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UN AGENCIES WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Monday–Friday,
3rd- 7th November 2025

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Welcome to the **UN Agencies Weekly Highlights** –
📸 **Coming tomorrow: The UN@80 Photo Book**

As we wrap up the UN@80 celebrations marking 64 years of UN partnership in Sierra Leone, get ready to relive the highlights of unity, progress, and impact. Special thanks to the UN Country Team and partners - UBA, Ecobank, Africell, Rokel Commercial Bank, AntiGlossophobia Academy, New Brookfields Hotel, and others - for making this celebration possible.

Keep an eye out- the UN@80 Photo Book launches tomorrow!

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IOM Regional Director pays courtesy visit to Sierra Leone's Chief Minister, joins national climate dialogue.

The Regional Director for West and Central Africa of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Dr. David Moinina Sengeh during her official mission to Sierra Leone. The meeting underscored IOM's continued commitment to supporting Sierra Leone's development priorities, particularly in the areas of migration governance, climate resilience, and sustainable development.



During the visit, Ms. Ekra commended the Government of Sierra Leone for its leadership in launching the country's first National Implementation Plan for the Global Compact for Migration. She emphasized the importance of intersectoral collaboration and reaffirmed IOM's readiness to support national efforts in addressing migration challenges linked to climate change and environmental degradation.

The courtesy call was followed by Ms. Ekra's active participation in the National Climate Dialogue, convened under the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security. The dialogue brought together government officials, development partners, civil society, and technical experts to discuss Sierra Leone's climate vulnerabilities and explore innovative solutions for building resilience.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Ekra highlighted the growing intersection between climate change and migration, noting that environmental stressors are increasingly influencing mobility patterns across West Africa. She called for integrated approaches that link climate adaptation, migration management, and community development.

"Climate change is not just an environmental issue, it is a human issue. It affects livelihoods, health, and mobility. We must work together to ensure that communities are equipped to adapt and thrive," she said.

The Presidential Initiative, launched by His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio, aims to position Sierra Leone as a regional leader in climate action, renewable energy, and food security. The National Climate Dialogue is part of a broader effort to develop inclusive and evidence-based policies that respond to the country's unique challenges.

Ms. Ekra's visit and participation in the dialogue reaffirm IOM's strategic partnership with Sierra Leone and its commitment to supporting the country's efforts to build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.



Sierra Leone charts a new course on migration with the launch of the first national GCM implementation plan.

In a landmark move, the Government of Sierra Leone has officially launched its first National Implementation Plan for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), marking a transformative step in the country's approach to migration governance.



Unveiled during a high-level ceremony in Freetown, the plan translates global migration principles into actionable national policies across seven priority areas, including border management, migration data collection, and addressing the economic and environmental drivers of migration.

To ensure effective implementation, the government has introduced a National Coordination Mechanism, a five-tier governance structure involving ministries, civil society, and local leaders. This mechanism is designed to ensure the plan moves beyond paper and delivers real impact.

"Today, we gather not merely to launch documents, but to embark on a transformative journey," said Hon. Morie Lengor Esq, Minister of Internal Affairs. "This Plan is our sovereign commitment to ensure that migration becomes a choice, not a necessity; a source of prosperity, not peril."

Sierra Leone has long been a country of emigration, with professionals seeking opportunities abroad and families relying on remittances. The country has also hosted refugees from regional conflicts. Now, facing climate and economic pressures, the government is taking a proactive stance to shape migration as a development tool.

Since 2017, over 13,000 Sierra Leoneans have returned home through IOM's voluntary return and reintegration programmes, primarily from Niger, Mali, and Mauritania. In 2025 alone, more than 1,600 returnees have come back, with women representing nearly half, a reflection of the growing feminization of migration.

The plan aligns Sierra Leone with a growing number of countries treating migration as a development issue requiring cross-sectoral coordination. It is part of the broader commitment to the Global Compact for Migration, adopted in 2018.

Ms. Sylvia Ekra, Regional Director for IOM West and Central Africa, commended the government's leadership: **"Today, we are not just launching a plan; we are charting a collective vision for the future of migration governance in Sierra Leone. The challenges ahead are many, but so are the opportunities."**



RCO trains Ministry of Social Welfare staff on M&E and results-based management.

The Resident Coordinator's Office team under the leadership of Robert Banamwan, Head of RCO and Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist joined forces with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) for a dynamic, three-day hands-on training on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Results-Based Management (RBM), held from 28th to 30th October 2025. The RCO team worked closely with MoSW participants, including district-level M&E officers, to strengthen skills and accelerate the implementation of the Ministry's Strategic Plan.



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Key themes included:

- **Design for change, not activity:** Programs should aim for real transformation, not just outputs.
- **RBM as a mindset:** Focus on learning, accountability, and evidence-based decisions.
- **Strategic alignment:** Reinforcing SDG 17 and supporting the UNSDCF and Sierra Leone's Mid-Term National Development Plan.

The sessions combined theory with practical exercises, enabling participants to design logical frameworks, set SMART indicators, and develop robust monitoring systems.

At the end of the training, participants received certificates recognizing their commitment to strengthening Sierra Leone's social welfare sector. This milestone reflects the spirit of UN 2.0, which champions innovative partnerships and data-driven solutions.

This workshop brought together Ministry teams, including district-level M&E officers, to accelerate the implementation of the Ministry's Strategic Plan. The training was not just about learning tools, it was about shifting mindsets and building a culture of results.

Robert Banamwana emphasised the importance of the RBM framework, noting that:

"RBM is more than a reporting tool, it's a mindset. It's about asking the right questions: *What change are we driving? How will we know we've succeeded?* Stronger program design drives measurable, lasting impact."



Sierra Leone strengthens readiness for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

Sierra Leone has enhanced its outbreak preparedness through a two-day tabletop simulation exercise held from 5–6 November 2025 at the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre in Freetown. The activity, led by the Ministry of Health through the National Public Health Agency, with technical support from WHO and in country partners.



World Health Organization



The exercise simulated a “Disease X” outbreak to test national systems in case detection, vaccination logistics, coordination, and communication. Participants were from the National Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Facilitators and evaluators were drawn from WHO, Africa CDC, HEADA, US CDC and other partners used the exercise to assess real-time decision-making and identify areas for improvement.

The exercise provided an opportunity to identify strengths and gaps in emergency preparedness, with lessons feeding into updates to Sierra Leone’s National Deployment and Vaccination Plan and PHEOC Standard Operating Procedures.

WHO and partners continue to support the country in building a resilient and agile health system capable of responding swiftly to emerging public health threats.

Thanks to the FCDO and GAVI for their continued support through WHO AFRO in strengthening member states capacities for improved health security.



UNFPA and NPHA strengthen media role in Sierra Leone's Mpox response.

On 5 November 2025, UNFPA Sierra Leone and the National Public Health Agency (NPHA) hosted a media engagement to strengthen communication and public awareness on Mpox, gender-based violence (GBV), and related public health issues.



The United Nations
sexual and reproductive
health agency



The session was part of the programme “Mpox Response in Sierra Leone: Safeguarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Combating Gender-Based Violence,” implemented jointly by UNFPA, NPHA Ministry of Health and Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs. The programme integrates sexual and reproductive health services, strengthens GBV response, and promotes infection prevention and risk communication.

Journalists, editors, communication professionals, and social media influencers together with teams from NPHA and UNFPA discussed the media’s vital role in delivering accurate, gender-sensitive, and stigma-free reporting.

“As journalists, we have a key role in sharing accurate information about Mpox, fighting misinformation, and reporting with care and responsibility to help protect public health and reduce stigma,” said Yeanor Kabia, President of the Reporters Union. She also thanked partners for organizing the engagement.

Dr. Dan Okoro, UNFPA Maternal Health Technical Specialist, emphasized that rights-based, inclusive communication saves lives, reduces fear, and strengthens trust between communities and health authorities.





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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