

YESP – YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES



The Youth Employment Support Project (YESP 2010-2013).

The biggest intervention at the moment as far as youth employment efforts are concerned is the WB funded Youth Employment Support Project (YESP). Government, with the support of the World Bank is currently implementing the **project**. The specific objective of the project is to increase short term employment opportunities and to improve employability of targeted youth. The project seeks to address constraints on the demand and supply side of the labour market namely:

- to improve technical capacity and promote creation and/or expansion of small youth owned enterprises in economically viable activities;
- to improve the skills base of young people to make them more employable; and
- to provide a safety net and income supplement for the most vulnerable youth through public works.

The Development Grant Agreement amounting to USD 20 Million for the Youth Employment Support Project (YESP), Credit No. 4790-SL, Grant No. H605-SL was signed between the Government of Sierra Leone and International Development Association on 20th July, 2010 but became effective on the 18th October, 2010.

- **Cash for Work component implemented by NaCSA**

This component provides short term employment to youths in public works projects. The projects will involve rehabilitation and/or improvement of priority infrastructure, including feeder road rehabilitation and maintenance, agriculture, and renewable energy/environmental management.

- 251 sub-projects under this component have been implemented and completed, providing temporary employment to about 18,000 (of which 36.4% women) people against the end of project target of 23, 500 beneficiaries (about 77% achievement). Three quarters of sub-projects were roads, and one quarter in the agriculture sector.
- 133 sub-projects launched for the third round of CfW. Mentorship and money management support and entrepreneurship skills were provided. A total of 11,515 beneficiaries (cumulative) have benefited from this training



Road rehabilitation and cassava/potato farm in Bombali district under the CfW

- **Skills development component implemented by three NGOs: CHILDFUND, HELP-SL and PaRD-SL**

This component is meant to scale up and test approaches to support 9,000 young individuals and youth groups who either have established businesses or are interested in pursuing business/employment opportunities which will consist of technical training through apprenticeship schemes in the formal and informal sectors, business development support and coaching, and other life skills. To this end, this component supports three innovative approaches

- urban youth with low levels of education;
 - urban youth with higher levels of education; and
 - rural youth
- **Skills Development and Employment Support to Urban Youth with Low Levels of Education-** implemented by Child Fund. 1,200 youths with low levels of education have been placed for training in 16 TVET institutions as follows: Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Koidu

- **Skills Development and Employment Support to Urban Youth with some secondary Education** – implemented by HELP-SL. 1,200 youths with some level of education have been placed in TVET institutions in the urban centres of Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and Koidu.



Skills training at SLOIC, BO-

electricity and welding youth trainees under the YESP

- **Skills Development and Employment Support to Rural Youth** – implemented by PaRD-SL. 565 rural youths currently enrolled in training, with 281 in the area of cassava processing, 209 in the area of rice milling, and 75 involved in oil palm processing in eight districts (Port Loko, Kambia, Koinadugu, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bonthe and Kailahun).
- Periodic monitoring conducted by NaCSA, NAYCOM, IPAU/MOFED and World Bank. Grievance Redress Mechanism workshop held in Bo in collaboration with IPAU and NaCSA



Agri-business – processing and packaging of garri for rural youths in Tonkolili

- **Component 3—Institutional Support, Policy Development, and Impact Evaluation**
This component will consist of two sub-components.
 - ***Institutional Support and Policy Development*** provide financial and technical support to help the Government of Sierra Leone develop policy responses through

analytical work on labour markets, skills certification, monitoring and evaluation of existing programs and setting up of systems to assist in the identification and follow-up of beneficiaries.

- ***Impact Evaluation***, will support impact evaluation of activities under the first two components.