



SL-MDTF

PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area¹

Sierra Leone
JV: Youth Development and Development
AFC: Chapter seven – Youth Employment and
Empowerment

Programme No:

Programme 19: Youth Development and
Employment

Programme Title:

Youth Employment and Empowerment

Atlas No.:

00075965

Participating Organization(s):

UNDP

Implementing Partners:

- Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports
- National Youth Commission

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

594,000 USD

Programme Duration (in months):

- Start date²: August 3rd 2010
- End date: June 30th 2011

¹ E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc.

² The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the project is to foster an environment to generate market-driven employment opportunities for youth through opportunity mapping, conduct youth research, support the establishment of a National Youth Commission and to support youth in the transition from education to work.

In line with the UN Joint Vision for Sierra Leone (Strategic UN Framework for Sierra Leone) the project is guided by the UN Joint Vision benchmarks of:

- Economic & Social Integration of Youth

More specifically, as a component within the Joint Vision Programme 19 on Youth Development and Employment, the project contributes towards the achievement of the below UNDP deliverables:

- 19.2 Establishment of the National Youth Commission (NAYCOM)
- 19.5 Strengthening of strategies and policy development capacities through technical assistance
- 19.6 Reinforcement of the roles of Youth District Officers
- 19.7 Establishment of a Career Advisory & Placement Service (CAPS) Centre
- 19.9 Research

Therefore, the specific deliverables targeted under the DaO during this reporting period are:

- Deliverable 1) Established regional offices of NAYCOM;
- Deliverable 2) Extended training programme of TECVOC Skills Development Programme for 1,530 students;
- Deliverable 3) Report of District Based Opportunity Mapping in five districts as a pilot;
- Deliverable 4) Established Career Advisory & Placement Service Centre at FBC campus as a pilot;
- Deliverable 5) Research report on youth employment approaches and initiatives.

One of the major lessons learnt from the previous employment strategies in Sierra Leone is that they have predominantly been supply focused, primarily providing trainings and building capacity for employment. However, many project beneficiaries in Sierra Leone have undertaken various trainings, but this has not led to them finding employment. Hence, this programme aims to contribute to the strategic shift from supply-driven to demand-driven approach to creating opportunities for youth employment.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

Under Joint Vision Programme 19 Youth Development and Employment, UNDP was allocated a total of 594,000 USD. All allocated DaO funds for programme work were expended in 2010 except for unspent balance of \$29,027 was used as to finalise the operational tail end of the project.

Human Resources:

The proposal budgeted for two project coordinators. However, the plan was modified to allocate the funds to complement Deliverable 2. Funded by other resources, the project was managed by the UNV Programme Manager (international) jointly with a Programme Officer (national) and an M&E Officer (national) at the Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports (MYES) .

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

All implementation was jointly undertaken by the Youth Employment Scheme (YES) Secretariat (now the National Youth Commission). UNDP provided strategic guidance, mobilized various partners and managed the financial and logistic operation while the YES Secretariat designed activities for implementation with partners.

IV. Results

As a background we are providing you with the 2012 Results that were built upon in 2011.

With regard to the targeted project deliverables, the following was achieved in 2010:

Deliverable 1) Procurement of office equipments/facilities for NAYCOM's main office completed;

- Deliverable 2) TECVOC Skills Development Training Programme extended to 1,530 students;
- Deliverable 3) District Based Opportunity Mapping report covering five districts as a pilot produced;
- Deliverable 4) Establishment of a CAPS Centre at FBC campus as a pilot;
- Deliverable 5) Research on youth employment approaches and initiatives completed.

Results in 2011:

As a follow up from the 2010, 2011 focussed on finalizing some of the operational issues linked to the 2010 activities. More details below:

Deliverable 1) The NAYCOM office facility was completed and became operational in April 2011. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were approved by Parliament a month later and the NAYCOM became operational in June. The Commission has been gradually growing in strength and is seen as the main reference point for the youth and for information exchange on issues related to youth employment and youth empowerment.

Deliverable 2) Through UNDP support, the NAYCOM and Ministry of Education, finalised the operational set up of the Obasanjo TecVoc Centre. This facility, located on the outskirts of Freetown, will be a specialist centre for IT. This will be the first TECVOC to specialize in one skill area and thus, will be used as an example as one practical way forward to improve standards. It is anticipated that the center will be officially opened before the elections of November 2012.

The focus on TECVOC is based on the trend of growing demand to improve skills standards so that youth can compete on the international job market for the jobs in Sierra Leone's emerging industries such as in the mining and commercial agriculture sectors. Currently, many of the jobs are going to expatriates because they have the qualifications required by the

new industries that cannot be found locally. Over 2011, the NAYCOM and UNDP have been central actors in the process to improve TecVoc training standards. This will continue throughout 2012.

Deliverable 3) A second round of the district-based Employment Opportunity survey was undertaken which up the total of districts covered to 10 out of 13.

With support from the district youth officers that were provide with support in 2010, Youth Councils were formed in 5 districts and their constituent chiefdoms. These councils provide a structured platform where youth can officially interface with local government councils.

Deliverable 4) The Career Advisory and Placement Service (CAPS) Centers at Njala University and University of Sierra Leone were established in the first quarter of 2011 and fully operational by June. Through these centers, students receive guidance to define their career path and/or how to compete for jobs and link students with employers.

In addition to the daily services the CAPS centers provide, they also undertook outreach activities through a series of professional seminars and job fairs. With UNDP support, CAPS centers facilitated the movement of a team of resource persons from the Universities of Sierra Leone and Njala as well as from the West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) to many parts of the provinces. There they raised awareness and encouraged secondary schools pupils to be concerned with their career path and helping them to decide whether to take one or both WAEC exams.³ More than fifteen thousand (15000) students were reported to have been reached and made aware of the importance of career choices as a way forward to developing their vision for tertiary education.

During the first Job Fair held in Freetown in October 2010, employers from various sectors including public sectors, private sectors, agricultural business the military, police forces, the NGO, telecommunication companies, the university and mining companies. 300 students attended these sessions and benefitted from various inspirational and career guidance presentations. The students were also given the opportunity to have close interaction and ask direct questions to the various Executives and Human Resources Managers that represented the employers. 500 students attended the second Job Fair in September 2011.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable). UNDP supports the Government to increase opportunities for the employment of youth through a multiyear programme. The 2012 AWP will build on the work achieved in 2010 and 2011 and will focus on the following:

- Improved capacity of MYES & NAYCOM in coordination of youth activities (especially coordination mechanisms on the major youth employment and youth empowerment issues)
- Stronger system on data capture, data management and reporting (including best practice publications; State of the Youth Report, to Parliament)

³ The first WAEC exam is taken after the 3rd year of highschool and is recognized as a low level certification that provides access to vocational training programmes if students want to leave school afterwards. The second WAEC exam is taken after 6th year of highschool and certifies students for entry in University. This exam provides access to Tertiary Technical Vocational training (TECVOC).

- Expanded youth employment opportunities through the establish of BDS services in 6 urban areas and CAPS services in 2 university campuses and a careers advice programme in 70 senior secondary schools
- Functional structures youth councils in 19 local council areas so that youth have an official voice in local governance processes and the youth councils capacitated to be able to have two-way communication with the NAYCOM
- 500 youth engaged in sports facility development so as to enable youth to feel a sense of empowerment over the control and management of their own sports facilities
- To development the strategy to set up a National Youth Service

VI. Abbreviations and Acronyms

BDS	Business Development services
CAPS	Career Advisory and Placement Service
DBON	District Based Opportunity Network
FBC	Fourah Bay College
MDTF	Multiple Development Trust Fund
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MWHI	Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure
MYS	Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports
NAYCOM	National Youth Commission
TECVOC	Technical and Vocational Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YED	Youth Enterprise Development
YERP	Youth Employment and Regional Programme
YES	Youth Employment Scheme Secretariat