



Sierra Leone

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

National Action Plan 5

2024 - 2028

Open
Government
Partnership



Forward

The government continuously embraces democracy and good governance through its all-encompassing mode of governance. This aligns with the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) objectives. The NAP IV cycle was progressive as compared to the previous implementation periods. Almost 70% of the milestones in the OGP commitment to open, accessible, and fair elections were implemented. Much progress was made in attaining the milestones in the areas of Open Parliament, Access to Justice, and the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative. The implementation was, however, challenged by the fact that it coincided with the year of general elections, and priority was given to ensuring modalities were in place to make the elections free, fair, and open.

In addition, the National Action Plan IV implementation period was fraught with the challenge of low participation by both government and civil society. Thus, the members agreed to a review of the terms of reference. This and the political transition have delayed the NAP 5 co-creation process.

However, during consultations with representatives from civil society across the country, the fourth estate, and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), it was unanimously agreed that the door be open to other civil society groups who can apply to be members of the Steering Committee. At the same time, there would be a bigger group that will comprise the multi-stakeholder forum. In a meeting before the consultations started, the Steering Committee unanimously agreed that commitments be drawn from the government's Big Five Game Changers, which was aligned to the OGP Grand Challenges.

The NAP V will address the challenges of youth unemployment, using preventive measures to combat corruption, enhancing citizens' access to information, and ensuring equal access to justice for all by continuing to implement more reforms in the justice sector or the use of traditional mechanisms to resolve disputes, ensuring transparency is an integral and systematic part of extractive sector management and to foster openness, transparency and citizens engagement in the legislative processes associated with government's agenda.

The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to utilizing the OGP process to ensure transparent and accountable governance. It will continue to make government more open and easily accessible, providing a platform for frequent engagement with citizens and working with all sectors to ensure equitable service delivery.

I thank the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED) and the entire Steering Committee for their continuous commitment and support to the OGP process and the implementing agencies who ensured we met most of the milestones in the NAP IV. I look forward to a more committed Steering Committee while implementing the NAP V.

Kalilu I Totangi

Chairman, NaCCED and OGP Point of Contact (POC)

Acknowledgments

The National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED) would like to thank His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for giving space and commitment to the OGP process. He has since continuously recognized and supported the drafting and implementation of National Action Plans and upheld the tenets of the OGP values and practices.

We want to express our sincere thanks to the Minister of Information and Civic Education, Mr. Chernoh Bah, the Ministerial lead for the OGP, for his dedication and continuous support at the Cabinet level and in all aspects of the OGP Process. We thank the Governance Adviser, Dr Emmanuel Gaima, the Head of the Civil Service, and the Secretary to Cabinet, Mr. John Sumailah, for their participation and contribution to the NAP V development process and for reiterating the Government's support at the highest level.

We are hugely indebted to the OGP Steering Committee for their commitment and relentless effort in ensuring that OGP procedures and guidelines are met, monitoring the implementation of milestones in the National Action Plans, and rendering their technical expertise as and when needed during both the implementation and the co-creation leading to the development of National Action Plan Commitments and milestones.

We will be remiss in our duty if we fail to acknowledge the invaluable support of the Staff of the National Council for Civic Education and Development, especially the Chairman, Mr. Kalilu I Totangi, who is the OGP In-Country Point of Contact, for his relentless efforts and dedication to ensuring that the doors of implementing Ministries, Departments, and Agencies are opened as and when needed throughout the process of the implementation and development of National Action Plans while providing technical advice and administrative support to all OGP activities. Our deepest thanks to the Programs Director, Mr. Thomas Johnny, for his technical advice on the writing of the NAP V and Mr. Hindolo John Langba for his expert research and reports. To the new actors representing both government and civil society, I warmly welcome you and look forward to your commitment to the process.

Finally, we are grateful to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MODEP) for their administrative support over the years, and we look forward to working with our new supervising ministry, the Ministry of Information and Civic Education. We also want to recognize the efforts of the OGP Global Support Unit – Ms. Kgothatso Semela, Senior Regional Coordinator, Country Support Team, Africa and the Middle, for her support and technical advice throughout the National Action Plan

development process. We want to thank all our print and electronic media partners, civil society organizations, and development partners for giving us the platform to engage and ensure citizen participation at all levels.

Mrs. Hannah Hamida Jimmy

**Open Government Partnership Unit,
National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED)**

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Introduction

Sierra Leone has many challenges to rebuilding its democracy; nevertheless, the country has increased its stature as a key player in global good governance strides and a practicing democratic state. The 2023 Corruption Perception Indicator report shows an increase in its score to 35, the highest ever since the Transparency International-Corruption Indicator rankings began in 1995. The Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act 2023 is a progressive Act that seeks to reform the education system by making it more inclusive, accessible, and rights-based. It also lays out regulations to eliminate violence and improve learning outcomes in the country. Sierra Leone repealed the seditious libel law and ended the death penalty. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act 2022 creates the space for women to be appropriately equipped and empowered to attain and realize their full potential. Despite the tremendous progress made, there are still some key challenges. The country's membership in the Open Government Partnership has been essential as it sets the minimum standards for government performance. The National Action Plan 4 attempted to address some of these challenges, and some notable progress was made:

Open Parliament: The Open Parliament commitment aims to enhance the relationship between civil society and members of Parliament. To ensure participatory governance at the legislative level, a fully equipped office space was made available to civil society in the House of Parliament. Training was conducted for members of Parliament and civil society representatives. With support from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the OGP Parliamentary Working Group was established, which comprised members of Parliament representing different political parties. In addition, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy further supported the formation of the Parliament Civil Society Organization Network (ParlCSO Net).

Access to Justice: The Justice Sector Coordinating Office (JSCO) facilitated the process of institutionalizing a community-based justice system that is responsive, transparent, and reliable. It provides legal assistance to all citizens, focusing on supporting underprivileged and marginalized groups by developing a case management system (App). This App hosts the data management component of the shared legal framework for legal empowerment primarily comprised of paralegal institutions. However, by enhancing the partners' capacity to gather, analyze, and apply data, the App improves the use of evidence-based technology to guide the creation of advocacy, policy, and programming that improves justice delivery. There is now a National Diversion Framework that contains suggestions for alternatives to detention for children. This document contains mechanisms to enable child justice actors to respond and redirect child justice actors needing legal assistance to non-judicial institutions. The

Justice Sector Coordinating Office hosts several meetings with child justice actors to define the objectives and priorities for child justice.

Sierra Leone Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative: The National Mineral Agency has created the Mining Cadastre Administrative system and an online repository. These platforms are responsible for processing mineral rights applications, issuing and administering licenses and permits, maintaining cadastral records, registers, and maps, and receiving and safeguarding reports.

Sierra Leone is a member of open data platforms that hold information related to the sector, including licenses and contracts. Furthermore, the National Mineral Agency's Mines Monitoring portal promotes transparency and accountability in the sector's governance. Mining Lease Agreements for Marampa Mines, Kingho Mining, and Kingho Rail & Port are now published on the NMA website. A list of all active mining contracts and licenses is available on the NMA website.

Open Elections

The Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL), with support from the National Civil Registration Authority, registered 3,374,258 eligible voters in Compliance with the legal framework. Voters could access the Register using mobile apps developed by the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone, and soft copies were made available to Political Parties and posted on their websites. In December 2022, the ECSL produced a final voter registration (FVR) totaling 3,374,258 registrants. The ECSL developed and popularized an Ethic Code of Conduct for all their Staff. The ECSL also established an Integrity Committee and a review of the Standing Order B – Code of Conduct Manual. This was followed by administering the Oath of Office to Commissioners and Staff and setting up regional and National Tally Centres for election result Management.

The ECSL developed and implemented an Electoral Education Strategy, using traditional methods of voter Education (town criers, Ward Electoral Education Committees, face-to-face education methods through the use of Assistant Voter Registration and training officers, town hall meetings, and stakeholders meetings. Political Liaison meetings were held fortnightly. Despite all these gains, there were allegations of electoral fraud, which led the opposition to refuse to participate in any level of governance temporarily, but this political stalemate ended in October. The government, opposition, and development partners formed an Elections Tripartite Committee to review electoral systems and management bodies.

1. Government's long-term Vision and OGP

The government has taken bold steps to tackle macroeconomic imbalances, but reform implementation remains challenging despite the need for adjustment and the dramatic cost of living. Progress with structural reforms is also essential; this includes enhancing governance, bolstering anti-corruption efforts, strengthening the capacity of youths, enhancing a more open parliament, access to justice for all, and a more accountable and transparent extractives sector.

Amidst this backdrop, the government has increased revenue generation, reduced exposure to external debts, repealed the seditious libel law, ended the death penalty, and passed a law to create equal opportunity for women in government and to protect young girls. In addressing some of these challenges, the government has prioritized what has been known as the big five game changers:

- Feed Salone – this initiative will boost agriculture productivity to fuel inclusive growth, boost food production, reduce hunger, boost export earnings, create jobs, and build resilience
- human capital development – this will focus on the gains made in the education sector, health care systems, and the implementation of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act 2022 and translating them into developing a highly skilled labor force that is ready for the 21st-century industry.
- Youth employment scheme – This initiative will focus on establishing a presidential initiative for job creation for youths, aiming to create 500,000 jobs, including skilled and unskilled labor and long-term and seasonal jobs across all sectors.
- Revamping the public service architecture – This initiative aims to reform public service to improve delivery and foster a culture of professionalism, meritocracy, and continuous improvement to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in serving the people of Sierra Leone.
- Tech and infrastructure – The government recognizes that infrastructure tech, technology, and innovation will be critical enablers for boosting and sustaining high economic growth. This initiative aims to make most economic transactions cashless and increase financial inclusion.

The new national action plan will be closely aligned with the government's big five game changers and other sectors outside the government priority that will promote open governance. The new action plan will further support government efforts to build a diversified, resilient green economy, improve access to justice for all, increase open

Parliament, strengthen domestic implementation of anti-corruption measures and Compliance, engage a youthful populace, and access to information.

Issues to be addressed by the NAP V: The National Action Plan 5 will build on the gains made in the NAP 4 implementation, further strengthen government support for service delivery, and increase public integrity. Some notable commitments in the NAP five are listed below:

Open Parliament:

Strengthening domestic implementation of anti-corruption measures and Compliance: The Anti-Corruption Commission has investigated a series of cases on various corruption offenses. Several of these cases were prosecuted; however, this has kept others from committing the same offenses. Though the Anti-Corruption Commission has made significant gains in the fight against corruption, it remains endemic in institutions; in the past few years, the Commission retrieved billions of leones from government officials and the private sector who had allegedly siphoned meant for national development. The Commission intends to develop policies and training to prevent the Act before it is done.

An engaged youthful populace: Youth unemployment continues to threaten sustaining economic growth and stability. Those between the ages of 15 and 35 make up the youth population, and they comprise about 70% of the population, most of whom are unemployed or underemployed. There is visible unemployment, particularly among young men who can be found in the streets of Freetown and other urban areas. Youths in rural communities have found little or no incentive to engage in productive work, while university graduates are mainly unemployed. The government has committed to providing 500,000 jobs for skilled and unskilled youths in the next five years to address the challenge.

Open Extractives/BO & Systematic Disclosures of Extractive Data: Disclosing Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) data at source on a routine basis through government and corporate databases, online registries, websites, and portals can provide citizens and stakeholders with accessible, relevant, and up to date information on the sectors. Regularly disclosing this data ensures citizens are better informed, easing tension and conflict between government and citizens. With this commitment in place, EITI reporting on Sierra Leone becomes simpler, timelier, and more cost-effective; in addition to disclosing beneficial owners of corporate entities, It would help stakeholders shift their focus from collecting data to using data. Extractives sector stakeholders would be better placed to analyze and present findings for public debate and reform.

Access to Justice: The "Access to Justice for All" commitment aims to improve access to justice for all Sierra Leoneans, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. It will focus on strengthening local justice mechanisms and transparency and enhancing efficiency and legal access. While progress has been made on milestones like activating child mediation panels, (include reference if possible) and publishing case updates through bi-annual meetings; these are stepping stones towards the ultimate goal of universal access to justice. Continued commitment is crucial to embed these initiatives and achieve a lasting impact fully.

Access to Information: Despite a mandatory legal provision for access to information, proactive disclosure of government-held information (reference legislation) is limited, and only a handful of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) have developed proactive publication schemes.

2. Open Government Efforts to date

Key Open Government Initiatives and Accomplishments

The government prioritized strong governance structures that promote access to justice and the rule of law, efficient and effective service delivery, accountability, equal opportunities for all, and women's and girls' empowerment. In addition, the government invested heavily in education and the health care system and enacted policies that empower citizens, especially women.

With a comprehensive National Anti-Corruption Strategy, policy, and legislative reforms, every reputable international institution has scored Sierra Leone as outstanding in its control of corruption index. In the 2023 MCC Report, Sierra Leone passed 11 20 indicators, including the mandatory "Control of Corruption" index.

In a bid to foster dialogue and transparency in public affairs, the government has worked closely with civil society organizations, not limited to removing barriers to access information and fiscal support to the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists to undertake training and other capacity-building programs for its members.

Improved Public Service Delivery: The government has made a tremendous effort to improve public service delivery. These include but are not limited to the following:

Open Parliament: This commitment specifically looked at a more amicable relationship between the House of Parliament and Civil Society organizations. Parliament held regular consultative meetings with CSOs and the media on parliamentary affairs and updates on the NAP implementation. Parliament provided the platform for CSO engagement with Parliament, and different development partners contributed to the establishment and functionality of the office. Two workshops were held to review reforms around strengthening the budget-making process to make it more people-

centered and allow CSOs participation in the final annual budget debate. With support from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Parliament held two training sessions for CSOs and Members of Parliament. Parliament set up a digital data collection system with training in February 2022. The data collection is ongoing.

Education: In the past five years, the government of Sierra Leone prioritized education by committing 22% of the country's annual budget. The government improved and increased access to quality primary and senior secondary education in both formal and non-formal settings and provided modern, free primary and secondary education services that are safe, inclusive, equitable, and relevant to impact productive economic activity. The government introduced the Annual National Teachers Award program to motivate teachers and provided Grant-in Aid for sons and daughters of teachers who have served for at least 10 years. Performance in the education sector has been so exemplary that the Government received remarkable international recognition, including the UN Secretary-General requesting the President of Sierra Leone, H.E Julius Maada Bio, to co-chair the UN Education session and the award given by World Government Summit to the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education as Best Minister in the World.

Increased Public Integrity

Anti-Corruption: Sierra Leone passed 11 20 indicators, including the mandatory "Control of Corruption" index in the 2023 Millennium Challenge Corporation Report. The just released Corruption Perception Index (link to the web publication) published on 30th January 2024 reveals that Sierra Leone continues to make remarkable progress in the World's most respected corruption watchdog's assessment and rankings (link to the ACC website) and now leads seventy-two countries in the global campaign against corruption. Sierra Leone has recorded more convictions and recovered billions of Leones in non-conviction. Peer nations have studied and adopted our successful model for preventing and fighting corruption.

More effective management of public resources:

Domestic Revenue Mobilization

The government established the Treasury Single Account (TSA), which compelled agencies to deposit all revenues into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The government established a digital processing of duty and tax exemptions, developed a policy to rationalize duty and tax exemptions, and enacted the duty and tax exemption law. A new National Revenue Act better clarified line relationships among relevant institutions, the Extractive Industry Revenue Act harmonizing taxes for industries in the extractive sector and optimizing revenues. Furthermore, the Government approved the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS) that sets the country on a sustainable revenue path

and transparent governance structure with the participation of civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners.

Creating safer communities

Access to Justice: There has also been improved access to justice, including increased deployment of magistrates in all administrative districts and high courts and financial support to Legal Aid Boards across the country. There is an established SGBV Court to try perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence. The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone has been consistently graded "A" status by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights through its accredited body, the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). There is an ongoing review of the Criminal Procedures Act 1965. There is an improved interface between the security sector and the general public through enhanced community policing and the Family Support Unit; there is an improved coordination capacity of the security sector through better conditions of service and clarity of roles. There is also strengthened collaboration with the justice sector, which resulted in professional and measured responses to serious security threats and incidents.

Gender: The government is trying to create safe spaces for women and girls. About 52% of the national population comprises women, but they are routinely marginalized and suffer several forms of violence, especially domestic violence. The government is systematically trying to equip and empower women to attain and realize their full potential. The enactment of the Gender Equity and Women's Empower law provides a minimum 30% quota for women's representation in political positions and public service. There is a provision in the Mines and Minerals Act to empower women, and the new National Land Commission Act 2022 provides women's right to own land. The Public Elections Act

Improved Corporate Accountability

Beneficial Ownership Disclosure

The Mines and Minerals Development Act (2022) (Section 156) enactment contains the legal basis for all extractive companies to disclose their beneficial owners. This provided the legal grounds for extractive companies to report their beneficial owners. The ongoing review of the Corporate Affairs Commission's Companies Act (2009) now provides mandatory disclosure of beneficial owners for all oil, gas, and mining companies in the private and public sectors. This will cover existing companies renewing their applications and new applicants. The Legislation of a Beneficial Ownership declaration of 5% and above equity bearers in mining investments is consistent with EITI standards.

The government has also established the National Investment Board as a one-stop shop to coordinate, facilitate, and promote private investment in Sierra Leone.

3. National Action Plan development process

At the start of the National Action Plan V development process, the steering committee – an 18-man committee that comprises equal representation from both government and civil society met to discuss in-house challenges and how these can be addressed. Some government and civil society representatives have had little or no participation. It was unanimously agreed that the terms of reference for steering committee members be reviewed. It was also discussed that the government launched the big five game changers for building an inclusive and prosperous Sierra Leone. The commitments under the big five game changers aligned with the OGP grand challenges, so the NAP development process began.

During the consultations with representatives from civil society, development partners, the media, and the government, the Governance Adviser to the President stated that the government acknowledges that the OGP process heightens citizens' awareness and the need for state institutions to build accountable systems and processes. He also reiterated the government's continuous commitment to the OGP process and the tenets of transparency, accountability, and public participation. The consultation was highly technical and interactive; after the formalities, the participants were divided into 10 groups of 12 people each to identify commitments aligned with the government's big five game changers. Feedback from the activity included acknowledging joint commitments that each group had identified. This was presented to the steering committee, and together, they identified vital players who would implement the proposed commitments.

Expert Meetings – Technical meetings were undertaken with various experts from the government, civil society, and development partners to design specific, measurable, and time-bound milestones for the different commitments.

Validation: The Steering Committee held a workshop to validate the National Action Plan 5. Part of this workshop included discussions around the lead implementation agencies, their role, and recommendations to review the current steering committee membership. Some members have not participated more, especially during the NAP 5 development and validation process.

Commitments

Name and No of Commitment	Strengthened Domestic Implementation of Anti-Corruption Measures and Compliance Commitment 1		
Brief Description of the commitment	<p>Corruption in Sierra Leone is a pervasive issue that undermines the very foundation of society. It erodes public trust, hampers economic growth, perpetuates inequalities, and remains a reputational risk. To combat this scourge, effective corruption control measures are essential to promote transparency, encourage ethical behavior, and ensure the efficient functioning of institutions.</p> <p>Key elements include a robust legal framework, rigorous enforcement, the institutionalization of best practices and international standards, and effective collaboration and coordination among different institutions in the fight against corruption, which is significant.</p> <p>However, amidst the gains made, this commitment aims to strengthen domestic implementation of corruption control measures in all Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and Local Councils in Sierra Leone, sustain the gains made in the Commission asset disclosure regime, and maintain the preventive approach in the fight against corruption.</p>		
Commitment Lead	Anti-Corruption Commission		
Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Stakeholders / Parliament / Private Sector
	Anti-Corruption Commission, Audit Service Sierra Leone	Transparency International- Sierra Leone, Society for Democratic Initiatives, Centre for Accountability and the Rule of Law	Public Accounts Committee, Transparency Accounts Committee

Period Covered 2024 2028

<p>Problem definition</p> <p>What problem does the commitment aim to address? Who is affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected?</p> <p>This commitment seeks to address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current legal framework (laws and regulations in the AC Act 2008, as amended in 2019) clearly defines corruption and its associated penalties. Some of the amendments therein are comprehensive to cover both the public and private sectors. The commission intends to increase non-conviction asset-based recovery

during the period under review. ACC is considering changing tactics to strengthen its non-conviction asset-based recovery and to work on preventing rather than prosecuting corrupt offenses. In addition, this commitment also seeks to prevent corruption.

2. **Asset Disclosure:** Another critical element to the **Asset Disclosure** regime is Section 122A of the Anti-Corruption Act (ACA) 2008 as amended in 2019 (ref) with specificity to sub-section (5)(a)(b) and (c), which deals with administrative sanctions relating to withholding of salary, suspension, and dismissal of public officers respectively has led to an increased on the rate of Compliance for asset disclosure with the data for 2022 declaration year showing a compliance rate of 96% as compared to previous declaration years which recorded low rates of Compliance and it was primarily paper-based. We want to see increased declarants from 96 – 100%. This commitment seeks to see an increase in the number of people who declare their assets yearly with the Commission.
3. **Establish Independent Media Commission (IMC) in MDAs:** The work of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Secretariat (NACS) also ensured the establishment of an Integrity Management Committee in 82 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and local councils. Essentially, the performance of local councils increased from 89% to 99%, having implemented 242 out of 245 action points, while MDAs increased their performance from 82% to 91%, having implemented 529 action points from a total of 587. This commitment seeks to establish IMCs in MDAs that were left out in the 2019 -2023 NACS in the public sector.

What are the causes of the problem? Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. Use problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) and provide evidence whenever possible.

The leading causes of corruption include the late transfer of budgetary allocation, challenges in the recruitment processes, non-compliance to anti-corruption and audit recommendations, cultural deterrents, management of natural resources, foreign direct investment, foreign trade, and aid. There is no timeline for the Public and Accounts Committee in Parliament to deliberate and produce a report after the submission of audit reports to Parliament, no proper record management system, and a weak internal audit control mechanism.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem? What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

There is tremendous public concern over corruption, thus increasing public interest in the fight against corruption. It permeates every sector of Sierra Leone's public life, compromising citizens' access to essential services and institutions.

The Anti-Corruption Commission developed the Compliance and Sanction Enforcement

Management Manual. This guides the monitoring process and ensures Compliance with MDA; however, this document is now due for review.

In the past six years, there has been marked and unprecedented improvement in the fight against corruption. In 2019, the AC Act of 2008 was strengthened, making it one of the most authoritarian anti-corruption acts on the continent. In this amendment, Asset declaration laws were toughened, fines and prison terms increased, non-conviction asset-based recovery was clearly expressed as enshrined in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC). The commission has recovered over 50 billion old leones (L\$2,000,000) due to non-conviction-based asset recovery. The Judiciary has established a special Anti-Corruption Court to help address the snailed-paced nature of ACC matters. The prevention intervention and systems Reviews conducted in various MDAs have reduced the chance of institutional corruption. The ACC developed a compliance and sanction enforcement management manual that has regularly guided its quarterly monitoring process.

The Integrity Management Committee established across 82 institutions in Sierra Leone is responsible for successfully implementing the 2019 -2023 National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

What solution are you proposing? What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

- Strengthening internal audits in MDAs
- Strengthen Compliance on auditor general's recommendations
- Monitor whether institutions are complying with ACC and audit service recommendations, identify gaps and proffer recommendations,
- Strengthen IMCs (Integrity Management Committees)
- Enhancing Systems and Processes review

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment? What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and practices do we want to create?

When fully implemented, this commitment will prevent the occurrence of corruption. It will further enhance internal audit controls and institute standard operating procedures to gauge and enhance the implementation rate of audit report recommendations.

Commitment Planning (This initial planning process broadly looks at milestones, expected outputs, and key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones (Milestones are part of a series)	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete,	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
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of actions or events that, when executed, will achieve the result the commitment would like to achieve.)	objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)		
Establish more Integrity Management Committees (IMC) in Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and Local Councils with agreed-upon actions.	40% increase in the number of Institutions that have IMC		Lead: Francis Ben Kaifala +23276668510
			Supporting Stakeholders
			Government CSOs Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
Review of a Corruption Prevention Manual	Reviewed a Corruption Prevention Manual	August 2025	
Increase monitoring and Compliance by Integrity Management Committees in Ministries Department and Agencies/ Local Councils by NACS/Systems and Prevention Unit	# of Monitoring Reports	August 2026	
Enhancing Systems and Processes review of MDAs (specific to the big five game changers)	# of MDAs received # of recommendations proffered # of recommendations	August 2027	Lead
			Supporting Stakeholders
			Government CSOs Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)

	implemented				
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Name and No of Commitment	Open Parliament Commitment 2		
Brief Description of the commitment	This commitment encompasses a comprehensive set of initiatives to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in parliamentary governance in Sierra Leone. Key components include the development and launch of an online Legislative Transparency Portal, establishment of a Citizen Feedback Mechanism, implementation of measures to promote enhanced budget transparency, launch of open data initiatives, strengthening of oversight mechanisms through training programs, introduction of mechanisms for public consultation on legislation, capacity building for parliamentary staff, organization of open parliament workshops and awareness campaigns, integrity and ethics training for parliamentarians, and the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of Open Government Partnership (OGP) action plans, collectively striving towards a more open, accountable, and participatory democratic system.		
Commitment Lead	Office of the Clerk of Parliament		
Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Stakeholders / Parliament / Private Sector

Period Covered

Problem definition
What problem does the commitment aim to address? Who is affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected? Firstly, the lack of transparency and accessibility in the legislative process hinders

citizens' ability to engage meaningfully with their government and hold elected officials accountable. For example, with easy access to legislative information such as bills, debates, and voting records, citizens may be able to understand the decisions being made on their behalf. Additionally, limited avenues for public feedback on proposed legislation result in a lack of citizen input in decision-making processes, leading to policies that may not fully align with the needs and expectations of the public.

Secondly, insufficient oversight mechanisms and capacity gaps among parliamentary staff contribute to ineffectiveness and potential corruption within the government. Without robust oversight mechanisms and capacity, there is limited scrutiny, leading to the potential risk of mismanagement of public funds and resources. Furthermore, the absence of integrity and ethics training for parliamentarians leaves room for unethical behavior and undermines public trust in the government.

Therefore, the milestones aim to address these public problems by promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in parliamentary governance, ultimately striving to create a more open, accountable, and participatory democratic system in Sierra Leone.

What are the causes of the problem? Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. Use problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) and provide evidence whenever possible.

The root cause of the problem regarding the lack of transparency and accessibility in legislative processes lies in the outdated systems for disseminating legislative information. These systems are not equipped to efficiently publish and make data accessible, possibly due to limited resources or technical capabilities stemming from a limited investment and utilization of existing ICT infrastructure. The need for more investment is hindered by prioritizing resources towards other sectors or projects, which may result from competing priorities or insufficient awareness of the importance of legislative transparency.

Similarly, the limited availability of public feedback mechanisms can be traced back to the absence of effective channels for citizen engagement and feedback on proposed legislation. This absence is rooted in the need for established platforms or processes, possibly due to bureaucratic barriers or resistance to change stemming from a lack of understanding or appreciation of the importance of citizen input in decision-making. These resistances may be entrenched due to historical factors, power structures, or the absence of accountability mechanisms, resulting in limited avenues for citizen participation.

Furthermore, the problem of insufficient oversight mechanisms and capacity gaps within the parliamentary system can be attributed to a lack of investment and commitment to

implementing reforms. Furthermore, limited political will and vested party interest in Parliament may stem from competing priorities or systemic inertia within the parliamentary system.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem? What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

Several efforts have been put into implementing NAP 4 by creating critical structures that will contribute to achieving full-scale openness, transparency, and accountability status in the legislative work of the Parliament of Sierra Leone. NAP 4 on Open Parliament has implemented critical commitments that resulted in having an established office space for civil society in the precinct of Parliament and a functional network that puts both CSO and Members of Parliament in a platform to discuss civic participation and inclusion in the work of the Parliament—the updated service charter and installation of a lift to make Parliament more friendly.

The success of this stride cannot be over-emphasized as it has served as a lobbying network to address critical legislative gaps with the work of Parliament and its citizens.

2. What solution are you proposing? What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

A comprehensive solution is required to address the problem of lack of transparency, accessibility, and oversight mechanisms in the legislative process in Sierra Leone. This solution will focus on implementing robust measures to enhance transparency in the legislative process, such as developing and launching an online portal for easy access to legislative information, including bills, debates, and voting records. Also, establishing effective citizen feedback mechanisms and public consultation processes will ensure that citizen voices are heard and considered in decision-making.

Furthermore, strengthening oversight mechanisms and providing integrity and ethics training for parliamentarians and staff are essential to prevent inefficiencies, corruption, and unethical behavior within the government. By promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in parliamentary governance, this solution aims to foster a more open, accountable, and participatory democratic system in Sierra Leone.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment? What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and

practices do we want to create?

Implementing this commitment aims to achieve several key results, including increased transparency, citizen engagement, and accountability in parliamentary governance. The desired outputs encompass developing and launching online portals for legislative information, establishing citizen feedback mechanisms, implementing measures to enhance budget transparency, and launching open data initiatives for parliamentary data accessibility.

Furthermore, the commitment seeks to strengthen oversight mechanisms through training programs for parliamentarians and staff, introduce public consultation mechanisms on legislation, conduct capacity-building programs for parliamentary staff, and organize workshops and awareness campaigns on parliamentary processes and civic engagement. Ultimately, these initiatives aim to foster a more informed and participatory democratic system where citizens are empowered to contribute meaningfully to policymaking processes. Changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities are anticipated among citizens, parliamentarians, and staff, leading to improved understanding of legislative processes, enhanced oversight skills, and increased awareness of ethical conduct and integrity.

These efforts are expected to change behavior, systems, and practices, including greater transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in parliamentary governance, promoting a more inclusive and effective democratic system in Sierra Leone.

Commitment Planning (This initial planning process broadly looks at milestones, expected outputs, and key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones (Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to achieving the result the commitment would like to achieve.)	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented .)	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders											
Legislative Transparency Portal Launch: Introduce an online platform offering easy access to legislative information, including bills,	Online platform launched and fully operational.		<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="967 1656 1443 1734">Lead Hon Paran Tarawali +23278649164</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="967 1734 1443 1776">Supporting Stakeholders</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="967 1776 1154 1883">Government</td> <td data-bbox="1154 1776 1260 1883">CSOs</td> <td data-bbox="1260 1776 1443 1883">Others (Parliament, Private)</td> </tr> </table>			Lead Hon Paran Tarawali +23278649164			Supporting Stakeholders			Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private)
Lead Hon Paran Tarawali +23278649164														
Supporting Stakeholders														
Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private)												

<p>debates, and voting records, enhancing transparency in the legislative process</p> <p>4. Citizen Feedback Mechanism Implementation: Establish a platform for citizens to provide input on proposed legislation, ensuring public participation and incorporating citizen voices into decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative information, including bills, debates, and voting records, easily accessible to the public. - Increased awareness among citizens about the portal and its functionalities. A functional platform established for citizens to provide input on proposed legislation. - Increased participation from citizens in providing feedback on legislative matters. - Evidence of citizen feedback influencing decision-making processes. - Improved accessibility of budget 			Sector, etc.)
			Supporting Stakeholders	

<p>5. Enhance Budget Transparency: Provide training for civil society, the fourth estate, and chairmen of committees in Parliament.</p>	<p>information to the public.</p> <p>- No training conducted</p>			
<p>6. Open Data Initiatives: Leverage technology to make parliamentary information easily accessible and user-friendly</p>	<p>No of people accessing the portal</p> <p>Analytics</p>			
<p>5. Strengthening Oversight Mechanisms: Develop strategies to enhance parliamentary oversight, including training programs for parliamentarians and staff to improve oversight effectiveness.</p>	<p>No training conducted</p>			
<p>6. Public Consultation on Legislation: Introduce mechanisms for public consultation on significant legislation, allowing citizens to contribute to lawmaking and ensuring alignment with public needs.</p>	<p>No consultation conducted.</p>			
<p>7. Capacity Building for Develop and disseminate a step-by-</p>	<p>There need to be platforms for popularising</p>			

<p>step guide on how citizens can engage Parliament</p> <p>8. Open Parliament Awareness Campaigns: Organize campaigns to educate citizens about parliamentary processes, civic engagement, and opportunities for participation.</p> <p>9. Integrity and Ethics Training for Parliamentarians: Implement training programs focusing on ethical conduct and integrity for parliamentarians, fostering accountability and responsible governance.</p> <p>10. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: Develop a robust framework to track progress in OGP NAP 5 commitments implementation</p>	<p>the document training programs for parliamentary staff.</p> <p>No awareness-raising events</p> <p>No Training was conducted.</p> <p>Annual report on the progress of commitment implementation</p>			
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Name and No of Commitment	Open Extractives/BO & Systematic Disclosures of Extractive Data Commitment 3
Brief Description of	This commitment seeks to promote open and accountable management of mineral resources through a multi-stakeholder

the commitment	<p>approach. This commitment will further ensure that all relevant agencies and stakeholders work together to enhance and sustain transparency and accountability in the extractives sector through a concrete set of systematic disclosures of data related to extractives sector management, including the legal frameworks, licenses, contracts, beneficial ownership of companies, exploration, production, and export, receipts by government, community payments, and on all transactions across the extractive sector's value chain.</p>		
Commitment Lead	Sierra Leone Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative		
Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Stakeholders / Parliament / Private Sector
	Office of Vice President National Mineral Agency Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources Corporate Affairs Commission /National Investment Board Others	Network Movement for Justice and Democracy WoME NACE Society for Democratic Initiatives HRDN-SL WoNES	Members of Parliament Mining Companies

Period Covered

<p>Problem definition</p> <p>What problem does the commitment aim to address? Who is affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected?</p> <p>EITI-implementing countries, including Sierra Leona, are increasingly making more information available online through systematic disclosures to ensure that transparency is an integral and systematic part of extractive sector management. Disclosing data at source through government and corporate databases, online registries, websites, and portals can provide citizens and stakeholders with accessible and up-to-date information on the sector. Arguably, everyone concerned about transparency and accountability in the sector's governance is more or less affected—specifically, the government, civil society, the media, researchers, and the public. There is a nationwide gap regarding</p>

transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. ? Delay or gaps in information leads to suspicion, misunderstanding, and tension between the government and its citizens. The relevant institutions must routinely provide the relevant information to citizens to be timely, up-to-date, and relevant to its users. Only when sanctioned by law will access to sector data remain a challenge throughout the year. The sector is buoyant and active, meaning up-to-date information must always be promptly made available to the citizens. From the inception or discovery of minerals, access to information and availability has always been lacking and challenging to get. Arguably, this has been since 1930, when minerals were first discovered, and continues to be a problem.

What are the causes of the problem? Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. Use problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) and provide evidence whenever possible.

Many stakeholders have suggested that corruption and embezzlement are key factors affecting the sector. Overall, stakeholders have resorted to mainstreaming data and revenue details from the sector to ameliorate the challenges associated with the sector.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem? What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

So far, several global initiatives, such as the EITI, Transparency International, the OGP, NRGI, and others, have been established as platforms and resources to fix such issues. The outcome has contributed to the availability of data to some extent, and several countries have signed up for these initiatives, which have also brought alarming awareness.

2. What solution are you proposing? What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

The development of a sector Bill – Extractive Resource Transparency Act is expected to promote the availability of information on the sector and address other related barriers. The Act will also compel stakeholders to do what is right and abide by best practices regarding the sector's governance.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment? What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and practices do we want to create?

The ideal result would be to have a publicly available national Beneficial Ownership

register and have institutions routinely publish timely sector data on their websites and other public platforms that can be easily accessible to the public. The need to build a culture of corporate accountability and transparency is central to national development, and at the same time, the proceeds of the revenues generated from the sector must be utilized judiciously for the good of all citizens rather than just a few.

Commitment Planning (This is an initial planning process broadly looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones (Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to achieving the result the commitment would like to achieve.)	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
Stakeholder meetings on the Bill -Engaging Parliament and Law Officers' Department	Enactment of the Bill into law		Lead: Mohamed Baimba Koroma +23276942857		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
			Office of Vice President National Mineral Agency Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources Corporate Affairs Commission National Investment	Network Movement for Justice and Democracy Women in Mining and Extractives National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives Society for Democratic	Members of Parliament Mining Companies

			Board Others	Initiatives Human Rights Defender Network- Sierra Leone	
Map out MDAs holding such data -Engage MDAs and companies involved through regular meetings	Timely availability of extractive sector data through systematic disclosure		Lead		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)

Name and No of Commitment	Access to Justice for All Commitment 4			
Brief Description of the commitment	The "Access to Justice for All" commitment aims to improve access to justice for all Sierra Leoneans, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. It focuses on two key areas: Strengthening Local Justice Mechanisms and Transparency: This involves expanding community-based justice services, grievance redress mechanisms, and legal aid provision in rural areas. It also emphasizes transparency through public awareness campaigns and improved data management. Enhancing Efficiency and Legal Access: This aims to reduce court delays through improved case management systems, training for justice officials, and promoting alternative dispute resolution methods. It also seeks to increase access to legal aid and legal services through expanded legal aid boards and paralegal networks.			
Commitment Lead	Justice Sector Coordinating Office			
Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Stakeholders / Parliament / Private Sector	

Period Covered

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address? Who is affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected?

There is limited and unequal access to fair and effective justice mechanisms for many Sierra Leoneans. Marginalized and vulnerable groups: Women, children, rural communities, minorities, people living with disabilities, and people with low incomes have mostly been affected; victims of crime, those seeking land rights, business disputes, etc. (cite the perception survey of the justice ministry) There are particular challenges in rural areas and informal settlements throughout Sierra Leone. Denial of fundamental rights: Inability to seek redress for grievances, defend their rights, or access fair legal representation. Increased vulnerability: Exposure to exploitation, abuse, and injustice without legal recourse.

Perpetuation of inequalities: The marginalized remain disadvantaged in legal matters, hindering social and economic mobility. Erosion of trust: Weakened faith in the justice system and the rule of law.

What are the causes of the problem? Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. When necessary, use problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) and provide evidence whenever possible.

The roots of limited access to justice in Sierra Leone are complex and historical, but some key factors include:

- Legacy of past conflicts: Civil war and instability weakened institutions and eroded trust in the justice system.
- Limited resources: The justice sector faces budget, infrastructure, and personnel challenges.
- Geographic and economic barriers: Rural areas often lack access to courts, legal aid, and lawyers.
- Social and cultural factors: Gender inequality, traditional practices, and limited awareness of legal rights can hinder access to justice.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem? What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

While progress has been made on milestones like activating child mediation panels and publishing case updates, these are stepping stones towards the ultimate goal of universal access to justice. Continued commitment is crucial to embed these initiatives and achieve a lasting impact fully.

2. What solution are you proposing? What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

Access to justice is a cornerstone of a healthy democracy and sustainable

development. Sustained commitment demonstrates the government's long-term vision for an inclusive and just society where everyone can seek and obtain legal redress. Overall, the "Access to Justice for All" commitment remains relevant and crucial for Sierra Leone. Continued efforts are essential to overcome existing challenges, build upon achieved milestones, and ensure equal access to justice for all citizens.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment? What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and practices do we want to create? This will reduce court delays through improved case management systems, training for justice officials, and promotion of alternative dispute resolution methods. It will also increase access to legal aid and legal services through expanded legal aid boards and paralegal networks.

Commitment Planning (This is an initial planning process broadly looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones (Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to achieving the result the commitment would like to achieve.)	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders								
<p>a) Expand training and support for paralegals and community justice providers.</p> <p>b) Develop and implement standardized guidelines for community-based dispute</p>	<p>a) Increased awareness and public trust in community-based justice mechanisms.</p> <p># of drop points established</p> <p>Toll-free line and call logs</p>		<p>Lead: Shahid Korjie +232565059</p> <p>Supporting Stakeholders</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="857 1409 1443 1900"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="857 1409 1110 1633">Government</th> <th data-bbox="1110 1409 1279 1633">CSOs</th> <th data-bbox="1279 1409 1443 1633">Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="857 1633 1110 1900">Judiciary of Sierra Leone. Office of the Attorney General Minister of</td> <td data-bbox="1110 1633 1279 1900">Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law, Namati,</td> <td data-bbox="1279 1633 1443 1900"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)	Judiciary of Sierra Leone. Office of the Attorney General Minister of	Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law, Namati,	
Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)									
Judiciary of Sierra Leone. Office of the Attorney General Minister of	Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law, Namati,										

resolution processes. c) Engage the community on public trust in community-based justice mechanisms. (30 trainings)	# of Trainings conducted		Justice. Justice Sector Coordination Office. Legal Aid Board SIERRALII	Para legal institutions, Child Justice Technical Working Group	
a) Establish pro bono initiatives and partnerships with private lawyers.	# Network established		Lead		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
			Ministry of Justice		

Name and No of Commitment	Inclusion of Youths in Public Works and Infrastructure projects Commitment 5		
Brief Description of the commitment	Sierra Leone has implemented two national youth policies since the end of the civil war in 2002 to enhance youth capacity and potential to address the challenges. Nevertheless, despite the gains made, emerging challenges exist that undermine the ability of young people to contribute effectively to national development.		
Commitment Lead	National Youth Commission		
Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Stakeholders / Parliament / Private Sector

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Period Covered

Problem definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address? Who is affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected?

Youth unemployment continues to pose a significant threat to sustaining economic growth and stability. Those between the ages of 15 and 35 make up the youth population, and they comprise more than a third of the Sierra Leone population. Only those engaged in formal training are largely unemployed in urban centers. Youths in rural communities have needed more incentive to engage in productive work. University graduates need to be more employed.

Youth, those between the ages of 15-35, make up more than a third of the population in Sierra Leone. Of this population, those outside of school or university or engaged in formal training are largely unemployed in urban centers. In the rural areas, too, youth have needed more incentive to engage in productive work. Our graduates from the universities need to be more employed. These unemployed youths, especially in the urban centers, often fall prey to opportunists who use them in violent protests and thuggery.

2. What are the causes of the problem? Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. When necessary, use problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) and provide evidence whenever possible.

Sierra Leone has a youthful population, with 30% between 18 and 35, constituting approximately 49% of the country's labor force. Youths play an essential role in maintaining the country's socio-economic stability. Despite this, for several decades, they have been victims of marginalization. There has been an increased number of young people in governance. However, the gerontocracy governance of the country has also undermined the Sierra Leonean youth population. Regular social inequality coupled with the patriarchal culture and tradition has continued to deny youths a sense of identity and voice in their communities. Part of this formed the basis for grievance and frustration, leading thousands of youths to participate in the Sierra Leonean civil war from 1991 to 2002.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem? What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

The Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and its development partners have invested massively in establishing pro-youth systems and policies. Over the years, many of these investments have targeted but a small fraction of the country's youth.

Additionally, the interventions need to be gender-inclusive, insufficiently addressing the internal diversity of youth. Many of these interventions have treated the "youth" as a homogeneous population, failing to understand the disparity in needs for female and male youth, Youth with Disabilities (YwD), and youth living in the most remote rural areas. This limited the opportunities and the effects of these interventions.

In 2019, the government introduced the national youth service scheme, which provides horsemanship for early graduates from the university, a national car wash service for out-of-school and street youths, youth in fisheries, and youth in Agriculture that targets chiefdom farms. This has provided a job market for employment and self-employed opportunities for growth. The government has supported youth cooperatives going into farming in different communities.

The government has recently launched the Youth in Entrepreneurship program, which will provide entrepreneurial support for 8,000 youths in Sierra Leone. This will support the digital interest of young women.

2. What solution are you proposing? What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

This commitment will support and work with youths to enhance their capacity. It will take a radical departure from previous approaches to dealing with youth-related issues; it will seek to enhance the agency of youth and place them at the heart of socio-economic and political development in Sierra Leone.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment? What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and practices do we want to create?

The full implementation of this commitment will harness the energy of youths to create an inclusive and lasting prosperity in Sierra Leone. In the process, it will build patriotism, national pride, and resilience among youth.

Commitment Planning (This is an initial planning process broadly looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones (Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to achieving the	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
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result the commitment would like to achieve.)	of activities conducted or implemented.)		
Track progress on the implementation of the National Youth Policy	Progress report on the policy implementation	August 2028	Lead: Emmerson Kamara +23278480182
			Supporting Stakeholders
Train 150,000 youth on Capacity building for youth on essential skills. Support inclusion of youth business in public work and infrastructure projects. ▪ Establish a Youth Opportunity Centre in every district headquarters town to support youth in their quest to get employment	150,000 youth trained on capacity building for youth and essential skills # of functional youth opportunity centers established	August 2027	Government
			CSOs
			Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
Develop a national online platform for youth employment opportunities.	Access to information, opportunities, and services for youths and development partners Increased self-employment.		Lead
			Supporting Stakeholders
			Government
			CSOs
			Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)

Provision of entrepreneurship training and start-up grants for 8,000	# of youth trained in entrepreneurship				
. Establish two (2) new digital centers that capture 500 young females trained in ICT and general entrepreneurship.	# of startup grants supported. Two new digital centers were established. # of women trained in ICT and General Entrepreneurship				

Name and No of Commitment	Empowering Citizens through Access to Information Commitment 6				
Brief Description of the commitment	The commitment aims to establish and empower the Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC) to ensure transparency and accountability within the public sector. This involves implementing mechanisms and processes that facilitate citizens' access to information held by government agencies and public authorities. By promoting a culture of openness and transparency, the commitment seeks to empower citizens to exercise their right to access information, hold public officials accountable, and participate more effectively in democratic processes. Through establishing RAIC and implementing associated initiatives, the commitment aims to strengthen governance practices, foster public trust, and enhance citizen engagement in decision-making processes.				
Commitment Lead	Right to Access Information Commission				
Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Stakeholders / Parliament / Private Sector		

	Right To Access Information Commission		
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Period Covered

<p>Problem definition</p>
<p>What problem does the commitment aim to address? Who is affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected?</p> <p>The commitment seeks to address the problem of limited transparency and accountability within the public sector. Government Ministries, departments, and agencies often need to maintain access to information, leading to a lack of transparency in decision-making processes and hindering citizens' ability to hold public officials accountable. This lack of transparency can contribute to corruption, inefficiency, and a lack of trust in government institutions. The establishment of the Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC) and the implementation of its activities will facilitate citizens' access to information. The commitment seeks to address these issues by promoting greater transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in governance. Restricted access to information hinders the ability of journalists and media outlets to report accurately and hold the government accountable, thus limiting freedom of the press. Transparency and access to information are crucial for the work of civil society organizations, including advocacy, research, and monitoring of government activities.</p>
<p>What are the causes of the problem? Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. When necessary, use problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) and provide evidence whenever possible.</p> <p>Inadequate or nonexistent legal frameworks for access to information may contribute to the problem. Without clear laws guaranteeing access to information, government agencies may withhold information arbitrarily. Reluctance by public officials to disclose information due to concerns about accountability, political sensitivity, or maintaining control over decision-making processes. Complex bureaucratic procedures for accessing information can act as barriers for citizens, journalists, and civil society organizations. Lengthy and cumbersome processes may deter individuals from seeking information.</p>

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem? What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

- ❖ Legislative Reforms reforms that aim to codify citizens' rights to access information held by public bodies and outline procedures for requesting and obtaining information.
- ❖ Establishment of Oversight Bodies tasked with ensuring Compliance with access to information laws and resolving disputes.
- ❖ Training programs and workshops to improve understanding of legal frameworks and build skills for advocating for transparency

. What solution are you proposing? What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

Advocate for the enactment or amendment of laws that guarantee the right to access information and establish clear procedures for requesting and obtaining information from government agencies.

Adopt open government policies prioritizing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in decision-making processes.

Invest in capacity-building initiatives to enhance the knowledge and skills of government officials, civil society organizations, and the media on access to information, including legal frameworks, advocacy strategies, and digital literacy.

Foster collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, the media, and international partners to promote transparency and accountability and share best practices in access to information.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment? What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and practices do we want to create?

Implementing access to information commitments aims to increase transparency within government institutions by ensuring that information is readily available to citizens, researchers, journalists, and civil society organizations.

Provide citizens with access to information; this will enhance accountability and promote good governance practices.

Transparent decision-making processes will enable citizens to hold public officials accountable for their actions.

Timely access to information will empower citizens to make informed decisions, participate more effectively in democratic processes, and advocate for their rights and interests.

Transparency and accountability fostered by implementing access to information commitments can improve public service delivery, as government agencies are held accountable for their performance and use of resources.

Commitment Planning (This is an initial planning process broadly looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones (Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to achieving the result the commitment would like to achieve.)	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 teachers, lecturers, school pupils, youth groups, and students will receive training on the use of the RAI law • Increase nationwide awareness and usage of the RAI Law • 20 MDAs proactively 	# of People trained		Lead: Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw +23279131744		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)
			Right to Access Information Commission	Society for Democratic Initiatives Initiatives for Media Development Campaign for Good Governan	

disclose information on their website • Submission of the draft Data Protection Policy • Draft Data Protection Bill sent to Parliament	100 FOI request Enactment of the Data Protection Law			ce		
				Supporting Stakeholders		
				Government	CSOs	Others (Parliament, Private Sector, etc.)

Annex I: Aligning Government Top 5 Priority and OGP Challenges

No	Commitment	Government Priority	OGP Challenge
1	Strengthened domestic implementation of anti-		Effective management of public resources /

	corruption measures and Compliance		Increased public integrity
2	Open Parliament		
3	Open Extractives/Beneficial Ownership and Systematic Disclosure of Extractives data	Outside Government priority	
4	Access to Justice for all		Outside Government Priority
5	Inclusion of Youth in public works and infrastructure projects	Youth Employment Scheme	Creating safer communities
6	Access to Information		Creating safer communities

Annex II: OGP Steering Committee Members

Ministerial Lead		
Chernor Bah	Minister	Minister of Information and Civic Education
OGP Point of Contact		
Kalilu I Totangi	Chairman	National Council for Civic Education and Democracy
Government Representatives		
Francis Ben Kaifala	Commissioner	Anti-Corruption Commission
Hon Paran Tarawali	Clerk	House of Parliament
Emmanuel Turay	Director of Communications	Ministry of Information and Civic Education
Sonia Umu Karim	Director- Cabinet Affairs	Cabinet Secretariat
Alex Saffa	Commissioner	Electoral Commission – Sierra Leone
Matthew Dingie	Financial Secretary	Ministry of Finance
Shahid Korjie	National Coordinator	Justice Sector Coordinating Office
Mohamed Baimba Koroma	National Coordinator	Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative
Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw	Chairman	Right to Access Information Commission
Civil Society Representatives		
Rev Alusine Diamond Suma	Country Representative	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
Yeama Thompson	Executive Director	Initiatives for Media

		Development
Lavina Banduah	Executive Director	Transparency International – Sierra Leone
Charles Kamara	Project Officer	Education for All Coalition
Ibrahim Tommy	Executive Director	Centre for Accountability and the Rule of Law
Andrew Lavali	Executive Director	Institute for Governance Reforms
Eleanor Thompson	Director	Namati
Marcella Samba Sesay	Executive Director	Campaign for Good Governance
Abu Bakarr Kamara	National Coordinator	Budget Advocacy Network