



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UNIDO PROJECT NUMBER: 170244

**Increasing Sierra Leone's
competitiveness through enhanced
productivity and trade compliance in
selected value chains**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST**

**Certification for Quality Management
System (ISO 9001: 2015)**

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. The mission of UNIDO, as described in the [Lima Declaration](#) adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, is to promote and accelerate [inclusive and sustainable industrial development](#) (ISID) in Member States. The relevance of ISID as an integrated approach to all three pillars of sustainable development is recognized by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will frame United Nations and country efforts towards sustainable development in the next fifteen years. [UNIDO's mandate is fully recognized in SDG-9](#), which calls to “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. The relevance of ISID, however, applies in greater or lesser extent to all SDGs. Accordingly, the Organization’s programmatic focus is structured in four strategic priorities: [Creating shared prosperity](#); [Advancing economic competitiveness](#); [Safeguarding the environment](#); and [Strengthening knowledge and institutions](#).

Each of these priorities is pursued through a number of individual programmes, which are implemented in a holistic manner to achieve effective outcomes and impacts through UNIDO’s four enabling functions: (i) technical cooperation; (ii) analytical and research functions and policy advisory services; (iii) normative functions and standards and quality-related activities; and (iv) convening and partnerships for knowledge transfer, networking and industrial cooperation. Such core functions are carried out in Departments/Offices in its Headquarters, Regional Offices and Hubs and Country Offices.

The Programme Development and Technical Cooperation Division (PTC) of UNIDO is responsible for providing technical cooperation services on technological and economic issues in the following areas covered by five departments: Partnerships and Results Monitoring, Agri- Business Development, Trade, Investment and Innovation, Energy and Environment.

The Standards and Quality Infrastructure Division (TII/SQI) is responsible for providing services to strengthen national capacities to establish the legal and institutional frameworks for standards and conformity assessment. Specifically, the Division provides policy guidance and institutional capacity-building interventions related to standards, metrology, testing, inspection, certification and accreditation, which are needed to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system. The demonstration of market compliance enables exporters to reduce the cost of compliance and facilitate access to global markets. Assistance is also provided to strengthen consumer authorities and consumer associations in developing countries.

PROJECT CONTEXT

The overall objective is to strengthen the competitiveness of Sierra Leone and enhance its integration into the regional and international trading systems. This will be achieved through two specific Objectives:

- To improve the performance, growth and contribution to industry, regional trade and exports of cassava, cocoa and palm oil value chains
- To improve the climate for business at national level

The focus will be on interventions for the development and enhanced competitiveness for cocoa, cassava and palm oil with strong potential for regional and global value chains, job creation and growth through regional value chain linkages. However, a market driven and flexible approach will be embedded in the project interventions such that other value chains can benefit from the project activities and outputs. The targeting of the selected product lines is consistent with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional industrialization priorities for agro-industries. In particular,

this initiative is in line with the value-added transformation of local raw materials, increasing the industrial sector's percentage of the GDP, contributing to increasing the share of industrial products in regional trade and the drive to increase industrial products from West Africa to the world market. This approach is consistent with the multi-sectoral investment programme led by the Government focusing, amongst others, on private sector development to drive socio-economic transformation in the aftermath of Ebola and falling iron prices. The Ministries in charge of Trade, Industry and Agriculture are working to increase the competitiveness of 1 000 SMEs to add value and find new markets for farm products, to ensure diversification of economic activities and avoid falling in the trap of an exclusively mineral based economy. Ensuring equal access of female and male entrepreneurs to the benefits of this national policy will be key for its success.

The project integrates seamlessly with the objectives pursued under the "President's Recovery Priorities" and is thematically structured in three components leading to 3 outputs as follows:

In relation to Specific Objective 1:

Output 1.1: Competitiveness at firms' level is improved, especially through the Clusters' approach.
Output 1.2: Intermediate organizations of the selected value chains are strengthened and service delivery to MSME is improved and expanded (quality, norms/standards, new green solutions, market access, etc.).

In relation to Specific Objective 2:

Output 2.1: Regional policies in favour of industrial competitiveness are mainstreamed in the country and help enable a business-friendly environment.

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Benefits of implementing ISO 9001:2015

- Increased competitiveness and credibility;
- Enhanced customer satisfaction and increased customer loyalty leading to repeat business
- Improved cost efficiency along with consistently supplying products or services that meet customer requirements;
- Shorter cycle times through effective use of resources;
- Integration and alignment of internal processes leading to increased productivity and results
- Have a level playing field with large companies when bidding for new contracts;
- Reducing the frequency of audits of your system by different customers;
- Preferential treatment from potential customers who themselves have implemented ISO 9001:2015;
- Quality will be seen as everyone's responsibility instead of being the sole responsibility of the quality control inspector or manager.

2. Aim of the Call

The overall objective of the call is to identify companies with capacity, willingness and commitment to implementation of Quality Management Standard, ISO 9001:2015. Interested enterprises should demonstrate the following:

1. High level of commitment for quality and standards implementation;
2. Export-orientation and export of products to regional and international markets;
3. Financial commitment;
4. Solid administrative structure;

5. Human resource capacity;
6. Relevance of their products (cocoa, cassava, palm oil, mango or pineapple) and operations for the project objectives as described above.

3. Eligibility

Companies that fulfill the following requirements are invited to submit applications:

1. Registered with Cooperate Affairs Commission, which is in line with the Business Registration Act or Registration of Company Act, 2007;
2. Registered with local government of Sierra Leone for Businesses i.e local and city councils;
3. Registered with Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDA) Sierra (Act No.2 of 2016);
4. Proof of registered office / premises;
5. Certificate from National Revenue Authority (NRA) on tax clearance;
6. Made profit in the last two years as certified by their balance statements;
7. Have competent employees to undergo training and put in place a quality system as evident in their CVs;
8. Designate a holder and another as a substitute for the execution of the activities resulting from this call. At least one (1) person needs to be available to attend the training and act as the interlocutor for everything related to implementation of the activities (implementation leader).

4. The Scope of the proposed Technical Support

Technical support will be provided in terms of training and implementation of ISO 9001:2015.

5. Submission of Proposals and Criteria for Evaluation

Interested parties may submit Expression of Interest (EOI) containing the following:

- Brief company profile with organisational set-up (organisation chart);
- Brief description of their volumes of cocoa, cassava, palm oil, mango or pineapple produced, traded or processed;
- A summary note (1-2 pages) explaining their objectives to expand their supply, the resources they will commit in the next 3 years, the constraints they would face and the benefits they expect;
- Description on the Offeror's project: objectives or targets (number of new farmers, additional volumes, reduced costs, higher value...);
- CVs of employees to undergo training and work on the implementation of ISO 9001:2015.

The following technical and financial score criteria will be used for selection and evaluation of applications:

- Technical and Functional Conformance – 50%
- Firm Experience and Capability – 30%
- Relevance for the objectives set by the project – 20%

EOIs should be submitted to the following e-mail addresses: s.hussain@unido.org and i.puce@unido.org with the subject "CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST -Certification for Quality Management System (ISO 9001: 2015)."

For any questions related to the call and submissions of applications, please refer to the above e-mail addresses or the contact number: +232-33-789012

6. Deadline

EOI should be submitted before **10th of February 2020**.