



Sierra Leone Qualifies for Fragile States Facility Resources

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has qualified for Fragile States Facility resources, worth 72.47 million units of account (US\$ 112 million), following the approval of the Boards of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group on Tuesday, January 21, 2009, in Tunis.

Sierra Leone will thus receive financial assistance to promote economic growth by rehabilitating its infrastructure, improving its agricultural sector and promoting good governance. More specifically, the funds will finance:

- the construction of the Port Loko – Lungi Road (US\$ 39 million), that will not only connect Port Loko and the rest of the northern and eastern parts of the country with the airport city of Lungi and Freetown, the country's economic and political capital, but will also promote regional integration by contributing to the regional network connecting Liberia and Guinea;
- a Water Supply and Sanitation Project (US\$ 41 million), scheduled for 2010, expected to provide adequate drinking water and sanitation facilities for rural residents, improve solid waste collection in Freetown, improve water services quality in Freetown and reform management and operation of the Guma Valley Water Company;
- budget support (US\$ 15 million) aimed at improving efficiency of budget preparation and execution, enhancing revenue administration, and improving planning and management of basic service delivery. It is expected that the budget support will strengthen public financial management systems and modernize tax and customs administration.

Sierra Leone is also eligible for additional support from the Fragile States Facility that will fund the service sectors that enhance human resources development such as education and health.