

5. ANNEX: PROJECT SPECIFIC UPDATE

NAME OF THE PROJECT: Youth enterprise development

BACKGROUND: The Sierra Leone PBF Steering Committee approved on 11 May the project to empower youth through the creation of decent and productive employment opportunities in small and medium sized enterprises or industries. The main objectives of the YED include: (1) Creation of enterprises as a source for self-employment and promotion of sustainable livelihoods for young men and women, (2) Support to business development services, micro-finance, skills development, training and enlarging innovative projects recognising lessons learnt and successful experiences.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Resource centre established and furnished to promote skills development for 500 young men and women;
- Food-for-Work agreement concluded with WFP through which 12,000 young people will be employed or will obtain additional skills to improve their employability.
- Agreement concluded with the Micro Finance Technical Assistance Facility to arrange for the transfer of US\$1,000,000 in portfolio support to selected Micro Finance Institutions.
- Consultancy launched to prepare a comprehensive inventory of youth employment and empowerment projects as a basis for scaling up successful efforts.

CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES:

- The lack of capacity within the Youth Employment Secretariat.
- A recruitment drive for strengthening the YES Secretariat has not been as successful as hoped.
- The new government has re-arranged Ministerial portfolios which led to the merger of the former Ministry into the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The emphasis on the early establishment of a National Youth Commission has affected speedy YED implementation.
- Increasing employment for young men and women, and accelerated youth enterprise development, require political leadership that brings effectively together all the national and international stakeholders. This challenge needs to be addressed more vigorously.

FINANCIAL STATUS:

Total Budget: US\$4,080,907

Expenditure: US\$2,381,018

PLANS TO SPEED UP THE DELIVERY:

- UNDP will contract additional capacity to ensure implementation of agreements with MFSs;
- The agreement with WFP will be monitored closely, to identify possibilities for scaling up;
- Agreements with ILO to bring an senior technical adviser will be formalized as soon as possible
- A design for a Labor Force Survey will be finalised
- UNDP and involved Ministries will convene a high level forum of stakeholders to arrive at effective coordination of employment promotion and enterprise development efforts;
- Advanced negotiations with GTZ will be concluded that will possibly generate an additional 19,000 jobs, through the creation of jobs in waste collection and agricultural rehabilitation efforts.