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Deutsche Gesellschaft
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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Ministry of Planning and
Economic Development

Employment Promotion Programme

Skills Development



→ BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone remains one of the least developed countries in the world, ranking on place 182 out of 189 on the Human Development Index (2020). High rates of un- and underemployment represent a constraint to the socio-economic development and pose a risk to the political and social stability of the country. 60% – 70% of the working population classify as working poor, meaning that despite their employment, the household falls below the poverty line (ILO 2019). Youth and women in rural areas of Sierra Leone are particularly affected.

The economy in Sierra Leone is weak and undynamic; it is mainly characterised by agricultural production of raw materials, such as oil palms, rice, coffee and cocoa, with little value added in the country. At the same time, the level of education in Sierra Leone is very low. The lack of basic education and skills, as well as practical and quality technical and higher education and training, result in a mismatch between supply and demand in the labour market. This has a negative impact on productivity, self-employment and entrepreneurship, and thus on the potential for creating new jobs.

Against this background, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-financed by the European Union, is supporting the fourth phase of the Employment Promotion Programme (EPP IV). The programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The main partner on the national level is the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. The fourth phase of EPP is aiming to sustainably improve the employment and income situation of youth in agriculture and in micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). EPP applies a multi-pronged approach that strengthens the employability of young people, employment opportunities in the private sector, and the institutional system of vocational education and training.

EPP FIELDS OF ACTION



1. Skills Development:

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



2. TVET and Dual Studies:

The TVET component improves the preparation of young people for the demands on the labour market through the integration of practical experiences in their training and the demand-oriented adaptation of the VET system.

3. Agricultural Value Chain Development:

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 (B-Loop):

As one of the core interventions to support MSMEs, entrepreneurs are trained in business related skills such as record keeping, marketing and customer relationship. A subsequent advanced B-Loop track supports promising entrepreneurs in their further growth efforts.

5. Private Sector – Facility for Growth (F4G):

This intervention aims to further develop established micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises through financial and in-kind support.



Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) participant



→ SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Skills Development component aims to address the mismatch between skills supply and labour market demand in Sierra Leone by providing targeted life and business skills training for youth. The aim is to rapidly improve the employability of young people and promote entrepreneurship as a career option amongst them.

The path to improved livelihoods for youth consists of three elements, namely:

- I Increase in labour 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 labour market integration measures. The component aims to design and implement training modules for 7000 youth in the four target districts of Kailahun, Koinadugu, Falaba 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



→ EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the programme, almost 17500 youth will have received training to improve life and business skills. Among others, training modules cover topics such as

- **Agro Processing**
- **Computer literacy**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Financial literacy**
- **Psycho-social competencies**
- **Solar Power PV Installation and Maintenance**

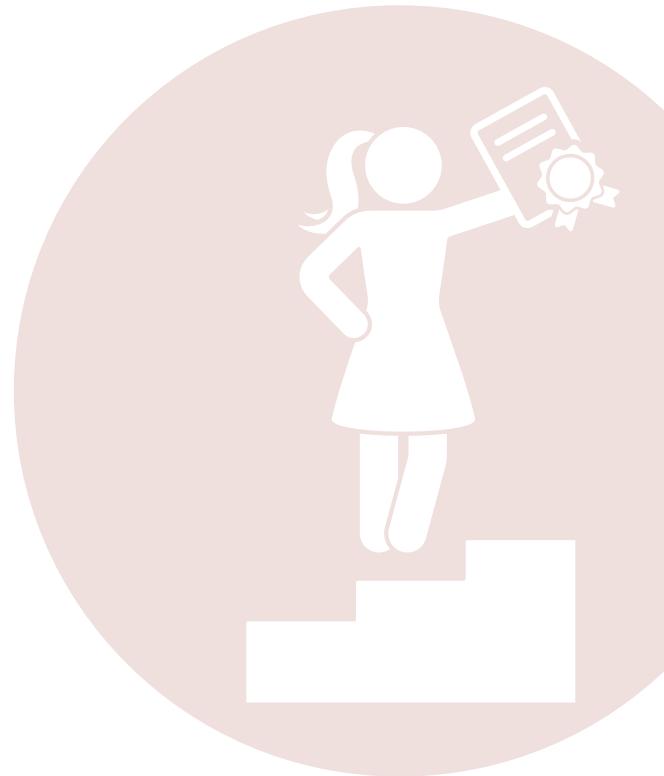
Furthermore 2000 youth will be trained in selected, demand-oriented trade skills and subsequently supported in their business start-ups through conditional cash transfers.

Former participant of the solar pv training today working as solar technician throughout his chieftom



→ 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). GIZ supports Sierra Leone on behalf of the German Government ever since in the areas of employment promotion, value chain development, infrastructure development, regional resource governance and health system reform.



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