copenhagen to Freetown.

The shipment was accompanied by a delegation of 16 representatives from UNICEF Norway and Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA.

The arrival of the shipment coincides with the renewal of Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA's partnership with UNICEF for another four years (until 2028). Since 2007, Norwegian has raised 65 million NOK for UNICEF through various initiatives, including seven emergency aid flights delivering life-saving supplies to children in crisis areas.

Norwegian's long-term commitment continues to demonstrate how aviation plays a crucial role in humanitarian efforts, ensuring that essential aid reaches children when and where it is needed most.





MAFS & Statistics Sierra Leone participate in 10-Day capacity-building training on data privacy.

As part of the **50x2030** Initiative and FAO's efforts to promote open data and microdata sharing in Sierra Leone, 10 participants selected from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and Statistics Sierra Leone (Stat_SL) are currently taking part in a 10-day capacity-building training focused on data anonymization and dissemination.



The training held at the Atlantic Hotel in Freetown is led by Bruce Wife NanaNana and Oluwakayode Anidi.



ITC trains tech hub coaches to support startup growth in Sierra Leone.

This week, the International Trade Centre (ITC), under the KOICA-funded READY Salone project, successfully trained 20 tech hub coaches in the use of the FastTrackTech 360Diagnostics Startup Assessment Tool.



The curriculum also introduced an early-stage business development framework designed to foster innovation, preparing coaches to support startups both in Freetown and across the regions.

Key Outcomes of the Training include; Proficiency in the FastTrackTech 360Diagnostics tool, the ability to guide startups through the assessment process, and skills to structure and deliver actionable insights based on diagnostic reports.

The READY Salone project, funded by KOICA and implemented by ITC, continues to strengthen entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Sierra Leone.

The training, held at the IPAM Centre of Excellence in Freetown, equipped participants with the skills to assess startups, identify key strengths and weaknesses, and provide strategic guidance for business growth.

The 360Diagnostics Tool is a comprehensive framework that evaluates startups across key business dimensions, including strategy, operations, marketing, and financial management.

With this training, the coaches will play a crucial role in helping Sierra Leonean startups conduct self-assessments, interpret diagnostic reports, and implement recommendations to improve their business performance.

Led by international experts, the programme combined theoretical knowledge with hands-on exercises, ensuring participants gained practical experience in conducting assessments and generating diagnostic reports.



Conteh Industries in Port Loko district benefits from Opportunity Salone programmes.

Bai Conteh, the resilient owner of Conteh Industries in Lungi, Port Loko District, has been empowered with equipment to scale up the production of domestic washing powder using palm kernel oil.

Identified by the Opportunity Salone Programme, this business has overcome challenges with hands-on support, instilling hope in the local business community.



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Receiving items like a mixer, dryer, and tricycle from the Technical Programme Advisory Committee (TPAC), Bai noted that the equipment has been transformative for young soap makers in the north. He expressed support for such interventions to ensure young people are included, fostering optimism locally.

The ILO, through its EU-Funded Opportunity Salone Programme, has significantly contributed to SME growth in four Sierra Leone districts via capacity building and financial support. This has boosted economic activities, enabling businesses to document financial records and monitor growth effectively.

The ILO's interventions are a beacon of hope, focusing on creating and promoting decent jobs for Sierra Leoneans. This commitment is improving livelihoods in Bo, Kenema, Bombali, and Port Loko.

Additionally, the ILO handed over a 21.5km feeder road to the people of Bo, further enhancing local infrastructure.

ILO hands over 21.5km feeder roads to Bo communities, enhancing livelihoods and market access.

Twelve communities in Bo District have benefited from the routine maintenance of 21.5 km of feeder roads, a project led by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This initiative not only improved road infrastructure but also provided capacity building for SME contractors recommended by the District Councils, aligning with the ILO's commitment to skill development in feeder road maintenance.



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The ILO highlighted that the project provided livelihood opportunities for community members, empowering women and youths with hands-on skills and financial gains through daily wages for their participation in the road works.

Residents shared that the road maintenance was crucial in supporting their families, as poor road networks had previously hindered the sale of their farm produce, leading to post-harvest losses.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude to the ILO and donors, residents noted that businesspeople now easily access their communities to buy farm produce due to the improved roads.

Elfreda Bockarie, Planning and Development Officer for Bo District, representing the Chairman of the council, emphasized the importance of community involvement in maintaining the roads. She encouraged residents to use the skills gained from the project to ensure the roads' durability and extended her gratitude to the ILO and EU for their support.

Driven by the ILO Opportunity Salone Programme, this initiative aims to create market linkages, connecting people and communities for enhanced economic activities.

UN Women & Indian High Commission partner to advance women's empowerment in Sierra Leone.



On March 8, 2025, UN Women Sierra Leone and the Indian High Commission celebrated International Women's Day at Sierra Palms Hotel.



The event gathered Indian women entrepreneurs, professionals, Sierra Leone government officials, and UN Women staff to exchange insights on gender equality, drawing lessons from India to benefit Sierra Leone. Initiated by UN Women, the event featured discussions on women's economic empowerment and the private sector's role in health, education, and business development.

The Indian High Commissioner highlighted women's progress in India and Sierra Leone, emphasizing economic empowerment as crucial for gender equality. He called for enabling policies to support women's growth in business and leadership.

Deputy Minister for Gender and Children's Affairs, Mr. Charles Vandy, praised the Indian community's contributions to Sierra Leone's economic growth and advocated for stronger partnerships to boost women's entrepreneurship and leadership.

This year's theme, "For All Women and Girls – Rights, Equality, Empowerment," reinforced commitments to the Beijing+30 Agenda and Sierra Leone's gender equality efforts through policy reforms and economic inclusion. The event advanced the Global Women's Empowerment Principles and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act (GEWE 2022).

A key outcome was the Indian High Commission's pledge to support women's education through STEM scholarships and forensics training for the national police, marking a long-term investment in women's leadership. Expressing gratitude, UN Women's Head of Office in Sierra Leone called for continued partnerships to ensure women's potential is fully realized.

The event concluded with cultural performances by the Indian women's community, celebrating cultural unity and commitment to empowering women.



Empowering youth bike riders for peace and resilience in Sierra Leone.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Youth Affairs engaged national, regional and district executives of the Bike Riders Union have met to discuss project progress and jointly plan activities for 2025.



Key among these planned activities, is the upcoming reverification exercise of youth bike riders in the five project districts- Western Area Urban, Western Area Rural, Bo, Kenema, and Makeni.

This engagement also solicited the BRU executive's buy-in to assure sustainability of the project.

With the overall aim of empowering female and male youth bike riders as sustainable agents of peace, UNCDF's intervention is focused on protecting and empowering 6,000 youth bike riders in the targeted districts to be more resilient through entrepreneurship, business and financial skills trainings, and a financial product tailored to bike riders, courtesy of funding from the United Nations Peace Building Fund.

Sierra Leone Boosts EMTCT efforts with frontline Health Worker training.

Sierra Leone has taken a significant step towards the Triple elimination of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B from mother-to-child by successfully completing training for 80 frontline healthcare workers in Makeni and Bo.

The training, conducted from March 10th to 14th, 2025, equipped Maternal and Child Health Aides, Senior Enrolled Community Health Nurses, Midwives, Community Health Officers, and HIV Counselors with essential skills to deliver integrated Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) services within maternal and child health (MCH) platforms.



World Health Organization



Funded by the Global Fund and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), the initiative addressed critical service delivery gaps identified in a recent EMTCT cascade analysis. The analysis revealed challenges such as low ART initiation rates, low facility-based deliveries for HIV positive women, and gaps in infant testing.

WHO provided technical support, ensuring the training aligned with global best practices and focused on service integration, clinical case management and effective follow up of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B cases.

The training will enhance treatment initiation, facility-based deliveries, and early infant care, by strengthening service integration. By building the capacity of frontline health workers,

Sierra Leone is reinforcing its commitment to global EMTCT targets and improving maternal and child health outcomes. Continued mentorship, strengthened supply chains, and robust monitoring are crucial to sustain these gains.



Sierra Leone enhances TB data quality with new tools and training.

Sierra Leone's National Tuberculosis (TB) Program has advanced its efforts to improve data accuracy by developing a Data Quality Assurance (DQA) checklist and manual.

During a four-day workshop in Freetown (March 13-16, 2025), 30 national and district TB supervisors collaborated to address data quality challenges identified in a recent mid-term TB program review.



World Health Organization



The workshop facilitated the development of standardized tools and guidelines for assessing TB data quality. Participants designed a DQA checklist outlining essential TB program indicators and strategies for resolving data inconsistencies found in annual reports.

Additionally, they produced a detailed manual to guide the application of the checklist in routine data monitoring.

Training sessions focused on practical implementation, equipping participants with the necessary skills to conduct routine data quality checks using the new tools. The workshop also incorporated the TB data quality dashboard in DHIS2, enhancing real-time data analysis and reporting.

By strengthening data management capacity at all levels, the National TB Program aims to improve the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of TB data.

These advancements will support better program performance, more effective decision-making, and ultimately, stronger TB control efforts in Sierra Leone. Thanks to Global Fund for financial support.



UNDP supports Sierra Leone's Police transition to a Service.

As part of its technical and financial support to the Sierra Leone Police's (SLP) transition from a Force into a Service, during the week, UNDP collaborated with the institution to organize a Town Hall in Kenema to share its vision for a more professional and service-oriented police institution.



UNDP's Senior Rule of Law and Human Rights Officer, Alie B. Sesay, outlined key milestones in this transformation, including the review of the Police Act and the incorporation of lessons learned from knowledge exchange with the Ghana Police Service into the SLP Strategic Development Plan 2025-2029.

These efforts aim to modernize Sierra Leone's policing framework and align it with international best practices.

Through these consultations, UNDP and SLP are fostering a collaborative approach to police reform, reinforcing accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement in security governance.

The March 13 meeting brought together police personnel, UNDP representatives, the media, students, and the public as part of a series of six nationwide engagements designed to ensure broad-based dialogue and stakeholder input into this transition.

Led by William Fayia Sellu, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) emphasised the importance of strengthening police-community relations to enhance public trust and security for all. "Transition is a journey, and we are committed to seeing it through. We will do everything necessary to achieve this strategic goal," the IGP reassured.

IOM in collaborates on Global Compact for Migration consultations.

From 4-11 March 2025, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, in collaboration with IOM and the UN Network on Migration, held regional consultations on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in Sierra Leone.



These sessions engaged stakeholders from all 16 districts to develop a national implementation plan and establish a migration coordination mechanism, with support from the UNNM and EU.

In another development, IOM also hosted a technical capacity-building workshop on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) for members of the Technical Working Groups on Return and Reintegration, Protection, and Mental Health/Psychosocial Support.

The session strengthened the capacity of key stakeholders in migration management, focusing on return, protection, psychosocial support, and reintegration, and it was with support from the European Union.



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Media Contacts



Islander **KABIA**,
Communication Officer -
OIC
Email: ikabia@unfpa.org



Moses **KALOKOH**, Communications Officer
Email: mokalokoh@iom.int | Phone: +232 77 774294



Janet Alamisi **DABIRE**, Communications Specialist
Email: janet.dabire@undp.org | Phone: +232 309 68950



International
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Maraya Mushka **CONTEH**, Corporate Communications
Assistant
Email: conteh@ilo.org



Mohamed Lamarana **JALLOH**, Communications Specialist
Email: Jalloh.Mohamed@fao.org | Phone: +232 79244233



Suzanne Wooster –
PREMATILAKE, Chief Communication and Advocacy
Phone: +232 759 86567



Mohamed **KANU**, Communication and Knowledge
Management Specialist, UNCDF
Email: mohamed.kanu@undp.org | Phone: +232 77 245031



John Duguba **KAMARA**,
UNESCO National Project Officer
Email: jd.kamara@unesco.org |
Phone: +232 772 27137



Mohamed **KARGBO**,
Communications Officer
Email:
mohamed.kargbo@unwomen.org
| Phone: +232 766 03665



Osman **SANKOH**, Programme
Communication
and Advocacy Officer
Email: sankoh0@un.org
| Phone: +232 309 68909



Paul **JATALIAN**, Project
Coordinator
Email:
p.jatalian@unido.org



Anthony Musyoka **MAKAU**, Country
Focal Point
Email: anthony.makau@un.org



Selamawit Mussie **MEKONNEN**,
Economic Adviser Officer
Email:
selamawit.mekonnen@un.org



Shiaka **KAWA**, National
Coordinator
Email: skawa@intracen.org
| Phone: +232 76 60 3665



Semion Saffa-**TURAY**,
Strategic Information
Adviser
Email:
SaffaturayS@unaids.org
| Phone: +232 78 882 900



Francis **BOIMA**,
Communication Associate
Email: Francis.boima@wfp.org
| Phone: +232 76 750 587



Victoria **CHENDEKA**, Communications Senior
Analyst Officer Email: victoriak@unops.org |
Phone: +232 30 882151 | 030 30 7839



Madlyn **SHARCAH**,
National Communication
Officer
Email: sharkahm@who.int |
Phone: +232 73 62 3665



Tanya **HONNAH**, Communication
Officer (Graphic Design and Social
Media)
Email: tanya.honnah@un.org
| Phone: +232 78 751 325



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