

USAID/SIERRA LEONE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Strategy

The USAID/Sierra Leone Mission strategy is based on the Sierra Leone experience that, in the absence of transparent democratic governance, civil unrest emerges and is expressed in increasingly destructive ways. This risk increases where there are perceptions or realities of public corruption and inefficiency, where citizens' civil rights are denied and where actual or potential "spoilers" have continued access to financing. Furthermore, the lack of democratic governance leads to marginalization of citizens who adopt behaviors injurious to peace, security and stability.

To address this situation, USAID's 2008 program is designed around a single Strategic Objective: "Enhance Democratic Governance." This approach exposes the root cause of fragility, prioritizes and identifies opportunities to address it while presenting the best opportunity for USAID to exercise its leadership.

Major Program Areas

All activities will focus on increasing Sierra Leoneans' knowledge and expectations of and demand for good governance, as well as improving the responsiveness, transparency, political will and capacity of targeted government institutions at all levels to deliver services. In addition to democracy and governance activities, livelihoods mostly through agriculture, biodiversity and health, programs will focus on strengthening public and private social institutions, in a manner that expands participation and incorporates principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency at the grassroots level. Communities will be encouraged to develop and implement plans that promote democratic governance, with emphasis on programs empowering women and youth.

Programs Managed by USAID/Sierra Leone

Title: *Strengthening Democratic Governance (Decentralization and Local Government Support)*

Prime Partner: Management Systems International

Description: The program seeks to broaden community-based political participation in a national dialogue through a variety of mutually reinforcing activities. Among these: enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of newly formed local government councils and civil-society organizations by promoting open debate, general capacity building, training in advocacy skills, and education of citizens on their rights and responsibilities. Additionally, training and mentoring programs for newly-elected local leaders and Paramount Chiefs will enable and encourage informed dialogue and enhance political participation.

Geographical coverage: Kono, Koinadugu, Kailahun and Kenema (Tongo Fields) Districts

Title: *Support to Transparent and Credible Local and National Elections*

Prime Partner: National Democratic Institute (NDI) and IFES, operating under CEPPS (Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening)

Description: In support of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, USAID leverages the resources of other donors to help fund the three-year Election Plan: Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2007 and Local elections in 2008. The mission amplifies its impact by emphasizing civic and voter education, conflict mitigation and management, role of the media in the electoral process as well as the conduct of political parties. The Program provides for active participation of local communities, with specific emphasis on increasing women and youth's active participation, empowering them to take leadership roles in the political process through access to accurate unbiased information and appropriate voter education. It also provides administrative and commodity support to ensure the smooth functioning of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) and the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Geographical coverage: National

Title: *Promoting Linkages for Economic Livelihood Security and Development (LINKS)*

Prime Partner: CARE (Lead partner), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision (WV), and American Refugee Committee (ARC), operating under the Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (CORAD)

Description: LINKS consolidates unity and reconciliation, and improves communities by (re)building vital public infrastructure, stimulating economic activity and enabling socially marginalized young men and women to be gainfully employed through new or expanded agribusiness and other economic activities. Activities include micro-credit lending to entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth, business skills development, and agro-processing enhancement, and strengthening linkages between the community and district and national input supply and produce markets. These activities promote interactive dialogue among different communities as well as enable beneficiaries participate in good governance practices through community-based organizations such as farm associations, cooperatives and field schools. LINKS also builds on the foundation created by the Food for Peace (FFP) Development Relief Program (DRP) to improve the health status and establish agriculture-based livelihood activities, advancing from post-conflict humanitarian needs to longer term economic development through new or improved cash crop production, processing, marketing and sales. Access to new techniques, technologies and methodologies in addition to market prices is augmented through media outreach programs. USAID/Sierra Leone leveraged \$450,000 funding from UNDP to support micro-enterprises for women and youth that contributes to improving agriculture productivity job creation and economic growth.

Geographical coverage: Kono, Koinadugu and Kailahun Districts

Title: *Livelihood Expansion and Asset Development (LEAD)*

Prime Partner: Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (CORAD) Lead Partner - CARE Sierra Leone

Description: The program focuses on building the human capabilities of poor farmers, economically marginalized youth and pregnant/lactating women to undertake new or expanded livelihood activities. It empowers community-based groups to practice and

promote principles of good governance. The project also improves linkages to health services, community water and sanitation, agricultural infrastructure and community-managed safety nets.

Geographical coverage: Bombali, Koinadugu, Kono, Kailahun, Tonkolili and Kenema Districts covering 31 chiefdoms.

Programs Managed by the U.S. Embassy, Freetown

Title: *Special Self-Help (SSH) Projects*

Prime Partner: Various Local Partners

Description: USAID funds a small grants program which provides assistance through local individuals and groups for community-based development initiatives that have an immediate development impact. In Sierra Leone, SSH activities include skills training and income-generating activities.

Geographical coverage: National

Title: *Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF)*

Prime Partner: Various Local Partners

Description: USAID supports a small grants program which provides assistance through indigenous organizations to implement small, short-term, highly targeted country-level activities in support of human rights and democratic institutions. In Sierra Leone, DHRF activities include support to human rights initiatives, elections, advocacy by civil society and addresses sexual and gender-based violence.

Geographical coverage: National

Programs/Projects Managed by USAID/Washington

Title: *Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program (AGSP)*

Prime Partner: World Education Inc
Description: Through annual grants to local NGOs, the program promotes basic literacy and improves educational opportunities in order to build leadership capacity of young girls. The provides scholarships that comprise books, notebooks, pencils, pens, uniforms, bags, shoes, tuition, raincoats, lamps as well as a meal a day. Local NGOs work in collaboration with other NGOs in target communities to conduct mentoring and community activities that build the scholars' self-esteem, improves their academic performance and provides them with essential life skills.

Geographical coverage: Koinadugu, Port Loko and Bombali Districts in the Northern Province, Kono, Kenema and Kailahun Districts in the Eastern Province

Title: *Child Survival*

Prime Partner: CARE Sierra Leone

Description: USAID strives to reduce child and maternal mortality through this program. Activities promote healthy behavior, advocate for favorable health policies, expand coverage for key health interventions such as preventive treatments and improve health delivery systems. **Geographical coverage:** Koinadugu District

Title: *Sport Health Project on HIV/AIDS*

Implementing Partner: Right to Play

Description: This program uses sport and play as tools to enhance healthy child development and build individual and community capacity; to strengthen community partnerships and networks and to promote HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge, attitudes and practices; and to use the convening power of sport to support national health priorities around HIV/AIDS education and prevention. **Geographical coverage:** Western Area, Bombali District

Programs and Projects Managed by USAID/West Africa

Title: *Action for West Africa Region (AWARE Reproductive Health and AWARE-HIV)*

Partners: EngenderHealth for AWARE/RH and Family Health International (FHI) (AWARE/HIV)

Description: AWARE is a sub-regional program benefiting in 18 countries in West Africa. Two separate five year contracts were awarded to implement AWARE. The reproductive health component of AWARE, AWARE-RH, increases adoption of sustainable reproductive health, STI/HIV/AIDS, and child survival policies and approaches in West Africa. In contributing to the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the West Africa region, AWARE-HIV/AIDS focuses on disseminating promising and best practices in STI/HIV/AIDS, advocacy for policy change, capacity building of regional institutions and networks and development of health sector reforms. Sierra Leone benefits from technical assistance on quality improvement in service delivery, commodities management, social marketing and health sector reform as well as procurement of contraceptives. **Geographical coverage:** West Africa, with selected interventions in Sierra Leone

Title: *Civil Society Networking for Conflict Recovery in the Mano River Union (MRU)*

Prime Partner: Computer Frontiers International (CFI)

Description: The goal of the project is to improve regional sharing and exchange of information among selected civil society organizations in the MRU countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. The project builds capacity and internal usage of information and communication technology in business operations. It also identifies local and regional private sector resources available to sustain technical support for NGOs in each MRU country. Each CSO partner fully integrates ICT resources into their program and business management and manages ICT resources and systems more effectively and efficiently.

Geographical coverage: Sierra Leone (Kailahun district and Western Area), Guinea and Liberia.

Title: *Trade and Investment (AGOA- Agricultural Growth and Opportunity Act) Trade*

Hub Description: This is a multi-year trade capacity building initiative that promotes regional integration and regional cooperation by strengthening the ability of African countries and businesses to develop their export trade. Sierra Leone is a member of the West Africa Trade Hub (WATH). WATH supports country-based activities to facilitate national competitiveness in global markets. It strengthens capacity of member countries to increase international and intra-regional trades to spur economic development. It specifically helps countries to take advantage of AGOA through support for export development. WATH provides access to information on AGOA and global trade as well as strengthens networks of market information systems and traders' organizations. Technical assistance and other support services are also provided on AGOA procedural requirements.