UNITED NATIONS
SIERRA LEONE

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

SIERRA LEONE 2020-2023

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United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone

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Joint Statement and Signatures

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

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

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

For the Government of Sierra Leone

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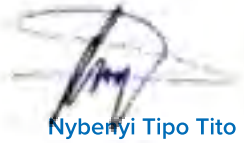
Minister of Planning and Economic Development

For the United Nations

Mr. Sunil Saigal
United Nations Resident Coordinator



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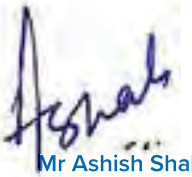

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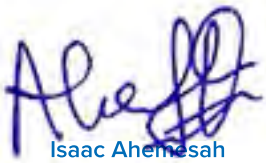

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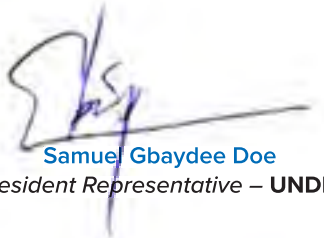

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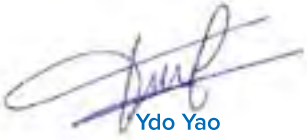

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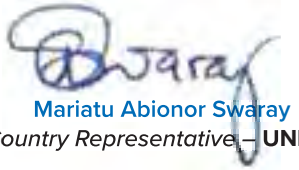

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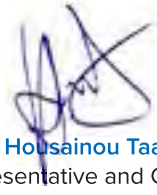

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Abbreviations

CSO	Civil society organization
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EVD	Ebola virus disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBDGs	Food-based Dietary Guidelines
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FQSE	Free quality school education
FSU	Family Support Unit
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDP	Gross domestic product
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
MAF	Ministry of Forestry
MBSSE	Ministry of Basic and Secondary School Education
MDA	Ministries, departments and agencies
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MOHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MoPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
MSWGCA	Ministry of Social, Women, Gender and Children's Affairs

MTNDP	Medium-Term National Development Plan
NACSA	National Commission for Social Action
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PFM	Public financial management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLDHS	Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey
Stats SL	Statistics Sierra Leone
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WCA	Western and Central Africa
WP	Work plan
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

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

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

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government programmes on free quality school education and human capital development as well as the government efforts on promoting access of the population to basic services, including health care and energy. The fourth area sustains the government agenda on empowerment and social protection of women and other vulnerable members of society and promotes conditions for the vulnerable groups to be able to seize social and economic opportunities and play a role as agents of change in the society. A results matrix as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework for all outcomes have also been included as part of this document.

The Cooperation Framework is articulated around four priority areas. The first area refers to the key government policy on promoting sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition, and strengthening resilience and capacities to prevent the adverse effects of climate change. The second area addresses the government agenda on transformative governance and institution-building as well as the promotion of an enabling environment to sustain peace and stability in the country. The third area supports the flagship

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

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

Chapter 1: Country Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda

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1.1 Country context (Gaps and Challenges)

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

Although the Government of Sierra Leone is striving to promote an agenda of change to ensure economic growth, increased revenue collection and management transparency, and improved provision of services - including free quality school education - countrywide, Sierra Leone continues to face numerous development challenges. The country has the lowest life expectancy globally at 52.2 years, according to the 2018 Human Development Report. The country's human development index also remains one of the lowest, at 0.419 in 2017, placing it at 184 among 189 countries[1]. Although poverty has significantly declined over the past 19 years, poverty rates across the country remain high and the 2018 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey estimates the overall poverty headcount at 56.70 per cent compared to 53.80 per cent in 2011, denoting a new increase in the poverty rate. This is despite the fact that the country is endowed with significant renewable natural resources in land, forests, and fisheries as well as significant deposits of minerals. The total public debt has increased to 66.30 per cent of GDP in 2018 from 64.60 per cent of GDP a year earlier, maintaining the country at risk of debt distress[2].

According to the 2015 census, the population of Sierra Leone is approximately 7.1 million, with 45.80 per cent of the population under the age of 15, and 74.80 per cent below the age of 35. The share of young population represents a challenge for the economy that remains based on traditional agriculture practices, with 61 per cent of GDP provided by the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors in 2016[3]. Low agricultural production contributes toward 43 per cent of Sierra Leoneans being categorised as food insecure[4], whilst poor dietary diversity results in one third (31.3%) of children being chronically malnourished[5]. Employment-generation, especially among youth, the majority of whom are unemployed or underemployed with low levels of literacy, remains a major challenge. Youth unemployment has been a historic driver of grievance and conflict. Overall, inequality has decreased over the past 19 years; nevertheless, the Gini coefficient remains 34 and Sierra Leone's gender inequality index ranking is also high, at 0.645, placing the country 150th among 189 countries[6].

Since the end of the civil war, the country has made steady progress in institution-building, reforming the judiciary and security sector, and

1 United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports, 2018 Statistical Update, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>.
2 The World Bank in Sierra Leone, https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/sierraleone/overview
3 African Development Bank, African Economic Outlook, 2017
4 WFP and MAF, September 2018, Food Security Monitoring System.
5 UNICEF and MOHS, 2017, SMART Nutrition survey.
6 United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports, Human Development Indices and Indicators, 2018 Statistical Update: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_ development_statistical_update.pdf.

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strengthening the Parliament. Based on the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2019, Sierra Leone's overall rule of law score places the country at 15 out of 30 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, and 98 out of 126 countries and jurisdictions worldwide. Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer Africa (2019), reveals that 33 per cent of all citizens surveyed felt corruption has decreased in the country[7], which could be attributed to the strong anti-corruption agenda of the new Government. Since the new President took over power, he has also endeavoured to strengthen social cohesion countrywide, which was put under serious stress by a divisive electoral process in 2018.

Finally, the country, and particularly its capital, Freetown, remain vulnerable to disasters. The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index ranks Sierra Leone as the 24th most vulnerable to climate change of the countries it covered for 2015. Floods account for 85 per cent of disaster-related mortality in the country, followed by landslides, storms and fire accidents[8].

7 Transparency International, The Africa GCB In Detail, www.transparency.org/gcb10/africa?/news/feature/global_corruption_barometer_gcb_africa_2019#detail

8 Sierra Leone Country Climate Action Reports 2016

1.2 National vision for sustainable development

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

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

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

Goal 1:
A diversified, resilient, green economy

Goal 2:
A nation with educated, empowered, and healthy citizens capable of realising their fullest potential

Goal 3:
A society that is peaceful, cohesive, secure, and just

Goal 4:
A competitive economy with a well-developed infrastructure

The MTNDP is based on an ambitious macro-fiscal framework that aims at achieving key macroeconomic objectives including: attaining and maintaining single-digit inflation, reducing the budget deficit and maintaining the public debt at the sustainable threshold of not more than 70 per cent of GDP, increasing domestic revenue collection and maintaining government expenditures within budgetary limits of around 24 per cent of GDP.

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

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The Government's vision also prioritises innovation and promotion of new technology as key drivers of development and, as a result, a Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation has been established in the Office of the Presidency.

The Directorate is mandated to support the Ministry of Higher Education to promote research and technological education and is currently receiving technical support from specialized UN Agencies.

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

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

1.3 Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Goal 13 (Climate Change), Sierra Leone has increased enforcement of environmental protection compliance and conducted an education campaign in schools and universities,

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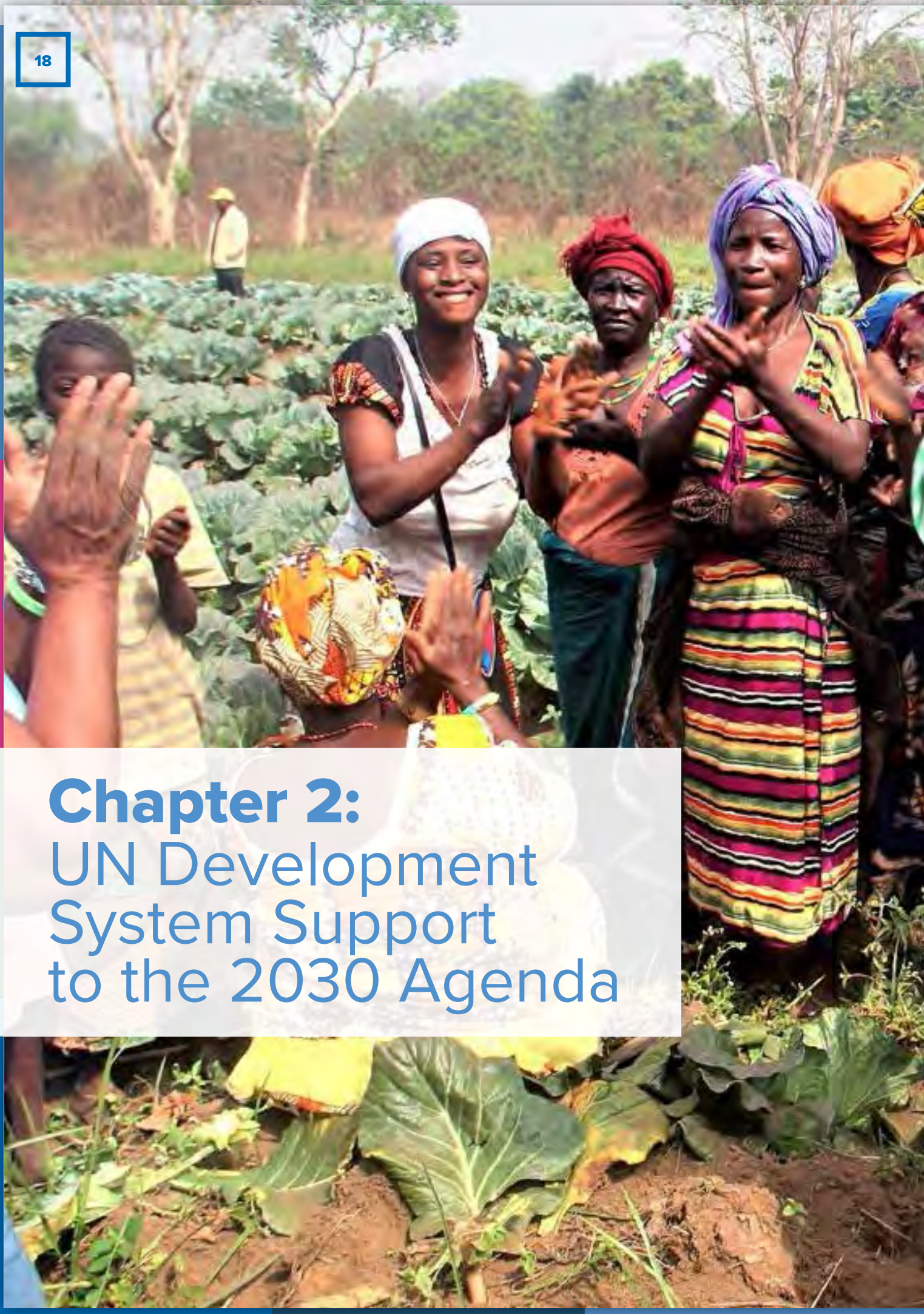
sensitising students and teachers on environment protection and climate change. The Government has also instituted monthly cleaning exercises, which is helping to mitigate the impact of flooding in the urban areas.

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



Chapter 2:
UN Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda

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2.1 Theory of Change

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

Environment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supply

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

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

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

IF opportunities for integration are recognised and effectively leveraged;

IF natural resources are utilized in a sustainable manner;

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

IF quality control to ensure adherence to standards is adequate;

IF information management, including surveillance is increased;

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

Demand

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

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

IF quality basic services are accessible and affordable;

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Strategic priorities for the UN Development System

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SDG Definitions

SDG 1: End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

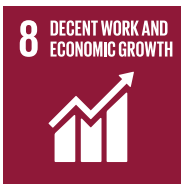
SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well Being for All at All Ages

SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All



SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive, Employment and Decent Work for All

SDG 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation and Foster Innovation

SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries

SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable

SDG 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts

SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development

SDG 15: Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss

SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels

SDG 17: Sustainable development through global partnerships.

UNSDCF OUTCOME

Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security

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

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

MTNDP PRIORITIES

Cluster Two:

Diversifying the economy and promoting growth

- **2.1** Improving the productivity, quality, safety and commercialisation of the agricultural sector
- **2.2** Improving the productivity and sustainable management of fisheries and the marine sector

Cluster Five:

Empowering Women, Children, Adolescents & Persons with Disabilities

- **5.2** Women's economic empowerment and access to livelihoods opportunities are promoted with a view to establishing Sierra Leonean women as equal partners and participants in the socio-economic and political transformation of Sierra Leone

Cluster Seven:

Addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience

- **7.1** Building national environmental resilience
- **7.2** Forestry management and wetland conservation

SDGS

Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disability in elected offices is institutionalised

Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion

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

UNSDCF OUTCOME

Transformational Governance

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

Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions

Local governance institutions are well resourced, service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented

Government has strengthened public financial management (PFM)

Government-wide national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that will ensure development results is achieved

MTNDP PRIORITIES

Cluster Four:

Governance and accountability for results

4.1 Political development for national cohesion

4.2 Fighting corruption and illicit financial flows

4.3 Strengthening public financial management (PFM)

4.4 Strengthening audit services

4.5 Promoting inclusive and accountable justice institutions

4.6 Building public trust in state institutions

4.7 Strengthening public service delivery

4.8 Strengthening decentralisation, local governance, and rural development

SDGS

Communities' behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of their rights

Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies

Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, protection services related to gender-based violence (GBV), other harmful practices (child marriage, female genital mutilation, child labour, trafficking)

UNSDCF OUTCOME

Access to Basic Services

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

Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education)

Statistics SL and other entities are supported in order to produce quality data for decision-making

Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and, financial literacy, and employability

Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented

MTNDP PRIORITIES

Cluster One:

Human capital development

- **1.1** Free quality basic and senior secondary education
- **1.2** Strengthening tertiary and higher education
- **1.3** Health care improvement
- **1.4** Environmental sanitation and hygiene

Cluster Three:

Infrastructure and economic competitiveness

- **3.1** Energy
- **3.3** Improving water infrastructure systems

SDGS

Communities' behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of their rights

Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented

Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and, financial literacy, and employability

Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies

UNSDCF OUTCOME

Protection and empowerment of the most vulnerable

By 2023, the most vulnerable, particularly women, youth, adolescents and children (especially girls), and persons living with disabilities are empowered and benefit from increased social protection services, economic and social opportunities including those with disability.

Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, protection services related to gender-based violence (GBV), other harmful practices (child marriage, female genital mutilation, child labour, trafficking).

Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education)

Statistics SL and other entities are supported in order to produce quality data for decision-making.

MTNDP PRIORITIES

Cluster One:

Human capital development

1.5 Social protection

Cluster Five:

Empowering women, children, and persons with disabilities

5.1 Women

5.2 Children and adolescents

5.3 Empowering persons with disabilities

Cluster Six:

Youth employment, sports, and migration

6.1 Youth entrepreneurship (employment and empowerment)

SDGS

2.3.1 Outcome Area 1:

Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience

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

Theory of Change

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

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

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

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

IF early warning systems are established and effectively functioning;

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

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

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

The 2019-2023 MTNDP considers agriculture as the backbone of Sierra Leone's economy with high potential for driving economic development, through enhancing food security, income generation, employment, wealth creation and poverty reduction; generating industrial development and ensuring equitable distribution of resources. However, despite high agricultural potential, agricultural yields are among the lowest in the West Africa sub-region (rice yields are 0.5 to 1.5 MT per hectare) and labour productivity is extremely low, contributing toward 43.70 per cent of Sierra Leoneans being food insecure[9]. In addition, Sierra Leone is highly dependent on imported food commodities, particularly staple rice, and remains vulnerable to food price fluctuation. The country's efforts to commercialise agriculture lack the requisite enabling environment to attract the private sector. In addition, farmers, particularly women and youth, usually, lack access to financial services. Furthermore, widespread shifting of agricultural practices contributes to high levels of environmental degradation, with an estimated 5 per cent of Sierra Leone's once extensive tropical forests remaining. In 2018-19, the Government of Sierra Leone undertook a Zero Hunger Strategic Review to map out the food and nutrition security situation and to outline concrete actions for Sierra Leone to achieve zero hunger.[10]

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

9 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry et al., September 2018, Food Security Monitoring System.
10 Government of Sierra Leone, June 2019, *Sierra Leone Zero Hunger Strategic Review*

acceptable diet in terms of dietary diversity and meal frequency.[11]

High food insecurity, poor nutritional and care practices, and high-disease burden contribute to widespread malnutrition in the country, especially among children and women of reproductive age. Nearly one third[12] of children under five suffer from stunting, the irreversible result of chronic nutrition deprivation, while 5.10 per cent[13] are acutely malnourished (moderate and severe). Micronutrient deficiency among children and women is also a public health problem. Vitamin A deficiency among children 6-59 months old in the country is moderately high at 17 per cent[14]. Anaemia is highly prevalent among children under five (76 per cent) and women aged 15-49, i.e., women of reproductive age (49 per cent). Among non-pregnant women, 79 per cent[15] suffer from folate deficiency thereby increasing risk for negative pregnancy outcomes such as spontaneous abortion and neural tube defects.

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

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

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

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

The combined efforts of the Government and UNCT aim to contribute to the SDGs by 2030, the African Union's Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025), UN Global Strategy for

11 Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017, Sierra Leone Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Ministry of Health and Sanitation and UNICEF, 2014, Sierra Leone Micronutrient Survey
15 Ibid.
16 Environmental Performance Index, 2018 EPI Results, https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-topline

Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (2016-2030), and the 2025 Global Nutrition Targets endorsed by the World Health Assembly. In particular, the UN will support the Government to work towards the achievement of the following results:

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

2.3.2 Outcome Area 2:
Transformational Governance

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

Theory of Change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Because:

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

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

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

Between 2012 and 2016, the proportion of children in conflict with the law increased from 35 to 75 per 100,000 children[17], and of the 12,029 cases received by the Sierra Leone Police Family Support Units (FSUs) in 2017, 5,445 involved children and adolescents aged 0-19 years[18].

In his first state opening in May 2018, President Julius Maada Bio committed to build and promote national cohesion, fight corruption, and improve accountability, security, access to justice, and respect of rule of law and human rights.

17 Defence for Children Sierra Leone monitoring data, 2017.
18 Family Support Unit Sierra Leone Police 2017 report

These commitments are reflected in the MTNDP strategic objective to "[ensure] a democratic and cohesive society that is peaceful, stable and tolerant". The MTNDP recognises governance and accountability as the leading pre-conditions for the effective and efficient delivery of all other planned outcomes.

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

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

1. Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disability in elected offices is institutionalised;
2. Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) are created for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion;
3. Access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, women, men, including persons with disabilities are fully protected;
4. Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions.
5. Local governance institutions are well-resourced, service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented;
6. Government has strengthened PFM;
7. Government-wide national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system is in place.

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2.3.3 Outcome Area 3:
Access to Basic Services

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

Theory of Change

Pathway to achieve precondition 1 (supply):

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

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

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

IF quality control to ensure adherence to standards is adequate;

IF information management, including surveillance and response is increased,

IF technology is used effectively;

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

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

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

Then, there will be:

- Expanded availability of quality education, health, energy, and WASH services, particularly for the most vulnerable
- Improved affordability of services, including for women, adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups;
- Improved system readiness and resilience to respond to shocks and emergencies;
- Pathway to achieve precondition 2 (demand):

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

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

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

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

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

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

IF households increase their income;

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

Then there will be:

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

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

2.3.3.1 Specific development challenges, prioritisation analysis and intended development results

With the flagship free quality school education programme at its centre, human capital development is a key pillar of the MTNDP. Insufficient access to quality education, health, energy, and WASH services remains a major obstacle to progress in most human development areas and resilience in Sierra Leone, and ultimately

to the enjoyment of individual human rights. This pillar covers access to quality basic and senior secondary education in both formal and non-formal settings, strengthening of tertiary education, healthcare improvement, environmental sanitation and hygiene, social protection, and access to lands and housing.

Pre-primary education remains inaccessible to most children with only 1 in 10 children aged 3-4 attending an early education programme (MICS 2017). School completion rates are low with 67 per cent of students completing primary, 49 per cent completing junior secondary and 27 per cent completing senior secondary. Moreover, only 12 per cent and 16 per cent of children aged 7–14 have foundation skills in numeracy and literacy, respectively[19]. With the launch of the free quality school education programme, all children -boys and girls from rural areas, the poorest of the urban, and children with disabilities- will be supported in accessing school from pre-primary to senior secondary level.

Sierra Leone has the lowest life expectancy at birth; the fourth highest child mortality rate and the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. There is limited access to HIV and AIDS services, particularly for vulnerable populations (female and male sex workers; men who have sex with men; people who inject drugs; and people in prisons). Only 27.40 per cent of men who have sex with men are reached through HIV services, even though HIV prevalence among this population is 14 per cent, far higher than the national average of 1.5 per cent.

The energy infrastructure is limited, particularly in rural areas. There is a total capacity of 88 MW of renewable energy in the country, of which 56

19 Annual School Census, 2017.

[1]

[3]

[4]

[2]

[5]

MW is hydropower and 33 MW bioenergy. The majority of the rural population depend on biomass to generate energy, with limited infrastructure for electricity (less than 1 per cent of the rural population has access to electricity) and renewables.

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

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

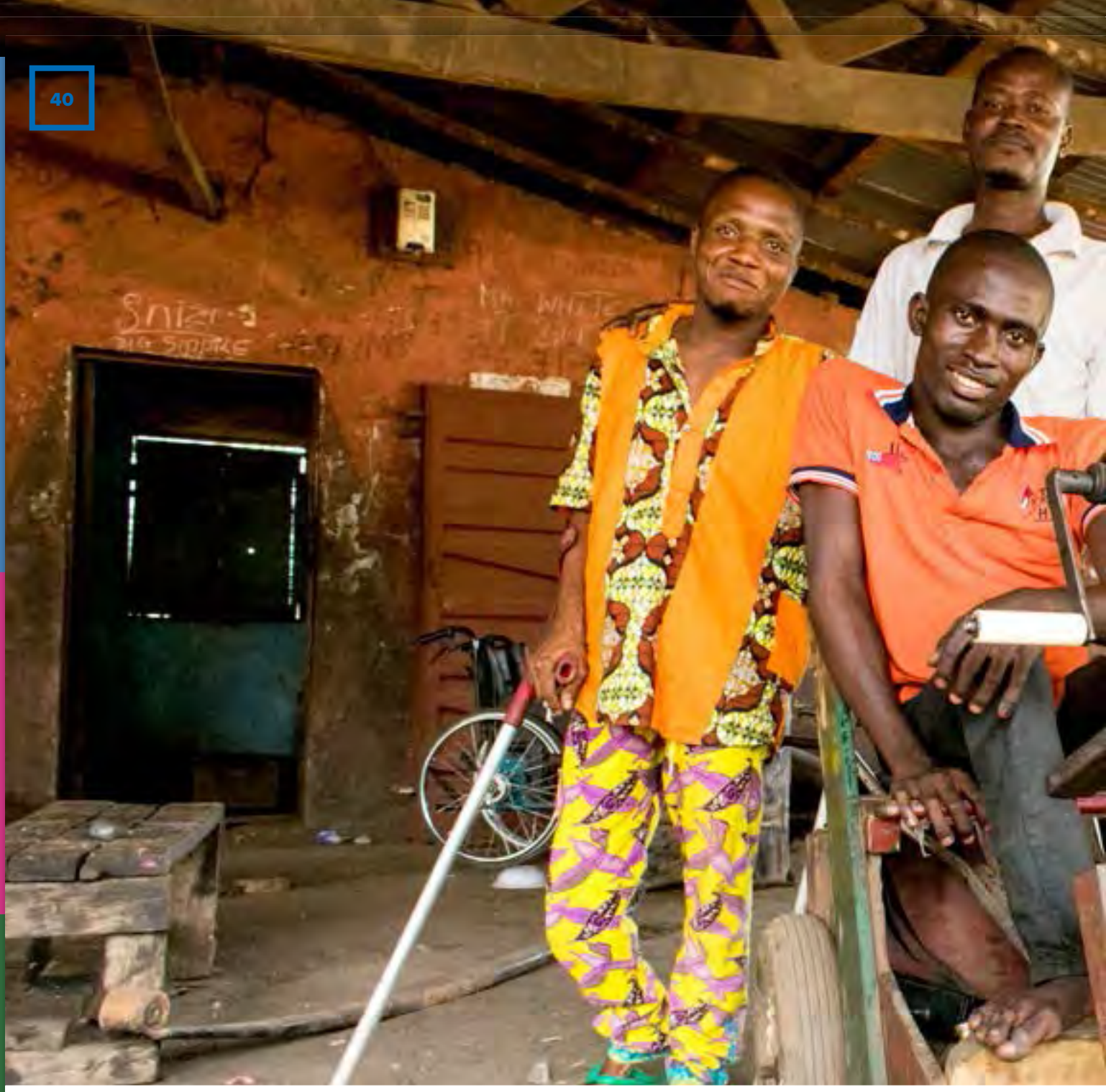
1. Children, adolescents, young women and youth have increased access to comprehensive quality education services with improved learning outcomes.

2. The population has improved WASH coverage, quality services and positive WASH behaviours.

3. The population has access to integrated people-centred health services to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

4. The population has improved access to renewable energy in rural areas.

[1] © WHO/Gborie Photo [2] © WHO/Gborie [3] © UNFPA/Stephens
[4] © UNFPA/Kamara [5] © UNICEF/James



2.3.4 Outcome area 4:

Protection and Empowerment of the Most Vulnerable

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

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Theory of Change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Because

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

2.3.4.1 Specific development challenges, prioritisation analysis and intended development results

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

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

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

Sustainably eliminating all forms of violence will entail addressing the root causes of violence, including discrimination against women, youth, adolescents, children (in particular girls), people living with HIV and persons with disabilities; and gender inequality in the distribution of power and

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other resources. Furthermore, innovative approaches and measures on both the demand and supply side are required to address youth structural unemployment.

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

1. Communities' behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of their rights;

2. Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented;

3. Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, and protection services related to GBV and other harmful practices (child marriage, FGM, child labour, trafficking).

4. Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education);

5. Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and financial literacy, and employability;

6. Statistics Sierra Leone and other entities are supported to produce quality data for decision-making.

7. Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies.

2.4 Sustainability

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

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

2.5 UN comparative advantage and UNCT configuration

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

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

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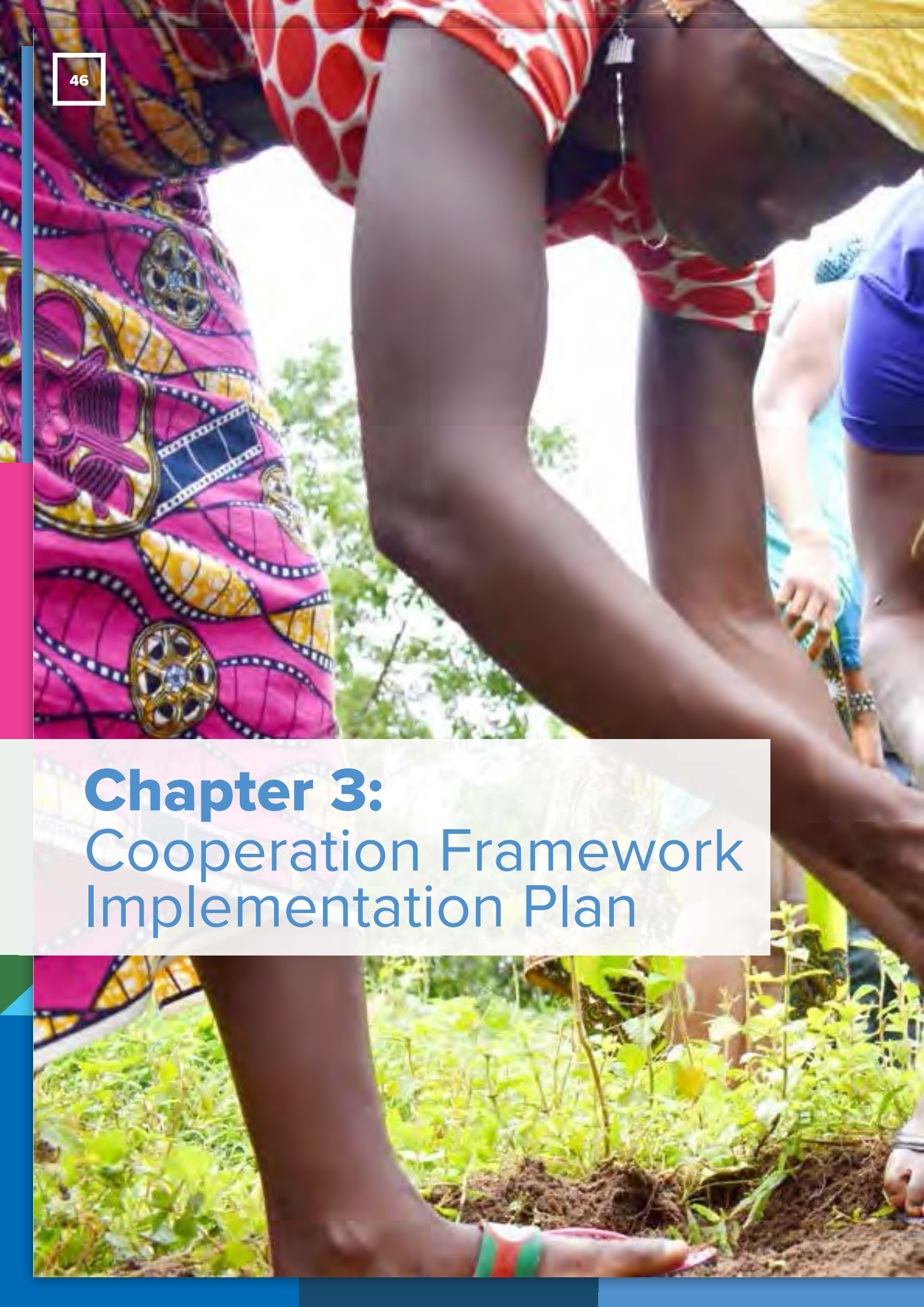

Chapter 3:
Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan

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3.1 Implementation strategy and strategic partnership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3.2 Governance and cooperation framework review and reporting

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

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

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

financial resources, and other actions. In this case, the UNSDCF's work plans will need to be updated and amendments reported in the monitoring system, including UN INFO[20].

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.3 Joint work plans

The UNSDCF will be made operational through the development of joint work plans (JWPs)[21] and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents, as necessary, which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement on the use of resources between the UN Agencies and each implementing partner, as necessary. To the extent possible, the UN Agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the

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

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

signed UNSDCF and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNSDCF and joint or agency-specific work plans and/or project documents[22]. To increase joint delivery, the UNCT, in collaboration with its partners, can also design joint programme and projects.

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of MOPED.

Government coordinating authorities for specific UN Agency programmes are included in the result framework annexed to the UNSDCF in Annex I.

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

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

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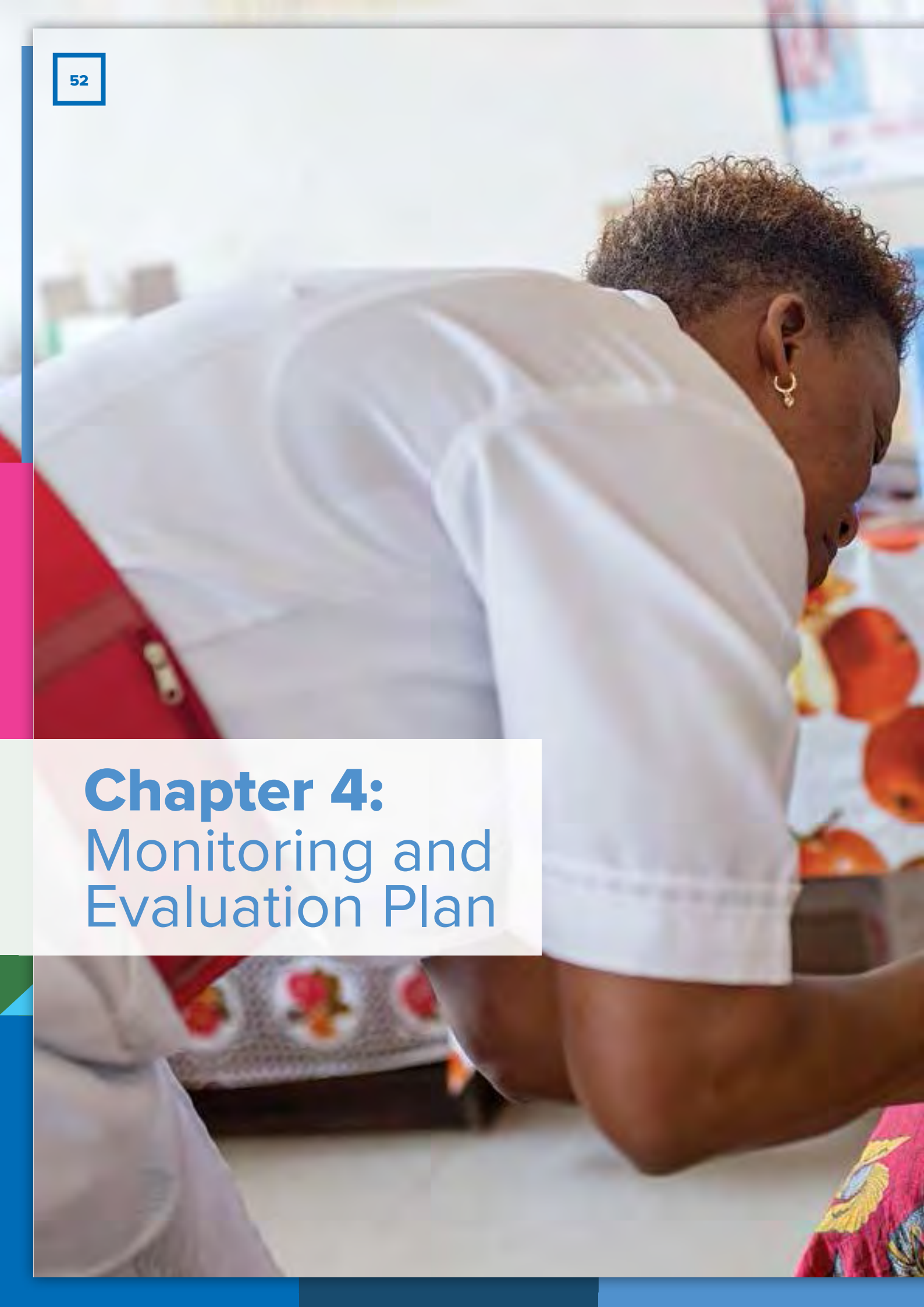

Chapter 4: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

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4.1 Monitoring plan

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

An interagency M&E Group will be established and will provide technical support to UN Agencies to ensure the adoption of joint monitoring systems as well as collective planning of and investment in monitoring services and technologies.

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

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

4.1.1 Risks and opportunities

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

Dependence on a few donors and a limited revenue basis might present constraints, including adverse debt dynamics, financial fluctuation,

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inflation and price drop of main commodities in the international market. Continual rural-urban migration might also require adaption of the plans to expand rural investment and modernise the rural socio-economic environment and, at the same time, divert resources to ensure safer urban settlements and services.

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

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

4.2 Evaluation plan

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

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

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

Annex

Annex: The cooperation framework results matrix

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
1. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 2 (2.1, 2.2), Cluster 7 (7.1, 7.2)		
Outcome 1: By 2023, Sierra Leone benefits from a more productive, commercialised and sustainable agriculture, improved food and nutrition security, and increased resilience to climate change and other shocks.	**Indicator 1a:** Proportion of national population in food poverty (SDG indicators 2.1.1) » **Baseline:** 54.5% (2018) » **Target:** 30% » **Data Source:** SLHIS	FAO IAEA IFAD ILO IOM ITC UNCDF UNCTAD UNICEF UNIDO UNDP UNOPS UNWOMEN WFP WHO
	Indicator 1b: Proportion of children under-5 who are stunted (SDG indicators 2.2, 2.2.1) » **Baseline:** 31.3% (2017) » **Target:** 20% » **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 1c: Proportion of population with moderate or severe food insecurity (SDG indicator 2.1.5) » **Baseline:** 43.7% (2018) » **Target:** 25.5% » **Data Source:** Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) data (lean season data) PMSD data	
	Indicator 1d: Prevalence of acute malnutrition (SDG indicator 2.2.2) **Baselines:** Wasting: 5.1% (2017) » Overweight: 4.3% (2017) **Targets:** Wasting: 3.0% » **Overweight:** 4.3% » **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 1e: Rate of national food self-sufficiency (SDG 2.3.1) **Baseline:** 81% (2015) » **Target:** 90% » **Data Source:** MAF/PEMSD	
	Indicator 1f: GDP Growth » **Baseline:** 3.7% (2018) » **Target:** 5.3% **Data Source:** World Bank	
	Indicator 1g: Climate change vulnerability (0-1) » **Baseline: 0.25** (2014) **Target:** 0.40 » **Data Source:** HCSS	
1.1 Farmers especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups to have equal access to information and decision-making opportunities on land tenure, knowledge of improved agricultural practices, inputs, technology, financial services, linkage to markets, leveraging appropriate technologies and innovations	**Indicator 1.1.1:** Percentage of agricultural area under sustainable agricultural practices (SDG indicator 2.4.1) » **Baseline:** 5% of arable land » **Target:** 8% **Data Source:** MAF, PEMSD	FAO UNIDO WFP UNWOMEN ILO IOM UNCDF UNCTAD UNOPS IFAD ITC
	Indicator 1.1.2: Hectares of irrigated land cultivated (proxy for SDG indicator 2.4.2) **Baseline:** 1695 » **Target:** 4035 » **Data Source:** MAF, PEMSD	
	Indicator 1.1.3: Percentage of farmers who have increased their incomes by 20% **Baseline:** 59.8% » **Target:** 79.8% » **Data Source:** Adoption Survey 2018; Rice yield study PEMSD, MAF	
	Indicator 1.1.4: Percentage increased in annual national rice self-sufficiency **Baseline:** 61% (2018) » **Target:** 86% » **Data Source:** Adoption Survey 2018; Rice yield study PEMSD, MAF	
1.2 Land and other natural resources (forests, minerals, marine, wetlands, etc.) are utilized in a sustainable and equitable manner	**Indicator 1.2.1:** Percentage increase in forest cover » **Baseline:** 5% » **Target:** 7% **Data Source:** FAO/MAF survey	FAO UNDP UNWOMEN IOM WFP IFAD
	Indicator 1.2.2: Area (hectare) of degraded land restored/reclaimed/rehabilitated (SDG indicator 13.3.2) » **Baseline:** TBD » **Target:** 1,000 » **Data Source:** MLCPE/NPAA/MMMR	
	Indicator 1.2.3: Percentage of women and men with secure land rights (SDG 1.4, SDG indicator 5.a.1) » **Baseline:** 15% » **Target:** 30% » **Data Source:** MLHE	

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Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
1.3 Access to diversified, nutritious and safe food is increased, and adequate dietary intake improved	**Indicator 1.3.1:** Percentage of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum number of food groups 29.7% to 35.6% » **Baseline:** 24.2% (2017) » **Target:** 40% **Data Source:** MICS	FAO UNICEF WFP IFAD WHO
	Indicator 1.3.2: Percentage of Minimum Dietary Diversity (DDS) of both poor and borderline households disaggregated by gender increased **Baseline:** 13.3% (2019) » **Target:** 30% » **Data Source:** Food Security Monitoring System data	
1.4 An enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition (regulatory, institutional, research and policy framework) is in place	**Indicator 1.4.1:** A Legal framework (including customary law) in place that guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and other entitlements (SDG indicator 5.a.2) **Baseline:** 0 » **Target:** 1 » **Data Source:** MLHE	FAO UNDP UNCTAD WFP UNWOMEN IAEA IFAD
	Indicator 1.4.2: Number of policies supporting sustainable and equitable agriculture formulated, enacted and implemented (proxy indicator for SDG 2.4) **Baseline:** 0 » **Target:** 8 » **Data Source:** MAF	
	Indicator 1.4.3: Number of improved livestock breeds (goats, sheep, cattle, poultry, pigs, rabbits) and improved crop varieties introduced and adopted in Sierra Leone (proxy indicator for SDG 2.5) » **Baseline:** 0, 0 » **Target:** 2., 2 » **Data Source:** MAF/Njala University/SLARI	
1.5 Improved competitiveness and trade compliance of selected value chains	**Indicator 1.5.1:** Trade and industrial policies have been developed/updated as per WTO requirements » **Baseline:** 1 » **Target:** 4 **Data Source:** Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB)	UNIDO UNDP
1.6 Preparedness systems in place and functional at community level to mitigate the impact of climate change	**Indicator 1.6.1:** Proportion of people practising disaster preparedness and response systems, disaggregated by sex » **Baseline:** 0% » **Target:** 40% (Males 20%, Females 20%) **Data Source:** Office of National Security	UNDP IFAD

2.TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 4 (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8)		
Outcome 2: By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and protection of boys and girls (children, girls), women and men including those with disabilities.	**Indicator 1a:** Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) overall score **Baseline:** 3.20 (2017) » **Target:** 4.00 » **Data Source:** World Bank Group	FAO ILO IOM UNAIDS UNDP UNOPS UN Women UNCDF UNICEF UNIDO IOM
	Indicator 1b: Corruption perception index score (0-100) » **Baseline:** 129th rank, score 30 (2018) » **Target:** 113th rank, score 35 » **Data Source:** Transparency International	
	Indicator 1c: Global Peace Index ranking » **Baseline:** 1.74 35th of 163 (2018) » **Target:** 1.5 **Data Source:** Institute for Economics and Peace	
	Indicator 1d: Overall score on Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) **Baseline:** 50.9 (2018) » **Target:** 55 » **Data Source:** Mo Ibrahim	

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
2.1 Democratic institutions are inclusive and the representation of women, young persons, and persons with disabilities in elected offices is institutionalised	**Indicator 2.1.1:** Proportion of women in elected positions (SDG indicator 5.5.1) **Baselines:** • In Parliament: 12.4% • Local Council: 18% • Chairpersons: 28.5% • Paramount Chieftaincy: 6.6% • Councillors: 8% **Targets:** • In Parliament: 30% • Local Council: 50% • Chairpersons: 50% • Paramount Chieftaincy: 30% • Councillors: 30% **Data Source:** NEC	ILO UNDP UNOPS UN Women IOM
	Indicator 2.1.2: Proportion of PWDs in elected positions **Baseline:** • In Parliament: 0% • Local Council: 0% • Paramount Chieftaincy: 0% • Ward Committee Members: 0% **Target:** • In Parliament: 1% • Local Council: 1% • Paramount Chieftaincy: 1% • Ward Committee Members: 1% **Data Source:** NEC	
	Indicator 2.1.3: Number of political parties developing and adopting policies to enhance the leadership and participation of women and persons living with disabilities (SDG 16) **Baseline:** 3 (SLPP, APC, NDA) » **Target:** 16 » **Data Source:** PPRC/NEC data	
	Indicator 2.1.4: Percentage of women in appointed leadership and decision-making positions in MDAs » **Baseline:** 17% » **Target:** 30% » **Data Source:** PPRC/NEC data	
2.2 Inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) strengthened for peace, citizen's voices and participation for social cohesion	**Indicator 2.2.1:** Number of functional platforms on sustaining peace, managing conflict and building social cohesion at community level » **Baseline:** 100 » **Target:** 200 **Data Source:** MLGRD, Office of National Security	UNDP UN Women
	Indicator 2.2.2: Number of infrastructures for peace and social cohesion established and functioning » **Baseline:** 0 (National), 6 (District level) » **Target:** 1 (National), 16 (District) **Data Source:** Ministry of Political Affairs	
2.3 Access to justice is open to and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans and the rights of children, girls, women, men, including persons with disabilities are fully protected	**Indicator 2.3.1:** Proportion of persons on remand without indictment. » **Baseline:** 51% (2016) (tally of all prisons) » **Target:** 30% » **Data Source:** Sierra Leone Correctional Service	UNICEF UN Women UNDP
	Indicator 2.3.2: Proportion of the population (disaggregated by sex, PWDs, age) who are satisfied with: (a) courts; (b) police; (c) prison services » **Baseline: (a) 41%; (b) 37%; (c) 53%** **Target: (a) 55%** (Males: 27%; Females: 28%); **(b) 55%** (Males: 27%; Females: 28%); **(c) 65%** (Males: 45%; Females: 20%) » **Data Source:** Ministry of Justice; SLP	
	Indicator 2.3.3: Proportion of youth behind bars (disaggregated by offences and gender) **Baseline:** 30% (Males: 27%; Females: 3%) » **Target:** 25% (Males: 23%; Females: 2%) **Data Source:** Sierra Leone Correctional Service	
	Indicator 2.3.4: Proportion of local courts and police stations with paralegals **Baseline:** 30% » **Target:** 50% » **Data Source:** Judiciary, Legal Aid Board	
	Indicator 2.3.5: Percentage of judges/magistrates and police who are women and/or are trained in women's rights » **Baseline:** 50% » **Target:** 60% » **Data Source:** Ministry of Justice, Judiciary	
2.4 Citizens have trust and confidence in the quality and equity of services of public institutions	**Indicator 2.4.1:** Percentage of national budget allocations reflecting gender and diversity priorities » **Baseline:** TBD (2019 budget analysis) » **Target:** TBD **Data Source:** Ministry of Finance; MOPED	ILO UNAIDS UN Women UNDP UNCDF UNOPS UNICEF
	Indicator 2.4.2: Percentage of children under 5 whose births are registered with a civil authority by age » **Baseline:** 81% (2017 MICS) » **Target:** 90% » **Data Source:** NCRA	

Table continued next page...

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
2.5 Local governance institutions are well resourced, service delivery functions are devolved to them, and they are service oriented	**Indicator 2.5.1:** Number of Local Councils that have implemented or are implementing integrated plans aligned with the SDGs and with innovative gender-responsive budgets **Baseline:** 0 (2018) » **Target:** 22 » **Data Source:** MOPED, MLGR	IOM UNDP UNICEF UNIDO UN Women
	Indicator 2.5.2: Proportion of citizens (men, women, boys, girls)/ youth satisfied with the service delivery by local councils, disaggregated by sex **Baseline:** 0% » **Target:** 35% (Males: 17.5%; Females: 17.5%) » **Data Source:** MLGRD	
2.6 Government has strengthened Public Financial Management	**Indicator 2.6.1:** Revenue to GDP ratio » **Baseline:** 14% » **Target:** 20% **Data Source:** MOPED; MLGRD	UNDP FAO IOM UNICEF UNIDO
	Indicator 2.6.2: Local Councils with capacity and plan for monitoring revenue and expenditure in line with PFM standards » **Baseline:** 0 (2018) » **Target:** 22 **Data Source:** MOPED; MLGRD	
	Indicator 2.6.3: Number and frequency of public expenditure reviews » **Baseline:** 2 (since 2006) » **Target:** 4 » **Data Source:** Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; National Public Procurement Authority	
	Indicator 2.6.4: Proportion of MDAs with established and functional Integrity Management Committees is increased » **Baseline:** 60% (2018) » **Target:** 80% » **Data Source:** Anti-Corruption Commission	
	Indicator 2.6.5: National Asset Policy developed and implemented by the National Asset and Government Property Commission » **Baseline:** 0 » **Target:** 75% implementation rate **Data Source:** National Asset and Government Property Commission	
2.7 Government-wide national M&E system of development results strengthened	**Indicator 2.6.5:** A system in place for M&E » **Baseline:** 0 » **Target:** 1 **Data Source:** NaMED	RCO UNCT

3: ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 1 (1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4), Cluster 3 (3.1, 3.3)		
Outcome 3: By 2023, the population of Sierra Leone, particularly the most vulnerable, will benefit from increased and more equitable access to and utilisation of quality education, healthcare, energy and water, sanitation and hygiene services, including during emergencies	**Indicator 3a:** Maternal mortality ratio (SDG indicator 3.1.1) » **Baseline:** 1165 (2013) **Target:** 582.5 (2023) » **Data Source:** SLDHS	IAEA IOM UNAIDS UNDP UNICEF (lead 3b, 3c, 3d) UNFPA (lead 3a) UNESCO UNIDO UNOPS WHO WFP
	Indicator 3b: Under-5 mortality rate (SDG indicator 3.2.1) » **Baseline:** 110.5 (2017) / 156 (2013) » **Target:** 45 (2023 MICS) » **Data Source:** MICS/ SLDHS	
	Indicator 3c: Primary and Junior secondary school completion rate (SDG indicator 4.1.1) **Baseline:** Primary 66.8%, M:66.6% F:65.4% Junior Secondary 48.6% M:49.2% F:48.1% **Target:** Primary 74.7% M: 75.5% F: 74%, Junior Secondary 66.7% M:67.3% F:66.2% **Data Source:** Annual School Census (ASC)	
	Indicator 3d: Proportion of population using basic sanitation facilities (proxy for SDG indicator 6.2.1) » **Baseline:** Basic sanitation: 16.2%, Rural:8%, Urban: 27% (2017) **Target:** Basic sanitation 46%, Rural 42%, Urban 53% » **Data Source:** MICS	

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
3.1 Children, adolescents, young women and youth have increased access to comprehensive quality education services with improved learning outcomes	**Indicator 3.1.1:** Percentage of children aged 3 to 5 years who are attending early childhood education (SDG indicator 4.2.2) » **Baseline:** 11.5% (2017) M:10.6 % F:12.3 % **Target:** 15.2% M 14.3% F 16% » **Data Source:** MICS	UNICEF (lead 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) IOM (lead 3.1.3), UNESCO WFP UNAIDS
	Indicator 3.1.2: Percentage of children aged 7-14 who completed 3 foundational reading / math tasks (SDG indicator 4.1.1) » **Baseline:** Reading: 16%, M:16.7% F: 15.4% Maths: 12.2% M: 12.9% F:11.5% (2017) » **Target:** Reading 20% M:20.7% F 19.4% Maths 16.2% M16.9% F 15.5% **Data Source:** EGRA/EGMA assessments, MICS	
	Indicator 3.1.3: Percentage increase in annual TVET graduation rate (with a focus on TVET schools and not Universities). » **Baseline:** 10% (2017) » **Target:** 40% (2023) **Data Source:** Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Tertiary Education Commission SL, 2018	
3.2 The population has improved WASH coverage, quality services and positive WASH behaviours	**Indicator 3.2.1:** Proportion of households using basic drinking water services (proxy for SDG 6.1) » **Baseline:** 58%, Rural-42%, Urban-72%, (2017) » **Target:** 69%, Rural-63%, Urban-82% » **Data Source:** MICS	UNICEF (lead 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3) IAEA, UNDP
	Indicator 3.2.2: Proportion of households practising open defecation **Baseline:** 17%, Rural: 28%, Urban: 4% (2017) » **Target:** 11%, Rural:18%, Urban: 2.5% **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 3.2.3: Proportion of households using a hand-washing facility with soap and water » **Baseline:** Hand washing: 23%, rural :15%, Urban: 33% (2017) » **Target:** Hand washing: 33%, Rural: 26%, Urban: 43% » **Data Source:** MICS	
3.3 The population has access to integrated people-centred health services to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC)	**Indicator 3.3.1:** Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received Anti-Retroviral Therapy to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV » **Baseline:** 92.5% (2018) **Target:** 94% » **Data Source:** UNAIDS spectrum	UNAIDS (lead 3.3.1) UNICEF (lead 3.3.2 3.3.3) UNFPA (lead 3.3.4, 3.3.5 and 3.3.6) WHO (lead 3.3.7) IAEA UNOPS
	Indicator 3.3.2: Percentage of children aged 0-59 months with symptoms of ARI for whom advice or treatment was sought from health facilities or providers » **Baseline:** 73.8% (2017) **Target:** 79.8% (2023) » **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 3.3.3: Number of districts with at least 80% coverage of DTP-containing vaccine for children < 1 year (SDG indicator 3.8.1) » **Baseline:** 71% (2017) » **Target:** 100%[23] **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 3.3.4: Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (SDG indicator 3.1.2) » **Baseline:** 81.6 (2017 MICS) » **Target:** 96% » **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 3.3.5: Contraceptive prevalence rate of women of childbearing age that use modern family planning methods (married women or in union) (SDG indicator 3.7.1) **Baseline:** 16% (2013) » **Target:** 27% » **Data Source:** DHS	
	Indicator 3.3.6: Unmet need for family planning among adolescents (15-19 age) (SDG indicator 3.7.1) » **Baseline:** 30.7% (2013) » **Target:** 20% » **Data Source:** DHS	
	Indicator 3.3.7: Out-of-pocket health expenditures as a percentage of total health expenditure (SDG indicator 3.8.2) » **Baseline:** 61% (2017) » **Target:** Target is expected to be set by the Government in late 2019 as part of a Universal Health Coverage exercise **Data Source:** NHA, SLIHS (integrated health survey)	
	Indicator 3.3.8: Proportion of public health events detected and responded to within 48 hours of notification » **Baseline:** 82% » **Target:** 95% » **Data Source:** DHIS/IDSR2016	

Table continued next page...

23 The target number of districts is set at 14 to reflect 100 per cent of the current total number of health districts. The target number of districts will be adjusted to ensure it remains at 100 per cent of districts in the event that new health districts become operational.

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
3.4 Population has improved access to renewable energy in rural areas	**Indicator 3.4.1:** Percentage of population with access to electricity (SDG indicator 7.1.1) **Baseline:** 15% (2018) » **Target:** 44% » **Data Source:** MoE	UNOPS (lead 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.4.4) UNIDO UNDP
	Indicator 3.4.2: Percentage of households with access to electricity **Baseline:** 13.5% (2013) » **Target:** 22% » **Data Source:** DHS/MoE	
	Indicator 3.4.3: Number of district headquarters town with reliable electricity supply **Baseline:** 9 (2018) » **Target:** 16 » **Data Source:** MoE	
	Indicator 3.4.4: Proportion of electricity generation from thermal and renewable sources **Baseline:** Baseline is expected to be set by the Government according to NDP **Target:** 70:30 (thermal / renewable ratio) » **Data Source:** MoE	

4: PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE MOST VULNERABLE		
Related National Development Priority: Cluster 1 (1.5), Cluster 5 (5.1, 5.2, 5.3), Cluster 6 (6.1)		
Outcome 4: By 2023, the most vulnerable, particularly women, youth, adolescents and children (especially girls), and persons living with disabilities are empowered and benefit from increased social protection services, economic and social opportunities	**Indicator 4a:** Gender Development Index (GDI) » **Baseline:** 0.872 (2017) » **Target:** 1 **Data Source:** UNDP HDR	ILO IOM UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP UNFPA (lead 4c) UNICEF (lead 4d, 4e) UN Women (lead 4a, 4b) WFP WHO
	Indicator 4b: Gender Inequality Index (GII) » **Baseline:** 0.645 (2017) » **Target:** 0.57 **Data Source:** UNDP HDR	
	Indicator 4c: Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM (SDG indicator 5.3.2) » **Baseline:** 89.6% (2013) » **Target:** 79% **Data Source:** SLDHS / MICS	
	Indicator 4d: Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who have experienced early child marriage before age 18 (SDG indicator 5.3.1) » **Baseline:** 29.9% (2017) » **Target:** 24% **Data Source:** MICS	
	Indicator 4e: Number of children living in poverty according to national multidimensional poverty lines (SDG indicator 1.2.2) » **Baseline:** 2,207,504 (2017), 66% » **Target:** 2,047,144 (2023) 60% » **Data Source:** MICS 3rd child poverty report.	
4.1 Community' behaviours towards women and girls' rights have changed towards increased understanding and respect of these rights	**Indicator 4.1.1:** Percentage of currently married women that participate in key decision-making processes at home (health care, major household purchases and visit to family) (SDG indicator 5.5.) » **Baseline:** 45.4% (2013) » **Target:** 64% (2023) » **Data Source:** SLDHS	UNFPA WHO ILO UN Women (lead 4.1.1)
4.2 Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks for the protection of the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities are further developed, promoted and implemented	**Indicator 4.2.1:** Legislative frameworks on protection and promotion of rights of vulnerable groups adopted and number of discriminatory laws reformed-(NDP / SDG 5.1.1 and 5.6.2) **Baseline:** Gender Laws, Sexual Offences Act 2012, National Referral Protocol on GBV 2010 **Target:** 13 laws, policies and acts (e.g., Harmonized Gender Laws, Sexual Offences Act, GEWE Policy, SiINAP II, Reduction of FGM/strategy, Law for Abolition of FGM/C, Reform of Domestic violence Act, Abolition of Child Marriage, Child Justice Strategy, Child Rights Act 2007, Child Welfare Policy, Alternative Care Policy, Diversion Policy, Chapter 44 of the Laws of Sierra (Children's and Young Persons Act), Reform of chieftaincy act **Data Source:** MSWGCA, Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Parliament	ILO IOM UNAIDS UNDP UNFPA UN Women (lead 4.2.1, 4.2.2) WHO

Results	Indicators; Baselines; 2023 Targets	UN Partnership
4.3 Vulnerable populations benefit from increased access to prevention, protection services related to GBV, and other harmful practices (child marriage, FGM, child labour, trafficking)	**Indicator 4.3.1:** Percentage of children aged 1-14 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (disaggregated by age, sex and diversity) (SDG indicator 5.2.1) » **Baseline:** 86.5% (2017) » **Target:** 65.5% **Data Source:** MICS	IOM (lead 4.3.3) UNAIDS UNICEF (lead 4.3.1) UNFPA (lead 4.3.2) UN Women WHO
	Indicator 4.3.2: Proportion of population (males and females) subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence within the last 12 months (dis. SADD, disabilities, etc.) (SDG indicator 5.2.2) » **Baseline:** 56% (2013) » **Target:** 45% » **Data Source:** SLDHS	
	Indicator 4.3.3: Number of youths embarking on irregular migration and trafficking (proxy for SDG indicator 10.7.3) » **Baseline:** 8,000 to 10,000 (est.) (2017) » **Target:** 1,000 (2023) **Data Source:** Immigration Department and MSWGCA	
4.4 Vulnerable groups have increased essential life skills and knowledge (comprehensive sexuality education and HIV education)	**Indicator 4.4.1:** Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years) (SDG indicator 3.7.2) » **Baseline:** 101 (2017) » **Target:** 70 (2023) » **Data Source:** MICS	UNAIDS UNICEF UNFPA (lead 4.4.1) UN Women, WHO
4.5 Vulnerable groups have improved entrepreneurial and, financial literacy, and employability	**Indicator 4.5.1:** Percentage of women and youth (males and females) who created their employment » **Baseline:** 10% (2014) » **Target:** 18% » **Data Source:** Labour Force Survey	ILO (lead 4.5.1) IOM UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP (lead 4.5.2) UNFPA UN Women
	Indicator 4.5.2: Proportion of unemployed who are actively seeking work that lacked the capital to start a business disaggregated by vulnerable group / sex / age, etc. if possible **Baseline:** 50% » **Target:** 25% » **Data Source:** Labour Force Survey	
4.6 Quality data is available and used for decision-making	**Indicator 4.6.1:** Number of national sectoral plans that incorporate evidence-based disaggregated gender-sensitive data (NDP 5 and proxy for SDG indicator 5c.1) **Baseline:** 2 » **Target:** 5 » **Data Source:** MoPED	IOM ILO UNAIDS UNCDF UNDP UNFPA UNICEF (lead 4.6.2) UN Women (lead 4.6.1) WHO
	Indicator 4.6.2: Quality inter-operable information management system that supports and tracks case management, incident monitoring and programme monitoring for protection cases available » **Baseline:** Quality system in place but operational in some areas of the country (2019) » **Target:** Quality system is operational nationwide **Data Source:** Statistic SL	
	Indicator 4.6.3: Number of MDAs and Local Councils that are generating real-time data disaggregated by sex, age, and PWDs with the use of innovation and technology **Baseline:** 0 (2018) » **Target:** 30 » **Data Source:** Statistics SL	
4.7 Vulnerable people have increased access to and use of social protection and are more resilient to disasters and emergencies	**Indicator 4.7.1:** Number of children covered by social protection systems (SDG indicator 1.3.1) » **Baseline:** 60,000 » **Target:** > 100,000 » **Data Source:** Social Protection MIS	UNICEF (leads 4.7.1) IOM UNCDF UN Women UNDP UNAIDS UNFPA ILO WHO
	Indicator 4.7.2: Number of extremely poor households (disaggregated by gender, age and disabilities status) benefiting from social protection interventions (reparations, SAGs, MEGs) (SDG indicator 1.3) » **Baseline:** 28,898 (2018) » **Target:** 145,000 **Data Source:** Social protection integrated national targeting system (SPRINT)	

Table ends.

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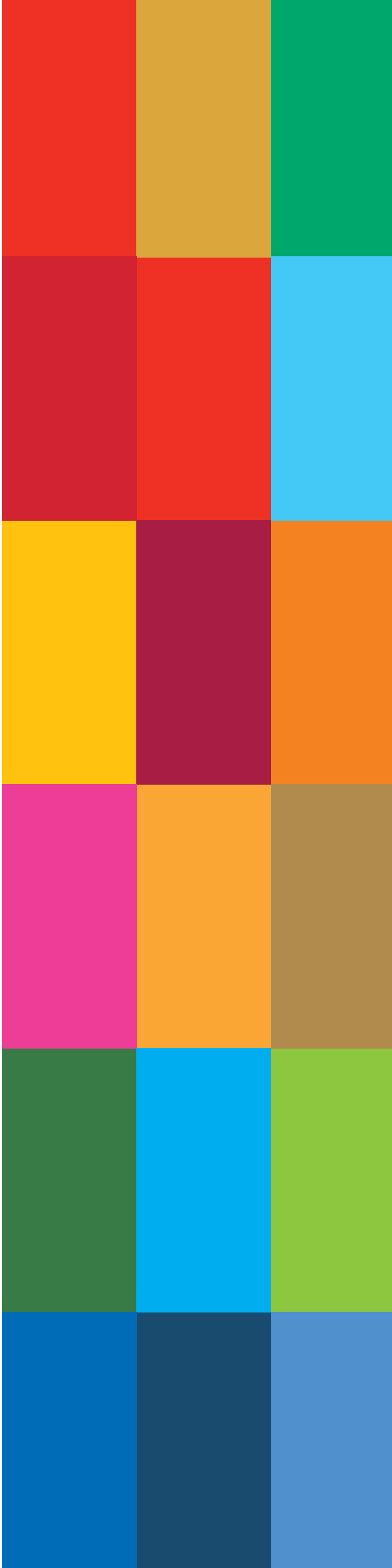
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2020-2023