



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Sierra Leone

Improving Mining Sector Governance and Resilient Livelihoods in Sierra Leone through the Human Security Approach

Background information

Farming has historically been the primary source of income and livelihood for residents of Sierra Leone. However, mining activities in the country have intensified water contamination and increased land degradation and acquisition, making land either unsuitable or unavailable for crop cultivation. This has resulted in a shift from farming to petty trading, transport service, charcoal production, and employment within mining companies. Facing deepening poverty levels, the local population has grown frustrated with mining activities that do not appear to benefit communities, which has led to protests and other actions, particularly by youth. In this context, it is imperative to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes through building economic resilience, expanding alternative livelihoods, and ensuring the actions of mining companies preserve the local environment and bring benefits to local communities for current and future generations.

Goals and objectives

The programme aims to promote the use of the human security approach as a tool to improve mining sector governance and strengthen the resilience of mining communities. Specifically, the programme: (i) contributes to a diverse, resilient local economy through climate-smart agriculture practices, enhancing economic and food security; (ii) supports inclusive decision-making and social cohesion in mining communities, empowering the population through understanding their rights related to the mining sector; and (iii) strengthens national mining governance through human security to promote transparency, accountability, and compliance with environmental regulations.



DURATION

February 2023 — Mar 2025



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNDP, FAO, UNCDF



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

National Minerals Agency;
Environmental Protection Agency;
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Food Security; Moyamba District
Council; Network Movement for
Justice and Development; The
Community Action for Human
Security; and Community
Development Committees (CDC).



BENEFICIARIES

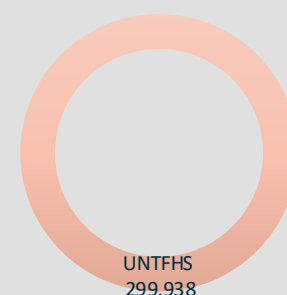
318,064



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 299,938

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

Key stakeholders of the programme are members of Community Development Committees, including women, youth, farmers, and others not primarily employed in mining, as well as staff of the National Minerals Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ministry of Agriculture. In total, the programme benefits more than 318,064 people, representing the population of the Moyamba District, who will have access to land for agriculture, increased local food production, expanded livelihood options, and improved mining governance.

Applying the Human Security approach

Promoting local sustainable development and improving mining governance requires a comprehensive and whole-of-society approach, particularly in the context of multifaceted challenges and existing fissures between local communities and mining companies. By identifying the interconnected nature of the threats to social cohesion and local development in the Moyamba District, the programme ensures that all actors involved and affected by mining activities are actively integrated into the design and implementation of the programme. Miners, non-miners, government officials, and mining companies are mobilized to work together, plan, and apply solutions toward the sustainable development of the region.

The active participation of these multiple actors is crucial for the effectiveness and sustainability of programme outcomes. Apart from ensuring that no one is left behind, enhancing community ownership and a collaborative approach helps target solutions to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of local communities while comprehensively addressing the myriad drivers of insecurity. Multistakeholder dialogues at the national level promote synergies among key actors, supporting the policy change necessary to sustain improvements at the local level and contributing to institutionalizing new ways of partnering with mining companies to benefit local communities.

Given the legacy of conflict and the complex role of mining, it is crucial to employ a preventive approach, tackling the underlying conditions of insecurity in the short- and long-term. In addition to the activities geared towards dialogue and social cohesion, the programme is advancing initiatives that economically empower community members and raise awareness about environmental protection. Workshops targeting community leaders, women, youth, entrepreneurs, and farmers, emphasize how good land stewardship, women's economic empowerment, and environmental security can promote livelihood, safety, and dignity for the community today as well as resilience to future crises.

Trainings and technical support to national regulatory agencies to strengthen their capacity to monitor and enforce the compliance of mining companies with national policies also ensures that programme initiatives will be sustained. By reinforcing environmental standards and social responsibility from mining companies, the Government of Sierra Leone can unlock partnerships that benefit local and national sustainable development, promote development in harmony with nature, and continue to build the resilience of people and institutions to future shocks.



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