



# EU na Salone

## EU cooperation activities in Sierra Leone



The EU and its Member States are together the most important development partner in the world. Our cooperation promotes: **Africa-EU partnership** (Joint Vision for 2030), **joint European action** (Team Europe Initiatives with EU Members States, Implementation Agencies, Development Finance Institutions, Civils Society and Private Sector) and **impact** (Global Gateway). We particularly **focus on women and youth**, while **striving for a sustainable future (Green Deal)**.

**EU focal areas** for the cooperation period 2021-2027 (initial allocation EUR 245 million) are:

- (1) Green Economy (modern energy, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and environmental protection)
- (2) Education
- (3) Good Governance

Cooperation programmes in elaboration:

**Transformational energy access (2023-2027, EUR 50 million)** will support rural electrification using renewable energy with a focus on solar mini-grids and develop the productive use of this electricity to achieve more economic diversification and create employment opportunities.

**EU-UN Spotlight initiative to fight Sexual and Gender Based violence (2023-2027, EUR 15 million):** Building on the global flagship initiative, the EU will partner with the United Nations and Civil Society Organisations to fight all forms of violence against women and girls, included harmful practices.

**Business Climate and Competitiveness (2023-2027, EUR 12 to 15 million):** The programme will enhance the provision of Business Development Services, support the National Quality System and promote institutional reforms to improve the business environment.

**Nature Nourishes (2023-2029, EUR XX million):** Decentralised investments in communities in proximity of protected areas in exchange for environmental protection, preservation and conservation of biodiversity.

**Support to Civil Society (2023-2027, EUR 10 million):** The EU will continue supporting CSOs in view to strengthening citizens' engagement, local participatory development and social accountability.

EU/Sierra Leone cooperation programmes in action:

**Support to democracy, peace and social cohesion (2022-2025, EUR 7 million):**

- The EU promotes peaceful, credible and inclusive elections by supporting Electoral Management Bodies through the UNDP Multi-Donor Electoral Assistance Basket Fund.
- With EU funding the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) will enhance the integrity and effectiveness of future elections and public confidence in the electoral process, concretely: capacity building for Electoral Management Bodies, voter and civic education campaigns, support for domestic observations, support inclusive election and conflict prevention. The programme will support electoral reforms beyond the 2023 elections.

**Governance Programme (2017-2023, EUR 27 million)**

- Election component: Through UNDP's "Support National Electoral Commission (SNEC)", the EU supports legislative reforms and implementation of Electoral Observation Mission recommendations;
- Parliament component: Technical and financial assistance is provided to strengthen Parliamentary institutional capacity, notably in the remits of its legislative and scrutiny functions and its public outreach and accountability. UNOPS (€ 3.7 million; until 12/2023) is partly rehabilitating the building and supporting the digital transformation of the Parliament;

- Civil registry component: Through UNOPS (EUR 5 million) the EU supports the design, procurement and installation of the ITC backbone to enable the establishment of an effective Integrated Civil Registration system in the future NCRA head quarter and selected localities;
- Civil service component: Financial contributions (PE) and technical assistance support the Public Service Commission and Human Resources Management Office to build human resources capacities and critical reforms of the legal and regulatory framework governing the civil service.

#### **Decentralisation Programme (2018-2024, EUR 25 million)**

- Technical Assistance supports the review of the policy and legal framework, build institutional capacity of the 6 targeted District Councils and as well as of the Ministry of Local Government. As a result Districts' human, financial management and local resource mobilisation capacities have increased significantly, as well as the Ministry's (MLGRD) supervisory and monitoring capacity.
- Directs grants valued EUR 2.5 million each were awarded in July 2020 to the District Councils of Bombali, Kambia, Kenema and Pujehun, to enable implementation of the local development and investments plans and efficient service delivery to the citizens. The two newly established districts of Falaba and Karene further received €1.05 million each in June 2021. DCs investments proposals were approved and construction works and procurements are ongoing.
- Grants to District Councils are complemented by 10 action grants to CSOs coalitions aiming at enhancing local participatory development, service delivery and social accountability.

#### **Technical Assistance for Public Finance Management (2019-2023)**

Technical Assistance (EUR 3.6 million) supports Public Finance Management (PFM) Reforms, such as the design and implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation Systems, the provision of public investment manuals, the reinforcement of risk-based internal audit schemes, and the assessment of procurement systems in selected line ministries. The EU also financed the [last Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability \(PEFA\)](#) assessment exercise.

#### **Boosting Agriculture and Food Security (BAFS) (2016-2023, EUR 35 million)**

- The National Soil Survey is nearly finalised.
- A financial contribution to the Ministry of Agriculture (PE until 08/2023) promotes Integrated Pest Management, specifically Fall Armyworm infestation, climate smart agriculture, establishment of pilot community-based forest management systems, supports livestock inspection, disease surveillance and cross-border movement controls, as well as data collection regarding annual crop yield and farm income assessment, and the development of a national farmer register.
- Support to Sierra Leone's Agricultural Institute (SLARI) to strengthen applied agricultural research for improved yield regarding cocoa, coffee, cashew, horticultural crops and livestock diversification continues until 08/2023.
- Grant contract to NGOs and private sector consortia (for instance Oxfam, Solidaridad, BRAC, ENGIM, FINIC) foster sustainable agricultural diversification (crop cashew, coco, coffee, cassava, palm oil, onions, poultry and free ruminants).

#### **Jobs and Growth (2020-2026, EUR 65.2 million)**

The program combines value chain development, access to finance and skills development:

- €8m in grants support the sweet potato, cashew nut, cocoa and other value chains.
- A (€16m) **Investment facility** to be set up by UNCDF with national banks and microfinance institutes will provide concessional loans.
- **Opportunity Salone**, €8m, ILO supports labour intensive feeder road constructions.
- **Social Safety Net Project**. EU made a €5.2m contribution to a WBTF to alleviate the impact of COVID on informal vendors in Freetown. Operational implementation finalised.

- **Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme** (10/2020-1/2024, EUR 13 million) provides training activities in core skills areas (mechanics, electrics, plumbing, and solar power) and train the trainers. Implementation by GIZ is ongoing.
- **Basic and secondary education** (09/2020 - 04/2025, EUR 13 million) EU contributed to the “Free Education” Multi Donor Trust Fund (WB, UK, IE, EU) managed by the WB, and supporting teachers training and qualifications, schools infrastructure and general planning functions of the Ministry.

### **Support to Education (2016-2023, EUR 29 million)**

The programme strengthened the institutional and human resources capacity to deliver quality educational services. It reinforced key institutions like the Teaching Service Commission or the District Education Offices. The support provided improved equitable access to primary and secondary education. The programme included the rehabilitation of 100 secondary schools in target districts (Port Loko, Bombali, Bo and Kenema). The action is in its final stage.

### **Moyamba - Moyamba junction road (35 km) including 4 major bridges (2013-2024, EUR 48 million)**

32.8 km of all-weather (Class A) roads have been constructed. Magbele and Mabang, Gbangbama, Moyamba bridges have been completed and commissioned. Some additional works (access roads) are under consideration.

### **Bandajuma - Liberian border road including 3 major bridges (2013-2023, EUR 105.2 million)**

98 km of all-weather (Class A) roads have been constructed and the Sewa, Waanje and Moa bridges completed. Final works on bypass roads are ongoing. Works should end in December 2023.

### **The EU is the main donor in road infrastructure in Sierra Leone**

From 2007 to date, the European Union has funded the construction or rehabilitation of 85% of the road link through Sierra Leone from the Guinean to the Liberian borders which is part of the Trans-West African road corridor. These EU-funded works included the widening of seven bridges along the Masiaka to Bo highway and seven new bridges, three of which are major infrastructure (Sewa, Waanje, Moa) on the Bandajuma to Liberia border road. Thanks to the EU support, direct road travel from Guinea to Liberia is now possible without having to use ferries.

In addition, the EU also provided funding for important bypass roads for settlements along the road link, specifically in the vicinity of Bandajuma, Zimmi and Potoru.

**Technical Cooperation Facility (2020-2026, EUR 3.5 million)** finances feasibility studies, sectorial analyses, missions to international events, evaluations etc. It is 60% implemented.

### **Civil Society and Local Authorities support programmes**

The EU recognised the role of civil society and local authorities for development and promotes participatory development, human rights and social accountability as part of its bilateral programmes as well as through direct support. Ongoing projects:

- A grant to a coalition of 5 District Councils (Port Loko City and District Councils, Kenema City Council, Kailahun and Western Area Rural) is strengthening **local governance**, decentralization and sustainable urban development through a territorial approach to local economic development.
- **Women participation in decision making and political processes** (NGO coalition 50/50)
- **Democratisation**, notably by supporting electoral processes (National Election Watch).
- **Preservation of border area eco-systems** in Outamba-Kilimi by Wild Chimpanzee Foundation.
- The EU supports Birdlife International in **preservation activities in the Gola-Lola-Foya** area.
- The project Youth for Health (Health Alert Sierra Leone/ Marie Stopes International) is promoting **adolescent sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights**.

### **Regional EU cooperation programmes from which Sierra Leone benefits:**

- Support to the Preservation of **Forest Eco Systems**, PAPBIO (45 M€). Sierra Leone benefits notably from the mangrove protection component, implemented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Support for the Improvement of Governance in the areas of **Resilience and Food and Nutrition Security** (PAGR-SANAD), 25 M€, implemented by ECOWAS, WAEMU, CILSS and AGRHYMET.
- Support for the Spreading and Implementation of Good Practices of **Sustainable Agriculture Intensification** (Agroecology), 8.2 M€, implemented by ECOWAS, ARAA, AFD and NGO.
- Support to the Regional Centre for **Disease Surveillance and Control** in the ECOWAS zone.
- Road corridor Praia/Dakar/Abidjan (75 M€): soft measures as well as infrastructure
- West Africa Power Pool (25 M€): operationalisation of the regional energy market and renewables
- 5 M€ national component of the "**West Africa Competitiveness**" programme supporting cassava, cocoa and oil palm value chains in Sierra Leone. Implemented by UNIDO (12/2018 – 12/2023).
- Support to the West Africa Regional Technical Assistance Centre (**AFRITAC West II**) through IMF.
- Improved **regional Fisheries Governance** in Western Africa (PESCAO), implemented by Sub-regional Fisheries Commission, Dakar.
- West Africa **Integrated Maritime Security** (SWAIMS), 15 M€, ECOWAS and specialised agencies.
- **West Africa Police Information System 3 (WAPIS 3)**, implemented by Interpol.
- **Organised Crime – West Africa’s Response (OCWAR)**, 36 M€, fighting Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, Cyber Terrorism, and Trafficking.
- **EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE)**
- **ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO)** supported the establishment of the Electoral Risks Management Hub and provided results management training and CSOs dialogues.

**European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)**: The EU provides funding to various investment funds which support the development of private companies contributing to the achievement of EU objectives in terms of employment, the environment, the improvement of living conditions, etc. Examples of companies that benefited from transactions by these investment funds in Sierra Leone are “Easy Solar” (Sierra Leonean) and “The Waste Transformer” (Dutch).

### **European Investment Bank (EIB)**

- The EIB has committed EUR 139 million to 12 regional microfinance funds that have Sierra Leone in their investment remit. 4 out of these funds invested a total of EUR 4.6 million in 5 Sierra Leone Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). Two funds have active investments in 3 MFIs for a total amount of EUR 2.4m. Those MFIs are: SMT; ACTB Savings and Loans Ltd; and Lapo Microfinance Company SL.
- The EIB contributes to the West Africa Power Pool extension and financed 15.6% (EUR 75 million) of the Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) electricity network interconnection project, which constructed 537km of transmission lines (Mano/Kenema/Bikongor/Bumbuna/Yiben) and 5 substations (Kenema, Bikongor, Bumbuna, Yiben and Kamakwie) in Sierra Leone.