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STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN SIERRA LEONE

9TH QUARTERLY REPORT: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
APRIL 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007

June 2007

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Strengthening of Democratic Governance in Sierra Leone

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I. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

Notable events during the quarter included the following:

MSI'S TECHNICAL DIRECTOR FOR SDG VISITS SIERRA LEONE

MSI's Technical Director for SDG in Washington, Zoey Breslar, visited Sierra Leone for a week in May 2007. In addition to meeting our partner agencies on budgetary and program issues, she had an audience with USAID to discuss the work plan for the final year of the program, March 2007 to March 2008. Breslar also addressed the anticipated changes in management for the final six months of the program, clarifying the responsibilities of SDG senior staff when the current COP will take the role of Technical Advisor and the Deputy Chief of Party will become the Chief of Party.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF KONO RICC

The Kono Regional Information and Community Center was officially opened this quarter. The USAID Country Program Manager, Christine Sheckler, gave the keynote address. Together with the representative of the Council chair, she cut the tape representing the colors of Sierra Leone and the United States of America. The ceremony was included drama performances by the Tegloma Cultural Theatre group that traveled all the way from Kailahun to Kono.

TDS-SDG COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP

The quarterly one-day SDG-TDS meeting was held at the Kono RICC. TDS committed to working with SDG staff to carry out intensive media work on the current foci of the program—Matching Funds, drama performances on Council affairs, community forums, and the adult literacy program ongoing in Kailahun. Attention was also given to the debates, community awareness and education on the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

CSO-MANAGED PARTICIPATORY FORUMS

The four CSOs contracted by the program, namely, Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Center for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health Education (CePSRHE), Partnership Action for Community Empowerment (PACE), and Organization of Master Trainers (OMaT) have organized successful forums in the target communities, far away from the capital district headquarter towns. The DPCs and the CMs are now fully involved in the debates with no responsibilities for logistics.

MATCHING FUNDS PROCESS

The Match Fund Managers met 3 times to share experiences on the process involved in meeting the criteria to access SDG funds. Five communities in the Kono District qualified for SDG Matching Funds. A total of Le 50 million worth of building materials and services provided to the five communities. One of the major concerns on the matching criteria was to ensure that communities adhere to their commitment to meet their input in the budget and the action plans. This commitment must be endorsed by the Ward Committee.

2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DURING QUARTER

This section of the report is ordered in accordance with the Third Annual Work Plan, and follows the logic of the program's Special Objective (Democratic Governance Strengthened) and the two Intermediate Results directed towards achieving it:

- broadened political participation, and
- citizens, local government and CSOs better-informed

I. BROADENED POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (IR 1)

This intermediate result consists of:

- communities participating in decentralized governance,
- participatory forums, and
- local leaders fulfilling their roles.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE

Community Plans for Participation in Governance (CPPGs)

The CPPGs continue to provide the framework for the communities' involvement in governance as they aspire to access funds through the Matching Fund process to implement projects in the community. In Kono, where SDG Matching Funds have been accessed, the CPPG was utilized to ensure that the project being implemented was originally stated as a community priority. However, there are still challenges—namely, the absence of Councilors in their residential areas, and the fact that most of the projects in the CPPGs are not reflected in the District Development Plan and the Councils' annual budgets. The high spirit of partisan politics is also deterring some community members to work collaboratively around their burning issues. In all the target areas, except Kono, the CPPG remains about the same as the original plans. Additional burning issues in the Kono district included primary school rehabilitation, fencing of recreational ground, accommodation for health Officer, and nursery school.

Matching Funds

The Matching Funds strategy was introduced in the last quarter to assist in the implementation of some of the projects captured by the CPPGs. SDG will match up to a maximum of 10,000,000 Leones received from the district, town or Chiefdom Councils. Several meetings have been held with Council officials, the Paramount Chiefs, and the communities, where detailed explanations were given on the qualification criteria for the Matching Fund. Community projects in all areas have been identified. Action plans and budgets for these projects have been made by the communities, facilitated by the Match Fund Managers, and then presented to Council for consideration for funding.

Annex A tabulates the Matching Funds tracking data for the quarter. Only communities in Kono district have been able to qualify for funds to date, receiving a total amount of 50 million leones worth of building materials and services from the Paramount chiefs through the Chiefdom Councils. The funds from the chiefs come from the Diamond Area Community Development Fund. In addition to these allocations, the Kono District Council and the Kono/New Senbwehun City Council have made verbal and written commitments to some of the wards. The wards are still waiting for the promised funds. In Kailahun, Kabala and Tongo Fields, action plans and budgets have been made. Whereas Kailahun and Koinadugu have—through their various Councilors—presented their requests to Council, Tongo fields has not yet approached possible funding sources.

Lessons learned to date:

- Continuation of the SDG process when the Council has declined the request for funds by assisting communities to ensure that their projects are in the next District Development Plan and budget.
- Even when the communities are not able to secure funding for their CPPG, people are appreciative of the process and will use it in future.
- Communities are surprised at what can be done with small amounts of money.
- The importance of the community meeting to agree on the project and individuals' commitments before presentation to the Ward Committee.
- The importance of the Ward Committee meetings that authorize the Councilor to submit the requests of the community and relay the feedback from the Council.

Public Attendance at Ward Committee Meetings

As shown in the table below and annex B, public attendance at Ward Committee meetings during this quarter increased slightly in Kailahun and Kono, and Tongo Fields. Low numbers of Ward Committee meetings, especially in Koinadugu, are attributed to the tense electioneering campaign for the parliamentary and presidential elections, and the fact most of the Councilors in this area are not resident in their wards. The roads to the interior wards in the program's target areas have deteriorated with the coming rains and some Councilors have unsuccessfully requested that their Ward Committee members come to Kabala, the headquarter town for Koinadugu District, for meetings. In fact, only two meetings were held in the entire quarter. A number of Councilors also asserted that they could not afford calling Ward Committee meetings because they do not have money to feed the members.

Interestingly, the average number of meetings held for all the 50 wards in the program area remained the same for this quarter and the last quarter.

Number of Ward Committee Meetings Held During Quarter by District

District	No. of Wards	No of meetings Jan-march	Average per ward Jan-March	No of meetings April-June	Average per ward April-June
Kailahun	21	30	1.43	34	1.62
Koinadugu	7	6	0.86	2	0.29
Kono DC	13	13	1.00	17	1.31
Koidu T.C	3	1	0.33	3	0.33
Tongo Fields	6	7	1.17	2	0.33
Aggregate	50	57	1.17	57	1.14

Councilor Representation and Feedback to Wards

As more awareness is created in the communities about the SDG Matching Funds, some Councilors were put under pressure to present the communities demands to Council. Feedback is being received by the Ward Committee and communities. Other than for the appeal for Matching Funds, engagement on the part of the Councilors has decreased in most of the target areas as the partisan campaign for both presidential and parliamentary elections intensified during the quarter. Councilors have concentrated more on their political party primaries for the election of candidates rather than the business of representing and communicating with their communities, in spite of the refresher Ward Committee trainings conducted by World Vision and International Rescue Committee. In Kailahun, the Chairman appealed to Councilors to improve their attendance at Council meetings. He warned that written flimsy excuses for poor attendances will be thoroughly scrutinized as this is injustice to the democratic process, depriving Ward Committee and communities of vital information.

PARTICIPATORY FORUMS

During this quarter, SDG contracted civil society organizations (one in each target district: MNJD; PACE; OMaT; and CePSRHE) to assume responsibility for running the forums. In this way, the program is now able to conduct the forums at the community level, obviating the need for participants to travel and allowing the topics to address each community’s specific concerns. The CMs ensure that the community is informed about the event, but are now—along with the DPCs—able to focus their attention on participating more fully in the debates (see Annex C for guidelines for CMs and DPCs with this new arrangement). Initial reactions to community level forums are positive, and deliberations have become more participatory as they are being held in the local dialect.

In Kono, six forums were held and the topics centered on the Ward Committees, inclusiveness in development, and women in governance and development. In total, 386 community members attended (see details in annex D). The main action points to be implemented are:

- Local authorities to consult their leaders
- Regular Ward Committee meetings to be held
- Female youth to attend meetings
- Tax collection and accountability processes put in place
- Citizens are to improve their attendance at Ward Committee meetings
- More training for Ward Committee members and Paramount Chiefs, and more information sharing among them
- Councilors encouraged to be resident in their wards

- Councilor encouraged to work closely with Ward Committee members
- Ward Committee to leave out political party sentiments
- Replacement of ineffective Ward Committee members
- Citizens to embrace winners of elections

The town chiefs, the Councilors, the citizens and the Ward Committee will ensure that the above be carried out.

In Tongo Fields, where four forums were held, the topics focused on communication, leadership, youth development and unity. On the topic of youth marginalization, it was not surprising that we had more male youth in attendance than other groups (again, see annex D). Average attendance per forum is just over 100 people. The action points on the forums managed by CePSRHE included:

- Provision of skills training center to engage the youths
- Constant reconciliation and peace building meetings between the chiefs and the people
- Advocacy for transparency
- Provision of social amenities
- Reorganization of shattered youth clubs
- Leadership training for youths
- Encouragement of youth participation in development

OMaT organized the three forums in Koinadugu. The forums in Koinadugu attracted more participants than the other program areas (by more than 100 people total). The resulting action points, to be carried out by working committees, are:

- Contact the District Medical officer for the allocation of health personnel
- Arrange for representation to Council so that the community will benefit from Council funds

In Kailahun, three forums have been held. The PACE facilitator at Buedu Ward worked with the community members who performed a short skit to illustrate the forum topic Ward Committee as factor for community development. The lively performance opened up the discussions that ensued. The other topic debated in the other communities was 'The Role of Citizens and Councilors in Community Development.'

Leaders that attended the forums included town chiefs and section chiefs, Councilors, Council Chairmen and the Chief Administrators. At the forum in Buedu in the Kailahun district, the Paramount Chief was personally present despite his failing health. This provided encouragement to the forum organizers and the community people.

LOCAL LEADERS FULFILL THEIR ROLE

Training of Ward Committees

Following the Ward Committee training provided by SDG and Oxfam over a year ago, the Decentralization Secretariat (DecSec) retrained the Tongo Fields wards in December last year. World Vision conducted refresher trainings in Tongo Fields and Kono target areas during the last quarter, as did IRC—though the latter incorporated some additional elements: staffing of Local Councils, financial provisions, property rates, development planning, responsibilities of the Ministry of Local Government, and the role of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. A total of 252 Ward Committee members, including some Paramount Chiefs/representatives, benefited from the IRC training.

Paramount Chiefs' Place within the Democratic Ward Structure

Collaboration between the Paramount Chiefs and the Councilors has improved slightly with the political environment focused on the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. In Kailahun, a few of the Paramount Chiefs have attended Ward Committee meetings. In Kono, chiefs have contributed DACDF monies towards the SDG match for CPPGs thus demonstrating their support for development activities and the continued functionality of the Chiefdom Councils. In Koinadugu, where there is no DACDF, Paramount Chiefs have yet to respond to community requests.

SDG, with support from DecSec, continues to plan an Effective Leadership Symposium for Paramount Chiefs in September of this year. It is anticipated that, after this training and subsequent coaching by SDG staff, the chiefs will be more supportive of the local government structures and processes.

Monitoring of Councils' Functioning in Accordance with their Mandate

All program staff, including the field officers from our collaborating partner Talking Drum Studio, are directly involved in monitoring district Council performance. Ideally, information concerning allocations made to the District Council and their disbursement is passed to the communities so that communities can hold their Councilors accountable. In most of the communities, as the time for the annual development plans and budgeting approach, communities have started to engage their Councilors so that they are accountable and represent the communities' priorities as the District Development Plans are crafted. With the intensive community sensitization on the Matching Funds process, communities have also been asking that their Councilors explain to them why they would not provide some funds for their small projects from the local tax revenues.

DPCs have been collaborating with the Council coaches to glean information about how the Council prepares its annual budget and to what extent the community is involved in the process. As stated in the last quarterly report, DecSec published a performance grading report for all Councils which placed some of the Councils in the program areas far above average. Some civil society organizations have indicated that they like to be a party to the next round of Council performance assessments.

2. CITIZENS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CSOs BETTER INFORMED (IR 2)

This intermediate result consists of:

- the Regional Information and Community Centers (RICCs),
- Councils and their different elements being more aware of their role, and
- civil society organizations better representing their constituents.

REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY CENTERS (RICCS)

Establishment of RICCs

All the SDG Regional Information and Community Centers (RICCs) have now been officially inaugurated and have adequate space for resource materials and rooms for meetings.

Resource Materials for RICCs

Each RICC has a stock of standard materials: the Local Government Act, the National Youth Policy, other government legislation, general health and development literature, and local information such as Council minutes and financial statements. There are a number of materials on the election processes, including specific materials on voting. Courtesy of World Vision's "Gifts in Kind" program, all the RICCs were supplied with books and sporting equipment like footballs, volleyballs and handballs. The SDG program continues to make direct appeals to CSOs, INGOs and government institutions for relevant materials for the RICCs. The RICCs are now regarded not only as a place to obtain accurate and current information, but also as learning centers. In the Kailahun RICC, adult literacy and numeracy classes have been ongoing for over nine months. SDG is planning to replicate this training in the other three program RICCs.

Utilization of RICCs

The RICCs have increasingly become the centers of attention for various activities in the districts. Apart from providing information, they are a venue for discussions, the repository of information about District Council affairs, and—in the case of Kailahun RICC—the location of adult literacy classes for women. In addition, the program currently has staff in all the RICCs who attend to the needs of the users. These assistants speak the local languages and are able to relate with the public and assist in providing services.

Community Events Held at the RICCs

In addition to events run by the program, the RICCs provide space for other purposes. Below are tables listing events held in the RICCs during the quarter. A wide range of meetings are held in the RICCs, though—per program guidelines—no partisan activities are hosted so that the center can maintain its neutrality.

Events held at RICC- Koinadugu

Date	Event	Run by whom?	Purpose	Attendance (approx.)
April 19-20	Training	SDG in collaboration with CCYA	Capacity Building Training on Youth Engagement and Participation in 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	55
May 4	CSP meeting	CCF-S/L	Develop country strategic Plan for CCF-S/L	20
May 9	Community drama training	SFCG/TDS	Production of radio drama on democratic governance	10
May 11	Training of CORPs	D/F	Training on ITN management use and monitoring	15
June 11	Training workshop	CARE - Kabala	To improve the knowledge and skills of CARE staff at Kabala about malaria	27
June 14	Scaling up of Say workshops	CARE - Kabala	To make sure that teachers and DEO are able to take responsibilities	30
June 17	Meeting	NEC	Meeting for all would-be aspirants and other electoral stakeholders	25

Events held at RICC - Tongo Fields

Date	Event	Run by Whom?	Purpose	Attendance
May 23	Meeting	Integrated Diamond Management Project	Certification ceremony of small stone diamond and smarter trainees	260
May 25	Discussion Forum	Center for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health education (CEPSRHE)	Community forum discussion on the inclusion of youth as partners in decision making	60
June 1	Sensitization meeting on political tolerance	Deputy Inspector General of Police S/Leone	Talk to police personnel and political parties executives and the community at large	230
June 15	Quiz competition	CEPSRHE	School quiz and drama competition on HIV/AIDS prevention and care	87
June 15	Meeting	Lower Bambara Youth Council	Final selection of election observers	6
June 16	Film show	SDG Team and SLTU	Celebration of the Day Of the African Child for School Children	300
June 18	Meeting	Integrated Diamond Management Project	Corporate social responsibility for mining companies	40
June 21	Meeting	National Election Watch	Election observation meeting	50
June 25	Training	MUNAME Agricultural Association	Peer educator training on HIV/AIDS program	30
June 28	Meeting	CCF/SDG Team	Exchange visit	5
June 30	Graduation ceremony	Islamic Pre-Primary School	Graduation	70

Events held at RICC - Kono

DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	ORGANIZERS
April 15	Monitoring of drama rehearsal	Drama Group Director
April 17	Koidu New Sembehun City Council Meeting	KNSCC
April 16	DPC/CMs/TDS Planning Meeting	DPC
April 25-26	Capacity Training for Youth Leaders on Youth engagement & Participation in the July 2007 Presidential & Parliamentary Elections	CCYA
May 8-10	HIV/AIDS workshop	UNICEF/MoHS
May 12	Community sensitization workshop on child labor and trafficking	Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking - FFAST
May 17	Workshop on street/vulnerable children	UNICEF
May 21	Joint Program Review and Collaborative Activity Planning meeting	MSI/TDS
May 27	Council meeting (general)	Koidu New Sembehun City Council
May 30	Official Opening of the Kono District Regional Information and Community Centre	MSI
June 28	Koidu New Sembehun City Council General/Monthly meeting	Koidu New Sembehun City Council
June 28	HIV/AIDS sensitization workshop	Right To Play

Events held at RICC - Kailahun

Date	Type of Event	Attendance			Organized by
		M	F	Total	
April 19-21	Ward Development Planning W/shop	16	10	26	GTZ/FSR
April 23-24	Ward Development Planning W/shop	18	8	26	GTZ/FRS
April 25-26	Youth Leaders' Training	40	30	70	CCYA/IRC-SDG
April 28	Matching Fund Sensitisation Meeting	32	16	48	IRC/SDG
April 30	Quiz Competition	57	32	89	IRC/SDG
May 1	Managers meeting	8	9	17	Oxfam GB
May 8	Celebration of Dumont's birthday	80	70	150	S.Leone Red Cross Society
May 11	Voter Registration Exhibition	20	3	23	NEC
May 12	Independent Radio Network Meeting	25	10	35	IRN
May 20	Conflict prevention Forum for the 2007 parliamentary and presidential elections	35	10	45	NDI&DSL
May 25-27	Literacy training for women groups	6	13	19	IRC/SDG
May 31	Literacy Sensitisation meeting	75	40	135	IRC/SDG
May 28-30	Pump Attendants training workshop	60	4	64	AHDESS
June 5	GBV Sensitisation Meeting	29	11	40	Save the children
June 8	Meeting for ABU executives	30	8	38	ABU
June 14-15	Training of Police Personnel on the 2007 presidential and parliamentary Elections.	69	5	74	Sierra Leone Police
June 21	Community Drama Training	20	5	25	SFCG/TDS
June 25	Group Counselling for Oxfam leavers	18	2	20	Oxfam GB
June 28-29	Civil Security sector meeting	29	6	35	Conciliation Resources
Total Attendance		667	292	959	

RICC Sustainability

The DPCs are acting on opportunities to infuse sustainability elements within the current structure of the management of the RICCs. In Kailahun and Kono, there is potential for collaboration with the Sierra Leone Library Board. In Kailahun, there is a possibility of collaboration with MARWOPNET (Mano River Women Peace Network), as they have plans to set up an Internet café near the RICC. RICC sustainability is top priority for the entire SDG team, who will be working with communities to take over the governance of the centers in the immediate coming months.

CSO Support in Self-Reflection

After the most recent SDG gathering held for CSOs in January 2007, only a few organizations have expressed interest in further working with SDG. The program still remains open to any suggestions in this capacity. Plans are underway to carry out a comprehensive study of the CSO sector in September of this year to determine how USAID, other donors, the GOSL, and the CSOs themselves can work to strengthen organizations that play the educational, watchdog, service delivery and representative functions of civil society.

Drama Performances

The drama performances in the wards have brought entertainment to the communities while conveying messages and concepts about the decentralization system and structures. The drama performances were held in local languages and tailored to the issues specific to the target wards. Participants asked a few clarifying questions at the end of the display which were answered. Prior to the start of the performances, the groups' comedians went around the village and attracted large audiences to the venues.

The skits addressed the role of citizens, community leaders, Councilors and Council depicting a good Councilor and a bad Councilor. The good Councilor consulted his Ward Committee, was transparent and accountable, brought feedback from the Council and mobilized resources for the community. Due to this demonstrated commitment the citizens are motivated and participate fully in development ventures. The bad Councilor was the opposite: lacked commitment, not transparent and accountable, and did not share information with his Ward Committee members and communities. In this example, the youth and women are marginalized especially in decision-making.

The above theme is seen to address most of the issues that occur in the wards and some positive actions are now being considered by the appropriate leaders. For example, in Luawa Ward 3 in the Kailahun District, where the Ward Committee members have openly demonstrated their concern about their Councilor's ineffectiveness, the Councilor in question—after attending the drama performance—has made efforts to call a Ward Committee meeting and to attend SDG activities.

3. MANAGEMENT, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, MONITORING & EVALUATION

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO USAID

In accordance with contractual requirements, the following documents were submitted:

- The program's 8th Quarterly Report (for the period January - March 2006)
- The revised annual work plan for March 2007 through March 2008.

INTERACTION WITH USAID

In May, Zoey Breslar, MSI's Technical Director for SDG in Washington, met with Christine Sheckler (USAID Country Program Manager), Abdulai Jalloh (SDG CTO), and Jenny Jalloh (Program Officer) regarding SDG program management, the third annual work plan, and M& E indicators.

Later, USAID/Guinea Program Officer and the SDG CTO visited the Kabala area in the Koinadugu District. The visitors noted, among other things, that SDG contributed to the successful campaign of a female aspirant for the primaries for one of the constituencies in the district.

ONGOING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATION

Opening of the Kono RICC

Christine Sheckler and Abdulai Jalloh traveled to Kono where they officially opened the Kono RICC on the 30th of June 2007. While there, they met with Council officials, SDG

District Participation Coordinators and Community Mobilizers, and some civil society organizations. The SDG senior management and the Deputy Chairman of the Kono Town Council welcomed the USAID team on behalf of the Mayor of the Kono City Council. In her keynote address, Christine Sheckler spoke of how a new set of vocabulary and words is being used that were not often spoken of three years ago—people now talk of governance, accountability, transparency, Councilors, decentralization and Ward Committees. Communities are also now making demands of both the central and local governments. She said that the SDG initiative has affected the rural communities and made information flow more effective. She noted that USAID looks forward to free, fair and credible general and presidential elections come 11th August 2007. Christine Sheckler emphasized the need for political neutrality in the usage of the RICC. RICC materials should cater for all categories of community people, including children. Attention must also be given to environmental degradation, land use and planning, literacy and numeracy training, and health information and job information—especially for youth. Women should be encouraged to participate in governance.

Program Management Team

The Program Management Team met during the quarter and was welcomed by the Chief of Party, who expressed his appreciation that everyone had attended the meeting. The Program strategic implementation diagram was re-explained highlighting the current focal areas, namely:

- CSO-managed forums within the program communities in the districts,
- dramatic performances in all the wards,
- the provision of matching funds to enable the implementation of the CPPGs,
- the need for more resources for the RICC,
- the sustainability of the RICCs, and,
- the planned leadership symposium for Paramount Chiefs.

A table of the 2007- 2008 work plan already presented to USAID was discussed and some future activities further explained in detail.

The funding for program-wide technical support to be provided by each partner was discussed. IRC will continue to air gender programs in the Kailahun area, and they intend to introduce special gender messages to the theater groups that could then be incorporated into the performances in the wards. A two-day gender workshop will also be held in Kailahun and the MSI management, and the DPCs will be invited to participate. CCF and World Vision also noted that they will carry out similar programs on conflict mitigation and child protection, respectively. WVI distributed a sample of the community field questionnaire to collect information on conflict resolution that will then be fed into the framework for the pending workshop for the other partners.

MSI gave a brief account of the progress of the CSO-managed forums in the various communities. Mention was also made of the drama performances in the wards in which most communities have already started to request repeat performances. A formal arrangement has been put in place to have the performances technically produced on video tapes by Talking Drums Studio.

On M&E, the team discussed current data collection activities, and a copy of the new standard USAID indicators chosen for SDG was distributed to the team. These include:

- Local Government and Decentralization (GJD 2.3) - Number of Local

Mechanisms Supported with USG Assistance for Citizens to Engage their Sub-National Government

- Local Government and Decentralization (GJD 2.3) - Number of individuals who Received USG-Assisted Training, including Management Skills and Fiscal Management, to Strengthen Local Government and/or Decentralization
- Anti-Corruption Reforms (GJD 2.4) - Number of Mechanisms for External Oversight of Public Resource Use Supported by USG Assistance

SDG awaits further direction from USAID on the collection and reporting of the new indicators.

Collaboration with Talking Drum Studios

Collaboration between Talking Drum Studios field producers and the DPCs continued during this quarter in Kabala, Tongo Fields, Kono, and Kailahun. TDS producers are part of the SDG team that determined the community forum topics that are debated in the communities under the management of the 4 contracted CSOs.

The TDS officers continued to moderate a number of radio programs this quarter. In Kono, the DPC and the DCOP were involved in a radio program on the Matching Funds process. In Kabala, Radio Bintumani continued to air the weekly governance program in addition to a new radio discussion program on youth and female participation in the electioneering process. In Kailahun, the newly appointed TDS producer had a discussion with Radio Moa and efforts are being made to restart the Council Hour.

Interaction with Civil Society Organizations

The IRC literacy trainer organized a training-of-trainers workshop for several women's CSOs, namely MARWOPNET, 50-50, and Women in Action (WIA). The purpose of the workshop was to train the groups so that they will go back and organize adult literacy classes for members of their respective organizations.

SDG field team in Koinadugu participated in a one-day workshop organized by ENCISS at their Makeni office. The workshop brought together state actors and CSOs so as to collaborate at the national level for the development of the entire nation. Main issues deliberated upon included:

- Free flow of information
- Effective communication
- Equal participation
- Transparency

National Election Watch (NEW) continued to organize meetings and workshops on voter education and the forthcoming elections. There were almost daily contacts between the SDG team and the CSOs involved in election efforts including the National Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Oxfam, Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the National Electoral Commission (NEC), and numerous radio stations. The DPCs also attended a number of meetings and seminars organized by the Center for the Coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA), the organization implementing a USAID program on youth participation in the national elections process.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring of program activities continues with the SDG M&E Specialist collecting and collating data on required indicators for the SDG program. Given USAID/Sierra Leone's new Operational Plan and the new set of indicators, additional data will be collected to complement the data that has been collected by SDG to date. A quarterly survey will also be carried out in the communities where forums were held, assessing the new management arrangement for these events.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A financial statement showing program expenditure through June 30, 2007 is attached as annex E.

4. MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING QUARTER

During the coming quarter, the following activities are anticipated:

- Commencement of adult literacy and numeracy classes at the Kono, Tongo Fields, and Kabala RICCs and SDG target community members.
- Junior Secondary Schools quiz competition for pupils in the program areas.
- Ward Committees quiz competition for program areas.
- Drama performances on child abuse, conflict management and gender issues.
- IRC gender workshop for SDG team and partners.
- Follow up on RICC sustainability.
- Another TDS/SDG collaborative workshop.
- Production of video and radio recordings of the drama performances.
- Assistance with the presidential and parliamentary elections through partnerships with NEW and CCYA.
- First quarterly meeting with CSOs managing community participatory forums.
- First quarterly survey conducted in communities where forums were held.
- Change of COP.
- A three-week study of the civil society sector in Sierra Leone

ANNEXES

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ANNEX A

Match Fund Tracking

ID	Community	District	Burning issue selected	Project objective	Action Plan completed	Budget completed	Community Meeting held	Ward Committee meeting held	Plan & budget submitted to Council	Council commitment received	SDG Approval given	SDG Contribution (Le)	Percentage Funds Disbursed	Project completed
1	Koindu	Kailahun	x	Youth Centre	x	x	x	x						
2	Kangama	Kailahun	x	25 VIP Latrines	x	x	x	x						
3	Dia	Kailahun	x	Construction of a guest house	x	x	x	x						
4	Buedu	Kailahun	x	30 VIP Latrines	x	x	x	x						
5	Kailahun	Kailahun	x	Naming of streets& no. of houses in town	x	x	x	x						
6	Nyandehun	Kailahun	x	Construction of youth centre	x	x	x	x						
7	Mofindor	Kailahun	x	Construction of 5-room guest house	x	x	x	x						
8	Kpandebu	Kailahun	x	Construction of 35-two seater toilets	x	x	x	x						
9	Pendembu	Kailahun												
10	Siama	Kailahun	x	Store for the health post	x	x	x	x						
11	Levuma	Kailahun	x	Rice Mill	x	x	x	x						
12	Mobai	Kailahun	x	20 VIP toilets	x									
13	Kuiva	Kailahun	x	Community Barry	x	x	x							
14	Jojoima	Kailahun	x	Guest House	x	x	x							
15	Baiwala	Kailahun	x	Culvert in township	x									
16	Daru	Kailahun	x	3 class room school building	x	x	x	x						
17	Kortuma	Kailahun	x	Court Barry	x	x	x	x						
18	Segbwema	Kailahun	x	Water Wells (3)	x	x	x	x						
19	Bunumbu	Kailahun	x	Ward Committee Office										
20	Jokibu	Kailahun	x	Drying Floor	x	x	x	x						
21	Peje-Baoma	Kailahun	x	Community Barry	x	x	x	x						
22	Bandajuma	Kailahun	x	10 toilets construction	x	x	x							
23	Manowah	Kailahun	x	Construction of Teachers quarter										
24	Mamboma	Kailahun	x	10-hole toilets	x	x	x	x						
25	Woroma	Kailahun	x	Rice Mill	x	x	x	x						
26	Dankawalle	Koinadugu												
27	Kasunya	Koinadugu												
28	Gbenekoro	Koinadugu												
29	Yogomaia	Koinadugu	x	Culvert	x	x	x							
30	Kondeya	Koinadugu												
31	Kamadugu Sokuralla	Koinadugu												
32	Bambukoro (I)	Koinadugu	x	Two Drying Floors	x	x	x							
33	Koinadugu	Koinadugu	x	Store	x	x	x							
34	Yiraia	Koinadugu	x	Community School	x	x	x							
35	Yomadugu	Koinadugu	x	Store	x	x	x							
36	Heremakono	Koinadugu	x	Multi-purpose centre	x	x	x	x						
37	Yataya	Koinadugu	x	Seed Rice	x	x	x	x						
38	Gbawuria	Koinadugu												
39	Katombo II	Koinadugu	x	Rehabilitation of water well	x	x	x							
40	Madina Gbonkoben	Koinadugu	x	Community school	x	x	x							

ID	Community	District	Burning issue selected	Project objective	Action Plan completed	Budget completed	Community Meeting held	Ward Committee meeting held	Plan & budget submitted to Council	Council commitment received	SDG Approval given	SDG Contribution (Le)	Percentage Funds Disbursed	Project completed
41	Kassassie	Koinadugu	x	Community school	x	x	x							
42	Thankorosidia	Koinadugu	x	Rehabilitation of school	x	x	x							
43	Kamasapie	Koinadugu												
44	Manan	Koinadugu												
45	Yaedia	Koinadugu												
46	Sinkunia	Koinadugu												
47	Gbindi	Koinadugu												
48	Gberefeh	Koinadugu												
49	Sinikoro	Koinadugu												
50	Serekolia	Koinadugu	x	Store	x	x	x							
51	Tumania	Koinadugu	x	Multi-purpose centre	x	x	x							
52	Koakwima	Koidu City	x	Construction of football field	x	x	x	x				10,000,000		
53	Bongalow	Koidu City	x	Market	x	x	x	x				10,000,000		
54	Koeyor	Koidu City	x	Market	x	x	x	x				10,000,000		
55	Sinnah Town	Koidu City	x	Court Barry	x	x	x	x				10,000,000		
56	Small Sefadu	Koidu City	x	Community Town Hall	x	x	x	x	x	x		10,000,000		
57	Yardu	Kono District	x	Health Centre	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
58	Tombodu	Kono District	x	Rehabilitation of jnr Sec. School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10,000,000	100%	
59	Peyima	Kono District	x	Court Barry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10,000,000	100%	
60	Baiama	Kono District	x	Community Market	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
61	Tongoro	Kono District	x	Road	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
62	Njagbwema	Kono District	x	Health Post living Quarters	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
63	Waima	Kono District	x	Health Centre	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
64	Jaiama Sewafe 1	Kono District	x	Construction of Junior Sec. School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10,000,000	100%	
65	Jaiama Sewafe 2	Kono District	x	Construction of Junior Sec. School	X	X	X	X	X	X		10,000,000		
66	Jaiama Sewafe 3	Kono District	x	Construction of Junior Sec. School	X	X	X	X	X	X		10,000,000		
67	Massabendu	Kono District	x	Community Centre	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
68	Tefeya	Kono District	x	Community Guest House	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10,000,000	100%	
69	Yomandu	Kono District	x	Rehabilitation of Ansarul School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10,000,000	100%	
70	Jaiama Town	Kono District	x	Construction of Nursery School	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
71	Bumpeh	Kono District	x	Court Barry	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
72	Ngaiya	Kono District	x	Community Centre	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
73	Simbakoro	Kono District	x	Market	X	X	X	X				10,000,000		
74	Panguma	Kenema	X	Market	X	X	X	X	X					
75	Kamboma	Kenema	X	Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X					
76	Lalehun	Kenema	X	School	X	X	X	X	X					
77	Tokpombu 1&2	Kenema	X	Community Barry	X	X	X	X	X					
78	Foindu	Kenema	X	Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X					
79	Wuima	Kenema	X	School	X	X	X	X	X					
80	Lowuma	Kenema	X	Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X					
81	Konjo	Kenema	X	Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X					

ANNEX B

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM MONTHLY WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS TRACKING TABLE

KAILAHUN DISTRICT		NUMBER OF WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS								
COMMUNITY	WARD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Koindu	Kissi Teng 2	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Kangama	Kissi Teng 1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Dia	Kissi Kama 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Buedu	Kissi Tongi 2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kailahun	Luawa 1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Nyandehun	Luawa 5	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Mofindor	Luawa 4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Kpandebu	Luawa 8	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Pendebu	Upper Bambara 2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Siama	Upper Bambara 1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Levuma	Mandu 2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Mobai	Mandu 1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Kuiva	Mandu 1									
Jojoima	Malema 1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Baiwala	Dea 1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Daru	Jawei 1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Kortuma	Jawei 1									
Segbwema	Jaluhun 1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Bunumbu	Peje West 1									
Jokibu	Peje West 1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Peja-Baoma	Peja West 1									
Bandajuma	Yawei 1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Manowa	Peje Bongre 2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mamboma	Peje Bongre 1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Woroma	Penguia 1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0

KENEMA DISTRICT/ TONGO FIELDS		NUMBER OF WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS								
COMMUNITY	WARD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Panguma	Lower Bambara 6	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kamboma	Lower Bambara 6									
Lalehun	Lower Bambara 1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tokpombu	Lower Bambara 1									
Foindu	Lower Bambara 3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Wuima	Lower Bambara 5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lowuma	Lower Bambara 2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Konjo	Lower Bambara 4	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0

KOINADUGU DISTRICT		NUMBER OF WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS								
COMMUNITY	WARD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Dankawalie	Sengbeh 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kasunya	Sengbeh 2									
Kamadugu	Sengbeh 2									
Sokuralla	Sengbeh 2									
Yiraia	Sengbeh 2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Gbenekoro	Sengbeh 1									
Yogomaia	Sengbeh 1									
Kondeya	Sengbeh 1									
Bambukoro	Sengbeh 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Koinadugu	Sengbeh 1									
Yomadugu	Sengbeh 1									
Heremakono	Wara Wara Yangala 1									
Yataya	Wara Wara Yangala 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gbawuria	Wara Wara Yangala 1									
Katombo 2	Wara Wara Yangala 1									
Madina	Wara Wara Yangala 1									
Gbonkobon	Kasunko 3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Kassassie	Kasunko 2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Thankorosidia	Kasunko 2									
Kamasapie	Kasunko 2									
Manan	Dembelia Sinkunia 1									
Yaedia	Dembelia Sinkunia 1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinkunia	Dembelia Sinkunia 1									
Gbidi	Dembelia Sinkunia 1									
Gberefeh	Mongo Bendugu 3									
Sinikoro	Mongo Bendugu 3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Serekolia	Mongo Bendugu 3									
Tumania	Mongo Bendugu 3									

KONO DISTRICT		NUMBER OF WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS								
COMMUNITY	WARD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Yardu	Gbense 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tombodu	Kamara 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peyima	Kamara 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Baiama	Tankoro 1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tongoro	Tankoro 1									
Njagbwema	Fiama 1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Waima	Fiama 1									
Jaima Sewafe	Nimiyama 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Masabendu	Nimiyama 1									
Jaima Sewafe	Nimiyama 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Jaima Sewafe	Nimiyama 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tefeya	Sandor 1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Yamandu	Sandor 2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Jaiama Town	Nimikoro 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bumpeh	Nimikoro 5									
Ngaiya (Yengema)	Nimikoro 3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Simbakoro	Nimikoro 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0

KONO DISTRICT / KNSTC	NUMBER OF WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS								
COMMUNITY	WARD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Koakwima	KNSTC 3 (South)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bongalow									
Koeyor	KNSTC 1 (East)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinnah Town									
Small Sefadu	KNSTC 2 (West)	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

ANNEX C

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR DPCs (and CMs) ON FORUMS RUN BY CSOs

- 1 The CSOs are at your service in delivering the forums
- 2 The CSO's district representative will attend your monthly team meeting to be TOLD communities and topics of forums for the coming month (YOU decide)
- 3 Forums are supposed to be in a different community each time (only repeating a community when the others have all had their turn - e.g. Tongo Fields where there are fewer communities)
- 4 Topics should address issues FROM THE RESPECTIVE COMMUNITY (i.e. you should decide this on the basis of your knowledge of the community)
- 5 Dates and specific details of forums are for the CSO to arrange with the community concerned
- 6 Note that we are targeting two forums per month - and should really think of this as one every two weeks, as all 24 forums must be completed by the end of February 2008
- 7 No transport allowances or "brown envelopes" are payable - because these forums are specific to communities and nobody needs to travel except any district-level officials (for whom DPCs will make arrangements)
- 8 A small budget has been permitted to the CSOs for refreshments for participants
- 9 The relevant CM should attend each forum, to PARTICIPATE, not to get involved in logistics - which is what we are contracting the CSOs for
- 10 No "invitations" are sent out, because these tend to exclude those who do not receive them. These forums are PUBLIC and OPEN TO ALL. (Of course, they need to be announced and publicized, but not by means of individual invitations.)
- 11 The CSO is required to submit a one-page report along with a number of REDUCED participant survey forms after each forum
- 12 Each month the CSO should submit a report describing ALL forums held during that month
- 13 There is a "scope of work" attached to each CSO's contract - and this will be copied to the DPC so that you will know what they are required to do
- 14 Each CSO will give the name and telephone number of a DISTRICT resident who is responsible directly to the DPC for making all necessary arrangements. They will also name someone at their head office responsible to MSI. If you have any difficulty communicating with this person, please let me know and I will follow up with the CSO HQ.
- 15 ANY problems that arise in this whole process should be communicated as soon as possible with Ritchie Jones, DCOP, as he is primarily responsible for the program's fieldwork. (You may also contact me if you cannot contact Ritchie.)

Francis Johnston
COP
March 2007

ANNEX D

Outline summary of community attendance and the forum topics discussed

NMJD Forums – Kono District

Date	Community	Male Adult	Male Youth	Female Adult	Female Youth	Male Total	Female Total	Grand Total	Topic
15/05/07	Tombodu	43	27	23	1	70	24	94	The importance of inclusion & cooperation between leaders.
24/5/07	Sewafe	40	7	37	21	47	58	105	The importance of effective and regular Ward Committee meetings
13/06/07	Tefeya	64	8	22	8	72	30	102	The importance of effective and regular Ward Committee meetings.
23/06/07	Jaiama Nimikoro	55	16	25	15	71	40	111	Women's empowerment and participation in governance and development
Total								412	

CePSRHE Forums – Tongo Fields

Date	Community	Male Adult	Male Youth	Female Adult	Female Youth	Male Total	Female Total	Grand Total	Topic
08/05/07	Lowoma	50	15	25	05	65	30	95	Responsive leadership and citizens participation
25/5/07	Tokpombu	09	41	06	10	50	16	66	Youth Marginalization in Tokpombu
05/06/07	Kamboma	40	37	09	09	77	18	95	Effective communication for unity and development
23/06/07	Foindu	25	21	04	07	46	11	57	Effective communication and youth inclusion in community development
Total								313	

OMaT Forums – Koinadugu

Date	Community	Male Adult	Male Youth	Female Adult	Female Youth	Male Total	Female Total	Grand Total	Topic
21/05/07	Kassasie	59	67	72	67	126	139	265	A health center without medical personnel
22/5/07	Thankoro-sidia	42	29	29	46	71	75	146	No impact of Council support in the community
23/05/07	Kamasapie	27	27	24	42	54	66	120	The role of Council in development
Total								531	

PACE Forums – Kailahun

Date	Community	Male Adult	Male Youth	Female Adult	Female Youth	Male Total	Female Total	Grand Total	Topic
18/05/07	Kangama	29	25	09	15	54	24	78	The roles and responsibilities of citizens and Councilors in community development
24/5/07	Buedu	31	29	11	19	60	30	90	Performance of Ward Committee as a factor for community development
25/06/07	Kpandebu	19	23	14	18	42	32	74	The roles and responsibilities of citizens and Councilors in community development
Total								242	