



Monday–Friday,
17th – 21st March 2025

Impact in Action: Stories That Matter

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Res. Coordinator engages Min. of Planning on Salone's Peacebuilding and Prevention Agenda.

During the week, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) led a team of UN colleagues, including UNDP's Resident Representative, Fredrick Ampiah, and the technical team, in an engagement with the Minister of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), Madam Kenyeh Barlay to discuss Sierra Leone's peacebuilding priorities.

The discussion reflected on Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) support, the upcoming UN 4th international conference on Financing for Development and the Power of Data Initiative. The meeting set the pace for collaborative approaches to various processes in these three areas, which was discussed in detail.



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At the meeting, the RC commended the progress made by the country on peace building initiatives, emphasizing the UN Country Team's commitment to supporting the government's efforts towards prevention and sustaining peace. In Similar vein, the RC noted with interest the government's discussions on financing for development, recalling the UN's support to supporting the government in exploring sustainable financing approaches, towards mid-term and long-term development.

On the other hand, the Minister underscored the government's commitment to peacebuilding and highlighted the importance of adopting a prevention approach to safeguard the peace gains in the country, further appreciating PBF for the support on the same. The Minister also emphasised that stakeholders' engagement is crucial to redefining the efforts towards peacebuilding, to enhance collaboration and impact.



National Fund for Public Interest Media launched in Freetown.

UN Resident Coordinator Seraphine Wakana this week called on stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the private sector, to play their crucial and valued part in supporting the National Fund for Public Interest Media (NaFPIM), which was launched at the Brookfields Hotel in Freetown. In her keynote address, she emphasized the importance of their support in creating an environment where journalism thrives, and truth and justice prevail.

The RC said that NaFPIM aligns perfectly with the UN's objective to foster a free and independent press, stressing that a robust media sector is not just essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals but also for upholding human rights and ensuring the accountability of democratic institutions.

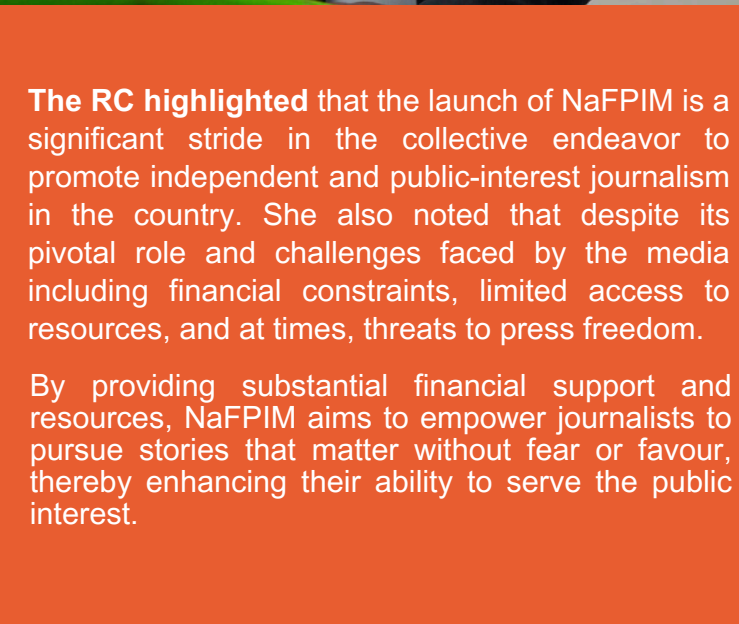


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She emphasised that the United Nations remains committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen democratic institutions and promote human rights. The RC also thanked the organisers, the Media Reform Coordinating Group, for the initiative, which the International Fund for Public Interest Media and the UK Aid-funded Public Interest Media and Healthy Information Environments (PIMHIE) programme through BBC Media Action will provide grants to media institutions.



The RC highlighted that the launch of NaFPIM is a significant stride in the collective endeavor to promote independent and public-interest journalism in the country. She also noted that despite its pivotal role and challenges faced by the media including financial constraints, limited access to resources, and at times, threats to press freedom.

By providing substantial financial support and resources, NaFPIM aims to empower journalists to pursue stories that matter without fear or favour, thereby enhancing their ability to serve the public interest.

Population Mobility Mappings to support Mpox outbreak response conducted.

IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, is currently conducting a crucial initiative-Population Mobility Mapping. This effort is designed to support the Mpox outbreak response in Sierra Leone.

By collaborating with the National Public Health Agency, local leaders, and the transport sector, IOM aims to identify transmission hotspots and enhance disease surveillance, especially at points of entry.



Meanwhile, during the past week, IOM demonstrated its commitment to supporting migrants by successfully facilitating voluntary return flights. These flights carried a total of 50 migrants, including nine female migrants from Lebanon, 38 from Algeria (30 males, eight females), two females from Senegal, and one female from Iraq.

At the beginning of the week, IOM took a promising step by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Aurora Foundation. This collaboration is set to provide essential training and support for returned migrants, offering them a hopeful path to building skills and successfully integrating into their communities.



FAO and the Ministry of Lands conduct a workshop to promote inclusivity in sustainable tenure governance in Sierra Leone.



FAO, the Ministry of Lands, and the National Land Commission in Sierra Leone have hosted a two-day multi-stakeholder workshop on enhancing Inclusiveness for Sustainable Tenure Governance in Sierra Leone.



The event, held at the New Brookfields Hotel in Freetown on March 18th and 19th, brought together various stakeholders, including community leaders, civil society organizations, and women's advocacy groups, to discuss the issue.

With the support of the FAO, the workshop aimed to improve collaboration and communication between national and district levels, emphasizing the importance of aligning national land governance structures with local ones.

In his statement, FAO Representative Saeed Abubakar Bance highlighted the urgency of addressing challenges such as climate change, land degradation, and unregulated investments that **affect sustainable land governance**.



The Minister of Lands, Housing, and Country Planning, Dr. Turad Senesie, said Sierra Leone has made significant progress in reforming land governance, particularly with the enactment of the Customary Land Rights Act and the National Land Commission Act 2022. He described the workshop as crucial to achieving sustainable and inclusive land governance in Sierra Leone.



Paramount Chief David Coomber Keili on behalf of the Council of Paramount Chiefs said the workshop was a platform to reaffirm their shared commitment to enhancing inclusivity in tenure governance across Sierra Leone.

Johannes Behrens, Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy, stated that the country has made significant strides in reforming and implementing land use and rights at both local and national levels, which he said will promote sustainable agriculture.



WHO Antimicrobial Resistance awareness raising held at MMTU & COMAHS.

To combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the Ministry of Health's National AMR unit, supported by The Fleming Fund Country Grant and in collaboration with WHO Sierra Leone, held an AMR awareness session last week at the Milton Margai Technical University (MMTU).



World Health Organization



Previously, at the College of Medicines and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS). The event, part of the lead-up to World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW), attracted over 500 students and staff from MMTU and COMAHS. The theme was “Educate. Advocate. Act Now.”

The session included panel discussions with AMR experts, students, policymakers, drug regulatory bodies, lecturers, media, and youth leaders. Discussions focused on the global health threat posed by AMR and the need for responsible antimicrobial use through a One Health approach, linking human, animal, and environmental health. Panelists included healthcare professionals, microbiologists, and public health advocates.

Experts highlighted the crucial role of educators and academic institutions, particularly future pharmacists, clinicians, public health professionals, and the general population, in combating AMR. They emphasised the importance of awareness-raising campaigns, education, and training programs to achieve behavioural change.

Students engaged actively with experts on antimicrobial stewardship, policy implications, and best practices. The event also promoted AMR curriculum integration and student champions at academic institutions, fostering cross-sector collaboration.

With AMR posing a growing global threat, such discussions are vital for raising awareness and inspiring action among future healthcare professionals.



UNICEF engages young people on forests and climate change.

UNICEF Representative, Rudolf Schwenk engaged young people at the Youths Dialogue Session on Forests and Climate Change that was facilitated by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on Tuesday to leverage their participation and engagement tackling environmental challenges.

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"Children are uniquely vulnerable to pollution, deadly diseases, and extreme weather events. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts to implement the commitments of the Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action, so that all children and youth in Sierra Leone can thrive in a safe and livable country and planet," he said.

UNICEF remains committed to working with all stakeholders including young advocates to promote climate education and support youth-led solutions.



UNICEF donates IEC materials on Mpox to NPHAA.

UNICEF has supported the National Public Health Agency (NPHA) with a variety of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on Mpox.

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These consists of 8,821 visually engaging Mpox signs and symptoms posters; 7,434 posters specifically designed for schools; 1,900 brochures; and 39 roll-up banners. These resources aim to raise public awareness about Mpox and how to prevent its spread.

Liv Elin Indreiten, UNICEF's Deputy Country Representative, underscored the importance of these materials in equipping Sierra Leoneans with accurate and accessible information to combat Mpox effectively. She reiterated UNICEF's commitment to supporting public health initiatives and fostering resilience within communities.

National dialogue platform meeting held to address challenges faced by youth bike riders.

The second National Dialogue Platform meeting, supported by the Peacebuilding Fund's "Empowering Youth Bike Riders as Sustainable Agents of Peace in Sierra Leone" project, has taken place at the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA) office.



This initiative is jointly implemented by UNDP and UNCDF, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority, Sierra Leone Police, and the Bike Riders Union.

The meeting followed the inauguration of the National and decentralized dialogue platforms, established under the landmark National Agreement among the three parties. Participants engaged in active and fruitful discussions, exploring solutions to the daily challenges faced in the relationship between bike riders and state authorities.

The dialogue aimed to address key issues and foster better understanding and cooperation, contributing to the overall goal of empowering youth bike riders as agents of peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

UN Women, the Sierra Leone Female Parliamentary Caucus Launch first strategic plan 2025-2029.

With Funds from the UN Peace Building Fund, UN Women and the Sierra Leone Female Parliamentary Caucus have launched the Female Parliamentary Caucus Strategic Plan 2025-2029 in Freetown.



The five-year Strategic Plan with UN Women technical support to the Female Parliamentary Caucus to develop and launch the Sierra Leone Female Parliamentary Caucus Strategic Plan 2025-2029 outline activities, recognises the challenges and the strengths and opportunities of the costed plan for the next four years.

At the launching, the Vice President, Female Parliamentary Caucus, Hon. Rosemarie Bangura, urged critical stakeholders to recommit and work together to implement policies that empower women economically through access to education and job opportunities. She emphasised the issue of social and political empowerment of women which was critical for women and girls to enjoy their human rights.

The event which took place at the Sierra Leone House of Parliament attracted over 300 Stakeholders including members of parliament, senior administrative staff of parliament, Civil Society Organisations, women's groups, the media, development partners, the private sector and the diplomatic corps.

Empowering girls to lead: Pujehun Girls' Parliament Launched.

As part of the International Women's Day commemoration, UNFPA joined the United Team of Pujehun, a CBO led by young women, to launch the Pujehun Girls' Parliament—a mock parliament of 14 adolescent representatives from all 14 chiefdoms in Pujehun District.



This platform aims empower girls to advocate for their rights, influence policies, and tackle teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

Through the Innovation Challenge, UNFPA is supporting efforts led by girls and young women to drive action to end child marriage and reduce teenage pregnancy in Pujehun.

Youth Leaders oriented to champion safe motherhood & reproductive health bill.

UNFPA during the week in Freetown, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Information and Civic Education joined efforts for a crucial engagement on the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Bill.



The **session** focused on equipping peer facilitators with the knowledge and skills to lead regional engagements with young people,

This ensures greater awareness of the Bill's key provisions and its potential to save lives.



Get in Touch with the UN Media.



The "Get in Touch with the Media." section serves as a direct line for journalists and media professionals to connect with the UN communications and media team. Whether you're seeking in-depth information, or high-quality visuals to enhance your stories, our team is here to assist. For inquiries or media requests, reach out to our dedicated communications staff at the UN.

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