

## Sierra Leone

**The Development Challenge:** Sierra Leone has taken important steps toward recovery from its brutal 11-year civil war, which officially ended in January 2002. In the last two years, peaceful and democratic elections for president, parliament and paramount chief were held; some level of government authority is now re-established in all districts of the country; and the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program came to its conclusion in December 2003. While the formal DDR-sponsored reintegration program for ex-combatants is now finished, completing the more broadly defined reintegration process will take more time. That process requires people from all sides in the conflict in war-torn Sierra Leone - whether they were combatants, displaced, or otherwise victimized - to constructively engage in rebuilding their lives and communities. It also means that basic infrastructure and services necessary for normal life must become available. This is difficult to achieve in a country that ranks as the world's poorest country on the UN Human Development Index. Life expectancy is only 38.9 years, adult literacy is just 36%, per capita GDP is \$490, and maternal mortality rates are the highest in the world. This appalling poverty is exacerbated by the damage inflicted on the country's infrastructure during the civil war, particularly in the North and East. The crumbling remnants of schools, roads, and hospitals give little clue to what existed in pre-war Sierra Leone. In addition, lingering social, political and psychological scars have been left on a population that lived for years in a state of conflict, experienced massive displacement and social upheaval, and lost faith in a corrupt and grossly mismanaged public service.

Despite the poverty and damage seen today in Sierra Leone, the country's macro-economic performance gives some grounds for optimism. Real GDP growth continues to hover at an annual rate of more than 6%. Legal diamond exports increased from \$41 million in 2002 to over \$60 million in 2003. In addition, Sierra Leone was able to benefit from debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC), and has qualified for duty- and tariff-free status on certain export commodities to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). However, in the past year, inflation increased from -3.1% in 2002 to +6.6% in 2003, mainly as a result of shifting macro-economic priorities at the behest of the Bretton Woods Institutions, but also because of the end of war-time profiteering

The United States has several important interests at stake in Sierra Leone. The United States is providing approximately \$135 million in 2003 to help support the world's largest U.N. Peacekeeping Force. It is in the U.S. interest to reinforce the gains achieved over the past three years to avert the need for future investment of this magnitude. In addition, the United States has a humanitarian interest in preventing a recurrence of the lawlessness and brutal violence that produced thousands of deaths, injuries, assorted war crimes, and hundreds of thousands of refugees.

**The USAID Program:** The following Program Data Sheets cover the two mutually supporting Special Objectives for which funds are requested for FY 2004 and FY 2005. FY 2004 resources will fund new or continued activities under a three-year extension of the Transition Strategy which now covers the period FY 2001 - FY 2006. Under the Reintegration Objective, USAID will continue to provide social, economic, and physical support to encourage resettlement and reintegration in war-torn communities. During this three year extension USAID-led reintegration efforts will see a marked shift towards the stimulation of the agricultural sector and income generation activities in the targeted districts. As reintegration advances and communities become more economically and socially viable, there is a corresponding need for these communities to develop a capacity to make political decisions and build the practices of a democratic society. This will be achieved through the continuation of USAID's Democracy Objective whose aim is to broaden participation of local communities and interest groups in key national and local issues, such as the utilization of Sierra Leone's diamond resources, the provision of social services, and the limitation of corruption. During this extension period USAID will step up efforts to focus on youth and gender issues designed to reduce violence, promote community healing, and safeguard human rights.

**Other Program Elements:** Displaced Children and Orphans Funds and War Victims funding provided by USAID's Africa Bureau is easing the trauma and suffering of the war-affected through programs that address the needs of the handicapped and abducted women and children through various prosthetics, socio-psychological therapy, and basic vaccination programs. The West Africa Regional Program

(WARP) is funding two activities in Sierra Leone: one is the Western Area HIV/AIDS social marketing campaign; the other is the Kailahun-based regional human rights activity, which provides counseling, community information and training to victims of war-related sexual assault and post-war domestic violence and sexual assault. Future USAID/Global Health-supported activities include micronutrient augmentation, polio immunization, and child survival programs.

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) determined in October 2002 that CY 2003 would be the final year of emergency food assistance in Sierra Leone. A total of 26,100 metric tons of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and Corn Soy Blend (CSB) were provided valued at US\$ 19.5 million. Nearly two thirds of these commodities were delivered to the World Food Program (WFP) largely for the support of Liberian refugees in eight camps in Sierra Leone. FFP's Cooperating Sponsors focused their final year of emergency activities on additional infrastructure repair including housing and community buildings as well as tertiary roads with an aim at enhancing overall productive capacity and long-term food security. Specifically, fish ponds were established and 6,660 hectares of tree crop plantations rehabilitated. Over 600 km of feeder roads were restored and 35 school buildings were either constructed or rehabilitated. Fourteen new clinics were built. To improve water availability and sanitation, 40 wells and 538 pit latrines were built. Particularly vulnerable groups were supported through periods of transitory food insecurity. NGOs with a focus on health and nutrition interventions received CSB and vegetable oil to support their therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs.

USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) focused its efforts on complementing overall USG priorities in Sierra Leone by supporting partners to re-establish life-saving basic services to some of the most vulnerable communities in the war ravaged northern and eastern districts. A total of US \$8 million in FY03 OFDA funds supported NGO and UN partners to rehabilitate vital health, nutrition, water and sanitation services. In addition, OFDA funds assisted in the provision of emergency support to food-insecure farming families, and the coordination of activities aimed at systematically identifying the country's most vulnerable populations so that humanitarian assistance could be appropriately targeted.

Finally, joint program funding and coordination extends beyond USAID (for example, the Kailahun District Hospital is jointly planned and equipped in cooperation with STATE/Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and Department of Defense.

**Other Donors:** In addition to the United States, the key donors active in Sierra Leone are the United Kingdom (governance, budget support, civil society development, mining sector), European Commission (health sector, transport and social infrastructure, budget support, decentralization, institution building, governance/accountability), the World Bank (HIV/AIDS, basic education, energy sector, transport sector, community development, capacity building, urban water supply) and UNDP (procurement reform, civil service regulation, infrastructure, youth development, resettlement, policy development for decentralization and devolution of service delivery, infrastructure, poverty reduction, and justice sector support). Coordination has been strong, with regular meetings being organized with the GOSL and major donors. For humanitarian assistance, the United States was the largest single donor to the U.N. Consolidated Appeal for Sierra Leone in 2003, providing approximately 46% of the total contributed. Both the European Commission and Japan each provided another 10% toward Sierra Leone's humanitarian needs. Other major donors providing humanitarian assistance include Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, and Germany.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Sierra Leone
<b>Program Title:</b>	Reintegration
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	636-001
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$300,000 CSH; \$1,910,000 DA; \$2,000,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$1,927,000 DA; \$3,260,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2006

**Summary:** USAID's post-war reintegration program facilitates the process through which war-torn populations (women, ex-combatants, internally displaced persons and returnees) in the targeted areas resettle into their communities, work together to rebuild their shattered lives and communities, encourage reconciliation, and build mutual respect between ex-combatants and communities. The ultimate objective is to improve the livelihood of the common people and prevent the reoccurrence of war in Sierra Leone. USAID supports social, economic and physical resettlement and reintegration activities by providing ex-combatants and war-affected youth with job skills and income-earning opportunities, as well as "peace education" for war-affected communities in conflict management, peace-building and nation-building. In addition, USAID also provides support for rebuilding vital public infrastructure in devastated communities. The evolving environment necessitates a shift in future tactics to rebuild war-affected communities, with a new emphasis on reviving the economy and generating economic opportunities for the targeted districts.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Foundation for Viable Communities Established (\$300,000 CSH, \$400,000 DA, \$1,500,000 ESF). USAID will utilize DA and ESF resources to stimulate local economies, support the re-establishment of productive enterprises, and rebuild sustainable livelihoods. Activities will include micro-credit to entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth; business skills building; agro-processing enhancement; and/or strengthening market linkages. USAID will continue to use DA and ESF for conflict management efforts through the Skills Training and Employment Promotion (STEP) program, focusing exclusively on helping the Tongo Fields community to identify and implement reintegration priorities. Using successful techniques tested in neighboring districts, the STEP program will bring together representatives of all segments of the community to discuss and set development priorities. The program will offer skills training and temporary construction employment to the youthful population of Tongo Fields, which today is home to the country's largest concentration of ex-combatants. CSH resources will be used to continue USAID support to the World Health Organization (WHO) Polio Eradication Program and for expansion of nutrition/Vitamin A programs in targeted communities. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Agricultural Production Stimulated (\$1,510,000 DA). In FY04, the USAID/Sierra Leone program will start to facilitate agricultural development and economic growth through the involvement of a range of stakeholders, such as: private sector entrepreneurs, public sector entities, local farmers' organizations or cooperatives, and small-scale processors. The provision of agricultural-related services through additional stakeholders in the private sector will increase productivity, add value, and contribute to a multiplier effect. "Reintegration" in the agricultural sector will focus on market-led and community-based approaches. Planned activities will include: improving agricultural production of staple and cash crops; improving access to appropriate agricultural technologies, improving market information dissemination through media systems; building local capacity to provide agricultural and related services (e.g., rural finance), particularly by the private sector; and supplying improved tools, seed, farming inputs, and other means of production on a grant basis. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Public Infrastructure Rehabilitated (\$500,000 ESF). Rehabilitation of infrastructure under this Transition Strategy will shift away from the social sectors and begin to address economic-sector needs such as rural roads, bridge repair, wells, small-scale irrigation systems, market facilities, agricultural production storage facilities, small-scale processing plants for agricultural products, and/or warehouse facilities. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Foundation for Viable Communities Established (\$427,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF). USAID will continue the planned activities to stimulate local economies, support the re-establishment of productive enterprises, and rebuild sustainable livelihood under the reintegration special objective. Activities will include micro-credit to entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth; business skills building; agro-processing enhancement; and strengthening market linkages.

Agricultural Production Stimulated (\$1,500,000 DA; \$1,260,000 ESF). Community-based reintegration efforts will continue, but it is anticipated that they will continue to move further away from post-conflict, emergency-oriented activities toward reconstruction and development. This will be especially true in the agricultural sector. Activities such as micro-enterprise lending, agricultural marketing, agricultural processing, and related income generation activities will be funded.

Public Infrastructure Rehabilitated (\$1,000,000 ESF) Continued infrastructure rehabilitation in the economic sector through small- and large-scale projects will be necessary. Rehabilitation of infrastructure will continue to address economic sector needs such as rural roads, bridge repair, wells, drying floors, small-scale irrigation systems, market facilities, agricultural production storage facilities, small-scale processing plants for agricultural products, and/or warehouse facilities.

**Performance and Results:** This program has been successful in improving not only the mutual acceptance and peaceful co-existence now enjoyed between ex-combatants and war-affected persons, but also strengthened targeted community structures in identifying, designing and implementing community development activities. Resources and technical inputs were provided to rebuild the physical, social and financial infrastructure of targeted villages, towns, chiefdoms and districts. Peace education for ex-combatants/war-affected youth, as well as rehabilitation of physical infrastructure of health and educational facilities helped to advance the peace and stability in the regions of Sierra Leone targeted by USAID. By the end of 2003, over 50,000 people benefited directly from USAID assistance; over 150,000 people were reintegrated and resettled, in part, due to USAID assistance; over 90% of project communities showed strong indications of peaceful co-existence; over 650 communities benefited in the targeted districts; 243 micro-enterprise groups were financially supported; 5,088 ex-combatants participated in civic works projects; 144 community organizations effectively managed development projects; 26,180 participants were provided reintegration skills training; 118 broad-based community management/development committee organizations were formed; 183 participants with nation building skills were empowered; 34 high-visibility, high-impact community infrastructure rehabilitation projects were completed; over 400 temporary jobs for target beneficiaries were created; and 810 farm families were provided with seeds or small ruminant (sheep and goat) animals for agricultural rehabilitation.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Sierra Leone
<b>Program Title:</b>	Strengthening Democracy
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	636-002
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$1,817,000 DA; \$2,971,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$5,200,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$1,342,000 DA; \$1,740,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2006

**Summary:** USAID's Strengthening Democracy Program in Sierra Leone equips local people, including women and youth, with the information and skills they need to participate in decision-making, tackle corruption and contain human rights abuses with a view of ending the cycle of violence and ensuring security and stability. The rationale for this program is that as reintegration advances and communities become more economically and socially viable, the continuing and planned activities help institutionalize the practice of democracy governing community life and build the capacity of communities to make appropriate, transparent and inclusive political decisions that foster a climate of peace, security and stability. At the national level the program hones in on issues of governance in the diamond sector and sensitizes all Sierra Leoneans to the fundamental causes of the conflict and the inequality in their society. Through technical assistance to democratize the mining sector and formation of local committees to oversee the implementation of mining activities within their communities, USAID promotes effective government control of the country's diamond resources and increases benefits from diamonds to communities engaged in mining.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Broadening community-based political participation (\$1,317,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF; \$2,665,000 prior year ESF). USAID funding, through a number of PVOs working at the grassroots level, will enhance the effectiveness and increase the participation of civil society in local governance. Activities will promote open debate between civil society organizations and civil authority leaders to mitigate conflicts; provide effective advocacy skills to community organizations; stimulate citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities and broaden their participation in civic issues of concern to them; facilitate an atmosphere of informed dialogue, transparency and trust between Members of Parliament (MPs) and their constituents; and advance targeted human rights issues and increase access to justice. The program will effectively replace and build on gains of current and past programs such as Education for Peace, Nation Building, Civic Forum and the Access to Justice and Anti-Corruption initiative funded by USAID. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Promoting civic dialogue and informed participation in public affairs (\$500,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF; \$1,485,000 prior year ESF). USAID funding will develop, promote, and implement innovative ways of disseminating information to encourage peace, reconciliation, and informed public participation on public affairs. Specific activities will include the development of radio/media programming materials on related concerns of public affairs of national interest; provision of training, technical assistance and materials to advance the establishment of private radio stations and networks; development and organization of community-led peace fairs, concerts, and related public events to foster public dialogue and discourse on relevant public affairs of national interest. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthening the efficiency of Government and local communities to manage the diamond sector (\$1,471,000 ESF; \$1,050,000 prior year ESF). USAID's work in the diamond sector will build on past and present efforts. The program will bring online a credit facility to help local miners break the debt-bondage

arrangements under which they currently work. Other interventions will include the creation of alternative marketing (sales) by involving larger international players, and facilitation of the involvement of commercial banks with a view to eliminating the role of untraceable cash in the purchase of diamonds. Technical assistance to the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR) will be part of the program. Principal contractors and grantees: Management Systems International (MSI).

**FY 2005 Program:**

Broadening community-based political participation (\$1,342,000 DA; \$500,000 ESF). The activity will continue to provide good governance, civic training and advocacy skills for leaders and community participants. Constituency outreach programs for parliamentarians and key public officials will also be strengthened. This activity will be implemented with a view to creating a responsive cadre of citizens and leaders and promoting the principles of transparent and accountable government at all levels in Sierra Leone.

Promoting civic dialogue and informed participation in public affairs (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will expand funding of the nation-wide mass media effort in civic education and public information as a means to promote informed participation in local governance. Technical assistance and materials will be provided in the promotion of private radio development. Additional efforts to encourage and promote peace and reconciliation through community-based public events will continue.

Strengthening the efficiency of Government and local communities to effectively manage the diamond sector (\$740,000 ESF). This program will build upon the only institutional strengthening program currently being implemented. This activity will continue to deepen management by and incentives for communities and government to continue to make positive changes in the way alluvial diamonds are mined in Sierra Leone. It will also consolidate the advances made in development of private sector Alliances contributing to the success of this high-visibility program.

**Performance and Results:** By increasing the opportunities for citizens to participate in agenda setting, decision-making, and public debate, USAID contributed immensely toward increasing participation of target populations in local democratic governance. A total of 122 citizens' networks and over 1,200 public meetings addressed various issues of public concern. Local diamond mining communities received direct financial benefits in proportion to the extent that legal mining and marketing takes place within their chiefdoms. In FY 2003, legal mining netted a 33% increase in revenues, due substantially to USAID-funded activities. In addition, cash allocations to diamond-producing communities, for the same period rose from US\$ 337,500 in FY2002 to over \$ 500,000 in the current year. The Kono Peace Diamond Alliance - a Public/ Private Alliance initiative - is addressing smuggling and exploitation by providing market information, piloting financial alternatives to debt-bondage financing, and by connecting miners with internationally recognized buyers. The Alliance established an information hub in Kono, the major diamond district in Sierra Leone, which offers training to help miners assess the true value of rough diamonds. Communities have also been sensitized to take active roles in promoting justice and combating corruption and human rights abuses.

By program completion, Sierra Leoneans in targeted areas will be more knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encouraged to participate in efficient methods of harnessing and sharing benefits of the country's natural resources. Rural and traditionally disenfranchised groups, like women and youth, will become a key factor in improved democratic governance. The mining sector, as an example of a national institution, will become more and more transparent and responsive to the needs of local communities. The net effect will be the eventual reduction in reasons to resort to violence and hence promote peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone.

## Sierra Leone PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Current	FY 2005 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	841	784	300	0
Development Assistance	6,413	3,007	3,727	3,269
Economic Support Fund	10,225	11,910	4,971	5,000
PL 480 Title II	24,355	19,486	4,225	5,335
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>41,834</b>	<b>35,187</b>	<b>13,223</b>	<b>13,604</b>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
636-001 Reintegration				
CSH	841	784	300	0
DA	3,012	2,907	1,910	1,927
ESF	3,000	0	2,000	3,260
636-002 Strengthening Democracy				
DA	3,401	100	1,817	1,342
ESF	7,225	11,910	2,971	1,740

Mission Director,  
Annette Adams