



 **SIERRA LEONE**
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Innovation in Education

Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

DSTI is mandated to use science, technology and innovation to support the Government of Sierra Leone to deliver on its national development plan effectively and efficiently; and to help transform Sierra Leone into an innovation and entrepreneurship hub.

Dr Moinana David Sengeh is the Chief Innovation Officer and Sierra Leone's Minister of Basic and Secondary Education. Dr Sengeh holds a PhD. from MIT and a B.A. from Harvard University. He is a Senior TED Fellow, a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, Forbes 30 Under 30 and an Obama Foundation Leaders: Africa Fellow.



Human Capital Development Incubator

The Human Capital Development (HCD) Incubator at the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Office of the President was set up to design and translate innovations into implementable policies that will solve Sierra Leone's greatest human capital development challenges in health, education and agriculture through data-driven methods.

Features of the HCD Incubator:

- Data-driven
- Research-oriented
- Design-based
- Hands-on
- Prototype development
- 4th Industrial Revolution technologies
- Public, Private, Academic and Research institutions
- Results-focused

Education Innovation Challenge

According to the Sierra Leone Secondary Grade Learning Assessment report (DFID 2019), only an average of 12% of Junior Secondary School students across the country score above the pass grade in English and Maths. The first task of the HCD Incubator was to develop and launch an Education Innovation Challenge (EIC) which is the government of Sierra Leone's approach to improving the quality of education in primary schools. The EIC is implemented with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education .

To improve quality learning outcomes in education using experimental and innovative methods and technology, the EIC is implemented with the following guiding principles:

- Outcomes focused
- Engaging local partners
- Clear guidelines
- Research-driven
- Competitive process
- Built to scale

It is implemented in three phases starting with an incubation and experimenting in government and government-assisted schools, followed by evaluation of results to determine scale up and a final nationwide spread depending on the results of the preliminary years.

Five innovations were selected through a competitive process for implementation in 170 (treatment) government primary schools across the 15 districts in Sierra Leone. Organisations were required to be innovative in their approach, but with a maximum per student implementation cost of \$25 (= Le219,310) for this 1 year incubation and experimenting phase.

Each treatment school has been paired with a comparable control school. Implementation will be accompanied by robust monitoring (baseline assessment, ongoing school monitoring, endline assessment) and learning. Based on the results and data generated from the 170 treatment and 170 control EIC schools, the Government of Sierra Leone intends to progress to a wider 2-year pilot.

The 2 year pilot will inform a nationwide scaling-up of successful innovative solutions by 2023 and inform future education policy decisions and value-for-money of investments in improving learning outcomes. Baseline assessment was done in December 2019 and analysis is still in progress.

Initial Partners and Collaborators:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Venture Fund
- UBS Optimum Foundation
- Peter Cundill Foundation
- Tony Blair Institute
- Rockdale Foundation
- World Vision Spain
- Save the Children Denmark
- University of Sierra Leone, Njala University
- Government of Sierra Leone (Ministries, Departments and Agencies)
- Development Partners (UNICEF-SL, UNDP)



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