

From
the People of Japan

UNOPS NEWS Announcement
For immediate release

UNOPS and the Government of Japan handed over basic infrastructure and a Biogas Energy Plant to Susan's Bay and Mabella Communities

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) funded by the Government of Japan handed over constructed facilities and a biogas energy plant under the "Resilience Building for Disaster Affected Communities in Freetown Project".

Freetown, 14 November 2023: UNOPS in collaboration with the Freetown City Council (FCC) designed and constructed a biogas energy plant that turns food waste into organic manure which can be used as fertilizer and produces electricity for the community.

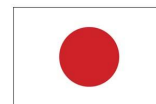
This project aimed to increase the resilience of communities affected by the fire through basic infrastructure improvements within Susan's Bay. Beneficiaries of this project are estimated at 7,041 people from 1,566 households within low-income communities in Susan's Bay. Female beneficiaries account for around half of the population in the project.

Speaking at the handing over event which took place at Susan's Bay Community Hall, **H.E. Mr. Hisanobu Mochizuki - Ambassador Of Japan To Sierra Leone said:** "Crucial community infrastructure has been installed through this project, guaranteeing that the impacted communities in Susan's Bay are better equipped to endure and recover from calamities in the future."

The project was designed to address the urgent need for access to clean water and sanitation. UNOPS on behalf of the FCC constructed one water tower and installed two 10,000 litres water tanks with a pipe network supplying water to five toilet facilities with additional 3,000 litres water tanks installed on each. UNOPS also designed and installed a biogas energy plant which turns waste into organic manure that can be used as fertilizer and lighting. Additionally, UNOPS rehabilitated drainages with cover slabs and reconstructed one access step and walkways connecting the facilities.

Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba - UNOPS Ghana Multi-Country Office (GHMCO) Director-Representative, said: "This project directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 11, which concerns Sustainable Cities and Communities. It is my belief that this project will have a positive impact on the lives of the residents of Susan's Bay and Mabella by increasing resilience through improved basic infrastructure". She added that the project emphasises women's empowerment and gender equality, noting that the gender equality aspect was particularly relevant for this project in consideration of the fact that 49 per cent of the beneficiaries are women.

The project has not only increased the resilience of these communities but also created employment opportunities, improved energy supply, reduced the risk of accidents and provided access to sanitation and hygiene.



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In 2022, UNOPS signed an agreement with the Government of Japan to implement a \$2.3m project with the aim of improving the resilience of the community through basic infrastructure improvements in Susan's Bay and Mabella Communities. These communities have experienced fire disasters and residents are having challenges with overcrowding, poor sanitation and a lack of clean drinking water facilities. The Freetown City Council and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) developed a "Build Back Better" strategy, which this project proposed to support by providing immediate relief to at-risk communities while strengthening their long-term resilience. It is anticipated that the approach and best practices developed at Susan's Bay will be duplicated to other sites where emergencies might arise.

ENDS

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About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: www.unops.org

About the Government of Japan

Japan's Country Development Cooperation Plan to Sierra Leone addresses basic infrastructure development in the power sector in the priority areas. This project will contribute to it, in particular, by increasing energy access to public services and enhancing economic growth in underserved rural communities. In addition, at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) held in August 2019, Japan announced a "Deepening sustainable and resilient society" and this project is a concrete response to this statement.