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UN AGENCIES WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Monday–Friday,
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Impact in Action: Stories That Matter

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Welcome to the **UN Agencies Weekly Highlights** – your trusted source for dynamic updates, impactful stories, and transformative work shaping Sierra Leone and beyond. Dive into powerful narratives of resilience, partnerships driving sustainable development, and the vibrant faces behind the initiatives. Stay informed, inspired, and ready to act. This is where stories meet solutions – because together, we can drive the change the world needs.

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Building readiness: NDMA, WFP, SLRCS and partners strengthen Sierra Leone's emergency response capacity.

To strengthen national capacity for effective disaster response, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, organized a three-day nationwide emergency preparedness and response workshop. The training aimed to improve coordination and readiness among key disaster management actors and included practical simulations to enhance operational capabilities during crises.



In his opening remarks, Mr. John Rogers, Deputy Director General of NDMA, provided a sobering overview of recent disasters in Sierra Leone. He emphasised that the adverse impacts of these events could have been significantly mitigated through adequate preparedness and readiness. Mr. Rogers underscored that the primary aim of the workshop was to strengthen the operational readiness of responders for more effective disaster management.

He called on all stakeholders to shift the focus from reactive disaster response to proactive preparedness. He noted that selected partners were chosen based on their critical roles in disaster risk reduction. Key issues he highlighted included:

- The urgent need for inter-pillar coordination, which he noted has often been lacking.
- The critical role of early warning systems in improving preparedness.
- The importance of effective disaster communication.

The workshop emphasised preparedness over response, promoting coordinated action, and data-driven planning.

Key takeaways include the validation of Terms of Reference of response pillars, a shared understanding of national response strategies, and improved readiness tools such as the rapid assessment framework. The simulation exercise underscored the value of continuous testing and improvement of emergency plans to build a more resilient disaster management system in Sierra Leone.



With support from UNICEF, Sierra Leone launches a National Life Skills Framework to empower adolescents.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and other development partners, on Wednesday, 2nd July, launched a Comprehensive Life Skills Framework which is a significant milestone in efforts to strengthen the relevance and impacts of education for young people.

unicef 
for every child



The new framework is a forward-looking policy tool that integrates essential life skills—such as critical thinking, emotional resilience, problem-solving, teamwork, and empathy—into the national education system.

It aims to ensure that every child in Sierra Leone is equipped not only with academic knowledge, but also with the personal and social skills necessary to navigate life, work, and society in an increasingly complex world.

The framework was developed through a collaborative and consultative process involving government agencies, teachers, students, civil society organizations, and development partners.

It is aligned with Sierra Leone's national development objectives and global commitments, including Sustainable Development Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education.

“This is a critical step forward and by embedding life skills in the senior secondary curriculum, Sierra Leone is investing in the full potential of adolescents and laying the foundation for a more resilient and inclusive generation,” said Liv Elin Indreiten, Acting UNICEF Representative in Sierra Leone. **“UNICEF congratulates the MBSSE for its leadership and is proud to have supported this process. We call on all partners to work together to ensure its full and effective implementation.”**



UNFPA joins African feminist leaders at the 4th NALAFEM Summit.

From 1-2 July, UNFPA joined changemakers, feminist leaders, and survivors at the 4th NALAFEM Summit held under the theme “From Representation to Power: Women Leading in Crisis & Peace.”

In a powerful video message during the Opening Ceremony, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem reaffirmed UNFPA’s global commitment to advancing reproductive rights, gender equality, peace, and women’s leadership in crisis settings.



In the panel “From the Margins to Leadership,” UNFPA Sierra Leone’s Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Sibeso Mululuma, emphasised that the agency’s work is grounded in the lived experiences of survivors.

From prevention to recovery, we ensure survivors are not only heard but lead the way in shaping responses to gender-based violence and harmful practices.



Pilot cartographic mapping exercise in Dema Chiefdom, Bonthe District.

In preparation for the 2026 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2026), Stats SL, in collaboration with UNFPA, conducted a stakeholder engagement in Dema Chiefdom to raise awareness and build local support for the Pilot Cartographic Mapping exercise.

The pilot, covering diverse geographic and logistical contexts, tested field tools, identified implementation challenges, and provided hands-on training for mapping teams ahead of the nationwide rollout. Insights from this phase will inform the full census cartography strategy.



CRVS strategic plan stakeholder consultations, held in Bo and Makeni.

To finalise the development of Sierra Leone's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Strategic Plan (2025–2030), UNFPA and the National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) held stakeholder consultations in Bo and Makeni.

These regional consultations aimed to secure comprehensive buy-in from all relevant actors involved in CRVS and identity management systems countrywide. The plan development is funded by the IDRC Centre of Excellence on CRVS.



Strengthening partnerships for 2026 census.

As part of coordinating international partner support for the 2026 Decennial Population and Housing Census, UNFPA participated in strategic discussions with the Embassy of Ireland in Sierra Leone.

The meeting focused on aligning donor support to ensure a credible, inclusive, and well-resourced census. The Embassy of Ireland continues to be a key partner for UNFPA in Sierra Leone.



Annual Results Report story: E-UPSHIFT programme empowers girls with Green Skills for the future.

Adama Kargbo, a 17-year-old student at St. Joseph's Girls School in Makeni, is an active participant in the E-UPSHIFT programme. Initially hesitant, Adama's participation has transformed her perspective, enabling her to confidently identify and address community problems. Along with Monica K Kanu and Hawanatu Ngobeh, both 18, Adama is tackling air pollution in Bombali district by organizing awareness campaigns.



They educate community members on the dangers of air pollution from burning waste and collaborate with leaders to advocate for clean air to prevent respiratory diseases.

Launched in 2021, E-UPSHIFT in Sierra Leone has engaged over 10,000 adolescents and young people, integrating workshops, mentorship, and seed funding to foster entrepreneurial mindsets and innovative solutions. This initiative enhances digital and entrepreneurial growth, driving education reform by improving technical and vocational education and training (TVET) skills.

Participants like Monica K. Kanu and Zainab Y Kanu have benefited from improved public speaking, teamwork, critical thinking, and computer skills. Despite limited digital infrastructure.

E-UPSHIFT aims to bridge the digital divide and equip youth with essential skills for economic growth and achieving Sustainable Development Goals. UN Sierra Leone, in collaboration with UNICEF Finland and other partners, works to enhance livelihood opportunities through climate-smart education, digital literacy, and entrepreneurial programmes. Johanna Talvela, Corporate Collaboration Director at the Finnish Committee for UNICEF, praises the girls' ability to address community challenges analytically.

Adama Kargbo and her team, along with Aminata Lucy Kamara's Safe Refuse Disposal Team, are recognized as Green Champions for their sustainable solutions to improve their communities.

ANNUAL RESULTS Sierra Leone REPORT 2024



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