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**Finance for development: Support to Aid Policy Implementation**

**Final PROGRAMME[[1]](#footnote-1) Narrative report**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Programme Title & Project Number |  | Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| * Programme Title: Support to Aid Policy Implementation
* Programme Number: UNJV Programme 3
* MPTF Office Project Reference Number: *00078212*
 | *(if applicable)**Country/Region : Sierra Leone/West Africa* |
| *Thematic/Priority* |

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| Participating Organization(s) |  | Implementing Partners |
| UNDP | * Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; Development Assistance Coordination Office (DACO)
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| --- | --- | --- |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) |  | Programme Duration (months) |
| MPTF/JP Fund Contribution: * *by Agency (if applicable)*
 | 400,420 |  | Overall Duration *12 months* |  |
| Agency Contribution* *by Agency (if applicable)*
 |  |  | Start Date 1st January 2011 |  |
| Government Contribution*(if applicable)* |  |  | End Date (or Revised End Date) 28th February 2013 |  |
| Other Contributions (donors)*(if applicable)* |  |  | Operational Closure Date[[3]](#footnote-3) |  |
| TOTAL: 400,420 |  |  | Expected Financial Closure Date |  |

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| Final Programme/ Project Evaluation |  | Submitted By |
| Evaluation Completed  Yes No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Evaluation Report - Attached Yes No | * Name: Issa Conteh
* Title: RBM Specialist
* Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
* Contact information: issa.conteh@undp.org
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The support to Aid Policy Implementation project document was signed in March 2012. Funds were transferred in April 2012 based on the agreed annual work plan. This report highlights activities undertaken during the period under review.

Three DEPAC meetings were organized in 2012. A Presidential DEPAC, 2nd Quarter and 3rd Quarter DEPAC. These meetings mostly centred around the 2012 elections, Public Sector Reform and Performance, the Agenda for Prosperity (PRSPIII) and the Presentation of the Health Sector COMPACT.

Election Steering Committee meetings were also organized by DACO in 2012. These meetings brought together the numerous institutions to discus paramount issues pertaining to the 2012 elections. These meetings were chaired by the Minister of Finance and co-chaired by the UNDP Country Director.

As part of the implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, representatives from DACO, Statistics and the Coordinator of SLANGO participated in numerous international engagements. These meetings focused on raising the profile of the New Deal and discussions took place which focused on finalizing national as well as global indicators for monitoring the implementation of the New Deal both at local and international level.

A Fragility Assessment was conducted to identify the causes and features of fragility. A list of indicators was identified from this assessment which will feed into the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in the Agenda for Prosperity (PRSPIII). The report is put in a glossy edition to be shared at the next upcoming DEPAC meeting. A fragility assessment workshop was also organized to discuss the causes and features of fragility and sources of reliance as a basis for One Vision, One Plan.

Sector and District Working Groups have been established. Five Sector Working Groups (SWGs) have been established for Health, Agriculture, Education, Roads, Water and Sanitation. The duties of the SWGs are to collate and report on activities and project undertaken at the sector level. District Working Groups (DWGs) were also established in the remaining nine districts. Their duties are mainly to collate and report all Project activities undertaken in the districts. Training was provided for the DWGs and they were presented with work materials ( laptops and other stationery). Field monitoring exercises were also undertaken to monitor the progress of the DWGs and to familiarize them with the monthly reporting template and introduce the concept of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

An E-Brief (Aid Coordination Report) was prepared and printed. The report constitutes the facilitation of regular and constructive dialogue between the Government of Sierra Leone and Development Partners. This report will be shared at the next DEPAC meeting.

The Aid Report (Development Assistance Report) for 2011 was produced using the updated DATA from the Development Assistance Database (DAD). The report provides information on aid inflows to Sierra Leone for the period 2007 - 2011. The data presented was collated from the DAD and the Multilateral Project Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Support to Aid Policy Implementation is to facilitate multi-donor support to the implementation of Sierra Leone`s Aid Policy using the framework of the agreed implementation plan. The Government of Sierra Leone and it`s development partners provided funding for the implementation of a histolic package of activities that will increase the overall effectiveness of aid in Sierra Leone.

The activities are centred around four (4) main objectives:

1. Supporting a strong Government aid effectiveness team by improving the Government of Sierra Leone`s capacity for aid coordination and professionalization of aid effectiveness work.
2. Increasing coordination at sector and district levels thereby increasing the capacity at these level to report on projects and activities undertaken by the Government of Sierra Leone and Donor Partners
3. Improving aid information and utilization thereby improving the quality and use of aid information
4. Improving mutual accountability for aid effectiveness by improving the monitoring and accountability for commitments which is basically the sole purpose of localising the New Deal.
5. **ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS**

**OUTPUT 1 – IMPROVED GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE (GOSL) CAPACITY FOR AID COORDINATION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF AID EFFECTIVENESS WORK**

***Training and Capacity Development***

New UNVs recruited were orientated on the function and role of the DACO in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Training on the new version of DAD which is currently being rolled out by Synergy was also done. This new version improved the usability of the DAD by DACO staff, our development partners and other users of the database.

No international/local training on Aid Effectiveness was identified.

***DEPAC***

Three DEPAC meetings were organised in 2012. The first one was held on the 10th January, 2012 and was chaired by his HE the president. The meeting centred on updates on the 2012 Election, Public Sector Reform and Performance, Extractive Sector and the Sierra Leone Conference on Development and Transformation and the Agenda for Prosperity.

The second quarter DEPAC meeting was held on the 12th April, 2012. The meeting was centred around the timeline for the preparation of the Agenda for Prosperity which is ongoing, Update on National Election Registration process, Update on achieving Sustainable Energy for Sierra Leone, Update on the Public Sector Reform process and Presentation on the Health sector COMPACT.

The third quarter DEPAC meeting was held on the 4th October, 2012. The meeting primarily focused on the Agenda for Prosperity in which the following were discussed, Structure of the Agenda for Prosperity, Updates on the progress to date and pillar presentation. The Communiqué on all the above mentioned DECAP meetings have been circulated.

***Election Steering Committee Meetings***

Numerous Election Steering committee meetings were organized by DACO in 2012. These meetings brought together, the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the Government of Sierra Leone and Donor partners, the Judiciary and the Office of the solicitor General, the Office of National Security (ONS), the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Political Party Registration Committee (PPRC). The purpose of these meetings was to discus paramount issues pertaining to the 2012 elections that would make it a success. These meetings were chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development and co-chaired by the UNDP Country Director. The main issues discussed were:

* Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) and Registration Malpractices in which updates were given on the total number of registrants recorded for the four phases
* Voter Education and Sensitization in which updates were given on the different methodologies used which included TV and Radio discussions
* Biometric Voter Registration Data which included the printing and distribution of voter registration cards, destruction of faulty cards and cataloguing of unclaimed cards
* Election Security and Logistics which involved the provision of SLP personnel for registration materials and for addressing security related issues for voter registration and Election Day
* Electoral Offences Court which involved the Judiciary and the office of the Solicitor General
* Political Party Registration Commission (PPRC) on their activities/plans for political parties

***Secretariat Support - Agenda for Prosperity***

To provide full time secretariat to the formulation of the Agenda for Prosperity, a short term consultant was recruited and has been coordinating the secretariats activities under the leadership of the Director of DACO. The technical committee with the help of the secretariat have continued to refine their work, incorporate significant input from MDAs, development partners and civil society groups in country. These inputs include evidence-based analysis that constitutes the development of the Agenda for Prosperity. The drafting of the document will be done by the pillar leads assisted by Agenda for Prosperity secretariat at MoFED. Given that work on the Agenda for Prosperity is on-going; there will be need to extend the contract of the consultant which ended on 31st December 2012 for another six (6) months starting January 2013.

***International Engagements***

As part of the implementation of The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States the Deputy Director of DACO accompanied by the Aid information Specialist attended a g7+ High Level event on the margins of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the UN General Assembly. This event was aimed at raising the profile of the New Deal and updated participants on the implementation of The New Deal by g7+ member countries including Afghanistan, Liberia, Timor-Leste and Haiti. The event clearly articulated how The New Deal supports the ideals expressed in the Millennium Declaration, deepens understanding of the three pillars of The New Deal (Peace building and State building Goals (PSGs), FOCUS and TRUST) and explored the principles and processes that underlie the new ways of engaging in conflict-affected environments.

Also, the Deputy Director of DACO together with the Coordinator of SLANGO and a representative from Statistics Sierra Leone participated in the South Knowledge Exchange Workshop in Nairobi from 22nd -23rd October 2012. Discussions focused on finalising national as well as global indicators for monitoring the implementation of the New Deal both at local and international level. A list of country indicators as well as shared common indicators is now available. A list of indicators from the shared indicators to feed into the post 2015 development indicators have also been developed.

**OUTPUT 2 – INCREASED COORDINATION AT SECTOR AND DISTRICTS LEVELS**

***Coordination of Sector and District Working Groups***

 Five Sector Working Groups (SWGs) have been established for health, education, agriculture, roads and water and sanitation. Existing structures were used as sector working groups and new ones created where there is a need. The duties of the SWGs are to collate and report on activities and project undertaken at the sector level. To align the work of the sector working groups and DACO, several meetings have been held with the focal persons of the sector working groups and Terms of Reference (TOR) agreed upon. DACO participates in sector working groups from time to time to get updates from the sectors. Four quarterly sector working group reports have been submitted to DACO. District Working Groups were established in the remaining nine districts; in addition to the three pilot District Working Groups (DWGs) that were established in 2011. In December 2012, two District Working Group Rollout meetings were organised by DACO in Bombali and Bo District Councils respectively for the training of the DWGs, presentation of laptops to each DWG Focal person and the commencement of their duties of coordinating and reporting aid coordination activities in the districts. Laptops were presented to each of the nine other DWGs at these meetings to enable them to effectively carry out their duties of coordinating and reporting aid coordination activities at the district level on time. Training of the DWGs was also organised to prepare the DWGs for the duties of coordinating and reporting aid coordination activities after which the DWGs took off to their respective duty stations to carry out their duties in the districts.

A series of field exercises where carried out by representatives from DACO to the districts. The purpose of these field visits was to monitor the progress of the DWGs, familiarise them with the new monthly reporting template and introduce the concept of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Reports from all DWGs were received except for three (Koinadugu, Kenema and Kono). In Koinadugu district the focal person did not receive a laptop because of inefficiency in his previous position as focal person for Bombali district. The focal person in Kenema died and his replacement is finding it difficult to get hold of report materials. The new focal person for Kono did not send in any report.

**OUTPUT 3- IMPROVED QUALITY AND USE OF AID INFORMATION**

***E-brief (Aid Coordination Report 2012)***

 A Coordination report was prepared and printed and will be shared at the next DEPAC meeting. The Aid coordination report constitutes the facilitation of regular and constructive dialogue between Government of Sierra Leone and Development Partners (DEPAC). It gives an overview of the three (3) DEPAC meetings that were held in 2012.

The report also includes the Sector and District level coordination which gives an overview of the Sector/Thematic working groups (SWGs) and District working groups (DWGs).

It also gives a brief explanation on the Preparation of the Agenda for Prosperity and Elections Steering Committee. Collating and Reporting on Development Assistance to Sierra Leone is also embedded in the Aid Coordination Report as this gives an overview of Aid inflows in Sierra Leone.

 DACO has been engaged in localising the implementation of the New Deal. A summary of the New Deal is also included in the Report, as the New Deal highlights commitment by fragile states and development partners on new ways of engaging in these countries with the focus on supporting an inclusive country-led and country-owned transition out of fragility. It also gives us keynotes on the way forward with the goal of localising the New Deal in Sierra Leone.

***Development Assistance Report***

The aid report for 2011 was produced using updated data from the DAD. The report provides information on aid inflows to Sierra Leone for the period 2007 to 2011, which includes the baseline figures for 2007 and the inflows during the period covered by the Agenda for Change. The data presented was collated from Development Assistance Database (DAD) and the Multilaterals Project Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The Aid report also includes the Localising of the Paris Declaration (PD) which is based on the following principles: Ownership, Alignment, Harmonization, and Managing for Development Results and Mutual Accountability. The report also highlights keynote on lessons learnt from the implementation of the PD which includes:

* Use of country systems, within the framework of the framework of Aid effectiveness is predicated on sound local systems and capacities, especially in the areas of procurement and public financial management
* External support from development Partners is driven by the policies of the donor countries on external development assistance, and therefore, external support is more likely to be significant in situations of alignment between the developmental priorities of a recipient development partner and the policy thrust and focus of a donor development partner (i.e. all other bilateral and/or multilateral considerations assumed conducive)

Part of the report further gives an overview on the way forward which included Internalizing of the New Deal and the Post Bussan Governance Framework.

On the 28th - 29th February 2012 DACO organised a two days training and data input session for information focal persons from development partners on the use of the Development Assistance Database (DAD). During this two day training, issues of inputting data more effectively into the data base where discussed. IFPs that were having difficulties in inputting data were taken through the process.

**OUTPUT 4- IMPROVED MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMITMENTS (Localising the New Deal in Sierra Leone)**

***Fragility Assessment***

 A fragility assessment was undertaken in June 2012. A list is indicators were developed for the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSG). These indicators are expected to be used at the global level to help (i) Demonstrate peacebuilding and statebuilding progress (ii) Benchmarking by the international community (e.g. Security council and PBC) (iii) Assess strategies across countries, facilitate broader sharing of tools, knowledge and experience. These indicators will feed into the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in the Agenda for Prosperity. Assessment reports are put in glossy editions to be shared at the next upcoming DEPAC meeting. A fragility assessment workshop was conducted between the 25th and 29th June 2012 on the causes and features of fragility and sources of reliance as a basis for one vision, one plan. This assessment involved over fifty (50) representatives from government ministries departments and agencies, local government, parliament and civil society groups. The objectives of the Fragility Assessment Workshop were to:

* Develop a clear picture of how Sierra Leoneans view fragility and resilience
* Generate understanding and consensus regarding Sierra Leone`s fragility that will inform the development of the Agenda for Prosperity Poverty Reduction Strategy, thereby enabling the development of one vision and one plan to reduce fragility
* Road-test the New Deal fragility spectrum tool, learn lessons and provide feedback that will inform development of the tool and use of the fragility assessment approach by the g7+

 A compact (a document prepared by the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with Donor Partners on how Aid Effectiveness Work must be carried out) is a key mechanism to implement the one vision, one plan between the GOSL and development partners was delayed due to the ongoing preparation of the Agenda for Prosperity (A4P). It will draw upon a broad range of views from multiple stakeholders and the public. This will ensure harmonization and donor coordination; reduce duplication, fragmentation and program proliferation.

**OUTPUT 5- DACO PROJECT OPERATIONAL AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGED**

Procurement of stationary was done by DACO for the four (4) quarters. This enhanced the effective running of the day-to-day activities by DACO staffs.

Procurement of anti-virus for all computers and a projector was done by DACO. Most of the anti-virus have been installedin staff computers and are operational. The projector is constantly been used by DACO at workshops and conferences for presentations.

Payment by UNDP for internet provided by AFCOM to DACO continues and will be extended throughout next year as DACO is yet to be linked up with the MOFED VSAT.

Staff salaries (Aid Information Specialist, UNVs, Admin Assistant and Driver) are paid on a monthly basis by DACO. The Agenda for Prosperity Secretariat consultant is also being paid on a monthly basis.

**IV. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome 1[[4]](#footnote-4)****Indicator:****Baseline:****Planned Target:** |  |  |  |
| **Output 1|:**Improved Government of Sierra Leone capacity for aid coordination and Professionalization of aid effectiveness work.**Indicator:** Regular DEPAC meetings held and circulation of communique; DACO staff trained; Number of **Active** Participation on Aid Effectiveness meetings and International Engagement.**Baseline:** DACO Completely Integrated in MoFED and functional with the mandate to coordinate all Development Assistant.**Planned Target:** Four DACO staff trained, on Aid Coordination and management issues. Four DEPAC Meetings held; Active Participation on Aid Effectiveness meetings and International engagement. | Three (3) DEPAC meetings held | Fourth Quarter DEPAC did not hold | Minutes of the DEPAC meetings Available  |
| DACO staff recruited and trained  | Training of New recruits done locally |  |
| Participated in regular International Engagements and Aid Effectiveness meetings |  | Minutes of the International Engagements and Aid Effectiveness meetings available |
| **Output 2** : Increased coordination at Sector and District levels**Indicator:** Number of Sector Working Groups (SWGs) meetings held and report produced**Baseline:** 5 SWG and 3 pilot DWGs Established**Planned Target:** Establishing of SWG and Fully functional District Working Groups, with regular meetings held | 5 SWGs established |  | SWG Reports Available |
| 9 DWGs established |  | DWG Reports Available |
| Regular meetings held with these working groups |  | Reports of the Working Group meetings available |
| **OUTPUT 3:** Improved quality and use of aid information**Indicator:** The 2009 and 2010 Development Assistant Report published; 12 e-Briefs produced; DAD Upgraded & showing the new features**Baseline:** The Database (DAD) updated with 2011 data, Draft report for 2009 and 2010 prepared**Planned Target:** Publishing the 2011 report, improved quality of Data available in DAD, monthly e-Briefs produced | Improved quality of Aid Data available in the DAD |  | Information in the DAD accessible to Public Users |
| 2011 DAR published |  | 2011 DAR Report Available |
| E-Brief (Aid Coordination Report) produced |  | 2012 Aid Coordination Report Available |
| **Output 4:** Improved monitoring and accountability for commitments. (Localising the New Deal in Sierra Leone)**Indicators:** Fragility assessment undertaken developing a compact between GoSL and Donors; DoL framework agreed upon**Baseline:** Political support for the implementation of the New Deal as expressed by HE at the Presidential DEPAC and a compact on coordination**Planned Target:** Fragility Assessment report completed, Donor Mapping report produced, compact between GoSL and Donors | Fragility Assessment undertaken and report produced |  | Fragility Assessment Report Available |
|  | Development of the Compact delayed due to ongoing preparation of the Agenda for Prosperity |  |
|  | Donor Mapping delayed due to Ongoing Preparation of the Agenda for Prosperity |  |

**III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED**

**Challenges and Responses:**

1. Funds for the Support to the Aid Policy Implementation project were not disbursed on time causing delays in the implementation of project activities. Furthermore; the project continues to experience frequent change of UNDP Project Managers which remains a challenge for effective implementation.
2. The provision of timely data in the DAD by some donors remains a challenge. Hence DACO sometimes has to release the limited number of staff it has to acquire data directly from some donors.
3. DACO is still grappling with the challenge of receiving data and reports in a timely manner.

**Lessons Learned:**

Cooperation from focal persons from the various organizations has improved immensely, however DACO still finds it difficult to get data from a few development partners.

A pre-agreed date should be set between Government and stakeholders long in advance in order for DEPAC to be held on a timely basis.

### Way Forward

1. Work with the PRSP III Core Technical Team in finalizing the Agenda for Prosperity and having it printed and disseminated mentioned
2. Follow up visit by DACO to check on the progress of the pilot DWGs in Bombali, Kenema, Kono, Kailahun and Bo districts; and consolidate regular monthly reports from the Districts
3. Continue to organize quarterly one day workshops for all DAD Information Focal Persons to have live exercise on the new features of the DAD
4. Work towards a Consultative Group Meeting for mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity by end 2013
5. Develop a compact between GoSL and partners around the New Deal and Post Busan principles for delivering the Agenda for Prosperity
6. Continue to follow-up with the sectors to obtain their reports.

1. The term “programme’ is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MPTF Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlines in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)