



Published by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Employment Promotion Programme (EPP III)

Youth Development



→ 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.



Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) certification ceremony in Koinadugu District



→ YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Youth Development component aims to address the mismatch between skills supply and labor market demand by providing targeted life and business skills training for youth, thus promoting entrepreneurship and employability. The path to improved livelihoods for youth consists of three elements, namely:

- I Increase in labor market relevant skills**
- II Increased income**
- III Increased resilience to economic shocks**

The embedded sustainable livelihoods approach promotes youth employment through local market assessments, private sector partnerships and a dynamic training approach that combines life skills, business skills and labor market integration measures. The component aims to design and implement training modules for 10,000 youth in the three target districts of Kailahun, Koinadugu and Kono. The youth livelihoods programming is consistent with the prevalent agriculture-based economy and addresses the needs of both vulnerable populations and youth-run businesses.

Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) participant in Koinadugu District



→ EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The component targets improved life skills among 2,400 youth and improved business skills among 10,000 youth (with 30% minimum female participation) by the end of the programme lifespan.

In 2018, 6000 youths (with 30% minimum female participation) will participate in the following training modules

- **Agro-Processing**
- **Solar Power PV Installation and Maintenance**
- **Psycho-Social Competencies**
- **Governance and Conflict Resolution**
- **Employability**
- **Entrepreneurship**

FAL participants attending the class



→ 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.



Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36-40
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +49 (0) 228 44 60-0
Fax +49 (0) 228 44 60-17 66

info@giz.de
www.giz.de

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65726 Eschborn, Germany
Tel. +49 (0) 61 96 79-0
Fax +49 (0) 61 96 79-11 15

info@giz.de
www.giz.de

Contact

Dr. Ralf Zimmermann (Programme Coordinator)
37 Frazer Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone

As at

November 2017

Design and layout

Iris Christmann, Wiesbaden (cmuk)

Photo credits

EPP district staff, cover page and pages 4, 5, 6
Illustrations using icons from fotolia

Text

Giulia Secondini
Mohamed Borbor Mansaray

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

