



SDGs Implementation in Sierra Leone –

Domesticating the SDGs and SDGs in the context of S/Leone's Medium Term National Development Plan (2019-2023)
Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

Presented at the Centre Africain de Formation et de Recherche Administratives pour le Développement 15th Forum on the Modernization of Public Administration and State Institutions

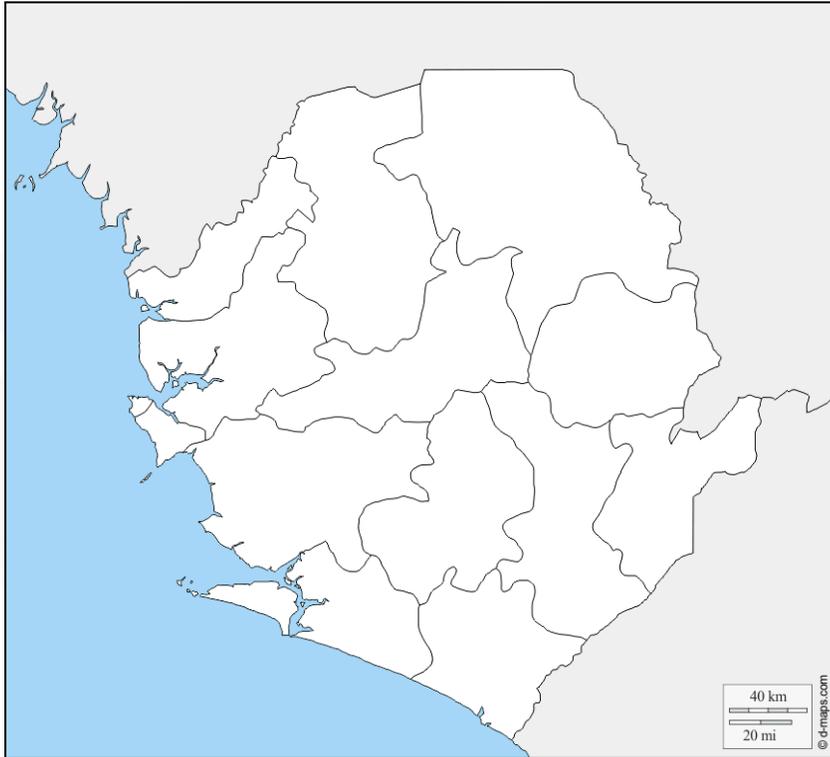
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Summary of Steps taken to Domesticate the SDGs In Sierra Leone



- ❖ Production of Simplified Version of the SDGs – aligning the eight pillars of PRPS III with the 17 Goals
- ❖ Initial sensitization of Civil Society Organisations
- ❖ The 2016 National Budget, the PRSP III & the SDGs, NDP 2019-2023 (PRSP IV)
- ❖ Organised technical working sessions on the integration of the SDGs into Sierra Leone’s development plan

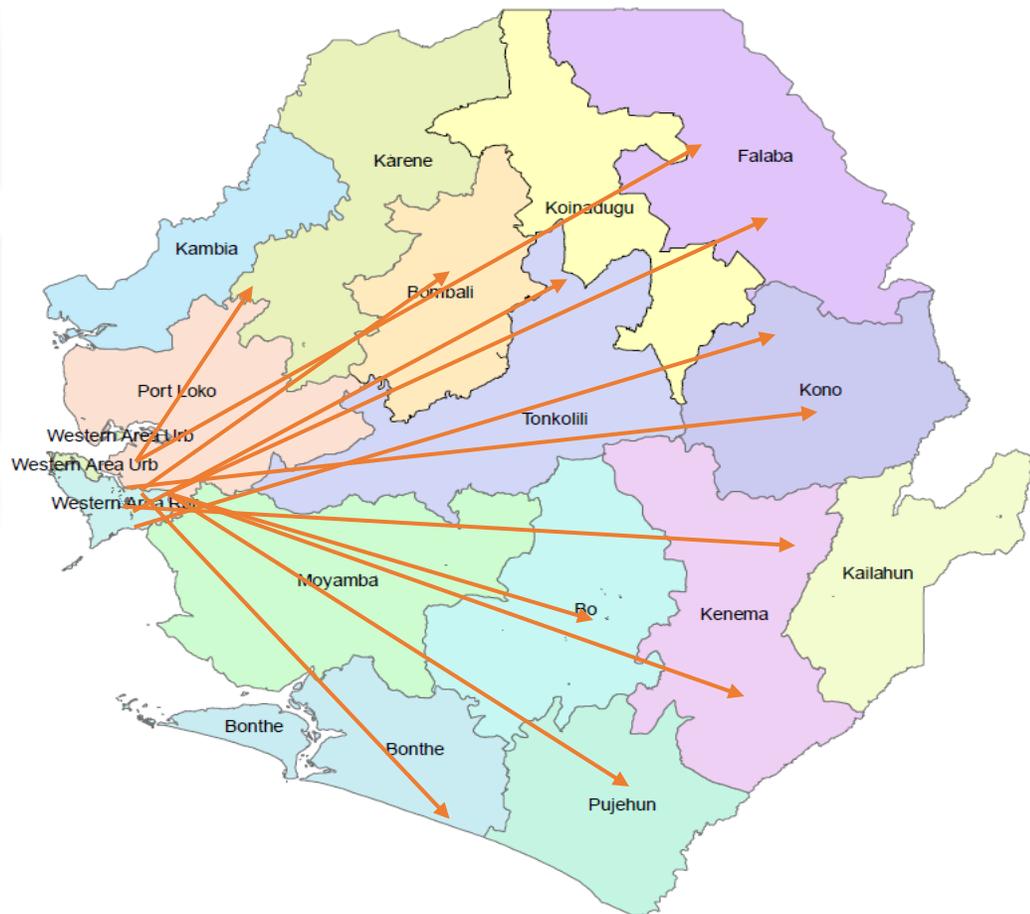
Summary of Steps taken to Domesticate the SDGs In Sierra Leone



- ❖ Prepared Integrated Results Framework aligning the SDGs to the PRSP IV monitoring and evaluation arrangement
- ❖ Produced the Sierra Leone specific SDGs indicators
- ❖ Nationwide engagement during development of all PRSP documents including public sensitization on the new goals through radio soap opera, radio jingles and TV programmes

Summary of Steps taken to Domesticating the SDGs In Sierra Leone

Mounted extensive nationwide sensitization on the SDGs, engaging various actors including



19 Local councils and several CSOs and NGOs at regional

The Civil Service

Parliament

Universities (COHMAS, FBC & IPAM)

Trade Unions and Private Sector

Several CSOs and NGOs at regional

Summary of Steps taken to Domesticate the SDGs In Sierra Leone



- ❖ Produced and presented the first Sierra Leone Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the 2016 UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs
- ❖ Sierra Leone was among the first set of countries (22) that did the VNR in that year
 - Held Technical Workshops to produce the country's SDGs Adaptation Report

Implementation Arrangement for the SDGs

- The SDGs are implemented within the framework of implementing of the medium-term national development (PRSP)
- Further guided by the principles of the New Deal, such as transparency, ownership, one plan, capacity development, and joint management of risk, guiding development interventions in fragile states like Sierra Leone, as well as the principles of Mutual Accountability to ensure effectiveness of aid.
- All development actors including the public sector, CSOs/NGOs, donor agencies, local councils and the private sector are to be coordinated within the institutional framework of our national development plan.

Implementation Arrangement for the SDGs

- Institutional mechanisms have also been established at the highest political levels.
 - A Presidential Board on the SDGs to provide overall policy and strategic guidance to the implementation of the SDGs,
 - Ministerial Committee on the SDGs to provide operational guidance to the SDGs process to line ministries, departments and agencies of the government, as well as civil society organizations, the private sector, and other national stakeholders.
 - **A Parliamentary Committee on the SDGS was set up to provide oversight and advocacy**

Summary of SDGs Domestication Process: *Post 2016 HLPF*

SDGs sector paper to determine what it will takes to achieve the goals and targets by 2030 –**the formulation of National SDGs**

Investment Plan

- Produced seven sector/thematic papers on SDGs Needs in
 - I. Economic Diversification (Agriculture, Fisheries and Tourism);**
 - II. Education;**
 - III. Poverty, Inequality & Social Protection;**
 - IV. Health and Nutrition;**
 - V. Infrastructure (Water, Energy, Roads);**
 - VI. Environment; and**
 - VII. Justice, Peace & Security**

Summary of SDGs Domestication Process: *Post 2016 HLPF*

- Produced further five sector/thematic papers on SDGs Needs in
 - I. Environment II;**
 - II. Human Settlements;**
 - III. Infrastructure II (Information, Communication and Technology, ICT);**
 - IV. Gender; and**
 - V. Local Governance**
- Done an SDGS Data Source Mapping which assessed data availability, data gap and reporting challenges relating to the implementation of the SDGs
- Produced and erected SDGs Billboards in strategic Locations across the country
- In 2018, did an SDGs Implementation Update –Sierra Leone contribution to the July 2018 HLPF

Planned Programmes and Activities

- Produce a comprehensive national SDGs investment plan

Development Financing Assessment for the SDGs

- Further nationwide sensitization on the SDGs
- Conduct and present the Sierra Leone 2019 Voluntary Reviews on Implementation of the SDGs
- Review the Sierra Leone SDGs Results framework

WHAT ARE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SIERRA LEONE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS?

Sierra Leone is among the countries to review next week in New York on their performance in the implementation of the SDGs, focusing on Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17

GOAL 4 (Inclusive & Quality Education)

- We met gender parity index in primary school that targeted during 2015-2018: ratio of girls to boys estimated at 1.03 in 2018 compared to 1.05 in 2015.
- Estimated close to 0.99 for 2018 compared to 0.93 in 2015 for junior secondary; estimated 0.91 in 2018 compared to 0.75 in 2015 for senior secondary.
- Enrolment of children with disabilities in Primary and Secondary Schools increased from about 25,000 Pupils in 2017 to at least 30,000 in 2018.
- Primary completion for girls estimated 90% for in 2018 compared to 65.4% in 2015; boys 92 and 66.6% over the same period
- Junior secondary completion for girls estimated 67% in 2018 compared to 48.7% in 2015; boys 68 and 53.6% over the same period.
- Female youth literacy rate (15-24 olds) estimated 64% in 2017 compared to 61.8% in 2013; male counterpart estimated between 72 and 76 percent the same period.
- As its lead flagship programme within the country's medium term plan (2019-2023), Government is implementing a Free Quality Education Initiative to accelerate these educational outcome

•JUSTICE: We have expanded access to justice through our Legal Aid Board. From May 2015 the Board was established to 2018, less privileged persons benefited from legal representation from a count of 25, 000 to more than 215,000.

•About 14 percent of these were females and 19 percent children

•Females and children accounted for most of the beneficiaries of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism through mediation, at 80%

Persons on remand without indictment in the capital of Freetown proportionately reduced from 51.0% in 2016 to 35.6 % in March 2019.

•Piloting of Prison Courts assisted in identifying inmates on prolonged detention; enabling drafting and serving of total of 425 new indictments, leading to release of over 100 persons with trials in the last one year

•Introduction of a justice mobile application aided the tracking and management of cases by the judiciary

•And a Peace and National Reconciliation (P&NR) Conference recently organised; efforts on-going for establish a P&NR Commission

•ANTI-CORRUPTION: We have seen increased rate of convictions in the fight against corruption, running to about 98% in the last one year, as a result of deployment of more robust leadership in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)

•The ACC unusually recovered over Le 12 Billion Leones (Over US \$1,500,000) in stolen funds in the last one year; and more in the coming months, all to be committed to provision of social services

•A national perception survey suggests citizens' belief in government's effort in the fight against corruption jumped from 40 percent in 2017 to over 66 percent in 2018

Goal 8 (promoting decent work)

- A comprehensive Decent Work Country Programme now in place, as well as effective Labour Market Information System and National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy.
- And Frequency of children (aged 5-11 years) engaged in child labour dropped from 44.4 to 29.3 percent during 2017-2018

Goal 10 (reduce inequality)

- A special attention has been paid to empowering the girl child in reducing inequality, from a long term perspective As noted earlier, gender parity has been achieved in primary school, and almost in junior secondary
- And we have provided support to girl pupils offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- Additionally, government has supported the First Lady's "Hands-Off Our Girls" campaign to end child marriage and reduce teenage pregnancy.

Goal 13 (Climate action)

- As Sierra Leone continues to be heavily challenged with high exposure to climate change related effects, the Government has pursued various strategic fronts in respon
- These include strengthening environmental governance and community outreach; mgt of forest resources, & promoting ecosystem conservation
- We have also increased enforcement of environmental protection compliance through monitoring, and integration of climate change messages into school and university curricula

Goal 17: Implementation and Partnerships

- Here, special attention has been paid to mobilizing domestic revenues, strengthening development cooperation, public & private sector capacity, SDG-sensitive budgeting, statistical systems & the role of CSOs and local councils.
- As a percentage of GDP, domestic revenue reached 13.7 percent in 2018 from 12.2 in 2017, the highest recorded in recent years, following heightened public financial mgt
- We are substantially shifting development cooperation towards support domestic capacities to boost private sector development and revenues
- We have undertaken a Development Finance Assessment that has identified various sources of financing the SDGs, and will soon have in place an Integrated National Financing Framework to effectively pursue these sources
- Public sector delivery strengthened through e-governance supported by the establishment of Directorate on Science, Technology and Innovation in the Office of the President
- Statistical systems advanced with change management; civil society become more integrated in approach ; while local council's autonomy & capacity increased
- *A People's Planning Model*, with the village/chiefdom at the centre of national planning processes has been advanced

WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES, CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES?

- At less than 15%, revenue-GDP ratios continue to remain substantially below minimum requirement, thereby constraining effective delivery of projects
- Limited private sector operations and illicit financial flows are major obstacles to domestic revenue generation
- Whilst CSOs role in the SDG implementation continues to increase, they remain technically and financially constrained to sustain their participation
- Community empowerment and development communication leaves considerable room for improvement
- Limited mobile network coverage in rural areas and financial inclusion restrict opportunities for SDG implementation.

How Do We Ensure Coordination With Stakeholders?

- The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) coordinates implementation of the SDGs at the national level; thus, it leads the preparation of SDGs progress reports
- It works closely with relevant government ministries and agencies, Civil society and development partners.
- The UN system has been particularly central amongst partners, coordinating UNCT technical input, including International financial Institutions
- In February this year, our Government launched a new operational blueprint for the SDGs: Sierra Leone's Medium Term National Development Plan (2019-2023) that squarely integrates the UN 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063

- We have seen renewed commitment of our civil society organisations (CSOs) to the cause of the SDGs in the country
- We now have a national SDG integrated platform for all CSOs working on the 2030 Agenda with a clear framework of operation and collaboration
- CSOs played leading role in the preparation of our 2019 VNR (Voluntary National Review); used their nationwide structures to mobilised communities across 16 districts of the country to gather SDG data & success stories, while deepening knowledge of the goals in town hall meetings & on radio & TV in the process

THE END

Thank You

