Government of Sierra Leone

Adapting the SDGs to National Development Planning Processes in Sierra Leone

Government of Sierra Leone
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Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

- We had a weak start with the MDGs in 2000, coming out of a devastating civil war at the time, although we strove very hard to make some progress in the implementation of the goals.
- Poverty headcount had declined from 70 percent in 2003 to 52.9 percent in 2013.
- We achieved the ratio of girls to boys in primary school of 1:1 by 2015.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence dropped from 1.5 percent in 2005, to 0.12 percent in 2015.
- Access to safe drinking water increased from 36.7 percent in 1990 to 62.6 percent in 2015.
A number of MDGs indicators remained especially worrying:

- **Maternal mortality rate**: estimated at 1,165 deaths per 100,000 births in 2013; compared to 1,800 deaths in 2000
- **Under-five mortality rate**: estimated at 156 deaths per 1,000 births in 2013; compared to 286 deaths in 2000
- **Infant mortality rate**: estimated at 92 deaths per 1,000 births in 2013; compared to 170 deaths in 2000
- **Population with improved sanitation**: 48.7% in 2015; compared to 10.1% in 1990
The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in May 2004 substantially reversed our efforts in the implementation of the MDGs.

The EVD killed more than 3,500 of more than 8,000 infected persons.

Plunged GDP growth from 20.1% in 2013, to 4.6% in 2014, and minus 23.5% by end 2015; with the price of our leading export commodity, iron ore, crashing as the disease was raging.

At least 2.3 million people had their livelihoods worsened during the epidemic.
Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

Key lessons learned during the MDGs

- Sierra Leone was (and is) still seriously a fragile state
- No economy can grow sustainably without being well diversified
- And hardly so without sustainable development of neighbouring and sub-regional economies: the Ebola outbreak was a spillover from Guinea as the civil war from Liberia
- Indeed, we needed to do more on the governance front
- The graph on the next slide is a reflection of our development series since 1980, illustrating that we have really not been developing sustainably
Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

Fluctuating Economic Growth (% GDP) Development Series since 1980

- Before Civil War
- During Civil War
- Post-War

Year

Fluctuations:
- Ebola Outbreak:
- Iron Ore Price Crash:

23.5 4.6 4.3

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Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

Thus, the SDGs have provided enhanced platform for international development cooperation and engagement to resolve national, regional and global problems that have huge bearing on the sustainable development of Sierra Leone.

- For this reason our Government wasted no time to start the process of integrating the SDGs into local development planning processes.
- We are therefore among the 22 countries being reviewed at this HLPF to share our perspective as to how (i) we intend to implement the SDGs locally; (ii) the challenges we envisage going forward; and (iii) proposal to overcome them.
### Summary of Adaptation Steps Taken so far

- **Produced Simplified Version of the SDGs**
- **Conducted nationwide sensitization to the new goals, targeting public sector, CSOs, NGOs, the private sector, trade unions, university colleges, parliament and the general public**
- **Aligned the new global goals to the Agenda for Prosperity (A4P) and 2016 National Budget—and shall be in the upcoming Budget**
- **Formulated National Integrated Results Framework aligning the SDGs to the A4P monitoring and evaluation arrangement**
- **Drafted Sierra Leone specific SDGs indicators**
- **Establishment of Sierra Leone International Benchmark System is underway, and will largely be guided by the SDGs**
Relevance of the Theme of this HLPF
*Leaving No One Behind*
From Sierra Leone’s Standpoint
The principle of leaving no one behind is very dear to us. Understanding what it is and how do we get there is fundamental to our achievement of the SDGs. Thus, we took the global debate on this requirement at national level.

National perspectives on leaving no one behind:
- Exclusion from decision-making & socioeconomic participation
- Disabilities, marginalization and stigmatization
- Welfare of the incarcerated & effectiveness of justice system
- Populations enmeshed in food insecurity and extreme poverty
- Welfare of those in island and coastal communities
- Natural resource management and the survival of those yet unborn
- Data disaggregation
- Rural development
Balancing the *Economic, Social and Environmental* Dimensions of Sustainable Development—we have added *political governance*  
• This is embedded in our national development plans; clearly reflected in the Eight Pillars of the Sierra Leone’s Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018)  
• And to us, this is a requirement for leaving no one behind
Sierra Leone SDGs Indicator Framework

**Major Sources of Priority Indicators**

- The MDGs Outcome
- Sierra Leone’s Vision 2035
- Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018)
- The Ebola Recovery Strategy
- Sector and Local Government Strategies
- Leaving No One Behind Debate
- Fragility Assessment & g7+ indicators

**RESEARCH**

**Tier 1 Indicators:**
- 56 With Provisional Baseline & Target

**Sierra Leone Specific SDGs Indicator**
- Tier 2 Indicators:
- 139 With Baselines and/or Target or Not

**SURVEYS**

**Lead Actors in Processing Priorities**

- Office of the President
- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
- Ministry of Foreign Aff. & Intern’l Cooperation
- Statistics Sierra Leone
- Right to Access Info Commission
- NGOs & Civil Society
- Development Partners
Implementation Arrangement for the SDGs

Presidential Body on SDGs

Steering Committee on SDGs

Technical Level

SDG17 corresponds to Parts 4&5 of the A4P on capacity development for implementation of strategies

A4P/PWG1
SDG7,8&9

A4P/PWG2
SDG11-15

A4P/PWG3
SDG3-6; 11

A4P/PWG4
SDG7-9

A4P/PWG5
SDG7-9

A4P/PWG6
SDG1,2&10

A4P/PWG7
SDG16

A4P/PWG8
SDG5

- Office of the President/OGI/OGP/SPU
- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Ministry of Information & Communication
- United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office

- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency
- Statistics Sierra Leone
- Civil Society and Private Sector Representatives
Implementation Arrangements for the SDGs

- Furthermore, Sierra Leone is a signatory to the New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States championed by g7+ countries.
- As the current Chair of the g7+ and Co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building, Sierra Leone is committed to promoting use of country systems and Mutual Accountability Frameworks in the implementation of SDGs in our fragile contexts.
- We re-iterate our commitment through the Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World to implementing the New Deal as a means of ensuring the delivery of SDGs across all fragile and conflict affected environments.
- The preparation of our SDGs Adaptation Report has given keen consideration to these international guidelines.
- Finally, we are mindful of the need to pursue strong sub-regional approach to implementation of the SDGs.
Key lessons learned in the SDGs adaptation process

- Timely planning has huge prospects of yielding results
- Participatory approaches remain fundamental to results;
- Impossible to have effective plans without a good data system

Next Steps

- Continue follow up with key government institutions and non-state institutions in the SDGs process
- Analysis of existing data and preparation of relevant research papers to inform the process
- Commence SDGs needs based assessment towards the preparation of a national SDGs investment plan
- Reactivate existing technical working groups to embed SDGs planning, follow-up & reporting
- Commence ministerial committee meetings on the SDGs
**Lessons, Next Steps, Challenges, Strategies**

**Challenges ahead**
- Having many actors to coordinate, with
- Domestic revenue shortfalls and unpredictable external assistance
- Extended effects of Ebola epidemic; and ensuring diversified and inclusive economy
- Data bottlenecks; and continued fragility of the state (climate change effects, large numbers of youths to employ, etc.)
- Weak incentives for civil service

**Envisaged approaches to overcoming challenges**
- Sustain government commitment and enhance partnerships with development partners; step up local revenue mobilization
- Increase capacity to development bankable development projects
- Strengthen coordination and implementation of reform programmes
- Fully identify the drivers of fragility & work out concrete action plan to address them
- Leverage efforts to build strong national data system
Thank You