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OROS — Online RECI Open Space

# Breaking the mould

Rethinking educational initiatives in terms of employment pathways

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**December 5**  
15:00-17:00 CET  
Online  
English

**RECI LLL**  
Lifelong Learning  
Working Group





# Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Ice Breaker
- 2) Keynote: Jamelia Harris  
From education to employment  
The education work transition and international development
- 3) Q&A and Reflections
- 4) Breakout sessions
- 5) Reporting back
- 6) Follow-up actions
- 7) Close

# 1) Welcome

Share with us in the chat your partner's responses

- Your organisation
- Your location in the world

# 1) Icebreaker: in pairs

Share with us in the chat your partner's responses

## Round 1

- What do you hope to get out of this webinar? What do you want to learn?

## Round 2

- What do you want to give to the webinar? What experience or expertise do you want to share?



## 2) Keynote

**Dr Jamelia Harris**

Economist and Research Fellow  
Institute for Employment Research (IER)  
University of Warwick





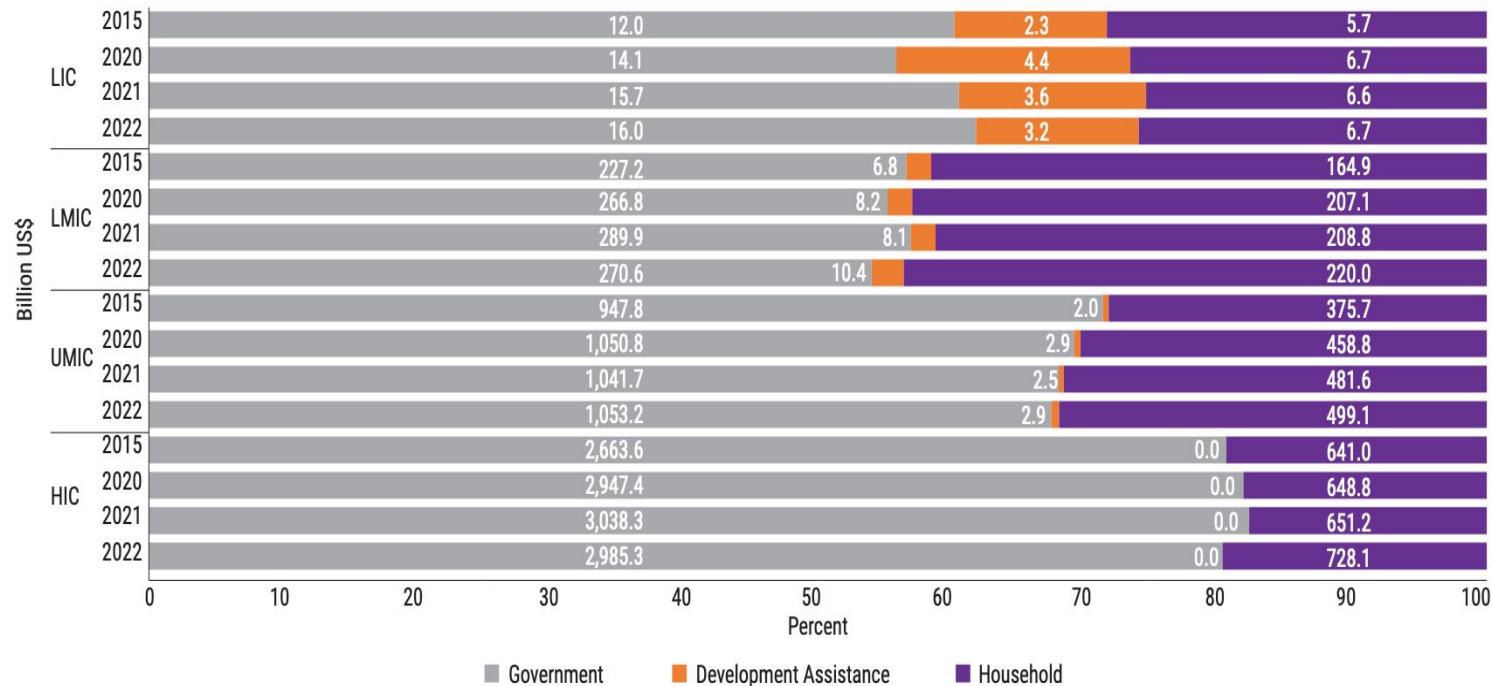
# From education to employment:

<sup>f</sup>  
The education work transition and  
international development



# Education spending by source

Distribution of total education spending by source, by income group, percentage, billion US\$





# What do we hope to achieve?

Equitable (especially for girls)

Relevance

Decolonised approaches

localisation

long-term objectives?

education helping with jobs

How we go about



# What goes wrong?

- Targeting and design
- Implementation
- M&E

# The case of Sierra Leone

- Expansion in skills and training
- Low official unemployment, but high levels of underemployment, informality and precarity
- Ongoing reported skills gap/skills mismatch by formal private sector





# The case of Sierra Leone

- Direct intervention in higher education (university-level)
- Interventions in TVET programmes/projects and policy
- Entrepreneurship promotion

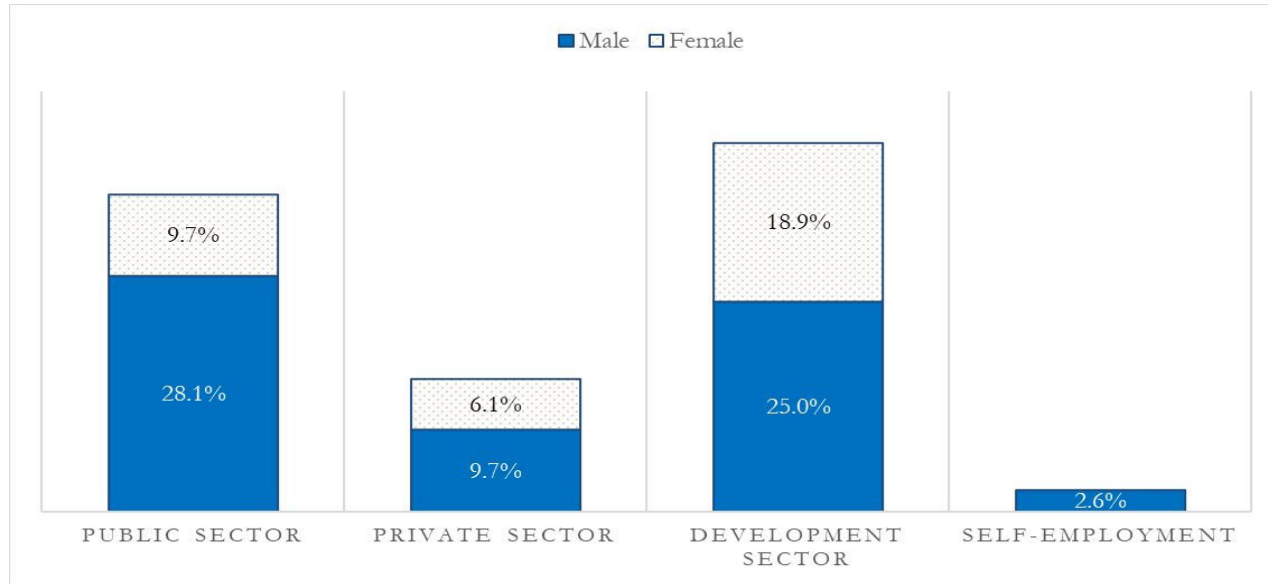
But.....

# The case of Sierra Leone

- Policies and programmes are insufficiently tailored to local labour market demand
- Path dependencies in programmes/projects □ failure to keep pace with changes in labour market and economic dynamics
- Little systematic follow-up of trainees
- A “missing middle” in entrepreneurship interventions

# Why we need to get it right?

- Unintended consequences e.g. Peace and Conflict Studies and other “NGO” courses in SL



Source: Harris, J. (2022). Occupational Preferences of Skilled Workers in the Presence of a Large Development Sector. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 59(3), 342–359.

# Why we need to get it right?

## Dependency arguments

- Continued informality/precarious employment
- low growth
- low level of tax revenue
- links between precarity/informality and conflict

# How can we improve

- Better targeting and design
- Better implementation
- Better M&E

But.....

- Funding cycles
- Donor priorities
- Budget constraints



Scope for  
localisation



## 3) Q&A and Reflections





# 4) Breakout sessions

Short name	Theme	Facilitator
(1) <b>Localisation</b> Facilitator: Samir Boulos	<b>Beyond aid: localisation as a path to self-sustaining education</b>	discuss practical ways to move away from a one-size-fits-all approach in education reform, focusing on examples where localisation has allowed educational programmes to better align with local job markets and cultural contexts.
(2) <b>Power shift</b> Facilitator: Sibylle Ganz-Koechlin	<b>Power shift in education reform: true empowerment or symbolic inclusion?</b>	explore the challenges of genuinely shifting decision-making power to the Global South. Discussions will address barriers, strategies for local ownership, and the impact of international donor priorities.
(3) <b>Community</b> Facilitator: Jessica Jossias	<b>The community as educator: harnessing local voices in programme design</b>	discuss ways to make community participation central in education programme design, exploring how to involve local partners (including students and parents) and local leaders more effectively.
(4) <b>Partnerships</b> Facilitator: Marianne Müller	<b>Innovative partnerships: bridging the gap between education and employment</b>	examine partnerships between educational institutions and local employers, particularly in the informal sector, focusing on win-win strategies.

# 5) Reporting back

No	Theme	Facilitator
(1)	Localisation	Samir Boulos
(2)	Power shift	Sibylle Ganz-Koechlin
(3)	Community	Jessica Jossias
(4)	Partnerships	Marianne Müller



## 6) Follow-up actions





## 7) Close

**Beatrice Schulter**

Executive Director, RECI

Founder and Director, Roots to Rise



THANK YOU!  
Merci!  
Gracias!  
Danke!

شكرا!!

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