

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Agenda for Change charted a clear roadmap for national action and international support as it is a robust national framework for growth, econo

aimed at addressing the management structure of Ministries and the issue of a comprehensive pay reform programme.

Human Development: To improve access to education and health, the Government has

Gender: To eliminate gender disparity at all levels, the Government has reviewed existing laws, rituals and practises that contributes to the subordination of women at all levels. To this end, the three Gender Acts have been passed by parliament. In addition, a National Gender Strategic Plan is being developed and will be finalised for implementation shortly. The Government is also committed to the domestication of the CEDAW and as such has submitted the sixth and final draft of Sierra Leone's response to CEDAW to the Department for the Advancement of Women and the Treaty Office in Geneva. Also a National Committee on Gender-Based Violence has been established,

Responses to Major Risks: Three major risks were identified in the Agenda for Change, those being Corruption, Illicit drugs and Youth Unemployment.

Corruption: The Government remains firmly committed to the fight against corruption and continue its strong support to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). 2009 was the second year of the implementation of the three year strategy of the ACC. Much has been achieved in this period during which Sierra Leone moved from 1.9 in 2008 to 2.2 in 2009 in the Transparency International Index. The Global Corruption Barometer conducted by Transparency International found that 64% of Sierra Leoneans believed that the Government's efforts to fight corruption were effective, and the Global Integrity Indicator Scorecard gave the ACC and the 2008 Anti-Corruption Act (ACA) 80%, showing progress while underlining that challenges remain.

The main challenge is the permissive attitude towards corruption throughout government agencies, private sector and the general population. This challenge has been met by sustained efforts by the ACC, which has strengthened its capacity to investigate, try and convict cases of

heroin is trafficked through the region. As a post-conflict country, the fight against transnational organised criminal activities is a herculean challenge

base and improving revenue administration, prudent debt management and continue to closely monitor the impacts of any external shocks.

3. **Close the Infrastructure Gap and Boost Productive Sectors:** Address remaining regulatory and institutional reform issues in the energy, ports and transport sectors. There is a need to develop capacity in government to prepare credible investment proposals for external financing. Develop the growth engines by implementing the Smallholder Commercialisation Programme and in concert address land tenure issues. In fisheries strengthen surveillance against illegal fishing and enhance the employment and income-generation potential for the artisanal fisheries sector.
4. **Deliver on Public Sector Reforms:** Provide momentum to public sector / civil service reforms, including by concluding an affordable pay reforms package. Renew the focus on building up the capacity of the middle-level civil service and clarify institutional arrangements within government to implement these reforms. The Action Plans from the functional reviews would need to be implemented.
5. **Manage Extractive Industries for National Development:** Sierra Leone is poised for new opportunities in the mining and oil & gas sectors – these however also come with risks. The Government should continue to commit itself to transparency in the sector by taking forward the EITI process, ensuring that these resources are managed for the full benefit of the people and their local environments, and raising necessary revenues for the country. There is also a need to further strengthen the regulatory environment and institutional capacity to negotiate agreements and ensure their effective implementation.
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