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UN AGENCIES WEEKLY  
HIGHLIGHTS



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Monday–Friday,  
6th October-10th October 2025

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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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# Vice President Juldeh Jalloh leads stakeholder engagement on the transition of the SLP into a service in Port Loko.

Vice President Juldeh Jalloh leads stakeholder engagement on the transition of the Sierra Leone Police into a service in Port Loko. Addressing participants, Dr. Jalloh, who is the Chair of the Police Council emphasised that the consultations aim to ensure an inclusive, citizen-driven process.



He said, **“This transition is about building a modern, professional, and community-centered Police Service that serves and protects everyone,”** he said.

Representing the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Madam Mabulara Tsuene reaffirmed the organization’s strong partnership with the Sierra Leone Police and called on citizens to actively engage in the transition process.

She urged the public to “make their voices heard during the consultations,” noting that inclusive participation is vital to shaping a Police Service that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the people.

The event attracted wide participation from regional Minister, Paramount Chiefs, local authorities, Local Police Partnership Board, students, and residents.



# UNCT deepens commitment to gender equality through strategic scorecard briefing.

In a decisive move to strengthen gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system in Sierra Leone, UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Seraphine Wakana convened a high-level UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Briefing, bringing together representatives from at UN Country Team (UNCT) and members of the Inter-Agency Task Team (IAT) and Gender Theme Group (GTG).



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The briefing served as a platform to deepen collective understanding of gender equality principles and accelerate the integration of gender-responsive strategies across all UN programming in the country. It aligns with the UN System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, a global framework designed to hold UN entities accountable for progress on gender parity.

**“Gender equality is not a standalone goal, it is a cross-cutting imperative that must shape every aspect of our work,”** said RC, emphasising the need for coordinated action and shared accountability.

The session highlighted key challenges and opportunities in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which calls for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Participants explored ways to strengthen data collection, improve gender budgeting, and ensure that program design and implementation reflect the lived realities of women and marginalised groups in Sierra Leone.

The briefing also underscored the importance of inter-agency collaboration in driving systemic change. By fostering dialogue among diverse UN entities, the session created space for sharing best practices, identifying gaps, and building a unified approach to gender equality. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to embedding gender perspectives into policy formulation, program delivery, and monitoring frameworks.



# Advancing the Power of Data for sustainable development.

On 7 October, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), in collaboration with UNFPA and partners, convened a Multi-Stakeholder Technical Review Meeting to advance the Power of Data Initiative, a global UN effort aimed at strengthening national data ecosystems for sustainable development.



The meeting brought together the Hon. Minister of Planning and Economic Development, representatives from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, Statistics Sierra Leone, DSTI, the Bank of Sierra Leone, other MDAs including the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health, as well as civil society, academia, and private sector partners including Orange SL and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

In her keynote, Minister Kenyah Barlay emphasised that data is the lifeblood of development and highlighted the need for stronger governance, interoperability, and investment in national data systems.

Speaking on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Mr. Robert Banamwana highlighted the importance of demonstrating a high-level commitment to data, emphasising that a strong, coordinated approach can ensure that every Leone invested in policy and programme is guided by solid evidence for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans.

UNFPA Representative Ms. Sibeso Mululuma underscored the power of measurement to drive progress, noting that when data is collected and applied effectively, it enables governments and partners to recognize achievements, make informed decisions, and continuously improve development outcomes.

The meeting provided a platform to review Sierra Leone's data ecosystem and identify opportunities for stronger coordination, collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making across government and partners.



# UNFPA hosts roundtable dialogue to accelerate progress on ending harmful practices in Sierra Leone.

On 2 October 2025, UNFPA convened a roundtable dialogue on the elimination of harmful practices in Sierra Leone. The discussion brought together survivors, government officials, civil society partners, the UN, and a high-level delegation from the Government of Iceland, led by the Director General of the International Development Cooperation Directorate.



Under the Iceland-funded programme, UNFPA is supporting community-led initiatives to transform harmful social norms, empower adolescent girls and young women, and strengthen evidence and policies that drive the elimination of harmful practices.

Speakers highlighted the importance of survivor voices, collaboration across sectors, and engaging communities to ensure lasting change. The roundtable reinforced Sierra Leone's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of girls and young women while advancing national gender equality and human rights priorities.

# Strengthening Midwifery models of care in Sierra Leone.

UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and key stakeholders, hosted a two-day workshop on Transitioning to Midwifery Models of Care. The workshop held from 8-9 October 2025, aimed to strengthen strategies that empower midwives to provide high-quality, woman-centred care throughout Sierra Leone.



Participants engaged in detailed discussions and practical exercises covering strategic planning, governance, mentorship, workforce development, and community engagement. These sessions emphasised how to implement midwifery-led models effectively while aligning with global standards for quality, continuity, and respectful maternity care.

By focusing on empowering midwives, the workshop highlighted their central role in ensuring safer births, stronger health systems, and healthier mothers and newborns. Participants explored ways to create supportive environments, foster professional growth, and build stronger linkages between health facilities and communities.

This initiative reflects Sierra Leone's ongoing commitment to enhancing reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health. Strengthening midwifery-led care is a critical step toward a future where every mother and newborn receives safe, respectful, and quality care.



# Regional technical working group structures a capacity building workshop on protection, MHPSS, return and reintegration.

The National Migration Policy 2022 of Sierra Leone outlines strategic objectives to address irregular migration, protect migrant rights, and support the return and reintegration of Sierra Leonean migrants.



In alignment with this policy, and under the EU-funded Migrant Protection and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa, IOM Sierra Leone has partnered with the Government to establish national coordination structures including a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) focused on return and reintegration, protection, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

To decentralize these efforts and ensure inclusive governance, regional TWGs are being established in the Northern, Southern, and Eastern regions. These structures aim to enhance collaboration among government and non-government actors, ensuring a whole-of-society approach to migrant reintegration.

The Northern region has successfully completed its five-day capacity building workshop, which focused on equipping TWG members with knowledge and tools to provide coordinated protection, psychosocial, and reintegration support.

The training emphasised IOM's integrated reintegration model and best practices at structural, community, and individual levels. Participants engaged in plenary discussions, group work, and brainstorming sessions, sharing experiences and identifying sustainable reintegration opportunities.

Looking ahead, similar workshops are scheduled for the Southern and Eastern regions. These sessions will replicate the Northern region's successful format, targeting up to 35 participants per region.





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