

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTERMARCH
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Welcome to the 17th issue of Invest Salone's quarterly newsletter

Invest Salone continued to make strong progress in the past quarter – publishing new resources, hosting a showcase event and strengthening partnerships that are helping to drive innovation, investment and inclusive growth across Sierra Leone's private sector.

On Friday 16 January 2026, key government and private sector leaders gathered at our high-level event, **"Building a coalition for catalytic capital"**.

This shone the spotlight on a coalition-led approach to private sector development in Sierra Leone driven by public sector, business sector and development partner collaboration. It featured exhibits around the themes of "Finance that fits", "When capital meets capability" and "Public-private dialogue in action".

Case studies shared at the event illustrated the impact of the right technical and advisory support to lay the groundwork for investment. You can read more about the **investment readiness journeys and outcomes** for Freetown Waste Transformers, So Pure and Jolaks in our news section. Our new article, **"Finance That Fits: Shaping the future of capital in Sierra Leone"**, also highlights the types of capital suitable for different scenarios and touches on two partnerships that addressed the failure of traditional financial products to meet the actual needs of businesses.

Sierra Leone's startup ecosystem is at a pivotal moment, with rising entrepreneurial activity but a critical funding gap in the 'missing middle'. Our new resource, "**Supporting entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone: Opportunities and barriers for angel investors**", explores why angel investment is essential, the first-mover advantages for investors and the opportunities emerging in one of West Africa's most dynamic early-stage markets.

Another pivotal opportunity is the increasing consumer demand for sustainable palm oil. Our video, "**Sierra Leone's palm oil sector and the power of small shifts**", explains how taking a new approach can capitalise on this demand while creating jobs and a sustainable revenue stream for smallholder farmers.

In all workplaces, recent legal reforms mean that Sierra Leonean employers have a duty to prevent sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace. However, many employers lack the practical experience to introduce effective safeguarding procedures. To help companies meet their obligations, we launched the "**Protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment: A safeguarding toolkit**", which provides clear and practical guidance tailored to the Sierra Leonean context while also meeting international safeguarding standards.

Read on to discover how these initiatives are helping unlock Sierra Leone's growth potential and build a more inclusive, resilient economy.

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This quarter's feature: Invest Salone's showcase highlights how collaboration fuels private sector development

Key government and private sector leaders gathered on Friday 16 January 2026, as Invest Salone, a UK-funded private sector development programme, hosted a high-level event aimed at **deepening collaboration and boosting investment in Sierra Leone's expanding private sector.**

The event showcased Invest Salone's contribution to improving the business environment and reinforced its role as a partner and facilitator, bringing together diverse stakeholders to address systemic constraints through dialogue and cooperation.

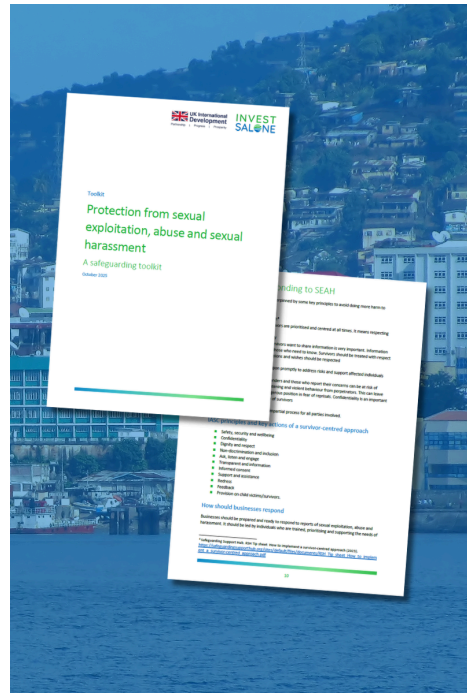
The British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Ms Josephine Gauld LVO, said: **"This event demonstrates how collaboration between government, investors and development partners can unlock investment that creates real jobs and opportunities for Sierra Leoneans."**

[Read the full story](#) to learn more about how collaboration drives progress.

Latest news

New safeguarding toolkit

This safeguarding toolkit supports private sector companies in Sierra Leone to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the workplace. It provides practical guidance to help businesses align with national laws, strengthen workplace safeguarding systems and promote safer, more inclusive environments for all employees and stakeholders. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Roundtable discussion on the partnership between Vista Bank, Small Foundation and Invest Salone

Finance That Fits: Shaping the future of capital in Sierra Leone. [Click here to read the full article.](#)



Freetown Waste Transformers staff

From aid to equity: How Invest Salone, Redsalt Angel Investment Network and Freetown Waste Transformers are catalysing early-stage capital in Sierra Leone. [Click here to read the full article.](#)



Major investment deal secured by So Pure

So Pure secures major investment after Invest Salone support strengthens business readiness. [Click here to read the full article.](#)



Scaling manufacturing at Jolaks

Jolaks, Proparco and Invest Salone partner to scale manufacturing in Sierra Leone. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

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Publications

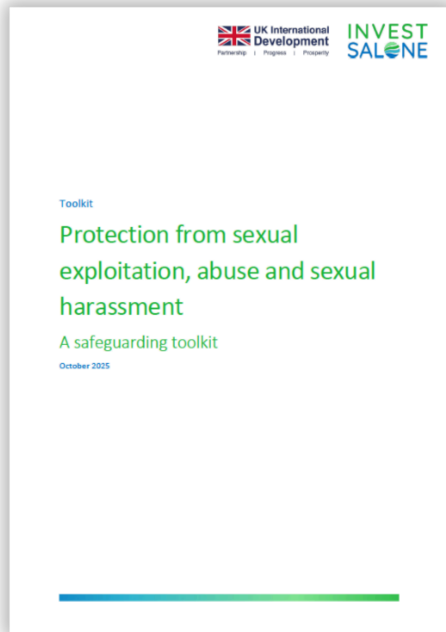
Supporting entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone: Opportunities and barriers for angel investors

Sierra Leone's startup ecosystem is at a pivotal moment, with rising entrepreneurial activity but a critical funding gap in the 'missing middle'. This brief explores why angel investment is essential, the first-mover advantages for investors and the opportunities emerging in one of West Africa's most dynamic early-stage markets. [Click here to view the full resource.](#)

Explore more resources



Click on a resource below to learn more.



Protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment: A safeguarding toolkit



Investment impact infographics for So Pure, Freetown Waste Transformers and Jolaks



Collaboration that works: Reforming trade through public-private dialogue



Sierra Leone's palm oil sector and the power of small shifts

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As part of its Investment Readiness Technical Assistance, Invest Salone provided targeted training to staff from Ecobank Microfinance Sierra Leone (EMSL), helping strengthen credit risk management and loan appraisal capacity to improve the quality of EMSL's lending portfolio – an essential step towards attracting new investment.



A photo story presenting highlights from the Invest Salone showcase "Building a coalition for catalytic capital".



Invest Salone took part in the Angel Investment Night, hosted by the Redsalt Angel Investment Network, sharing perspectives on investment readiness, local opportunity and the role of patient capital in supporting Sierra Leonean founders to scale.



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