



From
the People of Japan



Promoting Youth Employment through Automotive Maintenance Skills Training

Sierra Leone's fast-growing and young population presents a promising opportunity for socio-economic development. The Government's strong commitment to Human Capital Development, as demonstrated in its Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019-2023), highlights the importance of leveraging the demographic dividend for growth and prosperity. However, despite recent progress and investments, high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment persist, impacting about 70 percent of young people.

One key challenge is the mismatch between the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system and the labour market's needs. This has led to skills shortages across strategic sectors, including the automotive repair and maintenance industry. To address this skills mismatch and create job opportunities for youth, it is crucial to align skills training with industry needs and strengthen collaboration between TVET institutions and the private sector.

STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES

The project 'Promoting Youth Employment through Automotive Maintenance Skills Training' aims to bridge the skills gap in the automotive repair and maintenance industry to unlock the potential of Sierra Leone's youth. Funded by the Government of Japan, the project is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MoTHE) and in coordination with key project stakeholders.

The main objective of the project is to enhance the automotive and entrepreneurial skills of young people, thereby increasing their opportunities to find meaningful employment. The project supports Sierra Leone's development goals and activities include:



DEVELOPMENT OF DEMAND-DRIVEN MODERN CURRICULA:

A nationally accredited automotive curriculum and entrepreneurship curriculum that is competency-based and demand-driven is being developed in cooperation with the MoTHE and the National Council for Technical, Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA). To ensure effectiveness and relevance, the curricula are based on a labour market survey and training needs assessment and are developed in collaboration with industry experts. Private sector engagement is fostered to align the curricula with market demands and industry needs.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

OBJECTIVE

Empowering youth with automotive maintenance and entrepreneurship skills to enhance their employability and contribute to closing the skills gap in the automotive industry.



DURATION

36 months



TOTAL BUDGET

3,5 million USD



DONOR

Government of Japan

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

MAIN GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART

Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MoTHE)



EXPECTED OUTCOMES



200

Youths equipped with demand-driven automotive mechanic skills that enhance their employment prospects



200

Youths empowered with entrepreneurial skills that enhance their employability



Automotive industry in Sierra Leone has access to an increased young talent pool and skilled workforce



Increased collaboration between industry and TVET institutions, enhancing youth transitions to work

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

- National Council for Technical, Vocational and Other Academic Awards
- Ministry of Youth Affairs
- National Youth Commission
- Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority
- Private sector companies, e.g. CICA Motors



ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE: The Government Technical Institute (GTI) training centre located at Ferry Junction in Freetown is being upgraded with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including modern equipment and tools as well as environmentally sustainable features, such as solar power systems. GTI trainers will receive specialised technical and pedagogical trainings in Sierra Leone and overseas in Ghana, Japan, Kenya and South Africa to enhance their knowledge and skills. GTI management staff will also receive capacity building training to foster the sustainability and financial viability of the Centre of Excellence.



PROVISION OF HIGH-QUALITY AUTOMOTIVE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH: The Centre will provide high-quality automotive and entrepreneurship training for youth, especially women and people who are disadvantaged. To enhance access to employment and self-employment opportunities, a career center will be established. The Career Centre will foster linkages between the private and public sectors, provide business coaching, and promote self-learning circles among students. Additionally, apprenticeship programs, job matching services, and automobile dealer engagement will be facilitated to offer practical experience and industry exposure. To ensure effectiveness, the project will monitor student performance through a robust training impact monitoring system.

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Project
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