



UNITED NATIONS
SIERRA LEONE



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Sierra Leone
2020-2023

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United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone

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Joint Statement and Signature Page

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2023 captures the agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone on the contribution of the UNCT, over the next four years, to the attainment of the national development targets set in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019-2023.

The UN system agencies, members of the UNCT in Sierra Leone, will ensure that the UN's collective human, technical and financial resources are organized and deployed in the most effective and efficient manner within the *'Delivering as One'* framework and in coordination with the Government of Sierra Leone.

We, the Government of Sierra Leone and members of the UNCT in Sierra Leone, commit to working together in full accountability to the people of Sierra Leone for achieving the outcomes of the UNSDCF and MTNDP, ensuring that *'no one is left behind'*.

For the Government of Sierra Leone



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Signature Page (continued)



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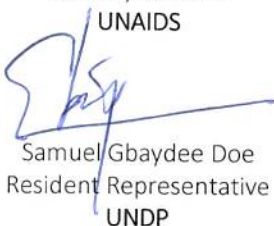
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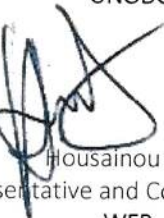
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ABBREVIATIONS

CSO:	Civil society organization	OHCHR:	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
DHS:	Demographic Health Survey	PFM:	Public financial management
ECD:	Early Childhood Development	SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
EVD:	Ebola virus disease	SLDHS	Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization	State SL	Statistics Sierra Leone
FBDGs	Food Based Dietary Guidelines	UNAIDS:	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
FGM:	Female genital mutilation	UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FQSE:	Free quality school education	UNCDF:	United Nations Capital Development Fund
FSU:	Family Support Unit	UNCT:	United Nations Country Team
GBV:	Gender-based violence	UNCTAD:	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
GDP:	Gross domestic product	UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer	UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
HMIS:	Health Management Information System	UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IAEA:	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
IFAD:	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UN Women:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
ILO:	International Labour Organization	UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
IOM:	International Organization for Migration	UNIDO:	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ITC:	International Trade Centre	UNODC:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
JSC	Joint Steering Committee	UNOPS:	United Nations Office for Project Services
MAF:	Ministry of Forestry	UNSDCF:	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MBSSE:	Ministry of Basic and Secondary School Education	UN RC:	United Nations Resident Coordinator
MDA:	Ministries, departments and agencies	UN WOMEN:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals	WASH:	Water, sanitation and hygiene
MICS:	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey	WCA:	Western and Central Africa
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	WP :	Work plan
MOHS:	Ministry of Health and Sanitation	WFP:	World Food Programme
MoPED:	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	WHO:	World Health Organization
MSWGCA:	Ministry of Social, Women, Gender and Children's Affairs		
MTNDP:	Medium-Term National Development Plan		
NACSA:	National Commission for Social Action		
NDP:	National Development Plan		
NGO:	Non-governmental organization		

Executive Summary

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2023 is the strategic plan of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) contributing to the national development priorities and strategies of the Government of Sierra Leone as established in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2019-2023.

The UNSDCF is harmonized with the MTNDP clusters, outputs, targets and indicators and incorporates the goals and principles that underpin the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The UNSDCF will be implemented at central and district levels under the leadership of a Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and Economic Development and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, which will ensure that response to national challenges and transformation are “Delivered as One”.

The Cooperation Framework is articulated around four priority areas. The first area refers to the key government policy on promoting sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition, and strengthening resilience and capacities to prevent the adverse effects of climate change. The second area addresses the government agenda on transformative governance and institution-building as well as the promotion of an enabling environment to sustain peace and stability in the country. The third area supports the flagship government programmes on free quality school education and human capital development as well as the government efforts on promoting access of the population to basic services, including health care and energy. The fourth area sustains the government agenda on empowerment and social protection of women and other vulnerable members of society and promotes conditions for the vulnerable groups to be able to seize social and economic opportunities and play a role as agents of change in the society. A results matrix as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework for all outcomes have also been included as part of this document.

The UNSDCF upholds the principles of gender equality, human rights, and conflict sensitivity, ensuring that “*no one is left behind*”, which will guide all UN system programmes and projects.

Finally, the UNSDCF intends to advance the United Nations Secretary-General’s agenda on repositioning the United Nations development system and responds to the Secretary-General’s call for optimizing resources and improving effectiveness of the UN’s support to countries.

CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1. Country context (Gaps and Challenges)

Sierra Leone has been characterized by almost 20 years of peace and stability, following a devastating civil war in the 1990s; the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak from 2014 to 2016 and the concomitant economic shock caused by the collapse of the price of iron-ore, the country's main export commodity. The country has successfully conducted four credible elections, including the general elections in March 2018 that saw the peaceful transition of government to a new President, His Excellency Brigadier (Rtd.) Julius Maada Bio.

Although the Government of Sierra Leone is striving to promote an agenda of change to ensure economic growth, increased revenue collection and management transparency, and improved provision of services - including free quality school education - countrywide, Sierra Leone continues to face numerous development challenges. The country has the lowest life expectancy globally at 52.2 years, according to the *2018 Human Development Report*. The country's human development index also remains one of the lowest, at 0.419 in 2017, placing it at 184 among 189 countries¹. Although poverty has significantly declined over the past 19 years, poverty rates across the country remain high and the 2018 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey estimates the overall poverty headcount at 56.70 per cent compared to 53.80 per cent in 2011, denoting a new increase in the poverty rate. This is despite the fact that the country is endowed with significant renewable natural resources in land, forests, and fisheries as well as significant deposits of minerals. The total public debt has increased to 66.30 per cent of GDP in 2018 from 64.60 per cent of GDP a year earlier, maintaining the country at risk of debt distress².

According to the 2015 census, the population of Sierra Leone is approximately 7.1 million, with 45.80 per cent of the population under the age of 15, and 74.80 per cent below the age of 35. The share of young population represents a challenge for the economy that remains based on traditional agriculture practices, with 61 per cent of GDP provided by the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors in 2016³. Low agricultural production contributes toward 43 per cent of Sierra Leoneans being categorized as food insecure⁴, whilst poor dietary diversity results in one third (31.3%) of children being chronically malnourished⁵. Employment-generation, especially among youth, the majority of whom are unemployed or underemployed with low levels of literacy, remains a major challenge. Youth unemployment has been a historic driver of grievance and conflict. Overall, inequality has decreased over the past 19 years; nevertheless, the Gini coefficient remains 34 and Sierra Leone's gender inequality index ranking is also high, at 0.645, placing the country 150th among 189 countries⁶.

¹United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports, *2018 Statistical Update*, <<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>>.

²The World Bank in Sierra Leone, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/sierraleone/overview>

³African Development Bank, *African Economic Outlook 2017*, 2017

⁴WFP and MAF, September 2018, Food Security Monitoring System.

⁵UNICEF and MOHS, 2017, SMART Nutrition survey.

⁶United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports, Human Development Indices and Indicators, 2018 Statistical Update: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf.

Since the end of the civil war, the country has made steady progress in institution building, reforming the judiciary and security sector, and strengthening the Parliament. Based on the World Justice Project's (WJP) *Rule of Law Index 2019*, Sierra Leone's overall rule of law score places the country at 15 out of 30 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and 98 out of 126 countries and jurisdictions worldwide. Transparency International's *Global Corruption Barometer Africa (2019)*, reveals that 33 per cent of all citizens surveyed felt corruption has decreased in the country⁷, which could be attributed to the strong anti-corruption agenda of the new Government. Since the new President took over power, he has also endeavoured to strengthen social cohesion countrywide, which was put under serious stress by a divisive electoral process in 2018.

Finally, the country, and particularly its capital, Freetown, remain vulnerable to disasters. The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index ranks Sierra Leone as the 24th most vulnerable to climate change of the countries it covered for 2015. Floods account for 85 per cent of disaster-related mortality in the country, followed by landslides, storms and fire accidents⁸.

1.2. National vision for sustainable development

The Government's vision for national transformation and development has been articulated in the country's Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) (2019-2023) entitled '*Education for Development*', launched in February 2019. The plan is aligned with the United Nations Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Africa Union Agenda 2063, and the New Deal Peace-building and State-building Goals.

The MTNDP has marked the start of a new vision embedded in the Government's New Direction Agenda, which translates Sierra Leone's aspirations of becoming a middle-income country by 2039 into tangible achievements.

Human capital development is at the centre of the Government's vision in the MTNDP and forms the basis of the Government's goal of providing **free quality school education for all** in the context of promotion of inclusive growth and leaving no one behind. The Government has articulated its development strategy in these four key goals:

- Goal 1: A diversified, resilient, green economy
- Goal 2: A nation with educated, empowered, and healthy citizens capable of realizing their fullest potential
- Goal 3: A society that is peaceful, cohesive, secure, and just
- Goal 4: A competitive economy with a well-developed infrastructure

The MTNDP is based on an ambitious macro-fiscal framework that aims at achieving key macroeconomic objectives including: attaining and maintaining single-digit inflation, reducing the budget deficit and maintaining the public debt at the sustainable threshold of not more

⁷Transparency International, *The Africa GCB In Detail*, www.transparency.org/gcb10/africa?news/feature/global_corruption_barometer_gcb_africa_2019#detail
⁸ Sierra Leone Country Climate Action Reports 2016

than 70 per cent of GDP, increasing domestic revenue collection and maintaining government expenditures within budgetary limits of around 24 per cent of GDP.

The new MTNDP (2019–2023) is organized around eight policy clusters and several sub-clusters (or broad result areas), as follows:

- Policy Cluster 1 – Human capital development.
- Policy Cluster 2 – Diversifying the economy and promoting growth.
- Policy Cluster 3 – Infrastructure and economic competitiveness.
- Policy Cluster 4 – Governance and accountability for results.
- Policy Cluster 5 – Empowering women, children, adolescents, and persons with disability.
- Policy Cluster 6 – Youth employment, sports, and migration.
- Policy Cluster 7 – Addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience.
- Policy Cluster 8 – Means of implementation.

The Government’s vision also prioritizes innovation and promotion of new technology as key drivers of development and, as a result, a Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation has been established in the Office of the Presidency. The Directorate is mandated to support the Ministry of Higher Education to promote research and technological education and is currently receiving technical support from specialized UN Agencies.

The total estimated cost of the new plan is USD 8.15 billion for a period of five years (2019–2023), with a financing gap of USD 1.55 billion.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the 2020-2023 period is aligned with the structure of the MTNDP and builds on its strategic vision and development goals, with a particular focus on the implementation of programmes at both national and district levels.

1.3. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

The Government has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has emphasized Goal 4, human capital development, and Goal 16, access to justice, as accelerators of all other goals. Sierra Leone submitted its Voluntary National Report on the progress made on the SDG targets to the 2019 High-Level Political Forum.

The Government launched the free quality school education programme in 2018 and has allocated 21 per cent of the national budget to the education sector. Pupils, even those in remote communities, have access to free textbooks for core subjects, as well as other learning materials. The national programme benefits children from pre-primary to senior secondary level in all Government approved schools, contributing towards the achievement of SDG 4.

Access to justice, as part of the targets of SDG 16, has been expanded countrywide by strengthening the capacity of the Legal Aid Board, which, since its establishment in 2015, has provided legal representation, advice and education services to 215,000 less privileged and vulnerable persons around the country. Females and children accounted for most of the Board beneficiaries.

The country adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security and has created an initial ATLAS of land tenure at community level in order for farmers to have guarantee of tenure and contribute to the achievement of Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture).

Under Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages), the Government has sustained and is incrementally contributing more domestic resources to a free healthcare initiative targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under-five.

Progress has also been made on Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy). As a result of a Rural Renewable Energy partnership between the Department for International Development of the UK and the Government of Sierra Leone, rural communities with no prior access to electricity are being provided with renewable clean energy for economic, social and environmental development. In 2018, 54 Community Health Centres across 12 districts in the country were powered with solar energy systems and 50 mini-grids were installed in 50 rural communities.

Under Goal 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), the Government has established a comprehensive Decent Work Country Programme and developed the Labour Market Information System and the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy. The International Conventions on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour was ratified and domesticated in June 2011. The Government also has in place a Small and Medium Enterprise Policy that provides the framework for the development of small and medium enterprises.

In term of progress towards Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality), the Government has strengthened its revenue collection policy to finance the provision of social services, particularly in rural areas to reduce the urban-rural gap. Fiscal reforms are being promoted in order to contribute to reduce the income inequality gap. A Social Safety Net programme has been established, aimed at reaching extremely poor households and also to complement the free quality education programme by reaching 140 schools covering 51,000 children countrywide. Inclusive and special education policies to enable boys and girls with disabilities to access quality education have also been established.

Under Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), the Government has adhered to the Global *Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative* to promote transparency and accountability in the management of its minerals and oil and gas sectors and use the revenues to expand service provision to all districts in the country. The establishment of a Directorate for Social Corporate Responsibility was approved in 2019, with the mandate of promoting community participation in the use of land for mineral extraction.

In line with Goal 11, the Government is creating sustainable cities and communities by focusing on reducing the risk of landslides and flooding, through drainage improvements, slope stabilisation, re-forestation and landslide risk analysis.

The Government is working towards sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12) by developing Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) for Healthy Eating in 2016, becoming the sixth African country to develop FBDGs. The FBDGs are a tool for nutrition education, promoting diet diversification in a safe and sustainable manner with respect to biodiversity and protection of environment, and it discourages harmful cultural dietary practices.

On Goal 13 (Climate Change), Sierra Leone has increased enforcement of environmental protection compliance and conducted an education campaign in schools and universities, sensitizing students and teachers on environment protection and climate change. The Government has also instituted monthly cleaning exercises, which is helping to mitigate the impact of flooding in the urban areas.

The Government has established the National Monitoring and Evaluation Department (NaMED) within the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED) with the mandate to track, monitor and evaluate partnerships (Goal 17), development interventions and capital projects in the MTNDP and to ensure that development results are reflected in the lives of the people.

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1. Theory of Change

The Theory of Change outlines the factors that will enable Sierra Leone to build sustainable development, transform its governance structures, and accelerate the elimination of poverty.

Environment

IF there is political will, leadership and trust at all levels;

IF democratic institutions are inclusive and there is heightened representation of women, young persons, and persons with disabilities in elected offices;

IF laws and policies are in place, including legal/regulatory frameworks, and norms and standards are strengthened, harmonized and implemented;

IF political leaders prioritize interventions aimed at supporting, protecting and empowering women, adolescents, youth, children, and persons with disabilities, and access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans;

IF there is effective financial management, equitable budgeting, and efficient use of resources;

IF there are longer-term and sustainable financial and technical investments for service delivery and infrastructure development;

IF the accountability and transparency framework is in place with effective community feedback mechanisms;

Supply

IF there is strong planning that is informed by quality data on women, youth, adolescents, children, and persons with disabilities;

IF there is a focus on results-based, efficient, effective and collaborative programming;

IF there are strong, well-resourced and coordinated systems including an effective supply chain and logistics management system in place to improve the availability of essential supplies and equipment;

IF opportunities for integration are recognized and effectively leveraged;

IF natural resources are utilized in a sustainable manner;

IF a sufficiently skilled, salaried, and motivated workforce is provided where it is needed;

IF quality control to ensure adherence to standards is adequate;

IF information management, including surveillance is increased;

IF technology is used effectively, and there is space and support for innovation;

Demand

IF citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of publicly provided services;

IF citizens (especially women, girls and other vulnerable groups), civil society organizations and community groups are empowered and given equal access and decision-making opportunities in the availability, accessibility and quality of services delivered;

IF quality basic services are accessible and affordable;

IF communities and individuals (especially women, youth, adolescents, children and persons with disabilities) have improved awareness and knowledge, as well as the skills to make informed decisions;

IF communities and individuals have improved capacity to tackle negative social norms, beliefs and practices, stigma and discrimination;

IF financial literacy and access to finances are improved for individuals especially among women, youth, adolescents, children, and persons with disabilities;

THEN Sierra Leone will have transformational and inclusive leadership and governance, strengthened regulatory frameworks, accountability and transparency, sustainable financial investments, and improved and coordinated systems, that will accelerate the eradication of poverty, empower individuals, allow sustainable use of resources and the attainment of all SDGs in Sierra Leone while building resilience to climate change and other shocks.

BECAUSE delivering on the SDGs requires inclusive and collaborative leadership at all levels. Exclusion of women and other vulnerable members of society can undermine democratic development and is one of the root causes of poor governance and instability. Moreover, holding public institutions accountable is more likely to improve their responsiveness and adaption to unique conditions and the particular needs of diverse communities. It will also enable expanded availability of quality and affordable basic services, including during a crisis/emergency. By building trust and confidence in the quality and equity of publicly provided services, and empowering communities and individuals, there will be increased demand for and utilization of services and adoption of optimal household/individual practices as well as an improved ability

to seize social and economic opportunities to enable citizens to play their role as agents of change.

2.2. Strategic priorities for the UN Development System

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone and its partners jointly identified four strategic and mutually reinforcing priority areas for the UNSDCF cycle 2020-2023, namely:

- **Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security;**
- **Transformational Governance;**
- **Access to Basic Services;**
- **Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable.**

Each of these priority areas have been underpinned by a theory of change that articulates the key development challenges and the transformative agenda that the UNCT will support in order to meet the targets established in the MTNDP.

Following the Government's vision on decentralization and empowerment at district level, the UN Agencies, under the UNSDCF 2020-2023 cycle, will implement programmes and projects at both the national and district level. Implementation at district level will, particularly, prioritize projects and programmes aiming at supporting the Government's agenda on job creation and women's empowerment, also by extending current projects of UN agencies in areas such as sustainable agriculture; food and nutrition security; promotion of decent jobs; rural renewable energy; provision of basic services; conflict prevention and social cohesion; and the protection and empowerment of women, youth and children in several areas, chiefly education and health.

UN Agencies will adopt a *local economic development* approach, whenever it is possible, under the principles of '*Delivering as One*'.

2.3. Cooperation framework, outcomes, intended development results, and partnerships

Following the identification of the strategic priorities, the UNCT identified key outcomes under each priority area, which are aligned to the strategic objectives of the respective policy clusters of the MTNDP and are underpinned by a Theory of Change, as illustrated in the sub-chapters below. Each sub-chapter explains the specific development challenges, prioritization analysis and intended development result.

UNSDCF OUTCOMES	MTNDP priorities	SDGs
<p>1. Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security</p> <p><i>By 2023, Sierra Leone benefits from a more productive, commercialized and sustainable agriculture, improved food and nutrition security, and increased resilience to climate change and other shocks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers, especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups to have equal access to information and decision-making opportunities on land tenure, knowledge of improved agricultural practices, inputs, technology, financial services, linkage to markets, leveraging appropriate technologies and innovations. Land and other natural resources (forests, minerals, marine, wetlands, etc.) are utilized in a sustainable and equitable manner An enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition (regulatory, institutional, research and policy framework) is in place. Access to diversified, nutritious and safe food is increased, and adequate dietary intake is improved. Competitiveness and trade compliance of selected value chains is improved. Preparedness systems are in place and functional at community level to mitigate the impact of climate change 	<p>Cluster Two: Diversifying the economy and promoting growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Improving the productivity, quality, safety and commercialization of the agricultural sector 2.2 Improving the productivity and sustainable management of fisheries and the marine sector <p>Cluster Five: Empowering Women, Children, Adolescents & Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>5.2 Women's economic empowerment and access to livelihoods opportunities are promoted with a view to establishing Sierra Leonean women as equal partners and participants in the socio-economic and political transformation of Sierra Leone</p> <p>Cluster Seven: Addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Building national environmental resilience 7.2 Forestry management and wetland conservation 	<p>SDG 1: End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere</p> <p>SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p>SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages</p> <p>SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All</p> <p>SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls</p> <p>SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All</p> <p>SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive, Employment and Decent Work for All</p> <p>SDG 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation</p> <p>SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries</p> <p>SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable</p> <p>SDG 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns</p> <p>SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts</p> <p>SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development</p> <p>SDG 15: Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss</p> <p>SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels</p>
<p>2. Transformational Governance</p> <p><i>By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable, and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and protection of boys and girls, women and men including those with disability.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disability in elected offices is institutionalized. 	<p>Cluster Four: Governance and accountability for results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Political development for national cohesion 4.2 Fighting corruption and illicit financial flows 4.3 Strengthening public financial management (PFM) 4.4 Strengthening audit services 	<p>SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls</p> <p>SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion. Access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, women, men, including persons with disabilities are fully protected. Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions. Local governance institutions are well resourced, service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented. Government has strengthened public financial management (PFM). Government-wide national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that will ensure development results is achieved. 	<p>4.5 Promoting inclusive and accountable justice institutions</p> <p>4.6 Building public trust in state institutions</p> <p>4.7 Strengthening public service delivery</p> <p>4.8 Strengthening decentralization, local governance, and rural development</p>	
<p>3. Access to Basic Services</p> <p>By 2023, the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, will benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality education, healthcare, energy and water, and sanitation and hygiene services, including during emergencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children, adolescents, young women and youth have increased access to comprehensive quality education services with improved learning outcomes. The population has improved WASH coverage, quality services and positive WASH behaviours. The population has access to integrated people-centred health services to achieve Universal Health Coverage. Population has improved access to renewable energy in rural areas. 	<p>Cluster One: Human capital development</p> <p>1.1 Free quality basic and senior secondary education</p> <p>1.2 Strengthening tertiary and higher education</p> <p>1.3 Health care improvement</p> <p>1.4 Environmental sanitation and hygiene</p> <p>Cluster Three: Infrastructure and economic competitiveness</p> <p>3.1 Energy</p> <p>3.3 Improving water infrastructure systems</p>	<p>SDG 1: End poverty in All its Forms Everywhere</p> <p>SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p>SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages</p> <p>SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All</p> <p>SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls</p> <p>SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All</p> <p>SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All</p> <p>SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive, Employment and Decent Work for All</p> <p>SDG 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation</p> <p>SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries</p> <p>SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels</p>
<p>4. Protection and empowerment of the most vulnerable</p> <p>By 2023, the most vulnerable, particularly women, youth, adolescents and children (especially girls), and persons living with disabilities are empowered and benefit from increased social protection services, economic and social opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities' behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of their rights. Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented. 	<p>Cluster One: Human capital development</p> <p>1.5 Social protection</p> <p>Cluster Five: Empowering women, children, and persons with disabilities</p> <p>5.1 Women</p> <p>5.2 Children and adolescents</p> <p>5.3 Empowering persons with disabilities</p> <p>Cluster Six: Youth employment, sports, and migration</p> <p>6.1 Youth entrepreneurship (employment and empowerment)</p>	<p>SDG 1: End poverty in All its Forms Everywhere</p> <p>SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p>SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages</p> <p>SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All</p> <p>SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls</p> <p>SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All</p> <p>SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive, Employment and Decent Work for All</p> <p>SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries</p> <p>SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable</p> <p>SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts</p> <p>SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, protection services related to gender-based violence (GBV), other harmful practices (child marriage, female genital mutilation, child labour, trafficking). • Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education). • Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and financial literacy and employability. • Statistics SL and other entities are supported in order to produce quality data for decision-making. • Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies. 		
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2.3.1 Outcome Area 1: Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience

By 2023, Sierra Leone benefits from more productive, commercialized and sustainable agriculture, improved food and nutrition security, and increased resilience to climate change and other shocks.

Theory of Change

IF farmers especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups are empowered and given equal access to information and decision-making opportunities on land tenure, knowledge of improved agricultural practices, financial services, and linkage to domestic and international markets, leveraging appropriate technologies and innovations;

IF land and other natural resources (forests, minerals, fisheries, wetlands, etc.) are utilized in a sustainable manner;

IF access to locally produced, diversified, nutritious and safe food is increased, and adequate dietary intake is improved;

IF the regulatory and policy framework provides an enabling environment for sustainable and commercialised agriculture, and food and nutrition security;

IF early warning systems are established and effectively functioning;

THEN Sierra Leone will sustainably increase agricultural production and productivity, improve food and nutrition security, enhance macroeconomic stability, reduce poverty, and build resilience to climate change and other shocks

BECAUSE land tenure insecurity; unsustainable farming practices; land and natural resource degradation; low production and productivity; exclusion of women from decision-making and equitable access to resources; sub-optimal dietary practices, and climate change effects and environmental disasters are the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity, and poverty.

2.3.1.1. Specific development challenges, prioritization analysis and intended development results

The 2019-2023 MTNDP considers agriculture as the backbone of Sierra Leone's economy with high potential for driving economic development, through enhancing food security, income generation, employment, wealth creation and poverty reduction; generating industrial development and ensuring equitable distribution of resources. However, despite high agricultural potential, agricultural yields are among the lowest in the West Africa sub-region (rice yields are 0.5 to 1.5 MT per hectare) and labour productivity is extremely low, contributing toward 43.70 per cent of Sierra Leoneans being food insecure⁹. In addition, Sierra Leone is highly dependent on imported food commodities, particularly staple rice, and remains vulnerable to food price fluctuation. The country's efforts to commercialize agriculture lack the requisite enabling environment to attract the private sector. In addition, farmers, particularly women and youth, usually, lack access to financial services. Furthermore, widespread shifting of agricultural practices contributes to high levels of environmental degradation, with an estimated 5 per cent of Sierra Leone's once extensive tropical forests remaining. In 2018-19, the Government of Sierra Leone undertook a *Zero Hunger Strategic Review* to map out the food and nutrition security situation and to outline concrete actions for Sierra Leone to achieve zero hunger.¹⁰

⁹ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry et al., September 2018, Food Security Monitoring System.

¹⁰ Government of Sierra Leone, June 2019, *Sierra Leone Zero Hunger Strategic Review*.

Poor feeding and care practices are predominant in Sierra Leone: only 55 per cent of new-borns receive breastmilk within one hour of birth, 52 per cent of children below 6 months of age are exclusively breastfed, and only 11 per cent of children 6-23 months receive the minimum acceptable diet in terms of dietary diversity and meal frequency.¹¹

High food insecurity, poor nutritional and care practices, and high-disease burden contribute to widespread malnutrition in the country, especially among children and women of reproductive age. Nearly one third¹² of children under five suffer from stunting, the irreversible result of chronic nutrition deprivation, while 5.10 per cent¹³ are acutely malnourished (moderate and severe). Micronutrient deficiency among children and women is also a public health problem. Vitamin A deficiency among children 6-59 months old in the country is moderately high at 17 per cent¹⁴. Anaemia is highly prevalent among children under five (76 per cent) and women aged 15-49, i.e., women of reproductive age (49 per cent). Among non-pregnant women, 79 per cent¹⁵ suffer from folate deficiency thereby increasing risk for negative pregnancy outcomes such as spontaneous abortion and neural tube defects.

As outlined in the 2019 – 2023 *National Agricultural Transformation Strategy*, the Government of Sierra Leone aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector, aiming to achieve 90 per cent food security, and reduce the prevalence of stunting to 10 per cent while increasing decent employment and the participation of youth and women in agriculture. The Government also plans to kick-start industrial processing of marine products and promote responsible, environmentally sound, and sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices. The Government's vision for the agricultural sector has a strong environmental focus, with the MTNDP including the strategic objective of enhanced and holistic conservation and management of Sierra Leone's biodiversity in all ecosystems, and protection of the environment to reduce the country's vulnerability to external shocks and effectively respond to sudden onset emergencies.

Complementing the 2019–2023 *National Agricultural Transformation Strategy*, the Government has approved the 2019–2025 *Multi-Sector Strategic Plan to Reduce Malnutrition in Sierra Leone*, which aims to reduce all forms of malnutrition by accelerating and scaling-up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive action across all sectors in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone ranks 155 of 180 countries in the 2018 Environmental Performance Index.¹⁶ The low performance is largely due to unregulated negative practices, limited capacity to adapt to climate change and recover from disasters as well as the absence of a comprehensive legal framework that regulates the response to disasters.

Based on the above development challenges and on the prioritization analysis, the UNCT contribution to the achievement of the Government's goals will focus on equity and sustainability at the farmer, community, institutional and household levels for increased productivity, management of and access to land, forests and marine resources and food diversity, with a focus on the participation of women and youth.

¹¹ Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017, *Sierra Leone Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Ministry of Health and Sanitation and UNICEF, 2014, *Sierra Leone Micronutrient Survey*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Environmental Performance Index, 2018 EPI Results, <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-topline>

The combined efforts of the Government and UNCT aim to contribute to the SDGs by 2030, the African Union's Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025), UN Global Strategy for Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (2016-2030), and the 2025 Global Nutrition Targets endorsed by the World Health Assembly.

In particular, the UN will support the Government to work towards the achievement of the following results:

- Farmers especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups have equal access to information and decision-making opportunities on land tenure, knowledge on improved agricultural practices, inputs, technology, financial services, linkage to markets, leveraging appropriate technologies and innovations.
- Land and other natural resources (forests, minerals, marine, wetlands, etc.) are utilized in a sustainable and equitable manner
- An enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition (regulatory, institutional, research and policy framework) is in place.
- Access to diversified, nutritious and safe food is increased, and adequate dietary intake is improved.
- Competitiveness and trade compliance of selected value chains are improved.
- Preparedness systems are in place and functional at community level to mitigate the impact of climate change.

2.3.2. Outcome Area 2: Transformational Governance

By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable, and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and the protection of boys and girls, women and men including those with disabilities.

Theory of Change

IF democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disabilities in elected offices is predictable;

IF institutions and mechanisms to manage conflicts and build national cohesion are strengthened;

IF access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, and women, including persons with disabilities, are fully protected;

IF public institutions adopt innovation and citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services that they provide;

IF corruption and misuse of public resources are significantly reduced in all public institutions at all levels;

IF local governance institutions are well-resourced, all service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented;

IF Government has strengthened public financial management (PFM) arrangements to scrutinize public finances, fiscal policies, regulation, and administration;

IF citizens (women, men, girls, boys), civil society organizations (CSOs), and community groups have the voice and space to participate and influence decision-making in the delivery of services;

IF citizens are committed and co-responsible with government to manage public assets and contribute to the functioning of public sector institutions;

***THEN** strong foundations for transformational governance will be laid in Sierra Leone — transparency, accountability, professionalism, fiscal discipline, innovation, and the culture of service. This will accelerate the eradication of poverty, allow sustainable use of resources and the attainment of all SDGs in Sierra Leone.*

BECAUSE:

- *Exclusion of women and other vulnerable members of society can undermine democratic development and is one of the root causes of poor governance and instability;*
- *Lack of access to affordable justice services can increase public grievances which over time can escalate into large-scale violence and unrest;*
- *Public institutions that are held to account are more likely to improve their responsiveness and adapt to unique conditions and the particular needs of diverse communities;*
- *Corruption drains a society's resources, makes governments bloated and dysfunctional, and undermines quality public service.*

2.3.2.1. Specific development challenges, prioritization analysis and intended development results

Sierra Leone is ranked 130 out of 175 countries on the 2019 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, and 26 out of 54 countries on the 2018 Mo Ibrahim's Governance Index. The country remains in the lower fragile state category on the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment ranking of the World Bank Group. In the 2019 Global Peace Index, Sierra Leone dropped 18 places from the 35th to the 52nd most peaceful country in the world.

Between 2012 and 2016, the proportion of children in conflict with the law increased from 35 to 75 per 100,000 children¹⁷, and of the 12,029 cases received by the Sierra Leone Police Family Support Units (FSUs) in 2017, 5,445 involved children and adolescents aged 0-19 years¹⁸.

In his first state opening in May 2018, President Julius Maada Bio committed to build and promote national cohesion, fight corruption, and improve accountability, security, access to justice, and respect of rule of law and human rights. These commitments are reflected in the MTNDP strategic objective to “[ensure] a democratic and cohesive society that is peaceful, stable and tolerant”. The MTNDP recognizes governance and accountability as the leading pre-conditions for the effective and efficient delivery of all other planned outcomes.

The contribution of the UNCT will focus on eight out of nine focus areas of the MTNDP, namely: advancing political development for national cohesion; fighting corruption and illicit financial flows; strengthening PFM and audit services; promoting inclusive and accountable justice institutions; building public trust in state institutions; boosting public service delivery; and strengthening decentralization, local governance and rural development.

More specifically, the UN will support the Government in working towards the achievement of the following results:

1. Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disability in elected offices is institutionalized;
2. Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) are created for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion;
3. Access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, women, men, including persons with disabilities are fully protected;

¹⁷ Defence for Children Sierra Leone monitoring data, 2017

¹⁸ Family Support Unit Sierra Leone Police 2017 report.

4. Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions.
5. Local governance institutions are well-resourced, service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented;
6. Government has strengthened PFM;
7. Government-wide national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system is in place.

2.3.3. Outcome area 3: Access to Basic Services

By 2023, the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, will benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality education, health care, energy and WASH services, including during emergencies.

Theory of Change

Pathway to achieve precondition 1 (supply):

IF laws and policies are in place, including legal/regulatory frameworks, and norms and standards are strengthened;

IF a sufficient number of skilled, salaried, and motivated workforce is ensured in basic services;

IF effective supply chain and logistics management is in place to improve the availability of essential supplies and equipment;

IF quality control to ensure adherence to standards is adequate;

IF information management, including surveillance and response is increased,

IF technology is used effectively;

IF effective financial management, including PFM, equitable budgeting, efficient use of resources (achieving efficiency gains in service delivery), and domestic and external resource mobilization;

IF the Government of Sierra Leone and development partners make longer-term and sustainable financial investment for quality basic service delivery, including infrastructure development,

IF the accountability and transparency framework is in place with effective community feedback mechanism;

THEN, there will be:

- *Expanded availability of quality education, health, energy, and WASH services, particularly for the most vulnerable*
- *Improved affordability of services, including for women, adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups;*
- *Improved system readiness and resilience to respond to shocks and emergencies;*

Pathway to achieve precondition 2 (demand):

IF communities and individuals improve knowledge about their rights and responsibilities;

IF communities and individuals improve awareness and knowledge about optimal practices such as sending children to school, recommended hygiene and feeding/dietary practices, and health (including HIV) risks and prevention practices;

IF communities and individuals have improved capacity to tackle negative social norms, beliefs and practices, stigma and discrimination;

IF the society (with strong support from community/religious/policy/political leaders) nurtures the culture to promote women/agency for adolescents, empowerment and autonomy, leading to their increased decision-making power to access services and to adopt optimal practices;

IF communities have a voice in the availability, accessibility and quality of service delivery;

IF communities and individuals have increased confidence in quality of services;

IF households increase their income;

IF communities and individuals do not perceive the opportunity cost of accessing services as higher than the benefit (e.g., loss of household workforce as a result of sending girls to school vs. increased employment opportunity after graduation) because of increased awareness-raising and the receipt of necessary incentives;

THEN there will be:

- Increased demand for and utilization of services;
- Increased adoption of optimal household/individual practices

BECAUSE expanded availability of quality and affordable basic services all the time, including during crises/emergencies, and increased population demand for basic services are the pre-conditions for the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, including women and girls, to benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality education, health care, energy, and WASH services.

2.3.3.1. Specific development challenges, prioritization analysis and intended development results

With the flagship free quality school education programme at its centre, human capital development is a key pillar of the MTNDP. Insufficient access to quality education, health, energy, and WASH services remains a major obstacle to progress in most human development areas and resilience in Sierra Leone, and ultimately to the enjoyment of individual human rights. This pillar covers access to quality basic and senior secondary education in both formal and non-formal settings, strengthening of tertiary education, healthcare improvement, environmental sanitation and hygiene, social protection, and access to lands and housing.

Pre-primary education remains inaccessible to most children with only 1 in 10 children aged 3-4 attending an early education programme (MICS 2017). School completion rates are low with 67 per cent of students completing primary, 49 per cent completing junior secondary and 27 per cent completing senior secondary. Moreover, only 12 per cent and 16 per cent of children aged 7–14 have foundation skills in numeracy and literacy, respectively¹⁹. With the launch of the free quality school education programme, all children -boys and girls from rural areas, the poorest of the urban, and children with disabilities- will be supported in accessing school from pre-primary to senior secondary level.

Sierra Leone has the lowest life expectancy at birth; the fourth highest child mortality rate and the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. There is limited access to HIV and AIDS services, particularly for vulnerable populations (female and male sex workers; men who have

¹⁹ Annual School Census, 2017.

sex with men; people who inject drugs; and people in prisons). Only 27.40 per cent of men who have sex with men are reached through HIV services, even though HIV prevalence among this population is 14 per cent, far higher than the national average of 1.5 per cent.

The energy infrastructure is limited, particularly in rural areas. There is a total capacity of 88 MW of renewable energy in the country, of which 56 MW is hydropower and 33 MW bioenergy. The majority of the rural population depend on biomass to generate energy, with limited infrastructure for electricity (less than 1 per cent of the rural population has access to electricity) and renewables.

Limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities predispose the country to outbreaks of cholera and Ebola with 42 per cent of the population not having access to safe drinking water; and 85 per cent of the population not having access to basic sanitation, noting geographic disparities.

Among all these needs, the UNCT has agreed to prioritize the following transformative actions with the highest potential impact, in order to accelerate progress in all areas of rights:

1. Children, adolescents, young women and youth have increased access to comprehensive quality education services with improved learning outcomes.
2. The population has improved WASH coverage, quality services and positive WASH behaviours.
3. The population has access to integrated people-centred health services to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
4. The population has improved access to renewable energy in rural areas.

2.3.4. Outcome area 4: Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable

By 2023, the most vulnerable, particularly women, youth, adolescents and children (especially girls), and persons with disabilities, are empowered and benefit from increased social and economic opportunities

Theory of Change

IF communities are mobilized to address patriarchal social norms and detrimental beliefs that stereotype the roles and abilities of women, youth, adolescents and children (in particular girls), and persons with disabilities;

IF more women, youth, adolescents, children (in particular girls), and persons with disabilities participate in decision-making;

IF legal frameworks are in place and enforced, and international standards on the rights of women, youth, adolescents, children (in particular girls), and persons with disabilities are harmonized and implemented;

IF political leaders prioritize interventions aimed at supporting, protecting and empowering women, adolescents, youth and children, and persons with disabilities;

IF decision makers and programmers can plan more informed and equitable interventions based on quality data on women, youth, adolescents and children (in particular girls), and persons with disabilities;

IF women, youth, adolescents and children (in particular girls), and persons with disabilities are able to make healthy decisions regarding their reproductive health, marriage and stay in school longer;

IF financial literacy and access to finances are improved among women, youth, adolescents and children (in particular, girls), and persons with disabilities;

IF employability among women, youth and persons with disabilities is increased;

IF women, youth, adolescents and children (in particular, girls), and persons with disabilities feel confident and can afford to access quality basic services;

IF protective services (medical, psychosocial, legal, justice, etc.) are available for survivors/victims of GBV;

IF the resilience and responsiveness to shocks of basic services are increased;

THEN *women, youth, adolescents, children (in particular, girls), and persons with disabilities will be confident and able to claim their rights; live a resilient, safe, healthy and protected life, free from GBV, child marriage, discrimination and stigma and contribute to the socio-economic fabric of the society as agents of change*

BECAUSE

- *gender stereotyping and stigmatization;*
 - *discriminatory laws and gaps in institutional frameworks;*
 - *inability of vulnerable groups to claim their rights and make informed decisions and choices about sexual and reproductive health, family, education and professional choices;*
 - *the weakness of the protection and social protection services;*
- put vulnerable groups at risk of the impact of shocks and emergencies. These factors also prevent vulnerable groups from seizing social and economic opportunities and playing their role as agents of change.*

2.3.4.1. Specific development challenges, prioritization analysis and intended development results

More than 40 per cent of the population of Sierra Leone is under 14 years old, and 22 per cent of the population are adolescents and young adults between 15 and 24 years old. Sierra Leone is faced with the 18th highest child marriage rate in the world with 13 per cent of girls married by age 15 and 39 per cent of girls married by 18 years of age. Nearly 30 per cent of girls begin child bearing by the age of 18, and an estimated 86 per cent of females having undergone FGM.

Child marriage, teenage pregnancies and poverty are three prominent factors in adolescent girls' secondary school drop-out rates; and girls who are out of school are at greater risk of child marriage, early childbearing and exposure to sexual exploitation and physical violence. These girls often lack the skills to make informed life choices; they lack a voice and the agency to advocate for themselves and become dependent on men economically. Girls who are married early are often removed from supportive social networks and isolated in the marital home. Insufficient secondary and tertiary education coupled with issues of teenage pregnancy and

early marriage prevent the young people of Sierra Leone, especially girls and young women, from playing their role as engines of social, economic and cultural development.

The protection and empowerment of women and persons with disabilities in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres, and the survival, protection and development of children and adolescents are key strategic objectives of the MTNDP. The country aims to reduce by more than 50 per cent the number of women experiencing GBV and to address sexual violence, teenage pregnancy, child marriage, orphans, vulnerable children, child trafficking, child labour, and juvenile justice. The MTNDP also focuses on improving social protection coverage for the most vulnerable, including women as head of households, persons living with disabilities, very poor families with children and the elderly; improving the system of cash transfers in emergencies; and creating targeted employment schemes (i.e., cash-for-work and food-for-work programmes).

Sustainably eliminating all forms of violence will entail addressing the root causes of violence, including discrimination against women, youth, adolescents, children (in particular girls), people living with HIV and persons with disabilities; and gender inequality in the distribution of power and other resources. Furthermore, innovative approaches and measures on both the demand and supply side are required to address youth structural unemployment.

The UNCT will support the Government in achieving the following results:

1. Communities' behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of their rights;
2. Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented;
3. Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, and protection services related to GBV and other harmful practices (child marriage, FGM, child labour, trafficking).
4. Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education);
5. Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and financial literacy, and employability;
6. Statistics Sierra Leone and other entities are supported to produce quality data for decision-making.
7. Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies.

2.5. Sustainability

Each UNSDCF outcome will be delivered through interventions aimed at increasing the resilience of society, institutions, economies and the natural environment, so that communities and the most vulnerable groups can withstand shocks, cope with uncertainty, and manage risks. By increasing resilience, the sustainability of the achievements of the UNSDCF will be ensured beyond its own duration through the continued efforts of people and institutions.

Capacity-building will be a key element of the sustainability framework of the UNSDCF and all interventions will, therefore, ensure that national capacity will be strengthened and, where possible, assets will be transferred to state partners and CSOs.

2.6. UN comparative advantage and UNCT configuration.

The strength of the UN is, first and foremost, its comparative advantage as a trusted, impartial partner for development and humanitarian initiatives. The UN is an impartial convener for multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership at all levels. The UN offers access to and provision of world-class expertise and knowledge which is used to strengthen institutional capacities, particularly for quality data generation and analysis to more systematically understand patterns of inequalities and stimulate evidence-based policy development and systems change. The UN is also able to respond to emergencies to deliver not only emergency life-saving assistance, but also to rebuild and revitalize systems so that the humanitarian response contributes to long-term development, thereby achieving more for those affected.

The UNSDCF has been formulated by UN Agencies in Sierra Leone in cooperation with Government and civil society partners. The interconnected nature of its outcomes will require the combined efforts of all stakeholders in order to achieve its intended development results. To this end, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) will endeavour to facilitate that the current resident and non-resident UN Agencies, comprising the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone, will contribute to the achievement of the UNSDCF's results, in accordance with their mandates. The UNCT configuration will continue to be considered as the UNSDCF is reviewed.

CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1. Implementation strategy and strategic partnership

The UN reforms, approved through the General Assembly's resolution 72/279, empower the RC to ensure better efficiency of the work of the UNCT through the joint implementation of the UNSDCF. The UN reforms also emphasize the accountability of the RC and UNCT for the delivery of the UNSDCF, in partnership with all stakeholders (i.e., the Government, Parliament, independent national institutions and commissions, civil society organizations, academia, development partners, and private sector). This entails that all UN country programmes and projects will be derived directly from the UNSDCF, through integrated workplans that will be developed after the validation of the UNSDCF.

In line with the transformative approach recommended by General Assembly Resolution 72/279 as well as recommendations of partners during the UNSDCF's consultative process, the following principles will be at the basis of the partnership of the UNCT with its partners in the implementation of the UNSDCF:

- Maintain a focus on leaving no one behind and an analysis of those at risk of being left behind, and adopt preventive inclusion measures;
- Ensure a strong integrated approach across the outcomes and outputs as well as full rights-based, gender-responsive, and peacebuilding approaches;
- Promote capacity-building of national partners as a continuous process to ensure national ownership and sustainability of the UNSDCF;
- Ensure that the SDG-aligned national targets and indicators become the default monitoring framework.

The main framework for the implementation of the UNSDCF will be provided by the Joint Steering Committee, as described below.

The UNSDCF will be implemented in partnership and close collaboration with the relevant Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), Parliamentary committees, NGO and CSO partners as well as the private sector, bilateral and multilateral partners.

The UN system will support national coordination through such working groups as the Food Security Technical Working Group; the Agriculture Advisory Group; Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; Technical Working Group and Inter-Ministerial Task Force; the Inter-Ministerial Partner Group; Health Sector Steering Committee; Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and its coordination platform, including the SUN Secretariat hosted by the Office of the Vice President and all its networks; the National WASH Steering Group (NWSG); the National WASH Coordination Pillar (NWCP); UN Network on Migration; the Office of National Security (ONS); and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Resilience Group. In addition, the UNCT will be represented in specific partnership efforts, such as the Emergency Response Multi-Stakeholder Coordination led by the ONS; and the Development Partners' Group, coordinated by the MOPED, among others.

The UN system will also support planning, strategy development and information sharing on how best to help the relevant sectors to ensure equitable access to high quality services for improved outcomes. The UNCT will also partner with academic institutions and pursue South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives that promote the exchange of expertise among institutions.

3.2. Governance and cooperation framework review and reporting

Oversight of implementation of the UNSDCF will be ensured at the strategic level by a Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the RC and the Minister of Planning and Economic Development. JSC members will include Heads of UN Agencies co-chairing the UNSDCF's outcome groups, key government MDAs as well as other key stakeholders, as determined in agreement with the Government.

The JSC co-chairs will ensure that the work of the JSC is aligned with other national development processes and mechanisms, particularly those monitoring progress toward the attainment of the 2030 agenda and Africa 2063 Agenda. The JSC will be a key driver of accountability, partnership and national ownership for the UNSDCF implementation.

The JSC will meet twice a year and as needed to ensure strategic direction and oversight of the UNSDCF implementation. The JSC will make all required decisions based on findings of the semi-annual reports from the UNSDCF's outcome groups, as well as the mid-term reviews. *Ad hoc* reviews may be organized, at the decision of the JSC, to respond to major and sudden changes in the national environment that require a more immediate adjustment to the UNSDCF. These may include humanitarian, economic or political crises of a magnitude that demands immediate UNCT and partner response, reallocation of human and financial resources, and

other actions. In this case, the UNSDCF's work plans will need to be updated and amendments reported in the monitoring system, including UN INFO²⁰.

Accountable to the JSC co-chairs, the co-chairs of the outcome groups will ensure that semi-annual reports are submitted to the JSC to track progress of the UNSDCF implementation and measure the UN's contribution to the MTNDP and localized SDG targets. A *One UN Country Results Report* will be also submitted to the JSC by the RC on an annual basis.

In addition to the outcome groups, the UNCT will establish thematic and operational groups to ensure contribution to the UNSDCF implementation by UN Agencies' programme and operation functions. The main UNCT groups are described below.

The **UN Gender Thematic Group** is an established UN system wide UNCT forum that will ensure consistency in mainstreaming gender in UNCT's policies, programmes, projects and action plans in support of the Government. The Gender Thematic Group serves also as a key mechanism to promote joint Government-UN action, coordination and synergy on gender equality and women's empowerment in Sierra Leone.

The **UN Communication Group** will provide coordination and technical and advisory support to joint communication activities of the outcome groups.

An **Operations Management Team** will also support the UNSDCF implementation by identifying operational solutions for more effective joint delivery, and will develop/update the Business Operations Strategy. This will include UNCT's joint management of specific operations, such as common services, joint risk mitigation of cash transfers through the Harmonized Cash Transfer (HACT) assessment (see Annex II) as well as joint capacity development to increase national execution thereby improving Value for Money (see Annex II).

Other UNCT groups include the **Monitoring and Evaluation Group** (described below), **UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS**, **H6 (Health) Group**, **Youth Group**, and the **Deputies'/Programme Managers' Group**.

3.3. Joint work plans

The UNSDCF will be made operational through the development of joint work plans (JWPs)²¹ and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement on the use of resources between the UN Agencies and each implementing partner, as necessary. To the extent possible, the UN Agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed UNSDCF and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNSDCF and joint or agency-specific work

²⁰ UN INFO is an information management/monitoring platform tool that is used for joint-online monitoring and reporting on achievement of targets and indicators of UNSDCF's joint workplans. UN INFO will provide an overview of country-level progress on the SDG targets, as well as regional and global aggregated information.

²¹ As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach.

plans and/or project documents²². To increase joint delivery, the UNCT, in collaboration with its partners, can also design joint programme and projects.

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of MOPED. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN Agency programmes are included in the result framework annexed to the UNSDCF in Annex I.

Government MDAs, NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies will implement programme activities. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the UN system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

3.4. Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer

The HACT-specific mechanisms apply only to those UN Agencies following HACT procedures.

All cash transfers to an implementing Partner are based on the work plans (WPs²³) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
 - (a) Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - (b) After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing Partners.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN²⁴ Implementing Partner.

A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate.

²² In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SEAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

²³ Refers to results Groups' or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans

²⁴ For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in 10 working days.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 10 working days.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only. Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN organization] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to: - all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation; - all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and [UN organization]. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organization] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UN organization].

- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations. Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

3.5. Resources/Resources mobilization strategy

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental and civil society organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The Government will support the UN Agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN Agencies including by: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN Agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN Agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Sierra Leone; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Sierra Leone to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

Chapter 4: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

4.1 Monitoring plan

Monitoring the UNSDCF will be a critical function of the UNCT in close collaboration with MOPED and all other partners and will enable tracking of progress and programme bottlenecks as well as the identification of evolving risks and opportunities. A costed multi-year M&E plan will be developed by the UNCT and submitted to the JSC for endorsement. Reporting to the JSC will be based on the monitoring of progress in the achievement of UNSDCF's output targets and indicators that have been articulated in the work plans.

An interagency M&E Group will be established and will provide technical support to UN Agencies to ensure the adoption of joint monitoring systems as well as collective planning of and investment in monitoring services and technologies. The M&E Group will jointly monitor and measure progress against relevant SDG indicators and contribute to UN INFO, as soon as it is available to the UNCT in Sierra Leone. Real-time data collection and analysis will be piloted, when possible and relevant, with the support of innovation programmes, such as the UNICEF's IT for Development. The RC's Office will provide secretariat support to the M&E Group, which is co-chaired by UN Agencies. The M&E Group will work in close coordination with the NaMED, within MOPED.

The Gender Thematic Group will provide support to strengthen and monitor the accountability to gender equality promoted in the UNSDCF, including by promoting the adoption of the UNCT SWAP-Scorecard and the gender audit.

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies'
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.1.1 Risks and opportunities

The underlying assumption of the UNSDCF is that the Government will continue to prioritize government spending on the social sector, diversification of the economy, youth employment and social inclusion of all vulnerable groups. The main risks are related to the possibility that the current development trajectory is interrupted by lack of financing or a major emergency.

Dependence on a few donors and a limited revenue basis might present constraints, including adverse debt dynamics, financial fluctuation, inflation and price drop of main commodities in the international market. Continual rural-urban migration might also require adaption of the plans to expand rural investment and modernize the rural socio-economic environment and, at the same time, divert resources to ensure safer urban settlements and services.

Environmental fragility and disasters might divert resources from the development plan to emergency and recovery activities. While the country has improved its capacity for controlling and responding to disasters and disease outbreaks, continuous investments are required for a holistic disaster prevention agenda. UN partners will work on increasing investments in

systems strengthening to support emergency preparedness and response and develop joint fundraising strategies.

The UN has proved experience on adapting to drastic changes in Sierra Leone, and will ensure that capacity is maintained to support the Government in adjusting to the different circumstances.

4.2 Evaluation plan

During the penultimate year of the UNSDCF cycle, an independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be undertaken. An evaluation plan will be designed by the M&E Group and submitted for endorsement to the JSC. The evaluation will assess whether planned UNSDCF results were achieved, and whether they made a durable contribution to national development processes, and delivered on the commitment to leave no one behind.

The independent evaluation will be based on the United Nations Evaluation Group's norms and standards, which also establish rules on the independence of the evaluators and quality criteria that the UNSDCF evaluation will have to meet.

The UN Agency Country Programme evaluations will be aligned with the timing of the UNSDCF evaluation so as to contribute to the Cooperation Framework evaluation. The M&E Group will ensure that this sequence will be included in the evaluation plan and will support the RC in ensuring its implementation.

ANNEX 1: The cooperation framework result matrix

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
1. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 2 (2.1, 2.2), Cluster 7 (7.1, 7.2)		
Outcome 1: <i>By 2023, Sierra Leone benefits from a more productive, commercialized and sustainable agriculture, improved food and nutrition security, and increased resilience to climate change and other shocks.</i>	Indicator 1a: Proportion of national population in food poverty (SDG indicators 2.1.1) Baseline: 54.5% (2018) Target: 30% Data Source: SLHIS	FAO IAEA IFAD ILO IOM ITC UNCDF UNCTAD UNICEF UNIDO UNDP UNOPS UNWOMEN WFP WHO
	Indicator 1b: Proportion of children under-5 who are stunted (SDG indicators 2.2, 2.2.1) Baseline: 31.3% (2017) Target: 20% Data Source: MICS	
	Indicator 1c: Proportion of population with moderate or severe food insecurity (SDG indicator 2.1.5) Baseline: 43.7% (2018) Target: 25.5% Data Source: <i>Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) data (lean season data) PMSD data</i>	
	Indicator 1d: Prevalence of acute malnutrition (SDG indicator 2.2.2) Baselines: Wasting: 5.1% (2017) Overweight: 4.3% (2017) Targets: Wasting: 3.0% Overweight: 4.3% Data Source: MICS	
	Indicator 1e: Rate of national food self-sufficiency (SDG 2.3.1) Baseline: 81% (2015) Target: 90% Data Source: MAF/PEMSD	
	Indicator 1f: GDP Growth Baseline: 3.7% (2018) Target: 5.3% Data Source: World Bank	
	Indicator 1g: Climate change vulnerability (0-1) Baseline: 0.25 (2014) Target: 0.40 Data Source: HCSS	
	1.1. Farmers especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups to have equal access to information and decision-making opportunities on land tenure, knowledge of improved agricultural practices, inputs,	
Indicator 1.1.2: Hectares of irrigated land cultivated (proxy for SDG indicator 2.4.2) Baseline: 1695 Target: 4035 Data Source: MAF, PEMS		

technology, financial services, linkage to markets, leveraging appropriate technologies and innovations	Indicator 1.1.3: Percentage of farmers who have increased their incomes by 20% Baseline: 59.8% Target: 79.8% Data Source: Adoption Survey 2018; Rice yield study PEMSD, MAF	IFAD ITC
	Indicator 1.1.4: Percentage increased in annual national rice self-sufficiency Baseline: 61% (2018) Target: 86% Data Source: Adoption Survey 2018; Rice yield study PEMSD, MAF	
1.2 Land and other natural resources (forests, minerals, marine, wetlands, etc.) are utilized in a sustainable and equitable manner	Indicator 1.2.1: Percentage increase in forest cover Baseline: 5% Target: 7% Data Source: FAO/MAF survey	FAO UNDP UNWOMEN IOM WFP IFAD
	Indicator 1.2.2: Area (hectare) of degraded land restored/reclaimed/rehabilitated (SDG indicator 13.3.2); Baseline: 730 Target: 1,000 Data Source: MLCPE/NPAA/MMMR	
	Indicator 1.2.3: Percentage of women and men with secure land rights (SDG 1.4, SDG indicator 5.a.1) Baseline: 18% Target: 30% Data Source: MONE	
1.3 Access to diversified, nutritious and safe food is increased, and adequate dietary intake improved	Indicator 1.3.1: Percentage of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum number of food groups 25.7% to 35.6% Baseline: 24.2% (2017) Target: 40% Data Source: MICS	FAO UNICEF WFP IFAD WHO
	Indicator 1.3.2: Percentage of Minimum Dietary Diversity (DDS) of both poor and borderline households disaggregated by gender increased Baseline: 12.8% (2019) Target: 30% Data Source: Food Security Monitoring System data	
1.4 An enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition (regulatory, institutional, research and policy framework) is in place	Indicator 1.4.1: A legal framework (including customary law) in place that guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and other entitlements (SDG indicator 5.a.2) Baseline: 0 Target: 1 Data Source: MONE	FAO UNDP UNCTAD WFP UNWOMEN IAEA IFAD
	Indicator 1.4.2: Number of policies supporting sustainable and equitable agriculture formulated, enacted and implemented (proxy indicator for SDG 2.4) Baseline: 0 Target: 8 Data Source: MAF	
	Indicator 1.4.3: Number of improved livestock breeds (goats, sheep, cattle, poultry, pigs, rabbits) and improved crop varieties introduced and adopted in Sierra Leone (proxy indicator for SDG 2.5) Baseline: 0, 0 Target: 1, 2 Data Source: MAF/Njala University/SLARI	
1.5. Improved competitiveness and trade compliance of selected value chains	Indicator 1.5.1: Trade and industrial policies have been developed/updated as per WTO requirements Baseline: 1 Target: 4 Data Source: Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB)	UNIDO UNDP

1.6. Preparedness systems in place and functional at community level to mitigate the impact of climate change	Indicator 1.6.1: Proportion of people practising disaster preparedness and response systems, disaggregated by sex Baseline: 0% Target: 40% (Males 20%, Females 20%) Data Source: Office of National Security	UNDP IFAD
2.TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 4 (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8)		
Outcome 2: <i>By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and protection of boys and girls (children, girls), women and men including those with disabilities.</i>	Indicator 1a: Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) overall score Baseline: 3.20 (2017) Target: 4.00 Data Source: World Bank Group	FAO ILO IOM UNAIDS UNDP UNOPS UN Women UNCDF UNICEF UNIDO IOM
	Indicator 1b: Corruption perception index score (0-100) Baseline: 129 th rank, score 30 (2018) Target: 113 th rank, score 35 Data Source: Transparency International	
	Indicator 1c: Global Peace Index ranking Baseline: 1.74 35 th of 163 (2018) Target: 1.5 Data Source: Institute for Economics and Peace	
	Indicator 1d: Overall score on Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) Baseline: 50.9 (2018) Target: 55 Data Source: Mo Ibrahim	
2.1 Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disabilities in elected offices is institutionalized	Indicator 2.1.1: Proportion of women in elected positions (SDG indicator 5.5.1) Baselines: - In Parliament: 12.4% - Local Council: 18% - Chairpersons: 28.5% - Paramount Chieftaincy: 6.6% - Councillors: 8% Targets: - In Parliament: 30% - Local Council: 50% - Chairpersons: 50% - Paramount Chieftaincy: 30% - Councillors: 30% Data Source: NEC	ILO UNDP UNOPS UN Women UNICEF IOM
	Indicator 2.1.2: Proportion of PWDs in elected positions Baseline: - In Parliament: 0% - Local Council: 0% - Paramount Chieftaincy: 0% - Ward Committee Members: 0% Target: - In Parliament: 1% - Local Council: 1% - Paramount Chieftaincy: 1% - Ward Committee Members: 1% Data Source: NEC	
	Indicator 2.1.3: Number of political parties developing and adopting policies to enhance the leadership and participation of women and persons living with disabilities (SDG 16) Baseline: 3 (SLPP, APC, NDA) Target: 16 Data Source: PPRC/NEC data	

	<p>Indicator 2.1.4: Percentage of women in appointed leadership and decision-making positions in MDAs</p> <p>Baseline: 17%</p> <p>Target: 30%</p> <p>Data Source: PPRC/NEC data</p>	
2.2. Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) strengthened for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion	<p>Indicator 2.2.1: Number of functional platforms on sustaining peace, managing conflict and building social cohesion at community level</p> <p>Baseline: 100</p> <p>Target: 200</p> <p>Data Source: MLGRD, Office of National Security</p>	UNDP UN Women
	<p>Indicator 2.2.2: Number of infrastructures for peace and social cohesion established and functioning</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (National), 6 (District level)</p> <p>Target: 1 (National), 16 (District)</p> <p>Data Source: Ministry of Political Affairs</p>	
2.3 Access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, women, men, including persons with disabilities are fully protected	<p>Indicator 2.3.1: Proportion of persons on remand without indictment.</p> <p>Baseline: 51% (2016) (total of all prisons)</p> <p>Target: 50%</p> <p>Data Source: Sierra Leone Correctional Service</p>	UNICEF UN Women UNDP
	<p>Indicator 2.3.2: Proportion of the population (disaggregated by sex, PWDs, age) who are satisfied with (a) courts; (b) police; (c) prison services</p> <p>Baseline: (a) 40%; (b) 37%; (c) 53%</p> <p>Target: (a) 55% (Males: 27%; Females: 28%); (b) 55% (Males: 27%; Females: 28%); (c) 60% (Males: 45%; Females: 20%)</p> <p>Data Source: Ministry of Justice; SLP</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.3.3: Proportion of youth behind bars (disaggregated by offences and gender)</p> <p>Baseline: 30% (Males: 27%; Females: 3%)</p> <p>Target: 25% (Males: 28%; Females: 2%)</p> <p>Data Source: Sierra Leone Correctional Service</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.3.4: Proportion of local courts and police stations with paralegals</p> <p>Baseline: 27%</p> <p>Target: 30%</p> <p>Data Source: Judiciary, Legal Aid Board</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.3.5: Percentage of judges/magistrates and police who are women and/or are trained in women's rights</p> <p>Baseline: 13%</p> <p>Target: 20%</p> <p>Data Source: Ministry of Justice, Judiciary</p>	
2.4 Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions	<p>Indicator 2.4.1: Percentage of national budget allocations reflecting gender and disability priorities</p> <p>Baseline: N/A (2018 budget analysis)</p> <p>Target: 15%</p> <p>Data Source: Ministry of Finance; MOPED</p>	ILO UNAIDS UN Women UNDP UNCDF UNOPS UNICEF
	<p>Indicator 2.4.2: Percentage of children under 5 whose births are registered with a civil authority by age</p> <p>Baseline: 81% (2017 MICS)</p> <p>Target: 90%</p> <p>Data Source: NCRP</p>	
2.5 Local governance institutions are well resourced, service delivery functions are	<p>Indicator 2.5.1: Number of Local Councils that have implemented or are implementing budget plans aligned with the SDGs and with innovative gender-responsive budgets</p> <p>Baseline: 1 (2016)</p> <p>Target: 22</p> <p>Data Source: MOPED, MLGR</p>	IOM UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UN Women

devolved to them, and they are service oriented	Indicator 2.5.2: Proportion of citizens (men, women, boys, girls)/ youth satisfied with the service delivery by local councils, disaggregated by sex Baseline: 0% Target: 35% (Males: 17.5%; Females: 17.5%) Data Source: MLGRD	
2.6 Government has strengthened Public Financial Management	Indicator 2.6.1: Revenue to GDP ratio Baseline: 14% Target: 20% Data Source: MOPED; MLGRD	UNDP FAO IOM UNICEF UNIDO
	Indicator 2.6.2: Local Councils with capacity and plan for monitoring revenue and expenditure in line with PFM standards Baseline: 0 (2018) Target: 22 Data Source: MOPED; MLGRD	
	Indicator 2.6.3: Number and frequency of public expenditure reviews Baseline: 2 (since 2006) Target: 4 Data Source: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; National Public Procurement Authority	
	Indicator 2.6.4.: Proportion of MDAs with established and functional Integrity Management Committees is increased Baseline: 60% (2018) Target: 80% Data Source: Anti-Corruption Commission	
	Indicator 2.6.5.: National Asset Policy developed and implemented by the National Asset and Government Property Commission Baseline: 0 Target: 75% implementation rate Data Source: National Asset and Government Property Commission	
2.7. Government-wide national M&E system of development results strengthened	Indicator 2.6.5.: A system in place for M&E Baseline: 0 Target: 1 Data Source: NaMED	RCO UNCT
3: ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 1 (1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4), Cluster 3 (3.1, 3.3)		
Outcome 3: <i>By 2023, the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most vulnerable, will benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality education, healthcare, energy and water, sanitation and hygiene services, including during emergencies</i>	Indicator 3a: Maternal mortality ratio (SDG indicator 3.1.1) Baseline: 1165 (2013) Target: 582.5 (2023) Data Source: SLDHS	
	Indicator 3b: Under-5 mortality rate (SDG indicator 3.2.1) Baseline: 110.5 (2017) / 156 (2013) Target: 45 (2023 MICS) Data Source: MICS/ SLDHS	
	Indicator 3c: Primary and Junior secondary school completion rate (SDG indicator 4.1.1) Baseline: Primary 66.8%, M:66.6% F:65.4% Junior Secondary 48.6% M:49.2% F:48.1% Target: Primary 74.7% M: 75.5% F: 74%, Junior Secondary 66.7% M:67.3% F:66.2% Data Source: Annual School Census (ASC)	
	Indicator 3d: Proportion of population using basic sanitation facilities (proxy for SDG indicator 6.2.1) Baseline: Basic sanitation: 16.2%, Rural:8%, Urban: 27% (2017) Target: Basic sanitation 46%, Rural 42%, Urban 53% Data Source: MICS	

3.1 Children, adolescents, young women and youth have increased access to comprehensive quality education services with improved learning outcomes	Indicator 3.1.1: Percentage of children aged 3 to 5 years who are attending early childhood education (SDG indicator 4.2.2) Baseline: 11.5% (2017) M: 10.6% F:12.3% Target: 15.2% M: 14.3% F: 16% Data Source: MICS	
	Indicator 3.1.2: Percentage of children aged 7-14 who completed 3 foundational reading and maths tasks (SDG indicator 4.1.1) Baseline: Reading: 16% M:12.7% F: 15.4% Maths: 12.2% M: 12.9% F:11.5%(2017) Target: Reading: 20% M:20.7% F:19.4% Maths 16.2% M16.9% F 15.5% Data Source: ESRA/EGVA assessments, MICS	
	Indicator 3.1.3: Percentage increase in annual TVET graduation rate (with a focus on girls and young women) Baseline: 11.1% (2017) Target: 40% (2022) Data Source: Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Technical Education Development Board, 2018	
3.2 The population has improved WASH coverage, quality services and positive WASH behaviours	Indicator 3.2.1: Proportion of households using basic drinking water services (proxy for WASH) Baseline: 70% (rural-42%, urban-72%), (2017) Target: 69% (rural-42%, urban-82%) Data Source: WIDA	
	Indicator 3.2.2: Proportion of households practising open defecation Baseline: 10% (rural-16%, urban-4%) (2017) Target: 2% (rural-2%, urban-2.5%) Data Source: WIDA	
	Indicator 3.2.3: Proportion of households using a hand-washing facility with soap and water Baseline: hand-washing 22% (rural-15%, Urban: 33%) (2017) Target: hand-washing 35% (rural-26%, Urban: 43%) Data Source: WIDA	
3.3 The population has access to integrated people-centred health services to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC)	Indicator 3.3.1: Proportion of pregnant women living with HIV who received Antiretroviral Therapy to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV Baseline: 67% (2018) Target: 75% Data Source: UHC Assessment 2017	
	Indicator 3.3.2: Coverage of children aged 0-59 months with symptoms of ARI for whom parents and/or caretakers sought from health facilities or providers Baseline: 3.84% (2017) Target: 10% (2025) Data Source: MICS	
	Indicator 3.3.3: Number of districts with at least 80% coverage of DTP-containing vaccines (SDG indicator 3.8.1) Baseline: 17% (2017) Target: 40% Data Source: WIDA	
	Indicator 3.3.4: Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (SDG indicator 3.6.1) Baseline: 94% (2017) Target: 98% Data Source: WIDA	
	Indicator 3.7.1: Prevalence rate of women of child bearing age that use modern contraceptive methods (married women or in union) (SDG indicator 3.7.1) Baseline: 49% (2017) Target: 60% (2025) Data Source: WIDA	

²⁵ The target number of districts will be adjusted to reflect the number of districts that are operational. The target number of districts will be adjusted to reflect the number of districts that are operational in the event that new health districts become operational.

	Data Source: DHS	
	Indicator 3.3.6: Unmet need for family planning among adolescents (15-19 age) (SDG indicator 3.7.1) Baseline: 30.7% (2013) Target: 20% Data Source: DHS	
	Indicator 3.3.7: Out-of-pocket health expenditures as a percentage of total health expenditure (SDG indicator 3.8.2) Baseline: 61% (2017) Target: Target is expected to be set by the Government in late 2019 as part of a Universal Health Coverage exercise Data Source: NHA, SLHS (integrated health survey)	
	Indicator 3.3.8: Proportion of public health events detected and responded to within 48 hours of notification Baseline: 82% Target: 95% Data Source: DHIS/IDSR2016	
3.4 Population has improved access to renewable energy in rural areas	Indicator 3.4.1: Percentage of population with access to electricity (SDG indicator 7.1.1) Baseline: 15% (2018) Target: 44% Data Source: MoE	
	Indicator 3.4.2 Percentage of households with access to electricity Baseline: 13.5% (2013) Target: 22% Data Source: DHS/MoE	
	Indicator 3.4.3 Number of district headquarters town with reliable electricity supply Baseline: 9 (2018) Target: 16 Data Source: MoE	
	Indicator 3.4.4 Proportion of electricity generation from thermal and renewable sources Baseline: Baseline is expected to be set by the Government according to NDP Target: 70:30 (thermal / renewable ratio) Data Source: MoE	
4: PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE MOST VULNERABLE		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 1 (1.5), Cluster 5 (5.1, 5.2, 5.3), Cluster 6 (6.1)		
Outcome 4: <i>By 2023, the most vulnerable, particularly women, youth, adolescents and children (especially girls), and persons living with disabilities are empowered and benefit from increased social protection services, economic and social opportunities</i>	Indicator 4a: Gender Development Index (GDI) Baseline: 0.872 (2017) Target: 1 Data Source: UNDP HDR	ILO IOM UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP UNFPA (lead 4c) UNICEF (lead 4d, 4e) UN Women (lead 4a, 4b) WFP WHO
	Indicator 4b: Gender Inequality Index (GII) Baseline: 0.645 (2017) Target: 0.57 Data Source: UNDP HDR	
	Indicator 4c: Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM (SDG Indicator 5.3.2) Baseline: 89.6% (2013) Target: 79% Data Source: SL DHS / MICS	
	Indicator 4d: Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who have experienced early child marriage before age 18 (SDG indicator 5.3.1) Baseline: 29.9% (2017) Target: 24% Data Source: MICS	
	Indicator 4e: Number of children living in poverty according to national multidimensional poverty lines (SDG indicator 1.2.2)	

	<p>Baseline: 2,207,504 (2017), 66%</p> <p>Target: 2,047,144 (2023) 60%</p> <p>Data Source: MICS 3rd child poverty report.</p>	
<p>4.1 Community behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of these rights</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1.1: Percentage of currently married women that participate in key decision-making processes at home (health care, major household purchases and visit to family) (SDG indicator 5.5.)</p> <p>Baseline: 45.4% (2013)</p> <p>Target: 64% (2023)</p> <p>Data Source: SLDHS</p>	<p>UNFPA</p> <p>UNICEF</p> <p>WHO</p> <p>ILO</p> <p>UN Women (lead 4.1.1)</p>
<p>4.2 Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented</p>	<p>Indicator 4.2.1: Legislative frameworks on protection and promotion of rights of vulnerable groups adopted and number of discriminatory laws reformed-(NDP / SDG 5.1.1 and 5.6.2)</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Gender Laws, Sexual Offences Act 2012, National Referral Protocol on GBV 2010</p> <p>Target: 13 laws, policies and acts (e.g., Harmonised Gender Laws, Sexual Offences Act, GEWE Policy, SiINAP II, Reduction of FGM/strategy, Law for Abolition of FGM/C, Reform of Domestic violence Act, Abolition of Child Marriage, Child Justice Strategy, Child Rights Act 2007, Child Welfare Policy, Alternative Care Policy, Diversion Policy, Chapter 44 of the Laws of Sierra (Children's and Young Persons Act), Reform of chieftaincy act</p> <p>Data Source: MSWGCA, Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Parliament</p>	<p>ILO</p> <p>IOM</p> <p>UNAIDS</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>UNFPA</p> <p>UN Women (lead 4.2.1, 4.2.2)</p> <p>WHO</p>
<p>4.3 Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, protection services related to GBV, and other harmful practices (child marriage, FGM, child labour, trafficking)</p>	<p>Indicator 4.3.1: Percentage of children aged 1-14 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (disaggregated by age, sex and diversity) (SDG indicator 5.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 86.5% (2017)</p> <p>Target: 65.5%</p> <p>Data Source: MICS</p>	<p>IOM (lead 4.3.3)</p> <p>UNAIDS</p> <p>UNICEF (lead 4.3.1)</p> <p>UNFPA (lead 4.3.2)</p> <p>UN Women</p> <p>WHO</p>
	<p>Indicator 4.3.2: Proportion of population (males and females) subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence within the last 12 months (dis. SADD, disabilities, etc.) (SDG indicator 5.2.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 56% (2013)</p> <p>Target: 45%</p> <p>Data Source: SLDHS</p>	
	<p>Indicator 4.3.3: Number of youths embarking on irregular migration and trafficking (proxy for SDG indicator 10.7.3)</p> <p>Baseline: 8,000 to 10,000 (est.) (2017)</p> <p>Target: 1,000 (2023)</p> <p>Data Source: Immigration Department and MSWGCA</p>	
<p>4.4 Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education)</p>	<p>Indicator 4.4.1: Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years) (SDG indicator 3.7.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 101 (2017)</p> <p>Target: 70 (2023)</p> <p>Data Source: MICS</p>	<p>UNAIDS</p> <p>UNICEF</p> <p>UNFPA (lead 4.4.1)</p> <p>UN Women, WHO</p>
<p>4.5 Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and, financial literacy, and employability</p>	<p>Indicator 4.5.1: Percentage of women and youth (males and females) who created their employment</p> <p>Baseline: 10% (2014)</p> <p>Target: 18%</p> <p>Data Source: Labour Force Survey</p>	<p>ILO (lead 4.5.1)</p> <p>IOM</p> <p>UNAIDS</p> <p>UNCDF</p> <p>UNDP (lead 4.5.2)</p> <p>UNFPA</p> <p>UN Women</p>
	<p>Indicator 4.5.2: Proportion of unemployed who are actively seeking work that lacked the capital to start a business disaggregated by vulnerable group / sex / age, etc. if possible</p> <p>Baseline: 50%</p> <p>Target: 25%</p> <p>Data Source: Labour Force Survey</p>	

<p>4.6 Quality data is available and used for decision-making</p>	<p>Indicator 4.6.1: Number of national sectoral plans that incorporate evidence-based budgeting and gender-sensitive data (NDP 5 and proxy for SDG indicator 5c.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 4</p> <p>Data Source: UNDP</p> <hr/> <p>Indicator 4.6.2: Quality of interoperable information management system that supports national disaster response, incident monitoring and programme monitoring for humanitarian crises available</p> <p>Baseline: Quality system in place but operational in some areas of the country (2019)</p> <p>Target: IMIS system is operational nationwide</p> <p>Data Source: UNDP</p>	<p>IOM ILO UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP UNFPA UNICEF (lead 4.6.2) UN Women (lead 4.6.1) WHO</p>
<p>4.7 Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies</p>	<p>Indicator 4.7.1: Number of women covered by social protection systems (SDG indicator 4.7.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 100,000</p> <p>Data Source: Social Protection MIS</p> <hr/> <p>Indicator 4.7.2: Number of extremely poor households (disaggregated by gender, age and disability status) benefiting from social protection interventions (reparations, cash-for-work, etc.) (baseline 2019)</p> <p>Baseline: 1,000,000</p> <p>Target: 1,000,000</p> <p>Data Source: Integrated national targeting system (SPRINT)</p>	<p>UNICEF (leads 4.7.1) IOM UNCDF UN Women UNDP UNAIDS UNFPA ILO WHO</p>

ANNEX 2: Cooperation Framework Legal Annex

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Sierra Leone and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020 to 2023).

Whereas the Government of Sierra Leone (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following relationships:

a) With United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)) [or other agreement depending on country], which was signed by both parties on 21 December 1977. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision, this UNSDCF, together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNSDCF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA [or other appropriate governing agreement]²⁶.

b) With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 17 May 1984 and revised on 26 April 1993.

c) With the World Food Programme (WFP) a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 8 April 2004.

d) With regard to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the fund is covered under the UNDP Standard Basic Agreement signed on 21 December 1977.

e) With the International Labour Organization (ILO) an Agreement for the Provision of Technical and Advisory Assistance was signed by the Government and the ILO on 16 October 1961.

f) With the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Sierra Leone on 25 April 1978.

g) With the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Government has agreed, by an exchange of letters concluded on 17 October 2012, that the SBAA between UNDP and the Government signed on 21 December 1977 be applied *mutatis mutandis* between UNOPS and the Government.

h) With the United Nation Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) a Standard Basic Agreement was signed on 21 June 2016 which sets out the basic conditions under which the Government of Sierra Leone will be assisted to implement its national HIV and AIDS response.

i) With the International Organization of Migration (IOM) a host Country Agreement was established in 2001. By exchange of letters between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the

²⁶ In the countries where SBAA [or other agreement depending on country] have not been signed, the standard annex to project documents for use in countries which are not parties to the SBAA should be attached to the Cooperation Framework. These documents together with the workplan constitute the “project document”.

International Organization of Migration (IOM), signed on 23 March 2001, a cooperation agreement between IOM and the Government of Republic of Sierra Leone was established.

j) With the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), the Government has agreed in an exchange of letters concluded on 16 November 2015, that the SBAA between UNDP and the Government, signed on 21 December 1977 be applied *mutatis mutandis* between UNWOMEN and the Government.

k) With the World Health Organization (WHO) a Basic Agreement for the Provision of Technical Advisory Assistance was signed by the Government on 19 June 1962 and by WHO on 9 April 1962.

l) With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed and entered into force on 21 December 1977 shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to UNIDO projects and programmes in Sierra Leone.

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the applicable and appropriate resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

The COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE shall, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with, and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between each United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will carry out commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements entered into on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to other agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also extend to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the relevant Convention of the Specialized Agencies Convention.

The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall also be liable in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a relevant Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from any liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

- (a) "Nothing in this Article shall be deemed a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them, or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Agreement."
- (b) Nothing in or resulting from this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of the Agreement or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner which is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.