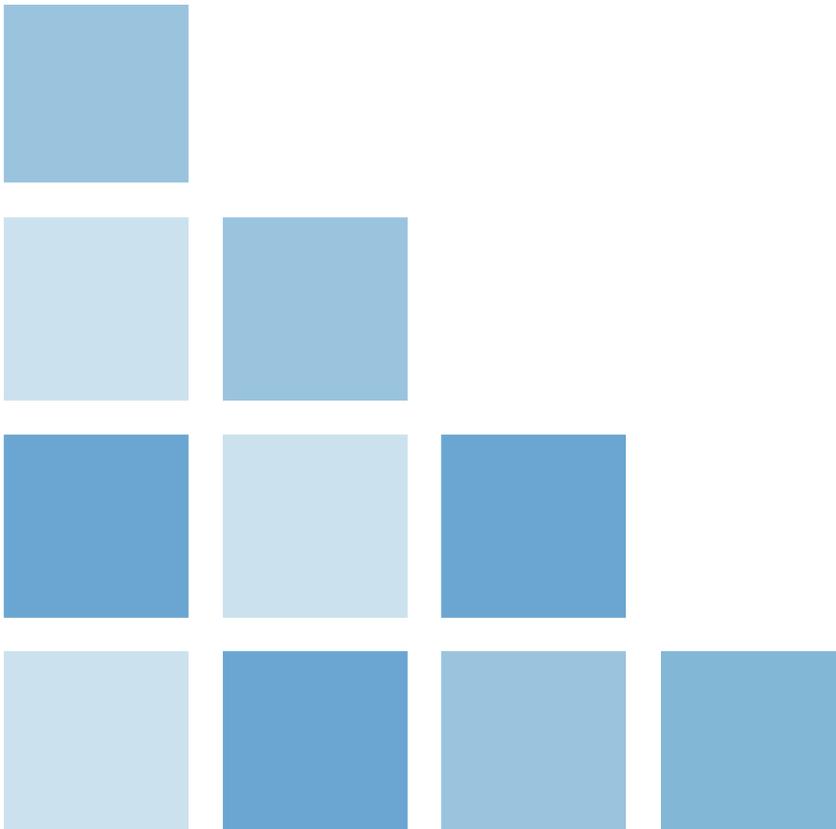


**Towards a Country Dialogue in Sierra Leone
Report of the Republic of Sierra Leone sponsored IDPS Planning Meeting**

Workshop Report

06-Dec-2017



Towards a Country Dialogue in Sierra Leone

Report of the Republic of Sierra Leone sponsored IDPS Planning Meeting

Purpose

Given the mandate of the IDPS, country dialogues aim to advance the use of the New Deal principles in particular in the pursuit of SDG 16+, prevention and sustaining peace agenda. The purpose of this consultation in Sierra Leone was to **initiate discussion across the International Dialogue's three constituencies** (government, development partners and civil society organisations) **in country, about what concretely, the substance of a future IDPS country dialogue would be, and about what sort of accompanying mechanism would be most appropriate.** An examination of Sierra Leone's last New Deal Fragility Assessment (2016) was used to kick start discussions about the current challenges facing Sierra Leone, about the Fragility Assessment (FA) itself as an analytical tool that might be further exploited in Sierra Leone, and about what the future focus of a country dialogue process should be.

Participants

Participants physically present included hosts, UNDP country director's office, officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Sierra Leone (DACO), Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Focal Point team (WANEP, WASH, SLANGO, Fumbul Tok) Development Partners (World Bank), IDPS Head of Secretariat. Virtual participants included IDPS secretariat (Paris); UNDP New Deal Implementation Support Facility; CSPPS Secretariat; Ministry of foreign affairs (Sweden); GIZ; DFID (See Annex for full list).

Bi-lateral meetings with IDPS Head of Secretariat

The planning meeting was followed up by two meetings with EU (Ambassador Tom Vens and Head of Multilateral Coordination, Thierry Cozier) and Ireland (Ambassador Catherine Campbell), who were not able to attend the meeting, but whose views are outlined in the concluding section of this report.

Main Takeaways

1. **Country dialogue or dialogue at country level implies both a process and series of interconnected events as well as a mechanism for operationalising dialogue.** Both are required to advance application of New Deal principles in Sierra Leone via country dialogue in country. There was general support and commitment expressed for a continuation of the country dialogue process set in motion, by this meeting.
2. **Sierra Leone's war ended 14 years ago.** The Fragility Assessment shows Sierra Leone as mid-way point in terms of resilience, with substantial progress on inclusive politics and security and persistent challenges regarding access to justice, with substantial variations across regions - **could be a model worth sharing with other countries.**
3. **The Fragility Assessment (FA) provides good qualitative inclusive assessment of state of play, but needs updating and enhancing** (to include other data, other issues e.g. environment, capacity and core functions) and more effective vertical and horizontal dissemination (political level uptake) to be fit for SDG localisation and national planning. FA can provide the content for future country dialogue.
4. **The need to improve access to justice was a major finding of the FA. A number of issues (resilience, environment) do not feature significantly in FA report, because the current FA methodology does not provide scope for it.** Economic downturn, concerns over security (policing, particularly in the context of

the forthcoming elections), environmental and structural economic and health sector service delivery challenges, were also noted as relevant. **As noted by g7+ recent review of the Fragility Spectrum, future revisions of the FA methodology will need to look at how to address these gaps. The current FA methodology is more qualitative than quantitative. An improved FA, based on a revised methodology, could include existing data, which could improve its robustness and relevance to a broader group of actors.**

5. **Implementation of FA results requires strategic high level political engagement, dissemination at opportune moments** when policies are getting drafted by Ministries, and a greater focus on Departments and Agencies.
6. **Resilience terminology requires greater clarity** about what resilience means, how to measure it and how it can be used to ‘fragility’ framing.
7. **Broad consensus that country dialogue as a means to disseminate New Deal principles across a wide group of stakeholders is critical to promote tolerance, prevent violent conflict and build trust in electoral process.** The **forthcoming elections** will see the presidential incumbent stepping down, and will take place without the support of a UN Mission. There is therefore a need to broaden out the dialogue and to be as inclusive as possible. This involves including broader stakeholders than just usual suspects: more civil society, government (beyond the Ministry of Finance) and political (parties as well as candidates) actors. This could also involve support to the Wan Fambul initiative, fostering convergence and connecting the dots between various initiatives that relate to realising the 2030 Agenda in SL (i.e. Pathfinders, Global Alliance, Open Government Partnership, etc.).
8. **Broad consensus that the objective of a multi-staged country dialogue process would be to re-energise frank policy dialogue around basic New Deal principles to foster inclusive, effective governance and mutual accountability.** There is a need to revive DEPAC (Development Partner, Government, Civil Society forum) as an inclusive, trusted forum for frank policy dialogue.
9. **Consensus around 3 staged country dialogue process** for ‘prevention’ demonstrating relevance of New Deal principles as a tool for National Planning, SDG localisation and to revive policy dialogue for mutual accountability, to contribute to the longer term objective of political dialogue process to foster inclusive governance and effective/accountable institutions.
10. **Any future country dialogue process would require tripartite action in country to move it forward,** with commitment by all represented to promote inclusion of a wider group of stakeholders within their constituency. This *could* include development partners (World Bank, UK, Germany, EU and Ireland tbc) and existing New Deal focal points (from civil society country teams and government (MoFED focal point)). **UNDP is willing to continue to support advancement of the process.**

Next steps

- **1ststage:** country dialogue meeting on **New Deal for prevention and sustained peace through peaceful elections and transition**, with wider group involving political parties. *Dialogue Secretariat to prepare and circulate concept note for consideration to prepare groundwork for stage 1.*
- **2nd stage:** engagement with new political dispensation on **how New Deal FOCUS tools** (including Fragility Assessment) can be updated and used in **National Planning for SDG** (especially SDG 16+) implementation (March/April onwards). The IDPS should first map, and aim to foster convergence between various initiatives underway by connecting the dots between initiatives that relate to realising the 2030 Agenda in SL (i.e. Pathfinders, Global Alliance, Open Government Partnership, amongst others).

Annex – List of participants

Planning Meeting : Towards a Country Dialogue in Sierra Leone

6th December, 2017, Freetown, UNDP Country Office

Name	Post	Mode of Participation
G7+		
Abie Elizabeth Kamara	Deputy Director, DACO, MOFED, SL, IDPS Co-Chair and g7+ co-chair rep	Sierra Leone – in person
Lucy Brewah	Technical staff, MoFED , Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone – in person
Abu David	Technical Staff, MoFED, Sierra Leone,	Sierra Leone – in person
Eugene Sawyerr	Technical staff, MoFED, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone – in person
Abdul Kai Kai	Technical staff, MoFED, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone – in person
Bienvenu Kovoungbo	Head of Multilateral Cooperation, Central African Republic	Virtually
INCAF		
Samuel Doe (INCAF)	UNDP Country Director, Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone – in person Host
Laurel Patterson (INCAF)	UNDP, New Deal Facility, New York	Virtually
Pau Blanquer (INCAF)	UNDP, New Deal Facility, New York	Virtually
Mafalda Marchioro (INCAF)	UNDP, New Deal Facility, New York	Virtually
Dr Mattner, Mark (INCAF)	GIZ for BMZ	Virtually
Chigomezgo Gelders (INCAF)	Senior Governance Advisor, DFID, Sierra Leone	Virtually
Parminder Brar (INCAF)	Country Director, World Bank	Sierra Leone – in person
Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding		
Peter van Sluijs (CSPPS)	Senior Strategist, CORDAID The Hague	Virtually
Erin McCandless (CSPPS)	IWG co-chair, Part time faculty member at The New School, New York	Virtually
Isata Mahoi (CSPPS)	National Network Coordinator, WANEP	Sierra Leone – in person
Foday Sesay (CSPPS)	Democracy and Development Associates - DADA-SL, Team lead on behalf of CSPPS focal point.	Sierra Leone – in person
John Caulker (CSPPS)	Coordinator, Fumbul Tok	Sierra Leone – in person
Musa Ansumana Soko (CSPPS)	Coordinator, WASHnet	Sierra Leone – in person
IDPS Secretariat		
Kathryn Nwajiaku	Head of Secretariat, IDPS	Sierra Leone – in person
Lisa Williams	Team Lead, OECD Paris	Virtually
Auriane Denis-Loupot	Junior Policy Analyst, IDPS	Virtually
Sybil Boulin	Trainee, IDPS	Virtually