

**Pillar Working Group 3  
Promoting Human Development Meeting**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**In attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Dr. Clifford Kamara	MOHS/Chair	Bockarie Med Conteh	ECD
Kawusu Kebbay	DACO	Dr. Peter Sikana	UNFPA
Dr. Edward B. Magbity	MOHS	Grainne O'Neill	Irish Aid
Dr. Duramani Conteh	DPI/MOHS	Katsuya Kuge	JICA
Dr. Moses Lahai	NAS	Akio Odake	JICA
Joseph C. Kobba	NAS	Geert Cappelaere	UNICEF
James L. Kamara	NAS	Paul Sengeh	UNICEF
Hawa Musa	MoDEP	Barnabas Yisa	UNFPA
Mohammed Kutubu	MoDEP	Ade T. Renner	WHO
Francis Moijue	WSD - MEP	Mohammed Turay	UNAIDS
Morag Baird	DfID	Sophie Conteh	DACO
Joanna Reid	DfID	Sheka Bangura	DACO
Lorna French	UNDP	Lamin Tarawallie	DACO
Dauda A. Kamara	EU		

**Agenda**

- Opening remarks
- Reading and correction of minutes
- Matters arising from the minutes
- DEPAC
  - Agenda
  - Results Framework
  - Presentations
- Next steps
- AOB`

**Summary of Proceedings:** Dr. Clifford Kamara chaired the meeting and the Director of DACO gave the welcome address. There was extensive discussion on DEPAC and the RFM followed by recommendations and suggestions on the way forward for the group.

**Opening statement:**

The chair Dr. Clifford Kamara welcomed everyone present to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of PWG 3 for 2007. He admonished everyone to make their contributions as brief as possible though not at the expense of quality.

## **Reading and correction of Minutes**

- In the attendance section, Dr. Sikunda should be Dr. Sikana
- The minute was adopted as amended

## **Matter arising from the minutes**

- It was advised that the DACO website be stated were a reference is made.
- A UNICEF representative asked whether the reporting format that is to be used by DACO PRS FPs is being standardised.
- DACO responded that the reporting format is recently being developed and will be in use at the end of March. DACO also informed the meeting that the PRS FPs report monthly.
- The chair asked whether the PRS FPs relate with the devolved M&E officers of the other line ministries.
- DACO responded that during an M&E Capacity Assessment jointly conducted with DECSEC, the need for an M&E committee came up in order to get a forum where all M&E staffs of the three devolved ministries (i.e. MOHS, MEST, and MAFS) would discuss issues regarding the PRS and decentralization. However, DACO also mentioned that a final draft of the M&E Plan that detail the roles and responsibilities of all the key players in the PRS monitoring has been developed.
- A question was raised regarding the locations of the FPs but DACO responded that some are using the Council Offices whilst others are in the TST offices.
- The DfID and MOHS representatives requested that the draft M&E Plan and the reporting format be circulated to all members for comments.
- A UNICEF representative requested that an in dept briefing on the PRS FPs be done in the next PWG3 meeting particularly as they relate to the M&E Strategic Planning Retreat held at the Country Lodge on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006
- The Chair reminded other sectors about their plans on the way forward relating to the issues mentioned in the WB/IMF JSAN report. He also informed the meeting that the MOHS and its partners are engaged in a dialogue to prevent payment for services by vulnerable groups and also to improve the quality of service delivery especially in the rural areas.
- He further added that government policy has now mandated the Local councils to sign for and receive all essential drugs meant for distribution to the intended beneficiaries and should be able to monitor them in collaboration with the District Councils. A lot of the oversight responsibilities are now being devolved, he said.
- He also mentioned that there is still a lot of debate over the cost recovery programme for which some people think drugs should be paid for at a minimum cost whilst others are of the view that fees should be abolished. However it has been agreed that vulnerable groups should not pay for these services but determining these groups is one issue and ensuring that they are the ones targeted is another problem.

- He continued to say that a strong NGO met with MOHS and discussed this issue for which a position paper was presented to ensure that no fees are paid for any services at this point of resuscitation and rehabilitation of their health services. Nonetheless he claimed that some missions and health NGOs are asking for payment for health services.
- He stated with reference to the JSAN that staff inadequacies (i.e. 45/100,000) are being looked into by introducing more training for low and middle level staff and that the curriculum is being revised with efforts in trying to get support from partners and donors.
- He emphasized that there is a health policy in place that addresses these problems with potential areas for donor interventions regardless of it being highlighted in the JSAN report.
- The Irish Aid Representative mentioned that the user fees payment decision is not just for the local government to make. She said it borders on many issues like the Civil Service Reform, increasing domestic and donor resources etc she said there is the need to look at a whole range of issues but at some point a decision has to be made.
- A UNICEF Representative said that since the DEPAC meeting is coming up it would be good to highlight some of these issues for them be presented as strong recommendations from the PWG 3.
- In the previous meeting the Minister of Finance or a representative was asked to be invited by DACO to talk on how government intends to use the HIPC resources. DACO could not invite the MOF because government has not yet made a decision on how this money would be used but once a decision is reached the MOF will be invited to give a talk on the HIPC resources at the PWG meeting.
- A UNICEF Representative suggested that the MOF be invited as permanent member to the PWG 3 because there are certain policy decisions they make which affects the functioning of the PWGs. He further went on to say that though technical policies are discussed they also hinge on resource allocation and financing so this group needs to be advised on what the direction of these resources would be.
- DACO responded that in the case of PWG 3 they could be invited on a need basis to respond to some of the issues related to the ministry but to have them as permanent representation will not be very useful.
- A DfID representative also underscored the idea that it should be a recommendation from the PWG that MOF be invited as a permanent member to the PWG meeting.
- A UNFPA representative responded that the PWG should be taken more seriously beyond the level it is now operating in order to achieve the desired effects. He went on to say that, if both policy and technical issues are discussed but technical decisions are made without the policy backing then there would be no point in making these decisions.

- Regarding the census data, a representative from UNICEF promised to give an electronic copy to DACO that will then be circulated to the rest of the PWG members.

#### **Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC) (Mr.Kawusu Kebbay led the discussion)**

- The provisional agenda of the DEPAC was shared to all participant
- Mr. Kebbay told the meeting that DEPAC will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and that four key presentations will be made.
- After the opening, there will be an update on the PRSP and that will include update from the Results Framework Matrix. Figures will be given for resource inflows for 2006 and then step taken in terms of developing the next PRSP be highlighted.
- Mr. Kebbay informed the meeting that DACO will make the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation which is an update on the PRS implementation which is basically updates from the PWGs. He reminded members of the RFM that was circulated and that DACO still awaits update on these indicators. He emphasised that these updates will form the basis of the first presentation.
- He asked that members go through the RFM indicators by sector or later send the updated version to DACO on an agreed timeframe.
- The MOTC is revising their outline and will probably be available at the end of the week.
- He said that the MOTC and the MEP would do the other two presentations. These sectors will look at priorities and strategies. He mentioned that both presentations are currently being done and drafts have been produced. He said that by the end of the week these presentations will be circulated to all DEPAC members.
- He stated that in the PWG 2 meeting MEP gave an overview of what is detailed in their presentation.
- He also added that an Aid Policy will not be presented at DEPAC but a roadmap that will guide the process in developing an aid policy for Sierra Leone together with the table of contents that will highlight the items that would be in the aid policy..
- He intimated that by July/August 2007 it is hoped that the Aid Policy would be presented to cabinet for approval.
- It was asked that the draft be circulated to members of the PWG before sending it to cabinet.

#### **COMMENTS**

- The WSD-MEP representative pleaded that an opportunity be given to the WATSAN sector to make presentation at the DEPAC because the sector contributes to the reduction of poverty in the country but are hardly considered in this and previous DEPAC meetings.

- DACO responded that this agenda was drawn from the last CG meeting and the focus for this DEPAC is Infrastructure and Energy. He went further to say that future DEPAC will be held based on what is discussed at the PWG.
- A representative from UNICEF stressed that there is need for PWGs to make presentations during DEPAC with focus on one sector.
- DACO responded that this is a one day meeting and these sectors i.e. Energy and Transport will not only be presenting updates but will be looking at strategies, priorities and policy direction.
- DACO intimated that the statement on PRSP implementation will cover the indicators in the Results Framework and issues raised in the JSAN and what government is doing to address some of these issues. The second part will focus on resource inflows for 2006 and preparations for the next PRSP.
- He also mentioned that the first statement will be informed by the RFM, the IGAP and the JSAN.
- Updates were asked to be sent before close of business on the same day.
- DACO suggested that after DEPAC, indicators in the RFM should be reviewed and updated in order to reflect the current situation.
- It was observed that the MSWGCA and MEST were absent. It was suggested that a letter be written to the minister of MSWGCA requesting their participation and commitment to the PWG meetings.
- The Irish Aid representative asked whether these indicators when reviewed, will inform PRSP one or two since the process of doing the PRSP two is on the pipeline. She further pointed out that the indicators must be gender sensitive and gender specific.
- DACO responded that the essence of the review is to adequately inform the next PRSP for which baselines and targets can be well defined.
- WSD-MEP indicated that the updated indicators will be sent early next week. He also informed the meeting that UNICEF is supporting the hosting of the WASH database and when completed it will serve as a good source for future reporting.
- UNICEF promised to help provide update on both rural and urban access to WATSAN facilities.

### **Next Steps**

- The Director of DACO Mr. Kebbay urged members of the PWG to send in their updates for compilation for DEPAC because if not sent on time there will not be any fruitful discussion as participants would not have been privy to it before DEPAC and therefore key decisions on pertinent issues would not be taken.
- DACO informed the meeting the Peace Building fund has approved a resource envelop of about \$35 million for Sierra Leone for four thematic areas and the agreement is that the PWG will play a key role in reviewing the proposals that would be funded though not necessary by everyone in the group and on need basis other stakeholders could be invited to make inputs.

- It was decided that a meeting be held comprising all PWGs to discuss the Aid Policy Road Map, the Peace Building Fund and the HIPC resource allocations.

#### **AOB**

- A UNICEF Representative suggested that since all the survey results are now out, it will be useful for the PWG 3 to have a well synchronised version because people make statements without reference to these surveys.
- The chair suggested that Mr. Paul Sengeh of UNICEF and Dr. Magbity of MOHS to prepare a guide as to how such discussions should go since both work closely with SSL.