

the Government of Germany, are to promote Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET).

The proposed activities include:

- A study of the Technical and Vocational Educational Training institutions, that will lead to the development of a legal and institutional basis for technical and vocational educational training
- A skills-based programme that ensures employment of technical and vocational students to the labour market;
- In-service teacher training, and curriculum development and training of trainer programmes
- Establishment of a TVET-devoted communication website

The Programme is implemented in various ways:

- A budget of 12 Million Euros has been approved to pay for several different activities ranging from improved training at the pre-school level; reorganising the teaching profession, modernising and expanding the way data and information is stored and the renovation and upgrading of junior secondary schools in rural areas.
- A contract has been developed between the EU Delegation and a group of companies, especially  PROMAN, to provide consultancy services through highly trained and experienced personnel, both national and international.
- The Ministries of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and Technical and Higher Education and the TSC run the programme.
- The programme has its support in four targeted districts namely Bombali and Port Loko Districts in collaboration with the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology and Bo and Kenema Districts in collaboration with Njala University and Eastern Polytechnic.

Support to the Education Sector in Sierra Leone

Partners:

Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE)

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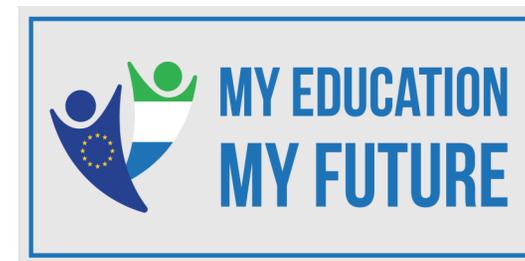
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Support to the Education Sector in Sierra Leone (SESSiL)



**A Programme Funded by the
European Union**

Sierra Leone's education system is facing many challenges.

- Basic and Senior Secondary education programmes have received inadequate funding;
- Teaching standards have fallen;
- The capacity and ability of the average student leaving school has been low and
- Hundreds of schools need massive and urgent rehabilitation to local facilities and infrastructure.

There is an urgent need for a turn-around.

The well-being and development of all Sierra Leoneans is therefore largely dependent on how relevant and effective education is and how well children and young people learn from pre—school to university level. Only through a clear, functioning quality education programme is Sierra Leone going to become a sustainable modern nation where prosperity is seen and felt in the lives of every citizen.

If the nation is to achieve good-quality education, immediate steps must be taken to upgrade school buildings and facilities and change the way teachers share information in the classroom. Simply stated, the whole system of education is to be modernized.



A nursery pupil writes on a chalkboard at Our Lady of Fatima Pre-School, Makeni, Bombali District

For this reason, the European Union is supporting the nation's laid down plans and efforts to create and maintain a sound and effective education programme. Education is one of the focal areas of EU cooperation with Sierra Leone under the 11th EDF (European Development Fund), covering the period 2014 to 2020.

An amount of 29 Million Euros has been provided by the European Union for the **Support to the Education Sector in Sierra Leone (SESSiL)** programme. This programme started in 2017 and will end in December 2020 and is closely linked to the nation's Education Sector Plans for 2018-2020, which aim to have all children benefit from high quality education. The plan has four main goals:

- To strengthen the way education is managed, ensuring that it provides good and fair ways of learning;
- To improve how students are taught and how they learn in primary school;
- To ensure that boys and girls have an equal chance at receiving quality secondary education.
- To support the development of Technical and Vocational Education training.

What will Change?

1. Improved Education System Management

A more effective way of managing, training, and supervising teachers across the country is to be developed. This is being done through the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) and the Ministries of Basic and Senior Secondary and Technical and Higher Education.

This part of the programme includes:

- Developing better policy guidelines to work with and manage teachers;
- Changing the way in which teacher information and records are stored and shared.

- Improving the way teachers are hired at the district and central levels, as well as modernization and better management of a more competent workforce.
- Developing a better system of providing accurate, and reliable information to support education managers and decision makers at all levels of the system.

2. Better Primary School Teaching and Learning

The new programme is to train teachers and school leaders through an improved process of in-service and professional development.

A new set of national professional standards for teachers and school leaders is being implemented that together with the "Teachers Code of Conduct", provide basic competencies of skilled teachers. This will ensure that they are professional in what they know, practice and how they engage with others.

The professional standards are to manage teacher performance and career development.

They are also to be used by school leaders and district school supervisors to manage individual teachers and their collective contribution to quality learning.

3. Equal Opportunity for Boys and Girls to attend Secondary Education

Many girls drop out of school after the primary level. To change this, funds will be dedicated to improve and expand school facilities and infrastructure. This is going to increase the number of students attending junior secondary schools in rural communities and the availability of toilet and sanitation facilities. New classrooms will be properly furnished and equipped. With these developments children in Sierra Leone are going to receive good-quality secondary education.

4. To improve management and delivery of technical and vocational education

The EU, in cooperation with GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) a co-financing partner from