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NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140280797 Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022 Price: Le 2

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Massive corruption in artisanal mining sector



Artisanal diamond mine on the outskirts of Koidu. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)



President Bio in Washington
Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I bring you warm greetings from Sierra Leone. I am really excited to be together in one room with leaders, policymakers, policy drivers, and most importantly, young leaders from both sides of the Atlantic. I would like to thank President Joe Biden and his administration for this very unique opportunity of convening with African leaders of now and African leaders of the future.

Cont. Page 4

High cost of operations adversely impinging telecommunications companies

NP assures adequate petroleum product

NP is one of the biggest petroleum companies in Sierra Leone

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FEATURE

BY JOSEF SKRDLIK (OCCRP), OLIVER DUNN

Every day, forty-six year-old Dia walks into the jungle to seek exhausting, dangerous and precarious work in the diamond pits that pockmark the landscape of Kono District in eastern Sierra Leone.

If he is lucky, he will dig for up to 10 hours in knee-deep mud to receive US\$2-3 at the end of the day.

"The money is not good and the work is hard," he says. After 20 years of working as a digger, he has little to show for it – his daily wage remains barely enough to provide food and shelter for his wife and four children.

Meanwhile, the diamonds that Dia and tens of thousands of others like him have extracted from Kono's soils have sold for billions in international markets.

Diamonds from the fields around the Kono District capital of Koidu, one of the richest diamond deposits in the world, once fuelled Sierra Leone's brutal decade-long civil war.

This changed in 1995 with the arrival of South African mercenary outfit Executive Outcomes, which took control over the city's diamond fields from the Revolutionary United Front rebel group.

Control was subsequently secured by a government-granted mining concession – a reward for the military assistance. The event marked the beginning of Koidu Limited.

Now owned by Israeli mining magnate Beny Steinmetz's BSG Resources, the company has played a defining role in the local diamond industry ever since.

To expand its original mining operations, the company destroyed a significant proportion of the city and its surrounding, evicting hundreds from their homes. This caused major disruption to local livelihoods, destroying swaths of farmlands, polluting the air and contaminating underground water in the area.

Those protesting the expansion were intimidated by police forces co-opted by Koidu Limited. In several instances, protesters were shot and killed.

Aside from the provision of inadequate substitute housing to a number of evicted residents, communities in Koidu have not received compensation for damages. Nor have they seen much of the wealth generated from the exploitation of their land.

The city has few paved roads and no running water. Electricity runs for just a few hours in the evening and, contrary to initial promises, the company has created only a limited number of poorly paid jobs.

Koidu Limited contested claims that it had done damage to the community,

Duplicity and destitution: How Sierra Leone's artisanal diamonds fail to benefit local communities



Artisanal diamond mine on the outskirts of Koidu. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)



Koidu. The city has little to show for the diamond wealth extracted from the surrounding soils. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)



Artisanal diamond mine on the outskirts of Koidu. Diggers forming a chain to remove the gravel for subsequent sieving. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)

and noted that last month the High Court in Makeni ruled in the company's favor against a lawsuit filed by a group representing evicted Koidu residents. The group said it would appeal the verdict.

Koidu Limited had "fulfilled all of its commitments to the welfare of the communities within which it operates" and the company's relationship with the community was "exceptionally positive", said Ibrahim Turray, Head of Corporate Affairs at Koidu Limited.

But Arthur Kargbo, a local activist, disagreed. "They are taking our diamonds but people do not benefit," he tells OCCRP.

To make a living, many residents have had to rely on artisanal mining, digging in the surrounding jungles with pickaxes and shovels in search of diamonds.

"Basically everyone in Kono is somehow dependent on artisanal diamonds," says Ibrahim Bockarie, a local community advocate.

Some estimates suggest that artisanal diamond mining could directly employ as many as 300,000 people, producing around 40% of Sierra Leone's diamonds. Characterised by a complex production mode, the industry is notoriously exploitative.

Without Capital, You Become a Slave

Every morning, streams of people head from Kono's towns and villages to the bush looking for work. Arriving at the pits – deep, waterlogged, muddy sores dotting the landscape – they begin to ask for work, addressing managers of individual artisanal mines.

If lucky enough to find employment for the day, the diggers, clad in little more than ragged T-shirts and baseball caps, wade barefoot into the mud. Shovels in hand, they excavate the earth to a depth of up to 20 meters. Long chains of people stretch from the depths of the pit to the surrounding walls, as buckets of unsieved gravel are passed from person to person.

This gravel is later washed and sieved in search of the precious gems.

Throughout the year, temperatures regularly top 35°C, with little respite

from the sun to be found in the pits. Injuries are common, with diggers frequently suffering from deep cuts and lacerations from sharp stones hidden in the mud.

All this for \$2-3 a day. But diggers have learned to be resourceful.

Rice, the staple food of the Sierra Leonean diet, is usually sold only in bulk. To purchase a 25-kilogram bag, enough to feed a family of four for two weeks, diggers are often compelled to take out loans to cover the \$17 cost. If purchased on credit, one bag can eventually cost up to \$44 after interest.

"To make a stew, they will also buy broken pieces of dried fish, palm oil, margarine and pepper, which they mix with cassava leaves from their back garden," says Princeton Williams, a manager of one the local artisanal mines. "With this method, they can survive."

In the absence of alternative sources of income, diggers tend to have no option but to accept these conditions.

"It is a question of class," says Sahr Joe, a mining expert from the Network For Justice and Development, a Sierra Leonean NGO. "If you don't have money, you become a slave."

A Tightly Structured Mode of Production

Because of the exploitative conditions, the predominant form of artisanal mining earned the epithet 'Kosovo' – in reference to the brutality of the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

In the Kosovo system, diggers work just for a daily rate and are not eligible for any share of the gains from the diamonds found. All the profit goes to the plot owners and their financiers, known locally as 'supporters'.

□ In a typical setting, owners of land believed to contain diamonds search for people ready to help finance the mining operations, pay wages to workers and supply tools and machinery. Supporters are drawn primarily from Kono's financial elite.

Plot owners typically receive 30% of the profits from a diamond, with supporters receiving the remaining 70%.

In recent years, the once-informal artisanal mining sector has undergone

a process of marked formalization.

For mining to commence, supporters must first purchase a license from the National Mining Agency (NMA). If land is owned communally, they must also negotiate and obtain approval from the local tribal chief.

NMA officials pay regular visits to sites, checking that operators possess a license and that records are kept for diamonds found.

Still, much of the artisanal mining activity taking place in and around Koidu continues to escape government oversight.

One supporter, who asked to remain anonymous, admits to operating entirely without a license.

"If NMA comes, I just give them \$5 and they leave me alone. Their staffers are all very poor," he says. "To get approval from the chief, I bought him a TV."

Alternative Arrangements

While the Kosovo system has come to dominate the artisanal mining sector, there are alternative ways for diggers to participate in the diamond economy.

In the so-called 'Tributor System', diggers can be paid less – typically under \$1 a day – but if they find a diamond, they can get a share from the profit. The supporter negotiates the value of the found stone with the digger and they divide the profits among themselves.

Diggers tend to be attracted to this system due to the prospect of finding sizable gems.

"I hope that one day, I will make a fortune," says Kai Pessima, who has worked as a digger for over 25 years. However, he complains the money his supporter pays him for the diamonds is never fair.

Aiah Lahai, who also spent over 25 years in the diamond pits, has had comparatively better fortune. Some years ago, he uncovered a diamond that enabled him to buy three small houses for his children.

Despite this, he remains convinced that the sum he was given was insufficient.

If the diggers disagree with the price offered by the mine owner's supporter, the informally agreed employment terms allow them to bring the diamond to a dealer for independent valuation.

There is a catch, however.

Diamond Prices Are Often Unfair

Diamond dealers, who operate from dozens of little shops that line the streets of Koidu, act as intermediaries between supporters and exporters in Freetown.

A dealer's position in the supply chain is maintained through valuation skills.



Lunch break. Diggers getting a bowl of rice with fish and cassava leaf. For many, this is their only meal for the day. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)



A local landowner, overseeing an artisanal mine he is operating jointly with his supporter. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)



Artisanal diggers on the outskirts of Koidu. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)

Cont. Page 3

FEATURE

From Page 2

One has to be knowledgeable about the thousands of classes of diamonds. Dealers also oversee a vast network of agents working throughout Kono, who approach miners in order to maintain a steady supply of gems to their shops.

"To be a good dealer, you need to know diamond prices better than others," says Brima Lebbie, a local dealer and candidate for the chair of the Kono District Diamond Dealers Association. While Brima admits that diamond dealers are not always entirely forthcoming when it comes to the valuation of gems, he insists that this is an essential part of the industry.

"This is the business of the profit," he says. "If the diamond prices were laid on the table and everybody knew the value, we might as well give up on mining and leave the diamonds in the ground."

Despite ostensibly operating independently, diamond dealers often coordinate their prices, effectively acting as cartels.

If a digger takes a diamond to the dealer and does not accept the price, information about the gem and the offered price spreads quickly among the dealers, who then refuse to pay more than was initially offered.

"The more the digger moves around with his diamond to get a better price, the more the dealers spread information about the diamond," says Sahr Joe. "Eventually the miner will most times be left with no option but to either accept the first price or go below that."

Exploitation Fuels Diamond Smuggling

Once bought, the diamonds are transported to the capital of Freetown and certified by licensed exporters to enter international markets.

However, not all diamonds uncovered in Sierra Leone are exported legally. Diamond smuggling, notoriously rampant during the civil war, remains a significant problem. According to one estimate, between 50-90% of gems are smuggled out of the country, depriving the state treasury of potential export royalties.

Smuggling is driven in particular by precarious employment conditions and inadequate wages in the sector.

"The peasants steal the diamond from the supporter and sell it because the life of diggers is hard," says Sahr Joe.

The most prominent smuggling route leads through Guinea, which shares a porous border with Sierra Leone. Gems mined in Kono are transported across the border to the mining settlement of Bambakaro, where they are registered as originating in Guinea.

Often, diamonds are taken out directly through Lungi International Airport, Freetown. One local businessman who asked to be referred to as 'Sugarman', detailed how he was able to help several Europeans involved in the international diamond trade smuggle \$17,000 worth of diamonds out of Sierra Leone.

"I drove them to the bush in Kono, where I arranged the transaction between them and three diggers. They brought a bag with small pieces of diamonds. We paid in cash and drove

Duplicity and destitution: How Sierra Leone's artisanal diamonds fail to benefit local communities



Sahr Joe, a mining expert from the Network For Justice and Development. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)



Artisanal diamond mining is becoming increasingly mechanized. (Photo: Josef Skrdlik/OCCRP)

back to Freetown."

According to Sugarman, the Europeans made use of a government connection in Freetown to acquire Sierra Leonean diplomatic passports, enabling them to pass through airport security unchecked.

Julius Mattai, the director of the National Mineral Agency (NMA) appointed in 2019, has pledged to clamp down on diamond smuggling. Authorities have increased border checks and employed more officers to monitor artisanal mines.

It is unclear what effects future measures might have on the viability of smuggling moving forward. Ultimately, unless exploitation in the artisanal mining supply chain is addressed, diamond smuggling is likely to remain a problem.

Future Challenges?

Many artisanal miners in Koidu are sceptical about the long-term viability of the industry.

"When I was younger, my father would leave to the back yard, saying to my mother, 'Start preparing food, I will come with the diamonds,'" remembers

Sahr Joe. "This was when the land was productive and diamonds could be found in shallow ground."

Exhaustion of near-surface-level diamond deposits has given rise to the progressive mechanization of artisanal mining.

"Now you have to go deep, which costs money," says Sahr Joe.

This creates downward pressure on wages. In addition, the increased use of machinery has curbed the sector's demand for labor, further undermining the diggers' ability to agitate for adequate pay.

It is, therefore, uncertain how long artisanal mining will continue to provide even the most basic of livings for those Sierra Leoneans who depend on it.

There are also signs that artisanal mining is beginning to give way to industrial mining. In Sefadu, a small settlement just outside Koidu, diggers are uncertain about their ability to continue mining in the surrounding fields.

"This whole area has been given to Meya Mining for exploration," says a manager of one of the artisanal mines. "For now, we can stay, but if they decide

to start mining here, we will have to go."

Other fields have been licensed to Seawright, an American mining company, and there are also rumors that Koidu Limited is planning to further expand its operations.

The people of Koidu have thus far had almost exclusively negative experiences with Koidu Limited, at present the only international diamond mining company operating in Kono. Nonetheless, some are optimistic about industrial mining's potential to support local development.

Ibrahim Bockarie counts himself among such people, despite still carrying a bullet wound that he received in 2007 during protests against Koidu Limited's expansion. "I still see them as an opportunity," he says.

This sense of optimism is encouraged by an expected amendment to Sierra Leone's mining legislation, which is purported to significantly increase royalties paid by mining companies to local communities.

"The key is that they pay a fair share," concludes Ibrahim.

This piece was originally published by the OCCRP

NP assures adequate petroleum product

By Alfred Koroma



NP is one of the biggest petroleum companies in Sierra Leone

A panic grips the country over shortage of fuel, one of the leading petroleum dealers in the country, the National Petroleum (NP) has assured the public of its commitment to end the shortage and ensures adequate

availability of the petroleum product throughout the festive holiday.

Mile long queues form at fuel stations as the country again grapples with fuel scarcity. In the past such crisis means, authorities are about to hike the pump

price of the petroleum product which has triggered panic among fuel consumers, fearing further increase in the pump price of the petroleum product.

Fuel dealers have repeatedly been accused of sometimes creating artificial crisis to mount pressure on government for selfish gains.

But NP says it is currently selling fuel, and assures the public of its commitment to continue supplying the product to the public.

At present, an NP vessel has just arrived in the country with over 18 thousand metric tons of diesel (AGO), and there is also another vessel containing petrol (PMS) that will be arriving before the end of the week with over 12 thousand metric tons, NP said in a press statement published 12 December, 2022.

The Company notes that the vessel will come with a significant quantity of fuel that will serve the country until mid-January 2023 and encourages consumers to exercise patience.

Throughout the year coming to an end, Sierra Leone and other parts of the world have experienced unsteady price and supply of fuel since the Russian-Ukraine war began in February. That is because Russia, one of the three top oil producers in the world, providing roughly 10 percent of the global supply of oil has been slammed with sanctions by Western powers.

LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

At several points in these discussions this morning, I am sure each speaker will highlight why cooperation among the Africa of now, the Africa of the future, the African Diaspora, and the United States of America are important. To the question, "does Africa matter," I will simply state the assertion by the United Nations that Africa contains 30% of the earth's mineral reserves including 40% of the world's gold and 40% of its chromium and platinum, not to mention an even higher percentage of rare earth and other metals that are indispensable for developing and processing new and emerging technologies.

Add that to 12% of the World's oil reserves and 8% of the world's natural gas reserves plus the largest and most diverse climate ecosystem, and you will know that the world cannot make the progress it needs to make without Africa.

As a quick aside, I must hasten to add that Africa and Africans were critical to the success of the first Industrial Revolution – they involuntarily provided centuries of labour to power that industrial revolution. They were largely recipients of the second and third Industrial Revolutions. With the Fourth Industrial Revolution holding out such immense prospects for Africa's socio-economic transformation, are we consciously planning for Africa's participation and making the right policies and right digital infrastructure

investments at scale?

That leads me perhaps, most importantly, to the human capital development of Africa. By 2050, it is projected that one in three young people in the world will live in Africa. By 2030, it is further projected, half the population of Africa will be less than 25. So what do we do with these numbers? How do we make shared investments in this youth bulge?

In Sierra Leone, we have prioritised investing in education, healthcare, and food security. We believe that providing every child, especially girls, with free quality education will equip them with the skills they require for participation in an inclusive and sustainable future global economy. Girls studying STEM disciplines are guaranteed tuition-free education from nursery through university.

We have passed progressive laws that enrich our society and our democracy including a Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment bill, abolished the death penalty, repealed criminal libel laws and opened up spaces for journalism and civil society, decongested prisons, clamped down hard on sexual and gender-based violence, and more.

An educated population in a well-governed society in which the Government invests in people, we believe, is essential for building and consolidating a vibrant, free, progressive, inclusive, and just society. Furthermore, an educated population will also be well-primed to tackle shared

with the citizens to either maintain that Government in power through the ballot box or kick it out of power.

It is against such a backdrop that it seems that from the look of things telecommunications companies operating in this country have decided that the huge costs they are currently expending to operationalize their services, which subscribers could easily access in the country, must be reflected in the prices of data that are bought. Fairly, it is right to say that the telecommunications companies are finding themselves in a very tight corner as they are spending so much just to provide telecommunications services used by the vast majority.

To put it in the right context, it is clear that the country is going through an inflationary phase as is evident in the everyday escalation in the prices of basic goods and services. What at times seem incomprehensible is that even locally manufactured or produced goods and services are so costly which understandably could be linked to the costs that are incurred in bringing those goods and services to the market. As the situation now stands, there seems to be no ending in the increase in Foreign Exchange rate against the Leones. The present day value of the UD Dollar is at Le. 18,000 (Old Leones) to \$1. This record an increase of 148% since the last GSM tariff adjustment was done in 2017 when the exchange rate was Le. 7,258 (Old Leones) to \$1. Obviously, with these new increases, the telecommunications companies are forced to make adjustments in data prices just to ensure that they are not losing.

Telecommunications companies are also presently contending with an increase in fuel cost. Presently the queues have started resurfacing again at Filling Stations. It must be noted that Fuel price is at Le. 25,000 (Old Leones) against Le. 6,000 per litre 5 years ago when the telecommunications sector tariff was last reviewed. This records a colossal increase of 317% for a product that account for a major part of the total operations of telecommunications companies in this country. As if to add salt to injury, the cost of Electricity Tariff has also gone up. Even electricity tariff which is a similar utility service and a cost driver for telecommunication services has witnessed a significant increase of 78% from Le. 1,890 (old Leones) to Le. 3,364 (New Leones) as at July, 2022. Presently, the use of the internet has become very trending as many are using it for various purpose, other than, to conduct academic research. Since Zoodlabs took over the control of the internet from SALCAB the connectivity cost has increased. It is worthy of note that at the beginning of 2022, the cost of 1 Gbps data from Zoodlabs was Le 156 Million (Old Leones). Today, it is Le234 Million per Gbps recording 53% increase in the direct cost of internet. There are companies that are using the Terrestrial Fiber for internet connections. As at present, the cost per Mbps that was \$0.4 has also increased to \$10 recording a 2,400% increase. Telecommunications companies have no alternative but to comply. In the midst of all the costs that telecommunications companies are



President Bio in Washington

global challenges that have manifested themselves lately in lethal combination – global financial crises and disruptions including food insecurity, global health and national health, migration especially of youth populations, the impact of emerging technologies on our societies, and the persistent risk of climate change.

That's the opportunity. With the ongoing World Cup, it is perhaps appropriate to draw attention to a quote by one of the game's greatest legends, Pelé, who once stated that "no individual can win a game by himself." No one country can solve the world's numerous interlocking challenges. Our recognition that the world is helplessly interlinked and that we face interlocking challenges is a good start. I am therefore very pleased therefore and grateful for this gathering.

For starters, education and innovation sector financing will help address skills deficits among Africa's young people and have multiplier effects on economic growth. I am a great believer in education for personal development, community and national development,

and for building more resilient economies and democracies.

Together, we can also think about structured ways of mobilising, harnessing, or transferring diaspora resources and the tremendous reserves of diaspora skills and knowledge.

Together we can develop adaptable models for green investments and just energy transitions. Together, we can develop better food production systems to tackle food insecurity and help mitigate biodiversity loss. Together, we can build more robust and resilient health systems

But all of that starts from open dialogues like these. Henry Ford said it very well – that "coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success." There is a whole lot we can do very well together through productive partnerships as Governments, and with multilateral institutions, the private sector, civil society, and coalitions of young people such as we have here today. I am hopeful that this convention is a propitious start.

I have said before that the most transformative nation or world-changing events begin when we make bold choices, ask "Why not?" and let those bold choices happen. Strong partnerships where all strategies and goals are well-aligned and transparent from the outset are therefore critical in all of this.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Embassy of Sierra Leone
Washington, DC

High cost of operations adversely impinging telecommunications companies

The primary purpose for the establishment of businesses by individuals in various parts of the world is to maximize profits, though in actual terms, business owners cannot just determine the prices of certain goods and services as such are really determined according to the market forces of demand and supply.

Maximization of profits must not give private business entities the liberty to lord it over unassuming consumers which is why it is highly significant for Government to intervene from time to time to ensure that fairness and equity prevail.

It is very important to maintain at this juncture that the costs incurred in doing business also affect the prices of essential goods and services because simply put if much is expended, in terms of costs that are incurred in running a business, then definitely it is expected that the prices of the finished products or services will go up with the reverse also being true.

Globally, Governments depend on taxes to generate much needed revenue to fund certain projects or development programmes and business entities are the main sources from which the Government derives revenue.

However, the imposition of taxes must be judiciously done otherwise if taxes are simply imposed just for the sake of generating funds when in actual fact they are really killing business enterprises then obviously at the end of the day the populace including the citizenry will have to bear the brunt.

When things become economically difficult for the vast majority the blame is squarely placed on the Government and in a true democratic setting it is left

currently incurring, a recent move by these business entities, to increase data prices was stiffly resisted against by the Government only because the vast majority of subscribers were widely grumbling.

Among those that expressed dissatisfaction were not just mere phone users but others that sell telecommunications credits to subscribers. As the volume of the grumbling started becoming deafening the Government responded by insisting that the prices be reverted to their old state to which they were.

Though telecommunications companies are willing to continue with their operations, however, the constraints they are presently going through are really affecting their operations. For them the situation cannot continue this way as mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that these companies derive benefits in terms of profits for the services they are providing.

There is the need for telecommunications companies and the Government to reach a middle of the road agreement which could end up to be a win-win situation otherwise it will reach a point when an impasse will set in and the brunt of the effects of poor telecommunications companies will be badly felt by the vast majority of subscribers and credit dealers.

Already, some are expressing fear that the telecommunications companies will reduce the rate of implementation of projects as part of their Social Corporate Responsibility if the situation remains the same.



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LOCAL NEWS

“Living with fistula was a sad experience for me. However, I remain grateful that I was supported to go through the surgery and I was later reintegrated into society. Throughout the period, my husband was a source of hope and support as he never abandoned me,” remarked Massa Swarray, a fistula survivor, now serving as a fistula champion for Haikal Foundation.

Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury that often leaves women and girls with chronic medical problems and leads to depression, social isolation and deepening poverty. Around the world, an estimated two million women and girls live with the condition. Although it is almost entirely preventable, lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services is a contributing factor to obstetric fistula.

In Sierra Leone, UNFPA partners with Haikal Foundation and the Aberdeen Women's Centre to screen women with suspected obstetric fistula, conduct surgeries to repair fistulas, and provide support to rehabilitate and reintegrate fistula survivors into their families and communities. The programme which is funded by the Government of Iceland also provides skills training to build livelihood opportunities for survivors and facilitate social reintegration.

On Thursday 8 December, a graduation ceremony was held in Bo to recognize 54 obstetric fistula survivors and champions who completed repair surgeries and benefitted from a rehabilitation programme to support social reintegration into their communities. The ceremony was led by Haikal Foundation, with support from UNFPA, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and the Government of Iceland.

Speaking at the event, UNFPA Representative Ms. Nadia Rasheed commended the Haikal Foundation for its achievements in supporting social reintegration of fistula survivors. Obstetric fistula, she noted, is one of the

Fistula survivors recognized in a ceremony to celebrate their reintegration into communities



most devastating conditions faced by women and girls, exposing them to stigma and discrimination in their families and communities, leaving them isolated, and robbing them of opportunities for livelihoods and education.

“Obstetric fistula is a reflection of the shortcomings in our health systems. This is why it is important for us to work together to ensure that all pregnancies and births are safe, and that everyone has access to high quality healthcare,” Ms. Rasheed said. She further stated that the deeper root causes of fistula must be tackled at the community level, as fistula often occurs as a result of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy, emphasizing that “harmful practices like child marriage expose far too many girls and women to pregnancy and birth complications that risk their lives and result in fistulas.” She also applauded the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for prioritising efforts to improve maternal health and appreciated the support by the Government of Iceland to Sierra Leone's efforts to end fistula by 2030.

Executive Director of Haikal Foundation,

Haja Hawa Turay in her remarks said that the partnership between UNFPA and her organisation led to the graduation of the 54 survivors, who are now ready to return to their communities. She assured that her organisation will continue to support national efforts aimed at ending obstetric fistula through identification, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts.

Making his remarks at the same event, Resident Minister, Southern Province, Mohamed E. Alie said that the intervention by Haikal Foundation, UNFPA and other partners is complimenting national efforts to tackle maternal mortality. Government, he said, is committed to protecting the rights and dignity of women and girls. He called on a collective community approach to end child marriage so as to end obstetric fistula.

In his keynote remarks, the District Medical Officer, Bo district, Dr. Prince E. Masuba emphasised the role of communities in ending the condition, saying it requires collective efforts from ending child marriage, to the use of contraceptives, to ensuring pregnant

women visit health facilities.

“Every pregnant woman should be attending a clinic regularly and have access to a skilled provider. Also as parents let us ensure that our girls attain the age of maturity before they become pregnant. There are so many contraceptives available to divert early pregnancies,” Dr. Masuba said.

The Paramount Chief of Kakua Chiefdom, Bo district, P.C. Prince Lapia Boima, along with other speakers including representatives from the district and city councils and traditional and religious leaders, also emphasised the need to end child marriage, enable access to sexual and reproductive health services, and ensure that pregnant women visit health facilities, in order to end fistula in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The ceremony was the 10th graduation hosted by Haikal Foundation and concluded with the distribution of certificates to fistula survivors along with an allocation of seed funding to support them in establishing livelihood opportunities as they return to their communities.

Govt. organises workshop to validates new policy on Post-Secondary Education for disable persons

By Alfred Koroma

The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Technical and Tertiary Education has on Monday 12 December organized a one day workshop to validate a policy on Post-Secondary Education Integrating and Mainstreaming Disability issues to promote lifelong learning.

“We are also here to validate the accessibility to physical built environment on campuses,” says Minister of Social Welfare, Baidu Dassama Kamara, describing the validation as very important and a huge potential that will change the face of disability in country.

If implemented, the new policy will among others, create a database on the number of disable students attending government recognized and assisted post-secondary education institutions such as TVET, Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities, and ensure those educational institutions develop policy, guidelines and practices that ensure inclusion of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

It will also seek to ensure the learning environment of those institutions have ramps, rails and sign post in accessible formats, braille and sign language and other necessary materials to aid education for all categories of persons living with disabilities.

Delivering a keynote address at the workshop, the Social Welfare Minister informed the gathering that the Ministry

of Higher and Technical Education is also launching training of specialist teachers to deal with students with disability which she said will pave way for more children to enroll in higher and technical education institutions.

“We have very few schools in this country that are really specialized in dealing with autism children, but if we have special needs teachers, sign language interpreters, for instance, that are going to help those deaf and dome children understand the lessons, then they will go further and even take their WASSCE exams that will take them into all universities or colleges,” the Minister added.

Research over the years have shown that most school systems either do not have or were not paying much attention to persons with disabilities, thereby denying them the right to education. Some students were even excluded from joining educational systems on the basis of impairments without any other educational opportunity provided.

“Others were sent to schools designed to respond to a particular requirements, usually in a special education system and are thus segregated from other students,” Josephus Sawyer, AG Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education said, stating that developing a new policy is a step in the right direction as the world moves towards inclusive education.

He furthered that the policy will provide a platform for cutting stigmatization and discrimination and also enables persons with disability who typically suffer from



The validation the policy on Post-Secondary Education Integrating and Mainstreaming Disability issues to promote lifelong learning

disproportionally higher rates of unemployment fully participate in society. But Sawyer hopes the policy forbids the denial of admission into mainstream schools on the basis of disability and promotes the transfer of students with disability to specials mainstream schools and guaranty nondiscrimination by providing reasonable accommodation. Also after higher education, persons with disabilities should have access to lifelong learning that appropriately respond to their continued educational needs. It is our hope that this policy will contribute to ending exclusion of students with

disability and ensure quality lifelong going forward, he added.

The policy is of utmost important importance to make sure that nobody is left behind, and that inclusion becomes the norm in our society. Program Director and Physiotherapist Enable the Children Program, World Hope International, Anna Vines said, commending the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for developing the policy. She called on participants of the validation exercise to work in partnership to put the policy into practice.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Many dead as floods hit DR Congo's capital Kinshasa



Areas are damaged following torrential rains in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. - Copyright © africanews Samy Ntumba Shambuyi/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved.

Over 55 people have been killed and dozens injured on Tuesday (Dec. 13) by widespread floods and landslides caused by heavy rains in Congo's capital, Kinshasa.

Kinshasa's 24 neighbourhoods were affected according to local officials.

Some 12 million people live in Congolese city. Many of whom now grieve loved ones.

"Around 4:15 a.m. we woke up, the water had gotten into the house", Robert the relative of a deceased recounted.

"We tried to channel the water elsewhere after we noticed that there was more danger. We went back to the house to sleep since we were soaked with the cold, we went back to bed, and just after, the wall collapsed on the children and the parents and on a neighbour, who was passing by. In total, nine people died."

In addition to submerging houses, the torrential rains ruined many roads. A landslide in the southern Mont-Ngafula district cut off a key supply route linking the capital with the Atlantic Ocean port of Matadi.

Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde said officials were still searching for more bodies.

"We came to assess the damage and the primary damage we see is human," Lukonde said on state television

Tuesday.

President Félix Tshisekedi who's attending the USA-Africa Summit in Washington sent his deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

In a tweet, he asked "the national and provincial governments to come to" the aid of the most vulnerable and "to accelerate the work of rainwater drainage to prevent this type of disaster from happening again".

In the Ngaliema area, more than three dozen people died and bodies are still being counted, said the area's mayor, Ali'dor Tshibanda. In another part of town five members of one family were killed, some by electrocution.

"It is a just calamity," said Pierrot Mantuela. The 30-year-old lost his mother, nine-year-old daughter and three brothers. "It's sad to lose all the members of my family," he said. He said he was spared because he was working Monday night when the rains began.

Officials said much of the destruction happened in houses built on plots without official permission. "They have no documents. They are chased away but they always come back," said Dieumeri Mayibazilwanga, the mayor of Mont-Ngafula, of people building unauthorized houses.

In 2019, flooding and landslides killed at least 32 in and around Kinshasa.

Ghana's president Akufo Addo urges Africa to stop 'begging'



President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana speaks during the African Diaspora Young Leaders - Copyright © africanews AFP

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo has urged African countries to stop "begging" from the West in order to earn global respect and change poor perceptions about the continent.

"If we stop being beggars and spend African money inside the continent, Africa will not need to ask for respect from anyone, we will get the respect we deserve. If we make it prosperous as it should be, respect will follow," Mr Akufo-Addo made the remarks during the opening of the US-Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington DC on Tuesday.

Mr Akufo-Addo urged greater solidarity among Africans to address shared aspirations.

Nana Akufo-Addo's remarks came on the day that the

International Monetary Fund agreed to give Ghana a \$3bn (£2.4bn) loan to alleviate an unprecedented economic downturn in the West African country.

Already burdened by high debt, Ghana is facing historic inflation of more than 40% and a collapse in the value of its currency - the cedi - economic difficulties exacerbated since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Nearly 50 African leaders and delegates are in Washington DC for a key summit hosted by President Biden.

It is the centrepiece of a major effort to reset and improve U.S. ties with African countries, whose relations with China and increasingly Russia have drawn scrutiny.

Domestic workers jobs on the decline in South Africa

Domestic worker jobs are on the decline in South Africa. Government stats body, Statistics South Africa recently released data showing that in the third quarter of this year, there were 32 000 housekeepers without employment. Eunice Dhladhla South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union Assistance General Secretary says on a daily basis her phone rings off the hook flooded by domestic workers who've been laid off.

"It is very sad for domestic workers especially at this time as we're going towards the festive season. However, it has been happening throughout the years. Domestic workers are suffering a lot," said Dhladhla. Manyunyu Florence Sosiba has been a domestic worker since 1983. She says with more of her housekeeper mates losing their income, the solution is to upskill and work towards entrepreneurship.

"It makes feel really bad that domestic workers are losing their jobs. However, as a domestic worker, I always speak with other housekeepers that we should

try to create our own opportunities. In this economy, it's best we empower ourselves," said Sosiba.

The decline in the number of domestic workers' jobs is attributed to the financial pressure felt by middle-class households caused by inflation and fuel hikes. However, another reason for the fall in housekeeper employment is that some employers are moving abroad.

"If an employer is moving to another country, the workers right is to get a salary, a notice pay and leave pay which three weeks salary and severance pay for the years she has been employed. Although that money is too little but atleast it is her money" explains Dhladhla.

In recent years, South Africa has had an average of one million employed domestic workers. However, this number is slowly shrinking as the economy faces a decline.

IMF, Ghana agree on \$3 billion financing deal

Ghana has reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a \$3 billion bailout loan, the IMF announced Tuesday, as the country faces a severe economic crisis.

Already burdened by high debt, Ghana is facing historic inflation of more than 40 percent and a collapse in the value of its currency - the cedi - economic difficulties exacerbated since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"I am pleased to announce that the IMF team has reached an agreement with the Ghanaian authorities on a three-year program (...) under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) in the amount (...) of about 3 billion U.S. dollars," said the IMF mission chief in Ghana, Stephane Roudet.

The loan "aims to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability while laying the foundation for stronger and more

inclusive growth," Roudet added in a statement.

The agreement must now be approved by the IMF Executive Board in Washington, he continued.

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo has come under fire for his handling of the economic crisis and in particular for seeking IMF assistance, having once promised a "Ghana without aid."

Many Ghanaians fear that with this agreement the government will be forced to impose austerity measures that will further burden the population, which is already facing soaring prices.

Ghana is a major producer of cocoa and gold and has oil and gas reserves, but its debt service payments have skyrocketed. And like the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, it has been hit hard by the consequences of the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Major irregularities in the management of Senegal's Covid 19 funds - Report

Senegal's anti-covid funds have been subject to "mismanagement and criminal offences" according to a report by Senegal's Court of Auditors.

The Court of Auditors is asking the Senegalese Ministry of Justice to open a judicial investigation against at least ten people, including officials from the ministries involved in the management of the anti-covid 19 fund, in its report.

The audit of the Court of Accounts of Senegal concerns the expenditures made in 2020 and 2021 on the "Response Fund against the effects of Covid-19" amounting to more than 740 billion CFA francs (more than 1.1 billion euros), financed by donors and the state, according to this report published on the website of the audit institution attached to the Presidency of the Republic.

"The total amount of expenditures (made by various ministries and) not related to covid-19 amounts to 19,727,096,727 CFA francs" (about 30 million euros), the document says.

The Court of Auditors said it found, for example, an "overbilling" of more than 2.7 billion CFA francs (4

million euros) on the price of rice purchased and distributed to the poorest populations in a context of confinement, and several defects in "supporting documents" for expenditures.

It also noted "a cash payment to suppliers in the amount of 2.5 billion CFA francs" (3.8 million euros), while the texts require the payment of state expenses by check or bank or postal transfer.

"The analysis of aid and assistance" to families shows that "people with the same first and last names, with identical identity card numbers and sometimes the same addresses, received aid several times for different amounts."

The fund, set up by President Macky Sall, was intended to strengthen the country's health system, support households, the diaspora and private companies, and maintain an adequate supply of medical, pharmaceutical and basic products.

Many officials in sub-Saharan Africa are suspected of misappropriating or mismanaging funds dedicated to fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, including in Cameroon, Guinea and South Africa.

Opposition condemns ANC for shielding Ramaphosa against graft probe

In South Africa, the ruling African National Congress party, which holds a majority in the parliament, largely stood with President Ramaphosa, preventing the motion from getting the two-thirds vote needed to proceed with his impeachment.

However, the opposition Julius Malema, leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters, criticized the move vowing to go to court.

"Today it's a sad day in South Africa, where parliament sits to reject a report that is of their own initiative that was spending not less than 6 million on doing those investigations and thus decided to throw that 6 million into a bin. It's a sad day for the constitution of South Africa, and for the democracy of South Africa. We think there is no rational reason why we came to the conclusion we came to, and as a result, we are going to court to challenge this decision of Parliament," said Malema.

Another opposition party the Democratic Alliance faulted members of the ruling party for shielding Ramaphosa from facing justice over corruption allegations. They termed it an indeed sad day for democracy and the parliament.

"This is the same old agency that rallied around and protected and shielded Jacob Zuma from accountability just as they've rallied around the president today. There was no harm in the report going forward, the president would have been given ample opportunity to state his case, to point the deficiencies of the report, and instead the ANC has just simply shut this down to prevent any further progress on it. I think it's a sad day for Parliament," said John Steenhuisen, the leader of the Democratic Alliance.

At least four ANC lawmakers broke ranks with the

party line and voted along with the opposition parties in favour of the impeachment process, including Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, currently a minister in Ramaphosa's Cabinet and high-ranking ANC leader.

Dlamini-Zuma lost against Ramaphosa for the ANC presidency at its last national conference in 2017.

Other notable figures who voted in favour of Ramaphosa's impeachment were Supra Mahumapelo and Mosebenzi Zwane, known rivals of Ramaphosa and allies of former president Jacob Zuma, indicating the extent of divisions within the ANC.

During the Tuesday seating, ANC lawmakers argued that the panel that drafted the report did not present enough evidence to warrant the impeachment of Ramaphosa.

They said that other law enforcement agencies are still probing the matter.

They also cited Ramaphosa's application for a judicial review of the report, saying parliament should await the outcome of that process before proceeding with any move against the president.

The parliamentary vote comes in a week where Ramaphosa will also be fighting for his political life as he seeks to be re-elected the leader of the ANC at its national conference starting in Johannesburg on Friday.

The conference will also elect members of the party's National Executive Committee, which is the party's highest decision-making body. Ramaphosa must be re-elected as the ANC leader in order to stand for re-election to a second term as South Africa's president in 2024.

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U.S. seeks to re-establish trade, political ties with Africa



Africa is the new terrain of strategic confrontation between the United States, China and Russia. Washington is hosting political and economic leaders from the African continent for three days in a summit with many facets and where some countries are treated with particular attention. "In economic development, we know that a lot is happening, a lot of ferment in the air in Angola, and we want to be part of that growth story, we want to attract private capital, including US capital, not just in the oil and gas sector which is the traditional area in which there has been investment but in telecommunications, and manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals and agriculture... ..and in Peace and Security we are privileged and very pleased to be partners with the Angolan government and Head of State and Foreign Minister and helping bring peace on a regional context," said Ervin Massinga, the Principal Deputy

Assistant Secretary - Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State. The Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, and the Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, received on Tuesday President Lourenço, who reminded the US administration of the ongoing change in Angola's foreign policy. "Angola has given very clear signals that it is very interested in strengthening this cooperation with the United States of America. So, have no doubt about our intentions of this very responsible step that we are taking if we take into account the historical past of our relations, so there is a turning point that we can say is significant," said President João Lourenço. Washington intends with this summit to regain the confidence of African leaders. President Biden's administration has mentioned a potential financial envelope of \$55 billion to invest in the continent over the next three years.

UN children's fund appeals \$2.6 billion for Mideast and North Africa



UNICEF on Tuesday appealed for \$2.6 billion to meet the growing needs of children in the Middle East and North Africa. These funds are intended to provide lifesaving assistance to more than 52.7 million children in need in the Middle East and North Africa in 2023. "With nearly half of the countries in the region in crisis or experiencing the ripple effects of conflict and war, children remain the most affected and in dire need of assistance," said Adele Khodr, Regional Director of UNICEF for the Middle East and North Africa, quoted in the press release on Tuesday. "Year by year, a dire situation is getting worse, with many families becoming poorer as they face the impacts of multiple crises," she added. The region is experiencing conflicts, some

of which are among the longest in the world. In Syria, a country facing nearly 12 years of war, more than 6.5 million children need assistance. In Yemen, a country hit by the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet, almost all the country's children depend on humanitarian aid, according to UNICEF. The serious crisis in Lebanon and the instability in Sudan have resulted in millions of additional children living in critical conditions. "If secured, these emergency funds will enable UNICEF to help children affected by conflict and humanitarian crises," the statement continued. The funds raised will be used to help children in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian territories, Sudan and Syria, as well as Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and Yemen,

Invitation for Bid
(National Competitive Bidding - NCB)

RE-BID REQUIREMENT

Sierra Leone Agribusiness & Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS) Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

- Requirement:** Supply & Delivery of Fertilizers and Related Items for SLARI
- Bid & Contract No:** MAF/SLARIS/NER/NCB/004/2022
- Date of Issue:** 6th DECEMBER 2022
- The Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice value Chain Support Project of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has received a Grant from the African Development Fund (AfDB) towards the Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Development Project (SLARIS) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this grant will be utilized for the procurement of Fertilizer and related items as summarized below:
- Description of Goods:**

No.	Description	Qty	Bid Security from a reputable Commercial Bank Amount (NSLL)	Estimated Delivery Period After Award
1	NPK 15:15:15 & Urea (46%) - 50kg bags	Lot	92,000.00	within One (1) Month
2	Selective & Non - Selective Herbicide (liters)			
3	Rice bag sowing rope - bundles			
4	Seed treatment chemical - (phostoxin) - cartoon			
5	Pesticide (sharpshooter) - liters			
6	Apron XL seed treatment - liters			
7	Jute Bags - pieces			
8	Napsack sprayers with full dressing kits			
9	Rain coats & Rain boots (for swamp use)			

- Bidding is open to all competent National Contractors with all valid business registration documents issued by the Government of Sierra Leone.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the office of the Project Manager, Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice value Chain Support Project (SLARIS), MoA Building, Moyamba, between 9:00AM and 3PM on week days (**Monday to Friday only - excluding public holidays**).
Email: kakuaboy@gmail.com and chriskebbie84@gmail.com
Tel: +232 76 364800, +232 79 453004.
- Bidding documents shall be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **NSLL 800.00** (eight hundred new Leones). All payments for the purchase of the Bidding document should be made to the following bank account with details below:

Bank Name:	Rokel Commercial Bank
Account Name:	Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)
Account No:	02-01-1011970
BBan No:	002001002101197079
Address:	25/27 Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Ref:	Fertilizer & Related Items for SLARI

- SLARIS upon receipt of proof of payment, shall provide both printed and electronics copies to the purchaser as may be required.
- Every Bidders is required to quote for all items or none.**
- Bids **MUST** be clearly marked and delivered to the address below on or before **12 Noon of Tuesday, 17th January 2023 - Sierra Leone Time.**

The Project Manager
Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)
Ministry of Agriculture Building, Moyamba, Sierra Leone.
Ref: **Supply & Delivery of Fertilizer and Related Items for SLARI**
Tel: +232 76364800/+232 79 453004

- The Bidder shall submit with its bid the following additional documents:
 - Bid Security amount of **SLL 92,000.00** from a reputable Commercial Bank
 - Completed Bid Form;
 - Each offer to include **brand name/make/country of origin** (where applicable) for each item offered
 - Compliance with the SLARIS delivery Schedule.
 - Evidence of at least two (2) same/similar contracts successfully completed in the last five (5) years in a form of copy of signed Contracts/certification letter from the Contracting institutions or related.
 - Audited Financial Statement for the past three (3) previous years
 - Business Registration Certificate;
 - A Certified True Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA)
 - A Certified True Copy of National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) Clearance Certificate
- Bids will be publicly opened on **Tuesday, 17th January 2023 at 12:15 PM**, in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Please note, Late bid(s) will be rejected and returned unopened by SLARIS.
- Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)
Ministry of Agriculture Building, Moyamba, Sierra Leone. Tel: +232 76364800/+232 79 453004



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Temporal Job vacancy

Abt. Associates Inc., a US-based company, is implementing the USAID-funded President's Malaria Initiative VectorLink project. The project is supporting the implementation of malaria control strategies such as indoor residual spraying (IRS) as well as entomological monitoring.

Abt Associate is currently seeking qualified individuals to fill the **temporary** position of **Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant** (23 positions) and **Data Entry Clerks** (58 positions) in Bo and Bombali districts. Successful candidates for M&E assistants and data entry clerks will be contracted for one and two months respectively.

Operation Sites

Bo District: Dambala, Ngalu, Jembe, Serabu, Gondama, Sumbuya, Jimmi, Gbalima Songa, Mongere, Koribondo, Gerihun, Fengehun, Tikonko, Bumpo

Bombali District: Rokontha, Mara, Pate Bana, Binkolo, Kamabai, Kagbere, Makarie, Kalangba, Yeli Sanda

AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

- 1. M&E Assistants** – The position will be responsible for all data reporting-related activities during the IRS campaign. He/she will also assist the M&E Manager in conducting monitoring checks, and data reviews to identify errors and supervise data collection by spray operators in line with reporting requirements.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for monitoring data collection activities during the campaign
- Support data entry and ensure timely reports to data centers
- Ensure correct use of M&E tools at the site
- Ensure data are reported according to the approved dataflow and timelines and attend to any other duties assigned
- Ensure all data are reviewed and verified by Team leaders/Brigade supervisors for their respective operation sites
- Daily data collection on errors identified and reported to the M&E manager via the data collection tool provided
- Ensure and precisely reported to be used for quality improvement at the site level
- Supervise site-level data reporting cycle to ensure data completeness on a periodic basis, or when required
- Performs other duties as assigned
- Train IRS seasonal workers on data collection using M&E tools and procedures**
- Perform data collection verification in project-supported communities**
- Coach personnel on data entry and verification**
- Ensure timely delivery of data (on phones or paper forms) from the field to the data center**
- Supervise Data Entry Clerks and ensure data entry is complete and thorough**
- Provide feedback to supervisors on common data collection errors**
- Produce weekly spray data progress reports for the assigned district**
- Perform other duties as assigned by the M&E Manager**

Education, Experience, and other requirements:

- Graduate in Social sciences, statistics, or Public Health (students are encouraged to apply)
- Significant experience in data entry and data management
- Demonstrate competence in assessing priorities and in managing a variety of activities in a time-sensitive environment, and meeting deadlines with attention to detail and quality
- Strong writing, editing, and formatting skills
- Demonstrate computer skills in Microsoft Office Suite applications including Word, Excel, etc. will be of advantage
- Residents in Bombali or Bo are preferred

- Female candidates **MUST** not be pregnant or lactating mothers during the spray campaign
- Must be both physically and medically fit with no history of chronic respiratory infection and non-allergic to insecticides
- Experience in the use of Microsoft Excel, DHIS2, CommCare, and ODK**
- Experience training large groups of people preferred**

- 2. Data Entry Clerk** – This position will be responsible for handling clerical tasks relating to entering or updating data into the VectorLink DHIS2 database. And ensuring the database is accurate and updated.

Duties and Responsibilities of Data Entry Clerk

- Reviewing data for accuracy and Enter data collected during the project activities into a project database
- Sorting and organizing paper records or notes following data entry according to project data filing protocols
- Updating the database daily
- Perform regular and extensive data cleaning**
- Provide feedback to spray team supervisors on data collection errors**
- Generate and print various data reports as requested**
- Perform other duties as assigned by the program M&E Manager**

Education, Duties, and Other Requirements

- Must be able to focus for long periods and perform quickly and adequately**
- Must have excellent touch typing skills**
- Knowledgeable and experienced in data entry and management**
- Good organizational and communication skills**
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team**
- Experience in the use of Microsoft Excel and/or DHIS2 preferred**
- Ability to work under pressure**
- Previous experience in IRS activities is preferred**

How to apply

- Ø Select a preferred Operational Site from the list provided above and state it in your application letter. **Application letters that do not have a specific Operational Site indicated will not be considered.**
- Ø **Attach a copy of the education certificate.**
- Ø **Original certificate (s) will be required during the selection process.**

Submit an application letter and CV by the methods stated below.

1. Email the application to the following address: abtassociates.sl.recruit@gmail.com

Please indicate the position and preferred operational site in the subject line of the email. Emails without an operational site and Job title will not be considered.

2. Or you can deliver a hard copy to the IRS Malaria Focal Person- DHMT Office for the preferred district.

The deadline for submission of applications is 5:00 PM Saturday, December 23rd, 2022. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

Additional Information

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT: A selection committee will evaluate ALL applications. The evaluation process would include the qualifications of each applicant (recentness and appropriateness of the applicant's education and experience), answers to the supplemental questions, results of employment references investigated, and any other appropriate information available.

The selection committee will admit to the interview only those persons who possess the most job-related qualifications and may establish admittance criteria beyond the minimum qualifications stated above. The interview will comprise 100% of the applicant's earned grade. A candidate must earn a qualifying grade of 70 or more to be eligible for an appointment.

All applicants conditionally offered a merit position will be required to submit original copies of Education certificates, and valid identification and undertake a -post-training evaluation test.

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Invitation for Bids

Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP/1088.24

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited, has allocated funds from FCDO for the procurement of **62,320 (or more) printed SSS syllabuses for the new SSS curriculum being introduced in academic year 2023/24** and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders.

Mott MacDonald Limited (MM) has been appointed by the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) to deliver the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme (SSEIP - also known as Leh Wi Lan). This programme supports the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to improve learning outcomes for boys and girls at secondary level and to increase the enrolment, retention and well-being of girls and children with disabilities.

The programme requires at least **62,320 SSS Syllabuses to be printed**, with the following print specifications:

- Printing and binding
- Printing of text (black and white, A4 80 gsm paper, minimum 85% brightness and opacity)
- Printing of covers (black and white, 300 gsm card with matt finish)
- 20 pages per copy
- 76 different books of 820 copies each
- Double sided, saddle stitch

Bids should be submitted for printing 76 syllabus document of average estimated length 20 pages each for 820 SSS.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate the capacity and experience to deliver **62,320 printed SSS syllabuses**.

Interested bidders may obtain further information, view samples of the documents to be printed and inspect the bidding document at the address below between **9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday from 5th to 15th December 2022**. Bidding documents can be collected for **free** at the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Friday 16th December 2022 at 9.30am**. All bids must be accompanied by:

- Valid business registration certificate
- Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- Valid tax clearance certificate
- References, indicating the supplier's experience to deliver similar products to reputable organizations - corporations, INGOs and Government

Bids will be opened on **Friday 16th December 2022 at 09.45 am.**, in the presence of bidders and/or representatives at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited

24 Regent Road, Opposite Orange Office, Hill Station, Freetown



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICES FOR UN AGENCIES IN SIERRA LEONE

UNICEF Sierra Leone wishes to invite proposals for the provision of high-speed internet services for UN Agencies in Sierra Leone through a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) for an initial period of 24 months with a possible extension for another 12 months.

The deadline for bid submission which is through the online method only is Friday 23rd December at 10 am.

Interested companies are requested to visit the United Nations Website at

[REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY SERVICES FOR UN AGENCIES IN SIERRA LEONE ON LONG TERM AGREEMENT BASIS \(ungm.org\)](https://ungm.org)

to download all the tender documents.

A bid conference will be held/was held on Friday 9th December 2022 at 10 am at the UNICEF Country Office, New England, Freetown.

The General Legal Council

Block 13 Special Court New England Complex, Freetown. generallegalcouncil@gmail.com

GLC/DCdN/SBT/12/22

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Disciplinary Committee of the General Legal Council (the regulatory body of legal practitioners (barristers and solicitors) has carried out inquiries relating to the conduct of the legal practitioners hereinafter mentioned,

The General Legal Council (Council) hereby gives notice, pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Act 2002 (as amended) and/or (as applicable) the Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee Proceedings) Rules, Statutory Instrument No. 23 of 2011, of the following: (effective December 2nd, 2022.)

COMPLAINT DISMISSED

ADEWALE SHOWERS ESQ

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST ADEWALE SHOWERS ESQ. A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY SAMUEL MPANEH

1. The General Legal Council upholds the Disciplinary Committee's finding that Mr Showers has not breached any of the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act 2000 as amended or the Legal Practitioners Code of Conduct 2010 (SI 1 of 2011) and **DISMISSES** the complaint.
2. The Complainant, Mr Samuel Mpaneh, is ordered to pay the legal practitioner Adewale Showers Esq OLe 3,000,000.00 (old leones three million) in Costs.

FINES

MOHAMED MANSARAY ESQ

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST MOHAMED MANSARAY A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY PRINCESS KELLENBERGER

1. The General Legal Council finds that Mr Mohamed Mansaray's conduct constitutes unprofessional, dishonourable and unworthy conduct pursuant to section 38 (2) (a) of the Legal Practitioners Act 2000 as amended. Further, he has failed:
 - i. To uphold at all times the standards, dignity and high standing of the legal profession pursuant to Rule 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners (Code of Conduct) Rules (SI 1 of 2011).in breaches of the Rules of the Code of Conduct, 2010.
 - ii. Failed to observe the ethics and etiquette of the profession and act with competence in his professional duties pursuant to Rule 3 (d).
2. The General Legal Council (Council) orders Mr Mohamed Mansaray to refund the sum of US\$8000 (eight thousand united states dollars) and US\$ 800 (eight hundred united states dollars) paid to him for the services of a surveyor to Mr and Mrs Princess Kellenberger.
3. Mr Mansaray is fined OLe 1,000,000.00 (old leones one million) to be paid into the Council's Account.
4. Costs are awarded to the Complainant in the sum of OLe 3,000,000.00 (old leones three million).
5. All sums of money- fines, refunds and costs are to be paid in full one month from Council's decision - December 2nd 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST MOHAMED MANSARAY A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY ALHAJI SAIDU JALLOH

1. The General Legal Council (Council) finds that the Complainant has proved his case and the legal practitioner Mohamed Mansaray Esq has breached Rule 2 of the Legal Practitioners Code of Conduct Rules (SI 1 of 2011) and did not uphold the standards, dignity and high standing of the profession.
2. Council orders Mr Mansaray to refund the sum of OLe 40,975,000.00 (Le 40,975.00 in new leones) to the Complainant Alpha Saidu Jalloh within one month of Council's decision- December 2nd 2022.
3. Council orders Mr Mansaray to pay OLe 5,000,000.00 (Le 5,000 new leones) costs pursuant to Section 36 (2) of the Legal Practitioners Act 2000 as amended.

SUSPENSION FROM THE ROLL OF COURT

ABU KING ESQ

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST ABU KING A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY VICTORIA MOSES

1. Mr Abu King's conduct is in breach of several provisions of the Legal Practitioners Code of Conduct Rules (SI 1 of 2011): 3(c), 4 (1) (a), (4) (2), 23 (1), 24 (1).
2. Council fines Mr King OLe 1,000,000.00 (NLe 1000) pursuant to Section 36 (1)(c) of the Legal Practitioners Act 2000 as amended.
3. Council **SUSPENDS** Mr ABU KING from legal practice for a period of 5 (FIVE) years effective the date of Council's Decision- December 2nd 2022, pursuant to Section 36 (1)(b) of the Legal Practitioners Act 2000 as amended.

DELETION FROM ROLL OF COURT

MOHAMED MANSARAY

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST MOHAMED MANSARAY A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY ALHAJI SAIDU JALLOH

The General Legal Council hereby deletes MOHAMED MANSARAY, a legal practitioner enrolled in September 2001, from the Roll of Court of Legal Practitioners, Republic of Sierra Leone, pursuant to section 36 (1) (a) of the Legal Practitioners Act 2000 as amended with immediate effect.

Signed :



Nicky Spencer-Coker Esq. (Mrs)
Secretary, General Legal Council

The General Legal Council

Block 13 Special Court New England Complex, Freetown. generallegalcouncil@gmail.com

GLC/DCdN/EK/06/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Disciplinary Committee of the General Legal Council (the regulatory body of legal practitioners (barrister and solicitors) has carried out inquiries relating to the conduct of the legal practitioners hereinafter mentioned,

The General Legal Council hereby gives notice, pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Act (as amended) and/or (as applicable) the Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee Proceedings) Rules, Statutory Instrument No. 23 of 2011 of the following, effective April 30th 2021:

FINES

MOHAMED MANSARAY ESQ

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED, PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST MOHAMED MANSARAY, A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY SAIDU AZIZ KAMARA

1. Mr. Mansaray is ordered to pay the balance OLe 400,000.00 to the Complainant within 7 days in full and final, final settlement.
2. Mr. Mansaray's conduct is held to be unprofessional and dishonourable and in breach of several Rules of the Code of Conduct 2010.
3. The General Legal Council hereby fines Mr. Mansaray OLe 1,000,000.00 pursuant to Section 36 (1) (c) of the Legal Practitioners' Act 2000 as amended.

SUSPENSION FROM PRACTICE

MOHAMED MANSARAY ESQ

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 ACT NO. 15 AS AMENDED, PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST MOHAMED MANSARAY, A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY ALPHA BELO KOROMA

1. Mr. Mohamed Mansaray is guilty of unprofessional and dishonourable conduct in breaches of the Rules of the Code of Conduct, 2010.
2. The General Legal Council orders Mr. Mohamed Mansaray to refund the full Le 8,000,000.00 to the complainant and pay Le 1,000,000.00 in COSTS to the same.
3. The General Legal Council SUSPENDS Mr Mohamed Mansaray from practice pursuant to section 36(1)(b) of the Legal Practitioners' Act 2000 for a period of 12 months from April 30th 2021.

MS. PAMELA STANZIA RICHARDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2000 Act No 15 AS AMENDED PART V

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST PAMELA STANZIA RICHARDS. A LEGAL PRACTITIONER BROUGHT BY PEARL REFFEL

1. The General Legal Council finds that Ms Pamela Stanzia Richards acted "dishonestly and in a manner unbecoming of the legal profession" in breach of several Rules of the Code of Conduct 2010.
2. The General Legal Council orders that Ms Richards hands over rental property to the Complainant immediately. Further the Complainant, Pearl Reffel, is to submit an invoice to the Master & Registrar for taxing. Ms. Reffel shall then pay or cause to be paid the amount found to be due and owing by the Master and Registrar.
3. The General Legal Council hereby SUSPENDS Ms Richards from practice pursuant to section 36(1)(b) of the Legal Practitioners' Act 2000 for a period of 36 months effective April 30th 2021.

Signed :



Nicky Spencer- Coker Esq. (Mrs)
Secretary, General Legal Council



HALF-TIME/FULL-TIME



Set 17870

(*) All bets subject to Mercury International rules. In case of discrepancy terminal data prevails. Canceled fixtures pay 1:1. Bets placed after kickoff are void. Single bets permitted.

Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Home Goals	Home Halves	Home Score	Away Team	1 / 1 (1)	1 / X (2)	1 / 2 (3)	X / 1 (4)	X / X (5)	X / 2 (6)	2 / 1 (7)	2 / X (8)	2 / 2 (9)
1	8/5/2022 13:55	Romania 2	UNIREA SLOBOZIA	12	v	14	FCM BAIJA MARE	2.35	14.00	45.00	4.00	4.90	8.80	23.00	15.00	7.00
2	8/5/2022 15:40	Italy Cup	CAGLIARI	0	v	0	PERUGIA	2.85	16.00	50.00	4.40	4.60	8.20	29.00	16.00	6.80
3	8/5/2022 15:55	Poland	FKS STAL MIELEC	5	v	2	CRACOVIA	5.20	14.00	29.00	7.00	4.70	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.35
4	8/5/2022 15:55	Denmark	RANDERS FC	7	v	3	HORSENS	2.80	15.00	45.00	4.60	4.80	8.60	27.00	15.00	6.60
5	8/5/2022 15:55	Romania	UNIVERSITATEA CLUJ	13	v	15	PETROLUL	3.70	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.20	6.40	35.00	15.00	5.00
6	8/5/2022 15:55	Italy Cup	UDINESE	0	v	0	FERALPISALO	1.79	22.00	99.00	3.60	7.00	18.00	25.00	23.00	15.00
7	8/5/2022 16:25	Bundesliga 2	GREUTHER FURTH	15	v	18	KARLSRUHER	2.49	15.00	40.00	4.70	6.20	9.60	23.00	15.00	6.60
8	8/5/2022 16:25	Bundesliga 2	SANDHAUSEN	10	v	3	FORTUNA DUSSELDORF	4.70	14.00	28.00	6.80	5.00	5.60	35.00	14.00	3.45
9	8/5/2022 17:55	Denmark	LYNGBY	10	v	5	MIDTJYLLAND	7.00	16.00	23.00	9.60	5.80	4.50	45.00	15.00	2.49
10	8/5/2022 17:55	Croatia	VARAZDIN	8	v	1	DINAMO ZAGREB	12.00	20.00	22.00	16.00	7.40	3.85	80.00	20.00	1.85
11	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland	HEERENVEEN	16	v	17	SPARTA ROTTERDAM	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.80	5.00	8.20	29.00	16.00	6.40
12	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	DEN BOSCH	4	v	6	FC EINDHOVEN	4.90	14.00	25.00	7.40	5.60	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.15
13	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	DORDRECHT	5	v	16	RODA	8.40	17.00	20.00	13.00	7.80	4.30	50.00	17.00	2.02
14	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	HERACLES	8	v	1	ADO DEN HAAG	2.65	15.00	40.00	4.70	5.80	8.60	23.00	15.00	6.20
15	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	BREDA	14	v	7	HELMOND	1.95	18.00	70.00	4.00	7.00	14.00	22.00	19.00	11.00
16	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	TOP OSS	17	v	11	JONG UTRECHT	3.00	14.00	35.00	5.20	5.80	7.60	24.00	14.00	5.20
17	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	VENLO	19	v	2	ALMERE CITY	4.40	13.00	25.00	7.00	5.60	5.80	30.00	13.00	3.35
18	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	WILLEM II	20	v	12	JONG PSV	2.28	16.00	45.00	4.30	6.60	10.00	22.00	17.00	7.40
19	8/5/2022 17:55	Slovenia 2	TRIGLAV KRANJ	13	v	16	PRIMORJE AJDOVSCINA	1.94	16.00	60.00	3.65	5.80	12.00	21.00	17.00	9.20
20	8/5/2022 17:55	Hungary	VASAS	9	v	1	PAKSI	3.80	13.00	30.00	6.00	5.20	6.40	28.00	13.00	4.20
21	8/5/2022 17:55	Turkey	ISTANBULSPOR AS	13	v	18	TRABZONSPOR	7.40	15.00	25.00	9.80	5.20	4.50	50.00	15.00	2.50
22	8/5/2022 18:10	Switzerland 2	XAMAX	10	v	1	YVERDON-SPORT	3.95	14.00	28.00	6.20	5.40	6.20	29.00	14.00	3.90
23	8/5/2022 18:10	Switzerland 2	THUN	9	v	6	AARAU	3.45	14.00	27.00	6.00	6.20	6.60	25.00	14.00	4.10
24	8/5/2022 18:25	Poland	LEGIA WARSZAWA	7	v	17	PIAST GLIWICE	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.70	4.70	7.80	28.00	15.00	6.20
25	8/5/2022 18:25	Poland 2	ODRA OPOLE	18	v	3	WISLA KRAKOW	5.20	14.00	27.00	6.60	4.30	4.40	40.00	14.00	3.00
26	8/5/2022 18:25	Bundesliga	EINTRACHT FRANKFURT	7	v	3	BAYERN MUNICH	9.20	18.00	20.00	14.00	8.80	4.50	60.00	18.00	1.96
27	8/5/2022 18:25	Slovakia	TRENCIN	12	v	7	MICHALOVCE	2.60	13.00	35.00	4.50	5.20	7.60	22.00	13.00	5.40
28	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland	DUNDALK	2	v	3	DERRY CITY	3.75	14.00	35.00	5.40	4.60	6.40	30.00	15.00	4.70
29	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	CORK CITY FC	1	v	9	ATHLONE TOWN	1.41	27.00	99.00	3.30	9.40	26.00	21.00	26.00	20.00
30	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	GALWAY UNITED FC	2	v	6	WEXFORD FC	1.92	16.00	50.00	3.75	6.40	11.00	19.00	17.00	8.40
31	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	TREATY UNITED	5	v	3	WATERFORD FC	7.20	15.00	21.00	9.60	5.60	3.95	45.00	14.00	2.17
32	8/5/2022 18:40	Scotland Championship	QUEENS PARK	6	v	8	AYR UNITED	3.75	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.40	6.20	35.00	15.00	4.90
33	8/5/2022 18:40	Championship	BIRMINGHAM	14	v	19	HUDDERSFIELD	4.10	15.00	40.00	5.60	4.50	6.40	35.00	15.00	4.80
34	8/5/2022 18:40	Belgium	CLUB BRUGGE	8	v	7	WAREGEM	1.61	24.00	99.00	3.80	9.40	22.00	22.00	24.00	16.00
35	8/5/2022 18:55	Ireland	FINN HARPS	10	v	8	DROGHEDA UNITED	3.50	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.70	6.60	30.00	15.00	5.00
36	8/5/2022 18:55	Premier League	CRYSTAL PALACE	7	v	2	ARSENAL	7.20	16.00	26.00	9.40	5.40	4.60	50.00	16.00	2.70
37	8/5/2022 18:55	France league 1	LYON	9	v	1	AC AJACCIO	1.85	22.00	90.00	3.90	7.60	17.00	24.00	22.00	14.00
38	8/5/2022 18:55	Italy Cup	LECCE	0	v	0	CITTADELLA	2.31	17.00	60.00	4.00	5.40	11.00	26.00	18.00	8.80
39	8/5/2022 19:10	Portugal	BENFICA	2	v	1	AROUCA	1.52	30.00	99.00	3.45	8.80	29.00	27.00	30.00	25.00
40	8/5/2022 19:10	Italy Cup	SAMPDORIA	0	v	0	REGGINA	2.04	19.00	80.00	3.75	5.80	14.00	26.00	20.00	12.00



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Published by Concord Times Communications, 44, Edwards Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone www.slconcordtimes.com

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