

PROGRAMME  
DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT



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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

SIERRA LEONE

Note by the Administrator

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Programme period

1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986

\$32.5 million

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I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The third country programme for Sierra Leone has been designed to span the period 1983-1986.
2. The preparatory phase of the formulation of the country programme document entailed a series of consultations with representatives of the specialised agencies of the United Nations system. On the one hand, sectoral missions were fielded by the executing agencies in key areas of the economy. Subsequently, a series of consultations were instituted at the country level through the establishment of an Inter-Agency Advisory Committee comprising United Nations experts with the relevant background, who in addition participated with the Government in the formulation of policies and determination of priorities so as to preserve the multidisciplinary dimension of United Nations assistance and to ensure coherence of programmes.
3. These efforts culminated in the presentation of the Resident Representative's note to the Government on the third country programme for Sierra

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\*The notes by the Administrator concerning the previous country programmes for Sierra Leone were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/SIL/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/SIL/R.2/RECOMMENDATION.

Leone. The note formed the basis for discussions between Government officials at the highest level and the UNDP Assistant Administrator Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, who visited the country in March 1982, to ensure that the final programme financed by UNDP during the third cycle would conform to articulated national development guidelines and priorities.

4. In order to ensure incorporation in the country programme of the requirements of a finalized Second National Development Plan, at the request of the Government and with the approval of the UNDP Governing Council, the first year of the third programming cycle, that is 1982, was treated as an extension of the second country programme.

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

5. The Government of Sierra Leone has adopted the rolling plan concept for the Second National Development Plan. Thus, the plan period initially covers the three years, 1982-1984, and is to be extended annually with the full planning cycle ending in 1986, that is, co-terminus with the third programming cycle. Development goals aim at ensuring, among other things, the political and economic stability of Sierra Leone, the welfare of the broad mass of the population and rapid expansion of the productive capacity of the economy as well as attainment of collective self-reliance through co-operation with other member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Plan emphasizes food and cash crop production, livestock and fisheries, mining, industry, energy and water resources, transport and communications and education and human resources development. Additionally, during the Plan period, an attempt will be made to strengthen administrative capabilities, enhance management skills within public sector organizations and improve the systematic collection of data relevant to development planning.

6. UNDP assistance, in line with the Government's priorities and bearing in mind the activities of other external donors, will largely be devoted to the following areas: agriculture, development and public administration, education, industrial development, health, meteorology and civil aviation.

7. In recognition of the rolling plan concept adopted by Government, it is anticipated that the third country programme will be reviewed at the mid-term and activities adjusted as necessary.

## III. Content and phasing of the country programme

8. A substantial number of activities begun towards the end of the second programming cycle have been presented to UNDP for completion after careful review to ensure their relevance to changing Government priorities. In this connection, 65.4 per cent of the amount available for programming has been earmarked for ongoing projects. New activities account for 29.6 per cent and 5 per cent has been reserved as non-programmed resources.

9. In terms of sectoral breakdown, the largest share of programmed resources goes to agriculture (32.8 per cent), followed by general development (21.1

per cent) and health (11.4 per cent). These three sectors absorb 65.3 per cent of programmed funds. The industrial sector is to receive 11.2 per cent; education, 6.5 per cent; science and technology, 4.9 per cent; transport and communications, 3.4 per cent; employment, 1.7 per cent; and social conditions and equity, 1.7 per cent.

10. In the agricultural sector, an inland swamp rice development project will be initiated. Other activities planned include strengthening of the Division of Land and Water Development, collection of reliable quantitative data on the agricultural sector, and support of the Integrated Agricultural Development Programmes (IADP), which have as their objective increasing food production and farm incomes in the country. Other projects are concerned with the reduction of post harvest losses and small-scale fisheries development.

11. In the area of development and public administration, activities will seek to strengthen the Central Statistics Office and the development planning machinery, and also to institute measures to stem administrative weaknesses and anomalies which impair effective delivery of public services as a whole.

12. In the field of health, it is expected that the living conditions of the rural population will be improved through the rural water supply project, which will seek to upgrade the national institutional framework for the provision of dependable and safe water supply for human consumption in small village communities and to improve environmental sanitation.

13. In the industrial sector, the activities envisaged include a planning and promotion of industrial development project and assistance to the National Workshop to transform it into a functional production unit.

14. As far as the education sector is concerned, attention will be focused on restructuring the system and making it more responsive to the immediate environment as well as improving the quality and content of rural education. A national manpower survey will also be carried out to identify manpower gaps and formulate plans to fill them.

15. The project financed by UNDP assistance in the area of science and technology involves strengthening the National Meteorological Services and reinforcing the field observation network by the installation of additional stations.

16. With regard to transport and communications, UNDP assistance will be provided to ensure that the international airport maintains its Class 'A' standard.

17. In the fields of employment and social conditions and equity, the Government proposes that UNDP assistance to enhance the role of women in development be clearly aligned with other activities. It is accordingly anticipated that the manpower survey, health-related projects, agricultural initiatives and local training efforts will identify such opportunities, and sectoral earmarkings have been made to this effect.

IV. Special development problems and needs

18. The economy of Sierra Leone has in recent years come under severe strain despite efforts by the Government to correct short-term financial imbalances caused by increasing expenditure for oil and the adverse world market trend in the diamond trade, on which the country depends for the greater portion of its foreign exchange earnings.

19. In recognition of the current state of the economy, Sierra Leone has been recommended for classification among the world's least developed countries (LDC) and it is anticipated that the country will benefit as a result from increased development assistance.

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