

QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTERMAY  
2025**Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> issue of Invest Salone's quarterly newsletter**

It's been a busy and exciting period for Invest Salone, with a strong focus on sustainable finance, inclusive policy dialogue and creative industry engagement.

In the past quarter, we published an article exploring the story behind **Sierra Leone's first-ever local currency corporate bond** – an important milestone in unlocking more affordable financing for growth. Our latest video also highlights this achievement, with Invest Salone's role in providing technical assistance and catalytic capital to help make the bond a success.

We supported the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs' **high-level policy dialogue for International Women's Day** and ran a digital campaign spotlighting gender data from our resource hub.

We also helped the Fashion Design and Textile Association deliver its **first-ever symposium**, bringing together West African designers and thinkers for panel discussions and knowledge exchange.

Finally, we marked the **launch of the Sustainable Finance Principles working group** – an initiative co-led by the Sierra Leone Association of Commercial Banks and the Sierra Leone Association of Microfinance Institutions, and facilitated by Invest Salone – to help integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles into finance.

Read on to explore more about these stories and the impact they're helping to create.

[Click here to subscribe to the newsletter](#)



## This quarter's feature: International Women's Day

Invest Salone ran a [social media campaign](#) celebrating women's role in Sierra Leone's economy, spotlighting access to finance, entrepreneurship and the fashion industry.

We shared a [case study on ACTB Savings and Loans](#), where 68% of borrowers are women and highlighted LAPO SL's involvement in Sierra Leone's first local currency corporate bond.

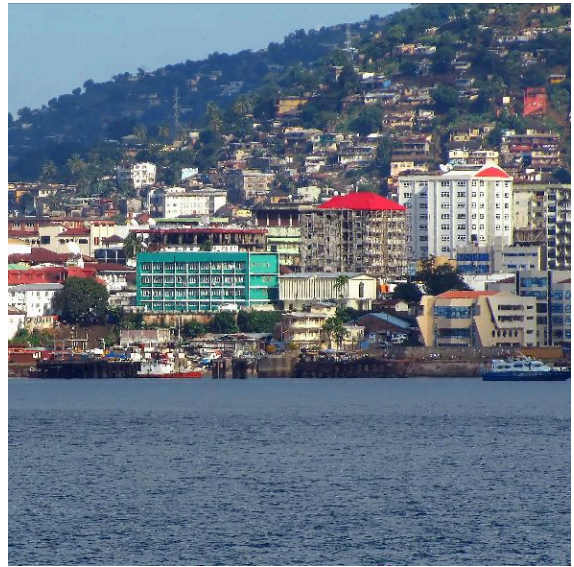
We also supported the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs' [high-level policy dialogue](#) and hosted a panel on financial inclusion, reinforcing our commitment to a more inclusive economy.

## Latest news

## Catalysing diaspora investment in Sierra Leone

Diaspora investors are key to Sierra Leone's future. At a recent roundtable supported by Invest Salone, participants explored how to unlock greater diaspora investment by tackling barriers, sharing practical solutions and building networks in priority areas such as tech, real estate and agriculture.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Panoramic view of Freetown, Sierra Leone



Fashion Design and Textile Association event

Sierra Leone's Fashion Design and Textile Association holds first national symposium. [Click here to read the full article.](#)



Panoramic view of Freetown, Sierra Leone

First working group meeting for voluntary Sustainable Finance Principles in Sierra Leone. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

## Private sector hears how groundbreaking local currency bond could expand financing opportunities

The roundtable explored how the bond was structured, who was involved and why it matters, spotlighting its potential to unlock long-term, affordable finance for women-led businesses and SMEs.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Eshiague Gabriel, Managing Director of Lapo Microfinance SL, talking about the impact of the bond

Want to see more of our news? [Click here to visit our News page](#)

## Publications

Invest Salone's SME Investment Toolkit offers practical guidance to help Sierra Leonean businesses overcome challenges and attract investment.

Through its PROSPER Salone grant scheme, Invest Salone is working with London-based impact investing group Truestone and its portfolio company, A Call to Business (ACTB) Savings and Loans, to empower women entrepreneurs in Sierra Leone by providing financial products tailored to their needs. [Click here to view the full resource.](#)

CASE STUDY

MARCH 2025

INVEST SALONE

### Putting money where the impact is: A PROSPER Salone case study supporting microfinance and women entrepreneurs

More than a quarter of working women in sub-Saharan Africa are involved in entrepreneurial activity – the world's highest rate. Supporting women to build profitable and sustainable businesses can have wide socio-economic benefits for their families and communities.

Through its PROSPER Salone grant scheme, Invest Salone is working with London-based impact investing group Truestone and its portfolio company, A Call to Business (ACTB) Savings and Loans, to empower women entrepreneurs in Sierra Leone by providing financial products tailored to their needs.



#### About PROSPER Salone

Encouraging investment and exports to support domestic firms and international trade is essential for sustainable livelihoods, but most investors consider markets like Sierra Leone too risky and the returns too small to be attractive as investment destinations.

PROSPER Salone is a UK-funded grant matching facility that helps international investors with innovative ideas and business models who are committed to investing in Sierra Leone.

Introduced in 2020 as part of the Invest Salone programme, it supports investment in Sierra Leone by funding activities aimed at reducing the risks of market entry for investors – such as scoping trips, feasibility studies and due diligence.

PROSPER Salone offers grants between £5,000 and £350,000 and requires that investors provide matching funds (in kind or in cash) that are at least 20-30% of the total cost of the supported activity.





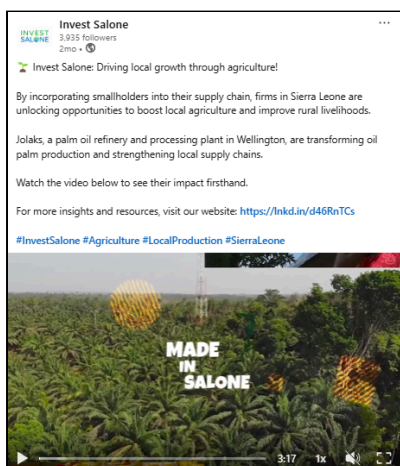


## Local currency corporate bond roundtable

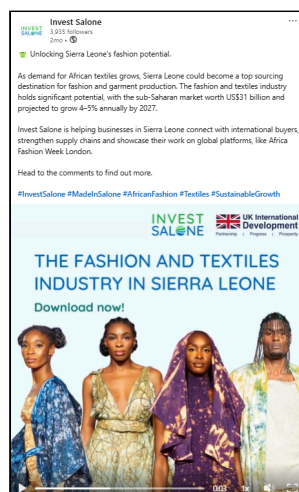
Hear from key players on the process behind Sierra Leone's first local currency corporate bond and how Invest Salone supported the transaction to expand access to sustainable finance. [Click here to watch the full video.](#)

Want to see more of our resources? [Click here to visit our Resource Bank](#)

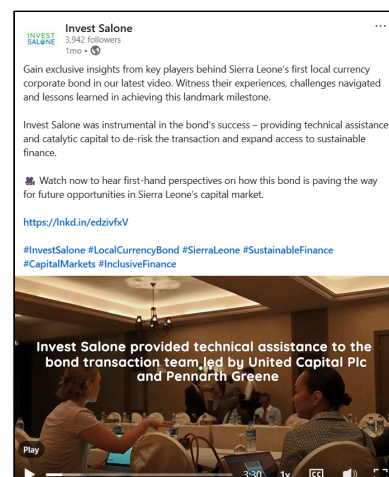
## Social media



Invest Salone is supporting companies like Jolaks to strengthen agricultural supply chains and boost



Invest Salone is supporting Sierra Leone's growing fashion and textiles industry



Invest Salone's SME Investment Toolkit offers practical guidance to help Sierra Leonean businesses

rural livelihoods by working with  
smallholder farmers.

by connecting businesses to  
global markets and  
strengthening supply chains.

overcome challenges and attract  
investment.

Want to learn more? [Click on an image to explore the full story on LinkedIn.](#)

---



[View email in browser](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Invest Salone · Wilkinson Road · Freetown · Sierra Leone



---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Invest Salone · Wilkinson Road · Freetown, · Sierra Leone

