



**Global
Partnership**
for Effective Development
Co-operation

Country brief

Sierra Leone

Mrs Abie Elizabeth Kamara
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

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Contacts: abieelizabethk@gmail.com

A. Introduction and Purpose of the Brief

This short brief provides a synopsis of Sierra Leone's engagement in global aid effectiveness architecture since the Paris Declaration.

B. Country Context

Sierra Leone is a small West African country blessed with a vibrant culture; rich mineral resources, stunning landscapes and a religiously tolerant people. The capital, Freetown, was founded in 1787 as a haven for freed slaves, and was once the headquarters for British West Africa. Sierra Leone became an independent country in 1961 and was declared a Republic in 1971. In 1991 the country was torn about by a horrific civil war which finally ended in 2002.

Since the end of the war, Sierra Leone has made notable progress in recovery in the context of peace consolidation with the Agenda for Change (AfC) guiding national priorities (2008-2012) and Joint Vision document (2009-2012) aligning the United Nations response to the agenda. In 2013, the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018), which is the third generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and lays the foundation for the journey to achieving sustainable future for all Sierra Leoneans, was developed. Sierra Leone has a vision is to be an inclusive, middle income country by 2030. The Agenda for Prosperity (A4P) is the medium term plan for the vision with eight interlinked pillars:

- (1) Economic Diversification
- (2) Managing Natural Resources
- (3) Accelerating Human Development
- (4) Promoting International Competitiveness
- (5) Labour and Employment
- (6) Social Protection
- (7) Governance and Public Sector Reforms)
- (8) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

C. Development cooperation and partnership framework

Sierra Leone committed to the implementation of the Principles of Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness by becoming a signatory in 2006. At the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Sierra Leone committed to monitoring the Principles of Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations. These commitments led to the country's participation in the 2008 Paris Declaration Survey and the 2009 Fragile States Principles survey. The outcome of these two surveys guided the government in formulating a National Aid Policy which complements the implementation of the Agenda for Change, Sierra Leone's second Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2008-2012. Sierra Leone also participated in the 2011 joint Paris Declaration and Fragile States Principles Survey. At the Fourth high Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, Sierra Leone committed to piloting the implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

Framework for Dialogue

As one of the founding members of the g7+ and a signatory to the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, Sierra Leone was the first country to conduct a Fragility Assessment in 2012. This

exercise was an inclusive, participatory exercise aimed at assessing the causes and features of both fragility and resilience. The findings of this assessment were fed into the Agenda for Prosperity, Sierra Leone's third Poverty Reduction Strategy paper. Two years later, in 2014 Sierra Leone was again the first country to conduct an update of its first assessment, considering how Sierra Leone has progressed since 2012, what elements of fragility can still be found and which strengths are helping the country on its journey towards peace and prosperity. Unfortunately the report was not finalised due to the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in the country. This updated fragility assessment will now need to be redone to measure not just the progress the country has made since 2012 but also determine to what extent the Ebola outbreak has impacted on the country especially as it seeks to exit fragility and become a resilient country. This will be undertaken after the outbreak has been contained and the country declared Ebola free.

In the aftermath of the war, a forum for dialogue between government and partners on development cooperation issues was established - The Sierra Leone Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC). DEPAC has since become a high level forum for frank and continuous dialogue between Government and Development Partners and meets on a quarterly basis. DEPAC comprises all the Government Agencies at ministerial level and all Development Partners. Civil Society Organisations and other key stakeholders are invited based on the agenda under discussion. DEPAC is chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development and co-chaired by the United Nations and the World Bank. The fourth quarter DEPAC of each year is to be chaired by the His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

D. Progress in Effective Development Cooperation

The key aid effectiveness strategy and commitments in Sierra Leone are contained in the national Aid Policy (2009), which was endorsed by all development partners in the country. The Aid Policy clarifies the roles of the various departments of government that deal with aid matters; sets out guidelines for the provision and acceptance of aid; and localises international principles on Aid Effectiveness. The Sierra Leone Aid Policy thus aims to promote effective mobilization, allocation and monitoring of aid resources; uphold the principle of mutual accountability; and strengthen a common alliance between GoSL and its development partners. Most importantly, the Sierra Leone Aid Policy aims to assert GoSL leadership in aid coordination and management and to strengthen the institutions of the state.

The principles underpinning the Sierra Leone Aid Policy are summarised as follows:

- Country ownership.
- Development of National Capacities
- Alignment of support to National Priorities articulated in the Agenda for Change.
- Strengthened Partnership with development partners.
- Harmonised and holistic approaches to aid delivery, monitoring and reporting.
- Mutual Accountability
- Doing no harm with interventions, and
- Predictability

Since 2010, the UNDP has been providing support towards the implementation of the Sierra Leone Aid Policy.

In 2014, the Government of Sierra Leone and its Development Partners adopted a Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) as a COMPACT a between the Government of Sierra Leone and the donor community that aims at contributing to the overarching goals set out by the Agenda for Prosperity and defines the terms of the partnership required for successfully delivering the Agenda for Prosperity. The Mutual Accountability Framework thus measures Government and Partners' progress against the Monitoring Framework of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation as well as the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

The Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) is built on the following principles.

1. **Simplicity:** The matrix draws on/takes into account existing frameworks of analysis – including both national measures such as the Aid Policy Implementation Plan, and Budget Support Performance Assessment Framework, the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) as well as international measures such as the Busan Global Monitoring Framework and New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.
2. **Measurability:** In order to facilitate sound monitoring, the matrix is based on measurable indicators.
3. **Annual Monitoring:** monitoring is to be done on an annual basis. Results will be made publically available and offered for scrutiny by all partners at DEPEC, which includes CSO representatives, as well to Parliament
4. **Capacity building** is an integrated approach in the delivery of the MAF.
5. **National ownership** is to be respected and promoted by all stakeholders.
6. **International cooperation** should be aligned with national priorities.
7. **Aid** should be predictable, transparent and go to key priorities of the government.

The ultimate aim is to increase the country's progress towards implementing the Busan Partnership principles, the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs) and FOCUS and TRUST principles of New Deal as well as the commitments. In effect, both government and partners committed to the following:

Government	Donors
Support New Deal Principles	Support New Deal Principles
Develop MTEF and PIP for the AfP	Provide forward looking data
Strengthen National PFM through implementing IMF and Auditor Generals recommendation	Align funding to AfP and ensure timely disbursement of funds
Ensure Government revenues play greater role in financing development	Provide timely financial data to Government
Produce timely and accurate data on aid inflows	Increase the proportion of aid managed by use of country systems
Produce timely and accurate data on aid inflows	

The country was in the middle of operationalizing the dashboard, which is the monitoring tool for the above commitments, when the Ebola Virus Disease crisis emerged.

In June 2014, Sierra Leone successfully hosted the International Dialogue for Peace-building and State-Building (IDPS) and the Consultative Group meetings (CG), in which Sierra Leone's Minister for Finance and Economic Development assumed the chairmanship of the g7+ member states. This offers Sierra Leone an opportunity to provide leadership and commitment on the

social contract with the international community and the g+7 member states. It also offers an opportunity to articulate the g+7 objectives in the post-2015 development agenda.

In September 2014, on the margins of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, Sierra Leone and the g7+ Secretariat co- hosted a High Level Side Event on the need to have 'Peace and Capable institutions as stand alone goals in the post 2015 global development agenda. The Event ended with calls for the Post-2015 Development Agenda to feature goals on peace and capable institutions.