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Employment Promotion Programme (EPP III)

Capacity Support of Partners



→ BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone faces high unemployment and underemployment rates in its working age population. Current labor force is estimated to be **2.7 million** – out of this number **1.6 million (59%)**, particularly youth, are structurally unemployed or underemployed (UNDP, 2012).

The main causes are the gap between demand and supply on the labor market (weak dynamic of the private sector; low level of coordination amongst stakeholders to create employment; non-effective education and training system).

Youth marginalization, limited access to and control over resources and lack of employment opportunities remain destabilizing factors for the country. Supporting the private sector, particularly in agriculture, will strengthen the rural economy and improve income opportunities for youths and young people in the country.

Within this framework, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting the third phase of the Employment Promotion Programme (EPP III). The Programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and has an order volume of **20.5 million EUR**. EPP III has as main partner the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) to which it provides institutional support.

The third phase of EPP is aiming at the sustainable improvement of employment and income situation of young people in agriculture and micro-small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through a multi-fledged approach.

EPP III FIELDS OF ACTION:

1. Capacity Support of Partners:

Supporting the capacity development of partners, it aims to reinforce the macro-economic policy framework for sustainable and equitable employment.



2. Youth Development:

The youth development component designs and implements labor-market-oriented training modules in life skills, business skills and labor-market-integration measures for youth in the three target districts.

3. Agricultural Value Chains:

Value-chain promotion activities aim at increasing production, quality of produce and ultimately employment in selected value chains, namely cocoa & coffee, rice and vegetables.



4. Private Sector – Business Loop:

Training of enterprises through service providers in management and business skills, record keeping, marketing, client/customer relationship is one of the core interventions the Programme applies to support MSMEs development.

5. Private sector – Facility for Innovation:

This intervention targets 100 business ideas to be developed into “matured” business concepts which will create new opportunities for employment.



→ CAPACITY SUPPORT OF PARTNERS

EPP III is collaborating with MLSS in order to support the Ministry in its efforts to coordinate and implement the National Employment Policy Action Plan (NEPAP 2014 – 2018) across sectors and also putting quality technical content of the NEPAP in place. Due to the cross cutting nature of the Policy, EPP III is also cooperating with other Ministries like Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), Ministry of Youth Affairs (MoYA) and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and parastatal institutions like National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) and SLeCAD to enhance their capabilities to effectively effectuate their mandate.



Joint Strategic Planning Workshop involving officials from MLSS, Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU) and EPP III



Overall this component supports the development and implementation of a macroeconomic policy framework meant to link employment with economic growth. This will provide the enabling macroeconomic and sectorial policy environment for more employment, better management of unemployment and decent, regulated and productive work for all youths, including women and people with special needs. EPP III therefore also aligns with and contributes to the Government of Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity (2013 – 2018).

→ EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- I The establishment of an operational Inter-ministerial Steering Committee for the NEPAP**
- II Strengthening of the capacity of MLSS, MoYA, NAYCOM and support decentralized district youth structures**
- III Support the recreation of labor exchanges offices / centres and contribution to the establishment of a Labor Market Information System (LMIS)**
- IV Building technology development support networks**
- V Enhancing information exchange and advocacy of industrial sectors through the establishment of new public-private forums and the continuation of existing ones**

Signing of the MoU between the Deputy Minister (MLSS) and the Programme Coordinator (EPP III)



→ GIZ IN SIERRA LEONE

GIZ has been working in Sierra Leone since 1963 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its operation came to a halt due to the outbreak of civil war in 1991. Although the country has achieved stability since the end of the civil war in 2002, living conditions remain critical for majority of the people. GIZ supports Sierra Leone on behalf of the German Government in the areas of employment promotion, infrastructure development, regional resource governance and health system reform.



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