



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

In Collaboration with

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
and the National Habitat Committee of Sierra Leone (NHCSL)**

FINAL DRAFT

Habitat III National Report

**Habitat III Preparatory Secretariat
Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
November 2015**

FOREWORD

The Habitat III National Report is a synthesis of the Government of Sierra Leone achievement in implementation of its commitment to the Habitat Agenda since 1996. The reporting process has been crucial for Government, at a time when the country is fighting to contain the deadly Ebola Virus Disease. Despite the public health emergency, the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment worked in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the National Habitat Committee of Sierra Leone in response to Resolution 24/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council to prepare Sierra Leone National Report for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

This report should be viewed as a noble presentation of the information obtained by the National Habitat Committee in its quest to assess the country progress on the Habitat Agenda in a transparent and inclusive manner in collaboration with the Ministry and Habitat Agenda Partners. The National Habitat Committee has demonstrated resilience to ensure the opportunity is not missed to show case Sierra Leone's progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda and the emerging needs and priorities for the New Urban Agenda, and thus present its findings to all interested parties with humility. The report presents an assessment reflecting on policies, legislation, and practical measures undertaken, achievements and challenges that Government encountered during the implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996. It further identifies emerging issues, future challenges and priority areas for action that will set the path for a New Urban Agenda.

Despite the impact of the eleven years of civil conflict (1991-2002) on human settlement developments, government has resolved to improve the wellbeing and lives of its people as articulated in its 3rd generation poverty reduction strategy, the Agenda for Prosperity (AfP) for social and economic development for 2013-18. The eight pillars of the AfP are focused on the medium-term challenges and aspirations of the country: (i) economic diversification to promote inclusive growth, (ii) managing natural resources, (iii) accelerating human development, (iv) international competitiveness, (v) labour and employment, (vi) strengthen social protection systems (vii) governance and public sector reform, and (viii) gender equality and women's empowerment. These sectors are all of strategic importance to improving human settlements in the country.

The Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment has resolved to work with the National Habitat Committee hoping that the civil society strong engagement with the Ministry, and the vibrant role played in the report preparation process will continue to foster government interventions and eventual implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years following 2016 through the appropriate framework and capacity development support from the UN System and other development partners.

Hon. Musa Tarawally

Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
Republic of Sierra Leone

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The preparation of this report was coordinated by the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment in collaboration with the National Habitat Committee of Sierra Leone and technical assistance from UN-Habitat. On behalf of the Ministry we wish to express thanks to UN-Habitat for providing technical assistance to enable preparation of this report.

Collaboration with the National Habitat Committee was indeed a constructive process to ensure effective dialogue and consensus among all stakeholders, collecting information and conducting validation workshop sessions for preparation of the report. We are grateful for this support.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to the Habitat Agenda Partners, Volunteers and staff of the Habitat Secretariat who provided valuable support in conducting the Urban Dwellers Survey, managing the call center, preparation for consultative sessions and the Urban Talk Shows.

We are also grateful for the technical support provided by the national consultant, Dr. Lancelot Ayo Lake, in mobilizing agenda partners, providing technical advice in compliance with UN-Habitat guidelines. Special thanks goes to the Director of Country Planning, Mr. Augustine O. Kai-Banya and the Focal Point for the Habitat III Project, Dr. Alphajoh Cham, for their efforts in coordinating the reporting process.

We appreciate the support from the staff of the Ministry, regional committees and local authorities, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), urban activists, citizens, civil society and members of the National Habitat Committee for their contributions to the consultation sessions, Urban Dwellers Survey and the Urban Forum. With sincere gratitude we thank all our partners for their valuable contributions to make the preparation of this report successful especially at this difficult time when the country is under a public health emergency to contain the Ebola Virus Disease epidemic.

Mrs. Nancy K. S. Tengbeh
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
Republic of Sierra Leone

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfC	Agenda for Change
AfP	Agenda for Prosperity
CHECSIL	Council for Human Ecology of Sierra Leone
CMS	Civil Society Movement
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENFORAC	Environmental Forum of Action
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FIA	Freetown Improvement Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNHR	National Habitat III Reports
GOSL	Government of Sierra Leone
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAPs	Habitat Agenda Partners
HRMO	Human Resource Management Office
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LRP-ICF	Land Registration Project - International Climate Facility
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MLCPE	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
MTA	Ministry of Transport and Aviation
NASSIT	National Social Security and Insurance Trust Corporation
NAYCOM	National Youth Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHC	National Habitat Committee
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
PSRU	Public Sector Reform Unit
SL	Sierra Leone
SLBC	Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation
SLIHS	Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act
TOR	Terms of Reference
TV	Television
YESP	Youth Employment Support Programme

The National Habitat III reporting process was conducted during a national public health emergency, which was enforced to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus disease (EVD). The government of Sierra Leone affirms its commitment to comply with prescribe standards for assessing its performance in implementation of the Habitat Agenda adopted in 1996, its two main goals of “Adequate Shelter for All” and “Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World” and to implement the Plan of Action based on these goals. The reporting process was conducted by the National Habitat Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment. Reporting guidelines provided by UN-Habitat ensured effective participation of broad based stakeholders to assess progress made in implementation of the Habitat Agenda, highlighting policies, legislation, practical measures undertaken, challenges and lesson learned and further identify emerging issues and priority areas for action in the following thematic areas that will set the path for a New Urban Agenda.

Some the data and information in this report were based on the 2004 Census and the projections based on that census. It is also important to note that Sierra Leone will be conducting a Population and Housing Census in December 2015, and the outcome of this census may affect the findings and conclusions in this report.

I. Achievements in implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996

Urban Demographic Issues

Managing Rapid Urbanization and Rural-Urban Linkages: The devolved functions to Local Authorities through the 2004 Local Government Act is a key achievement to enable local authorities undertake development planning and human settlements management in their locality. The Agenda for Prosperity propose interventions for population-related programmes and projects to reverse the migration trend, with increased investments in mining and agriculture. The government also implemented the EU funded urban planning project (2011-14) making considerable progress in strengthening local government’s Development Departments by setting up urban planning units and training of local government planners in preparation of land use plans, data collection and established an integrated web-based GIS management system for spatial planning, land management and administration. A National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) was also developed. The NSDF will provide a holistic approach to rapid urbanization, regional integration, foster strong rural-urban linkages and complementarities, and put a spatial framework as an important policy instrument at the center of the national development. This strategic framework will thereby create functional growth pole areas with comparative advantages that can bring about higher levels of prosperity and sustained socio-economic development. It will ultimately serve as the basis for the formulation of National Spatial Development Plan and an Urban Policy that will address the issues of slum development and informality in the urban settlements.

Addressing the Needs of Urban Youth and the Aged: The establishment of the National Youth Commission, development of National Youth Employment Action Plan with emphasis on labour demand to address the problem of youth unemployment, underemployment and gender disparities in the labour market and review of Youth Employment Strategy are key achievements of the government in addressing the needs of the youth. Government have expressed strong commitment in the Agenda for Prosperity social protection system to uplifting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, poorest and marginalized groups including the aged and have adopted international

agreements and charters including the 2008 African Union Social Protection Framework. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs within its responsibilities aims to provide efficient and reliable services within an enabling, protective and peaceful environment where the rights of the aged amongst others are promoted.

Integrating Gender in Urban Development: Government established the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs in 1996 and enacted legislations, relevant policy framework to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and developed a four-year strategic plan. The government is committed to addressing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through the following policy and legal framework: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Millennium Development Goals, National Action Plan for the full Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (UNSCR) and 1820 (UNSCR) on Women, Peace and Security.

Land and Urban Planning

Ensuring Sustainable Urban Planning and Design: New procedures for processing of applications for development were put in place in 1999. A National Framework for Human Settlements Development and Shelter Delivery was prepared with assistance from UNDP and UN-HABITAT in 2002 that sets out a framework for responding to the immediate and medium term challenges that the country faces in its human settlements as a result of the impact of the conflict. Devolving of some planning functions to local authorities through the Local Government Act in 2004 and implementation of a medium term Urban Planning Project 2011-2014 were key initiatives contributing to strengthen the planning authorities.

Improving Urban Land Management: The 2001 Position Paper on Enforcement of Planning and Building Regulations from the Ministry responsible for Country Planning lays a good foundation for the expeditious handling of the enforcement of planning and building regulations. The Land Registration and Mapping Project and the new National Land Policy 2015 are major progress in government attempt to ensure sustainable and effective Land Management in addition to the Agenda for Prosperity overarching strategy for Land Management which aims to: (i) Improve and strengthen the existing land administration system and land laws, and (ii) Institute reforms and promote participation of local communities and relevant stakeholders in planning, design and implementation processes, with special emphasis on gender equality.

Improving Technical Capacity to Plan and Manage Cities: The 2004 Local Government Act to empower Local Councils for planning and management of human settlements at local level, the 2010 Management and Functional Review of the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment; technical assistance from the Diaspora Support Programme and training provided by the Urban Planning Project are progress made in government efforts to improve technical capacity in planning and management of cities.

Environment and Urbanization

Addressing Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (2008) provides the basis for designing effective national programmes for environmental protection and management. Sierra Leone is also a party to the international efforts on climate change and prepared its first National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in December 2007. Also a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and have expressed firm commitment and pledged to upholding, fostering and

promoting a collaborative platform in order to achieve sustainable development and a socially equitable future of the country and its people.

Reducing Traffic Congestion and Air Pollution: The Street parking programme initiated by the Capital City of Freetown in 2013 is making progress as a priority to address the problems of vehicular and pedestrian traffic congestion and overcrowding in the central business district. The Agenda for Prosperity noted that climate change variations could affect agricultural production, thus mitigating measures will need to be carefully designed and introduced. Under its Social Protection Scheme in the Agenda for Prosperity, the Government intends to build resilience for natural disasters and weather and climate-related events through support to improved weather services, early warning systems and enhanced land use planning.

Urban Economy, Governance and Legislation

Improving urban legislation, decentralization and strengthening of local authorities: The Local Government Act 2004 and increased central government fiscal disbursement to local government, investment in building the capacity of Local Councils, through providing office buildings, basic logistics and extensive training; and a stable, transparent inter-governmental fiscal transfer system has been developed and is being implemented. These are steps taken in improving urban legislation and the decentralization process.

Improving participation and human rights in urban development Sierra Leone's Human Rights Commission has gained an "A" status accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, based on its compliance with the Paris Principles governing the establishment and activities of National Human Rights Institutions. The Commission has established regional offices in all district headquarter towns, to bring its services closer to the communities to improve participation and human rights in urban development process.

Enhancing urban safety, security, social inclusion and equity: The Sierra Leone Police responsible for the preservation of internal security, maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property, detection and prevention of crime, and protecting the rights of everyone has transformed and re-organized its rank structure and developing the culture of strategic planning and adopting modern policing practices. New departments established including Family Support Unit, the Legal and Justice Support Unit, Media and Public Relations, and Human Rights Unit and Oversight provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Police Council, and Parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs.

Integration of urban economy into national development policy: Notable progress were made in the urban economy in terms of job creation particularly in the industrial and services sectors due to improved private sector climate. Government has also undertaken several initiatives to boost employment levels, particularly of young people, including the introduction of the Local Content Policy. In urban areas, about 70% of the population are self-employed and largely engaged in the informal sector.

Housing and Basic Services

Slum upgrading and prevention: Technical assistance in planning, identification of slum settlements in the capital city and developing proposals for upgrading and prevention of slums, were

key achievements. Over twenty slum settlements were identified in Freetown and recommendations made for improvement, redevelopment of slum dwellings and resettlement of areas under threat of natural disasters such as flooding and landslides.

Improving access to adequate housing: Promoting local building materials production and construction technology to enhance housing delivery, training of artisans and establishment of builders cooperative and enterprises was key output of the capacity building initiative for effective housing delivery project implemented by the Ministry in 1996. A draft Housing Policy 2006 was also prepared advocating for increasing resources into the housing sector and adoption of appropriate technologies that are efficient and cost effective, the use of local building materials and contribution of the informal sector in the production of housing. The housing policy outlines Government's role as "facilitator" and "enabler" in which the Government of Sierra Leone will create the conducive environment for housing sector development. Government further established Home Finance Company in October 2008 as a NASSIT project to commence financing of housing development projects in July 2009 after Parliament enacted the Home Mortgage Finance Act in June 2009. The Agenda for prosperity social protection system is committed to provide affordable housing access to safe, sanitary and decent housing, through home ownership, rental, or temporary social assistance and to explore the possibilities of providing housing through public-private partnerships.

Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation: Access to improved water supply has increased from 49% in 2008 to 57% in 2010, but access to sanitation has remained constant at 13% for non-shared facilities, and 40% for improved sanitation including shared and public facilities. The National Water and Sanitation Policy set targets of 74% for improved drinking water supply and 66% for improved sanitation by 2015. The government completed a nationwide Waterpoint Mapping exercise of close to 30,000 water points and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation is establishing its leadership role in the sector by strengthening the Environmental Health Division to a Directorate, for effective and efficient oversight and management of the sanitation and hygiene promotion sector.

Improving access to clean domestic energy: Completion of Bumbuna hydroelectric project in 2009 with installed capacity of 50MW, presently operating on 25MW was key achievement of the Government. Implementing the energy sector reform programmes focusing on restructuring through a process of unbundling the existing systems and transforming of the electricity sector into electricity generation and transmission company and electricity distribution and services authority is good progress to ensure a more transparent, efficient, fit-for-purpose energy ecosystem. Progress was also made in creating an enabling environment to facilitate the introduction of independent power producers that generate electricity from renewable energy sources and issuing generation licences to Independent Power Producers to ensure much greater private sector involvement. The Solar Street Lighting Project - pilot phase witnessed the installation of 8,880 solar street lighting systems in all the districts headquarter towns and other major places. Preparation of a National Renewable Energy Policy (2014), which aligns the Sierra Leone renewable energy policy with the regional Renewable Energy Policy of the ECOWAS and participation in West African Power Pool project is an important milestone towards improving access to clean domestic energy.

Improving access to sustainable means of transport: Encouraging signs of progress has been made in the use of optimal combination of modes of transport, including private and public means of transportation, improvement in road construction, increasing number of buses to the regions and within the capital city of Freetown to improve accessibility of goods, services, amenities and work.

A road safety study was completed with assistance from the World Bank aimed at reviewing road safety management capacity and the Government is making efforts to strengthening infrastructure needed to facilitate trade both within and outside the country, including roads, land, air and sea transportation.

II. Challenges and Lesson Learned

Demographic Issues

Rural-urban migration, unplanned slum settlements, lack of spatial planning coupled with the prevalent urban growth patterns taking place in urban centres in the country are major challenges facing the planning authorities. In urban areas, majority of households can only afford basic rental accommodation in areas with limited access to safe water, sanitation and other social facilities, triggering overcrowding and poor living conditions which exposes a large number of people to high health and environmental risks.

Youth unemployment is one of the most challenging policy issues the government of Sierra Leone faces and consists of creating productive jobs, attainment of the nation's objective of inclusive growth, poverty reduction, political security, social stability and safety are contingent on the degree to which the underemployed young people are engaged in meaningful employment. A key lessons learnt, in implementation of innovative micro-lending schemes at the community level indicates the potential to serve as a bridge to formal credit market schemes and improvement of beneficiary livelihoods and such programs could have a long-term economic and poverty reduction impact. The aged experience high poverty, and households headed by the elderly face problems such as inadequate resources especially pensioners to meet basic needs, lack of income and inadequate housing facilities for the unemployed, lack of access to employment opportunities and inclusion in decision making.

Significant challenges remain for political and economic decision-making and to make a real transformation of women's lives through economic empowerment. There is still big gap about gender instances for access to land for domestic or commercial purpose not forgetting the fact that most women are single parents or widowed.

Land and Urban Planning

The devolution of functions to local councils as provided for in Local Government Act of 2004 has been a major challenge for the local councils especially in land surveying, land registration and control of illegal sale of land, preparation of land use plans, strategic local plans and issuance of building permit functions. Governance and policy responses have not been able to effectively manage the capital city's development to achieve sustainable urbanisation. The planning authorities are also faced with inadequate capacity for preparedness for disaster management. Improving human resources capacity to manage human settlements programmes and projects continues to be a major challenge with the planning authorities.

Demand for efficient urban infrastructural services such as water, electricity, access roads, public transport, sanitation, drainage, and solid waste disposal has considerable pressure on land use. Enforcement action provisions for 'Development Control' in both the Town and Country Planning Act and the Freetown Improvement Act are inadequate and Planning officials have faced difficulties in implementing enforcement actions. Lessons learnt is that complaints for court actions and

administering judgment in addition to inadequate logistics support and budgetary allocation to the planning authorities are negatively impacting efforts to maintain effective development control.

Environment and Urbanization

International conventions and protocols adopted by the government are at different stages of implementation, general implementation is slow as many have not been ratified or harmonized with the laws, policies and programmes in Sierra Leone. The depletion of mangroves swamp is a cause of serious environmental and economic concern. Population growth and urbanization continue to show steady increase during and after the conflict and lessons have been learnt that political, socio-economic, education and environmental degradation are factors influencing urbanization. Severe traffic congestion is one of the challenges facing the fire service, as it impedes response to fire outbreak, often leading to disastrous consequences. The major sources of air pollution in the city of Freetown are vehicular exhaust emissions, industrial activities, sand and quarry industries, road and building industries, all of which produce enormous amounts of pollutants in their vicinity and indiscriminate burning of garbage at dumpsites.

Urban Economy, Governance and Legislation

The decentralization process is confronted with conflicts between some key sector legislation and the Local Government Act 2004 adding impediments in implementing the devolution process. Progress in reviewing legislation has been limited. Poor performance in local own-source revenue mobilization relative to revenue potentials leaves local councils heavily dependent on central government for financing administrative and development programmes which continue to be a challenge to autonomy and sustainability. The Development Budget is yet to be devolved and transfers to local councils for implementing devolved functions are limited to government non-salary, non-interest recurrent expenses, of which part is used to undertake sectoral development programmes, thereby undermining recurrent service delivery programmes for basic services such as health and education.

Inadequate funding for human rights activities, improving human resource capacity and logistics support continue to be a challenge in performance of the human rights commission and need to decentralize it's work to the regions. The Sierra Leone Police continues to contend with inadequate budgetary allocation and logistics support, lack of trained specialists such as pathologists, forensic experts and cyber-crime investigators. Small-scale enterprise urban migrant's lack of access to credit from the formal sector to advance business opportunities is a major challenge affecting the increase in urban migrant's contribution to the national economy. The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has exposed weaknesses of public health infrastructure, and affected commercial activities that pose difficulties in sustaining the urban economy.

Housing and Basic Services

Slum dwellers in the capital city of Freetown are faced with inadequate access to drinking water, poor sanitation and poor quality of housing. Lack of housing developers for middle and low income earners and the high dependence on imported building material are key factor affecting the delivery of adequate housing in the country. Housing construction is very expensive for the majority of Sierra Leoneans and the lack of access to information on economic construction technologies and development of small-scale building materials production enterprises constraint the housing sector.

The government is facing challenges to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation due to weak capacity to manage water facilities at district and local levels. The Agenda for Prosperity acknowledges that safe, reliable, affordable and accessible drinking water and sanitation

are essential to good health and development. Low levels of improved sanitation coverage in rural areas, open defecation is widespread and sanitation coverage in schools and public institutions needs much improvement. Local authorities are faced with inadequate budget allocation and weak monitoring and supervision of sanitation services, revenue collection and tariff allocation for solid waste management.

Improving access to clean domestic energy is a major challenge that requires significant new investments in generation, transmission and efficient distribution. The government plans investigating opportunities to use off-grid solar power services and promote the creation of markets for solar technologies through the private sector such as solar photovoltaic, solar water heating, solar lanterns, solar refrigerators, solar cooking and solar water pumps. In terms of transportation, major traffic routes especially in urban centers are congested by motorized vehicles, slow traffic due to inconvenient traffic management and some major traffic routes are encroached by street traders.

III. Emerging Issues, Priorities and future challenges to be addressed in the New Urban Agenda

Demographic Issues

The imbalances in the pattern of population, human settlement distribution and the dominance of the capital city of Freetown in terms of inward migration and urban population, is a key issue to be confronted in the New Urban Agenda and needs programme interventions to introduce lasting solutions. Firm political commitment and support to the planning authorities should be addressed in the New Urban Agenda.

Concrete steps in mobilizing financial and human resources for youth programmes are required to support both the National Employment Policy and the National Youth Employment Action Plan, within the framework of functional public private partnerships. Extension of social insurance interventions to incorporate informal and social assistance to the aged is a key priority. Enforcing the implementation of policies on gender mainstreaming, the advancement of women and the lack of a systematic approach to design, planning and implementation of interventions in gender issues and low budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Gender are top priorities to be addressed in the New Urban Agenda.

Land and Urban Planning

Implementation of the National Land Policy 2015 has now emerged as the key national priority for the Government of Sierra Leone in ensuring effective land management and administration. Weakness in institutional mechanism and capacity building, improvement in cooperative links between agencies involved in land use planning and management needs to be strengthened in addition to establishment of an effective spatial development planning system in the country.

Support for the Ministries of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment and local planning authorities to build up a strong Urban Planning Unit with planners, technical support staff and adequate logistics support is a dire need to be considered. The development of the proposed spatial plan to establish an integrated network of human settlements at national, provincial and district levels is a top priority of the planning authorities. Replication of the Urban Planning Project training programmes to the regional councils to empower the planning officials and improve the technical capacity to plan and manage the regional cities is essential and can be realised through technical inputs from the diaspora support programme.

An emerging priority issue in urban land management is the need for effective monitoring system of all land transactions and integration of land mapping and registration into the normal operations of the Ministry of Lands Country Planning and the Environment. Special Court for land adjudication and special budgetary allocation is required to ensure effective development control and enforcement. Financing the preparation and implementation of Structure Plans and Local Action Area Plans, the review and amendment of enforcement action provisions for ‘Development Control’ are crucial to empower Planning Officials carry out their functions.

Environment and Urbanization

Current usage of natural resources have not contributed meaningfully to economic growth and national development. Land use competition in settlements in environmentally unfriendly locations like in wetlands along lower urban stream terraces where the competition ranges from urban agriculture to waste dumps need to be addressed. The extension of urban fringes to hillsides where steep gradient are easily targets for landslides, calls for some enforcement measure. Seaweed invasion in Sierra Leone's coastline since 2011 is an environment problem that needs to be resolved. Environmental activists should focus on educating host communities as to how to preserve and protect the environment and the national attractions so that people will continue to use these natural resources in a sustainable manner. Review of legislation for coastal areas in Freetown and the Provinces is needed to manage the increasing threat of degradation and protection to the rapidly depleting coastline.

Strengthening the Environmental Protection Agency, capacity building in data collection and analysis, building capacities and awareness at local and national levels, including local government councils and other stakeholders to implement environmentally sustainable and integrated ecosystem management practices is an important priority for the New Urban Agenda. Programmes and policies need to be put in place to mitigate the negative impact of traffic congestion, waste management and support for enforcement of regulations.

Urban Economy, Governance and Legislation

Inadequate human resources and weak institutional coordination needs to be overcome, so that local councils can embark on meaningful economic development, generate resources, manage effectively, and deliver services to their communities. Building the institutional capacity of the human rights commission is crucial to providing support to Government to fulfill its international treaty obligations. Strengthening its regional outreach and quasi-judicial functions, developing the human rights culture through education, promoting the right to equality and non-discrimination are key priority needs for the New Urban Agenda.

Provision of adequate budgetary allocations for the police service, improve human resource and logistics support, reforming of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy, making justice accessible locally are future challenges that needs to be addressed to ensure that justice is expedited and that rights and accountability are respected. Financial inclusion and the strengthening of the private sector for realization of economic activities for urban dwellers is a factor that worth consideration in the urban economy, as well as the need to strengthen social inclusion and equity, especially to improve participation of citizens, communities and other organizations in decision-making to enhance the safety and security of communities.

Housing and Basic Services

Reliable data, adequate resources and partnership are needed to achieve a lasting solution to improve slum settlements. Establishment of urban observatories to report on slum conditions and the

implementation of the proposed Freetown Structure Plan recommendations and Signal One International redevelopment project needs serious consideration to facilitate slum upgrading and prevention.

Enhancing the capacity for an efficient and effective housing delivery system in the country with more focus on technological development and training on economic construction technology is a priority for the new urban agenda as well as developing building regulations, bye-laws and standards. Effective coordination and continued government engagement is required as well as capacity building at national and local levels to ensure the proposed interventions currently underway for improvement in safe drinking water and basic sanitation is achieved.

Improving the governance structure of the energy sector, human resource capacity and attracting private investors is essential to facilitate access to clean domestic energy. The enabling environment is required in assessing the potential for modern, sustainable and efficient forms of energy such as: bioenergy, improved and sustainable renewable energy, wood energy production, improved charcoal processing and improved cooking stoves. Another priority for the new urban agenda in improving access to sustainable means of transport is the need to develop an efficient public bus system and enhanced road safety management through technical assistance and training.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
PART ONE	16
BACKGROUND	16
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	16
1.1 COUNTRY CONTEXT	16
1.2 HABITAT III PREPARATORY PROCESS	17
1.3 STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE REPORT	18
PART TWO	20
HABITAT II ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES AND ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE NEW URBAN AGENDA	20
CHAPTER 2 URBAN DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES	20
2.1 MANAGING RAPID URBANIZATION AND RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES	20
2.2. ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF URBAN YOUTH AND THE AGED	22
2.3 INTEGRATING GENDER IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT	28
CHAPTER 3: LAND AND URBAN PLANNING	34
3.1 ENSURING SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN	34
3.2 IMPROVING URBAN LAND MANAGEMENT	38
3.3 IMPROVING TECHNICAL CAPACITY TO PLAN AND MANAGE CITIES	42
CHAPTER 4: ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION	45
4.1 ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	45
4.2 REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND AIR POLLUTION	48
CHAPTER 5: URBAN ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATION	51
5.2 IMPROVING PARTICIPATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT	52
5.3 ENHANCING URBAN SAFETY, SECURITY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUITY	53
5.4 INTEGRATION OF URBAN ECONOMY INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY	55
CHAPTER 6: HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES	57
6.1 SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION	57
6.2 IMPROVING ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HOUSING	59
6.3 ENSURING SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND BASIC SANITATION	61
6.4 IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLEAN DOMESTIC ENERGY	65
6.5 IMPROVING ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORT	68
ANNEX I: LIST OF REFERENCES	71
ANNEX II: NATIONAL HABITAT COMMITTEE	73
ANNEX III: LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	74

ANNEX IV: LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES..... 75
ANNEX V. INDICATORS..... 76

BACKGROUND

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Country Context

1. Sierra Leone is a small country on the West Coast of Africa, with a land mass totaling 73,326 sq.km. It has a circular shape that extends for a distance of about 332km from North to South and about 328km from West to East. It is bounded on the West and South-West by the Atlantic Ocean, by the Republic of Guinea on the North and North-East and by the Republic of Liberia on the East and South-East. Sierra Leone is endowed with great natural beauty and natural resources and comprise of four administrative regions divided into three provinces, the North, South and Eastern Provinces and the Western Area. The provinces are divided into 12 districts and the Western Area is divided into two districts. Sierra Leone's capital city of Freetown is located in the Western Area. According to the 2004 census projection the country has a population of 6,416,480 people in 2014 with 2,181,603 people living in urban areas.

2. Human Settlements Development in the country has faced many challenges with imbalances in population and human settlement distribution, rapid urbanization and the dominance of the Western Region particularly the capital City of Freetown in terms of urban population, services and facilities. The impact of the civil conflict (1991-2002), continues to affect the country despite efforts in implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996. The economy suffered a major stagnation in the decade leading to and after the civil war, population growth and urbanization continue to show steady increase over the last two decade. The 2005/2006 edition of the annual statistical digest of Statistic Sierra Leone, projected demographic indicators present data showing that the country's population in 2000 was 5.40 million people with 40.2 % urban; in 2005, 6.17 million with 44.2% urban, in 2010, 7.02 million with 48.1% urban and 2015 estimated at 7.92 million with 52% urban. The rapid growth rate of urban centres has increased pressure on social services, spurred degradation of the urban environment, congestion, spontaneous slum developments and unemployment over stretching urban infrastructural services.

3. The government's key human settlements issues highlighted in the National Report for Habitat II Conference in 1996, were weaknesses in terms of formulation of human settlement policies, strategies, and plans to ensure rational pattern of the distribution of population and human settlements. Following end of the civil war in 2002, Sierra Leone has focus internally on economic recovery and poverty reduction, improving food security, generating jobs for youth and other measures that will reduce the disparities between citizens residing in the capital versus those living in the rural interior and pursued a policy of decentralization, devolving responsibility for many government functions to the Local Council level.

4. The decentralization policy aims to achieve equitable and inclusive access to public services across the country to alleviate regional inequities that contributed to the civil war. The implementation of the decentralization policy has faced many obstacles, however, including the need to rebuild local government institutions and capacity, limited evolution of financial resources; and multifaceted political economy hurdles. While the country was making progress in its post conflict recovery efforts with its development partner's support, it has to contend with the out brake of the Ebola virus disease since May 2014 which possess a threat of reversing the gains already made. The

country is now living in an “economic blockade” with businesses balling out, while economic and development activities stall amidst high inflation. Prior to the Ebola outbreak, all sectors of the economy, including health, agriculture, ICT, were all doing well, but now being undermined by the epidemic, and the inflation rate which government had stabilized from 12% to 6% has been undermined with an anticipated 6% to 7% inflation at the end of the year.¹ The impact of the Ebola public health has affected the economy and taking an urban dimension with increased cases of infections from the urban centers.

5. Sierra Leone’s third generation poverty reduction strategy paper the Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2018 indicates that the strong growth of the economy during the post conflict period translated into a reduction in the incidence of poverty in the country. The 2011 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey estimated that 52.9 percent of the population is poor compared to 66.4 percent in 2003. Although poverty remained relatively high in the country, the incidence of poverty declined in the three provincial regions between 2003 and 2011 from 86.0 to 61.3% in the Eastern region, from 80.6 to 61.0% in the Northern region, and from 64.1 to 55.4% in the Southern region and increased in the Western region from 20.7 to 28.0%. The increase in the Western region is likely driven by large numbers of economic migrants, moving to the capital city of Freetown seeking employment opportunities.

1.2 Habitat III Preparatory Process

6. The objective of the review process was to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the National Habitat Committee to prepare the Habitat III National Report through an assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, highlighting policies, legislation, practical measures undertaken, achievements, challenges, emerging issues and priority areas for action in the New Urban Agenda. The preparation of the Habitat III national report was based on guidelines from UN-Habitat focussing on demographic issues, national urban policies, urban planning and design, housing, land and security of tenure, urban economy and employment, disasters and resilience, environment and climate change, and with the consensus of the National Habitat Committee on the final reporting structure with relevance to issues deemed important within the national context. The process went through some key actions as follows:

- **Establishment of the National Habitat Committee:** The Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment established a broad based National Habitat Committee which initiated the collection of information and analysis of indicators, best practices, policies, action plans and other materials to conduct the assessment. The National Habitat Committee facilitated dialogue and consensus among all stakeholders, coordinated implementation of the urban dwellers survey and the urban forum and talk shows.
- **National consultation and validation sessions:** Several consultation sessions and workshops were organized to review current national and local plans of action and their implementation since 1996 and to assess progress made and obstacles encountered in

¹ In a weekly press briefing hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Kaifala Marah, brief the press that the government of Sierra Leone has lost Le75 billion in revenue since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak. Reported on September 12, 2014 By Alusine Sesay & Matthew Jabby at <http://slconcordtimes.com/le75bn-lose-in-revenue/#comment-42>,

implementing the Habitat Agenda, identify key issues, and validate a framework and outline of the Habitat III National Report.

- **Preparation of Reports:** The reporting structure provided by UN-Habitat was used as guidelines to prepare the Inception report and the National report. The National Habitat Committee prepared and widely disseminate the country reports for comments and ensured the report is empirical, illustrated with current data and forward-looking with relevant programmes and policies.
- **Limitation of the process in design of a New Urban Agenda:** The organization process for the consultative workshops and administering of the urban dwellers surveys were faced with challenges due to the public health emergency declared by the government to prevent the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease. The traditional consultative process of conducting workshops and collection of inputs from stakeholders in the provincial regions were affected due to travel restrictions. Lack of information and data for indicators covering the period of conflict 1991-2002 especially from the provincial regions also constrained the reporting process, some indicators were not available for the year 1996, 2006 and 2013. Efforts were made to reduce the impact of these limitations through use of administrative channels of the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment to collect available information and data and also to conduct several consultation sessions with small group of participants in keeping with the Ebola public health emergency regulations.

1.3 Structure and Scope of the Report

7. The structure of the report outlines two main parts. Part one consist of chapter one which outline a description of the Country Context, Habitat III Preparatory Process, the Structure and Scope of the Report. Part two covers chapters' two to six which elaborates on the findings of the assessment on progress made in implementation the Habitat II: Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learnt and the Future Challenges and Issues to be addressed by the New Urban Agenda. The chapters are on five thematic areas: Urban Demographic Issues, Land and Urban Planning, Environment and Urbanization, Urban Economy, Governance and Legislation, Housing and Basic Services reflecting on key issues relevant to the government. Based on the recommended guidelines for the Preparation of National Habitat III Reports provided by UN-Habitat and the recommendations from the National Habitat committee, the following outlines the scope of the review process:

- Conduct assessment focussed on demographic issues, existing human settlements and urban planning policies, urban planning and design, housing, land and security of tenure, urban economy and employment, disasters and resilience, environment and climate change, and key issues deemed important within the national context. An empirical, illustrative and forward-looking reporting method based on current data, as well as relevant programmes and policies forms the basis of the report. Capturing what the Central Government, Local Authorities in the major cities and other sub-national governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have achieved, through implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996.
- Obtain citizens view on human settlement issues, housing and sustainable urban development that will contribute toward Habitat III for a better future through the urban dwellers survey. The survey was administered to 330 respondent: 200 at national level, 100 at regional level and 30 answered by experts and participants attending the Habitat Agenda Partners consultations.

**Habitat II Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learnt and
Future Challenges and Issues to be addressed by the New Urban Agenda**

CHAPTER 2 URBAN DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES

2.1 Managing Rapid Urbanization and Rural-Urban Linkages

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

8. Formulation of human settlements policy, strategy and preparation of national urbanization plan to provide the framework for investment in the physical, social and economic infrastructure, services and facilities within the regions were the key interventions planned in 1996 to manage urbanization and rural urban linkages. Managing rapid urbanization and rural-urban linkages was serious concern of the government during and after the eleven years (1991-2002) of civil conflict, however since 1996 the government made some progress in the following areas:

Devolving of function to the local councils to enable development and human settlements management in their locality

9. The Local Government Act of 2004 empowers Local Councils with the responsibility for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in their locality. Under the Act, the local councils have the mandates to prepare and approve development plans, which shall guide the development of their locality.

10. The Ministry responsible for development and economic planning provides guidelines for the preparation of development plans. The planning functions to be devolved by the Ministry include the preparation of strategic local plans and land use plans. These functions are yet to be devolved to the local councils. Under the Act, the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment is responsible for the formulation of national policies, providing technical guidance to the local councils, and monitoring the performance by the local councils.

Agenda for Prosperity propose intervention

11. The Agenda for Prosperity defined goal for population-related programmes and projects is to reverse the migration trend, with increased investments in mining and agriculture, to effect a decline in the growth of urban centres between 2014 and 2018. New rural settlements will be expected to emerge as a result of thriving agricultural and mining production. Town planning and zoning laws will have to be integrated to ensure that physical and other amenities are improved and expanded in emerging rural settlements. Improvement of rural economies and living standards through the provision of basic services and physical and social infrastructure is expected to reverse the rural exodus.²

² Agenda for Prosperity - Road to middle income status Sierra Leone's third generation poverty reduction strategy paper (2013-2018)

Strengthening Technical Capacity of local government's departments and the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

12. The urban planning project (2011-2014) funded exclusively by the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union (EU), was implemented with the primary beneficiaries and implementing partners: the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment (MLCPE) and the Freetown City Council (FCC). The project was implemented within the framework of the decentralization process and aims at strengthening local governments and provides capacity building in the area of land use planning and spatial planning for urban and rural areas to create further development opportunities and improve sanitation, health and natural disaster mitigation in urban areas. The Project also includes a Freetown road improvement, a flooding mitigation component and training activities.

13. The outputs produced by the urban planning project are vital in supporting the Government of Sierra Leone effort in managing rapid urbanization and rural-urban linkages. The significant contribution by the project are:

- ⇒ Strengthening local government's Development Departments by setting up urban planning units and training of local government planners.
- ⇒ Facilitated data collection for development planning and the establishment of an effective and integrated web-based GIS management system for spatial planning.
- ⇒ Developed a web-based spatial database system for effective land management and administration for urban growth.
- ⇒ Prepared a draft for legally binding land use plan system based on a revision of the existing urban planning laws. This component includes a draft for the territorial development goals at national level.
- ⇒ Prepared a National Spatial Development Framework and a long-term Freetown Structure Plan.
- ⇒ Enhanced the technical and institutional capacity of the MLCPE and FCC through training and logistic support.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

14. Rural-urban migration is a major challenge in Sierra Leone as the rural poor moves to urban areas for the benefit of basic amenities and better livelihoods. The lack of spatial planning and recognition of its importance in the implementation of population management programmes and projects coupled with the prevalent urban growth patterns taking place in urban centers in the country are major challenges facing the planning authorities.

15. In terms of rural-urban linkages the ongoing intervention to improve on the national roads, infrastructure generally are challenged with the growing number of rural migrants in the city centers as a result of inadequate planning. Illegal land grabbing is also serious concern and this leads to the development of unplanned slum settlements which is an indicator of inefficient rural urban migration planning.

16. In urban areas, the lessons learnt is that majority of households can only afford basic rental accommodation in areas with limited access to safe water, sanitation and other social facilities,

triggering overcrowding and poor living conditions which exposes a large number of people to high health and environmental risks.

Table 1: Urban Growth as Share of Total Population Growth 2004-2018 (Projected)

Year	Total Population	Urban Population	% Urban
2004	4,976,871	1,825,246	36.7
2014	6,416,480	2,181,603	34.0
2018	6,584,650	2,107,088	32.0

Source: Census 2004-Projected 2014-18

Future Challenges and Issues to be addressed by the New Urban Agenda

17. Peri-urban settlement areas are important to consider as a transformation or transitional area from rural to urban settlement (Peri-urban e.g. Western Rural). This area would definitely have different characteristics from rural and urban settlement. This is a future challenge for the transformation to take place depending on a number of factors (economic, social, political etc.) which are crucial component in rural - urban migration and needs to be addressed in the new urban agenda.

18. Prior to the conflict human settlement planning problems were at national and regional level with marked imbalances in the pattern of population, human settlement distribution and the dominance of Freetown inward migration and urban population. This pattern continues with population increase coupled with the forced migration effects of the eleven years civil conflict, continue to result in high growth rate of urban centres, accelerating spontaneous slum developments and unemployment over stretching the urban infrastructural services. This is a key issue to be confronted in the new urban Agenda and needs programme interventions to introduce lasting solutions.

19. With the policies and programme documents prepared through technical assistance from development partners, the government is better placed to address these issue with firm political commitment and support to the planning authorities. It is imperative that the issue of capacity building support for the local authorities and the Ministry responsible for physical planning be addressed in the new Urban Agenda. This will enhance the government capacity to implement the proposed goal of the Agenda for Prosperity which intends to invest in mining regions as an attempt to develop secondary cities and towns to reduce rural exodus.

2.2. Addressing the Needs of Urban Youth and the Aged

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

20. Sierra Leone has made progress in establishing structures and relevant institutions with mandates to address the needs of the youths. The National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) was established by an Act of Parliament (No 11 of 2009) which came into force on 22 December 2009. The Act established a governing Board of eleven persons that consists of representatives of the four

provinces, youth representatives and delegates from Ministries of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Youth Affairs. This effort has facilitated the Commission to “empower the youth to develop their potential, creativity and skills for national development.”

21. Since establishment of NAYCOM, the commission has housed the Youth Employment Support Programme (YESP), with the supervision of Ministry of Youth Affairs, and with funding from World Bank to implement its mission designed to increase the productive capacity of the Youth for enhanced participation in development and governance at National, District and Community levels by adopting the following policy objectives:

- To Promote Youth Creativity, Potential and Skills for National Development;
- Creation of Employment opportunities for the Youth and Develop medium and long term strategies;
- Initiate Youth Development Programmes in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies.

22. The specific objective of YESP is to increase short term employment opportunities and to improve employability of targeted youth. The project seeks to address constraints on the demand and supply side of the labour market namely:

- To improve technical capacity and promote creation and/or expansion of small youth owned enterprises in economically viable activities;
- To improve the skills base of young people to make them more employable; and
- To provide a safety net and income supplement for the most vulnerable youth through public works.

23. The project will be scaling up on-going interventions and testing approaches to increase numbers of beneficiaries and expand geographic coverage, paying particular attention to learning from its experiences through impact evaluations designed around different interventions. Some key milestone in addressing youth development are:

- ⇒ NAYCOM in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MoYA), facilitated the review of the Youth Employment Strategy, which culminated in the development of the National Youth Employment Action Plan (NYEAP) during the period 2011/2012, placing more emphasis on labour demand in order to address the problem of youth unemployment, underemployment as well as a gender disparities in the labour market.
- ⇒ Development of restructured District Youth Councils and decentralized structures in the form of Chiefdom/Zonal Youth Councils, by ensuring that truly democratic elections are conducted freely and fairly in all of the 14 administrative districts of the country. With the involvement of NAYCOM Youth Officers and other technical backstopping support, awareness, training and capacity building were undertaken in all the districts, to ensure achievement of that endeavour.
- ⇒ In April, 2014 ‘A Blue Print for Youth Development’ was launched by His Excellence President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma. The document was developed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, in collaboration with the National Youth Commission with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sierra Leone. The Blue Print incorporates the

24. In terms of progress made to address the needs of the aged, the Government have express strong commitment in the Agenda for Prosperity under the social protection system to uplifting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, poorest and marginalized groups including the aged. Its commitments include the Sierra Leone Constitution Article 8, international agreements and charters adopted or ratified, such as the 2008 African Union Social Protection Framework, and the MDGs. Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs within its responsibility aim to provide efficient and reliable services within an enabling, protective and peaceful environment where the rights of the aged amongst others are promoted;

25. In 2011, the Government adopted the National Social Protection Policy with the main goals to strengthen the social protection delivery system, and to ensure the most poor and vulnerable are afforded an equal opportunity to access basic services and mitigate risks. Some of the specific objectives of the proposed social protection system that will address the needs of the aged includes: provision of basic social protection packages, access to essential social services and social insurance interventions.

26. Since 2012 with support from UNDP, the National Youth Commission is implementing Graduate Internship Programme (GIP) specifically for university and other college graduates, aimed at bolstering the employability of young university graduates inspired by three operational principles:

- Increasing the number of young people benefitting from productive internship opportunities nationwide,
- Increasing the overall quality of the internship experience, so as to actually contribute to the employability of the intern and to the maximization of both the social and private return of the initiative and,
- Ensuring equal opportunities to access merit based internship positions. A basic living allowance is provided for a period of four months to deserving selected interns (pre selection is made by NAYCOM and UNDP while the final selection is made by the employer).⁴

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

27. The National Youth Policy and the National Youth Commission Act 2010 define youth as those between 15 and 35 years of age.⁵ According to Sierra Leone Status of the Youth Report 2012, the youth constitute about 34 percent of the total population. This represents 2.7 million people out of

3 <http://www.nationalyouthcommission.sl> Report - According to the UNDP Country Director, Sudipto Mukerjee during launching of the programmes, explained that "The blue print for youth development also aim to enhance active citizenship among Sierra Leone's young people, including bestowing them with the responsibility and means for their effective participation in national life and nation building.

4 www.nationalyouthcommission.sl and www.sl.undp.org

5 Sierra Leone National Youth Policy, First Draft 20 November 2012.

the country's estimated 2015 population of 7.9 Million⁶. As a result of the conflict that pervaded Sierra Leone, most of these young people have received little or no schooling and they lack the skills for gainful employment, and may even lack the social norms that bind society together. Many of the young people participated in the war and/or experienced its trauma, losing their formative and transformative years in the process.⁷ This is a major challenge to address youth employment in the country.

28. In terms of employment creation and the labour market, there is a well documented mismatch between current and anticipated future labour market and its preparation, from the lower level schools system, at primary, junior and senior secondary, to higher and tertiary education and training, including university and technical and vocational education and training. There is a general lack of innovation to meet the changing job market demands, including self-employment. This mismatch has given rise to a disconnect between supply and demand for labour, contributing to increasing levels of youth unemployment.⁸

29. Approximately 70% of youth are underemployed or unemployed, illiteracy remains a persistent challenge and youth that lack skills and education find it extremely difficult to compete for the limited jobs available.⁹ Youth unemployment is one of the most challenging policy issues the government of Sierra Leone faces and consists of creating productive jobs, attaining the nation's objective of inclusive growth, poverty reduction, political security, social stability and safety. This is mainly contingent on the degree to which the underemployed young people are engaged in meaningful employment to contribute to economic growth and social development. Some of the major challenges facing young people that the National Youth Policy seeks to address are:

- ⇒ Unemployment and under-employment resulting from inadequate and inappropriate training for the job market; (mismatches between demand and supply of labour);
- ⇒ Lack of access to quality education for the youth in the educational sector with attendant inadequate or inappropriate preparation and training for the formal job market;
- ⇒ Low investment in technical vocational education and policy coherence, resulting in high mismatch with labour market demands.
- ⇒ High incidence of drug and substance abuse amongst youth and teenage pregnancies, with 68 percent of girls have their first pregnancy between the ages of 12-20;
- ⇒ High level of transactional sex amongst young girls, partly as a coping strategy against poverty and risk of sexually transmitted infections.

30. The aged population of the country is of serious concern even though they account for about 4.3% of the national population¹⁰, there is need to look into state actors' response to such a vulnerable group with life expectation especially after retirement age. Households headed by the

6 Sierra Leone Statistics Digest 2005-2006, projected demographic indicators (2000-2025) estimated 7.9 million for Sierra Leone 2015 population.

⁷ Africa Peer Review Mechanism, Sierra Leone 2012 Country Review Report.

⁸ Sierra Leone Status of the Youth Report 2012

⁹ <http://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/countryinfo.html>

¹⁰ According to Sierra Leone Statistical Digest 2005-2006, the 2004 population was 4,977,000 million with people of aged 65 & above accounting for 216,000 this represent an aged population of 4.3%.

elderly face problems such as inadequate resources especially pensioners to meet basic needs, lack of income and inadequate housing facilities for the unemployed, lack of access to employment opportunities and inclusion in decision making.

31. In terms of lessons learnt, an Impact Assessment conducted by UNDP in January 2011 provides good lesson learnt in implementation of youth projects that were beginning to develop innovative micro-lending schemes at the community level and has the potential to serve as a bridge to formal credit market schemes.¹¹ The assessment reveals that youth-employment projects had a substantial effect on the lives of the 10,299 youth involved in the project. Although the duration of the project was only one year, supporting the development and expansion of such programs could have a long-term economic and poverty reduction impact as the results are even more notable such as: (a) increase in beneficiaries income on average, by more than 197 percent improving their food security and the likelihood that they could afford school fees and (b) facilitated strengthening of local governance committees and other secondary effects such as financial literacy contributing to long-term development prospects.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

32. The state of youth employment remains a growing concern. Concrete steps in mobilizing financial and human resources are required to support both the recently finalized National Employment Policy and the NYEAP, within the framework of functional public private partnerships.

33. Hunger is a very important aspect to be address for the future increase in youth’s population sector. This situation is compounded by a large percentage of the youth population who are deemed unskilled - lacking the necessary skills and competencies for them to seek decent work and livelihoods. There is need to engage the youths in urban and peri-urban agriculture to enhance food production and generate income to sustain their livelihoods.

34. There is need for the state through public private partnership to create affordable shelter for the disabled youths and elderly especially those that roam the streets. This need to be considered in the new urban agenda to address the shelter challenges facing the elderly and the disabled youths.

35. An emerging issue is the protracted high unemployment and under-employment levels, particularly among young people, which the Agenda for Prosperity also recognize and this issue pose a serious threat to social and political stability. To address this issue, employment and job creation is one of the main goals of the AfP as there are high expectations that much needed jobs are about to be created. Failure to manage such expectations and generate jobs could pose serious threats to the entire youth programme.

36. The establishment of NAYCOM and decentralised youth structures at grassroots level in the form of District Youth Advisory Committees, District Youth Councils (DYCs) and Chiefdom/Zonal Youth Councils are steps in the right direction. However, these structures, from national to decentralised levels, need to be followed up with provision of tangible support involving functional or effective public private partnerships. Heavy dependence on existing limited annual government budgetary allocation and on financial resources of a few international development partners may not be adequate to implement a comprehensive youth support programme and may not be sustained in

¹¹ Impact Assessment: Youth employment programmes in Sierra Leone (2007–2009).UNDP/GOSL January 2011.

the long term.¹² Supporting the attainment of the following goals are key priorities to be addressed in the new urban agenda:

- Integration of youth into the mainstream of national, regional and international development initiatives;
- Enable the youth of all categories to develop their full potential and self-esteem through approaches that enhance innovation and youth talent;
- Empower and actively involve the youths in productive activities, in both rural and urban areas;
- Enable the youth share, acquire and transfer knowledge, expertise, and experience through national, regional and international networks and peer-learning as well as through improved use of information communication technology;
- Institutionalize youth participation at all levels of the decision making process, from central to decentralised level, to ensure the nurturing of democratic and productive culture; promoting volunteerism, through to community level;
- Need to strengthen literacy levels of the population, especially the youth, addressing identified gaps in basic education and training, from primary, secondary education, through to more advanced training and qualifications, higher education, technical vocational education training, based on the labour market realities of the country and adoption of innovative approaches to human resources and skills development; and
- Development of human resources support networks involving the private sector industries forging linkages between technical vocational education training demand and supply in the labour market.

37. In terms of the aged and the disabled, the following are key priorities to be addressed by the Urban Agenda: The need for extension of social insurance interventions to incorporate informal and social assistance interventions to the aged. The disabled among the youths and the aged needs full integration in the society and active participation in national development through:

- (a) Free access to education and skills training for self-reliance,
- (b) Capacitate the commission for disability to provide efficient and effective service for people with disability,
- (c) Provision of adequate and affordable housing facilities, and
- (d) Access to employment opportunity and inclusion in decision making.



¹² Sierra Leone Status of

Opportunity

38. The outcome of the urban dwellers survey illustrates dire need for employment creation and better job opportunities. Out of the 330 Urban Survey questionnaires administered to a target group of Habitat Agenda Partners and the General Public, 328 respondent indicated their order of importance to the question on “**Better Job Opportunities**” with No. 1 being most important ranking. The results indicates 218 out of 328 respondent representing 66.5% said it is most important for them to get Better Job Opportunities while 110 representing 33.5% said it is also an important issue whereas no one said it is not an important issue.

2.3 Integrating Gender in Urban Development

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda (Habitat II)

39. Following the eleven years of civil conflict in Sierra Leone (1991-2002) gender equality gained momentum in the country’s national development goals as a result of the effects of the war on women and girls who bears the brunt of the conflict. Against this background the Government of Sierra Leone adopted gender mainstreaming as a development tool not only to ensure integration of gender in the national development but also to facilitate poverty reduction, and improvement in socio-economic and sustainable development to its people.

40. Sierra Leone embraced the Beijing Declaration and is making progress in establishing the relevant policy framework to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. The creation of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs in 1996 and a parliamentary sub-committee on gender affairs reflected the commitment of the government to ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women. In 2007 the government enacted, the Domestic Violence Act, the Devolution of Estates Act, the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act and the Child’s Right Act. All of these Acts have been specifically tailored to address issues of abuse against women. Women are traditionally not accorded equal rights with men in chieftaincy matters. As a result in 2009, the Chieftaincy Act was passed in Parliament to allow women equal rights with men in chieftaincy matters.¹³

41. As expressed in the Agenda for Prosperity, Government of Sierra Leone is committed to addressing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment through the following policy and legal framework:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which provides the grounds for gender equality by ensuring women’s equal access to public and political participation, education, economic and health.
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which focuses on equality, development and peace from a gender standpoint. It demonstrates the critical relationship between the advancement of women and progress for society as a whole.

¹³Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 Republic of Sierra Leone

- The Millennium Development Goals (Goal 3), which underscored that gender equality and women's empowerment, are fundamental drivers for development, economic growth and poverty reduction.
- The National Action Plan for the Full Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (UNSCR) and 1820 (UNSCR) on Women, Peace and Security, which was adopted in 2000 and recognizes the vital role that women can play in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, and stresses the importance of their full participation.
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs gender policies which focus on the implementation of the 'National Gender Strategic Plan' 2010-2013.
- Government legislation to address gender equality. The Government has undertaken legislative reforms in the following critical areas as required by CEDAW: Domestic Violence Act 2007, Devolution of Estates Act 2007, Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2007, Child Rights Act 2007, Chieftaincy Act 2009 and Sexual Offenses Act 2012.

42. Furthermore the government made progress in planning and mainstreaming gender in development and in translating international provisions into national policies and programmes to reinforce the mainstreaming of gender issues in the development agenda in order to promote gender equality and empower women. The passage of three Laws the Gender Acts to improve the legal status of women in the country. Significant steps have been taken to increase the women's representation in high profile and critical public offices in the Country. Out of the five judges of the country's Supreme Court a woman is the Chief Justice, while two other Judges are women making three women out of the five judges of the Supreme Court. Three of the seven judges at the Court of Appeal are women and three of the Justices of the high court are women. The heads of the National Audit Service and National Revenue Authority are also Women.¹⁴

43. The government of Sierra Leone also received support from the African Development Bank's for the Country Gender Profile as commitments made by the AfDB Updated Gender Plan of Action (2009-2011) to support Regional Member Countries to build their knowledge base in order to inform their work on gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The Country Gender Profile, was designed to support both the Government of Sierra Leone's effort in mainstreaming gender in its post-war reconstruction and peace consolidation development agenda and the Bank's programme intervention in the country.¹⁵

44. In 2010 Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, in consultation with the relevant UN agencies, finalized a four year strategic plan covering the period up to 2013, which was formally launched on the 8th of June by President, Ernest Bai Koroma. In the Local Government Act 2004 specific provisions require at least 50 percent female representation in the District and Ward Development Committees.¹⁶ The strategic plan aims to serve as a tool for efficient coordination of gender response programmes implemented by MDAs and to provide a framework for tracking government/donor policies and budgets on gender related programmes. The hope is to provide a strong advocacy and resource mobilization tool for effective gender programme delivery in Sierra Leone.¹⁷

¹⁴ Africa Peer Review Mechanism, Sierra Leone 2012 Country Review Report). National Governing Council.

¹⁵ Sierra Leone Country Gender Profile, October 2011 African Development Bank Group

¹⁶ Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 Republic of Sierra Leone

¹⁷ Summary: Sierra Leone National Gender Strategy Plan 2010-2013, Written by Yonina Alexander, 15 September 2010

45. In terms of Policy and Legal Frameworks two national policies, the National Policy on the Advancement of Women and the National Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, were adopted in 2009 to guide the Government's gender equality project. These were reinforced by the National Gender Strategic Plan (2009-2012), and the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SILNAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UNSCR 1820 on Sexual Violence were adopted in 2009 and 2010 respectively.¹⁸ All of these policies and legal instruments reinforced the government commitment to addressing the issues of gender inequalities, bridge the gender gap and facilitate the process of integrating gender into urban development.

46. The Trend and Inequality Analysis of the Sierra Leone Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 reflects improvement in Gender parity in education and great effort has been made to narrow wide disparities realized in the early 1990s. In 2003, the gender parity gap reduced for primary education. In terms of the number of children enrolled in primary school, 58 percent were boys and 42 percent were girls. Combining both primary and secondary schools, 63 percent of those enrolled were boys and 37 percent were girls (MDG Report, 2005). Gender parity index (girls:boys) sharply increased thereafter to 101 percent in primary school and 78 percent in secondary school (MICS3, 2005). Such dramatic increase in the attendance of girls was as a result of affirmative action of the government to allow every girl child to go to school. Primary education school fees for all children were abolished in 2001 and in 2003, full support was provided for all girls entering the Junior Secondary School in the Eastern and Northern Regions because these regions were recording low numbers in attendance.

Table 2: Gender disparity in primary and secondary education and Parliamentary Seats

Indicators	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	101% (primary), 78% (secondary)	-	-	84.9% (combined)
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	8.8%	15.0%	14.5%	14.5%

Source: Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 Republic of Sierra Leone

47. Considerable effort has been made by women's group to see that the minimum 30 percent quota bill passed into law. It has been submitted to the ongoing constitution review committee. According to the third session in parliament in December 2014 the President reminded members of Parliament to debate on this issue positively and give it due consideration as it has long been overdue. The Civil Society Movement in collaboration with other women's groups continue to advocate for the adoption of this bill. With such political will by the President and other stakeholders the 30 percent quota for women in decision making processes is anticipated, thus contributing significantly to the MDG'S and the Agenda for Prosperity.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

48. The Agenda for Prosperity recognize important progress has been made in expanding opportunities for women and girls in Sierra Leone, however, significant challenges remain for

¹⁸ Sierra Leone Country Gender Profile, October 2011 African Development Bank Group

political and economic decision-making and to make a real transformation of women’s lives through economic empowerment.¹⁹

49. In spite of the progress made in initiating legislative reforms and programmes to enhance gender equality and women’s empowerment, gender inequality is still pervasive in the country’s political, economic and socio-cultural landscape as women continue to face discrimination. As part of the decentralisation process, all Local Councils have established Gender and Social Welfare Committees to promote gender mainstreaming but they are affected by lack of funding.

50. Sierra Leone’s scorecard on meeting the gender-related MDGs is mixed. The government’s assessment on MDG 2 Universal Primary Education is inconclusive due to a lack of data to track progress. However, it was noted that yearly enrolment at the primary level between 2006 and 2008 has been constant at 62%, with high dropout rates among girls reaching puberty. Like MDG 1, MDG 3 on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment will not be met despite a near gender balance in gross primary enrolment because of high female dropout and low completion rates. Furthermore, structural inequalities and gender discrimination against women and girls still exist in the country.²⁰

51. According to Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010, in the area of job creation, there is still a serious gap in urban areas as even educated women are not gainfully employed rather still are engaged with their informal chores as only the few lucky ones make it to white colored jobs like banks and secretariats of different institutions. There is still a very big gap in women’s access to land for either domestic or commercial purpose not forgetting the fact that most women are single parents or widowed. Gender should be integrated in the new urban agenda as women are the largest set of the total group of the 70% that is engaged in the urban and per-urban food production practices or agriculture for most urban areas. Gender parity in non-agricultural employment is still low despite the fact that significant progress is being made to improve the situation.

52. In 2001, the proportion of women in non-agricultural employment was 7.5% (MDG Report, 2005). There was significant increase to 23.2 percent in 2005 (World Bank, 2009). Employment by grades and gender in the public service shown below taken as an example, the table illustrates clearly that the proportion of women in non-agricultural employment is significantly lower than that of men at all levels and that the share of women occupying senior level positions is discouragingly too low – (13% women compared with 87% men).²¹

Table 3: Employment by Grades and Gender in the Public Service

Level	Male	% male	Female	% female	Total
Junior	8865	61	5556	39	14421
Middle	741	78	205	22	946
Senior	322	87	46	13	368
Total	9928	-	5807	-	15735

Source: Human Resource Management Office, Government of Sierra Leone. (Adapted from MDG Report 2010 SL)

¹⁹ Agenda for Prosperity - Road to middle income status Sierra Leone’s third generation poverty reduction strategy paper (2013-2018)

²⁰ Sierra Leone Country Gender Profile, October 2011 African Development Bank Group

²¹ Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 Republic of Sierra Leone

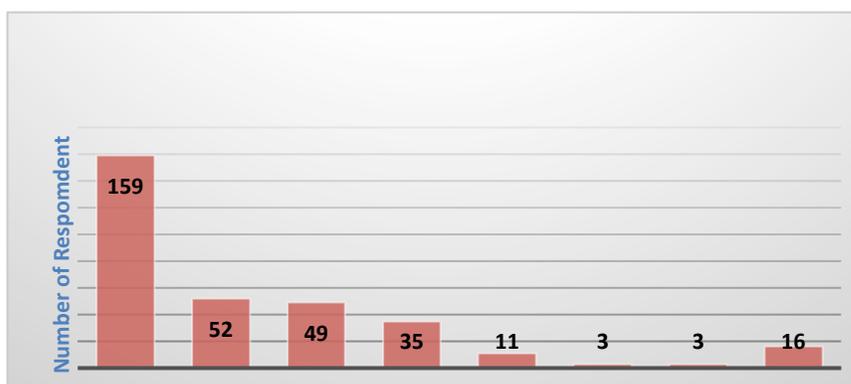
Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

53. The problem of enforcing the implementation of policies on gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women and the lack of a systematic approach to design, planning and implementation of interventions in gender related issues and low budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Gender is of top priority to be addressed in the new urban agenda.

54. Government through its line Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs should be strengthened with the necessary technical expertise, logistics and training to enable it undertake its coordinating role. To facilitate effective gender equality and participation in urban development the following key issues and national priorities needs to be addressed in the New Urban Agenda:

- ⇒ Sustain gender equality in education at all levels, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels, and without compromising quality.
- ⇒ Strengthen advocacy campaign strategies to do away with culturally entrenched attitudes that discriminate against women. In addition, domesticating the already ratified international conventions, protocols and declarations on gender issues would help consolidate all efforts towards achievement of gender equality and empowerment.
- ⇒ Provide adequate resources to institute coordination mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation of programmes focusing on gender issues in housing, slums, urban planning, public space, water, sanitation, transport, environment, local governance and economic development in the country.
- ⇒ Design suitable adult literacy programs and encourage urban deprive girls, boys, men and women participation to specifically targeting poverty reduction programmes in community based water supply and sanitation services that will enhance employment skills.
- ⇒ Establish Gender Responsive Budgeting Committees at all levels of government, building capacity of parliamentarians, city councils, district budget oversight committees advocating for gender based allocation of resources and implementing a strong monitoring and evaluating framework for tracking progress.
- ⇒ Development and implementation of training programmes in gender mainstreaming including Research, Documentation and Information, Communication and Technology in partnership with Statistics Sierra Leone and national research institutions.
- ⇒ Strengthening information sharing between institutions engaged in gender advocacy and enhance their capacities to maximize use of information technology and database management and Geographic Information System to facilitate gender mapping at the national district levels.

Fig 2: Equality Men and Girls and Boys



between Women,

55. 330 Urban Survey questionnaires were administered to a target group of Habitat Agenda Partners and the General Public, 328 respondent indicated their order of importance to the question on **“Equality between men and women, girls and boys”** with No. 1 being most important ranking. The results indicates 159 out of 328 respondent representing 48.5% said it is most important for them for “Equality between men and women, girls and boys” while 16 out of 328, 4.9% express that it is not important at all. The rest of the respondent indicate their order of importance as shown above.

CHAPTER 3: LAND AND URBAN PLANNING

3.1 Ensuring Sustainable Urban Planning and Design

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

56. The key human settlements issues highlighted in Sierra Leone Habitat II Report in 1996 regarding human settlements policy and planning were centred on weaknesses in terms of formulation of human settlement policies, strategies and plans to ensure rational pattern of distribution of population and human settlements; capacity building of the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment; strengthening the role of local legislative frameworks for regional and urban planning. Planned interventions were identified which are reflected in the Habitat Agenda. The progress made by the Central Government and Local Authorities in implementing the Habitat Agenda since 1996 are reflected in the following programmes and policies:

- ⇒ Launching of a new procedure for processing of applications for development in 1999;
- ⇒ Preparation of a National Framework for Human Settlements Development and Shelter Delivery with assistance from UNDP and UN-HABITAT in 2002;
- ⇒ Devolving of some planning functions to local authorities by enacting the Local Government Act in 2004;
- ⇒ Implementation of a medium term Urban Planning Project 2011- 2014; and
- ⇒ Conduct Assessment and Evaluation of the Functioning Laws of Significance for Urban and Land Use Planning and Development Control in January 2014.

Launching of a new procedure for processing of applications for Development:

57. In June 1999, MLCPE launched a new procedure for processing of applications for Development including Planning Permission, Approval of Survey Plans and Building Permit which should have taken place earlier, but was interrupted by the events of 6 January 1999. The processes and procedures are guided within the legal framework provided in statute books but had not been implemented. Implementing the procedures was meant to enhance planning and development in creating an orderly and improved environment of cities, towns and rural settlements. Due to the effects of the war, implementing the procedures provides an opportunity to embark on post war reconstruction phase. The processes and procedures are based on the Town and Country Planning Act 1960 provisions for planning and development control, Caps.81 and 66 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. Act. No 14 of 1960 cited as an ordinance to amend the Survey Ordinance, 1950. The core of the new procedure involves:

- The introduction of application for Planning Permission for all types of development including surveying;
- A new procedure for application for Building Permit; and
- Giving prominence to professionals whose specialties related directly to land development.

58. The Ministry also took steps to implement the recommendations of the Greater Freetown Structure Plan, which was launched in August 1996, prepared with support from the World Bank. The Greater Freetown Structure Plan proposed a strategic framework to guide the orderly growth of

the capital city showing a 5, 10 and 15-year time horizons to show how growth can be accommodated in spatial terms.

National Framework for Human Settlements Development:

59. In April 2002, a National Framework for Human Settlements Development and Shelter Delivery was prepared with assistance from UNDP and UN-HABITAT. The report sets out a framework for responding to the immediate and medium term challenges that the country faces in its human settlements, against the backdrop of the adverse impact of the conflict that have devastated shelter and infrastructure in both rural and urban areas. The framework outline strategic response to the main human settlements challenges in the country with emphasis on a shift from relief to development and recommends:

- ⇒ expanded support by funding agencies and NGOs so as to meet the immediate shelter needs brought by damage during the years of conflict and;
- ⇒ strategic interventions to respond to human settlements priorities, centred on the articulation and field - testing of a shelter strategy, as well as on the introduction of environmental planning and management in Freetown and the other principal towns. The report further recommended building the capacity of the lead institutions, primarily MLCPE and Freetown City Council, in order to assure effective implementation of the proposed activities.

Devolution of function to local authorities in 2004

60. The Local Government Act (2004) re-established Local Government Institutions throughout the country. Until 2004, Local Councils were not assigned the responsibilities of physical planning and development control in their respective areas. The Local Government Act of 2004 now empowers Local Councils with the responsibility for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in their locality. Under the Act, the local councils have the mandates to prepare and approve development plans, which shall guide the development of their locality under the guidance of the Ministry responsible for development and economic planning shall issue guidelines for the preparation of development plans. The planning functions to be devolved by the Ministry include the preparation of strategic local plans and land use plans. However, these functions are yet to be devolved to the local councils. Under this Act, the MLCPE is responsible for the formulation of national policies, providing technical guidance to the local councils, and monitoring the performance by the local councils.

The Urban Planning Project 2011-14

61. The urban planning project was funded exclusively by the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union (EU), and its implementation period started in February, 2011 and ended in October, 2014. The primary beneficiaries and implementing partners of the project are the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment (MLCPE) and the Freetown City Council (FCC). The overall objective of the project is to “reduce poverty and inequality in line with the government’s policies and targets, focusing on delivery of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), supporting the GoSL with implementation of Sierra Leone’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP II)”, renamed the “Agenda for Change”.

62. The urban planning project was implemented within the framework of the decentralization process and aims at strengthening local governments and provides capacity building in the area of land use planning and spatial planning for urban and rural areas to create further development

opportunities and improve sanitation, health and natural disaster mitigation in urban areas. The Project also includes a Freetown road improvement, a flooding mitigation component and training activities. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- ⇒ Strengthening the local government's development departments by setting up urban planning units and training of local government planners.
- ⇒ Data collection for development planning and the establishment of an effective and integrated web-based GIS management system for spatial planning
- ⇒ Develop a web-based spatial database system for effective land management and administration for urban growth.
- ⇒ Preparation of a draft for legally binding land use plan system based on a revision of the existing urban planning laws. This component includes a draft for the territorial development goals at national level.
- ⇒ Development of a National Spatial Development Framework and a long-term Freetown Structure Plan.
- ⇒ Enhancement of the technical and institutional capacity of the MLCPE and FCC through training and logistic support.

63. Training activities were conducted for the Freetown City Council and the MLCPE to: (a) strengthen finance and budget management for development planning and (b) establishment of a housing and land tenure policy. The urban planning project made significant improvement in building the capacity of the local councils in development planning and financial management. The MLCPE planning officials received training, which improved their skills in land use planning, spatial planning for urban and rural areas and effectively contributed to development of the National Land Use Policy.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

64. Although the government enacted the Local Government Act of 2004, the effective implementation of most of the devolved functions has been a major challenge for the local councils especially land surveying, land registration and control of illegal sale of land, preparation of land use plans and strategic local plans and issuance of building permit functions.

65. The Urban Planning Assessment and Evaluation study (January 2014)²² indicates that there are still inadequacies and questions in terms of adequate human and material resources to implement the devolved functions and identified the following constraints:

- Slow progress of the decentralization process in respect of land use planning primarily due to lack of a revised legal framework and guidelines for decentralised land use planning,
- Lack of qualified staff, equipment and funds to develop and implement the town and country planning at local level.

66. As identified in the Freetown City Council Visioning Workshop,²³ the capital city for several decades, has had to cope with the challenges that come with growth rates that exceed the capacity of

²² A study commissioned by Ministry of Lands Country Planning and the Environment to undertake Assessment and Evaluation of the Functioning Laws of Significance for Urban and Land Use Planning and Development Control in January 2014.

the geographical area of the city. Its peculiar location is restrictive for accommodating its rapid and explosive population growth. This calls for efficient utilisation and management of the land and resources of the city. Unfortunately both governance and policy responses have not been able to cope, plan, and manage the city's development to achieve sustainable urbanisation. With such experience of the capital city it illustrates that in the absence of adequate urban planning and design to respond to the demands of rapid urbanization, the capital city is subjected to the following challenges:

- Uncontrolled urban sprawl, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure;
- Housing shortage, social and economic exclusion;
- Large informal sector arising from increased numbers of in-migration of unskilled labour contributing to high rate of youth unemployment; and
- Inadequate capacity for preparedness for disaster management.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a 'New Urban Agenda'

67. Some of the emerging issues and priorities identified are centered on the weakness in institutional mechanism and capacity building that needs to be addressed in the new Urban Agenda through the following:

- Improvement in cooperative links between agencies involved in land use planning and management, and to effect well-meaning collaboration with the present Land Use Planning Authorities in order to establish an effective spatial development planning system in the country;
- Ensuring effective institutional collaboration between line Ministries of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment and Works, Housing and Infrastructure and other Government Ministries, department and agencies to ensure complementarily in placement of Urban Infrastructures and civil works. The establishment of inter-ministerial committees that can meet regularly to enhance coordination is a priority; and
- Support for Ministries of Lands, County Planning and the Environment and local planning authorities to build up a strong Urban Planning Unit with planners, technical support staff and adequate logistics support.

68. The urban planning project propose a spatial strategy to complement the Agenda for Prosperity, titled "A New Pathway to Prosperity" and further propose accompanying spatial vision of: A liveable, well-connected and competitive Sierra Leone, in which economic growth is inclusive, and human development is resilient and sustainable. The overall spatial concept proposed to put this vision into practice is the establishment of an integrated network of human settlements at national, provincial and district levels. It is imperative that due consideration be give as a priority in the New Urban Agenda to ensure the government and its international partners provide support to continue the process for developing the proposed spatial strategy titled "A New Pathway to Prosperity"

²³ FCC Visioning Workshop Summary Report, A Dialogue on the Transformation of Freetown into a modern functioning City, May 2014.

3.2 Improving Urban Land Management

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

Position Paper on Enforcement of Planning and Building Regulations:

69. In October 2001, the MLHCPE presented a position paper²⁴ on procedures for enforcement of planning and building regulations and outline the Ministry's role in ensuring proper management of all land in the country through the development of properly planned human settlements with the general object of securing proper conditions of health, sanitation, communication, amenity and convenience in the settlements. The Ministry carry out its responsibilities based on the operational guidelines and accompanying enforcement procedures and sanctions contained in the following legislations:

- (i) Town and Country Planning Act (Cap 81 of 1946);
- (ii) Management and Disposal of State Land Act No.19 of 1960 as amended;
- (iii) Freetown Improvement Act and Rules (Cap 66 of 1960);
- (iv) Freetown Improvement (Extension) Act (Cap. 77 of 1928);
- (v) Building Line Ordinance (Cap. 129 of 1960);
- (vi) The Public Health Rules (1927);
- (vii) The Public Health Ordinance (1960);
- (viii) Surveys Act Cap. 128 (1960);
- (ix) Unoccupied Lands Act (Cap. 117 of 1960);
- (x) Protectorate Land Act (Cap. 122 of 1960);
- (xi) Airfield and Defence Lands Act (Cap. 121 of 1960);
- (xii) Public Lands Act (Cap. 116 of 1960);
- (xiii) The Environmental Protection Act 2008 (amended in 2010);
- (xiv) Forestry Act (Cap. 189);
- (xv) Forestry Ordinance (1912);
- (xvi) Wildlife Conservation Act (1972); and
- (xvii) Monuments and Relics Act (Cap. 59 of 1962)

70. The position paper solicited the attention of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to review the position of the Ministry as its lays a good foundation for the expeditious handling of the enforcement of planning and building regulations. The position paper further recommend the need for an adjudicator with the status of a High Court Judge to expeditiously deal with matters relating to the construction of unauthorized buildings and illegal occupation of State Land in specially convened court sessions and request for special budgetary allocation for Development Control and Enforcement. While anticipating a favorable response from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Ministry is making progress in amending the Town and Country Planning Act with strong provisions for the enforcement of development control.

²⁴ The position paper on enforcement of planning and building regulations, submitted by M.A.O.Johnson, Ag. Director of Housing and Country Planning, 2001; was presented by the Minister of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice through ministerial memo titled "Enforcement Action in Respect of Unauthorised Construction and Illegal Occupation of State Land" to facilitate enforcement action as the Ministry was facing many challenges to deal with matters of enforcement.

The Land Registration and Mapping Project

71. The Land Registration and Mapping Project funded both by the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) and the Government of Sierra Leone commenced Phase 1 in 2008 through 2011 and the second phase started in 2014 and expected to end in 2015. This project provides technical assistance to foster the development of an effective and efficient land administration system, and creating a healthy investment climate and ensuring the security of land tenure. The main components of the project are:

- (i) To improve land registration and develop a computerized mapping system using GIS/GPS; and
- (ii) Collating all land registration records on land transactions held within the Administrator & Registrar-General's Office into an electronic database linked to the cadastral mapping system developed at the Ministry is a key activity undertaken by the project.

72. The expected outcome of these structural reforms in land management is expected to stimulate the land market and facilitate access to financial credit.

Preparation of the National Land Policy in 2015

73. The new National Land Policy was approved in November 2015. It sets out a vision to have an effective land tenure and management system that will provide for clearly defined ownership forms and rights, tenure security, effective and transparent land administration, ensure equitable access to land for all citizens and stimulate investment for the nation's continued development. The MLCPE will commence implementation in 2016 of key policy recommendations which are aimed at addressing pressing land management issues.

Agenda for Prosperity- Road to Middle Income Status, Sierra Leone's Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2013-2018)

74. Sierra Leone is embarking on the Agenda for Prosperity (AfP), for social and economic development for 2013-18, the AfP recognise that Land is arguably the basis for all natural resources and it faces competing demands from industry, forestry, agricultural production, mining, demographic changes and rapid urbanisation, environmental management, and water catchment areas. The AfP further articulate that the competing demands for Land are also related to wealth and prosperity and can also lead to increasing inequalities and conflict, due to limitations in access to land and land related assets, and their effects on livelihoods. Land use and land tenure are the twin factors that determine the optimal use of land hence the top priority for adoption of a comprehensive land use policy that is understood by all, and aimed at ensuring optimal gains for the overall development of the country. To ensure Sustainable and Effective Land Management the Agenda for Prosperity overarching strategy for Land Management aims to:

- Improve and strengthen the existing land administration system and land laws.
- Institute reforms in relation to regulation that govern the way in which land ownership rights and obligations are determined.
- Ensure and promote participation of local communities and relevant stakeholders in planning, design and implementation processes, with special emphasis on gender equality.

- Support programs for improved landscape management to sustain long-term land productivity.

The Assessment and Evaluation of the Functioning Laws of Significance for Urban and Land Use Planning and Development Control in Sierra Leone, January 2014.

75. This assessment examined institutional arrangements, the land use planning system and the supporting legislation existing in Sierra Leone in order to modernize future land use planning and management in the country and propose land use planning options that will further the welfare of the people and their communities by creating convenient, healthy, efficient and attractive environments for present and future generations including equity and gender considerations.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

76. Continued pressure on land has resulted largely in unmet demand for efficient urban infrastructural services such as water, electricity, access roads, public transport, sanitation, drainage, and solid waste disposal. The Ministry has not been able over the years to effectively implement the provisions for operational guidelines and accompanying enforcement procedures and sanctions enshrined in legislations empowering its mandates to carry out its responsibility due to the following challenges:

- ⇒ **Access to Court:** protracted delays in enforcement of legislation as complaints take a long time to get to court and for administering judgment.
- ⇒ **Logistics Support:** lack of logistic support in terms of vehicles to carry out effective monitoring and enforce development control, access to materials and equipment for effective and expeditious demolition of unauthorized structures and inadequate human resources in terms of supervision, labour and security personnel.
- ⇒ **Budgetary Allocation:** apart from the normally low budgetary allocation made to the ministry for its routine operations, no special allocation is made for enforcement action and demolition exercises.

77. The Agenda for Prosperity also identified Land Management Sector Challenges as:

- Limited integrated land use planning, which is key for sustainable land use management.
- Erosion from poor agricultural land management and woodland degradation.
- Uncoordinated institutional arrangements for implementation of land use policies and planning.
- Poorly controlled extraction of sand, gravel, and other building materials from beaches and river beds for a range of construction and infrastructure development purposes.
- Unregulated and fragmented land market due to weak and inconsistent legal frameworks for land management.
- Land tenure regimes differ in various parts of the country and overlapping allocation of land rights for different purposes (for example, for agricultural development and mineral exploitation).

78. One of the key lessons learnt as revealed in the Assessment and Evaluation of the Functioning Laws of Significance for Urban and Land Use Planning and Development Control in Sierra Leone is

that enforcement action provisions for ‘Development Control’ in both the Town and Country Planning Act and the Freetown Improvement Act are inadequate. Planning officials have faced difficulties in implementing enforcement actions because of the lack of clarity within the provisions of both acts.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

79. An emerging issue in urban land use is focus on ways by which the land’s usefulness can be maximized and sustained. It concerns space consideration for a variety of functions including strategic locations of basic community services, human habitat, commercial activities, recreation and cultural needs. Space must be provided for pedestrian and vehicular movements, installation of infrastructures for basic services, communication lines and special developmental needs by both local and central governments.

80. Land use administration and public awareness of state powers in legal provision for environmental protection and land exploitation for urban development, especially in terms of infrastructures near private land which are often demarcated with little consideration for access to them. The Right of Way for vehicular and pedestrian traffic is not strictly enforced.

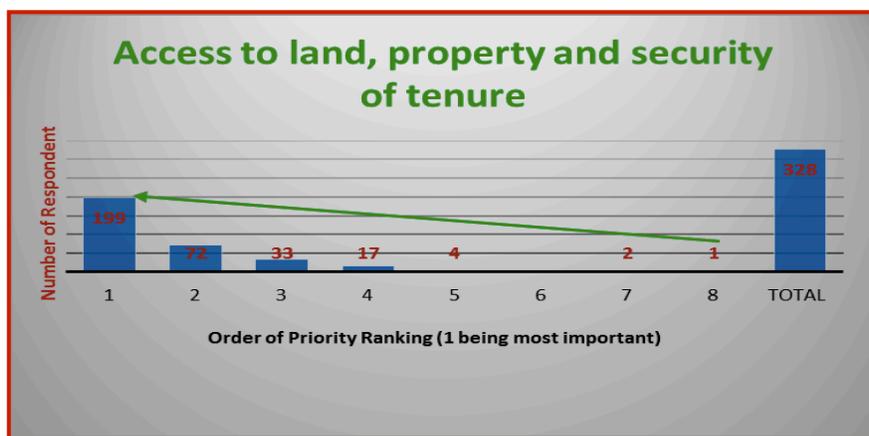
81. The determination of certain vital land uses within the urban space is an essential planning function usually constrained by claims of personal ownership and absolute user rights normally calling for adequate compensation, although government enjoys overwhelming powers of acquisition for a common good. A priority issue in urban land management relates to the processes of land transfer ensuring legal provisions for the right tenure holder and ensuring transparency in land acquisition for the common good.

82. The following are also emerging priorities to be addressed in the new Urban Agenda to enable effective Land Management and Administration:

- ⇒ **Special Court for Land adjudication:** A special Court for Land with the status of a High Court Judge is a priority need to expeditiously deal with matters relating to the construction of unauthorized buildings and illegal occupation of State Land.
- ⇒ **Special budgetary allocation:** Special budgetary allocation is required for Development Control and Enforcement. This will enable the ministry to pay for additional legal assistance, obtain materials, rent heavy duty machinery when required, and pay for labour and security personnel to execute court orders.
- ⇒ **Financing preparation and implementation of Structure and Local Action Area Plans:** There is need for a revision of the planning law with provision to allow planning authority source financing for preparation and implementation of plans through revenue generated by the planning authority which includes income from the issuance of planning/development permits; donor assistance and partnership with the private sector.
- ⇒ **Enforcement action provisions for ‘Development Control’:** The Town and Country Planning Act and the Freetown Improvement Act need to be amended to empower Planning Officials carry out functions effectively, especially for the following: (a) to obtain information relating to breaches of planning control and administer enforcement; (b) determine penalties fees for non-compliance with an enforcement notice to be updated; and (c) outsourcing of enforcement action to other agencies.

- ⇒ **Effective monitoring system of all State Lands transactions:** The Ministry should develop an effective monitoring system to ensure compliance with the terms of the leases. The processes, particularly the authorising roles, guiding land leasing are clearly defined to reduce duplication and overlap and enhance transparency.
- ⇒ **Integration of Land mapping and registration:** The Land mapping and registration project should be integrated into the normal working processes of the Ministry. Government should provide support for new technologies to support the land reform process.

Fig. 3: Access to Land, property and security of tenure



83. 330 Urban Survey questionnaires were administered to a target group of Habitat Agenda Partners and the General Public, 328 respondent indicated their order of importance to the question on “**Access to land, property and security of tenure**” with No. 1 being most important ranking. The results indicates 199 out of 328 respondent representing 60.7% said it is most important for them to have **Access to land, property and security of tenure**, also a total of 127 amounting to 38.7% also responded it is important with ranking from 2 to 5. Only 1 respondent indicated that it is not important at all.

3.3 Improving Technical Capacity to Plan and Manage Cities

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

84. Some progress has been made to improve technical capacities of the planning authorities to plan and manage cities through technical assistance from development partners in collaboration with support from the government under the following interventions:

The 2004 Devolution Act to Empower Local Councils

85. The local government act of 2004 was enacted to empower the local councils with the responsibility for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in their locality. The Devolved functions Act mandates the local councils to prepare development plan to guide the development of their locality. The Ministry responsible for development and economic planning provide guidelines to the local councils for the preparation of the development plans. The development plan shall form the basis for the preparation of the budget of a local council and the local council shall consult residents of the locality, agencies of Government and non-governmental and international organizations that have interest in working in the locality before approving or reviewing of the development plan.

The 2010 Management and Functional Review of the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment.

86. A management and functional review of the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment was conducted in 2010 in keeping with Government of Sierra Leone's policy to strengthen public sector institutions for effective and efficient delivery of services, the Public Sector Reform Unit undertook the review process with a view to: (i) Aligning the mandate and vision of the Ministry to the National Agenda For Change, and (ii) Facilitating effective structures and processes. The review process recommend appropriate institutional capacity building and legislative reforms to ensure effective and efficient performance of the Ministry's mandate.

The Diaspora Support Programme

87. Government is improving technical capacity to the Ministry through the Diaspora programme funded by the UNDP and the Government of Sierra Leone, the Ministry was able to secure the technical assistance of an Urban and Environmental Planning Advisor and a GIS Advisor to fill the critical gaps in Urban Planning and GIS/GPS mapping analysis. Support from the diaspora programme has enable the Ministry to develop and implement several human settlement related projects, including the Urban Planning Project funded by the European Union (EU), the Comprehensive National Land Policy Project funded by UNDP, and provide support to the design of other projects, which include the Sierra Leone Growth Pole Diagnostic Programme funded by the World Bank.

Urban Planning Project Training Support

88. Urban Planning Project (2011-2014) provided training activities for the Freetown City Council and the MLCPE in the areas of finance and budget management for development planning; establishment of a housing and land tenure policy and preparation of a long term structure plan for the Freetown Administrative Area.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- The Diaspora support programme was designed as a short-term measure to help fill critical skill gaps and support training in urban planning in the Ministry. The Ministry still lacks adequate number of competent and experienced urban planners, after retiring over the years as many as five of its core and most senior staff. Only four of its staff in the Country Planning Division are graduates with degrees in the field of Geography, Environmental Science and Sociology and having very little or no knowledge in regional and urban planning.
- Although the Urban Planning Project (2011-2014) provided training activities for the Freetown City Council and the MLCPE in the areas of finance and budget management for development planning; establishment of a housing and land tenure policy and preparation of a long term structure plan for the Freetown administrative area. There is need to replicate these training to the regional councils to empower the planning officials and improve technical capacity to plan and manage the regional cities.
- Capacity building for Human Settlement Planning in terms of improving human resources capacity to manage human settlements programmes and projects continues to be a challenge with the planning authorities and there is need to sustain the support through technical assistance.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

The priorities for the new urban agenda and future challenges the planning authorities envisage is focused on the sustenance of capacity building support as intervention so far has made measurable progress, however the Ministry responsible for country planning and the local authorities still fall short of the needed technical assistance to ensure effective technical capacity to plan and manage cities and thus identified the following key priorities:

- Ministry seek support from the Public Service Reform Unit, Human Resource Management Office, and Office of Diaspora Affairs to capacitate the various units and provide additional staff in line with the reform programme and the needs of the Ministry.
- Technical support to the Ministry to introduce a monitoring and evaluation system for its main operations.
- Provision of logistics support to the Ministry in terms of vehicles, computers and surveying and GIS related equipment in order to improve the efficiency and quality service.
- Support from the Human Resource Management Office to develop training programme for professional and administrative staffs and approach tertiary education institutions and professional institutions to provide courses in administration, surveying, planning and land management, programming of urban interventions, environmental planning and management.

CHAPTER 4: ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION

4.1 Addressing Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

Creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (2008)

89. The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (2008) provides the basis for designing effective national programmes for environmental protection and management. The 2008 Environmental Protection Act and Environmental Protection Agency (Amendment) Act, 2010, provide for the effective protection of the environment and for other related matters among which is to prescribe standards and guidelines relating to ambient air, water and soil quality, the pollution of air, water, land and other forms of environmental pollution including the discharge of wastes and the control of toxic substances. Other relevant national regulatory frameworks to the environment and urbanization include: Local Government Act, 2004 and National Land Policy, 2014.

Endorsement of international conventions and protocols

90. Sierra Leone being a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has expressed firm commitment and pledged to upholding, fostering and promoting a collaborative platform in order to achieve sustainable development and a socially equitable future of the country and its people. In a bid to significantly contribute towards the reduction of the sources and potential sources of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions or enhancing carbon sinks, the Government of Sierra Leone pledged to undertake a number of appropriate mitigation actions.

91. Sierra Leone is also a party to the international efforts on climate change and prepared its first National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in December 2007. Climate projections based on the period 1961-1990 suggested that Sierra Leone could expect a rise in both average temperature (of about 1.8⁰ to 2.5°C by the year 2010) and rainfall by about 3-10%.

92. Government strategies to address the challenges in the sustainable utilization of forest ecosystems are embodied in the National Environmental Action Plan 1995, the Forestry Act of 1988, Wildlife Conservation Act 1990, the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2003, and the Environmental Protection Act 2000, 2008. All of these are aimed at conserving and sustaining the nation's forest and wildlife resources.

93. The Agenda for Prosperity also recognizes that proper population planning and management, with reduced densities is a critical factor to improve access to quality basic services and amenities; enhances economic development and reduces environmental damage, enhancing poverty reduction and development. On Climate change the A4P noted that climate change variations could affect agricultural production, thus mitigating measures will need to be carefully designed and introduced. Under its Social Protection Scheme will build resilience for natural disasters, weather and climate related events through support to improved weather services, early warning systems and enhanced land use planning.

94. The Draft National Land Policy of Sierra Leone articulates the dearth of appropriate technologies and financial resources needed to deal with these disasters. Government Policy Statement in this direction intend to rationalise the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the

prevention and management of land-related disasters; and to strengthen the legal and administrative framework for resettlement in the event of natural disasters.

95. The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to ensuring that disaster preparedness and management are adopted as an integral part of the national development policy and process. As stipulated in the third Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2018 aims to formulate an effective environment management system that protects biodiversity and is capable of pre-empting disasters. Sierra Leone has just developed its National Disaster and Risk Management Policy to address disasters and hazards, which impose serious impediments to its development. It aims at (i) decreasing vulnerability among people and communities at risk from shocks, (ii) decreasing social, economic and environmental impacts and consequences of disasters, and (iii) avoiding setbacks on the national path towards sustainable development.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

96. **International Conventions:** Although Sierra Leone has also endorsed and signed several international conventions and protocols including: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification/Land Degradation (UNCCD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention), The Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Basel Convention, Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. These conventions and protocols are at different stages of implementation, but in general implementation is slow as many have not been ratified or harmonized with the laws, policies and programmes in Sierra Leone. As a result the country trails far behind in the implementation of the provisions of these conventions.²⁵

97. **Depletion of Mangrove Ecosystems:** Mangroves are among the most productive terrestrial ecosystems and are a natural renewable resource. This stems from the fact that at the interface between the sea and the land, mangroves play a pivotal role in moderating monsoonal tidal floods and in coastal protection. In Sierra Leone, the depletion of mangroves swamp is a cause of serious environmental and economic concern.

98. **Urbanization:** Population growth and urbanization continue to show steady increase during and after the conflict. The 2005/2006 edition of the annual statistical digest of Statistic Sierra Leone, projected demographic indicators present data showing that the country's population in 2000 was 5.40 million people with 40.2 % urban; in 2005, 6.17 million with 44.2% urban, in 2010, 7.02 million with 48.1% urban and 2015 estimated at 7.92 million with 52% urban. Lessons have been learnt relating to the factors influencing urbanization in Sierra Leone such as political, social, economic, education and environmental degradation.

99. **Political:** During times of political unrest, families are forced to leave their rural farming villages, and they migrate to the urban areas in search of shelter, food and employment. When large numbers of people are driven from their rural villages, especially in war-ravaged countries, the cities

²⁵ Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 Republic of Sierra Leone

become saturated, and slums start to grow on the outskirts of the cities like in the case of Sierra Leone.

100. **Social:** Many young people migrate to urban centers in search of lifestyle changes and with the desire to become associated with the club scenes in large cities. Such scenes provide employment opportunities, but they sadly also attract gambling and crime syndicates to develop.

101. **Economic:** Poverty in rural areas, due to large companies creating commercial farms and small farmers finding it difficult to make a living, forces people to move to the urban areas in search of better employment opportunities. The concentration of industries in urban cities has provided more job opportunities in urban areas, and cities have increased significantly in size due to this, making it difficult for proper planning.

102. **Education:** Opportunities for education at universities and technical colleges attract young people to the urban centers, where they hope to acquire better prospects for the future for themselves and their families. Urban centers have become hubs of education and training, leaving the rural areas with no facilities possible.

103. **Environmental Degradation:** When the natural habitat of farming families are destroyed due to deforestation, mining or industrial expansion, they are forced to find somewhere else to live. Often small amounts of compensation from logging and mining companies provide the funds for families to move to urban areas, but there is no guarantee of work in the cities, and many families move there and are forced into poverty because they cannot find adequate work to sustain their livelihoods.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

104. **Natural resources:** Sierra Leone has vast Natural resources which include croplands, forests, rangelands, freshwater, wetlands and swamps, biodiversity, wildlife, and extensive fisheries and mineral resources. Our recent past and current usage of these resources have not contributed meaningfully to economic growth and national development. It is now become increasingly clear that how our natural resources are valued, used and managed would determine the path and pattern of growth for the foreseeable future. This is a future challenge that needs to be addressed.

105. **Land use competition:** For settlements in environmentally unfriendly locations like in wet lands along lower urban stream terraces where the competition ranges from urban agriculture to waste dumps and slums. The extension of urban fringes to hill sides where steep gradient are easily targets for landslides, calls for some enforcement measure. There is also a tendency for new shanty town and slum development within waste dumping sites in urban fringes which have emerge due to the rapid rate of Urbanization.

106. **Waste management:** In all towns and cities operates at the lowest level of public service provision at the present time. In most locations waste dumps which have been used for many years continue to provide the only disposal sites for ever-increasing amounts of domestic, commercial and industrial waste. In the absence of incinerators even hospital waste finds its way onto dump sites. Indiscriminate burning of refuse and garbage at dumpsites in cities pose major threats through air pollution.

107. **Seaweed Invasion:** Increased organic loads are considered to have contributed to the recent seaweed invasion which occurred along Sierra Leone's coastline in 2011. Growth of seaweed may also have been stimulated by the presence of iron and other heavy metals released into the water column as a result of dredging operations.

108. **Role of Environmental Activists:** Environmental Activist should educate the host communities on preserving and protecting the environment and national attractions so that people will continue to use these resources in a sustainable manner by addressing the following:

- ⇒ Unnecessary deforestation;
- ⇒ Pollution and lifting of plastics;
- ⇒ Burning of dustbins within crowded areas;
- ⇒ Excavating the hill and mountain sites;
- ⇒ Advocate for development of new planned settlements; and
- ⇒ Sensitization for preservation and conservation of the environment.

109. **Review of Legislation:** The Foreshores Act, Cap 149: Coastal areas in Freetown and the Provinces are coming under increasing threat of degradation mostly through illicit mining activities. Cap 149 needs to be reviewed and strengthened to afford adequate protection to the rapidly depleting coastline. The Foreshores Act was enacted to apply only in the former colony leaving huge swathes of coastal terrain in the provinces unprotected.²⁶

110. **Strengthening Environmental Protection Agency:** at both national and local levels to ensure effective implementation of the Environmental Protection Act (2008), as well as linking the Environmental Protection Agency with other legal instruments to make environmental protection and management effective in pursuit of sustainable national development.

111. **Capacity building in data collection and analysis:** Building capacities and awareness at local and national levels, including local government councils and other stakeholders, to implement environmentally sustainable practices and integrated ecosystem management practices.

4.2 Reducing traffic congestion and Air Pollution

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

Street Parking Programme

112. Progress is being made in reducing traffic congestion of capital city of Freetown. The city council initiated a street parking programme in 2013 as a priority to address the problems of vehicular and pedestrian traffic congestion and overcrowding in the central business district of the city. The programme has defined street parking zones to ensure effective management of on-street parking spaces for public and private transport in order to reduce overcrowding and traffic congestion. Upon successful implementation of this programme it is expected to be replicated in other regional cities.

²⁶ Final Draft National Land Policy, MLCPE 2014

Agenda for Prosperity National Environmental Standards for Air

113. The Agenda for Prosperity in its commitment in managing natural resources designed one of its strategic objectives to develop policy and instruments to correct for market failures, to align public and private incentives with environmental conservation and human health. National air quality is one of the key outcome indicators of this objective and is expected to produce National environmental standards for air during the implementation period on the Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2018.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

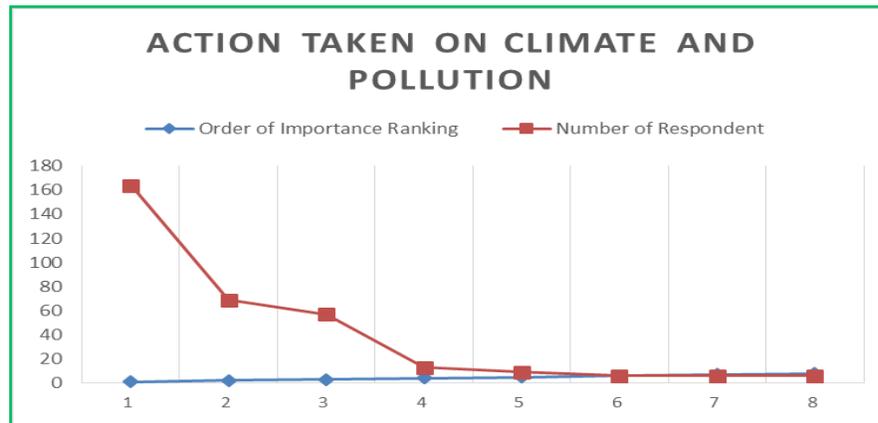
- **Traffic Congestion** - Severe traffic congestion is one of the challenges facing the Fire Service, as it impedes response to fire outbreak, often leading to disastrous consequences.
- **Air Pollution** - The major sources of air pollution in the city of Freetown are vehicular exhaust emissions, industrial activities, sand and quarry industries, road and building industries, all of which produce enormous amounts of pollutants in their vicinity. Indiscriminate burning of garbage at dumpsites in cities pose major threats through air pollution. People living close to the main urban centers are at risk to human exposure to high levels of air pollutants which is a recognised health risk, while in rural areas the problems of air pollution are restricted to the adverse impacts of forest fires and dust created by activities like road construction, large scale mechanised farming or mining operations.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

- ⇒ **Traffic Congestion:** The level of traffic congestion is increasing in the metropolitan areas in Freetown and in the regions. New building developments are considered as one of the major causes of congestion related problems in these cities, owing to inadequate mitigation measures and enforcement of traffic rules – especially for large transport vehicles carrying containers and trucks loaded with goods that are not supposed to convey goods during certain peak hours of pedestrian movements and passengers transport vehicle, this issue needs to be addressed to reduce traffic congestion.
- ⇒ **Human waste and commercial waste water:** The treatment of human waste, commercial waste water and all other sources of sewage is also virtually non-existent for major parts of Freetown and other cities. Older properties discharge raw sewage into the river which have minimal flow in the dry season thus causing the build – up of solid waste which is picked over by pigs, ducks and chickens. New properties are required to construct septic tanks and these are also discharge direct to the surrounding earth, causing a risk to contaminating ground water.
- ⇒ **Enforcement of Regulations:** Although EIAs are conducted for all large scale industrial and infrastructure operations and, in general, the control of air pollution from such sites should be capable of being achieved with proper supervision, management and enforcement of mitigating measures (like the use of water tankers to suppress dust), many medium and small scale operations take place with minimal or no supervision and there is urgent need to improve the overall level of supervision, monitoring and enforcement of regulation.
- ⇒ **Institutional Capacity Building:** The Meteorological Department is the sole government institution responsible for the collection, analyses, dissemination and storage of meteorological data for the country. This institution was seriously affected by the eleven years civil conflict and

need to strengthen its capacity to undertake weather monitoring, data collection, data analysis, storage and other function assigned. This will enhance its capacity to conduct air pollution measurements for the purpose of establishing standards in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Bureau of Standards and also implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ratified by government of Sierra Leone as the country's clear manifestation of concern for climate change issues.²⁷

Fig 4: Action Taken on Climate and Pollution



114. Results from the urban dwellers survey indicates that out of the 330 Urban Survey questionnaires administered to a target group of Habitat Agenda Partners and the General Public, 330 respondent indicated their order of importance to the question on “**Action Taken on Climate and Pollution**” with No. 1 being most important ranking. 164 out of the 330 respondent representing 49.7% said it is most important to take action on climate and pollution, and 42.1% also indicate it's important with ranking from 2 to 4 while the rest with ranking 5 to 8 amounting to 8.2% express less concern for climate change and pollution.

²⁷ State of Environment Report Sector contribution: Air Pollution, by R.Johnson, E.Taylor, A.Bockarie, Submitted to the Environment Protection Agency, 2014. According to this report it was also noted that the Sierra Leone meteorological department has not been giving the due supports needed in the carrying out its huge scheduled tasks. Which is not due to neglect on the side of the government, but as a least developed country, emerging from war, the government had competing priorities for the limited resources available thus some components have to be put on hold awaiting resources.

CHAPTER 5: URBAN ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATION

5.1 Improving urban legislation, decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

115. The government has made progress in the devolution process by enacting the local government act of 2004 which empowers the local councils with the responsibility for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in their locality. The decentralization of powers, responsibilities and resources from central to local levels was noted as one of the strategies for strengthening of local authorities.

116. Under the Local Government Act 2004, there are now 19 Local Councils and 149 Chiefdoms ruled by Paramount Chiefs. The Local Council are the government administrative units responsible for promoting good governance and democracy, accountability and transparency, improved service delivery and development of the local economy. In the area of fiscal management and control, the decentralisation process is geared towards increasing local government autonomy in revenue and expenditure decision-making, harmonising and rationalising the fiscal transfer system in order to equalise fiscal capacity.²⁸

117. The Government has increased central government fiscal disbursement to local government and invested in building the capacity of Local Councils, through providing office buildings, basic logistics and extensive training; a stable, transparent inter-governmental fiscal transfer system has been developed and is being implemented: central government fiscal disbursement to local government quadrupled within the last five years. The annual formula-based grants distribution system that is being used for transfers to local councils promotes transparency, as it allows all key stakeholders participation. The Second Generation Grant Scheme, which has been developed, links finance to function, through a system of client-based expenditure norms and affordable service delivery standards; the Scheme increases the fiscal autonomy of Local Councils. A fiscal decentralisation strategy has been developed that clearly maps out the way forward for executing Government fiscal decentralisation for the medium to long term.²⁹

118. Responsibilities for most basic social services have been transferred to the Councils, including primary and secondary health (including procuring drugs for Peripheral Health Units and District Hospitals); primary and junior-secondary education (including paying school fee subsidies, distributing text books and teaching and learning materials); agriculture extension services; rural water supply; and solid waste management.

119. Local Councils' capacities to improve local (own-source) revenue generation are being piloted in some councils, including development of property cadastral and business license registers. A National Borrowing Policy has been developed and a borrowing law enacted that clearly articulates how, when, how much, and from which sources local councils can borrow.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

²⁸ Africa Peer Review Mechanism, Sierra Leone 2012 Country Review Report

²⁹ Agenda for Prosperity - Road to middle income status Sierra Leone's third generation poverty reduction strategy paper (2013-2018)

120. Despite considerable successes, the decentralisation process is confronted with constraints that require immediate attention to ensure that the gains already made are not eroded, and to enable Local Councils to provide effective service delivery and local prosperity. The challenges are summarized as follows:

- The slow pace of the devolution process is hindering effective decentralisation. MDAs have held on to control of service delivery, despite legal requirements and policy.
- Conflicts between some key sector legislation and the Local Government Act 2004 add to delays and impediments in implementing devolution. Progress in reviewing legislation has been limited; it needs to be addressed urgently.
- Unclear lines of management and accountability of devolved staff impede Local Councils in performing functions that have already been devolved to them.
- Decentralisation is yet to be properly anchored at the grassroots levels. Ward Committees, the lowest unit of the decentralized structure, are yet to function properly and deliver their mandates.
- Poor performance in local own-source revenue mobilization relative to revenue potentials leaves Local Councils heavily dependent on central government for financing administrative and development programmes. This is a risk to autonomy and sustainability.
- The Development Budget is yet to be devolved. Transfers to Local Councils for implementing devolved functions are limited to government non-salary, non-interest recurrent expenses, of which part is used to undertake sectoral development programmes, thereby undermining recurrent service delivery programmes such as health or education.
- Coordination of engagement and support for decentralisation is hindered by the desire of different agencies (donors, national institutions, NGO/CSO) to develop and implement programmes in an uncoordinated manner. This leads to inefficiencies, gaps and duplication in service provision.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

121. Human resource and institutional challenges need to be overcome, so that local councils can embark on meaningful economic development, generate resources, functionally restructure themselves, manage effectively, and deliver services to their communities. Implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity Strategic Priorities for Local Government to ensure actualization of the decentralisation process by building on the achievements to date and addressing existing challenges is a key priority to be addressed in the new the urban agenda.

5.2 Improving participation and human rights in urban development

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

122. The Human Rights Commission was established with the mandate to promote and protect human rights in Sierra Leone. The Commission undertakes the following in order to consolidate the democratic process, ensure good governance, participation and human rights are assured in urban development process:

- Investigates complaints of human rights violation;
- Conduct public education on human rights;
- Advice and supporting government in preparing reports under instrumental human rights treaties; monitoring and documenting violation of human rights;
- Monitoring draft legislation and policies to ensure human rights compliance; and
- Publishing an annual report of the State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone.

123. Sierra Leone’s Human Rights Commission has gained an “A” status accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, based on its compliance with the Paris Principles governing the establishment and activities of National Human Rights Institutions. The Commission has established regional offices in all district headquarter towns, to bring its services closer to the communities.³⁰

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Inadequate funding for human rights activities.
- Human and financial capacity of the Human Rights Commission and other human rights bodies needs capacity building to operate efficiently, including recruiting key personnel, adequate office space, and logistics.
- Need to decentralize the work of the Commission.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

Issues to be addressed to ensure effective functioning of the commission are:

- ⇒ Building its institutional capacity;
- ⇒ Providing support to Government to fulfil its International Treaty obligations;
- ⇒ Strengthening its regional outreach;
- ⇒ Strengthening its quasi-judicial functions;
- ⇒ Developing programmes to enhance human rights culture, right to equality and non-discrimination through education; and
- ⇒ Strengthening its monitoring and research functions.

5.3 Enhancing urban safety, security, social inclusion and equity

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

124. The Sierra Leone Police is primarily responsible for the preservation of the internal security of the country, maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property, detection and

³⁰ Agenda for Prosperity - Road to middle income status Sierra Leone’s third generation poverty reduction strategy paper (2013-2018)

prevention of crime, and protecting the rights of everyone. Oversight responsibility of the police is provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Police Council, and the Parliament Committee on Internal Affairs. The Sierra Leone Police has transformed and re-organized its rank structure, placing strong emphasis on:

- Local Needs Policing and establishment of Local Policing Partnership Boards.
- Creating new departments including, Corporate Services Department, Family Support Unit, the Legal and Justice Support Unit, Media and Public Relations, and Human Rights Unit.
- Developing the culture of strategic planning and adopting modern policing practices.

Other improvements to facilitate urban safety, security, social inclusion and equity include:

- Ongoing proactive anti-robbery patrols and intelligence-led targeted raids are reducing crimes and fear of crime;
- Constructed nationwide Police stations and posts including Kingtom, Kenema, Bo, Bonthe, and Kabala;
- Established to a Gender Unit at the Corporate Services Department to integrate gender perspective in the SLP;
- A National Judicial and Legal Training Institute has been established to provide continuing legal education for judicial and other staff within the justice sector;
- Legal Aid Act of 2012 has been passed, which will improve citizens' access to justice, and reduce constant adjournments;
- The Sexual Offences Act 2012 was also passed to ensure that adequate care and attention is paid to the investigation and prosecution of all sexual offences; and
- New legislation has been drafted for the Sierra Leone Prisons Service, which will transform the prisons to correctional centres, whilst the Police Council has given approval for the Police Act to be reviewed.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

125. In spite of the progress made, the Sierra Leone Police continues to contend with challenges, including the following:

- Inadequate and late budgetary allocation;
- Inadequate logistics capacity;
- Need to improve conditions of service and personnel welfare;
- Lack of trained specialists such as pathologists, forensic experts and cyber-crime investigators;
- Communications systems need further improvement to cover the whole country;
- More specialized training of personnel in crowd management skills; and

- Ineffective adherence to administrative and management decision-making.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

- Inadequate budgetary allocation is a key issue to be addressed due to the importance of the sector. The inadequate budgetary allocations causes severe shortage of staff at all levels which affects the time to respond to requests for legal advice and opinions, and is partially responsible for delays in prosecution of offences even though police prosecutors have undergone numerous training programmes, both in general prosecutorial skills and in specialized areas.
- Reforming of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy based on making justice accessible locally; ensuring that justice is expedited and that rights and accountability are respected.
- Need to increase funding to the sector, permitting and ensuring an increase in the numerical strength of the professional staff within these institutions.
- Need for Government to support the SLP to strengthen local needs policing and supporting intelligence-led policing as well as: Internal management, scientific support to tackle criminal and gender-based violence. Investigations, local policing and improving access to justice, human resources, logistics, personnel welfare and conditions of service.
- Need to strengthen social inclusion and equity, especially to improve participation of citizens, communities and other organizations in decision-making to enhance the safety and security of communities.

5.4 Integration of urban economy into national development policy

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

126. Sierra Leone’s third generation poverty reduction strategy paper the Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2018 indicates that the strong growth of the economy during the post conflict period translated into a reduction in the incidence of poverty in the country. The 2011 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey estimated that 52.9 percent of the population is poor compared to 66.4 percent in 2003. Although poverty remained relatively high in the country, the incidence of poverty declined in the three provincial regions between 2003 and 2011 from 86.0 to 61.3% in the Eastern region, from 80.6 to 61.0% in the Northern region, and from 64.1 to 55.4% in the Southern region and increased in the Western region from 20.7 to 28.0%. The increase in the Western region is likely driven by large numbers of economic migrants, moving to the Western region, in particular Freetown, seeking employment opportunities.

127. The Agenda for Prosperity further evaluates increase poverty to be likely driven by large numbers of economic migrants, moving to the Western region, in particular Freetown, seeking employment opportunities. Poverty in Freetown increased from 13.6% to 20.7% in 2011. Despite the increase in poverty in Freetown, urban poverty as a whole decreased from 46.9% in 2003 to 31.2% in 2011.

128. Some progress made in the urban economy in terms of job creation particularly in the industrial and services sectors due to improved private sector climate allowing companies to expand, hire more staff, and pay better wages. Government has also undertaken several initiatives

to boost employment levels, particularly of young people, including the introduction of the Local Content Policy. In the urban areas, about 70% of the population are self-employed and largely engaged in petty trading. In both spheres, the informal sector accounts for about 70% of the labour force.³¹

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

129. Economic migrants, who cannot gain employment in the industrial and service sectors resort to small scale enterprises such as trading and transportation, but lack the requirement to access credit from the formal sector to advance business opportunities. This is a major challenge affecting the increase in urban migrant's contribution to the national economy. The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has compounded the challenges by exposing weaknesses of public health infrastructure and affected commercial activities that pose difficulties in sustaining the urban economy.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a 'New Urban Agenda'

130. To facilitate employment and business opportunities in the urban areas, support for small scale enterprises and introduction of sea transportation service by provision of loans to youths to buy outboard machines and build boats is a key priority. These boats can be used to transport fish and vegetable from the peri-urban to urban market. This was the mechanism used to provide food for Freetown during the civil conflict.

131. The urban economy is affected by distance and access factors to areas where basic services and urban commercial functions are concentrated. These patterns of locations tends to determine land values from urban fringes to central business districts as well as residential areas. Therefore the central business districts seem to be of highest economic values, followed by the industrial belt and special residential areas. The issue of financial inclusion, strengthening of the private sector for realization of economic activities for urban dwellers, mechanisms for improving land use revenue are key factors that worth consideration in the new urban agenda.

³¹ Micro Finance Programme Development Paper, Presented By Dr. J.D. Rogers, Governor Bank of Sierra Leone, During the 7th Meeting of the Sierra Leone Development, Partnership Committee On Friday 12th March, 2004

CHAPTER 6: HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES

6.1 Slum upgrading and prevention

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

132. The central government and local authorities has made progress through technical assistance in planning, identification of the slum settlements in the capital city and developing proposals for upgrading and prevention of slums.

Technical assistance from EU funded Urban Planning Project (2011-2014)

133. The European Union funded Urban Planning Project(2011-2014) implemented by Freetown City Council (FCC) in collaboration with Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment (MLCPE) has produced a Structure Plan which identified over 20 slum settlements in Freetown and made recommendations for improvement of the slum settlements. The three areas where slum settlements were identified are:

- ⇒ **In the foreshore/coastal areas:** Dokoty, Banana Water, Kroo bay, Susan's bay, Moa Wharf, Old Wharf and Bonga Town,
- ⇒ **Along slopes of stream valleys:** Granville Brook, Red Pump, Grey Bush and others) On hillside slopes: (extending from Black Hall Road to George Brook) and
- ⇒ **In inland slums such as** • Kroo Town, Magazine Cut, Fire Burn, Alpha Morlai, King George Farm, George Brook, Cline Town, Ginger Hall, Bonga Town, and Odokoko.

The structure plan further proposes strategies for improvement of the slum settlements in Freetown as follows:

- Establish a long-term slum upgrading plan identifying the areas in need and list of priorities.
- Identify sources of needed technical assistance and financing possibilities.
- Establish in FCC a competent technical assistance to slum upgrading projects.
- Promote slum upgrading projects in safe slum areas in cooperation with the state, private sector and NGOs involving the communities and community members.
- Establish micro loan arrangements in cooperation with NGO's to support rehabilitation of slum areas by community members.
- Resettle slum dwellings in areas under threat of natural disasters such as flooding and landslides.

Cooperation agreement with Signal One International for redevelopment of Kroo Bay

134. The Freetown City Council in January 2014, following guidance from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development entered into a cooperation agreement with Signal One International USA, to undertake a partnership project for redevelopment of Kroo Bay. The main components of the project is to relocate the slum dwellers to an ideal location with provision of low-cost housing facilities and transform Kroo Bay into a modernise waterfront area with infrastructures and services provision to generate income for the city council.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

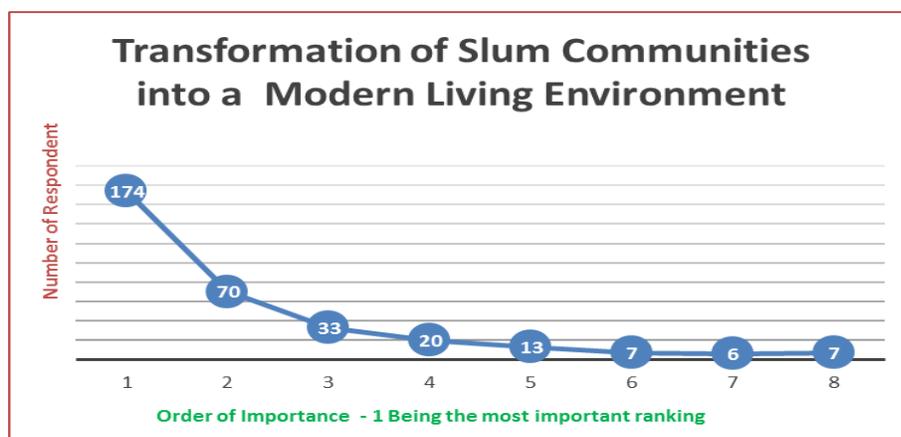
135. The proposed structure plan identify challenges facing slum settlements in the capital city of Freetown as follows:

- Inadequate access to drinking water,
- Inadequate access to sanitation and infrastructure,
- Poor structural quality of housing,
- High densities of population and housing,
- Overcrowding within the poor quality houses, and
- Insecure residential status.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

- ⇒ Over the past years, the government, together with NGOs and other partners, embarked on several projects to improve the living conditions in these slum areas. In order to address this problem adequately, reliable data is needed, adequate resources and partnership to achieve a lasting solution to improve the slum settlement. This is a priority issue to be addressed.
- ⇒ Establishment of urban observatories to report on slum conditions and the implementation of viable proposals such as the proposed Structure Plan recommendations and the Signal One International redevelopment project needs serious consideration to facilitate slum upgrading and prevention.

Fig. 5: Transformation of Slum Communities into a Modern Living Environment



136. Results of the urban dwellers survey illustrates that 174 respondents out of 330 amounting to 52.73% expressed their need for **Transformation of Slum Communities into a Modern Living Environment** as a top priority by recording No: 1 as the order of importance and 135 people 40.91 % indicated it's also an important issue with order of importance ranking 2 to 5 whilst only 6.1% responded with low ranking from 6 to 8.

6.2 Improving access to adequate housing

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

137. The progress made towards improving access to adequate housing since implementation of Habitat Agenda are as follows:

Capacity Building for Effective Housing Delivery Project

The Capacity Building for Effective Housing Delivery Project (1996-1998) a tripartite agreement between the government, UNDP and UN-Habitat was implemented to promote local building materials production and construction technology to enhance housing delivery in Sierra Leone. The project successfully accomplished the following:³²

- ⇒ Development and implementation of low-cost building materials production and housing construction training programmes for Internally Displaced Persons, Local Artisans and Youths;
- ⇒ Established Local Building Materials Producers/Builders Cooperative Society [LOMACOS] Sierra Leone;
- ⇒ Supervised construction of two low income demonstration housing units with stabilized soil blocks and micro concrete roofing tiles and established low-cost housing promotional scheme and small scale production enterprises; and
- ⇒ Established Land Management and Information System, Housing Data Base and Documentation Unit at the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment.

Draft National Housing Policy, 1997/1998 - 2006

138. A draft Housing Policy was prepared in 1997/98 and revised in 2006 at the end of a ten-year rebel war and military interregnum which resulted in displacement of vast majority of the population. The policy advocates for increasing resources into the housing sector and adoption of appropriate technologies that are efficient and cost effective; the use of local building materials and contribution of the informal sector in the production of housing. The housing policy further underlines the primary role of Government as "facilitator" and "enabler" in which the Government will create the conducive and enabling environment for housing development. Community and self-help participation in housing delivery, research and training in appropriate technology for adequate, acceptable and affordable housing were also emphasize as guiding principles.³³ The 2006 Housing Policy was never implemented. Now the Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure will, starting 2016, with technical support from UN-Habitat, develop a new Housing Policy for Sierra Leone.

Feasibility study of a provident fund to facilitate access to housing, 1999

³² Capacity Building for Effective Housing Delivery Project, SIL/94/001, GOSL/UNDP/UN-Habitat Project Terminal Assessment Report prepared in 1998.

³³ The Draft Housing Policy was prepared with technical assistance from UNDP and UN-Habitat.

139. In 1999, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning conducted a feasibility study of a Provident Fund to facilitate access to housing and linking housing to the proposed National Social Security and Insurance Trust Scheme for Sierra Leone. The study was funded by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The report identified suitable options linking housing to the proposed National Social Security and Insurance Trust Scheme for Sierra Leone. A major sector for investment of the Trust funds was in housing, through “Home Ownership Schemes” that will benefit the family housing needs of its subscribers (employees), among others, for their family welfare and security in view of the acute shortage of housing for all segments of the population.³⁴

140. In July 2001 the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) Act was enacted into law and NASSIT became operational in August 2001. The Home Finance Company (HFC) was further established in October 2008 as a NASSIT project and commence financing housing development projects in July 2009 after Parliament enacted the Home Mortgage Finance Act in June 2009 being an Act to regulate home mortgage financing and institutions, which carry on home mortgage financing and to provide for other related matters.

141. The Home Finance Company is financing construction of Housing Units and undertaking partnership with the private sector to invest in housing development projects. The company has been providing loans for mainly Home Completion, Home Equity and Home Improvements. The scheme undertook a housing pilot project in the four provincial headquarter cities, and Waterloo in the western rural district respectively in a bid to stimulate investment in the housing sector and to mortgage the houses to interested Sierra Leoneans at reasonable costs.

142. The agenda for prosperity social protection system is also committed to provide affordable housing through: (a) addition to the housing stock so every Sierra Leonean has access to safe, sanitary and decent housing, through home ownership, rental, or temporary social assistance and (b) exploring the possibilities of providing housing for public sector workers, college graduates, unemployed and vulnerable groups. The programme is expected to be implemented through public-private partnerships, where Government provides land and guarantees to developers.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- There are few housing developers (e.g. Regimanuel Gray, Sediya Group, etc.) in the country that are involved in the production and supply of houses. However, they cater for the higher income earners in the country. Developers who can provide houses for middle and low income earners are hard to find within the country.
- There is a high dependence on corrugated iron sheets and cement as basic building materials. These materials, in addition to plumbing and electrical materials have to be imported thus making housing construction very expensive for the majority of Sierra Leoneans.
- The principal factors contributing to the technological stagnation in the building materials industry, especially in the small-scale sector, include:
 - (i) Lack of access to information on economic construction technologies and development of small scale building materials production enterprises; and
 - (ii) Inadequate industrial extension support services in the housing sector.

³⁴ Linking Housing to the Proposed National Social Security and Insurance Trust Scheme for Sierra Leone “Feasibility Study of a Provident Fund to Facilitate Access to Housing” GOSL/UNECA Report 1999.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

143. In order to enhance the capacity for an efficient and effective housing delivery system in the country, more focus on technological development and training, especially on earth based production and economic construction technology is considered a key priority to be address by the new Urban Agenda. The issues are as follows:

- To strengthen the institutional capacity to formulate and implement shelter policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the delivery of housing and basic infrastructural services;
- Labour, Training and Entrepreneurship need to be addressed including strengthening the existing institutional framework; upgrade and expand training facilities and to make them more responsive to the employment market;
- Assist small-scale entrepreneurs and graduates of technical institutions to participate in the construction industry through access to credit or employment;
- Develop Building Regulations, Bye-Laws and Standards;
- Encourage community and women's participation in the production and use of local building materials;
- Promote training in the production and utilization of local building materials: cement, and corrugated iron sheets; and establish a building materials research centers taking into account green buildings, and the impact of climate change and environment; and
- Facilitate the enabling environment for investor’s to access land for housing development.

6.3 Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

144. According to Sierra Leone’s Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2013-2018), the National Water and Sanitation Policy has set targets of 74% for improved drinking water supply and 66% for improved sanitation by 2015. Recent reforms have advanced steadily, to create an enabling framework for accelerated sanitation and water service delivery in line with good practice. Other recorded activities are as follows:

- Access to improved water supply has increased from 49% in 2008 to 57% in 2010, but access to sanitation has remained constant at 13% for non-shared facilities, and 40% for improved sanitation including shared and public facilities. Based on recent trends, the national targets are achievable by 2018.³⁵;
- In January 2011, the National Water and Sanitation Policy was launched to address institutional and regulatory reforms, capacity-building of structures, and development of strategies and guidelines;
- Adam Smith International is supporting the Government of Sierra Leone in implementing the National Water and Sanitation Policy, funded by DFID since 2010. Support is provided to Ministries and District Councils with advice and practical support towards achieving

³⁵ Sierra Leone’s Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2013-2018)

legislative reform and building the capacity of institutions to develop a multi-sector approach to tackling water sector reform. Key among the Government of Sierra Leone’s targets is the provision of water supply services to the nation’s rural poor;

- A nationwide Waterpoint Mapping exercise has been completed, which provides a picture of all facilities available and their functionality. Adam Smith International facilitated the mapping of close to 30,000 water points, to enable the government to plan for servicing these communities. As a result, 35% of the country’s rural population now have access to a reliable water supply.³⁶

Table 4: National Coverage of Water and Sanitation (2012)

Region	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Western Area	90.7	77
Eastern Province	64.7	40
Southern Province	51.3	33
Northern Province	42.2	32
National	57 (2008 = 49)	40 (2008 = 13)
<i>Urban</i>	<i>76 (2008=47)</i>	<i>58 (2008 = 31)</i>
<i>Rural</i>	<i>48 (2008=32)</i>	<i>32 (2008 = 31)</i>

Source: NWAASH Policy and MICS4 (Adapted from Agenda for Prosperity)

145. In September 18, 2013 “the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has approved US \$43.27 million to finance Sierra Leone’s Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, which aims to increase access to water and sanitation in the rural areas of the country. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the Sierra Leone’s Poverty Reduction Strategy - Agenda for Prosperity and achievement of the water supply, sanitation and hygiene targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The project seeks to support accelerating the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially those targets related to access to rural water and sanitation in line with the National Water Policy (2010).³⁷

146. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) is establishing its leadership role in the sector by strengthening the Environmental Health Division to a Directorate, for effective and efficient oversight and management of the sanitation and hygiene promotion sector. The goal of Government will be to provide, with minimal impact on the environment, acceptable, affordable and sustainable sanitation services for urban and rural households, informal settlements and institutions, through inter-sectoral coordination, integrated development, and community based management, with a Sector-Wide Approach in financial resource allocation.³⁸

³⁶ <http://www.adamsmithinternational.com/explore-our-work/west-africa/sierra-leone/supporting-national-water-and-sanitation-policy-in-sierra-leone1>

³⁷ <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-approves-us-43-27-million-for-sierra-leones-rural-water-supply-and-sanitation-project-12310/>

³⁸ Sierra Leone’s Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2013-2018)

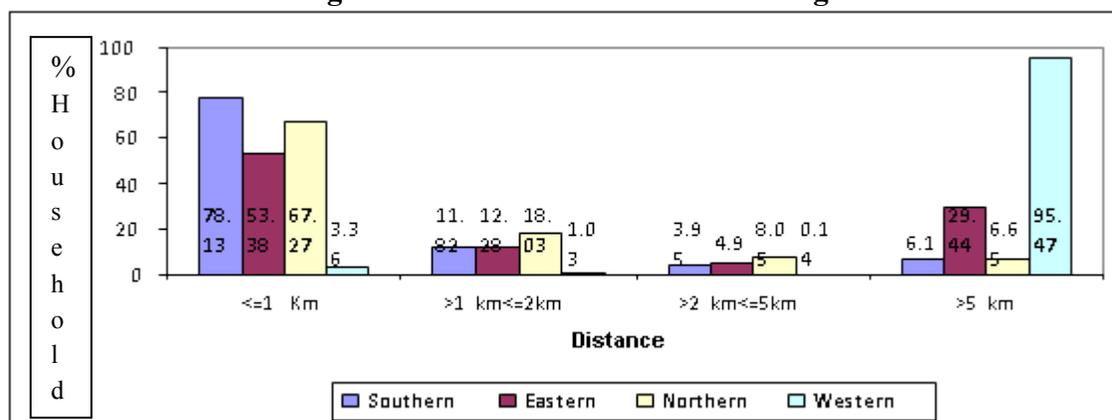
Table 5: Proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicators	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Targets
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	53%	47%	53%	59%	50%	73%
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	-	30%	11%	-	13%	65%

Source: Adapted from MDG Report 2010

147. A little over half of the households in Sierra Leone walk less than a kilometre to fetch drinking water but another 30% walk over 5 kilometres. At regional level, 95% in western area and 29% in the eastern region walk for over 5 kilometres, 78% and 67% in the southern and northern regions respectively walk for less than a kilometre. In the urban area, 59% of households walk less than a kilometre and 36% walk more than 5 kilometres. In the rural, 11% of households walk less than a kilometre and 64% walk more than 5 kilometres.³⁹

Fig. 6: Household Distance to Drinking Water



Source: Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey 2003/04

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

148. The environmental sanitation and hygiene sector has many problems to solve. Many Sierra Leoneans are still not aware of the benefits of good sanitation, due to poor perception brought about by cultural beliefs and practices. The lack of awareness, information, technical knowledge and inadequate technological solutions has compounded the problems of poor sanitation. The water and sanitation sector is faced with many challenges including the following:

- ⇒ Weak capacity to manage water facilities at district and local levels in spite of the Local Government Act 2004 devolved water supply functions to local councils in line with Government's decentralization policy;

³⁹ Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) 2003/04 Final Statistical Report November 2007

- ⇒ Poor solid waste management and inadequate drainage system continue to contribute to the prevalence of water-borne diseases and malaria, even when there is access to clean water and sanitation;
- ⇒ Lack of effective solid waste management system is a major challenge in both urban and rural areas;
- ⇒ Low levels of improved sanitation coverage in rural areas, open defecation is widespread and sanitation coverage in schools and public institutions needs much improvement;
- ⇒ Inadequate budget allocation and weak monitoring and supervision of sanitation services; and
- ⇒ Inadequate revenue collection and tariff allocation for solid waste management and sewerage.

149. In terms of lessons learnt the agenda for prosperity acknowledge that safe, reliable, affordable and accessible drinking water and sanitation are essential to good health and development. Safe water reduces or eliminates water-borne diseases (such as diarrhoea, cholera). Poor sanitation exposes people to disease, lack of privacy and indignity. Poor water and sanitation together result in a large disease burden, and huge costs on individuals and the nation. Along with poor hygiene, they negatively affect school attendance and performance, and especially endanger women and girls. Toilet facilities and clean water are lacking in many schools, which are setback to national development.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

150. Sierra Leone’s urban centers mainly in Freetown are developing at an unprecedented rate with corresponding increasing levels of urban dwellings, small-scale businesses and resulting pollution from sewage. As a result, improving sanitation is faced with the challenge of rapid urbanization coupled with inadequate infrastructure and services for solid waste disposal. In the urban and peri-urban areas, the mushrooming of spontaneous/unplanned settlements, accommodating a huge proportion of the city’s population is compounding the problem associated with urban environmental management and planning. There is considerable urban degeneration due to poor housing facilities, poor coverage of water and sanitation as well as waste management for the poor.⁴⁰

151. The current situation on sanitation implies greater concerns. Only 13% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities. Urban dwellers are much more likely than rural households to have improved sanitation facilities (26% and 6%, respectively). The most common toilet facility is the open pit (31%), which is much more likely to be used in rural areas (37%) than in urban areas (16%). 30% of rural populations practice open defecation. Sanitation is far off-track from the MDG target of 66%. The budget allocation for the sector is less than 0.02% of GDP.⁴¹

152. Ensuring the proposed interventions currently underway to address the capacity gaps in the water, environmental sanitation and hygiene sector are key priorities to be considered in the new Urban Agenda. Effective coordination and continued government engagement is required as a priority to ensure the following are achieved:

⁴⁰ Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010 Republic of Sierra Leone

⁴¹ Agenda for Prosperity

- ⇒ Upgrading transmission and distribution networks nationwide to increase access to pipe borne water in rural and urban settlements;
- ⇒ Increase overall access to water in Western Area, through construction of the Orugu Dam;
- ⇒ Improved human resource capacity at national and local levels to facilitate recruitment of engineers, technicians and social scientists; and
- ⇒ Improving monitoring and reporting mechanisms to overcome capacity and logistical problems for implementation of the agenda for prosperity strategies to improve access to safe drinking water and Sanitation services.

Fig. 7: Better Housing and a good living environment



153. Results of the urban dwellers survey illustrates that 218 out of 329, 66.3% who responded to the 330 questionnaires distributed said they want “**Better housing and a good living environment**” by indicating their order of importance with No. 1 being most important ranking. The rest of the 111 respondents indicate lower importance.

6.4 Improving access to clean domestic energy

154. In Sierra Leone, the main use of energy in the Household sub-sector is in cooking and in lighting. According to the results of the Sierra Leone Household Survey (2003/2004), most households use wood (88 per cent), charcoal (7 per cent) and kerosene (1per cent) for cooking. For lighting and other household requirements, most households use kerosene (79%) and electricity (16%). In rural areas, 90% use kerosene for lighting while 37% in the urban areas use electricity for lighting purposes. Just over one percent of the needs in rural and urban areas are met through the use of stand-alone generators.⁴² Electricity production is primarily petroleum fuelled, all of which is imported. In the western region, electricity is generated by thermal plants at the Kingtom and Blackhall Road power station. In the Bo and Kenema regions, there is also electrification tied to the mining industry, and electricity is produced from thermal plants and a hydropower plant.

Table 6: Percentage of Household by Main Source of Energy for Lighting by Region & National

⁴² State of Environment Assessment Report Preparation Ministry of Energy

Main source of lighting	Region				Urban/Rural		Sierra Leone
	Southern	Eastern	Northern	Western	Urban	Rural	
Electricity	8.42	4.54	0.22	62.31	36.55	2.53	15.98
Generator	1.2	1.12	0.79	1.27	1.3	0.91	1.06
Kerosene/Gas lamp	89.95	86.25	93.15	35.32	61.15	90.33	78.79
Candles/Touch light	0	0	0.06	1.1	0.58	0.03	0.25
Other	0.43	8.09	5.78	0	0.43	6.2	3.92
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: SLIHS 2003/4

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

155. The government has made progress in improving clean domestic energy as follows:

- Completion of Bumbuna hydroelectric project in 2009 with installed capacity of 50MW presently operating on 25MW and transmits electric power to Freetown;
- Implementing the energy sector reform programmes focusing on restructuring through a process of unbundling the existing systems at the National Power Authority and transforming of the electricity sector into electricity generation and transmission company and electricity distribution and services authority to ensure a more transparent, efficient, fit-for-purpose energy ecosystem;
- Creating an enabling environment to facilitate the introduction of independent power producers that generate electricity from renewable energy sources and issuing generation licences to Independent Power Producers as part of the reform process which will ensure much greater private sector involvement;
- In August 2008 hosted first meeting of the Ministers for Energy of the Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) Interconnection Project. The Project aims to establish a corridor of low cost power supply from Cote d'Ivoire to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.⁴³ Government is negotiating a power purchase agreement with Côte D'Ivoire, and identifying power purchase opportunities from Mano River Union countries;
- Institutional capacity building through the Ministry of Energy by creation of a technical unit known as the energy directorate. Centralizing the knowledge base and disseminating information;

⁴³ Cote d'Ivoire - Liberia - Sierra Leone - Guinea, Interconnection Project, Final Communique, Freetown 19 August 2008. The CLSG Interconnection Project comprises a high voltage transmission line of approximately 1,100 km from Cote d'Ivoire to Guinea through Liberia, Sierra Leone with twelve (12) high voltage substations including five (5) in Sierra Leone. The estimated cost of the project is about 200 millions USD as of 2004. The Project will serve to establish a corridor of low cost power supply from Cote d'Ivoire to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea WAPP Zone A to Zone B. It will also reinforce interconnection between WAPP Zone A and Zone B through Cote d'Ivoire, enhancing power exchange and the creation of an energy market in the ECOWAS region.

- Preparation of a National Renewable Energy Policy(2014) the policy marks the initial steps of aligning the Sierra Leone renewable energy policy with the regional Renewable Energy Policy of the ECOWAS. It therefore mandates the implementation of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP). This steering framework is expected to boost access to energy services and ensure the sustainable growth of clean energy contribution in Sierra Leone;
- Conducted first renewable energy forum in April 2010 with a focus on Solar Energy organized by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Energy in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and officially launch the newly approved Sierra Leone Energy Policy and Strategic Plan.
- Implemented a Solar Street Lighting Project - The pilot phase witnessed the installation of 8,880 solar street lighting systems in all the districts headquarter towns and other major places;
- Construction of a United Nations supported hydro power plant in north-west Sierra Leone commenced in April 2012. The plant's expected capacity will be three MW.
- The completion of the ethanol plant by Addax Bioenergy which is expected to further boost real GDP growth in the medium term. The company plans to produce from its facility in Makeni will produce some 85,000 m3 of bioethanol per year by end 2016, and its biomass-fuelled co-generation plant would produce green electricity and contribute about one-fifth of Sierra Leone's electricity requirements.⁴⁴

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

156. Implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity overall objective in the energy sector is to increase installed capacity from the current 90MW to 1000 MW by 2018. This target is based on the projected demand for energy by mining companies, estimated at 650MW, while residential consumers, SMEs and commercial entities are projected to require 350MW. This is a major challenge that requires significant new investments in generation, transmission and efficient distribution.

157. The Government intent to investigate opportunities to use off grid solar power services is a major challenge, which require promoting the creation of markets for solar technologies through the private sector (such as solar photovoltaic, solar water heating, solar lanterns, solar refrigerators, solar cooking and solar water pumps).

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a 'New Urban Agenda'

158. Sustaining the improvement in electricity supply is a key priority since the demand for energy far exceeds supply and the sector is undergoing reform to enhance its performance. It is expected that dilapidated transmission and distribution system which results in high line losses, estimated at

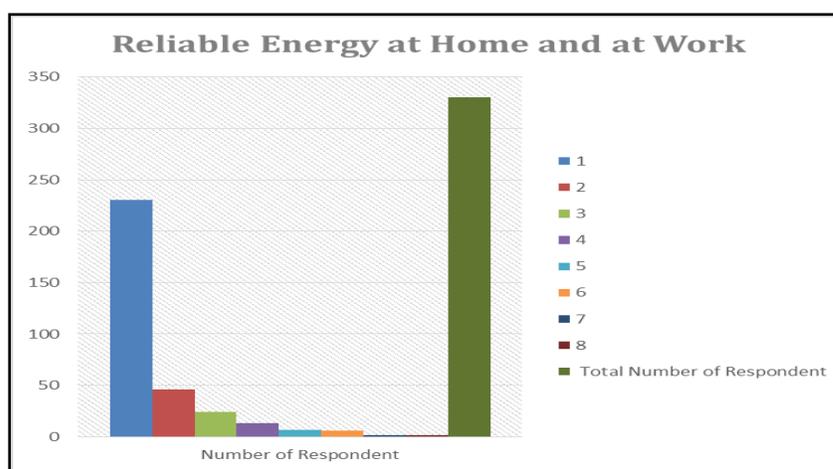
⁴⁴ Sierra Leone: State of the Economy and Relations with the Fund, Prepared by IMF Resident Representative Office, c/o BSL, 2nd. Floor Sam Bangura Building, Freetown, Sierra Leone. July 2014

about 40% of units generated will be upgraded as planned. Other emerging issues to be addressed are:

- ⇒ Improving the governance structure of the energy sector;
- ⇒ Providing human resource capacity development for personnel;
- ⇒ Improving accessibility to electricity supply, particularly in the rural areas;
- ⇒ Putting in place effective institutional framework to ensure the smooth supply of energy, including coordination, monitoring and evaluation, supervision and control; and
- ⇒ Attracting private investors to the energy sector.

159. A future challenge for the government is to address the need to provide the enabling environment to encourage private sector participation in assessing the potential for modern, sustainable and efficient forms energy such as: bioenergy, improved and sustainable renewable energy, wood energy production, improved charcoal processing and improved cooking stoves. The potential use of biofuels such as biodiesel from palm oil or ethanol for domestic consumption is being considered.

Fig. 8: Reliable Energy at Home and at Work



160. The outcome of the urban dwellers survey illustrates the need for **“Reliable Energy at Home and at Work.”** Out of the 330 Urban Survey questionnaires administered to a target group of Habitat Agenda Partners and the General Public, 230 respondent amounting to 70% indicated their order of importance for **“Reliable Energy at Home and at Work”** with No. 1 being most important ranking. A total of 90 respondent also indicate ranking of importance from Nos: 2 to 5 while the rest of the 10 people indicate low ranking of importance from Nos: 6 to 8.

6.5 Improving access to sustainable means of transport

Achievements in Implementing the Habitat Agenda

161. Progress have been made since 1996 in improving access to sustainable means of transport, encouraging the use of optimal combination of modes of transport, including private and public

means of transportation, improvement in road construction, rehabilitation and regulatory measures for the enhancement of the socio economic development of the country as follows:

- Increasing number of buses to the regions and within the capital city of Freetown to improve accessibility of goods, services, amenities and work;
- Completed a road safety study with assistance from the World Bank with the objective of reviewing road safety management capacity in Sierra Leone. The study also aimed at reaching a consensus with Government and multi sectoral stakeholders on improving road safety management capacity in the country; and
- Strengthening infrastructure needed to facilitate trade both within and outside the country, including roads, land, and air and sea transportation.

162. The government is committed to strengthening infrastructure needed to facilitate trade both within and outside the country, including roads, land, air and sea transportation and ensuring the enforcement of the following national traffic and transport policies and legislation that governs the transport sector:

- Road Transport Authority Act 1996;
- The Road Transport Strategy & Investment Plan;
- The Road Transport Fund of 1992;
- The Road Traffic Act of 2007;
- The 2010 New Traffic Regulation; and
- The 2012 MTA draft Traffic and Road Plan

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

163. The Structure Plan recommend that Freetown City Council support the draft MTA Traffic and Transport Plan which emphasizes that the traffic problems in the capital city can only be solved by the development of a strong and efficient public bus system. Freetown is in a good position to establish the public bus system as the majority of the population uses collective transport means. The key transport challenges facing the capital city are:

- Major traffic routes congested by motorized vehicles;
- Slow traffic due to inconvenient traffic management; and
- Some major traffic routes severely encroached by street traders.

164. Air and sea transportation are constrained by inadequate infrastructure at Lungi International Airport and at the Queen Elizabeth Ports. This has resulted in a high cost of travel and shipments to and from Sierra Leone.

Emerging Issues and Priorities for a ‘New Urban Agenda’

165. One of the key issues with public transport challenges that needs to be addressed are identified by the Structure Plan which proposes the Freetown City Council to support the draft MTA Traffic and Transport Plan. The plan emphasizes that the traffic problems in Freetown can be solved by the development of a strong and efficient public bus system for the following reasons:

- No Capital City in the world has solved the transport problem by expensive road infrastructure and individual cars only.
- Freetown is in a good position to establish the public bus system as the majority of the population uses collective transport means.
- The draft MTA Traffic and Transport Plan further reveals that: (a) Interviews with Freetown passengers also show that the passengers prefer bigger and better buses as well as cheaper tickets, (b) A public bus system will be economically sustainable according to the MTA calculations as the passengers are many, and (c) Although it should be a public coordinates system, private enterprises can participate in the provision of bus services in the routes on the basis of service provision criteria and tenders.

166. The report on Review of Road Safety Management Capacity in Sierra Leone reveals that road safety situation in Sierra Leone is extremely serious and requires urgent intervention. Road safety management capacity is too weak to adequately address road safety challenge, and there is urgent need to establish the necessary capacity in the country. It is imperative to implement the outlined strategy which requires both the creation of a new lead agency and the strengthening of the capacity of the core road safety stakeholders through technical assistance and training.

Annex I: List of References

1. Ian Bracken, Methuen and Co. 1981. Urban Planning Methods, Research and Policy Analysis. USA
2. Preliminary Report of the 1985 Population Census, December, 1985. Sierra Leone
3. National Framework for Human Settlements Development and Shelter Delivery, Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment in collaboration with UNDP and UN-HABITAT, April 2002 Sierra Leone
4. Draft National Housing Policy for Sierra Leone, GOL/UNDP/UNCHS-HABITAT, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, June, 1998
5. Draft National Land Policy for Sierra Leone, June 2014
6. National Report for The Habitat II Conference, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, April 1996 Sierra Leone.
7. AGENDA FOR PROSPERITY - ROAD TO MIDDLE INCOME STATUS
Sierra Leone's Third Generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2013 – 2018).
8. Review of the Sierra Leone National Youth Policy, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Integrated Projects Administration Unit/Youth Employment Support Project In Collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports and National Youth Commission and the World Bank .FIRST DRAFT. 20 NOVEMBER, 2012.
9. Sierra Leone Country Gender Profile, October 2011 African Development Bank Group.
10. 'www.aho.afro.who.int/profiles_information/index.php/Sierra_Leone:Analytical_summary_-_Gender_and_women%27s_health
11. Developing the Framework and Roadmap for the State of the Environment Report (SOER) for Sierra Leone "An Analysis of Issues, Preliminary Findings and Recommendations Based on a Short Survey amongst Stakeholders in November 2013."
12. Assessment and Evaluation of the Functioning Laws of Significance for Urban and Land Use Planning and Development Control in January 2014.
13. <http://www.nassitsl.org/content/history>
14. Review of Road Safety Management Capacity in Sierra Leone, Draft Final Report, January 2011.
15. Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010, Republic of Sierra Leone.

16. Africa Peer Review Mechanism, Sierra Leone 2012 Country Review Report. National Governing Council.
17. <http://mswgca.gov.sl/about-ministry/organisational-structure/>
18. Management and Functional Review of Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment, Final Draft Report, 2010.
19. Ministry of Lands, Housing , Country Planning and the Environment, Position paper on enforcement of planning and building regulations, submitted by M.A.O.Johnson, Ag. Director of Housing and Country Planning, October 2001.
20. Cote d'Ivoire - Liberia -Sierra Leone - Guinea, Interconnection Project, Final Communiqué, Freetown 19 August 2008.
21. Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment “New procedure for processing of applications for development”. 1999.
22. Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) 2003/04 Final Statistical Report November 2007.
23. Decentralization, Accountability and Local Services in Sierra Leone: Situation Analysis, Key Challenges and Opportunities for Reform April 2, 2014, World Bank.
24. Country Environment Profile 2006 EU/GOSL Report By Leslie Blinker.
25. Infrastructure and Growth in Sierra Leone, African Development Bank, 2011.
26. Decentralization, Accountability and Local Services in Sierra Leone: Situation Analysis, Key Challenges and Opportunities for Reform April 2, 2014, World Bank.
27. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sierra_Leone.
28. Population profile of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone Union for Population Studies: 2004 Census Publication Series: No. 1 Armand C Thomas PhD Freetown Sierra Leone, October 2007 Reprint March 2010.
29. Sierra Leone Statistical Digest 2005-2006.

Annex II: National Habitat Committee

1	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
2	Director of Country Planning, Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment
3	Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
4	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure
5	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
6	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
7	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
8	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources
9	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Security
10	His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Freetown
11	His Worship, the Mayor Bo
12	His Worship, the Mayor Kenema
13	Her Worship, the Mayor Makeni
14	His Worship, the Mayor of Kono
15	Chairman, Western Rural District Council
16	Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Lands
17	Director, Statistics Sierra Leone
18	Director, Strategic and Policy Unit
19	Inspector General of Sierra Leone Police
20	President Civil Society Movement
21	Executive Chairperson Environmental Protection Agency
22	Representative, FAO
23	Representative, UNDP
24	Representative, World Bank
25	Commissioner, National Youth Commission
26	Director, Women in Shelter and Environment Network, (WISENET) Sierra Leone
27	Advocacy Coordinator, Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development / UNFPA Sierra Leone
28	Director, Deeply In-need Persons Challenge Organization (DIPCO) Sierra Leone
29	Director General, National Social Security & Insurance Trust, (NASSIT) Sierra Leone
30	Director, Women's FORUM, Sierra Leone
31	Managing Director, HFC Mortgage and Savings, Sierra Leone
32	Professor Dr. Osman Gbla, University of Sierra Leone / FBC
33	Professor Dr. Bob Conteh, Njala University
34	Executive Director, Council for Human Ecology, Sierra Leone
35	Metrological Department
36	Inter Religious Council
37	National Movement for Restoration and Sustenance of Democracy in Sierra Leone (NMRSDSIL)
38	Sierra Leone Association of Journalist
39	Sierra Leone Standards Bureau
40	Chairperson Bambara Town Women's Organization

Annex III: List of Contributors

No	Name	Title / Institution
1	Augustine O. Kai-Banya	Director of Country Planning, MLCPE
2	Alphajoh Cham	Environment & Urban Planning Advisor/ Focal Point UN-Habitat Project MLCPE
3	Lancelot Ayo Lake	National Consultant for preparation of Habitat III National Report and Mobilization of Partners, UN-Habitat /GOSL
4	Marke Mahoud Kalokoh	Co-Chair National Habitat Committee / Civil Society Movement
5	Henry P.B.Leigh	Co-Chair National Habitat Committee / Council of Human Ecology Sierra Leone
6	Juliet Anderson	Member National Habitat Committee/Bambara Town Women's Organization
7	Precious A.M Koroma	Member National Habitat Committee/DIPCO\SL
8	Gladys Hasting-Spaine	Women's FORUM, Sierra Leone
9	Nyake Minah	Researcher, MARICOM Development Company
10	Sarah Iye Koroma	Consultant, MARICOM Development Company & Women in Shelter and Environment Network
11	Manso Bangura	National Youth Commission
12	Joseph Lahai	Sierra Leone Police
13	Chernor O.T. Bah	Urban Activist
14	John. S. Kamara	Environmentalist/ Researcher
15	Francis Foray	Member, National Habitat Committee/ National Movement for Restoration and Sustenance of Democracy in Sierra
16	Paul Harding	Home Finance Company

Annex IV: List of Figures and Tables

List of Figures	Page
Fig. 1: Better Job Opportunity	26
Fig 2: Equality between Men and Women, Girls and Boys	31
Fig. 3: Access to Land, property and security of tenure	40
Fig 4: Action Taken on Climate and Pollution	47
Fig. 5: Transformation of Slum Communities into a Modern Living Environment	55
Fig. 6: Household Distance to Drinking Water	60
Fig. 7: Better Housing and a good living environment	62
Fig. 8: Reliable Energy at Home and at Work	65

List of Tables	Page
Table 1: Urban Growth as Share of Total Population Growth 2004-2018 (Projected)	20
Table 2: Gender disparity in primary and secondary education and Parliamentary Seats	28
Table 3: Employment by Grades and Gender in the Public Service	30
Table 4: National Coverage of Water and Sanitation (2012)	59
Table 5: Proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	59
Table 6: Percentage of Household by Main Source of Energy for Lighting by Region & National	62

Annex V. Indicators

1. Projected Demographic Indicators: Sierra Leone (2010-2025) National Population, Percentage Urban and Density

Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Population Total ('000) National	7014	7915	8809	9641
Males	3464	3913	4357	4770
Females	3550	4002	4452	4871
%Urban	48.1	52.0	55.6	59.1
Population Density (Sq. Km)	98	110	123	134

Source: SIL Statistical Digest 2005-2006

2. Percentage of Household by Main Source of Drinking Water by Region & National

Main Sources	Regions				Urban/Rural		Sierra Leone
	Southern	Eastern	Northern	Western	Urban	Rural	
Pipe borne Water	4.09	24.76	3.17	95.46	58.09	7.77	27.66
Indoor plumbing	0.23	0	0.2	11.01	4.66	0.92	2.4
Inside Standpipe	0.26	0.13	0	44.09	22.19	0.74	9.22
Water vendor	0.41	0	0	0	0.24	0	0.09
Water Tanker	0.21	0	0	0.12	0.18	0	0.07
Neighboring HH	2.1	0.48	0.04	13.99	8.68	0.12	3.5
Private outside standpipe	0.41	2.21	0	7.99	4.49	0.83	2.28
Public Standpipe	0.47	21.94	2.93	18.26	17.65	5.16	10.1
Well water	50.5	38	41.12	2.45	34.58	34.45	34.5
Well with pump	27.69	19.17	13.85	1.45	10.8	18.92	15.71
Well without pump	22.81	18.83	27.27	1	23.78	15.53	18.79
Natural Sources	44.43	37.11	55.56	2.09	7.22	57.36	37.54
River, Lake, spring etc.	44.43	36.96	55.53	2.09	7.22	57.28	37.49
Rainwater	0	0.15	0.03	0	0	0.08	0.05
Others	0.97	0.13	0.15	0	0.12	0.42	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: SLIHS 2003/4

3. Percentage of Population with access to safe drinking water source, a sanitary means of excreta disposal and reliance on firewood for energy

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Access to an improve water source (as % of population) 1	20	20	15	15	18	22	22	NA
Access to improve sanitation (as % of population) 2	28	18	12	5	63	63	NA	NA
% of population relying on traditional fuel for energy use 3	92	93	94	95	96	94	95	95

Adapted from SL Statistical Digest 2005/2006 : Source(s) Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 1998-1999, World Resources – Environmental Change and Human Health Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS II)

4. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to adequate sanitation

Indicator	%
Use of improved sanitation facilities, total population	13%
Use of improved sanitation facilities, urban	26%

Source DHS 2008 (Adapted from A4P)

5. Percentage of Household by Waste Disposal National and Urban

Means of Disposal	National	Urban
Collected	3.26	7.3
Dumped by households	76.05	72.78
Burned by households	14.88	13.12
Buried by households	0.64	0.74
Other means	5.17	6.06
Total	100	100

Source: Adapted from SLIHS 2003/4

6. Major Source of Water Supply by Administrative Districts

DISTRICT / PROVINCE	Major Source of water Supply (%)									
	Piped Indoor	Piped in compound	Public Tap	Protected Well	Unprotected Well	Mechanical Well	River Stream	Neighbour Tap	Water	Other
Kailahun	0.24	0.15	19.59	16.09	17.25	16.96	28.94	0.40	0.11	0.26
Kenema	0.87	4.64	16.55	16.08	14.66	11.23	28.50	7.18	0.25	0.05
Kono	0.21	0.86	17.78	20.56	10.42	9.46	39.87	0.70	0.10	0.06
Eastern Province	0.49	2.22	17.82	17.32	14.28	12.49	31.79	3.31	0.16	0.12
Bombali	0.30	0.55	7.75	24.63	17.04	8.45	40.54	0.32	0.16	0.26
Kambia	0.31	0.30	3.69	15.84	31.24	9.23	36.43	0.43	2.08	0.46
Koinadugu	0.23	0.39	9.35	12.30	5.90	8.15	63.29	0.09	0.15	0.13
Port Loko	0.34	0.92	4.49	11.81	16.06	15.86	48.74	1.41	0.34	0.03
Tonkolili	0.36	0.58	7.39	14.53	14.27	5.64	56.91	0.18	0.09	0.03
Northern Province	0.31	0.59	6.55	16.05	16.39	9.80	49.14	0.54	0.46	0.16
Bo	0.53	0.57	18.47	25.01	7.17	22.32	23.48	1.79	0.52	0.13
Bonthe	0.30	0.13	6.73	10.60	21.99	14.18	45.56	0.48	0.01	0.03
Moyamba	0.25	0.16	1.60	11.56	15.57	6.38	64.10	0.23	0.08	0.06
Pujehun	0.38	0.22	14.30	4.00	9.14	29.21	42.35	0.26	0.05	0.08
Southern Province	0.40	0.34	11.82	15.55	11.71	18.57	40.35	0.92	0.25	0.09
Rural	4.51	10.87	27.22	17.06	9.94	7.24	11.31	11.52	0.20	0.13
Urban	6.68	22.33	31.45	10.73	6.26	0.67	4.57	16.20	0.66	0.45
Western Area	6.28	20.23	30.68	11.89	6.93	1.88	5.81	15.34	0.57	0.39
SIERRA LEONE	1.57	4.89	15.47	15.43	12.91	10.86	34.01	4.31	0.36	0.18

Statistic Digest 2005/2006

7. Poverty in Sierra Leone by District and Rural - Urban Place of Residence

DISTRICT	URBAN			RURAL		
	Incidence of Poverty	Intensity of Poverty	Severity of Poverty	Incidence of Poverty	Intensity of Poverty	Severity of Poverty
	(P ₀)	(P ₁)	(P ₂)	(P ₀)	(P ₁)	(P ₂)
Bo	59.9	26.7	11.9	66.8	27.4	11.3
Bonthe	88.7	41.9	19.8	83.5	38.9	18.1
Moyamba	59	20.4	7	70.1	25.7	9.4
Pujehun	58.5	18.5	5.8	58.6	20	6.8
Kailahun	86.2	33.9	13.3	94.6	48.8	25.2
Kenema	77.5	28.1	10.2	95	47.6	23.8
Kono	52.9	16.8	5.3	79.6	35.8	16.1
Bombali	83.4	34.3	14.1	90	54.5	33
Kambia	75.6	16.9	3.8	67.7	23.3	8
Koinadugu	81.1	37.4	17.2	76.3	33.7	14.9
Port Loko	71.9	25	8.7	85	34.2	13.8
Tonkolili	87.7	46.5	24.5	84.2	35	14.5
Freetown	15.2	4.1	1.1	-	-	-
Other Western	52.8	20.7	8.1	42.5	16.7	6.6
All	54.3	26.7	10.8	78.9	36.6	17.1

Sources: SLIHS, 2003/04