

Pillar Working Group-2
Promoting Pro-Poor Sustainable Growth, Food Security and Job creation

Date: 31st January 2007

In attendance:

NAME	INSTITUTION	NAME	INSTITUTION
Mr. Syl Fannah/ Chairman	NaCSA	Morag Baird	DFID
Rashid Sesay	DACO	Grainne O'neill	Irish Aid
Beatrice Dove-Edwin	MTI	Kiyomi H. Koroma	JICA
Ishmail K Yillah	MTI	Akio Odake	JICA
Prince Kamara	NaCSA	David Lahai	GTZ
Dr. M.B.D Seisay	MFMR	Stephanie Gigot	GTZ
Mohamed Abu Sesay	NCP	Andrew E. Tucker	NAO
Mohamed Kutubu	MODEP	Stephen B. Kargbo	UNDP-SL
Michael A Conteh	MEP	Sophie Conteh	DACO
Georges Dehoux	ECD	Sheka Bangura	DACO
Claudi Ferrer	ECD	Lamin Tarawally	DACO
Micheal Priddy	ECD		

Agenda

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

Summary of Proceedings: Mr. Syl Fannah chaired the meeting. There was extensive discussion on the WB/IMF Joint Staff Advisory Note (JSAN) and MTI proposal followed by recommendations and suggestions on the way forward for the Pillar Working Group. Tentative DEPAC and date of the next meeting were proposed which will be confirmed and circulated later by DACO.

Opening statement:

The chair Mr. Syl Fannah welcomed everyone present to the 1st meeting of PWG 2 for 2007. He congratulated everyone for the success of the CG and encouraged everyone to continue to be cooperative and collaborative for the success of the work of the group.

As usual, self-introduction was done and 2 new members from GTZ and 1 from ECD were attending the meeting for the first time

- Stephanie Gigot and David Lahai - GTZ
- Claudi Ferrer - ECD

Reading and correction of Minutes

- The minute was read and no correction was made by members
- Matters arising from the minutes was skipped as they relate 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 to CG participants 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
- Mr. Rashid Sesay mentioned that a CD-ROM containing all CG presentations, speeches and papers presented at the CG was circulated to participants. He intimated that these documents can also be found on the DACO website for public access
- He informed the meeting that to strengthen the M&E of the PRSP at the district level, DACO has recruited 12 PRS M&E Focal Persons and deployed them 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/district media to inform and sensitise the local people on PRS programmes and activities in their district
- He informed the meeting of the recently held M&E workshop for MDAs in Freetown, Bo and Makeni which were held in collaboration with the World Bank.

Comments/suggestions from the WB/IMF Joint Advisory Note (JSAN) on the first Annual Progress Report (APR) on the implementation of the PRSP

- Comments regarding GROWTH, FOOD SECURITY, AND JOB CREATION were discussed but the representative from MAFS could not give an update on the issues discussed.
- It was noted that participation of MAFS in the PWG should be improved and this should be brought to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture.
- The issue of reliable data on agriculture and food security was discussed. The representative from fisheries indicated that most agriculture surveys are done at the end of the year and when there is a lack of data projections are made. Once analysis of the true figures is completed, it

gives conflicting figures to those of the projected ones, showing the unreliability of the latter.

- ECD representative informed the meeting that in July a project will commence using the STABEX fund to develop a system of data collection and analysis, which will be translated at the district level. He also mentioned that the WB and ADB might come in to avoid duplication of the same programme
- It was noted in the JSAN that the APR does not discuss the impact of the common external tariff adopted in 2005 in the context of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), nor does it discuss the recommendations from the recent DTIS. However the MTI representative noted that once implementation of the DTIS and Action Matrix starts, the impact of the CET will be reported in the MTI report
- The MTI representative also noted that development of credible and reliable data for agriculture is one of the Priorities under the DTIS and Action Matrix so the idea of coordination is very critical in this aspect. She also informed the meeting that IMF has offered to do a training on data collection and analysis
- The ECD representative also noted that numerous NGOs and donors are involved in Agriculture and food security so ECD have the commitment to stimulate a dialogue for better coordination and collaboration
- Regarding a question posed by the chair on donor investment in post harvest interventions, the ECD informed the meeting that 2 new contracts have been signed. One in Bombali with a French NGO and one in Tonkolili with an Irish NGO that will include work on roads, markets and Food Security.
- It was emphasized that DACO should work with the subgroups and see who are represented. Also PWG members are to be part of these sub groups to feed back into the PWG as this forum identifies gaps in the implementation and monitoring of the PRSP.
- It was suggested that the chair meet the MAFS Minister to discuss MAFS participation in the PWG meetings
- MEP/infrastructure subcommittee was identified as one of the subgroups not meeting. DACO was asked to contact Mr. Fonnio from SLRA to be part of the PWG
- It was suggested that the Director General of SLRA and the Director of NAO be contacted so that infrastructure subgroup can be revived and participate fully in the PWG meetings
- MEP mentioned that their sector is vital for economic growth in Sierra Leone and their sector alone will contribute to the realisation of half of the PRS objectives
- DACO informed the meeting that the development of infrastructure and transport will be the focus of the upcoming DEPAC that will be held at the end of the 1st quarter of 2007.

- Irish Aid suggested that unless MEP develops a power policy, donors would not feel confident to put in their resources. However MEP informed the meeting that a draft policy has been developed although it is yet to be completed and ratified.
- It was suggested that MEP should look at the comments from the JSAN and discuss a way forward with the Minister and then speed up the completion of the draft policy.
- However the meeting was informed by the NCP representative that a consultant has been hired for the development of the MEP policy. He informed the meeting that the MEP policy will be completed in May together with the WATSAN policy

Proposal from the MTI (Mrs. Beatrice Dove-Edwin Led the Discussion)

- It was proposed that in the implementation of the DTIS and Action Matrix, PWG should serve as the co-ordinating forum for M&E so that the Action Matrix and the PRS can be well coordinated and streamlined
- It was proposed that the PWG be expanded to include other development partners e.g. Chinese Cooperation, the WB and CSOs and its TORs expanded to take up this role
- MTI also informed the meeting that this proposal was tabled at the PSD and was accepted.

The following was agreed after discussion of the proposal from the Ministry of Trade on institutional arrangements for the implementation of the DTIS Action Matrix:

- That the PRSP Pillar 2 Working Group (PWG 2), which currently oversees implementation of the PRSP Pillar 2 activities will provide the technical level planning, coordination and monitoring.
- That the mandate of the PWG 2 will be amended to cover trade development, and that the following will be invited to participate in the Group's work: the World Bank, the Chinese Cooperation, and the African Development Bank.
- That the Group will retain the name: Pillar Working Group 2.
- That the PSD Sub-Group, in respect of the implementation of the Action Matrix, will meet as the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) to review and approve projects.

- That the PSD Subgroup will be expanded to include participation of representatives from the private sector and civil society.
- It was suggested DACO should invite the WB, Chinese Cooperation and ADB to the PWG

Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC)

- Mr Rashid Sesay informed the meeting 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 Energy and Transport.

AOB

- The proposed dates for the next meeting are 14th or 15th February 2007. DACO will communicate the date once confirmed.
- In the next meeting Agriculture, Trade and Youth Employment will give updates/comments based on the report of the JSAN. Mr Rashid Sesay to inform them accordingly.

Action Points

- DACO to contact Mr. Fonnio of SLRA to be part of the PWG
- Mr. Rashid Sesay to invite the WB, Chinese Cooperation and ADB to the PWG
- The Chairman, DACO and FAO to talk to the Minister of MAFS on their participation in the PWG