

Permanent Mission of India
New York

Press Release
Funding support to Sierra Leone

In response to a request by Government of Sierra Leone, India will provide funding support of US\$990,000 from the **India-UN** Development Partnership Fund for the project, ***“Enabling Economic Independence For Specially Abled Persons In Sierra Leone (Persons With Disabilities)”***. UNDP partners with India towards the project.

2. This project is a top national development priority for Government of Sierra Leone as it will promote sustainable livelihoods for persons with disabilities through training and work cooperatives in rural areas. This would enable them to achieve economic independence while staying close to their homes. The project aims to refurbish dedicated centres for persons with disabilities, develop training curriculum for priority skill areas, adopt technology to enhance mobility and access to social services, establish a loan programme to purchase tools, etc.

3. India and Sierra Leone enjoy warm and cordial relations. India’s developmental cooperation with Sierra Leone through Lines of Credit and through ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development aggregates to US\$250 million, covering a range of sectors. More than 450 Sierra Leone nationals have enrolled themselves under the Pan-African Tele-Education and Tele-Medicine initiative (e-VBAB) so far and have received online education in various courses from Indian Universities. Sierra Leone is also one of the main beneficiaries of ITEC & ICCR scholarships in different programmes in various institutes in India.

4. India-UN Development Partnership Fund, established by Government of India (GoI) in June 2017, provides support to projects in developing countries that aim to contribute to achieving SDGs. The Fund adheres to the principles of South-South cooperation and places priority on national ownership and leadership, equality, sustainability, development of local capacity and mutual benefit. A total of US\$150 million has been committed by GoI for the Fund. Thus far, 86 projects in 65 countries have been serviced under the India-UN Fund.

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