

UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME



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Country and intercountry programming and projects

COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SIERRA LEONE

Note by the Administrator

Programme period

IPF for 1977-1981

IPF for 1979-1981

\$13.25 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. Owing to an already heavily committed programme at the outset of the second IPF cycle, no formal country programme was drawn up for 1977-1981. Now, as a result of a two-year extension of the National Development Plan until mid-1981, and of the adoption of a concurrent Public Investment Programme, it has been considered useful to establish an interim country programme for the purpose of identifying a schedule of projects, activities and IPF commitments for the period 1979-1981, directed towards the National Plan.

2. The country programming exercise for the 1979-1981 country programme consisted of a series of meetings between the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning, the relevant technical ministries, the Agency representatives based in Freetown and the UNDP

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office. In view of the duration of the programming period which covers the last three years of the IPF cycle, and the level of resources remaining, no in-depth sectoral studies or Agency sectoral missions were undertaken during the country programming exercise. However, several Agency missions were fielded for project identification. In addition, general technical assistance requirements for the country programming period were reviewed by the Government and UNDP with the local representatives of donor Agencies, taking into account assistance from non-United Nations sources.

## II. Relation of the country programme to national development objectives

3. The priority areas for UNDP assistance within the available resources for the remainder of the IPF cycle were identified by the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning on the basis of the priorities established by the National Development Plan (1974/1975-1980/1981) and of the Government's Public Investment Programme (1979/1980-1980-1981). The Investment Programme is designed as a bridge between the first National Development Plan and the second which is scheduled for 1981/1982-1985/1986.
4. The strategy and objectives of the Plan may be summarized as aiming to both maximize the rate of economic and social progress during the Plan period and create the basis for more rapid and self-sustained growth in the longer term. The Plan recognizes the need to maintain a balance between the economic and social components of the development process, while expanding the education and social service sectors as far as possible without jeopardizing investment in the productive areas of the economy. An important objective of the Plan is to bring the development process to the rural areas and to reduce the disparity in living standards between Freetown (the capital) and the provinces. One strategy chosen to achieve this objective is to induce the population to mobilize its energies and resources to the fullest extent in the interest of a higher living standard and increased prosperity for the country. In this context self-help projects are strongly encouraged.
5. The Plan aims to promote a mixed economy with appropriate balance and co-operation between the private and public sectors. The public sector will assume a dominant role in key areas where private initiative and capital are not available in sufficient quantity.
6. Sierra Leone is primarily an agricultural country, but relies for 65 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings on mining, mainly of diamonds. As the diamond resources are declining, the Government has placed highest priority on the development of agriculture, with two specific objectives: (a) achieving self-sufficiency in the main crop, rice, which is the staple food; (b) expanding production of export crops which include cocoa, coffee, oil palm kernels, rubber, groundnuts and ginger. With less than 10 per cent of the arable area under cultivation and with more than sufficient rainfall, the potential for agricultural development in Sierra Leone is very great.

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7. To assist in meeting the objectives of the Plan, the Government has requested UNDP to concentrate its assistance in three main areas: development planning, agriculture, and education and training. Of these, education and training receives 35 per cent of the IPF, agriculture 28 per cent and development planning 22 per cent.

### III. Contents and phasing of the country programme

8. Since independence, the Government has put increasing emphasis on public administration and plan implementation and has been expanding the public service to initiate and undertake economic and social development programmes. Special priority has been given to development planning and to strengthening the financial administration. In view of the sensitivity of these fields, the Government has assigned to the United Nations system the major role in the provision of technical assistance. UNDP is continuing its large-scale assistance to the Central Planning Unit of the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning. This Unit is charged with the preparation of the next Five Year National Development Plan as well as with the annual plans and development budgets. Other projects in this sector include fiscal management in the Ministry of Finance, industrial development planning with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and power development planning attached to the Office of the President. UNDP is also providing assistance in a central statistics organization project in view of its importance to development planning.

9. In agriculture, where UNDP has been involved since the early years of its co-operation with Sierra Leone, assistance is now focused on the establishment of a Land Resources Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which is preparing a series of maps and reports to be used as an essential tool for agricultural development. With a view to enabling Sierra Leone to achieve self-sufficiency in rice, which is the staple food, assistance given to the Rice Research Station at Rokupr for several years will continue. New projects in the agricultural sector include one to establish an Agricultural Data Collection Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and another for fertilizer marketing, with a view to increasing fertilizer use throughout the country.

10. In the field of education and training, Sierra Leone has a long tradition of education at all levels, but a lack of facilities continues to limit access to primary and secondary schooling. In the mid-1970s, about 35 per cent of all primary school age children were enrolled at school. The objectives of the first Five Year Plan are to expand and improve the quality of the education system at all levels and to make the content of education more relevant to the economic and social needs of the country. Highest priority is given to primary and vocational education. The largest UNDP-financed project under the country programme (19.6 per cent of all inputs) is aiming to meet the Plan objectives of making education more relevant to the rural areas by assisting the Bunumbu Primary Teachers College in a programme of curriculum development and teacher education, incorporating community development for rural areas. The other project within the formal education system is assistance in upgrading three vocational training institutions.

11. As there is also a need to provide overseas training in a number of highly specialized fields such as civil aviation, aeronautical meteorology, maritime training and hotel management, UNDP has been requested to provide fellowship projects to meet

these requirements. Of the four fellowship projects under the country programme, three are in the transportation sector and the fourth in hotel industry (tourism).

12. In addition to the activities mentioned and to the four fellowship projects, UNDP is also providing assistance in developing rural drinking water supplies and in strengthening meteorological services.

13. Despite the fact that the country programme is prepared at an advanced stage of the programme cycle, 28 per cent of resources are devoted to new projects.

Table 1

Sectoral breakdown of programmed resources

<u>Sector</u>	<u>On-going projects</u>		<u>New Projects</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Value</u> <u>(\$000)</u>	<u>Per</u> <u>cent</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(\$000)</u>	<u>Per</u> <u>cent</u>	<u>Value</u> <u>(\$000)</u>	<u>Per</u> <u>cent</u>
Public administration and plan implementation	788	11.8	1 243	47.4	2 031	21.8
Agriculture	2 160	32.3	449	17.1	2 609	28.1
Manufacturing industry	423	6.3	-	-	423	4.5
Energy and water resources	153	2.3	433	16.5	586	6.3
Transport and communications	353	5.3	497	19.0	850	9.1
Tourism	491	7.4	-	-	491	5.3
Education	2 312	34.6	-	-	2 312	24.9
<b>Total programmed</b>	<b>6 680</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 622</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9 302</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 2

Phasing of the country programme

A. Amounts programmed

<u>Year</u>	<u>(\$000)</u>
1979	3 149
1980	3 133
1981	3 020
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 302</b>
Unprogrammed reserve	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9 316</b>

B. Resources taken into account for programming

	<u>(\$000)</u>
(a) IPF 1977-1981	13 250
(b) Less overexpenditure in the first cycle	( 324)
(c) Plus: any special allocations (LDC, Trust Fund, Third Party Cost-Sharing)	nil
(d) Equals: total of available resources	12 926
(e) Less: expenditure already committed in 1977-1978	( 3 610)
(f) Equals: total resources taken into account for programming	9 316

IV. Recommendation of the Administrator

14. In the light of the views expressed above, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council:

- (a) Approve the proposed country programme for Sierra Leone for the duration of its programme period within the limits of its Indicative Planning Figure for 1977-1981, taking into account the balance of over-expenditure or under-expenditure of its 1972-1976 Indicative Planning Figure; and
- (b) Authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outlines of the country programme while ensuring, in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council at its eighteenth session (E/5543/Rev.1, paragraph 31), that expenditures are kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant Indicative Planning Figures and are contained within the financial resources available at any given time.

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