



# Leh we make Salone grow!

The President's Recovery Priorities Newsletter | [www.presidentsrecoverypriorities.gov.sl](http://www.presidentsrecoverypriorities.gov.sl) | September 2016



THE PRESIDENT'S  
RECOVERY  
PRIORITIES

*The President's Recovery Priorities represent a multi-stakeholder investment programme, led by the Government of Sierra Leone, focused on education, energy, governance, health, private sector development, social protection and water. The programme is intended to drive sustainable socio-economic transformation in Sierra Leone following the twin shocks of the Ebola Virus Epidemic and falling iron ore prices.*

## Message from Saidu Conton-Sesay, the Chief of Staff



**W**elcome to the second edition of 'Leh we make Salone grow'. The eleven ministries, departments and agencies engaged in the President's Recovery Priorities have worked closely with the President's Delivery Team to finalise the detailed plans for the next six months of activities, which will contribute to the achievement of our 13 key result areas.

A team of community engagement officers are now fully active in the districts. Their role is to support the country's 149 Paramount Chiefs and to ensure the President's Recovery Priorities and the intended outcomes of the process are understood by communities, and that consultation and participation take place at every level.

We know from experience that change has to come from within and that development gains are only sustainable when communities are fully involved and engaged. Our collaboration with UNICEF on last month's national conference on community engagement aims to build on our knowledge and experience in this area, and develop a shared commitment to genuine community ownership that will support the country's recovery process and progress beyond that.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

### Ensuring care for those affected by EVD



*Under the President's Recovery Priorities, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) is working in partnership with community and traditional leaders, the Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors and humanitarian*

*partners to increase the socioeconomic security of people affected by the Ebola Virus Disease through the Social Rehabilitation and Payments to Ebola Survivors (SRPES) project.*

Attending were EVD survivors, community and traditional leaders, representatives from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implementing partners.

A representative of the MSWGCA Minister, Dr. Sylvia Olayinka Blyden, delivered the keynote speech. In it she praised the resilience of EVD Survivors and assured them of Government and partner support in building sustainable livelihoods and addressing social marginalisation in their communities.

Beneficiaries will receive their monthly cash transfers via mobile money. Africell, who will be implementing the cash transfers in seven districts, supplied SIM cards to the EVD survivors and showed them how to use the mobile money service so that they were able to receive the first tranche of their cash transfers.

**T**he SRPES project, which will provide livelihood skills and monthly cash payments to EVD affected people, was officially launched in Kailahun on September 5, 2016.

## DISTRICT FOCUS

# Free long lasting insecticidal nets in Masimera Town help protect mother and child from malaria



**Ensuring the supply of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) to households to prevent the spread of malaria in rural communities is one of the President's Recovery Priorities' initiatives supporting the health sector's focus on reducing maternal and child mortality.**

**T**wenty-two year-old Mary Koroma, from Masimera community in Port Loko, became pregnant towards the end of the Ebola period when she was still a schoolgirl. She remembers a pregnant woman who contracted malaria around the same time, and died from the illness because she was too scared to go to hospital. In spite of this traumatic memory, the stigma of being a pregnant schoolgirl made Mary herself reluctant to go to hospital when she contracted malaria. When she did eventually seek treatment at Masimera Community Health Centre, she discovered that each household is entitled to a certain number of free LLINs. She was given her net and installed it in her home. Mary has since given birth to a baby boy and is pleased to report that because she has the net, her fear of malaria is now a thing of the past.

## PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

### Developing home grown institutional feeding



**Creating linkages between our agricultural producers and the contractors responsible for institutional feeding will help open up new market and business opportunities for SMEs and farmers and support increased competitiveness in the sector.**

In 2013, agricultural imports outweighed exports by more than 10 to one, with rice, the country's staple food, accounting for almost \$130m of imports. In 2014, rice imports cost \$112m and represented 4.8% of the country's imports, second to refined petroleum.

The President's Delivery Team is working with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security to develop new markets, and has identified the potential for local rice in institutional feeding—the provision of food services to institutions like the police, the prisons and the military.

"Increasing the quantity of local rice in these contracts would help to significantly open up the domestic market for local produce, boosting our private sector, encouraging job creation and improving food security," says Oluniyi Robbin-Coker, Sector Coordinator - Private Sector Development for the President's Recovery Priorities. "The benefits are mutual, with the higher

nutritional value of local rice making it ideal for feeding programmes in schools, hospitals and other institutions."

The success of Mountain Lion Agriculture SL – a rice processing company that buys from local smallholders- proves that there are local suppliers with sufficient capacity to break into the institutional feeding market. Donald Ola Smart set up the company in 2010 with a small locally made rice mill to test the viability of his business model. Two years later he invested in a two-tonne-per-hour rice mill that de-stones, de-husks and polishes the local rice, and now regularly supplies the World Food Programme (WFP). Last year Smart was able to supply 740 metric tonnes of local rice to WFP despite the down turn in the harvest.

He attributes his organisation's success to a strategy of empowering the local smallholders. "We offer interest-free seed loans to smallholders, make farm tractors available to them and have a team of outreach workers to provide support." A model farm, operated by the company trains outgrowers in modern agricultural practices.

Smart is enthusiastic about encouraging investors in the local rice market and looks forward to a future when home grown rice is the norm: "We should be food sufficient. Our people need local rice. It is healthy and nutritious and good for diabetic and hypertensive patients – conditions that many people here suffer from," he says.

Work has begun to ensure that at least 10% of the rice procured in January 2017 by the prisons, the military, the police and the fire force is locally produced. In the next issue of 'Leh we make Salone grow!' we will follow the headway made by the President's Delivery Team towards making local rice a staple ingredient in institutional feeding.



## Maximising the potential of Freetown's Port



***The Port of Freetown is Sierra Leone's main trading gateway with the world, accounting for 98% of our imports. As part of the President's Recovery Priorities' focus on governance, it is enhancing its systems and infrastructure with an eye to a streamlined, transparent and more efficient service for national and international shippers.***

Freetown's Port has the third deepest natural harbour in the world, and the deepest in West Africa. Its unique location is almost equidistant from Brazil's busiest port – the Port of Santos, and from Europe's busiest port – the Port of Rotterdam. Geographically, it is also ideally placed to potentially service landlocked countries such as Mali and Burkina Faso.

Maximising these untapped natural advantages could make Sierra Leone's primary port an ideal transshipment hub, according to the Ports Authority's General Manager, Abu B. Bangura.

Transshipment allows for larger ships with lower shipping costs per unit, to be loaded and unloaded to and from smaller vessels, serving ports not equipped to accommodate bigger ships. "The transshipment of containers has become a feature of the logistics of intercontinental liner services and has created a new and rapidly growing maritime industry with economic spin-offs, including job creation," AB Bangura says. "We are fortunate that the geographical location and physical attributes of the Port of Freetown could favour this sort of development."

Today, the landlord port model dominates especially in larger and medium-sized ports around the world, with Rotterdam, Antwerp, Tangier and New York as examples. Sierra Leone began moving to the landlord port model and increasing private participation in 2010. As part of this process, Bolloré Africa Logistics won a 25-year concession to operate the container terminal. The company is now investing in the construction of a seventh berth which will be completed in 2018, and will

accommodate deep sea vessels. The bulk and break bulk operations are operated by both Bolloré Africa Logistics and the UK based Nectar Group. Nectar's improved facilities for discharging bulk cargoes include new equipment, improved security and a comprehensive management system.

The Port of Freetown has been ranked among the top two in West Africa for dwell time since 2014, and was recently ranked first in the first quarter of 2016. About 80% of containers are cleared within five days upon discharge at the quay. Nevertheless, taking into account the potential for increased trade flow and reduced costs, the President's Delivery Team is helping the Sierra Leone Ports Authority further enhance process efficiency to improve the experience of customers when clearing goods from the port.

Jeanette Rose, Sector Coordinator – Governance, with the President's Delivery Team, explains: "A robust customer outreach mechanism which includes the introduction of a Single Window will increase transparency and efficiency. The Governance team is supporting the design and implementation of these as part of the President's Recovery Priorities, reflecting the political support behind the process."

Electronic Single Windows have become the norm in ports around the world. In EU member states, ports were obliged to implement them by June 2015 and stop accepting paper forms. The new World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement also encourages member states to introduce Single Windows. They benefit importers and exporters by simplifying and demystifying processes, improving coordination between agencies, enhancing transparency, reducing the time and cost of doing business and reducing the compliance burden.

Introducing the Single Window is a challenging project, which entails strategic planning and effective use of IT, financial and human resources. "The collaborative and consultative process includes customer needs' analyses and regular stakeholder meetings to ensure information exchange and joint project ownership," says Jeanette Rose. "Furthermore a technical committee co-chaired by the National Revenue Authority and the Sierra Leone Ports Authority has been set up to review lessons learned from the region and submit recommendations."

The President's Recovery Priorities process is complementing these investments with the complete rehabilitation of the Port's Main Exit Road which will decongest port traffic and increase security and safety for customers.

"Changes in the shipping world are swinging our way and the growth of African and South American economies and trade creates exciting opportunities," says AB Bangura. "We have made it our mandate to ensure streamlined and transparent trading processes for stakeholders, maximising the economic and geographic advantages of the Port of Freetown."

## DISTRICT FOCUS

### NaCSA safety net beats poverty



*The recovery process is supporting 47,000 extremely poor and vulnerable households by providing unconditional cash transfers under the Social Safety Net (SSN) system. These also have the effect of stimulating local economies.*

**S**peaking at the recent meeting of the Development Partners Committee, the World Bank country manager commended the SSN cash transfer system which he had seen in action in Moyamba.

Payments of the cash transfers are done quarterly in each district, and are made to the female heads of the households within the scheme, using mobile money to facilitate quick and easy payments.

The process is monitored by officials from NaCSA and the Anti-Corruption Commission, in collaboration with the media and

district authorities. This is to ensure payments are made to the right beneficiaries.

Marion Kamara from Looking Town in Waterloo was a poor woodcutter and stone-breaker who couldn't afford to pay fees for her six children. Her husband was too old and weak to provide for the home or his family, and so at 52 years of age she became the sole breadwinner.

The hard, physical labour involved in her work badly affected her health but the family could not afford proper medical care. She often travelled to Waterloo to sell the wood she had gathered, but the tiny income she was able to get from this wasn't enough to send her children to school, and she was worried about their future.

Marion received her first cash transfer from NaCSA in mid July. The cash transfer made it possible for Marion to set up a small business selling vegetables and other foodstuff. This allows her to support her family and she no longer has to walk the Waterloo highway to sell her wood.

## ENERGY

### Tackling electricity crimes will help develop the sector



***A major objective of the President's Recovery Priorities, is doubling access to energy by June 2017. A new inter-ministerial agreement will help tackle the widespread theft of electricity that is robbing the country of billions of Leones each year— revenue that could be used for developing the sector.***

**F**ollowing a concept note produced by the President's Delivery Team, which highlighted the high spate of electricity-related crimes and their negative impact on customers and revenue, the Inter-Ministerial Framework Agreement on Tackling Electricity Crimes was signed on 17 August 2016 by the Ministries of Energy, Internal Affairs and Justice, the Office of the Attorney General and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Crimes such as tampering with meters and power lines, stealing

cables and damaging equipment do not just cost the energy sector money. They can lead to injury and death. They cause the system to either overload or load shed (when electric power shuts off in part or parts of the power-distribution system) – both of which can cause household fires and serious damage to machinery.

Ambassador Henry Macauley, Minister of Energy says that the framework agreement recognises and commits the parties to work on a joint strategy to tackle the problem: "Everyone pays for electricity crimes. They cause higher prices so that honest customers end up paying for the stolen power, parts and equipment. Electricity crimes lead to technical problems that slow down production, and damage machinery and appliances, effectively impeding the growth and efficiency of all sectors of our economy. Electricity crimes are also illegal and the new Inter-Ministerial Framework Agreement commits to expediting the prosecution of all civil and criminal matters relating to electricity."

Other goals shared by the parties to the new Inter-Ministerial Framework Agreement include increasing the customer base of the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority through the prevention of illegal connections; enforcing the protection of generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure and equipment from theft and sabotage; supporting the entry of international electricity projects and public and private sector electricity companies in the energy sector in Sierra Leone; and helping protect people from electricity related injuries.