

Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10768

Countries

Sierra Leone

Project Name

Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project

Agencies

World Bank

Date received by PM

3/11/2021

Review completed by PM

4/22/2021

Program Manager

Fareeha Iqbal

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

CEO Approval Request

Part I ? Project Information

1. Focal area elements. Is the project aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/19/2021:

Cleared.

2/25/2021:

Adjustment requested:

Rio Marker for Climate Change Mitigation cannot have the value of "1". In order to justify CCM resources from the GEFTF, it needs to have a value of "2".

Agency Response

4/14:

This has been revised.

2. Project description summary. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/19/2021:

Cleared.

2/25/2021:

Adjustments are requested:

- a) Please allocate the same proportion of PMC to the cofinance as has been allocated from the GEF grant.
- b) Consider revising Outcome 1 to "improved "integrated" urban planning..." to reflect GEF's integrated approach better.
- c) The Project will build capacity of city authorities on revenue mobilization and urban planning, but how will capacity be built on environmental sustainability measures, to ensure they are adequately conceptualized and supported in the long term (and not just for the project's environmental investments)? Please discuss how authorities' capacity

will be build for low-carbon and nature-based solutions, and please reflect this in the project design (potentially, in Component 1a).

Agency Response

4/14:

a) The PMC has been revised. No GEF funds are being allocated to PMC. IDA co-financing will cover all project management costs, which is reflected in the \$4.5 million IDA allocation to component 4. The GEF \$330K allocated to component 4 will cover knowledge activities and participation in activities led by the SCIP global platform. The \$127K previously allocated to PMC has been reallocated to component 2.1. Changes are reflected in Table B. During appraisal, some small reallocations among components were made to the IDA co-financing; these have also been made in Table B.

b) Outcome 1 has been changed to "Improved capacity for integrated urban planning and revenue generation." This change is reflected in the PAD para 29 (a) and results framework.

c) Thank you for your comment. Under C 1.a, the team is planning to have capacity training opportunities for all city councils, and we are closely working with SCIP Global team to design such capacity training opportunities. Also, project resources will be specifically allocated to allow city leaders experts to present their knowledge and lessons learned at SCIP forums and webinars, participate in SCIP regional City Academies, and organize peer to peer exchanges and visits with SCIP cities. Please see more details in Annex 4 of the PAD.

We would also like to note that during appraisal, the PDO was slightly revised to replace Freetown with Western Area to capture the full geographic coverage of the project. The revised PDO reads: "to improve integrated urban management, service delivery, and disaster emergency management in Western Area and secondary cities of Sierra Leone". This has been updated in Table B.

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

4. Co-financing. Are the confirmed amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-

financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/19/2021:

Cleared.

3/25/2021:

The GEF project will be co-financed by and fully blended with a World Bank IDA grant in the amount of US\$50 million. The World Bank has provided a co-financing letter and stated that as per World Bank procedures, it will confirm the IDA grant through the Minutes of Negotiations. Negotiations with the Government counterparts is scheduled for mid-April 2021.

Recommendation: The project could also consider other initiatives in Freetown as potential co-finance e.g. FCDO UK (DFID) funded cities for infrastructure growth program in the country.

Agency Response

4/14:

Thank you for the suggestion to consider the UK FCDO CIG program as co-financing. It is our understanding based on discussions with our clients in Freetown that the CIG country program for Sierra Leone has not yet been defined. We will continue to track the development of this program and further explore synergies with and opportunities for co-financing from CIG during project implementation.

5. GEF resource availability. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

6. Project Preparation Grant. If PPG is requested in Table E.1, has its advanced programming and utilized been accounted for in Annex C of the document?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request PPG has not been requested.

Agency Response

7. Non-Grant Instrument. If this an NGI, are the expected reflows indicated in Annex D?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

8. Core Indicators. Are the targeted core indicators in Table E calculated using the methodology in the prescribed guidelines? (GEF/C.54/Infxxx)

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/19/2021:

Cleared.

4/6/2021:

Not yet. In the GEB estimation, the project should consider emissions reduction from AFOLU category also given that the project will invest in plantation and other land based mitigation activities.

Agency Response

4/14:

Thank you for raising this point. The 736,253 tCo2e expected emissions reductions from the tree planting activities are now captured under core indicator 6.1 for the AFOLU sector. We have reclassified the GHG emissions reductions from the tree planting activities in Freetown as direct emissions, as this activity will be directly funded by the project. The total expected project emissions reductions remain at 1,815,665 tonnes CO2e, all of which are classified as direct reductions. The portal and PAD have been updated accordingly.

Please note that the entry for core indicator 4 (area of landscapes under improved practices) has been removed from Table E as this was mistakenly included in the original submission. This indicator will not be measured by the project.

9. Project taxonomy. Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as in Table G?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Project Description. Is there sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes, an adequate description of the urban development challenges, including those pertaining to the global environment, have been identified for the seven target cities of the project.

Agency Response

2. Project Description. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes, it is provided in the 'Sectoral and institutional context' section of the submitted Project Appraisal Document.

Agency Response

3. Project Description. Is there an elaboration on the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there more clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

4. Project Description. Is there an elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

5. Project Description. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/19/2021:

Cleared.

3/25/2021:

Not yet. Further information is requested on the catalytic role and value-addition of the GEF grant, in relation to the planned activities under the IDA grant.

Agency Response

4/14:

The catalytic role of the GEF is to bring a focus on sustainability and integrated urban planning beyond what would have been possible with the IDA financing alone. The GEF financing will enable Freetown and the secondary cities to undertake integrated spatial planning that will also address encroachment and biodiversity loss due to urban

expansion into rural areas. This spatial planning will inform future urban development in the cities, well beyond the current project. GEF resources to support urban greening in Freetown will utilize a data-driven approach to expand tree and vegetation cover in targeted upper catchment and high slope areas identified in the Multi-city Hazards Assessment Report; this activity will increase green space, sequester carbon, and mitigate recurring natural hazards due to erosion, and can be a model for other cities.

Para 58 of the PAD summarizes well the additionality of the GEF financing through the specific activities that the GEF funding will support, and para 209 captures how the GEF financing will bring an integrated approach to urban development that is currently lacking in Freetown and the secondary cities.

58. Financing from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is catalyzing investments in sustainable urbanization through its Sustainable Cities Impact Program (SCIP). GEF resources will be used to catalyze sustainable development investments throughout the first two components of the project. Related to Component 1 of the project (Institutional and Capacity Development in Integrated Urban Management), GEF resources will be used in particular to support integrated urban planning and land use that underpins and protects the reforestation initiatives, protects the urban adjacent protected area from urban stressors, and promotes sustainable urban growth. Regarding Subcomponent 2.1 (Neighborhood Upgrading and Greening in Freetown), GEF resources will be targeted on promoting catchment-basin and ecosystems-based approaches for integrated flood risk reduction and watershed management, with an emphasis on forest protection, management, and regeneration. Related to Subcomponent 2.2 (Solid Waste Management Upgrading in Freetown and Secondary Cities), GEF resources will support the development of a comprehensive waste management system strengthening, including (a) waste sorting and recycling facilities; (b) engagement with the private sector and the informal recycling community, including waste pickers to incentivize innovative recycling approaches; and (c) enhancement of awareness raising and outreach to reduce illegal dumping and littering in key terrestrial and marine habitats. In addition, GEF funding will support local and national government representatives in participating in global knowledge platforms to enable access to international best practice and by exchanging ideas and experiences with other SCIP cities and using relevant analytical tools.?

209. **The Project is aligned with the GEF focal areas.** The GEF project adds innovative natural capital conservation components as well as overall integrated planning elements to an urban resilience project centered primarily around the Transform Freetown strategy. A successful project will be able to showcase how evidence-based spatial planning, urban resilience investments, and other target project elements can lead to sustainable outcomes in an urban setting that interacts heavily with areas holding globally valuable natural capital. The project takes an integrated approach to addressing three focal areas: biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and landscape degradation. GEF financing will enable the following: (a) Biodiversity will be protected

through evidence-based and integrated spatial planning, in conjunction with reforestation and forest protection to protect and improve management of biodiverse areas. (b) Climate change will be mitigated through reduction of methane production through SWM sector enhancements, combined with urban greening activities. Such interventions will also have climate change adaptation benefits by reducing the risk of flood, landslide, and coastal erosion. (c) Land degradation will be minimized through enhanced integrated urban planning capacity and tools to reduce urban sprawl and protect natural forested areas that are assets to the city and the environment. Throughout all of this, fiscal sustainability will be enhanced through support to CCs in internal revenue mobilization, enhancing the long-term sustainability of solutions.

6. Project Description. Is there a better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/20/2021:

Yes.

4/6/2021:

Yes, however see comment for Core Indicators.

Agency Response

7. Project Description. Is there a better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

8. Project Map and Coordinates. Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

9. Child Project. If this is a child project, an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

10. Stakeholders. Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been submitted.

Agency Response

11. Gender equality and women's empowerment. Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/3/2021:

Cleared.

Update: 5/3/2021:

The project includes a detailed Gender Inclusion and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan (annex 3) but we cannot locate the gender analysis/assessment. Can you please clearly indicate, in the section on gender in the online Portal entry, that a gender analysis has been carried out and attach or reference this clearly.

3/25/2021:

Yes, a Gender Inclusion Action Plan has been submitted.

Agency Response

4/14:

During project appraisal, the gender annex was updated to incorporate gender aspects in multiple project components to complement government efforts to reduce inequalities between women and men. The revised gender annex is included in the updated PAD and uploaded as a separate document in the portal. The entry in the gender section of the portal has also been updated. Specifically:

- ? The project will address gender gaps in women's access to livelihoods opportunities in SWM, through formal jobs creation, training and entrepreneurship support for women in informal SWM.

The precise support interventions will be defined following the completion of ongoing sector analytics.

- ? The project will address gender gaps in community-level decision making to ensure that the infrastructure investments respond to women's specific needs and priorities as identified through Ward Committees, market committees and other structures for community-level decision making.
- ? The project will finance activities to improve women's security and job opportunities by improving their safety through street lighting under the neighborhood upgrading, targeting women for job opportunities in SWM, and improving safer working spaces for women traders in the markets.
- ? The project will support focus group discussions and community awareness raising to respond to the specific needs of women in upgrading communities in line with COVID-19 safety protocols.
- ? A robust GBV Action Plan will be developed to address project related GBV risks.
- ? Results indicators that measure the project-generated benefits for women has been incorporated into the results framework to regularly monitor project performance and to track progress.

5/3:

The analysis of relevant gender gaps related to the project interventions is included in Annex 3 of the PAD. We have uploaded this as a separate document, with the title *Gender Analysis and Action Plan*. We have also referenced the inclusion of gender analysis in this document in the gender section of the portal entry.

12. Private sector engagement. If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes. The project design and implementation will promote private sector engagement,

particularly in the solid waste management component (e.g., waste management and recycling).

Agency Response

13. Risk. Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/19/2021:

Cleared.

4/6/2021:

Not yet. A more detailed climate risk assessment as suggested by STAP will be useful.

Agency Response

4/14: (updated 4/16)

The team has prepared a detailed climate and disaster risk assessment summary note which has been reflected in the PAD narrative (paras 12-14). The project was screened for climate and disaster risks in line with the GEF and IDA requirements. The screening summary is now uploaded into the portal. In addition, an in-depth "Multi-city Hazard Review and Risk Assessment" was carried out in 2018 for Freetown, Makeni City, and Bo. The assessment incorporated projected climate impacts related to coastal erosion, sea level rise and flooding to 2050 using the RCP8.5 scenario. This project drew heavily on this assessment to inform its design.

As noted in para 35 of the PAD, the infrastructure investments supported by the project will be designed to climate- and disaster-resilient standards. Site-specific climatic risks will be identified through the environmental and social impact assessments completed for the landfill and neighborhood upgrading subprojects.

14. Coordination. Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes. The Ministry of Environment will establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will oversee project planning, execution, and coordination of the Project. It will provide strategic guidance and facilitate proactive actions for the resolution of any operational or administrative bottleneck. Other actors including international and local

development partners will be invited to join meetings as needed depending on the issues to be addressed at each session of the Committee.

Agency Response

15. Consistency with national priorities. Has the project described the consistency of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

16. Knowledge management. Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/19/2021:

Cleared.

4/6/2021:

Please confirm that the project will actively contribute learning and lessons to the SCIP's knowledge platform.

Agency Response

4/14:

Yes, the team has been coordinating with SCIP Global team to design knowledge development and capacity building elements of the project. Language in para 212 in Annex 4 has been revised to explicitly capture that the project will both benefit from and contribute to the SCIP global platform: *In addition, Sierra Leone will benefit from, and contribute to the global SCIP knowledge platform. Freetown and the secondary cities will benefit from SCIP knowledge and capacity building resources and trainings, which will be tailored to the country's specific needs. In turn, the cities will also share their lessons and experiences through the SCIP global platform.*

17. Monitoring and Evaluation. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/22/2021:

Yes.

4/6/2021:

Not yet. The M&E Plan should reflect the timelines and associated budget for key deliverables relating to M&E of the project.

Agency Response

4/14/21:

An M&E plan has been prepared and uploaded into the portal.

4/22/21:

A revised and more comprehensive M&E plan including both monitoring of the results framework as well as monitoring of project compliance with E&S safeguards and fiduciary policies has been submitted through the portal. Please note that as with PMC, all M&E costs will be fully financed by the IDA grant as this is a fully blended project and all GEF M&E requirements are incorporated into the project.

18. Benefits. Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/20/2021:

Cleared.

3/25/2021:

Further information is requested: please discuss the benefits this project will provide in the context of 'building back better' and 'green recovery' from COVID-19.

Socio-economic benefits the project will support include reduced risk of urban flooding and landslides, neighborhood safety (via streetlights), and health benefits (from solid waste management measures and improved municipal service delivery).

Agency Response

4/14:

As noted in para 20 of the PAD, the development and updating of policies for urban planning and fiscal policies for local councils planned under the project will contribute

to strengthening the physical, social, and economic resilience of vulnerable communities affected by the pandemic and rebuild the country for a greener, more sustainable and resilient future.

To 'build back better?', the project will incorporate sustainability measures into infrastructure design, as described in para 72 of the PAD. For example, in terms of neighborhood upgrading interventions and more particularly drainage works, designs must consider hydro-hydraulic modeling and long-term projections for flooding and climate change vulnerability. As noted in para 35 of the PAD, under the Resilient Municipal Infrastructure Investment and Urban Greening component, infrastructure investments will be designed to climate- and disaster-resilient standards. Further, low-impact investments (such as energy-efficient street lighting and use of locally sourced materials) and low-carbon construction designs will be prioritized to reduce GHG emissions.

Moreover, lessons learned from the large-scale tree planting/job creation effort in Freetown can be scaled up among secondary cities to enhance 'green recovery' from COVID-19. Also, Freetown will explore opportunities to showcase its success with this effort regionally and globally through the SCIP Global Platform. In fact, the Mayor of Freetown has been invited to several GEF events already to talk about her #TreetownFreetown campaign and her story became the source of inspiration for other cities.

19. Annexes:

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/22/2021:

Cleared.

4/20/2021:

Not yet. The budget pasted in the online Portal entry cannot be read as most of the columns are missing. Can this please be re-entered?

4/6/2021:

Not yet. The Budget that has been pasted into the online Portal entry cannot be read as the columns are not straight. Can you please re-enter it?

Agency Response

4/14:

The budget entry has been reformatted.

4/21:

We apologize that this was not corrected last time. The budget has now been pasted as an image file and reads clearly in our "review" version of the submission.

20. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS):

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes. Given the physical works planned, careful planning and design considerations will be necessary to maintain the health and safety of residents, waste pickers, vendors, visitors and nearby communities throughout the works phase. E&S considerations have been factored into the landfill site pre-screening and selection criteria being applied by the inter-ministerial landfill site identification and selection working group. To ensure that potential sites pose no E&S risks or threats to biodiversity or ecosystems, a full ESIA will be prepared once the site is selected and prior to disbursements for the landfill activity. A Livelihood Restoration Plan will be prepared if it is determined that the livelihood of waste pickers will be impacted by the construction of the landfill site. No physical and/or economic displacement will occur.

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes. This is available starting p. 45 of the submitted Project Appraisal Document.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 4/6/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes.

Agency Response

Part III ? Country and Agency Endorsements

1. Country endorsements. Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/25/2021:

Yes, a letter of endorsement from the OFP of Sierra Leone was submitted at time of PFD approval, in October 2019.

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

n/a

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

1. RECOMMENDATION.

Is CEO endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/3/2021:

Yes.

5/3/2021:

Please see request for clarification on Gender section.

4/22/2021:

Cleared.

4/21/2021:

Not yet. Please see comments relating to tables for the M&E Plan and the Budget.

4/6/2021:

Not yet. Please address review comments above.

Review Dates

	1SMSP CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	4/6/2021	4/14/2021
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/21/2021	4/22/2021
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/22/2021	5/3/2021
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

CONTEXT

?Resilient Urban Sierra Leone? is a child project under the GEF 7 Sustainable Cities Impact Program. It aims to support sustainable, resilient and integrated urban planning and growth in Greater Freetown (including Western Area Rural District) as well as six secondary cities: Makeni, Koidu New Sembehun, Kenema, Bo, Port Loko, and Bonthe. The project fully blends the \$7.3 million GEF grant with a \$50 million WB grant; together, they will support the aforementioned cities through integrated urban planning, own-source urban revenue enhancement, infrastructure upgrading, solid waste management, and disaster preparedness and management, with the aim to support livable, well-planned, financially sustainable, and productive urban centers. To leverage maximum impact, the project is designed in coordination with a range of ongoing and planned complementarity investments, government programs, and development partner support. Participating city administrations and national public sector staff will benefit from training to improve management capacity and service provision. Central

government entities involved in the project will also benefit from capacity building to better fulfill their roles.

COMPONENTS AND RESULTS:

This project supports Sierra Leone's long term vision and programmatic approach to support sustainable urban development and address the complex institutional issues that require incremental and sustained interventions to develop systems and capacity of its City Councils. As part of the first phase of this long term approach, this project will support the following:

Component 1 will support preparation and implementation of spatial plans (master, local plans, and planning schemes); training in urban planning, reviewing and developing planning laws, strategies, and codes; and the implementation of a robust municipal spatial data infrastructure, including training in geospatial infrastructure, applications, and data management. This component will also help cities generate own-source revenue by building capacity for comprehensive upgrading of municipal property-tax systems through better mapping, classifying, and valuation of properties; building data infrastructure; managing relevant data; and enhancing collection procedures in all the target cities.

Component 2 will finance priority resilient municipal infrastructure and services to support green and sustainable urban growth, including the preparation of technical designs. In Freetown, infrastructure upgrading will provide basic services and flood risk reduction to areas of extreme poverty. Urban greening, including tree planting, will deliver carbon sequestration and other myriad benefits, contributing to a core component of the Resilience Pillar in the "Transform Freetown" agenda. GEF resources will support sustainable spatial planning for expanding tree and vegetation cover in targeted upper catchment and high slope areas identified in a multi-city hazards assessment report. A comprehensive forest inventory across the catchment areas, using remote sensing, will catalog and monitor existing and potential tree and vegetation cover, and research will be conducted to improve forest performance and encourage adaptive community-based management, with the aim to increase the diverse tree populations, using "right tree, right place" principles to preserve and enhance local natural biodiversity.

This component will also support comprehensive solid waste management (SWM) system investments for Greater Freetown across the entire value chain; upgrading of the ancillary infrastructure at the existing landfill and operational systems in Bo; and will support selected secondary cities to improve SWM sector performance. These measures will reduce flood risk and addressing waste-related health issues. Finally, this component will also finance the comprehensive upgrading of central markets in select cities to improve working conditions for traders, stimulate local economies, and provide city councils with increased revenues through increased collection of market dues.

Component 3 will build the capacity of the national and local governments in emergency preparedness and response, to better prepare them to respond to and recover from disasters. It will support technical and operational capacity building, and provide access to financing for immediate response through a contingent emergency component.

In terms of private sector engagement, the local construction sector, especially SMEs, will benefit from the project's contract opportunities. In addition, tree planting and forest protection schemes will seek to mobilize resources from private companies and individuals through sponsorship schemes to invest in forest protection, thereby enhancing the financial sustainability of forest protection and management programs.

The project is expected to reduce 1.8 million tons of GHG emissions, restore 1,000 hectares of land and improve resilience of 1.7 million people (50% women).

It will engage actively with the larger SC-IP through the Global Platform. Overall, this project is supporting the needed investments and creating the long term capacity for enabling a pathway to transformational change and significant global environmental benefits for these cities, in line with the SCIP program framework.

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS:

Detailed consideration of COVID-19 risks has been presented, and a COVID-19 Prevention and Risk Mitigation Plan will be prepared. At the same time, the project will contribute to the government's effort to contain the COVID-19 outbreak and alleviate the poverty impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable households by improving access to basic services for improved living conditions of urban households in crowded, precarious neighborhoods; through short-term job creation with labor-intensive public works for the neighborhood and market upgrading investments, especially for the youth, women and other vulnerable groups; and by adapting emergency protocols and procedures to include social-distancing measures, personal protective equipment and hygiene protocols for the responders and population attended, and spatial design and operation of emergency services facilities.