

Sierra Leone MDTF

Fund Signature Page

(Note: this page is attached to the programme¹ document)

<p>Participating UN Organisation(s): Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO</p>	<p>Priority Area: JV: Integration of rural areas in to national economy. AFC: Chapter 8.3 – Local Governance and Decentralisation</p>
<p>Programme Manager, Participating UN Organization: FAO Name: Gabriel Rugalema Address: 15 Sir Samuel Lewis Road Aberdeen Freetown. Telephone: E-mail: Gabriel.Rugalema@fao.org</p>	<p>Implementing Partners: Name: PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security Address: Youyi Building, New England, Freetown Telephone: 076 610 260 Name: Office of National Security Address: Tower Hill, Freetown Telephone: 078 219 766</p>
<p>Project Number: Joint Vision Programme 16</p>	<p>Programme Duration: 12 Months Estimated Start-Up Date: 5 January 2012</p>
<p>Project Title: Local Governance and Decentralisation</p>	<p>Programme Location: National (13 Districts) Pilot Districts (Western Rural, Moyamba, Port Loko, Kailahun, Kono)</p>
<p>Project Description: The project focuses on capacity development of local councils country-wide in planning for agriculture and food security as well as the development and operationalization of an early warning system for food security.</p>	<p>Total Project Cost: USD \$ 588,000 SL- MDTF:USD \$ 588,000 Government Input: In kind (staff time) Other: GRAND TOTAL: US \$ 588,000</p>
<p>Development Goal: A public service that is able to deliver basic support services in agriculture and food security through district and local councils.</p> <p>Key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major stakeholders, contribute efficiently to the agricultural and food security district planning 	

¹ The term “programme” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

and implementation of agriculture and food security initiatives and the mitigation of disasters associated with agriculture.

- District Councils are able to assess the food security situation and timely initiate adequate mitigation measures.

Programme Deliverables:


- Assistance to all 13 District Councils in strengthening the institutional structures and human capacity for planning and coordination of food security and agriculture issues at the district level.
- Assistance to five (5) District Councils in the design and development of local food security assessment capacity and response protocols.

Signature

Date

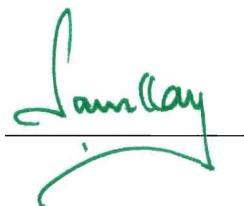
Name/Title

FAO

 30/12/2011

Mr. Gabriel Rugalema
FAO Representative

DEPAC Co-Chair

 24/1/12

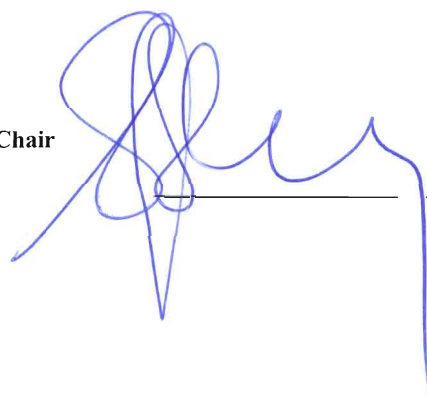
Honorable Dr. Samura Kamara
Minister of Finance and
Economic Development

DEPAC Co-Chair

 Jan 18, 2012

Mr. Vijay Pillai
Country Manager
World Bank

DEPAC Co-Chair

 24/01/2012

Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg
Executive Representative
of the Secretary General
of the United Nations

Project Document

1. Introduction

The decentralisation process is now in its second phase of implementation with the devolution of powers to district councils, including district level Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) interventions. District Council agriculture offices and district agriculture officers are often constrained by poor organisation and a lack of trained personnel and technical expertise. There is need to create a system of improved planning through the assessment of key stakeholders, creating coordination mechanisms, building bottom-up actions, and linking to national actions such as Programme 4 in the Joint Vision. In this project, FAO will work in collaboration with MAFFS, the Decentralisation Secretariat and the Office of National Security (ONS). Other key agencies working on decentralization such UNDP, IFAD, GIZ, will be co-opted as and when needs arise. The project will assist district councils to improve district development planning within the agriculture sector (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, non-timber forest products, extension etc.) including establishing and institutionalizing an early warning and response system.

Planning is influenced by the status of food security and nutrition of the rural population. The project will assist in at least 5 pilot districts in the development of an early warning system for food security by introducing the concept in the districts and its practical application in using surveillance and analysis tools.

1.1 Situation Analysis

Local government was a fundamental element of governance in Sierra Leone during the colonial era. The elective aspect of local councils was suspended nationwide in 1972. The district councils ceased to operate, while the Freetown city council, Bonthe municipal council and the urban councils of Bo, Kenema and Koidu continued to operate as local councils under appointed committees of management. In the 1980s, the government decided to resuscitate the district councils and appointed committees of management. Contributions of rural communities to rural development were negligible with little to no participation in governance issues.

In 2004 Government reintroduced decentralisation through the decentralisation act with the intention to promote good governance and democracy, accountability and transparency, improve service delivery and develop the economy. The decentralisation process has been moving under the enactment of this decentralisation law. Decentralisation has made remarkable progress over the past years with the firm political commitment of the central government. Local elections were held successfully. However, local authorities face numerous constraints and conflicts over the distribution of power and resources between the traditional and the new political authorities are still pending even sometimes affecting sustainable peace and development.

One critical cross cutting key issue is the on-going weak institutional capacity of the local councils, particularly in planning interventions for agriculture and in the reaction to calamities caused by natural and man-made disasters. Planning has been top-down with little to no regard for local inputs. Development was skewed and unsustainable. In addition, with no ratified policy there are gaps in service delivery from national government to local government, primarily with fiscal allocation.

The Government of Sierra Leone has demonstrated an impressive commitment with the assistance of development partners to address these challenges. Under the UN Joint Vision Programme 16, community participation will be a cornerstone during project implementation. In

addition, the capacities of the local council will be systematically enhanced through extensive training on planning and coordination particularly in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, the programme will recognize that there is a disconnection between the decentralisation law and practices on the ground. Therefore, provisions have been made in the project to study the implementation of this disconnection. The study will also investigate the link between peace building and agriculture, given that this peace is dependent on effective service provision at decentralised level. The GoSL is presently developing a disaster management strategy including setting up a strategic grain reserve. The project will assist in the development and practical application of it.

2. Strategies including lessons learned and the proposed programme

The strategy for FAO's engagement is to ensure fully strengthened capacities at district level in order to sustain the achievements of input by the Government and donors. Engaging other UN agencies and development partners will assist in (1) avoiding duplication in concepts and activities, (2) using past activities done by FAO and other development partners as a point of reference during implementation.

FAO's comparative advantage

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) leads international efforts to alleviate hunger and mitigate poverty. Since its founding in 1945, FAO has placed special attention on the economic development of rural areas, where roughly 70 per cent of the world's poor and hungry people live.

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts, that is, to make sure people have sustained access to enough high-quality nutritive food to lead active, healthy lives and further alleviate poverty in the world. To this end, agriculture plays a pivotal role in the rural economy of most developing countries. Support to the agricultural component of local governance has been part of FAO's work for the past years. This has occurred in the form of strengthening the capacities, knowledge, and skills through education and training of relevant stakeholders. In order to enable the local councils to become active partners in the achievement of economic and social goals they must receive maximum support and access to resources in the form of training and information. Moreover, since 2005, the first Millennium Development Goal to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" includes target 1.B that encourages the achievement of decent and full productive work for all.

3. Results framework

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of food security and income derived from agriculture as articulated in the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (NSADP) and the Smallholder Commercialisation Programme.

Outcome

Human and institutional capacity to plan and implement district agricultural plans and programmes as well as to response to threats to food insecurity is improved.

Deliverables

Deliverable 1

Assistance to all 13 District Councils in strengthening the institutional structures for planning and coordination of food security and agriculture issues at the district level

Activity 1.1: Conduct baseline study on the capacity of district level stakeholders for planning and surveillance of food security.

Activity 1.2: Design a capacity development programme (human and institutional capacity strengthening) to address weaknesses identified in activity 1.

Activity 1.3: Roll-out and institutionalize the capacity development programme for agriculture and food security at district and national level.

Deliverable 2

Assistance to five (5) pilot District Councils in the design and development of local food security assessment capacity and response protocols

Activity 2.1: Undertake needs and capacity assessment of district councils for establishing and operationalization of an early warning system for food security.

Activity 2.2: Conduct institutional mapping to identify district level institutions and organizations critical for the development and sustainability of an early warning system.

Activity 2.3: Develop an early warning infrastructure (IT system).

Activity 2.4: Train district-level stakeholders on how to set up and early warning system in their specific roles and necessary skills and methods to be used and linkages with the national system.

Activity 2.5: Develop standard response protocols and support their institutionalization at district level.

3.1 Risks and Assumptions

Risk (likelihood)	Impact	Mitigation
1. Key complementary services and facilities to address the agriculture component of local governance and decentralisation are lacking (high).	Incomplete support package	Under the UNJIV discussions are under way to provide a coordinated approach to training and capacity building. Work in collaboration with other projects (GIZ, NGOs (Decentralisation Secretariat) This project will work in complementarity with other ongoing FAO supported projects

2. Collaboration with relevant ministries, department and agencies is limited (low)	No transfer and use of planning information with key stakeholders.	Coordination mechanisms will be strengthened in collaboration with other projects
3. Local trainers and interested stakeholders to deliver/receive practical training limited (medium).	Long term capacity building not achieved.	Work with district training teams; If necessary, use regional experts.
4. Technical training delivered but not translated into practical use (medium).	No impact.	Relevant training that is demand led will be prioritized with linkages to district level youth councils.

4. Management and coordination arrangements

The project will be implemented by FAO-SL under the daily management of the Programme Implementation Support Unit of FAO Sierra Leone. The unit will appoint a project focal point who will work in close collaboration with the major stakeholders in the district planning process: The Decentralisation Secretariat, the SCP Management Team, GIZ, FAO-implemented projects funded by governments Australian and Germany respectively. Also, NGOs will be involved in the implementation process in various districts. The project will seek to involve research institutions, national and international universities, in the project.

5. Fund management arrangements

The funds allocated to FAO under the current MDTF funding window will be managed and utilised in line with existing FAO and MDTF financial rules and regulations.

5.1 Government Inputs and Obligations

1. Securing budgetary allocation from GoSL for the functioning of the units within the district councils for policy, planning, and programming i.e. materials and equipment.
2. Securing HR availability and their retention.
3. Provide access to all relevant documents, maps, drawings, statistics and other required information by the project.
4. Assist in dissemination of project information.
5. Make all necessary arrangements for clearance of project international staff and ensuring custom clearance or tax-free local purchase of project equipment and materials.
6. Securing office space within the local councils and intersectional linkages i.e. nutrition, health and infrastructure

5.2 Donor/FAO Inputs

The Donor through FAO will provide support for the following inputs:

Personnel/Technical Assistance

- Project focal point
- Various national consultants

- Locally contracted labour
- International and FAO HQ short term technical assistance

Travel

- Travel for international and national FAO and project, technical backstopping missions and non-staff travel for district and MAFFS staff.

Training

- District councils
- Traditional authorities
- Youth and women groups and their leaders

Materials and supplies

- Office stationary, internet access, computer supplies
- Training supplies (boards, projector, notepads, etc.)

Equipment

- Computer sets (desktop or laptop, printer and UPS).

General Operating Expenses

- Vehicle operation, communication, printing and publications

Project servicing costs

- 7% as determined by FAO Governing Bodies

5.3 Technical Support and Linkages

The Trade and Markets Division of FAO will provide technical support to the project including regular communications and visits to the country. The Trade and Markets Division includes a large number of professionals able to provide a diverse range of technical inputs ranging from capacity development to setting up and operationalising early warning systems for food security. Through FAO Representation in Sierra Leone, the Trade and Markets Division will also link with the SCP Secretariat to develop annual work plan and budget to be submitted to the UNCT and to the government of Sierra Leone.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

6.1 Elements of the logical framework

Results chain	Performance indicators
JOINT VISION BENCHMARK	A public service that is able to deliver effective basic services through the district and local councils
Objective	
Early warning and response capacity is developed at district and local level to mitigate food and nutritional crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally-adapted early warning system established at local level. • Key institutions and staff capacity to operate the early warning system and mount a response is developed.

Deliverables	
1. A district level early warning and response mechanism developed as part of the National Disaster Preparedness Management Plan in respect to risks related to agricultural, food security and nutrition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures (responsibilities of stakeholders, reporting channels, etc.) a are established. • Working tools (questionnaires, crop estimates, IT system, etc.), of an early warning system are developed
2. Capacity of District Councils is built to maintain the early warning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel of 5 District Councils are trained to effectively maintain the early warning system (including in risk assessment methods, reporting)

Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will be conducted in accordance with the established FAO procedures. SLU under the overall supervision of the FAO country representation will ensure that project execution complies with FAO monitoring, evaluation, auditing and reporting requirements. PEMSD and the Decentralisation Secretariat will be involved in monitoring progress.

7. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

The implementation of this project is guided by the Joint Vision as a core strategic framework for Sierra Leone which defines the common priority that will guide the UN activities and outline a set of underlying criteria and comparative advantage which shape the UN programmes and projects. In this joint Vision a member of joint planning, implementation and coordination mechanisms have been set out with the aim of enhancing the impact of UN's assistance as part of international community's effort of consolidating peace and promoting sustainable development in Sierra Leone. The project is presented under Joint Vision Programme 16 and it also responds to chapter six of the government's agenda for change 'Enhancing Productivity in Agriculture and Fisheries'

8. Work plans and budgets

The project will be carried out in the following phases:

Phase 1 – January – February 2012: Assessing the situation, capacities of district councils and requirement for improved operations.

Phase 2 - March – September 2012: Providing training and facilities

Phase 3 - October – December: Consolidating achievements and phasing out interventions to the GoSL.

Activities	Time frame 2012											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1. Conducting nationwide assessment of food insecurity at district level	X	X							X	X	X	X
2. Training district councils on needs assessment on local food insecurity at district level for 13 districts.			X	X	X	X		X				
3. Capacity building/training for district council data collectors for 13 districts on questionnaire administration and analysis in Bo and Makeni for the 13 districts.	X	X	X									
4. Training workshop on early warning systems on food security analysis, planning and monitoring of food security projects at districts level, targeting local chiefs, local councils, MAFFS extension workers, their roles and partnerships to ensure child rights, women's rights and how this affect food security .		X	X	X	X	X	X					

UNDG standard Budget

PROJECT BUDGET WITH UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES (USD)	
CATEGORIES	TOTAL (USD)
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	120,000
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	90,000
3. Training of counterparts	200,000
4. Contracts	100,000
5. Other direct costs	39,533
Sub-Total Project Costs	549,533
Indirect Support Costs*	38,467
TOTAL	588,000

** 7% of sub-total project costs*