

**Note to the File**  
**Pillar Working Group 1**  
**Promoting Good Governance, Peace and Security**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**In attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Mr. E Gaima	DECSEC/Co Chair	Mohamed Sidie Sheriff	World Bank
Rashid Sesay	DACO	Charlotte Duncan	DfID
Obai Taylor-Kamara	Office of the President	Rebecca Stringer	DfID
Anthony Acheampong	NAO	Alvin Hilaire	IMF
Mrs. Neneh Dabo	ACC	Kwame Anno-Kumi	UNIOSIL
Kenneth Kawa	JSDP	Edward Kamara	UNDP
Winston Cole	PFMRU, Finance	Sophie Conteh	DACO
Brinsley Johnson	PFMRU, Finance	Naomi Jefferies	DACO
Watta Kamanda	ONS	Lamin Tarawally	
Mohamed T. Kutubu	MODEP		

**Agenda**

- Opening Remarks
- Reading & correction of minutes
- Update From DACO
- DEPAC
- Next steps
- A.O.B

**Summary of Proceedings:** Mr. Emmanuel Gaima chaired the meeting. There was extensive discussion on the WB/IMF JSAN followed by recommendations and suggestions on the way forward. Tentative DEPAC and date of the next meeting will be circulated later by DACO.

**Opening statement:**

The chair welcomed everyone present to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of PWG 1 for 2007. He congratulated everyone on the success of the CG meeting and encouraged everyone to be more cooperative and collaborative for the success of this and future meetings.

Self-introduction was made and 5 new members were identified

- Edward Kamara - UNDP
- Watta Kamanda - ONS
- Alvin Hilaire - IMF
- Mohamed Sidie Sheriff - World Bank
- Kenneth Kawa - JSDP
- Rebecca Stringer - DfID

### **Reading and correction of Minutes**

- No corrections were made to the minutes
- Matters arising from the minutes was skipped as they related to the preparation of the recently held *CG* meeting

### **Update from DACO**

- On behalf of DACO Mr. Rashid Sesay thanked those that participated in the *CG* and informed the meeting that the Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Mr. Solomon Berewa had sent out thank you letters stating his appreciation for the successful outcome of the *CG* meeting and looking forward to more cooperation from both the donors and MDAs in the future
- He mentioned that a CD-ROM containing all Power Point presentations, speeches and papers presented at the *CG* was circulated to participants. These documents can also be found on the DACO website for public access
- He informed the meeting that since various functions have been devolved to LCs, DACO has recruited 12 PRS M&E Focal Persons in all 12 districts to undertake district level M&E functions
- He also mentioned that the Development Communications Officer has been to the provinces to work out a strategy with the local media to inform and sensitise the local people on PRS programmes and activities
- He noted that in collaboration with the UNDP, DACO had organised a workshop on MDG Needs Based Assessment for MDAs; and also in collaboration with ENCISS, DACO sensitised the public on the outcomes of the *CG*.
- He informed the meeting of the recently held M&E training workshop for MDAs in Freetown, Bo and Makeni which were held in collaboration with the World Bank.
- He further told the meeting that letters were sent out to donors to solicit information on Aid inflows and commitments with special reference to the UN Agencies. He asked that Edward Kamara of UNDP contact the other UN agencies on DACO's behalf to speed up the process.

### **COMMENTS**

- The UNDP representative replied that it would be better if DACO hold bilateral discussions with these agencies in order to speed up the process.

- The Chair emphasised the problem of data on aid inflows as it affects the LCs as district plans were not prepared based on proper financial updates. He noted that some organizations mostly NGOs could not provide adequate resource updates on their programmes.
- Rashid Sesay told the meeting that this was discussed with LCs on his trip to the provinces. He emphasised that MODEP has a system in place that tracks resource inflows from NGOs and that DECSEC could link up with them to get such information for future planning.
- The Representative from PFMRU indicated that as long as these monies did not go through the central government they will be difficult to account for.
- The ACC representative pointed that unless a strong mechanism is put in place for NGOs to present their actual budget or pass it through government, accountability will not be adhered to. She informed the meeting that they are working on their ACC strategy on Accountability and Transparency there is a need for a system to be put in place that allows NGOs to properly account for their resources
- The UNDP representative intimated that we should not reinvent the wheel. Mechanisms were put in place by government with the help of UNDP to coordinate all agencies. He said it is necessary to go back to those plans and enforce them so that these issues can be resolved
- The World Bank representative said that a lot of other organisations are not registered with MODEP but with the Ministry of Local Government or Social Welfare, he therefore encouraged MODEP and DACO to look into this issue.
- The chair added that serious attention is to be paid to this issue and a proposal is to be sent to MODEP to come up with ways on how they intend to solve these problems.
- A DfID representative asked whether it would be possible to have an NGO forum representative present in the next meeting. , Mr Mohammed Kutubu of MODEP was asked to find out how NGO funds are tracked and Mr Rashid Sesay stated that a meeting is scheduled for next week with the NGO desk Officer in order to better co-ordinate data.
- The Chair stated that coordination mechanism at the district level is still confused and that DACO should look at ways to solve this problem.
- Mr. Rashid Sesay responded that this is one of the responsibilities of the PRS FPs at the district level. He informed the meeting that coordination at that level will be more focused and will be based on the Result Framework Matrix for PRS implementation.
- The IMF representative asked how will the Government be using the HIPC resources and this issue was also emphasised by the chair.
- Rashid Sesay responded that this question was raised in PWG 3 as the health sector claimed they are under budgeted. He said PWG 3 intends to invite the Minister of Finance or his representative to respond to this

- question as an agenda item for DEPAC. The PMRU representative noted that the MoF intended to present a draft budget for the HIPC items at the DEPAC meeting, so ensuring discussions immediately between the MoF and MoHS was important if MoHS wanted funds from the HIPC budget.
- The chair intimated that there are other resources going through the health sector that are not necessarily passed through government so there is the need for DACO to look at these leakages before going through with the HIPC discussions with the Minister of Finance

### **Comments/suggestions from the WB/IMF Joint Advisory Note on the APR**

Mr Rashid Sesay of DACO informed the meeting that the WB/IMF Joint Advisory Note on the APR provides detailed comments on the implementation of the PRS. He mentioned that the M&E capacities and constraints that were highlighted during the CG are emphasised in the JSAN. It was agreed that sectors should come up with their plans for the way forward on the issues mentioned.

- Comments relating to MOF in Paragraph 4 on the overrun of wage bills of the JSAN were fully discussed. A representative from PFMR Unit responded that as manpower hearing ended after actual budget preparation this could have led to the overruns that contributed to the shortfall in non-wage spending on poverty reduction. He also explained that this can also be attributed to the transformation of the ESO to HRMO - if their staffs are not fully accounted for then there will be a budget overrun. He also went further to say that the recruitment of new teachers was not captured in the budget. He intimated that this increase of teachers should be budgeted for if not the same problem could arise
- Regarding the Value Added Tax (VAT) in Paragraph 5 of the JSAN, the chair intimated that VAT and Social Security poses threats if not properly handled. He also claimed that sensitisation has not been done on these issues. He suggested that the MOF and NRA should put mechanisms in place for public information.
- The representative from ACC suggested that DACO could create synergies with other agencies to do sensitisation.
- Regarding Paragraph 9 of the WB/IMF JSAN, the ACC representative informed the meeting that the Transparency and Accountability ACT is being amended and a draft will be out by March. She also said the Anti Corruption Strategy is being reviewed and the commission is in the process of reviewing all files as more than 50% of the files have been closed. She

then read out the cases closed, referred, prosecuted and dismissed from 2004 to date.

- The UNDP asked about the degree of public access to such information, he warned that whatever figures reported by the ACC must be authentic as such information is used by many organisations. He also intimated that public trust would be measured by the amount of information given to the public.
- Regarding Paragraph 11 of the WB/IMF JSAN, the chair claimed that all local councils developed procurement and accounting capacity under intensive mentoring since 2000 and that financial statements and tender documents are regularly posted on public notice boards. However, DACO informed the Chair that the LCs say they are not getting the requisite support from the Ministries for functions devolved.
- The chair responded that the councils want to gain control over resources for e.g. Procurement of teaching and learning materials, school subsidies, and examination fees rather than relying on the pre contractual arrangements made by government.
- The DfID representative noted that Security is completely missing in the WB/IMF JSAN for which she indicated that this is a large part of the Governance issues.

#### **Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC)**

- Mr Rashid Sesay stated that the next DEPAC would be held in March. The exact date will be communicated once confirmed
- He also informed the meeting that the focus of the DEPAC meeting will be on Energy, WATSAN and Roads
- The DfID representative asked whether there will be an update on IGAP at the DEPAC meeting.
- Rashid Sesay responded that Governance as a whole will be discussed during the DEPAC meeting.
- The World Bank representative mentioned that there is this general impression that the Agenda of DEPAC is donor driven and focussed on poverty expenditure. He also said that the meeting usually looks at donor resources rather than government's domestic revenue mobilization and utilization
- The chair suggested that DACO must ensure that the DEPAC meeting is well talked about by the Media.

- The DfID representative intimated that DfID is supporting NRA and the VAT programme and suggested that it could be included in DEPACs future agenda.
- The representative from the Office of the President suggested that both MDAs and donors should state what they want to see on the DEPAC agenda.

#### **Next Steps**

- Mr. Rashid Sesay requested that subgroups should meet and come up with action points on the way forward to address comments on the WB/IMF JSAN

#### **AOB**

- The representative from the Presidents Office informed the meeting that the Co Chair Mr. A.S. Sheku has left for further studies and Mr. Suru will act in his capacity
- DACO responded that Mr. Suru was told about this meeting but unfortunately did not show up.
- Next meet date will be communicated to all after talks with subgroup chairs

#### **Action Points**

- Mr. Rashid Sesay of DACO contact subgroups to schedule a meeting with each subgroup
- Next Meet date to be communicated by DACO
- Next DEPAC date to be confirmed and communicated by DACO
- Sophie Conteh of DACO to send out list of subgroups to all PWG 1 members.
- Mr. Kutubu to find out how from the NGO desk how NGOs funds are track.