

## **Provide Vital Vocational Trade Skills Training**



### **Summary**

Vocational education and training (VET) is one of the three main priorities outlined by UNESCO for the current biennium and has been identified as the focus for the most important annual report on education, the Global Monitoring Report, in 2012. This project provides vital, focused skill training to help youths and young adults become self-sufficient. This training empowers them to become gainfully employed in high-demand trades. Tool-kits that are provided on graduation help them start their own businesses. Focus is primarily on providing tailoring training.

### **Challenge**

Many school drop outs, orphans and people displaced by the civil war in Freetown do not have access to equipped facilities for training in valuable trade skills. Every youth homeless in the street is the product of a broken home, and the fact of being homeless is a reflection on his or her family background affected by socio-economic imbalances in society. Nowadays, young people tend to turn to drugs in search of happiness and, since such happiness has no substance, they continue to take drugs that seem to give just a passing ray of joy. If the home fails to give security and stability to the young generation, the financial position of the young person is crippled. A boy may try all possible means to get money including, of course, robbery and will finish up in a cell. A girl might misuse her virgin honor in exchange for a few Leones that cannot buy her the security she needs. But in the long or short run she will regret it when the result has become a fatherless baby. Therefore, these challenges necessitate a high demand for the provision of practical and tertiary training services that enable them to be gainfully employed or

start their own businesses. Financial assistance is not readily available to obtain the tools needed to practice a trade and earn a living.

### **Solution**

Skills are vital for poverty reduction, economic recovery and sustainable development. As a consequence, policy attention to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is increasing worldwide. TVET comprises formal, non-formal and informal learning for the world of work. Young people, women and men learn knowledge and skills from basic to advanced levels across a wide range of institutional and work settings and in diverse socio-economic contexts.

This project addresses the skill-deficit problem by providing vital training in tailoring and other related skills. The trainees are able to learn a marketable and relevant skill. This intervention is in high demand and meets the need of school drop outs and unemployed youths. When possible, on completion of training, trainees are provided with a toolkit to help them start their own businesses.

### **Long-Term Impact**

African governments need to evolve youth policies that promote all sectors of youth development, and that strongly engages youth in life-promoting and life-building opportunities. The project enhances these youth policies by contributing to youth development in skills for self-reliance and entrepreneurship. It creates employment opportunities for disadvantaged youths and young adults - helping them to move from poverty and unemployment to self-sufficiency. This effective intervention continues to provide the essential skills that school drop outs and unemployed youths need in their quest towards financial independence. Youth development must be seen as part of an integral component of the development experience of Sierra Leone because experiences have shown that a well-educated and highly skilled youthful population is easily the most effective pathway to national development.



## Resources

<http://www.developafrica.org>

[Show & Tell - The Beneficiaries Tell Their Story](#)

[UN Country Information - Sierra Leone](#)

[Sierra Leone: "An idle mind is a devil's workshop"](#)

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/provide-vital-vocational-trade-skills-training/>

<http://jtr.e-contentmanagement.com/>

<http://www.who.int/>



**Develop Africa, Inc.**

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YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/developafrica>

*Empowering lives in Africa so that they can better themselves, their communities and their nations*

Develop Africa was established in 2006 and is a 501c3 non-profit organization is working to establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa. Develop Africa was birthed out of the vision that human resource development is the key to improving nation building capacity in Africa. Develop Africa is involved in a range of programs in Africa supporting education, microfinance and small businesses, job skills / leadership development training etc.

Through training, scholarship, investment and partnerships Develop Africa is helping to develop Africa's people through the promotion of transformational education, resource development, investment training and strategic empowerment. Our premise is based on the notion that in order to change one's personal, national or organizational status there must necessarily be a "change in the thinking and processing pattern of the mind."

We envision an African continent fully developed in terms of its human and resource capacity, free from poverty; ignorance, and civil conflict and where the poorest and most vulnerable people become "leaders" and effectively manage their national resources.

We are involved in the following targeted activities:

- care for orphans

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment for health workers etc.

Examples of specific activity: We provide -

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms etc.

Develop Africa is helping to establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa. Develop Africa was birthed out of the vision that human resource development is the key to improving nation building capacity in Africa. We are involved in a range of programs in Africa supporting education, microfinance and small businesses, job skills / leadership development training etc.

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**Sierra Leone- Full Country Profile available at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra\\_Leone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone)**

**Sierra Leone** (<sup>i</sup>/sɪˈɛərəˈliːoʊni, -liːoʊn/<sup>[5]</sup>), officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone**, is a country in **West Africa**. It is bordered by **Guinea** on the north, **Liberia** in the south-east, and the **Atlantic Ocean** in the south-west. Sierra Leone has a **tropical climate**, with a diverse environment ranging from **savannah** to **rainforests**. Sierra Leone has a total area of 71,740 km<sup>2</sup> (27,699 sq mi)<sup>[6]</sup> and a population of 7,075,641 (based on 2015 national census).<sup>[1]</sup> Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical regions: the **Northern Province**, **Eastern Province**, **Southern Province** and the **Western Area**, which are subdivided into **fourteen**

districts. Freetown is the capital, largest city and its economic and political centre. Bo is the second largest city. The other major cities are Kenema, Makeni, and Koidu Town.

About sixteen ethnic groups inhabit Sierra Leone, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the Temne and the Mende people. The Temne are predominantly found in the north of the country, while the Mende are predominant in the south-east. Although English is the official language spoken at schools and government administration, the Krio language is the most widely spoken language across Sierra Leone and is spoken by 97% of the country's population. The Krio language unites all the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other.

Sierra Leone is a predominantly Muslim country,<sup>[7][8][9]</sup> though with an influential Christian minority.<sup>[10]</sup> Sierra Leone is regarded as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. Muslims and Christians collaborate and interact with each other peacefully. Religious violence is very rare in the country.

Sierra Leone has relied on mining, especially diamonds, for its economic base. It is also among the largest producers of titanium and bauxite, a major producer of gold, and has one of the world's largest deposits of rutile. Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbour in the world. Despite exploitation of this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in poverty.<sup>[11]</sup>

Sierra Leone became independent in 1961. Government corruption and mismanagement of the country's natural resources contributed to the Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 to 2002), which for more than a decade devastated the country. This proxy war left more than 50,000 people dead, much of the country's infrastructure destroyed, and over two million people displaced as refugees in neighbouring countries.

More recently, the 2014 Ebola outbreak overburdened the weak healthcare infrastructure, leading to more deaths from medical neglect than Ebola itself. It created a humanitarian crisis situation and a negative spiral of weaker economic growth. The country has an extremely low life expectancy at 57.8 years.<sup>[10]</sup>

Sierra Leone is a member of many international organisations, including the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Development Bank, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.