



The YEN Competitive Grant Scheme

Results of call for applications



The YEN Competitive Grant Scheme

- Part of the Multi-stakeholder programme for Productive and Decent Work for Youth in the MRU Countries
- Grants for youth led organizations in the MRU to provide employment opportunities for young people (ages 15 to 30)
- Amounts of USD 2'000-50'000
- Funded by UNIDO and the World Bank



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Objectives of Grant Scheme

- Create youth employment
- Facilitate for youth to actively participate in development
- Serve as a laboratory for innovative ideas
- Collect and disseminate lessons learned for possible future replication and up-scaling



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Eligible applicants

- Officially registered youth led NGOs in the Mano River Union countries
- Youth Led: youth leading the trustees board/mangement committee and/or are the primary personnel
- Partnerships with private enterprises, foundations, government agencies, International NGOs are encouraged



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Call for proposals

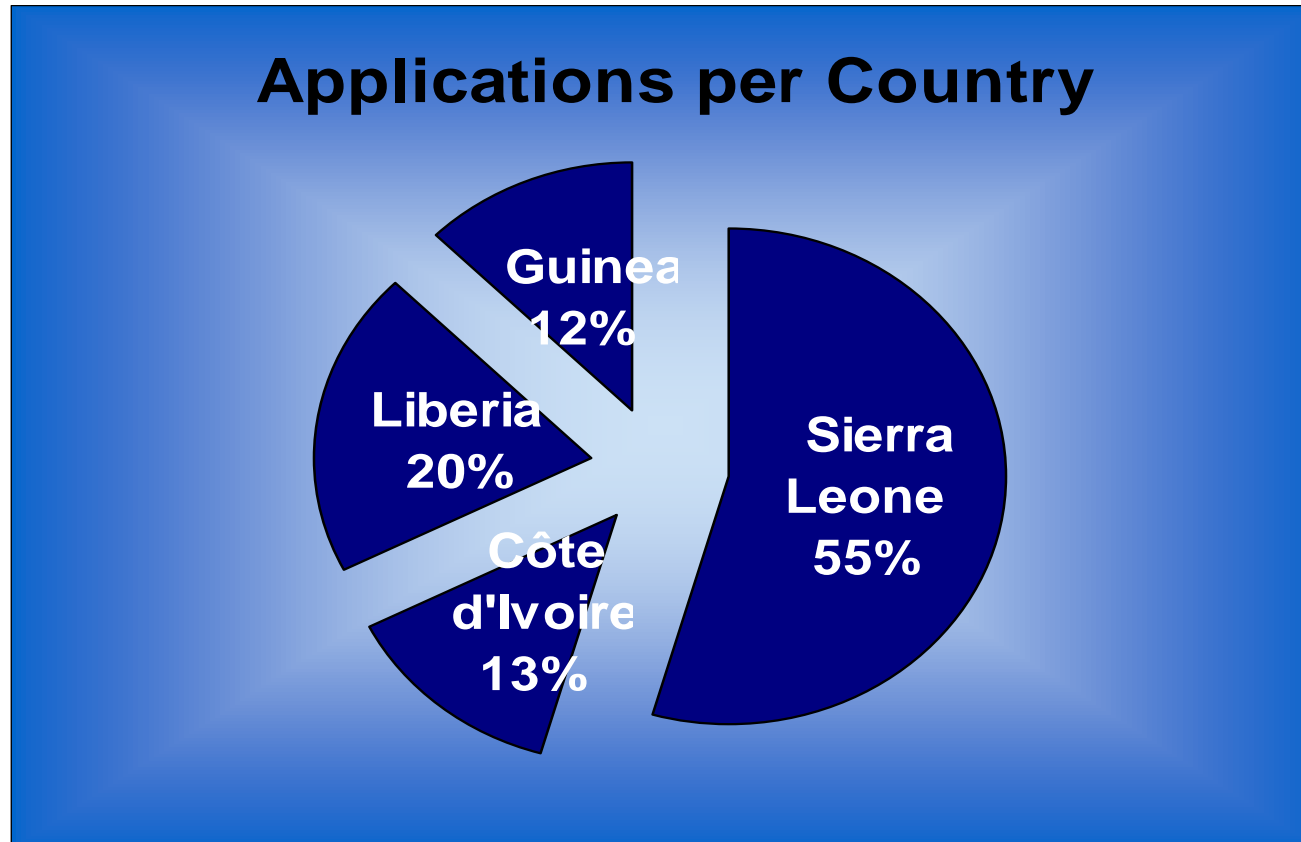
- Launched on December 1, 2008 and deadline February 14, 2009
- Outreach strategy including internet, radio, print media, and a road show with training seminars in proposal writing.
- Distribution of information and application assistance by UNIDO national youth officers



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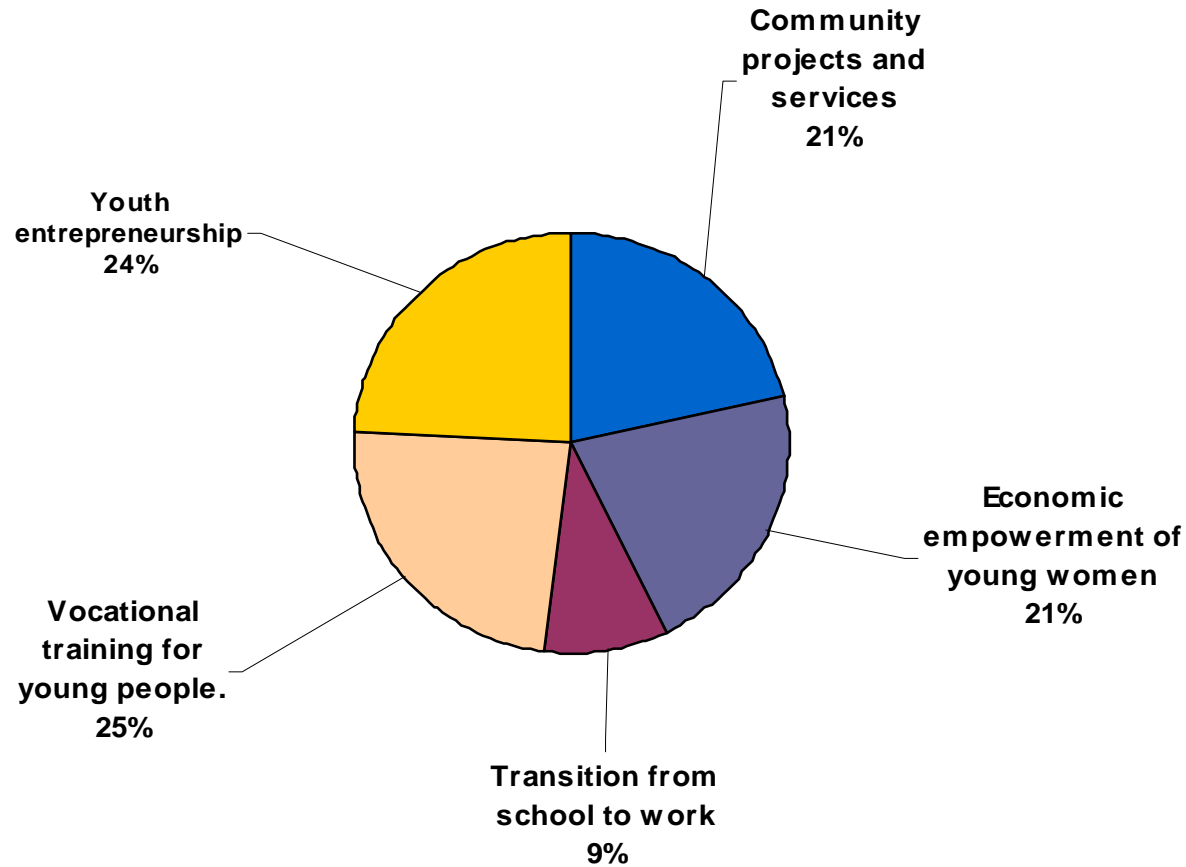
Approximately 280 Applications



- 2 regional projects



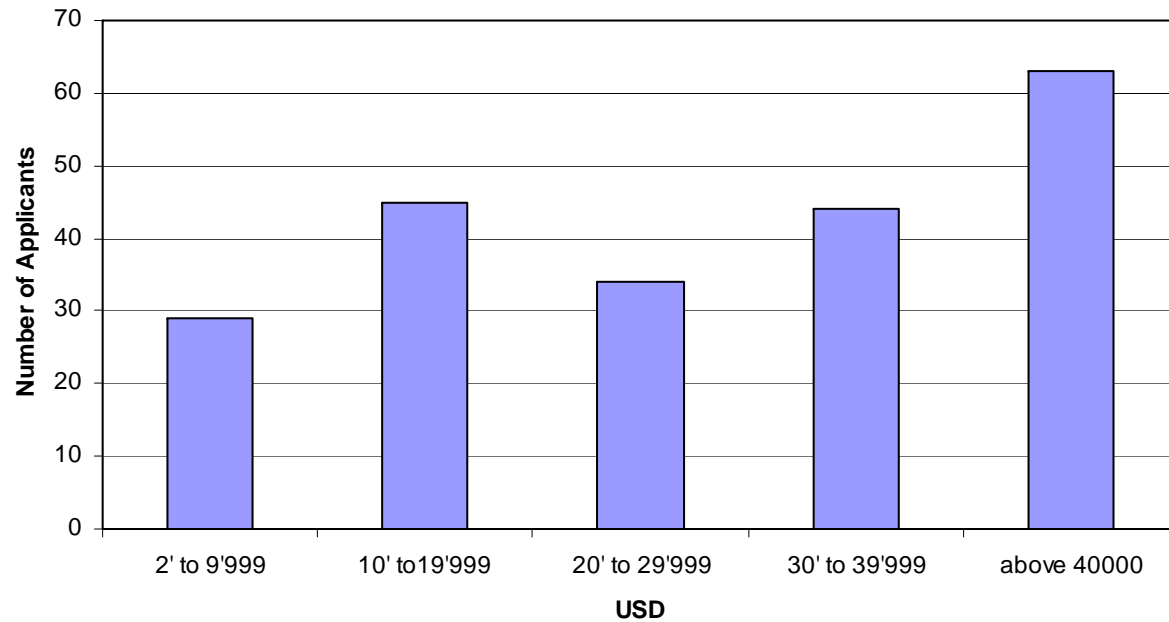
Areas of interventions



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Applicants according to amounts



Feedback from youth so far

- **Great support for grant scheme**
- **Consider the context of each country**
- **Training seminars – increase number of events, time of event, make sure even geographical distribution, and use local facilitators**
- **Application materials – too complicated and printed copies should be provided**
- **Increase level of funding**



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Lessons learned along the way

- Clear objective with scheme and understanding of target group and its capacity needed
- Design appropriate application procedures that correspond to the capacity of target group and local circumstances
- Clear rules on application format – electronic, handwritten, scanned etc.
- Technical adjustments and increase mailbox size to handle large interest



More lessons....

- UNIDO national youth officers were a great asset
- Difficult to find a balance between existing capacity of youth organizations, training aspects and M & E requirements
- Interagency collaboration – finding ways through bureaucratic webs and making innovative use of different UN agencies depending on country presence and capacity



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Next step: Selection Phase

- Technical review and scoring by YEN Secretariat
- Selection list presented to Selection Committee for endorsement – min of 3 grants per country (depending on amounts)
- Finalization of selected proposals, work plans, and budgets
- Agreement signing, disbursement of 1st tranche, national orientation seminars



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Middle step: Implementation phase

- **National monitoring visits:** Visits to project sites by National Youth Officers every 3 months
- **YEN monitoring visits:** Visits to project sites will also be undertaken by the YEN Secretariat every 6 months.
- **Mid-term reports:** Form the basis for decisions regarding the continuation of collaboration. The 2nd tranche will be made after validation of mid-term reports.
- **Final reports:** The final disbursement of funds will be made upon validation of the final reports.
- **Peer review meetings:** National meetings with grantees every 3-4 months to present and discuss progress made and financial reports.
- **External financial evaluations:** Random external financial evaluations of at least 5 % of the projects.



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Final step: Knowledge sharing phase

- YEN will collect and disseminate lessons learned for possible future replication and up-scaling
- Grantees should actively participate in analysis and documentation of lessons learned, and allow YEN Staff and consultants to collect data and undertake studies.
- Grantees should participate in different information sharing events to present their experiences and learn from others.
- YEN will share tools and success stories as well as possible pit falls to avoid through work shops, YEN web site and newsletters



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Thank you!

