



# Sierra Leone

## Strengthening Human Security in the Remote Chiefdoms of Gbense, Soa, and Kamara in Kono District of Sierra Leone

### Background information

While progress has been made to promote stability and inclusive development in Sierra Leone, significant obstacles remain in realizing the SDGs. In the Kono District, interconnected challenges including civil instability, a non-diversified economy with limited opportunities for income generation, unsustainable mining practices, destructive forestry activities, low agricultural productivity, and inadequate governance systems for community decision-making negatively impact the lives, livelihoods and opportunities of the residents, and undermine advancement of the SDGs.

The programme builds upon an initiative supported by the UNTFHS in 2019 to strengthen the application of human security towards accelerating the achievement of the SDGs at the local level in West Africa.

### Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) ensure that the community enjoys economic, political and community security, with expanded social cohesion, all of which promote and sustain peace; and (ii) ensure that community farmers realize improved livelihoods, higher incomes, and reduced vulnerability to climate, economic and other shocks through sustainable farming that also improves the nutrition status of all community residents.



**DURATION**  
January 2021 – December 2022



**UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**  
UNDP, FAO, UNRCO



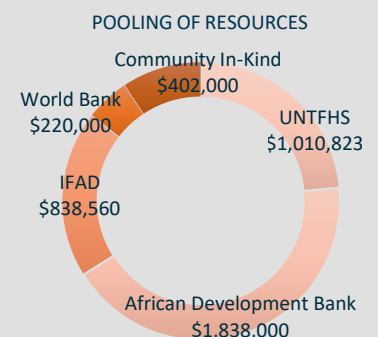
**OTHER KEY PARTNERS**  
African Development Bank, IFAD, World Bank, Government and Community Partners



**BENEFICIARIES**  
85,358 people in Kamara, Gbense and Soa



**TOTAL BUDGET**  
US\$ 4,309,383



# Beneficiaries

The programme benefits a total of 85,358 people in the chiefdoms of Kamara, Gbense and Soa, among which 2,346 are direct beneficiaries (women, youth, local NGOs and authorities).

## Applying the Human Security approach

The multifaceted nature of the programme is in keeping with the human security approach and fosters a community that is more resilient to internal and external shocks, whether political, economic, or natural. The programme is designed in a way that on the one hand ensures transformational community governance through empowerment, knowledge, and diverse input to decision making, whilst enabling sustainable agriculture, food security, livelihood and economic diversity and resilience. Together, these mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment initiatives support the community's cohesiveness, livelihood, and dignity. A comprehensive approach is used to address the root causes of threats both within and across chiefdoms and to advance a multisectoral, multi-stakeholder response, refraining from a silo- or supply-driven response.

Community governance is strengthened by increased inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups, in community planning and decision making. Through support for registration and the provision of seed funds, microcredit, and loan schemes to youth-led cooperatives, the programme enhances bottom-up community empowerment and brings concrete, sustainable benefits. Enhancing the economic role of youth is mutually supportive of the other activities designed to increase the role of youth in community decision making. By comprehensively enabling both top-down protection measures, such as the district code-of-conduct monitoring groups, and bottom-up empowerment measures, such as youth-led cooperatives, the programme advances the people-centred, comprehensive, prevention-oriented features of the human security approach.



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