

Summary of DFID's work in Sierra Leone 2011-2015

May 2011

Why we work in Sierra Leone

The UK played an instrumental role in bringing peace and development to Sierra Leone in the last decade. However, even though it is now at peace and has significant natural resources, it remains one of the world's poorest countries, lying close to the bottom of the UN Human Development Index. With 60% of the population living in absolute poverty; some of the highest maternal mortality figures in the world; significantly lower school completion rates for females; and only 49% of citizens having access to clean drinking water, it is unlikely to meet many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015.

As Sierra Leone continues on its path of peaceful development, improved governance is needed to deliver better services - such as education, health care, security and justice – and to ensure that revenues are increased from its natural resource and more private sector investment that these are used for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans.



Recipients of the DFID supported *Free Health Care Initiative* in the Western area of Sierra Leone. This Initiative is having a significant impact by reducing maternal and child mortality.



The *Support to the Electoral Cycle in Sierra Leone* programme, funded by DFID supports civic and voter education campaigns aimed at informing citizens about their role in the elections, with a specific emphasis on women's participation.

What we will achieve by 2014

- 45,000 girls (aged 12–15) in junior secondary education
- 630,000 children in primary education
- 170,000 women receiving health care during pregnancy and childbirth
- 480,000 more women and adolescent girls with access to modern contraception
- 1 million citizens with access to clean drinking water by 2014
- 20% increase in the conviction rate for cases of violence against women and girls
- Over 3 million citizens supported to participate in peaceful and credible elections in 2012 by assisting national electoral bodies to perform effectively
- Increased access to finance for businesses, creating additional job opportunities
- Sustainable and effective use of natural resources for the benefit of the whole country.

Who we will work with

We use a number of channels to deliver our aid, including budgetary support to the Government of Sierra Leone, funding to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and support to Non Governmental Organisations, such as Christian Aid, who deliver projects on our behalf by working with a range of expert national partners.

We aim to strike a balance between improving the Government of Sierra Leone's ability to deliver better services such as health, education and justice, while also supporting civil society organisations to deliver services themselves and hold the Government of Sierra Leone to account.

We are working with all of our partners to ensure that they deliver our aid as effectively as possible, particularly by promoting long-term sustainability through national leadership and ownership of our programmes.



Community members have been empowered to resolve local level disputes and tensions through the *ENCISS Programme*, funded by DFID Sierra Leone.

Photo: Christian Aid/Annabel Davis

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

In Sierra Leone, we will undertake early economic, financial and political analysis to underpin DFID's investments. We will carry out regular updates, monitoring and periodic impact assessments to address issues and concerns as they arise. We will aim to achieve value for money and transparency across all of our work in relation to both delivery of results and DFID's operating costs. We will also meet the aid transparency guarantee by publishing detailed information about our own programmes and promoting access to information in Sierra Leone more broadly, through more effective use of the local media; translating key information into the main local languages and dialects and ensuring information also reaches remote communities. We will enhance financial management internally and across partners, ensuring we tackle any waste, corruption or fraud.

We will encourage the Government of Sierra Leone to improve the transparency and accountability of its budget and expenditure. Continued support will be provided to civil society to encourage scrutiny of the Government of Sierra Leone's budget and public financial management processes, and the communication of this to Sierra Leone's citizens. This will include support to the Budget Advocacy Network, a network of local civil society organisations, with a remit to hold the Government of Sierra Leone to account for ensuring the budget is consultative, transparent and responsive to the needs of poor people.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Sierra Leone's Operational Plan, visit: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/sierraleone>

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Address: DFID Sierra Leone, 5, off Spur Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Enquiries: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk

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