



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



**Committed to Leaving  
No One Behind**

**UNDP  
Sierra Leone**  
2018 Annual Report



peace, justice and stronger institutions



Empowered Lives. Resilient Nations.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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**Cover photo:** Voter during the 2018 elections

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*UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspectives and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.*

*In Sierra Leone, UNDP aims to address poverty, inequality and exclusion through an integrated approach supporting communities and government to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Our programmes are delivered in consultation and partnership with a broad range of stakeholders including the Government of Sierra Leone, civil society organizations, independent bodies, development partners and other UN agencies.*

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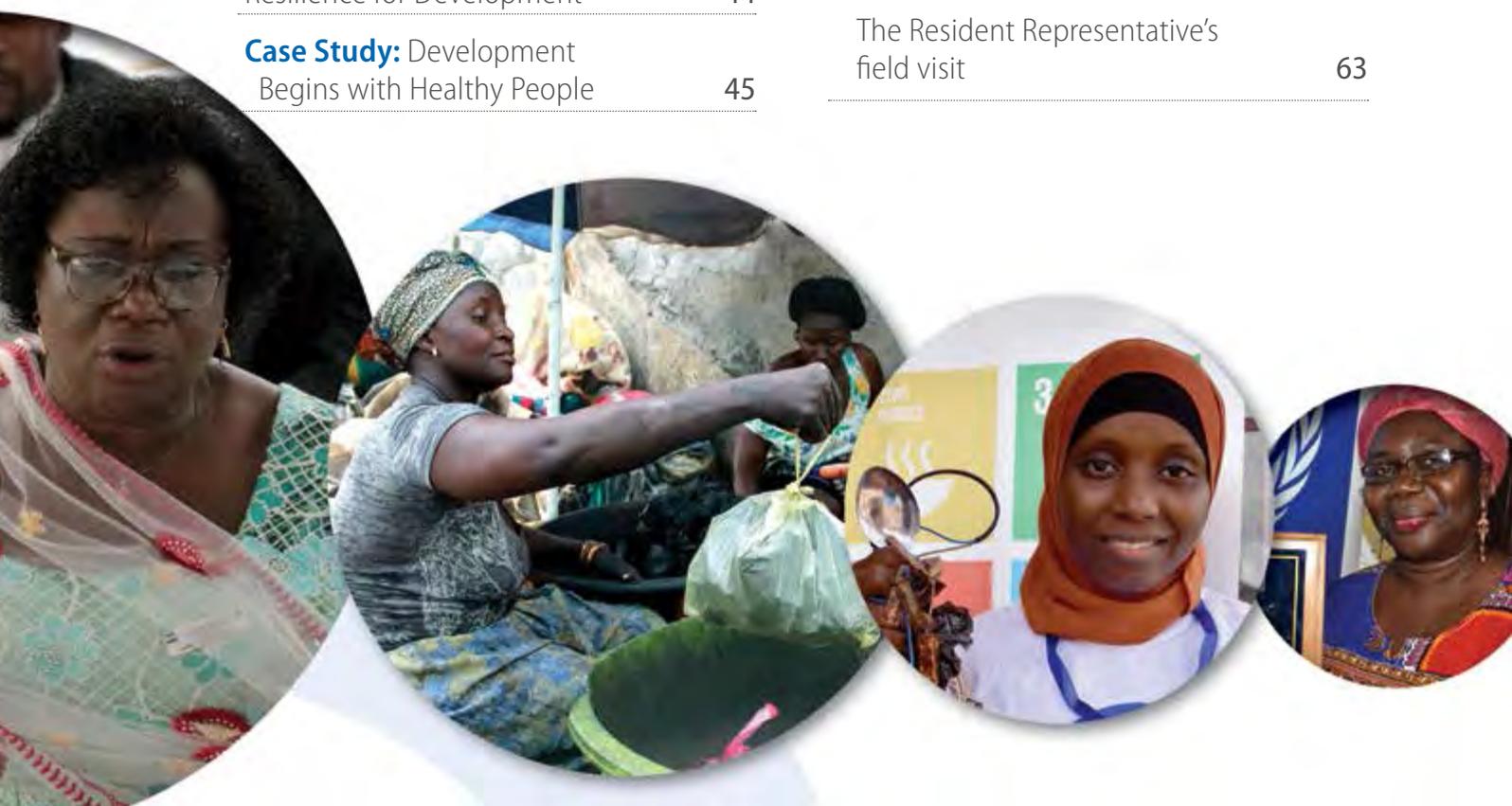
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# Foreword



***Dear Friends and Partners, I am pleased to present to you this report which captures our work and achievements in 2018.***

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sierra Leone will remember 2018 as a year of landmark events; from supporting Sierra Leone to successfully hold its first elections un-supervised by a UN Peace-building mission, to witnessing a peaceful change in government as a result of the elections. It is also the year when the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator (RC) system “delinked” from UNDP, ushering in place the role of UNDP’s Resident Representative (RR) as separate from that of the RC. That said, I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Sierra Leone for having endorsed me as UNDP’s Resident Representative to Sierra Leone in December 2018 after having served as Country Director.

I am pleased to reecho the cordial, unwavering and longstanding partnership that has existed between UNDP, the Government of Sierra Leone and the trust of several donors who have generously supported our interventions before, during and after crisis, to ensure a resilient and empowered Sierra Leone. In 2018, we continued this work with an emphasis on helping the country to sustain and advance the development gains made so far while encouraging innovative ways to create social safety nets for all Sierra Leoneans.

Programme activities in this year saw continued support towards strengthening national institutions and policy frameworks to address issues of governance, peacebuilding, environment and inclusive social-economic growth. Together with our national implementing partners, we also worked at the community level to implement activities to enhance livelihoods and strengthen community resilience towards shocks and crises.

This year saw increased focus on reaching the last mile first. For instance, to ensure a resilient health system for development to thrive, we refurbished, constructed and handed over twelve Maternal and Child Health Posts (MCHPs) in the border districts of Kailahun and Kambia that suffered most, and are still recovering from the Ebola epidemic of 2014 to 2015. As a result, around 5000 people – mostly women and children – can now access decent health care services; in upholding our mission to empower lives, we launched an earning and savings scheme for inmates and supported over 200 of them to open bank accounts. This safety net will help keep the



incarcerated young people from reoffence on return to their communities; and with generous funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) we were further empowered to confront the issue of climate change. Consequently, we launched the coastal risk resilience project to help isolated island and coastal communities to better cope with the impact of climate change.

The plight of Sierra Leone's youth remained top on our agenda. Through our flagship Youth Employment and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) over 100 newly graduated youth were placed for internship with various institutions to obtain the much-needed practical work skills; we launched our fourth and fifth Career Advisory centers at the Eastern Polytechnic in Kenema district and Northern Polytechnic in Makeni, Bombali district; we also continued to provide scholarships for young people to further their education. We supported another set of 150 students to obtain diplomas in technical and vocational training from the Obasanjo Vocational Skills Acquisition Center in Waterloo, Western Area Rural district. Moreover, one of our flagship events, the Annual Social Good Summit-National Youth Innovation Awards that seeks to identify young people with innovative ideas to solve local development challenges increased in momentum and gained more support from both public and private sector partners. The event saw a record of 78 applications from youth of all backgrounds across the country. The winner of the award was 19-year-old Hawa Yokie who has inspired many young women to delve into the innovation and technology sector.

In March 2018 with UNDP's support, Sierra Leone held its first elections without the mandate of a UN Peace-keeping Mission. These elections were widely acclaimed to be peaceful, credible and more inclusive than the

past elections held in Sierra Leone. There were more women candidates running for various political positions, more voter turn out especially first-time youth voters and more facilities in place to enable persons with disabilities to vote with ease.

In December 2018, I had the opportunity to go on a field trip around visit rural communities in Sierra Leone to monitor where our activities are being implemented. From this trip I gained and learn first-hand insight into the results of our work, the challenges and gaps that we need to confront in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Sierra Leone. The reality is that, majority Sierra Leoneans are still faced with the challenges of poverty, inequality and exclusion. From this trip, I learnt that despite much being done, so much more remains to be done for the country to experience holistic development.

These are just a few of the examples of our work in 2018. As you read this report, you will discover more ways in which we contributed to Sierra Leone's efforts to achieve the SDGs. We are grateful for the passion and commitment to development from our Staff, the UN family, and the dedicated support from the Government of Sierra Leone and our development partners (both international and national). On this foundation, we will continue to work hard to accompany Sierra Leoneans as they address the challenges of poverty, inequalities, disasters and climate change based on the sustainable development principle of leaving no one behind.

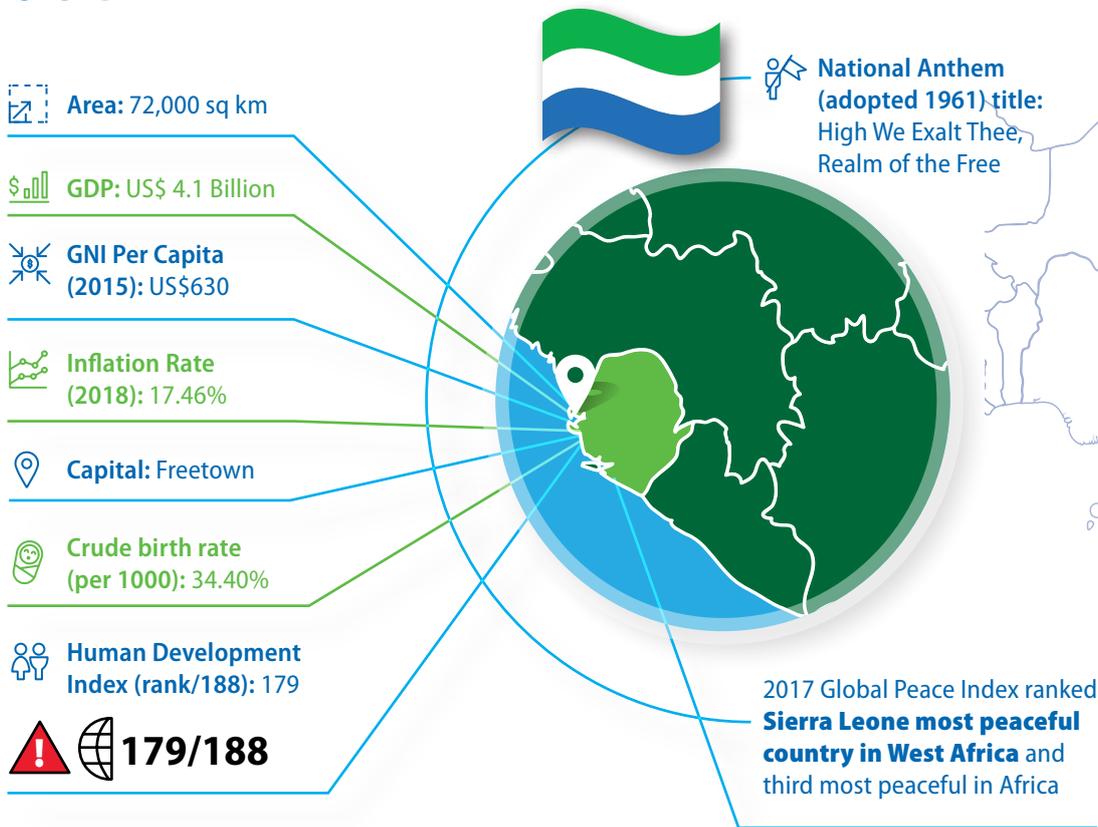
**Samuel G. Doe**

*Resident Representative*

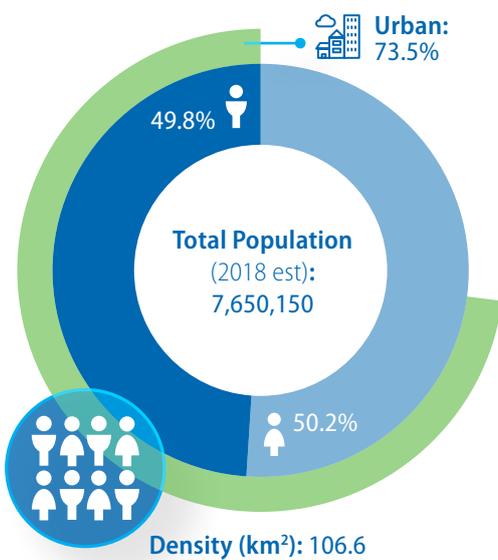


# 2018 at a glance:

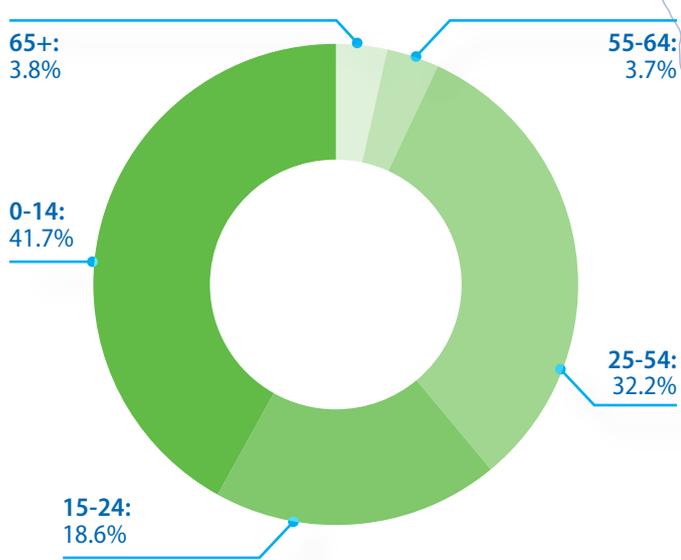
## Sierra Leone Development Context



### Population (2018 est)

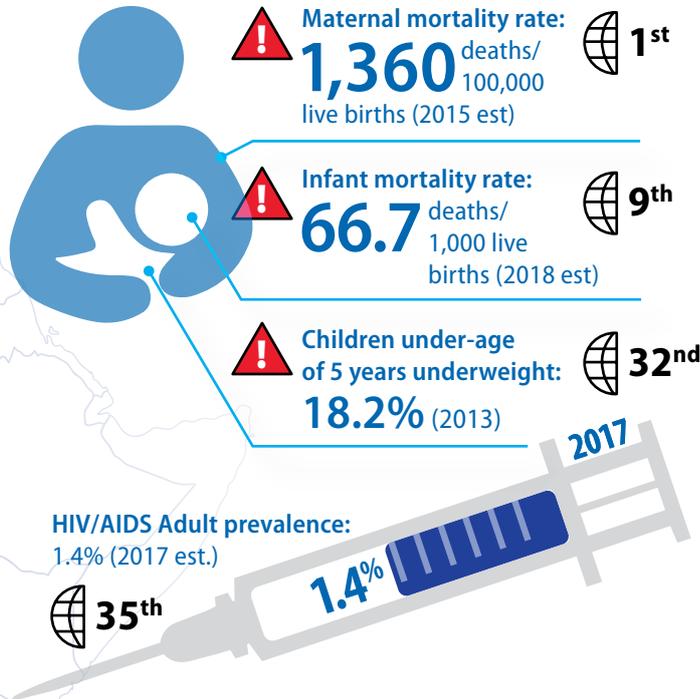


### Age (years/%)



 = **World Comparison**

## Health

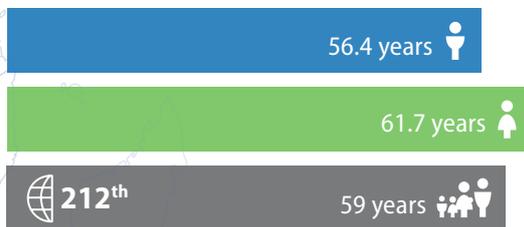


Reported confirmed cases of Malaria **1,483,376** RIP Reported deaths **1,107**

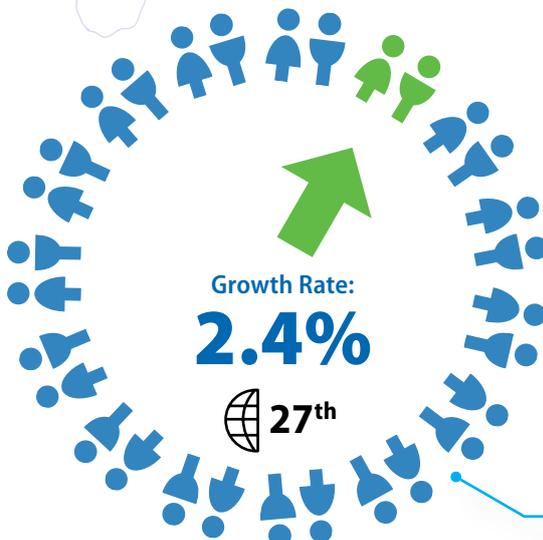
Health expenditure: **18.3%**

Physicians density: 0.03 physicians/1,000 population (2011)

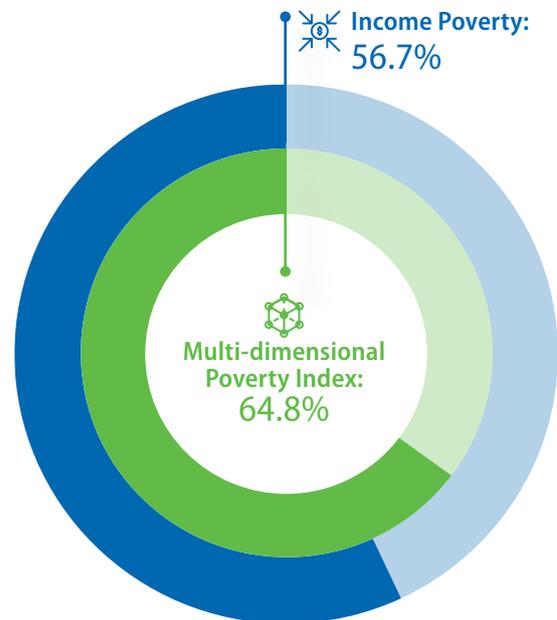
## Life expectancy at birth



## Population Growth (2018 est)

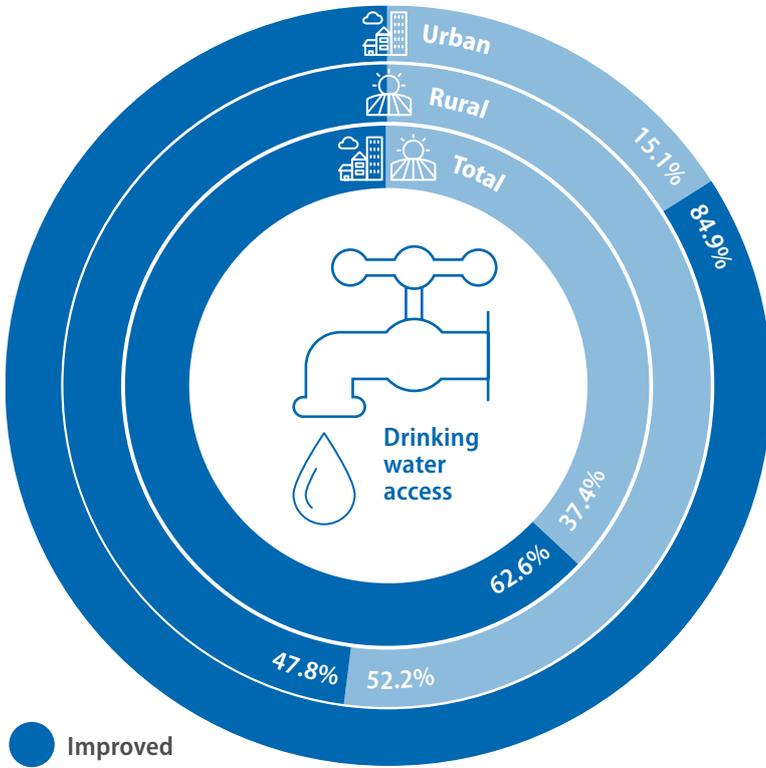


## Poverty Indices

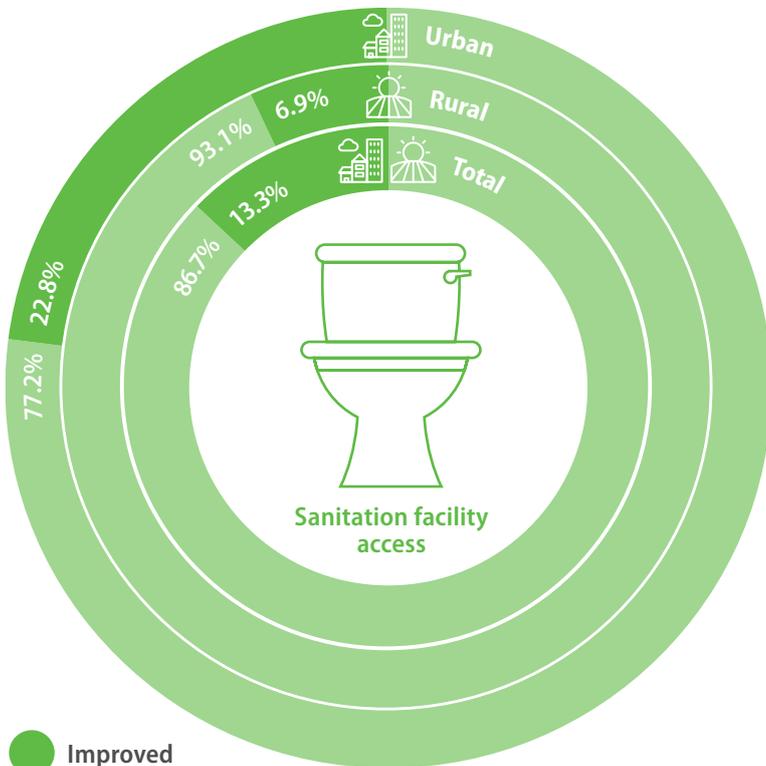


**27<sup>th</sup>** Birth Rate: 36/1000 RIP **33<sup>rd</sup>** Death Rate: 10.2/1000

## Water and Sanitation (2015 est)

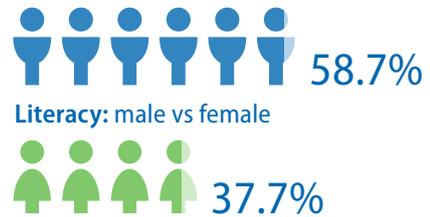
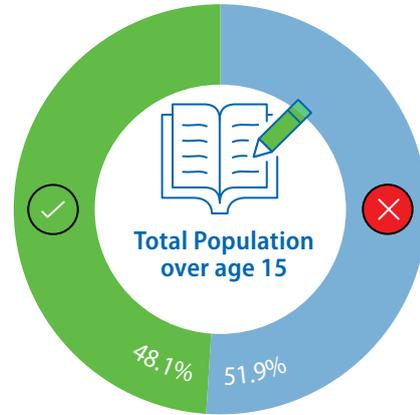


- Improved
- Unimproved

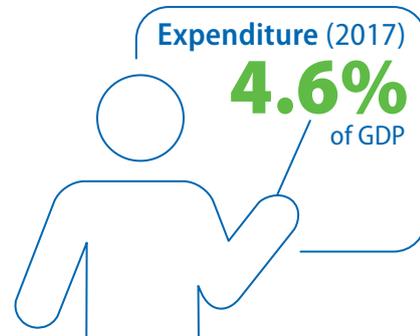


- Improved
- Unimproved

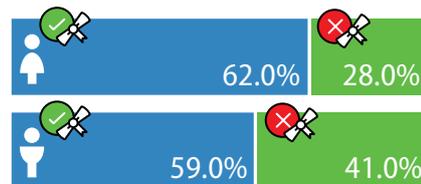
## Literacy (2015 est)



## Education



**FREE EDUCATION WAS INTRODUCED IN 2018**



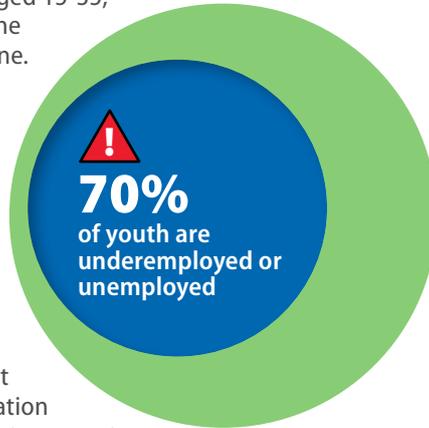
**Teacher qualification:** 41% male and 28% female of teachers lack formal teaching qualification or have qualification below the required standard

## Youth Unemployment (2018 est)

The youth population, aged 15-35, comprises one third of the population of Sierra Leone.

**Approximately 70% of youth are under-employed or unemployed** and an estimated **800,000 youth today are actively searching for employment.**

Furthermore, illiteracy remains a persistent challenge and youth that lack that skills and education find it extremely difficult to compete for the limited jobs available.

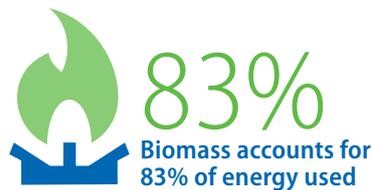
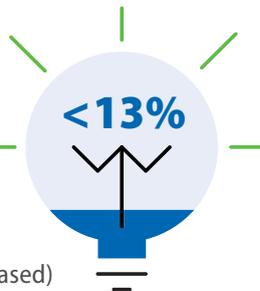


## Energy

Electricity access (2017 est)

**6,000,000**

people without electricity (less than 13% access and urban-based)



Charcoal/wood fuel is the traditional form of energy used almost exclusively by households countrywide

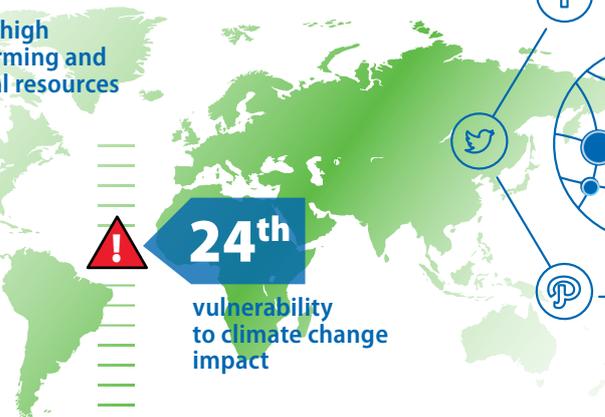


## Climate risk

Sierra Leone has a high dependency on farming and fishing, and natural resources



High rates of poverty and unemployment exacerbate environmental degradation



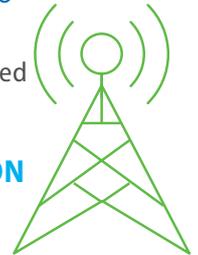
## Communication (2014 est)



or approximately **8 out of every 10** people have access to a radio

**50** mainly local community-based radio stations operational

**NO SINGLE RADIO STATION OPERATES NATIONWIDE**



**TV or DVD**



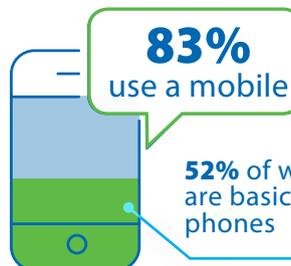
of the national population can access content

**Newspapers**

**13%** of the national population have access to a newspaper



**Mobile phone access**



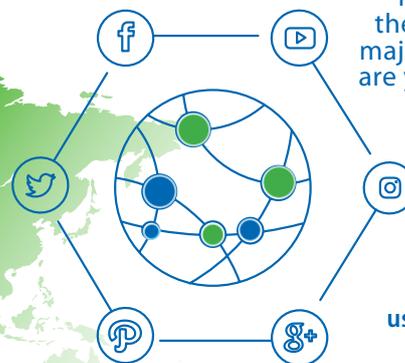
**52%** of which are basic feature phones



**Internet and social media usage**

**16%**

have access to the internet, the majority of which are young people living in the Western Area



**13%**

use social media, predominantly young people

# 2018 Development Overview

## Political context

Sierra Leone has witnessed three successful post-war elections - 2007, 2012 and 2018. The 2018 elections were the first of them to be held without the support of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL).

The first half of 2018 ushered a new political landscape. International support, including from UNDP ensured that the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections were credible, transparent and peaceful with the following results as announced by the National Electoral Commission (NEC): The Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) gained 43.3% votes, the then ruling APC received 42.7%, followed by the National Grand Coalition (NGC) and Coalition for Change (C4C) securing 6.9% and 3.5% respectively. Run-off elections were called for the presidential candidates and on 4th April the SLPP candidate, Julius Maada Bio was declared the winner with 51.8% whereas the APC's Samura Kamara secured 48.2%. In the parliamentary election, the APC led with 68 seats to the SLPP's 49 seats. The new parties entered parliament for the first time with eight seats for the C4C and four seats for NGC. Three independent candidates were also elected as Members of Parliament (MPs).





Budget reading in the Parliament  
of Sierra Leone 2018  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle



Meanwhile, out of the 21 city mayors and local council chairpersons elected, ten were from APC, eight from SLPP, two from C4C and one from NGC.

The new government established a Governance Transition Team (GTT) to assess the state of governance inherited from the previous regime. A key recommendation of the GTT report was the setting up of a commission of inquiry that was later approved by Parliament in October 2018. The commission of inquiry commenced

operations in the first quarter of 2019. Despite its efforts to consolidate peace and strengthen democracy, Sierra Leone moved 18 places downwards in the 2018 Global Peace Index ranking from 35 to 52 out of 163 countries. In the same year, the Mo Ibrahim Index score ranked Sierra Leone at 50.9 (out of 100.0) in overall governance and ranked as 26th (out of 54) in Africa. The country is ranked 129th out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index of 2018. The Constitutional Review Process which commenced in 2013 is still in



2018 Election Observers at a polling station in Freetown  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar



Voter at the 2018 elections  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

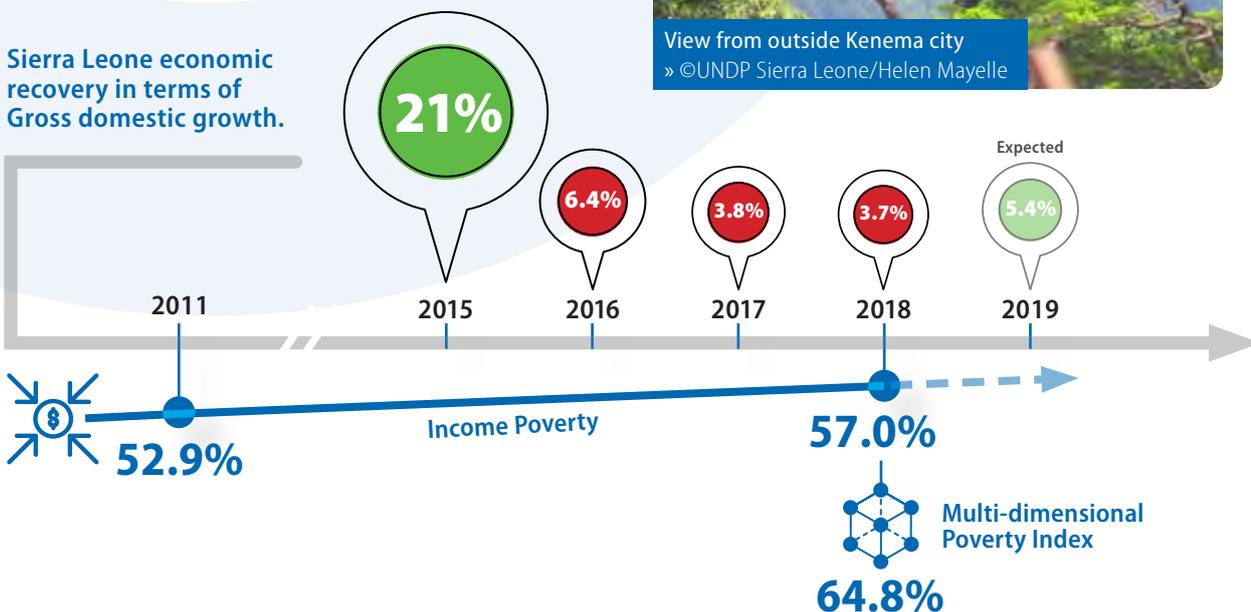
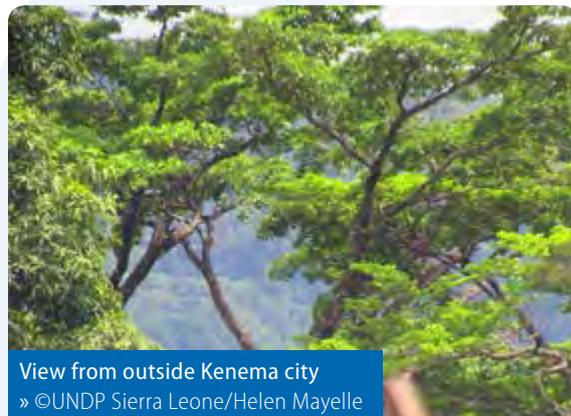


progress. **Socio-economic context**

Sierra Leone economic recovery has been volatile since the impact of the twin shocks (Ebola outbreak and collapse of iron ore prices). Gross Domestic Growth rebounded to 6.4% in 2016 (from 21.0% in 2015), slightly reduced to 3.8% in 2017 and remain stagnant at 3.7% in 2018. GDP is expected to grow by 5.4% in 2019. These growth patterns have slightly reversed the gains in poverty reduction, with the country’s income poverty rising to 57% in 2018 compared to 52.9% in 2011. Multi-dimensional poverty (MDP) is 64.8%, an indication that majority of the population suffer deprivations in key basic service sectors (health, energy, sanitation, education). The Human Development Index ranks Sierra Leone at 184/189 countries placing the country in the low human development category. Sierra Leone is ranked 163 out of 190 in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business index for 2018. Inflationary pressure continues to persist due to the

depreciation of the exchange rate and food supply constraints. The annual National Consumer Price inflation was 17.46% as at December 2018. The government has taken several measures to shore up public expenditures including implementation of the Treasury Single Account, elimination of subsidies on retail fuel, reviewing and streamlining tax and duty waivers. In November 2018, the government presented the 2019 national budget with the theme ‘Fiscal Consolidation for Human Capital Development’.

The country’s Medium-term National Development plan (2019-2023) which defines the development path to achieve its middle-income status by 2035 was launched





Market vendor in Kailahun district supported through the Business development services scheme  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle

in February 2019. Sierra Leone's aspirations of achieving a middle-income status is centered around 4 (four) national goals:

- **A diversified and resilient green economy;**
- **A nation with educated, empowered and healthy citizens, capable of realizing their full potential;**
- **A society that is peaceful, cohesive, secure and just;**
- **A competitive economy with a well-developed infrastructure.**

A Development Financing Assessment (DFA) exercise scheduled to be completed in February 2019 will identify the financing options (public & private sources) to successfully implement the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP).

The DFA exercise has paved the way for the establishment of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) as recommended in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) in the Financing for Development Forum organized in 2015. On 1st December 2018, IMF board approved a new US\$172 million loan programme for Sierra Leone, which is expected to unlock donor funds that depend on the existence of a programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Sierra Leone has made tremendous progress in the implementation of the SDGs. In 2016, it was among the first countries that presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) report to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). In July 2019 Sierra Leone will present the second VNR Report to HLPF in New York.



The 'scar' left by the August 2017 landslide on Mount Sugarloaf (Mortomeh) in Freetown  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

Sierra Leone is vulnerable to several environmental and climate-change-related shocks due to its geographic location, extreme weather conditions and weak enforcement of environmental protection laws. The country is among the top ten most affected countries

in the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index. Whilst Sierra Leone’s capacity to collect, analyze and disseminate climate-related hazard data has improved, work to create a full profile for the country environment landscape is on-going.

## UNDP Sierra Leone in Action

Our Work is underpinned by UNDP’s strategic plan 2018-2021 and the six ‘Signature Solutions’ to achieve the SDGs through People, Peace, Prosperity, Planet and Partnerships.

### Democratic Governance

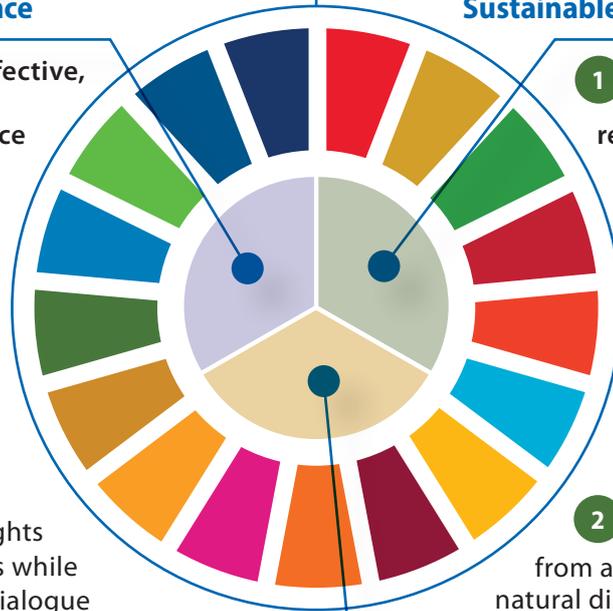
- 1** Strengthening effective, inclusive and accountable governance institutions for good governance
- 2** Increasing access to justice by empowering national justice and security delivery systems based on international human rights standards and practices while supporting sustained dialogue for sustained peace in the country

### Sustainable Environment

- 1** Enhancing sustainable and equitable natural resource management by empowering governance institutions, civil society and private sector and promoting nature-based solutions to local development challenges for a sustainable planet
- 2** Strengthening national capacities to recover from and build resilience against natural disasters

### Inclusive Growth

- 1** Improving access to sustainable income-generating opportunities (on and off farm) to help Sierra Leoneans get out of poverty and support their households to be food-secure





*Commission Sierra Leone - NEC - National Elect*

COMMISSION



Voting in Freetown in the 2018 elections  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

# Democratic Governance



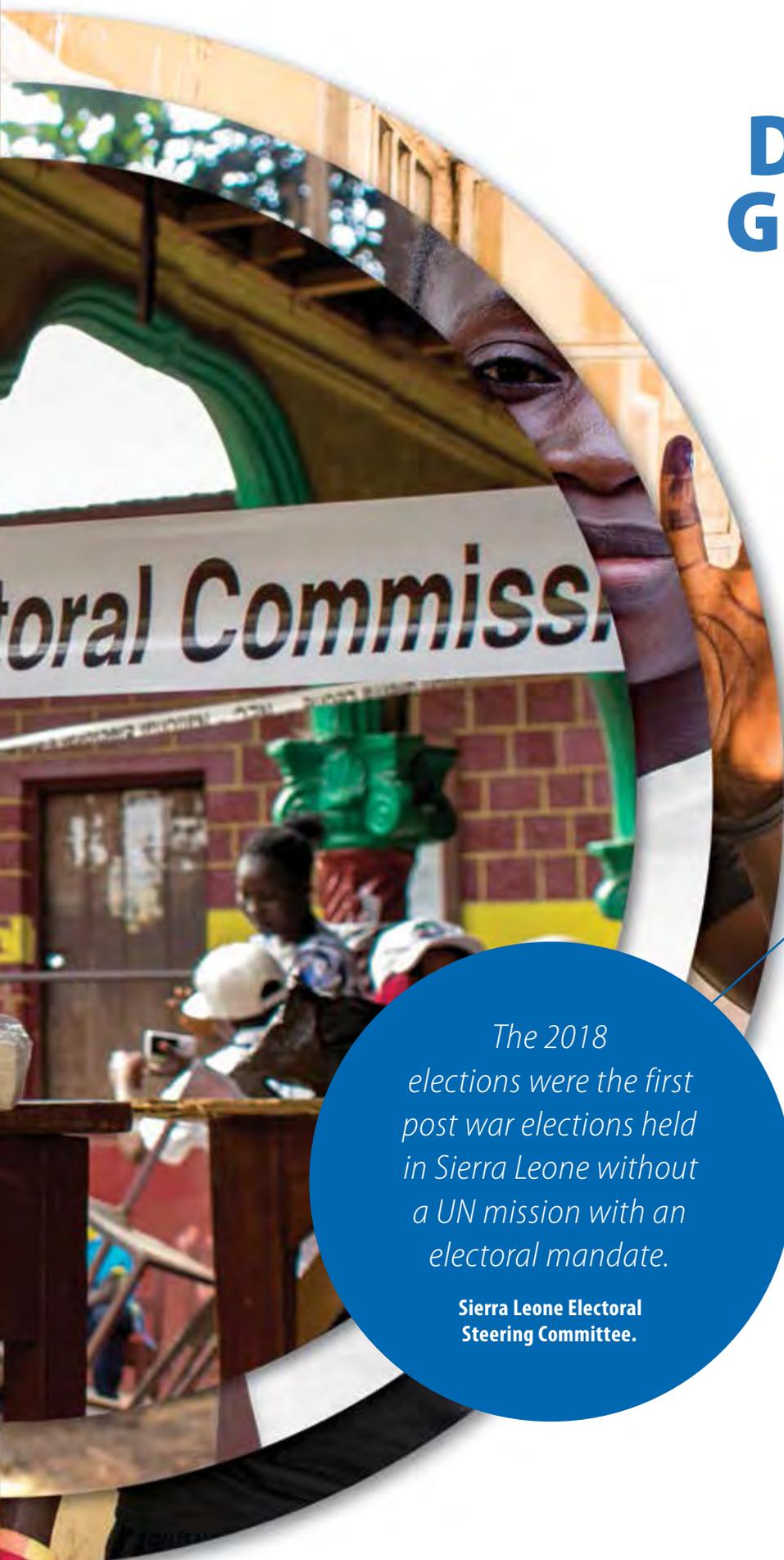
## *Peace Dae Na We Han*

The 2018 elections were UNDP's flagship activity as the Country Office (CO) continued to support the strengthening of national democratic institutions to progressively deliver on good governance.

Given Sierra Leone's recent past and present development trajectory, UNDP's financial and technical support to hold credible, inclusive, peaceful elections that could meet international standards was a welcome idea. Thanks to funding from our development partners namely the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK)/Department for International Development (DFID), Canada, Ireland and Norway, UNDP was able to provide both technical and financial support to address outstanding challenges to the election process and helped the country to deliver timely, credible and peaceful elections.

*The 2018 elections were the first post war elections held in Sierra Leone without a UN mission with an electoral mandate.*

**Sierra Leone Electoral Steering Committee.**



## UNDP's Support to the National Electoral Commission

### ELECTIONS

Ensured a robust Voter Registration for inclusion, transparency and accountability in the electoral process



### VOTER REGISTRATION

Throughout 2017, UNDP supported NEC in the registration of voters ahead of the March 2018 presidential, parliamentary and local government elections



Mid-2017, following announcement by the National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) that the planned biometric national identity cards would not be issued in time for the March 2018 elections, UNDP mobilized additional support and procured voter ID cards for use in 2018 drawing upon UNDP's global expertise in electoral procurement.



# 3,300

voter registration data collection centers opened for six weeks with UNDP support



UNDP provided IT equipment and expertise to process registration data collected



Voter's register completed by September 2017 with UNDP support

## MID 2017

As a result of UNDP's support in preparation for the elections, NEC ended 2017 with a complete voters' register on new electoral boundaries and the distribution of over three million voter cards.

## VOTER EDUCATION

First-time voter education reached 3,825 direct beneficiaries from 75 institutions (55-45% male-female ratio) and 132 rural communities with 40 outreach sessions in all 16 districts.

## RESULTS MANAGEMENT

In parallel to working on voter registration issues, UNDP supported NEC to undertake the development and full examination of the results management system based on NEC's preferred model that was finalized by October 2017.

16  
Districts

132  
Rural  
communities

40  
sessions

**3,825** Direct beneficiaries

45%

55%

## A Gender-Responsive Electoral Process



UNDP further engaged in intensive work to develop procedures for voting, IT and supporting plans for actual implementation of the elections in 2018. This work included extensive outreach and information sharing with all stakeholders and the public

Part of the outreach activities included supporting women to engage in politics and compete for leadership positions. With UNDP's support, **341 female candidates were equipped with presentation skills, managing campaigns and engaging with the media.** The March 2018 elections had **four women vice presidential candidates and two women presidential candidates that contested the elections** compared to none in the 2012 elections, through teaching skills, UNDP helped to increase their abilities to participate in the elections beyond voting.

Women made up 42% of staff at polling stations.





reduced inequalities

**Case Study:**  
An all-inclusive  
election sustains  
peace and  
development

Thomas Alieu, Disability Advisor to UNDP and the NEC ahead 2018's elections, trains AVETOS on how to use Tactile Ballot Papers  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

“ I will act with integrity and honesty, with the vision of promoting democracy and good governance always in mind as I carry out my assigned duties and responsibilities.”

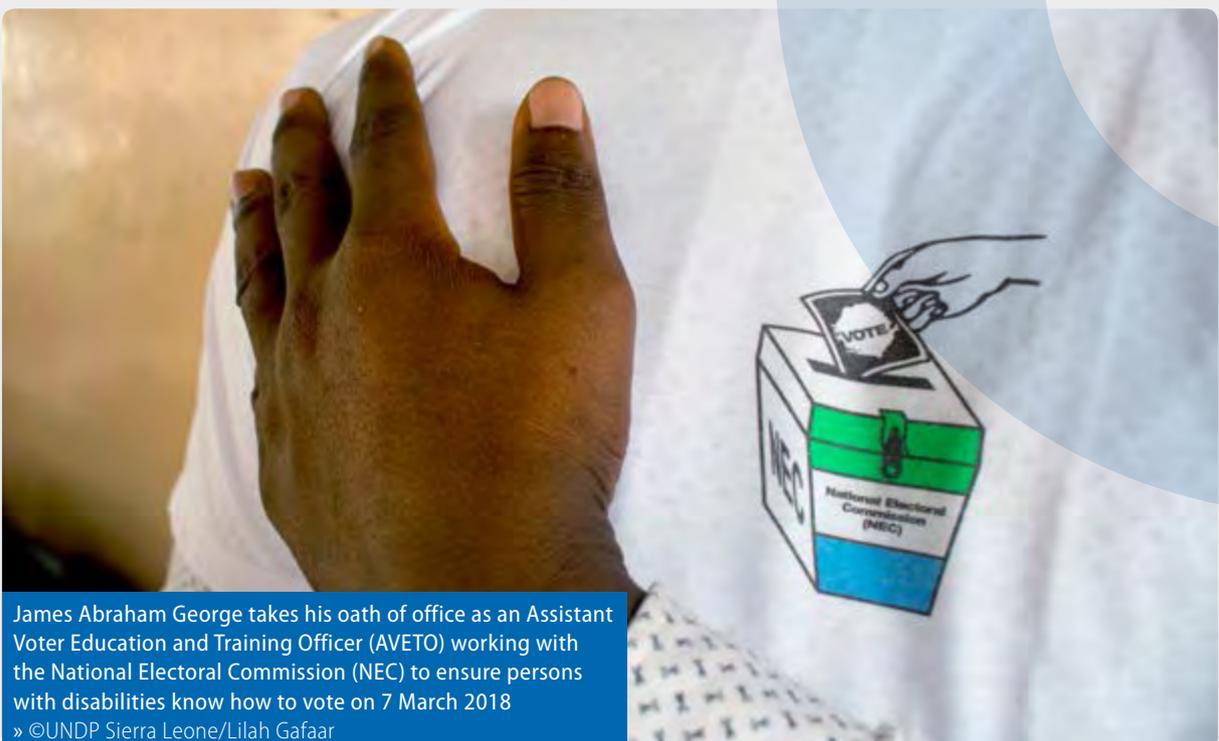
With his right hand on his heart, James Abraham George took his oath of office – two weeks before Sierra Leone went to the polls to vote in Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council Elections.

James, physically challenged, studied Peace and Conflict Studies at Fourah Bay College. He vividly recalls facing eight flights of stairs every day to attend classes in all the four years of his course. *“It was really challenging”* he recalls with a mixture of pain, resilience and a sense of victory in his voice and face. *“Most buildings in the country are not disability friendly – imagine if you have to move three or four times a day...!”*, *“but I don’t focus on the challenges, that’s why I’m here today. I have patience. For disability is not inability.”*

He snaps out of a pause with a broad smile.

Originally from Bonthe Island now residing in Freetown, James was one of 19 Assistant Voter Education and Training Officers (AVETO) working with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) with UNDP’s support to enable persons with disabilities (PWDs) to vote with ease in the March 2018 elections.

With specific funding received from Ireland, UK and EU, NEC and UNDP in collaboration with the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) conducted an intensive consultation exercise to draw up the first ever national assessment of access to elections for people with disabilities.



James Abraham George takes his oath of office as an Assistant Voter Education and Training Officer (AVETO) working with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to ensure persons with disabilities know how to vote on 7 March 2018  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar



PWDs supported to vote with ease during the 2018 elections  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

UNDP continued to support NEC in the implementation of the resulting recommendations in the run up to the 2018 polls.

The project ensured that polling centers were stationed on premises accessible to wheelchair users and to those who face challenges with mobility. Ramps were installed where premises were not wheelchair-accessible; and every polling station had at least one screen that is lower in order to accommodate the height of wheelchairs and for those who need to sit down while completing their ballot papers.

As an AVETO, James served as a focal point for all PWDs' issues in his district and provided one-on-one voter education

with a particular focus on explaining the use of the Tactile Ballot Guide to the visually impaired.

In a survey conducted by UNDP, 90% of disability organizations in all districts of the country recommended employing people with disabilities in the National Electoral Commission. One hundred percent of blind and visually challenged persons requested a Tactile Ballot Guide. Accordingly, UNDP supported NEC to ensure that Tactile Ballot Guides were developed. The guides in form of folders into which ballot papers could be inserted had raised text (braille) and several box-shaped openings, representing candidates, to allow visually impaired voters to correctly mark their ballot papers.

“Mechanisms are now in place to ensure that persons with disabilities can vote easily and independently. In the past, these persons voted with a lot of challenges and with the aid of others. Some did not turn up to vote because of the challenges involved. This is a great motivation and a way to ensure that their votes will not be misguided. I am optimistic that, with this system in place the rights of PWDs are being considered better than before but we must still engage in robust sensitization and advocacy processes.”

Thomas Alieu was UNDP's adviser on disability issues ahead of 2018's landmark elections at NEC.

Mr. Alieu, visually impaired having lost his sight at the tender age of five helped to prepare the set of Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQs) on the Tactile Ballot Guide in braille for NEC to use on their sensitization drives. The FAQs were distributed to the AVETOs and to the District Electoral Offices to pass on to voters especially the visually impaired.

“It would be difficult for a country to call itself a democracy without maintaining a participatory and inclusive political environment in its policy,” and it is through this program and with thanks to funds from Canada, Ireland, the UK, the EU and UNDP, that the National Electoral Commission has been able to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone - enabling an inclusive electoral process and protecting every person's ballot paper on 7 March 2018.”

The National Electoral Commission, Sierra Leone.



Assistant Voter Education Training Officers were introduced to tactile ballot guides to help voters with visual impairment  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar



Honorable Veronica Sesay, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Female Caucustables a gender-equality bill in the parliament of Sierra Leone.  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Alpha Sesay

## Supporting Women in Parliament

**UNDP continued its support to uplift the status of women especially in decision making processes and alleviating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Sierra Leone.**

1

To enable women to better organize themselves to participate in and take charge of development issues in the country, UNDP supported the revival of the All Political Parties' Women's Association and the Parliamentary Female Caucus ahead of the 2018 elections. This resulted in the resuscitation of the Parliamentary Female Caucus after the elections.

UNDP further supported the Sierra Leone chapter of the Women's situation room which created space for consultations with all parties involved in the elections and encouraged women to be involved in peace advocacy, mediation, coordination, political analysis, observation and documentation.

2

With funds from the UN Peacebuilding Fund-Improving women's participation in political processes as Peacebuilding Ambassadors project, gender specific early warning and elections monitoring tools were developed, and data generated shared with key stakeholders for prompt action on all gender related violent cases reported. **As a result, more women than before participated in the elections both as candidates and voters. Of the 3.1 million registered voters, 52% were women. Percentage of women in parliament increased marginally from 12.4% in 2012 to 12.9% in 2018.**

3

Additionally, UNDP supported the development of accountability frameworks for promoting women's peace and security agenda. A Parliamentary Resolution on Women Peace and Security was laid before Parliament, debated and adopted. With UNDP and UN Women joint support to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, two policy documents: *The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy* and *National Action Plan on the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325* were drafted for endorsement by Parliament of Sierra Leone.



Sierra Leone is the first country whose parliament adopted the Women Peace and Security Agenda and domesticated it into national frameworks.

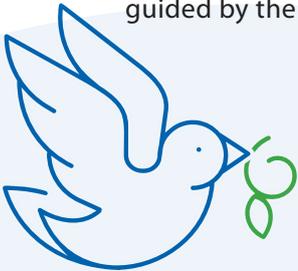
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Women in Pujehun district during a peacebuilding dialogue organised by Government, civil society and supported by UNDP  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle



## Building and Sustaining Peace

The *Conflict Prevention and Mitigation (CPM)* project contributed to a peaceful and secure environment during the 2018 electoral cycle, through a range of interconnected activities, guided by the human rights-based approach, to support peaceful elections.



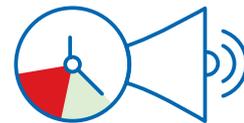
**The Peace Pledge** - a high level dialogue that saw the different political parties' presidential candidates commit to respecting the rule of law and accepting the outcomes of the elections regardless of the winners. *The Peace Pledge* was helped under the patronage of the former President of Ghana - John Mahama.



**Electoral courts** across the country were supported to expedite electoral offense cases



**Multi-stakeholder national situation room** that monitored and mitigated violence before during and after the elections



**Strengthened national and community-based conflict early warning** and response systems by reducing rumors and averting hate speeches in especially the mainstream media



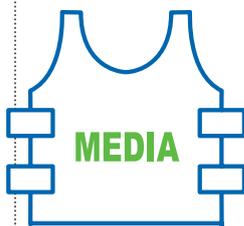
**Trained Sierra Leone Police** in human rights and conflict sensitive response mechanisms besides helping to enhance their ability to deploy and respond to incidents country-wide coordinated from 6 command centers.



**Improved access to justice** for rights holders, particularly vulnerable women, the elderly and PWDs.



**Helped to improve public perception and awareness** of safety and security in the electoral cycle through public information campaigns via the local media especially radio.



**Supported conflict sensitive reporting** through training workshops for journalists, students, and Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), providing an awareness on the harms of hate speech and the responsible use of social media platforms for reporting about the elections. The Media Situation Room (MSR) run in partnership with BBC Media Action provided the much-needed platform to track and report such incidents and as a result, **91 cases of hate speech and social media propagated 'fake news' were reported over the course of the elections.**

### Fact

UNDP's contributions to the 2018 elections were overseen and monitored by the Sierra Leone Electoral Steering Committee, a multi-stakeholder platform led by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) and the office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations with support from Technical Committees attached to each UNDP project involved in election activities.



Journalist trainee conducting interviews using the 'Conflict-sensitive reporting' skills acquired through UNDP's support to Media project  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Karim Bah

## Support to Media

### Facilitating an enabling environment for free and independent media to promote peace, democratic governance and sustainable development

Since 2013, UNDP has supported the media in Sierra Leone in various ways including: The Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG), a platform that brings together a number of major media and academic groups advocating for legislative reform and working to strengthen the media sector's capacities and professionalism. UNDP has also worked to secure greater autonomy for Sierra Leone's national media regulator - the Independent Media Commission (IMC).

Through the MRCG, UNDP supported a network of community radio stations that use

creative and innovative programming formats to capture the knowledge and narratives of the rural and urban poor and engage them on local development issues including on gender, young people, climate change, peacebuilding and democratic governance.

Collaborating with nine major educational institutions in Sierra Leone, UNDP has helped support the establishment of a national curriculum for professional journalism. This support included the **development of syllabi for more than 100 journalism courses, the creation of opportunities for journalism**



**ABOVE:** Young man listens to a radio program on peace and nation building in Makeni  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Karim Bah

students to gain practical experience, and the development of postgraduate certificate, Masters and Doctoral programmes in journalism. In addition, through training and mentoring initiatives, professional standards and capacity development for journalists were improved.

### Supporting media to ensure peaceful Elections in 2018

With support from the UK and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), to improve media professionalism and ensure conflict sensitive reporting on the elections, UNDP partnered with the BBC Media Action and MRCG and trained 500 media editors and journalists on conflict sensitive reporting in the electoral process in all 16 districts of Sierra Leone.

“ So far, we are pleased. There has been an improvement in the media reportage on elections. Hate messages, inflammatory speeches, incitement, intimidation, intolerance and personality attacks have dropped significantly in these elections compared to the 2012 elections overall, 83 % of media institutions published and broadcast contents that comply with guidelines on reporting elections as per the Independent Media Commission (IMC) code of practice. Only 17 % of the contents did not comply. We continue to engage with media houses to remind them of collective responsibility to be mindful of their reporting while enjoying their rights to press freedom as contained in several international human right conventions.”

- Francis Sowa (PhD), member of the MRCG  
(during media monitoring for the 2018 elections).

## Improving Access to Justice

The year 2018 also yielded significant achievements in the Justice and Security sectors.



Technical support to legislative reforms in the justice chain led to the review of the Corrections Act 2014 and Prison Rules 1961 against the Mandela and UN Bangkok Rules, the reviews was submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for endorsement before onward submission to Cabinet.



**24** motorbikes provided to 16 districts to facilitate the civil registration exercise thus increasing the number of citizens being registered. The civil registration process will support the delivery of the SDGs under the principle of Leaving No One Behind.



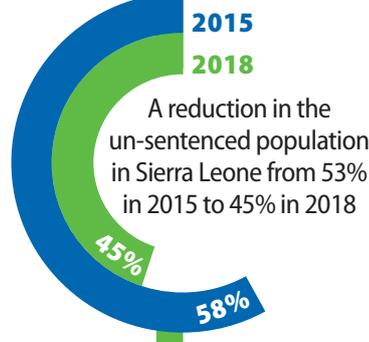
August 2018, the Bail Regulations received Parliament approval. This instrument significantly limits the discretion of Judges and Magistrates in the provision of court bail.



**20**

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) staff members trained on the Bail Regulations and court monitoring tools to increase their awareness of the instrument and enhance their ability to administer justice.

UNDP's support ensured speedy review of cases through the implementation of Prison Courts leading to:



**650** defendants assisted through legal aid provided by local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supported by UNDP

The prison courts instigated the special hearings by the Court of Appeal of **25 urgent cases** as a result, **24 inmates including two women were released**



Enhanced effectiveness and transparency in case management within the Ministry of Justice

The internal case management system for the Ministry of Justice was finalized and approved to be fully operational from the first quarter of 2019 following training of all staff.



The Justice App was extended to cover a total of 11 Magistrates' Courts and 7 High Courts.

**132** Trained 132 (116 male; 16 female) which made 85% of the 5th parliament's first-time parliamentarians to increase their capacity to perform their legislative roles.



Prison courts in session

» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

## SDG 16 Plus Conference

In early October UNDP was a key participant in a major conference on SDG-16 which took place in Freetown organized by the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). The conference aimed at strengthening the capacities of CSOs and Government in upholding the

SDG16, and provided a platform to discuss the successes, challenges and opportunities going forward for the country, following recent elections. It focused on issues around national cohesion, prevention and the promotion of peace, to inclusive processes and institutions, the fight against corruption and access to justice for all.

## 'From Prisons to Corrections'

With INL funding support, UNDP continued to support the Sierra Leone Correctional Services (SLCS) in implementing its Strategic Plan to transform its prisons to correctional facilities, in accordance with Sierra Leonean and international human rights obligations.

The intervention seeks to improve the capacity of correctional facilities to comply with international human rights standards; and strengthen the capacity of correctional service staff to ensure the welfare of inmates, and the safety and security of society.

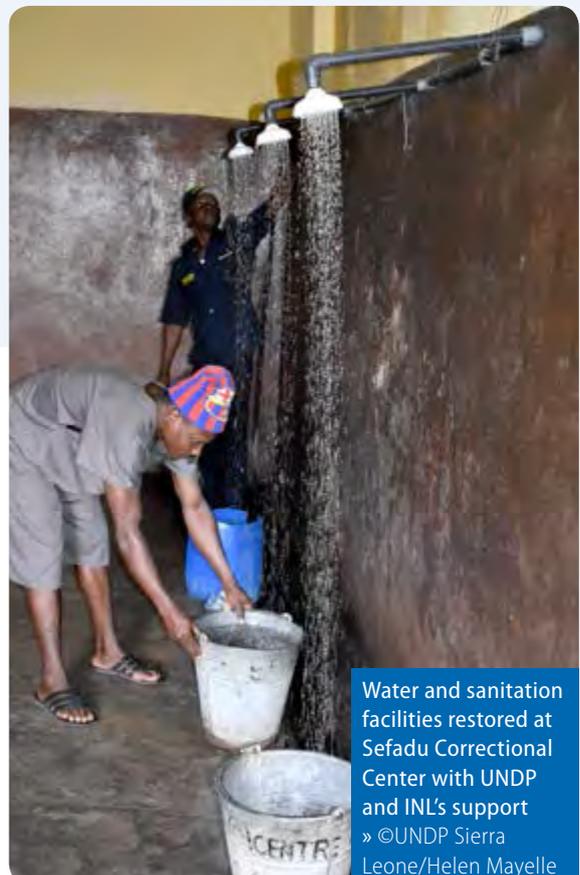
This year saw the refurbishment and construction of eight correctional centers completely equipped with water and sanitation facilities.

**“The initiative to reconstruct this facility will greatly help decongestion at the Main male correctional facility in the country—Pademba Road. Inmates from the rural western area will no longer be taken to the main center. It is necessary to decongest the main center because the center was built for 324 inmates; today the center houses 2000 or more inmates which is a 500% increase in overcrowding. This is a problem for the entire criminal justice system in terms of effective service delivery. However, credit needs to be given to the administration of the institutions for managing to cope with the situation and limited resources and many**

***thanks to UNDP and INL for their timely intervention. Decongestion is important. Imagine what would happen during an Ebola outbreak...”***

**- Mohammed Kamara, SLCS Facilities' Manager.**

Additionally, in order to facilitate inmates' welfare and better rehabilitation and reintegration, UNDP supported the launch of the ***Earning and Savings Scheme for Inmates***. The scheme is intended to enable inmates to provide financial support to immediate family members during their imprisonment, and to ensure that the inmates have some financial means available for a new beginning once released into his or her community.



Water and sanitation facilities restored at Sefadu Correctional Center with UNDP and INL's support  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle

## Case Study: From Prisons to Corrections

Inmates receive their bank registration details at Port Loko Correctional Center  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle

“...for the first time in my life, I have a bank account thanks to this project. I am saving small, small and also helping my family who come here asking for help. I will not be like ‘the dog to return to my vomit’ when I get out of here”. Barrie\* is a 34 years old inmate, a husband and father of two who found himself on the wrong side of the law and ended up at Mafanta Correctional Center.

Barrie, despite having attended formal education just to lower primary level, he has several skills including in carpentry, construction of houses and fixing simple electronics. He volunteers to help in the refurbishment of the center’s buildings under a UNDP funded project. **“I like to keep myself busy and my mind active so that I reduce on my worries”**. Luckily then, the inmates’ earning and saving scheme was established, and Barrie started being paid for his labor. With a little more time left for him to serve, Barrie feels more confident, respected and focused. He hopes to use some of his savings earned whilst incarcerated to start-up his own business when he is discharged. **“Now I also feel like an important part of the society because I have a decent source of income.**

***I will not engage in illicit activities. I am now a better citizen and most importantly, a better father and husband”***. Even though he is incarcerated, Barrie’s wife often comes in to collect money for their family’s upkeep from him. He is very proud of his achievements and thankful for the initiative which does not only help him to provide for his family but also keeps him out of trouble whilst improving his skills in construction work and farming.

**246** sentenced inmates (21 women and 225 men) were engaged in the earning scheme and opened bank accounts to save their earnings whilst incarcerated. The savings will enable them to enjoy gainful sustainable livelihoods upon release.

\*Barrie is not his real name. His name has been changed for privacy reasons.

Strengthening of the capacity of the correctional services, contributes directly to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and more specifically to the achievement of Goal 16, which regards the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies through peace, justice and strong institutions.

“ Our aim is to shift both perceptions and practices of the role and purpose of prisons from serving as places of punishment to helping inmates change their behavior and increase their chances of being reintegrated in society thus preventing re-offense.”

Walter Neba, Project Manager, From Prisons to Corrections, UNDP Sierra Leone.



Inmates are involved in all aspects of rehabilitation works at Mafanta Prison  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar



ABOVE: UNDP project staff monitoring construction works at Makeni Correctional Center » ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Lilah Gafaar

BELOW: RR and SLCS Officers at Kenema Male Correctional Center » ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle





Massah, Amie and Abu fetch water from a UNDP-supported facility in Bunumbu, Kpeje West, Kailahun district  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Alpha Sesay

# Inclusive Growth



## Reducing Unemployment, Building Local Economy

The World Bank reports that “extreme poverty [was] at the lowest level in recorded history” in 2018. However, it also reports that, “extreme poverty is becoming more concentrated in Sub-saharan Africa”. Poverty in Sierra Leone remains a top development challenge. Worsened by a recent history of conflict and fragility, health and climate-related emergencies, Sierra Leone’s economy is one of the poorest ten in the world, with a relatively low life expectancy and the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in world rankings. Sierra Leone’s situation begs for heightened sustainable solutions to address these and other drivers of poverty that continue to undermine its sustainable development.



“*Sierra Leone’s youth population accounts for a staggering 65% of the total population yet, they continue to be the most deprived and marginalized group making them vulnerable to partaking in instabilities as historical accounts of the civil war convey. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) confirmed that the dire situation of our youth was what made them join the rebel war. The Commission recommended improvements in their situation but still the needs of these youth remain largely unmet. We need to increase opportunities for them to thrive, they must also be included in decision-making processes and have sufficient access to vital basic needs to avoid mistakes of the past and place our country on the right path of development. So, we applaud UNDP’s timely intervention towards youth empowerment and employment, and we are partners in it.*”

*Adonis A. Kanneh, Registrar, Eastern Polytechnic, Kenema.*

A third of the youth population is unemployed, living from day to day on handouts and stipend from whatever odd jobs they manage to secure. The situation is more pitiful in the rural and underdeveloped communities where studies reveal that, one out of ten young

people can hardly afford Le2,500 a day. This is hardly an incentive to development and social stability in Sierra Leone.

Against this backdrop, UNDP initiated the *Youth Employment and Empowerment Project (YEPP)* five years ago with the aim of empowering Sierra Leone’s youth for self-growth and to effectively participate in national development processes.

Established on a national policy framework in partnership with the National Youth Service and the National Youth Commission (NAYCOM), the project was part of UNDP’s package designed to assist the government of Sierra Leone to target development investments to the youth sector as part of a strategy towards achieving the then Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the SDGs.

YEPP is implemented through grassroots partners under four components - Business Development Services (BDS), Agribusiness (SMEs), the Career Advisory and Placement Services (CAPS), and the Graduate Internship Programme (GIP).



**4,440** (1,786 Male; 2,654 Female)  
low-income youths from some  
poor households across the country

have **improved access to sustainable income-generating opportunities** through either self-employment or employment within the labor market thus improving their livelihoods and well-being.

**1,148** (172 Male; 976 Female) beneficiaries  
started their own businesses.



**97** female youths also got enrolled in various skills training courses to increase their chances of employability and improve their avenues of earning income.



**202** (112 Male; 90 Female) graduate interns, under the Graduate Internship Program (GIP) placed to serve in various capacities in both Government and private sector institutions.

**5** Career Advisory and Placement (CAPs) **centers fully equipped opened across Sierra Leone** at the Fourah Bay College, Njala University, Kenema Eastern Polytechnic and the Northern Polytechnic in Bombali district.

**Strengthened citizen engagement and volunteerism** - First set of (200) Graduate Corps for National Youth Service trained through UNDP's technical and financial support to the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MOYA), and the National Youth Commission (NAYCOM)



**Provision of technical and financial support** to the official launch and dissemination of the Status of the Youth Report in partnership with MOYA

## Placing Young People at the Heart of Development

### The Graduate Internship Programme

GIP as part of YEEP rolled out in 2012 in strides to position the youth to take their rightful place for the development of Sierra Leone. Youth affairs continue to be a priority of GoSL as well as UN's agenda for development.

**“ It is a necessary and very welcomed initiative because the youth of the country have an unemployment problem. Statistics show that 36% of the country's population constitute youth of whom 70% are unemployed -which means every seven out of ten youth are unemployed, and such a situation constitutes a time-bomb for the nation.”**

*Dr. Serry Kamara, Director of Youth Village, Sierra Leone*

The programme which aims to increase productive internship opportunities nationwide, graduates are able to obtain employability skills beneficial to both themselves and potential employers in order to meet national and international job markets' demands.

**“ The programme has increased the overall quality of the internship experience, and actually contributed to the employability of our graduates.”**

*- Deputy Commissioner of the National Youth Commission, Aminata Sillah-Bangura.*



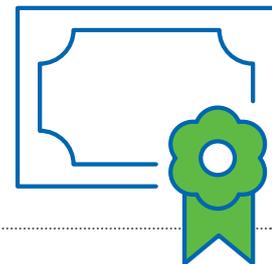
# 662

certified youth gained valuable job experience in various disciplines - enhancing

opportunity for employing organizations to recruit high calibre, talented graduates whilst also bolstering employability of young university graduates (SDG 8).

# 132

youth certified from the 2017 batch of GIP trainees



# 202

(112 Male;  
90 Female)  
graduate

interns placed to serve in various capacities in both Government and private sector institutions, including Local and District Councils, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, FAO and I/NGO's. Some served as Human Resource Officers, Accounts Officers, Field Monitoring Officers, Project Officers and Revenue Clerks receptively.



Young design graduate supported by the Business Development Services project  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Alpha Sesay

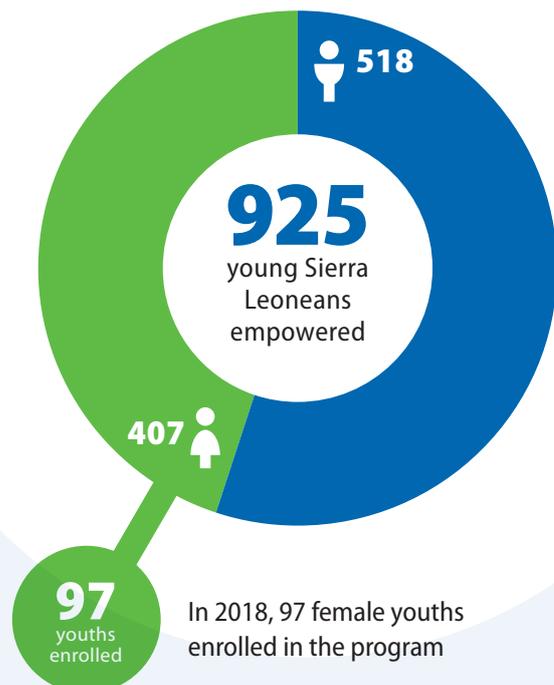
## Business Development Services (BDS)

Most of the youth in the country are non-school going and prefer to engage in petty trade and related activities based on traditional knowledge and skills for their livelihoods. Whilst some are able to find some start-up capital for their businesses, majority are unable to do so. Thus, BDS seeks to create an enabling environment for these youth especially in the informal sector of Sierra Leone to be self-dependent and meaningfully contribute to development of their lives and communities.

Participants in the BDS scheme are trained in basic business development and management skills, business communication and marketing, basic banking skills and resource management and allocation. Besides the training courses in entrepreneurship, participants are also provided with business mentorship, coaching and advisory services in order to help them transform their ideas into individual or group business projects. Following the successful completion of the trainings, the youth receive

assistance in form of grants used to start-up, develop/expand and innovate their own businesses.

Since its inception, with UNDP's technical and financial support the BDS project has **empowered 925 young Sierra Leoneans** - 407 females (44%) and 518 males of targeted beneficiaries through the Business Development Services (BDS).





## Supporting Agribusiness Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for local development

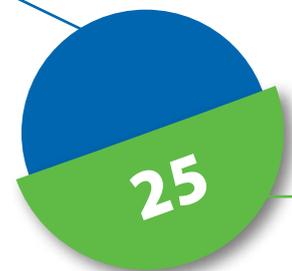
**Technical and financial support provided** to the development of SDGs-alert and Gender-Responsive development plans (2018 - 2020) and budgets in place for five (5) local councils - Port Loko, Kambia, Kono, Kailahun and Kenema. The plans developed in consultation with and participation of the Councils focus on education, infrastructure development, health, water and sanitation, agriculture and food security, energy and power, governance and management, among others. The plans are now also used by the council, as resource mobilization tools.

With UNDP support to Local Economic Development, 50 SMEs acquired skills in agricultural value chain development and financial management and are now able to manage their business accounts effectively.

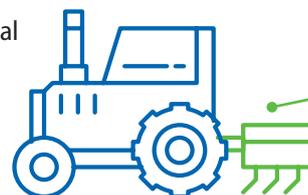


**50 SMEs** acquired skills

Out of the 50 SME's trained, 25 benefited from grants for the procurement of processing machines to add value to their agricultural products and to avoid post-harvest losses.



grants awarded



## Supporting Agriculture and food security through SMEs

# 1,140

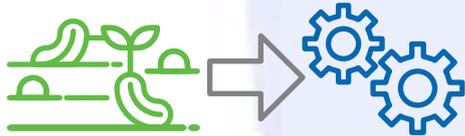
SME operators trained

Through UNDP supported training's in entrepreneurial skills and SME/PPP dialogue sessions, **1,140 SME operators (78% female)** based in Kambia and Kailahun have regularized their business documents and formalized their SMEs with the local councils and other MDAs like the Ministry of Agriculture.



Information gathered by SME operators and linkages made between SME operators and

MDAs during the SME dialogue sessions have enabled easy access to information on SME development from the relevant MDAs. These actions have led to better understanding of the agriculture value chain.



Through UNDP grants, groundnut processing equipment and training provided to **20 SME cooperatives** with membership of **700 (35 members/group) persons (76% female)** leading to improved food security and increased income for poor households, local community development and cross-border trade.



Under the Local Governance & Economic Development Project (LGED) **890 female SME operators** in the UNDP SME development

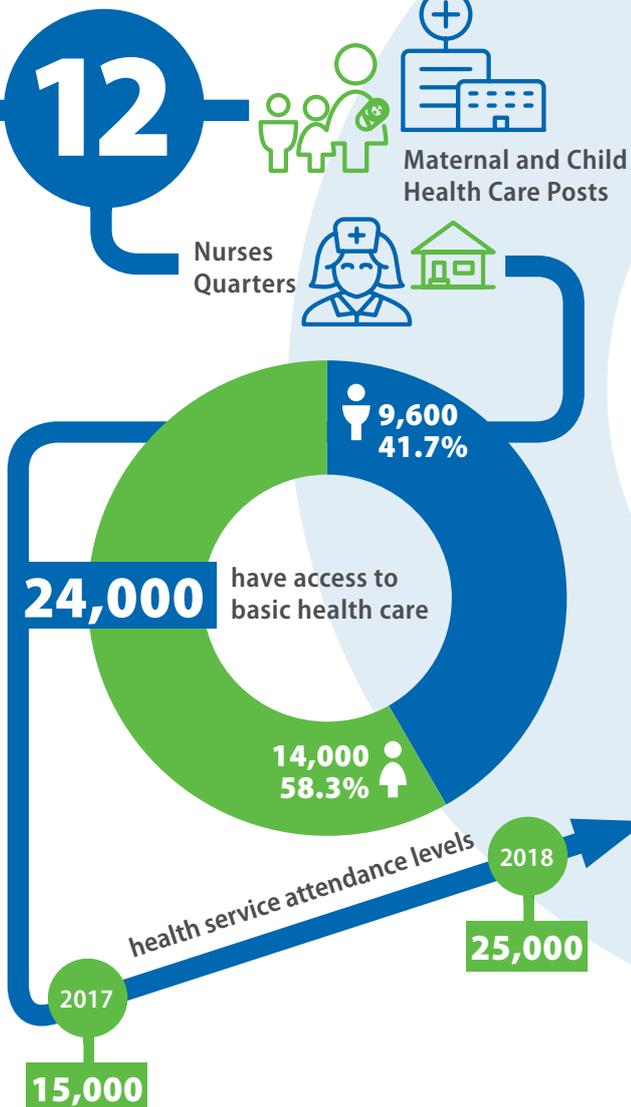
project were linked to relevant government entities and financial service providers leading to formalization of their business arrangements with MDAs and IPs.



## Strengthening Health System Resilience for Development

With funding support from the People of Japan, UNDP helped to rehabilitate 12 Maternal and Child Health Care Posts (MCHPs) & 12 nurses' quarters all equipped with solar power, boreholes for clean water supply connected to run into the buildings, and toilets thus giving approximately 24,000 (9,600 males; 14,400 females) people access to basic health care services. As a result of the facilities, the Kailahun DHMT reports that health service attendance levels increased by 37.5% that is, from 15,000 in 2017 to 25,000 in 2018.

**Case Study:  
Development  
Begins with  
Healthy People**



“ Like all developing countries, Sierra Leone is faced with so many challenges and health is a major one. Health is important because development starts with healthy people. There would be no development if the people who should do the work are not healthy,”

**Samuel Doe, Resident Representative,  
UNDP in Sierra Leone.**

Samuel Doe as the Country Director of UNDP then was on a countrywide monitoring visit of UNDP's field projects when the ceremony took place in Kailahun District. Six Maternal Child Health Posts (MCHP)- newly refurbished and some constructed, were officially handed over to the cross-boarder communities of Talia, Bandajuma Sinneh and Sengema in Luawa Chiefdom; Mendekele main Upper Bambara Chiefdom; and Sandia and Gbandiwulo in Kissi Tongi Chiefdom through the Kailahun District Council and District Health Medical Team (DHMT).

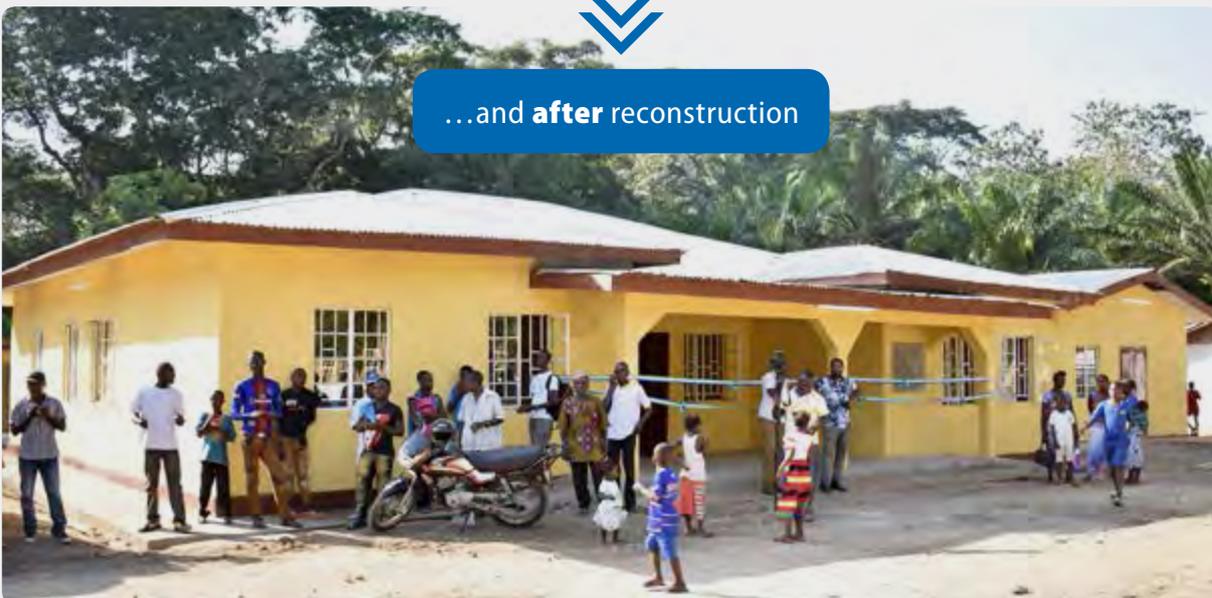
The project followed the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak (2014-2016) that mostly affected border communities with poor health and other development infrastructure such as roads. The first Ebola case in Sierra Leone was reported to be a pregnant woman in this district of Kailahun. As the outbreak peaked, the district recorded more than 80 new Ebola cases per week and buried more than 50 bodies in just 12 days according to the World Health Organization.

The facilities have observation rooms, outpatient wards, Immunization areas, labor wards, ante-natal and post-natal wards, drug





Mendekelema MCHP  
**Before...**



...and **after** reconstruction

stores, consultation rooms, toilets, bathrooms, incinerators, placenta pits and onsite accommodation for health workers.

**The health facilities will render services to about 24,000 in 56 villages of all six communities. There will also be scores of people coming to access the services from across the porous borders in neighboring countries Liberia and Guinea.**

The RR was particularly happy that the health posts had moved from small family homes donated by kind-hearted community members to bigger permanent structures.

Bintu, and her colleagues, attended the handing over ceremony at Talia with her baby strapped to her back. She narrowly escaped death while giving birth at a makeshift health post. Overjoyed, she ecstatically danced in

celebration of their new health center with a labor room fairly equipped to modern standards.

*"Before now, it was difficult for us and the nurses. I am happy for this new hospital and I look forward to come regularly with my children for check-up"* said Bintu.

Equally, the nurses were in high spirit. *"We are happy about the new structures.*

*"We never honestly imagined we could have such facilities in this town,"* said Jestina Alpha, Nurse-in-Charge at Talia MCHP.

Jestina has been an MCHP aide for six years at Talia. The old MCHP in Talia was once Pa Sellu Bockarie – a community elder's family house which he donated to the community after witnessing too many unnecessary deaths of Talia's mothers and children including his own daughter whilst giving birth. It is his kind heart and thoughtfulness that led his fellow







community members to demand for a better health system first from their Chief then from the Government. With no external intervention coming through, the people of Talia decided to organize themselves and resources locally to start constructing a health center. On a piece of land allocated by their Chief, the people of Talia managed to raise a structure out of mud bricks but got stuck with the wall just midway due to lack of resources. It was then that UNDP support came by and supported the community to complete the locally initiated development project expanding the community's three-

roomed structure to a fully-fledged health center with staff quarters.

The story is the same across the six communities – the preexisting MCHPs are small semi-permanent houses that a community member had to sacrifice for the sake of his or her people's health care. Mostly populated with women and children, these communities are situated in hard to reach parts of a district that is already hard to reach from the capital with generally poor economic infrastructure.



Family using reclaimed mined-out land for agriculture  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle



# Sustainable Environment



*“UNDP remains the largest service provider in the UN system on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. We were one of the first organizations accredited by GCF in 2015 and one of the largest brokers of climate change support to developing countries.”*

*Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator UNDP.*

In 2018, UNDP provided technical and financial support towards the validation of the following environment-related policy frameworks targeting government institutions, private sector and the community, and their subsequent adoption by GoSL to ensure equitable and sustainable natural resource management:

- Land Policy
- The Mineral Sector Benchmarking Assessment
- Formulation of the minerals policy
- Renewable Energy Policy
- Energy Efficiency Policy
- Review of the National climate change strategy and action plan
- Review of the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) framework





change. Hence the review of the NAP framework which outlines the country's strategies on climate change adaptation and measures for the government to develop appropriate projects.

The Mineral Sector Benchmarking Assessment report also supported by UNDP, outlined a need for the conduct of an airborne geo-physic survey to determine the country's mineral portfolio. Based on this report, the World Bank provided funding for the survey to be conducted within four months. The survey aims to investigate minerals available in Sierra Leone, and their quality and quantities. The information accrued from the survey will inform GoSL on the sector's potential to increase economic diversification through investment in the mining sector and ensure that the management of natural resources are done in a transparent, equitable and sustainable manner.

UNDP received 10 million dollars from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for the implementation of projects (ranging from access to clean water, climate information and early warning systems, energy efficiency and coastal risk management) to help Sierra Leoneans adapt to the effects of climate

## Working with the Public and Private Sectors for Environment-friendly mining policies that promote Sustainable Livelihoods for surrounding communities

Natural resources should not be a curse but rather a driver for sustainable development with good management policies in place. That is why under its Natural Resource Management framework, UNDP strengthened the Environment Protection and the National Mineral Agencies to enforce mining agreements between Mining companies and the community in which they operate and promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to enhance livelihoods within Mining communities.

This engagement ensures that each Mining company undertakes an Environmental Impact Assessment and possess clear CSR

strategies, upon which they are held accountable and also determines the scale of their commitment to developing the communities in which they operate. The UNDP supported sustainable livelihoods initiative was implemented in two Chiefdoms (Gbense and Tankoro) in the diamond mining district of Kono.

In partnership with the National Mineral Agency (NMA) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA)-Sierra Leone, the activities of the initiative include promotion of CSR initiatives, ensuring Mining companies fulfil and account for their CSR obligations.





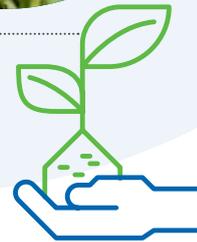
**20** acres of mined-out land was reclaimed and brought under cultivation of rice (8 acres) and another 7 acres went to vegetable and economic trees production.



**200** mine area community people (114 women) were trained in agribusiness skills and supported with inputs are now cultivating reclaimed lands. This has created alternative sources of income rather than solely relying on mining for their livelihoods.



**114** women benefited from agribusiness training and inputs support for rice and vegetable cultivation on 15 acres of land reclaimed from former mining sites



Following a training supported by UNDP, 450 youths (414 men; 46 women) gained entrepreneurship and business development skills over a course of 12 weeks. Each youth was then provided start-up capital of one million Leones (Le 1,000,000) to establish their own businesses actualized from business plans they developed during training session.

**450**

Youths trained in business skills



**Le 1,000,000**

Start-up capital for their own business



## Innovation to accelerate development

### The Social Good Summit 2018

The month of September 2018 saw UNDP in Sierra Leone hold yet another of its flagship events - the Annual Social Good Summit, National Youth Innovation awards. The event marked the 5th time UNDP organized the event in Sierra Leone having started in 2013 with the exception of 2014 due to the Ebola outbreak.

#### This year's theme was 'Leaving No One Behind in the Digital Age'.

Indeed, living up to its intensions, the ceremony took place in Magburaka, Tonkolili district in the north of Sierra Leone after previously being held in Sierra Leonean capital city Freetown for the first three events, and in the Southern city of Bo in 2017.

There has been a gradual increase in the number and diversity of applicants received for the innovation awards over the five years of the summit being held. So far, the year 2018 saw the highest number of applications -78 in total, tackling a wide range of development issues around climate change, environment,





energy, health, education, agriculture, ICT, human rights and justice among others.

Ten finalists were then shortlisted to showcase their innovative ideas to an audience comprising representative of the development community, government, public and private sectors as well as youth and children. Two young women both 19 years old - Hawa Yokie and Fatmata Kamara emerged first and second winners respectively. The Former with UNDP's support later went on to represent Sierra Leone at the Africa Youth Connect Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

The growing success of the Annual Social Good Summit in Sierra Leone organized by UNDP results from the unwavering collaboration from the government (Ministry of Youth Affairs) and the Private Sector partners especially **Africell telecommunications company, Rokel Commercial Bank, the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and National Petroleum.**



“ *The UNDP remains one of our most supportive and trusted partners in ensuring we harness the full potentials of young people.*”

– Mohamed Bangura, Minister of Youth Affairs, Sierra Leone

“ *We gladly identify with the mission of the Social Good Summit ... in making sure youth are included in the quest for the promotion and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.*”

– CEO Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

The summit encourages Sierra Leone’s youth to envision, develop and apply technological innovations as part of their solutions to solving local development challenges. It encourages youth to tap into their creativity to innovate and contextualize existing technology solutions to impact development from the grassroots.



## A catalytic impact – timeline of outcomes of the Social Good Summit so far

### 2013

The first winner of the SGS's innovation award was 23-year-old Salton Massally who created an online job portal linking job seekers and employers.

### 2014

Although the SGS was suspended due to the Ebola outbreak, Salton, the pioneer winner of the summit with support from UNDP, developed a database management and payment system for response workers during the crisis.

Later, Salton partnered again with UNDP to develop a mobile justice application which now supports the judiciary in Sierra Leone to ensure speedy, effective and efficient case management.

### 2015

a physically impaired young man won top prize with an affordable prosthetic leg. Sesay now works in the orthopedic department of the regional hospital in Makeni, northern Sierra Leone.



### 2016

The SGS introduced the female category of competitors to encourage more female applicants. Fatmata Binta won top prize having made a drinking water purification system, while a trio of college students won the male category with an environmental-friendly electric generator. The latter represented Sierra Leone in the 2017 World Robot Olympiad in Washington, while Fatmata took part in the Youth Connekt Africa Summit in Kigali the same year.

### 2017

the dire need for slum and rural electrification in Sierra Leone led to the development of a 'mini hydro spoon generator' by Mohammed Kamara and a hybrid solar and wind powered generator by Fanta Binta who won the male and female categories respectively.

The duo later partnered and combined their prize monies to pilot a solar-wind energy supply project in the small rural village of Serabu in the Kenema district. A year on, their project is lighting 50 rural households, and the village meeting hall (Barrie), a Mosque and a Church. The lighting at the community meeting hall serves as a night reading oasis for the area's school children.

### 2018

Hawa's innovation featured a hybrid 'Cold-hot' system driven by a solar-wind powered generator. This was a food and water storage system made of recycled pieces of wood and lined with foil paper. Hawa's idea came from her wish and passion to support new moms and babies with adequate infrastructure in a country that **has one of the highest rates of maternal and child deaths worldwide.**



## Strategic integration of the SDGs into national development plans

In continuous effort to raise awareness on the SDGs, UNDP among other activities supported the establishment of the '*New Deal*' a civil society platform to champion the awareness campaigns and coordinate activities that support the reduction of conflicts, fragility, and help build resilience.

The *New Deal* Platform comprising of several national and international NGOs is led by the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Government Organizations (SLANGO).

In early July 2018, GoSL commenced preparations for the next Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019 to 2023 under the theme Education for Development. The MTNDP would succeed the previous National Development Plan - Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018) that expired in December 2018. UNDP is the lead UN agency that began

supporting the government in the MTNDP process, working with the Ministry of Planning & Economic Development (MoPED) to mainstream the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Agenda 2063 into the plan.

Furthermore, UNDP helped the GoSL to develop a Results Framework so as to track progress of the plan against the goals and carry out a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) exercise to assist government identify the financing options to implement the MTNDP.

In addition, UNDP in collaboration with MoPED, Statistics Sierra Leone and the Oxford Poverty Human Development Initiative (OPHI) computed a national multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to be incorporated into the MTNDP as a tool used to track progress in the implementation of SDG1 – Eradicating Poverty.



Women in Kailahun attend a UNDP-supported Agribusiness skills training  
» ©UNDP Sierra Leone/Helen Mayelle

## Collaboration with UNCDF, Public and Private partners to facilitate National Digital Identity for financial inclusion

The ability to prove that you are who you say you are is a fundamentally important building block of economic, financial and social development and inclusion. Proof of identity is generally necessary to access basic services such as healthcare, education and financial

services, and to vote in elections. Yet the World Bank estimates that more than one billion people do not have access to formal identification documentation – and this disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups in developing countries across Africa and Asia.

Know Your Customer (KYC) is a mandatory requirement during the establishment of any financial services relationship with a customer. It is both a local and international regulatory requirement. Simply put, KYC is the validation of identity and proof of address of a customer before proceeding with the on-boarding process. In Sierra Leone, obtaining valid identity and proof of address is usually either too expensive or not easily accessible as the national ID is not available. The most widely used form of identity currently by most people is a Voter's cards as a substitute to the National ID card which is free and has extended validity. Technology can help address these problems, by providing digital tools for identity verification and identification.

Notwithstanding these challenges, a new partnership between Kiva, the government of Sierra Leone and U.N. agencies is set to bring a nationwide digital identification system to the people of Sierra Leone that is designed to provide citizens with formal identity and control over their own credit information.

### **The national Digital Identity project.**

Over 1.7 billion adults are unbanked all over the world and are unable to access the financial services they need to improve their lives and their families' future. As seen above, two of the major barriers to accessing financial services are a lack of formal identification and a lack of verifiable credit history.

Digital identity is one of the many pre-requisites for a healthy digital economy because it allows citizens to access a wide

range of financial and non-financial services. A few countries are leading the way in this space. India and Malawi rolled out nationwide digital identity projects that have equipped their populations with the required formal identification to access social transfers. According to GSMA, mobile-based digital identity offers a unique, secure and scalable form of identity, catalysing greater socio-economic impact in emerging markets.

This project is designed to address the above barriers by issuing digital identification to all citizens and enabling formal and informal financial institutions to contribute to a person's verifiable credit history.

Sierra Leone is now leading the way with a blockchain based identity solution powered by distributed ledger technology (DLT) that will allow people to take control of their own credit information and access financial services. This Nationwide digital identification system project that will benefit the seven million citizens of Sierra Leone is the result of a partnership between the government of Sierra Leone [National Civil Registration Authority and Bank of Sierra Leone], UN Development Programme, UN Capital Development Fund and leading technology non-profit KIVA.

**“ Through this implementation, Sierra Leone is setting out to build one of the most advanced, secure credit bureaus,”** said Xavier Michon, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCDF. **“It could serve as a model for both developing and developed nations in the future.”**



## Monitoring implementation and Communicating the results

Timely and frequent field visits to monitor project activities are essential to project management to achieve UNDP's mandate in country. They help to ensure timely, quality and effective development contribution and accountability; whilst strengthening our relationship with and among local communities and stakeholders.

In 2018, the County Office conducted three independent field monitoring and spot-check missions led by Programme Management and Support Unit (PMSU) which also comprises of Monitoring and Evaluation and the Communications unit. The field visits were conducted to ensure quality assurance and enhance project implementation, outcomes and accountability. Evidence-based reports, lessons learned, and feedback generated from the trips with support from the Communications unit contributes to our continuous efforts to improve project

implementation and service delivery. The monitoring teams also involve the participation of Government ministries, departments and agencies at local government level as well as local community leaders and members who own the projects. Various communication products are generated from the field visits capturing stories of successful change, lessons learned and staff experiences. The communications output generated is disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders through different platforms.

## The Resident Representative's field visit

In December 2018 our Resident Representative undertook a field mission travelling through Sierra Leone inspecting previous and on-going projects implemented with UNDP's support in order to ascertain progress and results of UNDP's interventions. During the mission, he had the opportunity to meet, listen to and speak with stakeholders including implementing partners, local government officials, traditional leaders and community members.

*“ Learning from the people we serve will help prepare us for to deliver better in the coming year.”*



# Our Partners



## *Una Plenti Tenki!*

UNDP in Sierra Leone would like to recognize and appreciate the continuous support and good working relationships with the (successive) Governments and the people of Sierra Leone, all development partners, development experts, technical and advisory bodies at national level, the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations, sister UN Agencies as well as contracting parties and implementing partners who have been engaged in UNDP-related activities. Your generous financial and or non-financial contributions are essential for UNDP to accompany the Government and people of Sierra Leone to achieve equitable and sustainable development that meets both the 2030 Global Sustainable Development agenda and the agenda 2063 of the African Union.



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**





PHOTOS » Top Right: MoPED,  
All other photos ©UNDP Sierra Leone/ Helen Mayelle

# Resources in 2018



## Special thanks to:

**DFID, Government of Ireland/Irish Aid, EU and Government of Canada** for supporting the SNEC project that helped with mapping election boundaries, preparations for elections and support to electoral management bodies

**GEF, DFID, Government of Australia and the MPTF-SDG Fund** for funding the Sustainable Environment activities including, Natural Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation

**USAID** for supporting the Local Government and Economic Development project as well as the development of the Sierra Leone Maritime policy, strategy and Action Plan.

**National Private Sector Partners - Africell, Rokel Commercial Bank, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and National Petroleum** supporting the *Social Good Summit 2018*

**MPTF towards Ebola Response and recovery projects** including the Strengthening Logistic Capacity of Directorate of Drugs and Medical Supplies of MOHS initiative through the provision of off road 4 WD mini- trucks to all the formerly 14 districts of Sierra Leone

**Government of Norway, Government of Canada and PBF** for funding projects geared towards *Women's Equality and Empowerment*

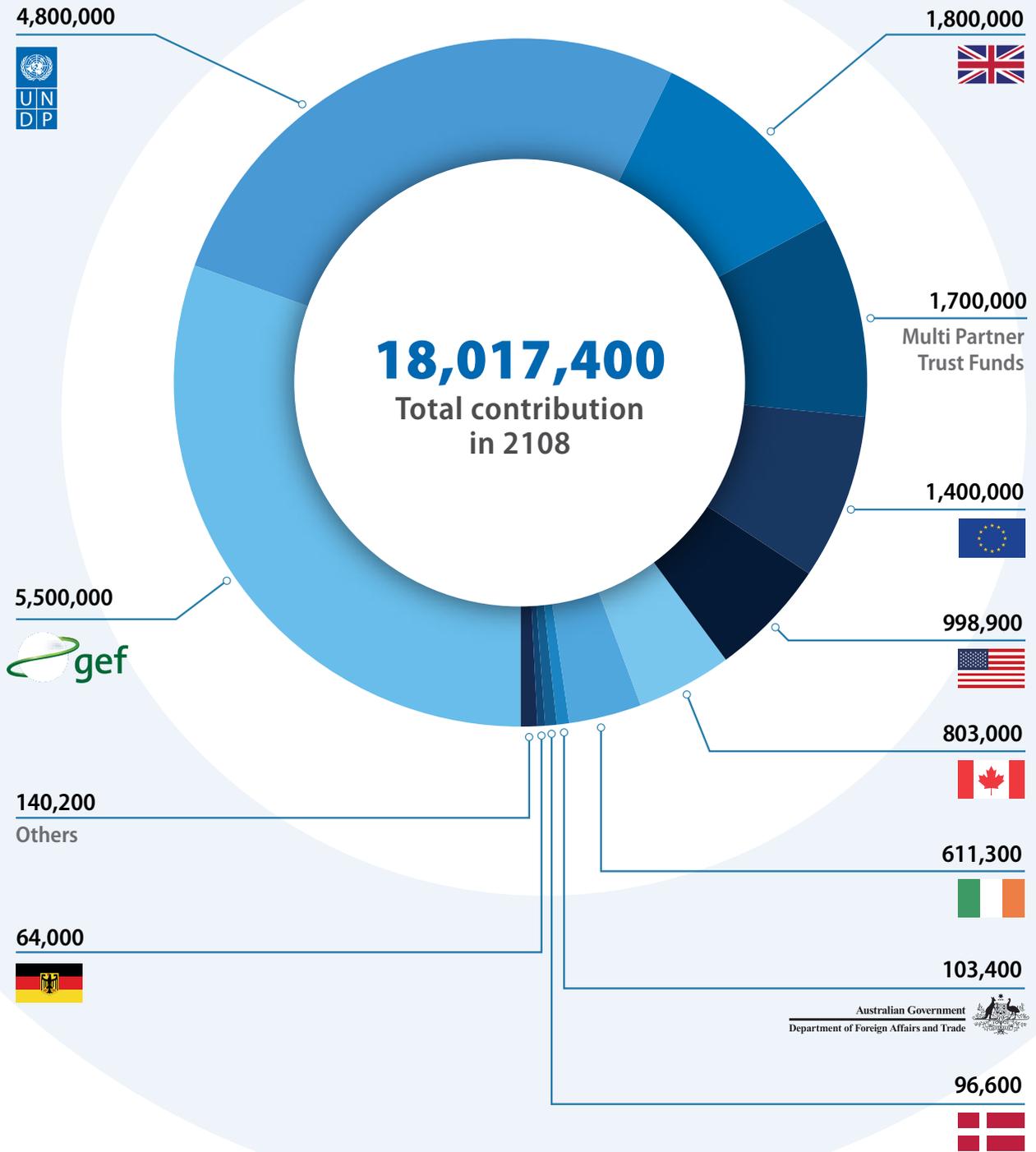
**The Government of Japan** for funding the Post-Ebola initiative, strengthening access to health care and community-led development.

**US/INL and UNDP** for support towards Strengthening democratic institutions, rule of law, human rights, local governance, improving conditions in prisons by introducing correctional transformations

Through UNDP's core resources, the Youth Employment and Empowerment project was funded with contributions from our back donors who also contributed a portion of their resource envelopes to most of our other projects as catalytic support.

UNDP also worked jointly with other UN Agencies in the areas of gender empowerment and good governance initiatives. Moreover, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) exchange visits with Rwanda, Belgium, Guinea, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda enabled the transfer of knowledge, expertise and technical assistance amongst our stakeholders.

## Financial contributions in 2018 (USD)



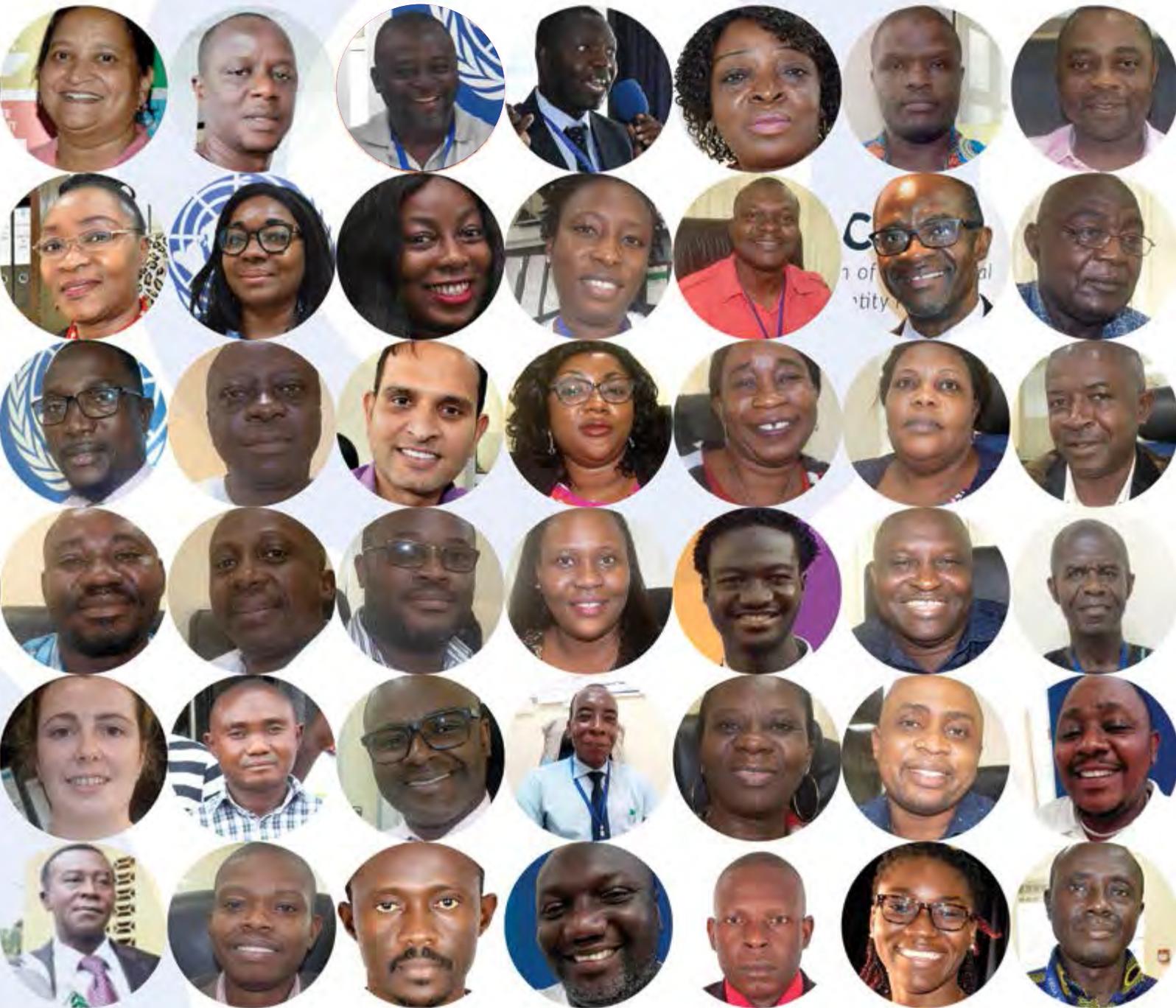
## Last but not least

### Our Staff

Our employee of the year award goes to all our employees because they all perform to their very best every single day. They are the crucial chain link to delivering the SDGs in Sierra Leone. They are an inspiration.



Agus WANDI | Aiah MATTURI | Alhaji TURAY | Alie SESAY | Alpha SESAY | Andrew KATTA  
 Andrew KOKER | Anette NALWOGA | Ann Assanatu TOURAY | Ann Marie Bassie | Aruna KAMARA  
 Babatunde SPENCER | Bintu MOSERAY | Bockarie CONTEH | Brima DAUDA | Brima KAMARA  
 Carine YENGAYENGE | Claire FLYNN-BYRNE Daisy FODAY | David JARRETT | Desmond SCOTT  
 Doreen TAGOE | Edward GBEMEH | Foamansah MATTURI | Fodie Musa SHERIFF | Fouad BANGS  
 Hassan CONTEH | Hassan JALLOH Helen Fortunate MAYELLE | Henrietta JONES | Henry TURAY  
 Ibrahim MANSARAY | Ibrahim ROGERS | Irene NTANDA | Isata BANGURA | Ishmael JALLOH  
 James COLE | Jessie KABIA | John BANGURA | Joseah MUTAI | Josephine SCOTT-MANGA



Julius SESAY | Lamin BANGURA | Kate SULLIVAN | Lois BOB-THOMAS | Louise AAEN | Madhab Raj REGMI  
Mahmoud CONTEH | Margarette DAUDA | Mariama JALLOH | Milton KORSEH-HINDOWA | Mohamed JAH  
Moi SWARAY | Mordu BANGURA | Musu BANGURA | Neba CHENWI WALTER | Patricia HARDING  
Patrick JOHNNY | Patrick MAMIE | Philip MBAYO | Rokya Ye DIENG | Rosaline MAMMAH | Sahr JOHN  
Saidu SESAY | Sallieu KAMARA | Sallieu KONTEH | Sam GOBA | Samuel DOE | Samuel PALMER  
Saudatu JAH | Sheku SAMURA | Sylvester SOPAY | Tanzila SANKOH | Theresa TURAY | Thomas WILLIAMS  
Wycliffe NGWABE | Yirah MANSARAY | Yona SAMO | Yusifu KAMARA



# 20 Years of Service! You're amazing!



**This year, our very own Henrietta Jones was recognized by the UNDP Administrator for her long-dedicated service. She joined UNDP just before the turbulent times of the civil war in Sierra Leone and stayed on to date.**



I came on-board the UNDP train on Monday 25 March 1991 after the first gunshot was fired at Bomaru, in the Kailahun District.

The office was situated at 44 Siaka Stevens Street. I held the position of a Library Assistant for about two years and later continued in the Registry from May 1993 to December 1995 on a Special Service Agreement. The Registry was responsible for all the office files including project files among other duties.

After going through a successful interview in October 1995, I finally had a Fixed Term Appointment on 1st January 1996. It was during this period that the civil war and its effects on the country were peaking. I was part of the team that stayed in the country as Essential Staff. Tasks of most personnel were revised to suit the situation, I worked at both the Reception on a shift basis as well as the Registry until the office resumed its normal operations in April 1998.

I was then transferred to the General Service Unit in January 2000 where I was in charge of all travel arrangements for the country office, Government Officials and Parastatals as required. Shipping and stores management were also part of my duties. A very challenging experience then was the identification of assets from the Old building to the new premises then at 76 Wilkinson Road as against what were in the new Asset module. See, the office premises we occupied on Siaka Stevens street was burnt down by the rebels during the war. Anyway, I then served as relief for most colleagues when they were on annual leave or attended training. These units included the UNV, Assistant to the Operations Manager and The Administrative Assistant.

I worked in this unit till a bilateral transfer was made again and I was moved back to the Registry in December 2005. I held on to that position till I successfully secured the Human Resources position in April 2011 a position I still hold today. I thank God for seeing me through all these years. It has not been a smooth ride as life itself is not. He has seen me through the bumpy ride.



*What has been the biggest impact of your employment with UNDP in your life so far?*



I have over the years been able to empower myself, support my family as well as some family members over the years

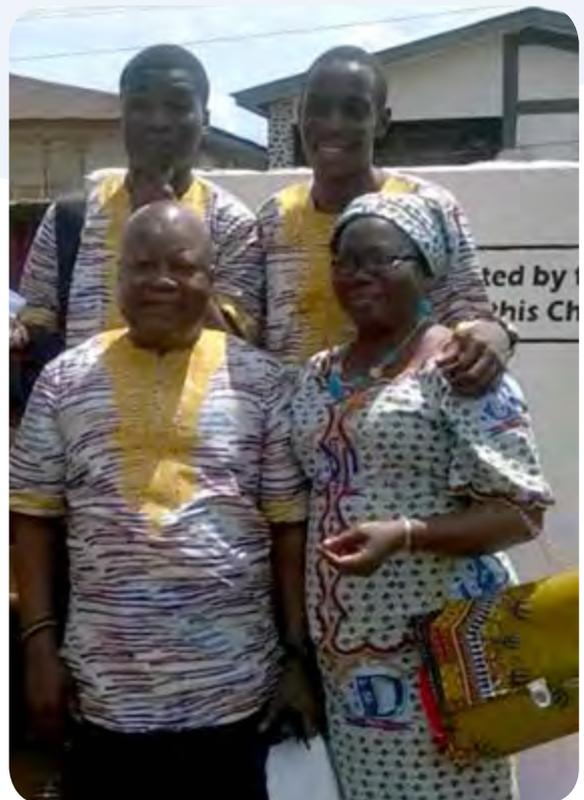
financially, morally and otherwise. I joined the train with a Diploma and Higher Teacher's Certificate (Secondary), today I have acquired another Diploma in Secretarial Studies/ Personal Assistant and BHA in Human

Resources within the last nine years. This has encouraged my children that education and empowerment have no age barrier. I am an inspiration to my children.

Along this journey we were blessed with two boys and I have 'several other children', including three girls now married with children whom I have raised. Sadly though, I was not able to spend as much time with my boys when I had them because I was not entitled to maternity leave because of my contract modality then. I had to resume duties earlier than normal. All that has changed today and as a Human Resource Officer now, I am happy to see those changes in support of women within UNDP.



*What made you stay with UNDP all these years especially on the bumpy rides? What kept you going?*



**H:** **Family.** My ties with my family kept me going during these bumpy rides. I get a lot of encouragement from my husband and son, and my late father too. Also, I had to stay put and take care of the family. Then, I had this personal conviction - I had made up my mind that I should not leave with just what I came in with, I needed to add value to myself.

**Q:** *What would you advise the youth of Sierra Leone in this era of immense unemployment, modernization, social media, and poverty challenges among others?*

**H:** My advice to the youth is to take advantage of every situation they have to further

their education be it formal or non-formal. They should not just admire blindly. They should set goals to better their lives and work towards these set goals. Luckily for them today it is easy to access a lot of valuable information and opportunities for education or employment, they just have to be proactive.

**Q:** *How did/do you feel about the recognition from the Administrator/UNDP for your service?*

**H:** **I feel humbled.** Being honestly recognized for your hard work means a lot more than anything else. I will always cherish this plaque. I'm sure it will inspire many who come and see it in my living room.



## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>AAAA</b>	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	<b>FAQs</b>	Frequently Asked Questions
<b>APC</b>	All People's Party Congress	<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>AVETO</b>	Assistant Voter Education Training Officers	<b>GIP</b>	Graduate Internship Programme
<b>BBC</b>	British Broadcasting Cooperation	<b>GEF</b>	Global Environmental Facility
<b>BDS</b>	Business Development Services	<b>GoSL</b>	Government of Sierra Leone
<b>BHA</b>	Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources	<b>GTT</b>	Governance Transition Team
<b>C4C</b>	Coalition for Change	<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication and Technology
<b>CAPS</b>	Career Advisory and Placement Services	<b>ID</b>	Identification
<b>CO</b>	Country Office	<b>IFIs</b>	International Finance Institutions
<b>CPM</b>	Conflict Prevention and Mitigation	<b>IMC</b>	Independent Media Commission
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility	<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework
<b>DFA</b>	Development Financing Assessment	<b>I/NGOs</b>	International Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>DHMT</b>	District Health Medical Team	<b>KYC</b>	Know Your Customer
<b>DFID</b>	(UK) Department for International Development	<b>LGED</b>	Local Governance and Economic Development
<b>DLT</b>	Distribution Ledger Technology	<b>MDAs</b>	(Government) Ministries, Departments and Agencies
<b>ECF</b>	Extended Credit Facility	<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>EMBs</b>	Electoral Management Bodies	<b>MCHP(s)</b>	Maternal-Child Health Post(s)
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Protection Agency	<b>MOFED</b>	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>MOHS</b>	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization	<b>MPI</b>	Multi-dimensional Poverty Index
		<b>MPs</b>	Members of Parliament



<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>MPTFO</b>	(Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office) Ebola Response	<b>SLANGO</b>	Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>MRCG</b>	Media Reform Coordination Group	<b>SLCS</b>	Sierra Leone Correctional Services
<b>MSR</b>	Media Situation Room	<b>SLPP</b>	Sierra Leone People's Party
<b>MTNDP</b>	Medium-term National Development Plan	<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Programme	<b>SSTrC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
<b>NAYCOM</b>	National Youth Commission	<b>TRC</b>	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
<b>NCPD</b>	National Commission for Persons with Disability	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>NEC</b>	National Electoral Commission	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>NGC</b>	National Grand Coalition	<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>NMA</b>	National Mineral Agency	<b>UNIPSIL</b>	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
<b>ONS</b>	Office of National Security	<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>OPHI</b>	Oxford Poverty Human Development Initiative	<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>PBC</b>	Peacebuilding Commission	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>PBF</b>	Peacebuilding Fund	<b>US/INL</b>	United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs
<b>PhD</b>	Doctor of Philosophy	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>PMSU</b>	Programme Management and Support Unit	<b>WFUNA</b>	World Federation of United Nations Association
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities	<b>YEPP</b>	Youth Employment and Empowerment
<b>RC</b>	(UN) Resident Coordinator		
<b>RR</b>	(UNDP) Resident Representative		
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-based Violence		
<b>SDG-F</b>	Sustainable Development Goals Fund		

Empowered Lives. Resilient Nations.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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