Over 18 months, UNDP’s Livelihoods Recovery Project will boost social protection for up to 2,500 people that were hit-hardest by the Ebola crisis, and who are not yet able to sustain themselves.

The project will also support sustainable livelihoods and economic recovery for up to 7,000 young people through conditional cash transfers. It will generate 45,000 days worth of employment through cash-for-work programmes and will help rehabilitate and improve public infrastructure. Thousands of people also will benefit from training and skills development opportunities.

**Expected results:**

**Support sustainable livelihoods and the economic recovery of up to 2,500 Ebola affected people**

- Beneficiaries will receive a series of conditional, staggered payments with advice and support to get back on their feet.
- 1,000 people who were self-employed, artisans or managers of their own micro-enterprises prior to the crisis will get entrepreneurship training.
- 1,000 young people will get technical and vocational education and training.

**Ensure social protection for up to 2,500 of the most affected people that are unable to do paid work.**

- A cash transfer platform for nationwide electronic payments will be supported for one year.

**Thousands of livelihoods supported, specifically for the illiterate, unskilled and the most vulnerable.**

- Generate 45,000 days of work in 3 districts through cash-for-work opportunities in rehabilitating or constructing up to 70 public service buildings.
- On-the-job training and construction skills development will be given to 1,000 young people

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**Why it matters:**

Sierra Leone’s unemployment rate is the highest in West Africa, and Ebola has made it worse. The World Bank projects that three countries hardest-hit Ebola; Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, will lose around US$2 billion of income throughout 2014 and 2015.

60% of the country’s young people (between 15 and 35) are unemployed, and over 80 % of the country’s young people live below the poverty line.
of US$2 per day. This marks a major social and economic problem, with implications for peace and stability.

The majority of Sierra Leone’s work force do not possess the right skills for work. Many young people have had little connection with the formal economy and often lack a positive work attitude. There are few opportunities to gain experience and skills.

Young women face particular challenges. They experience similar levels of labour force participation and joblessness as young men, but their participation in wage employment is around three times less (5% as compared to 15%).

If livelihoods and employment are not tackled quickly, damage done by the Ebola crisis may not be reversed. Addressing these issues is critical for Sierra Leone’s peace, stability and development.

**Project activities:**

The project will run from May 2015 to December 2016. In three districts, a number of communities will be identified amongst most Ebola affected areas and engaged into a participatory process, which will result in a collective assessment of Ebola socio-economic impacts on the community, participatory local assessment of the most vulnerable groups, mapping of opportunities and challenges and prioritization of small public infrastructure in need of repairs or new construction.

1. **Support sustainable livelihoods and the economic recovery of up to 2,500 Ebola affected people**
   - This component will target up to 2,500 Ebola-affected individuals including survivors, destitute families, recently discharged Ebola Response Workers, People Living With Disabilities and affected women headed households.
   - It will run for 12 months to tackle the immediate social and economic needs, starting by providing customized face-to-face counselling that consists of individual assessments reviewing family livelihood history, coping mechanisms during the crisis, present status and resources (productive members, assets, skills, etc.), possible debts, interests and opportunities.
   - As a result, each recipient will be guided to develop his/her own personalised recovery action plan, which will identify preferred avenues for utilizing a mini-grant of USD600, such as access to relevant technical and vocational education and training, restocking shops, repaying loans, purchasing tools and equipment, acquiring seeds, poultry and more.
   - For an estimated 1,000 people who were self-employed, or ran their own micro-enterprises before the crisis, and those with potential and interest, entrepreneurship training will be given through Business Development Centres.
   - 1,000 young people will get access to technical and vocational education and training, and liaise with private sector companies to bring about internship and job placement opportunities.
   - Electronic money transfers through micro-finance institutions, mobile network operators and commercial bank modalities will be preferred where possible, as this way of paying boosts accountability and transparency, encourages savings and reduces risks, while exposing people to modern banking methods.

2. **Provide social protection and safety-nets for up to 2,500 of the most vulnerable people**
   - Direct financial support to up to 2,500 vulnerable people will be given to those unable to undertake paid work such as the elderly, widows taking care of orphans without bread winners in the family and the severely physically challenged. Monthly stipends of USD 15 per person will be provided over one-year. Efforts will be made to liaise with Governmental and other social protection schemes to take over at the end of the project.
   - Psychosocial support shall be provided as necessary.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

3. *Thousands of livelihoods supported, specifically for the illiterate, unskilled and the most vulnerable.*
   - 45,000 workdays will be generated in 3 districts through civil society-facilitated cash-for-work and the affirmative procurement of local contractors. On-the-job training and construction skills development will be provided for 1,000 young people and for rehabilitating or building up to 70 small infrastructure elements in the most affected communities. The new construction rehabilitation work will focus on:
     - boosting public health and hygiene, like water and sanitation and drainage;
     - supporting economic recovery, like rehabilitating markets;
     - enhancing food security, by clearing land for vegetable gardens and irrigation schemes; and,
     - providing key community services like schools, health centres and waste collection.

**Budget:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Budget (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Social Protection and Safety-net for 2,500 beneficiaries amongst the Most Vulnerable</strong></td>
<td>585,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Recovery for 2,500 people, including breadwinners and heads of families</strong></td>
<td>2,950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Creation of temporary employment through labour intensive small infrastructure repair and construction</strong></td>
<td>2,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,785,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Why UNDP?**

UNDP’s Security Sector Reform program was built to fill the void left by the departure of the UN mission in Sierra Leone in 2013.

UNDP has built up a strong working relationship with the security agencies and in particular, the Sierra Leone Police (SLP). A number of programs are ongoing including those relating to HR, Asset Management, Command and Control and Gender Mainstreaming.

Police specialists from the UN Standing Police Capacity have further strengthened the Rule of Law team. UNDP is actively involved in establishing the Independent Police Complaints Board and reviewing the 1964 Police Act which will further legitimize the SLP as the main agency responsible for internal security in the country.

UNDP has placed a particular focus on border management and oversight and accountability of the national services. Complementary cross-border initiatives with Guinea and Liberia are essential therefore, UNDP are working closely with the Manu River Union to support border communities on both sides of the border and with UNDP Country Offices to ensure cross border engagements are complementary, strengthen border security and empower border communities.

UNDP has an excellent working relationship with the Office of National Security who are the agency responsible for coordinating border security in Sierra Leone. UNDP provided technical support to development of the Sierra Leone Internal Security Strategy including their first Border Management Strategy in December 2014 and UNDP has conducted joint border assessments over the last 18 months.