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China-Sierra Leone
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Chaos at Abacha Street



New Mines Minister, Julius Daniel Mattai

New Mines Minister receives accolades in parliament



Traders running helter-skelter

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Traders at Sani Abacha in the early hours of yesterday took to their heels after police officers attached to the Central and Eastern Police Stations fired tear gas at a group of protesters, who earlier barricaded the street.

In an interview with this medium, Salamatu Bangura, a trader, explained that on Wednesday night, a group of soldiers and police officers demolished their stalls. She said they were not informed that their stalls will be vandalised and that they only woke up to it this morning.

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State House Press hobnobs with Concord Times



A group picture of Concord Times staff and the visitors

**House Breaking & Larceny:
Accused discharged for wants of evidence**

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COMMENTARY

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The 2023 National Primary School Examinations (NPSE) report shed lights on the poor state of the Free Quality Education Scheme in the country, as the exams was topped by private schools, leaving government and government assisted schools lagging behind.

The NPSE is the entry point that qualifies students for admission into secondary schools in Sierra Leone. It's written after every three years of primary education, and it is administered by the West African Examinations Council (WAEC).

Over the years governments had massively blew the trumpets of the exams, but the twist is, whenever the exams is conducted and taken, it is the private school students that emerge top notch.

So what's the essence of the Free Quality Education?

According to the Government of Sierra Leone, the Free Quality Education Scheme is dedicated to the promotion of quality education, as well as increases nationwide access to quality education from primary to secondary school.

Couple of days ago, the Ministry of Basic and Senior School Education (MBSSE) released the report on the

Free Quality Education: Why private schools continue to top NPSE exams?

NPSE exams, with a pupil, Floydalin Davies of the Murray-Deen Preparatory School emerging as the top performer with an aggregate of 339. Following closely was her twin brother from the same school, Floyd Davies, who scored an aggregate of 336. Even though there was an 81 percent record pass in the exams, but there was no government school among the ten schools.

The three best scores came from Murray-Deen Preparatory School with aggregate scores of; 339, 336, and 334, whereas the seven other best results are also from private schools.

According to the then Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, David Sengeh, quality education is much broader than one's performance in an examination and that is why they have developed new curriculum to strengthen the foundational skills for pupils during pre-school and 6 years of primary education.

I really do not understand what he meant by that. But honestly, when a quality is being attached to a service, then the results or outcomes should be

reflective on the consumers. The time and quality of learning teachers in private schools imbibe in students far outweighs that of their government counterparts.

Another thing that's worth noting is that almost all public officials do send their kids to private schools instead of the government schools. So why then do they like attaching quality to a weak educational system? The enthusiasm and professionalism teachers of private schools exhibit whiles teaching makes it very easy for students to learn, comprehend and adapt.

Since the introduction of the Free Quality School Scheme, the level of education in the country has drastically dwindled. So what's the problem with the Free Quality Education?

Also in 2022, the best three performers were from private schools, so this has been a perennial problem in government schools and doesn't seem to subside. A lot of people blame the attitude of teachers in ensuring that the Free Quality Education is brought to fruition.

Mabinty Tarawally, a parent of a pupil who attends Congress Islamic School explained that teachers are making it hard for them as parents. She noted that even though government has demanded that there be a free education in government and government assisted schools, teachers are still demanding extra fees and disguising the idea of not paying tuition fees, as well as some other school expenses. "This normally makes it very difficult for us, and some of us don't have the resources to meet some of those fees," she noted.

She therefore implored the government that they start monitoring some of these services, noting that the government should not only be implementing, but monitoring as well or else their efforts to succeed as a government will go in vain.

To a very large extent, the success of the Free Quality Education Scheme is dependent on each and every Sierra Leonean, especially the government, who has the political and monitoring will for the scheme to succeed.

State House Press hobnobs with Concord Times

By Ishmael Dumbuya

As part of their media tour, the newly appointed State House Press Secretary, Solomon Jamiru, and the Communications Manager, Tanu Jalloh yesterday visited Concord Times management as a way of strengthening relationship and bringing the presidency close to the media.

In his address, Solomon Jamiru expressed appreciation for the warm welcome they received from management and staff of Concord Times.

He underscored that the media has a significant role to play in the development of a nation, especially serving as partners of the government.

He added that in as much as it is the media's role to hold government accountable, but it is also incumbent on them to portray the country and the government in a positive light as that will eventually open up the country to foreign investment.

He went on to state that President Bio values the work of the media, and that it is as a result of that he opened up a lot of opportunities to the media, citing the repeal of the

Criminal Libel Law.

He concluded that media is very vital for the creation and development of a democratic culture in any country, as they provide people with information which influences the process of shaping opinion and attitudes and of making political choices.

State House Communications Manager, Tanu Jalloh, said he himself was and still a journalist, indicating that the media has a tremendous role in ensuring that democratic tenets are upheld.

The Editor, Concord Times, expressed delight for the courtesy visit, noting that it was the first time a press secretary to the president ever embarked on such a tour.



A group picture of Concord Times staff and the visitors

House Breaking & Larceny: Accused discharged for wants of evidence

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

After thirteen adjournments without the appearance of the prosecuting witness, Komba Josiah, a driver residing at 7C Adolphous Street, Savage Square in Freetown, was yesterday discharged by Justice Suliaman Bah for wants of evidence

The accused was arraigned before the court on one count charge of house breaking and larceny contrary to Section 25 (1) 2 of the Larceny Act 1916 and Section 13 (a) of the Larceny Act of 1916.

It was alleged that the accused on 15th July, 2022, in Freetown, entered into the house of the complainant,

Adama Gbla, with intent, stole therein property and money to the total value of two thousand five hundred New Leones.

The state prosecution earlier informs the court that they could not locate any of the prosecution witnesses in the matter, and that they will no long proceed with the case.



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LOCAL NEWS **New Mines Minister receives accolades in parliament**

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Members of Parliament yesterday heaped praises on Julius Daniel Mattai, while approving him as the new Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources.

He was approved alongside several other presidential appointees.

P. C. Hon. Desmond Kavurasaid heaped praises on the new Mines Minister, whom he said did well during his tenure as Director General at the National Minerals Agency (NMA), especially in ensuring mining communities benefit from mining companies.

Hon. Hindolo Gevao also

commended Mattai for the good work he did at NMA, but urged him to work with others that have been in the ministry for the growth of country.

He said the nominee should ensure to establish an office that will give value to the country's mineral and benefit more people.

Hon. Emerson Lamina from Kono District also commended the effort of the mines minister, whom he said improved the mineral sector while he was director general at NMA.

He said because of his hard work, the country can now boast of its natural resources with communities benefiting a lot.



Chinese Ambassador promises hopeful China-Sierra Leone relationship

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

During the 3rd "Face to Face with China" at the Chinese Embassy in Freetown, the Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Wang Qing, promised a hopeful China-Sierra Leone Relationship and expressed the importance of people-to-people exchanges for the development of the relationship between China and Sierra Leone.

While sharing some recent developments in China, mainly in the four areas, Ambassador Wang Qing said last month, Sierra Leone held presidential and parliamentary elections in which China upholds the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, respects the development path independently chosen by the Sierra Leonean people, and congratulates Sierra Leone on the stable and smooth general election.

He said President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to President Bio on his reelection.

Ambassador Wang Qing cited President Xi that China and Sierra Leone enjoy a

long history of friendship, adding that in recent years, the two countries have continuously enhanced political mutual trust, achieved fruitful results in practical cooperation and coordinated closely in international affairs.

He said President Xi also said he stands ready to working with President Bio to support each other and work in solidarity and coordination to promote the continuous development of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Sierra Leone to better benefit their people.

"This congratulatory message provides fundamental impetus and scientific guidance for the continuous improvement of bilateral relations in the new era. Under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state and the joint efforts of both sides, our friendly relations have been increasingly consolidated and practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results," he said.

Ambassador Wang Qing said President Xi promised that entering the new era,

China will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various fields, provide assistance within its capacity for the economic and social development of Sierra Leone, and promote a better future for China-Sierra Leone relations.

The Chinese Ambassador also spoke about the Chinese economy with continuing development. He said during the first half of this year, China's economy showed sound momentum of recovery with the GDP up by 5.5 percent year-on-year, one percentage point higher than that of the first quarter.

He disclosed that several international organizations and institutions such as the UN, the World Bank and the IMF have recently raised their forecast for China's growth with some of them even revising the forecast more than once to show their confidence in China's economic prospect.

The Chinese Ambassador mentioned the much-anticipated China-U.S. relations as one of the most important bilateral relations in the world and has attracted the attention of the whole world, including friends from Sierra Leone.

Ambassador Wang Qing said in two days, China and Sierra Leone will celebrate the



52nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"We became acquainted because of the similar circumstances of pursuing national independence. Today, we are going forward together in the same expectation of realizing the prosperity of the country," he said.

He said President Xi Jinping pointed out that the friendship between the two countries lies in the friendship between the people, adding that people should move around more, communicate more, and enhance understanding.

During the session, Sierra Leoneans who have gone to China shared their beautiful experiences with the audience.

Chaos at Abacha Street

From Cover

Mohamed Kargbo, who is also a trader, explained that initially they were told to trade behind the pedestrian guards which they did and added that after they went behind the guards to sell their products, they were also targeted by shop owners, who claimed that they were blocking the entrances to their shops.

In an interview with Concord Times, ACP Dr. Senesie, Regional Commander Freetown East, explained that they came to work yesterday morning and discovered that traders at Abacha Street barricaded the entire street,



preventing vehicles from plying the road.

He said the irate traders were pelting stones at his personnel and vehicles and that the police then immediately responded to the threat and fired teargas canisters to disperse the protesters.

3 sentenced for cannabis sativa

By Mohamed J. Kargbo

21-year-old Santigie Kamara, Lamin Kamara and Abu Bakarr Koroma made their first appearance before Magistrate Peter Brima Gogra of Pademba Road Court No.6 in Freetown.

The accused persons were standing trial on a count of being found at a place used for smoking cannabis sativa contrary to Section 49 (1) of the Pharmacy and Drugs Act of 2001.

According to the particulars of offence, on Thursday 20th July 2023, at Hill Station, the Mountain Rural District the Western Area in Freetown, were found at a place used for smoking cannabis sativa.

All three accused persons pleaded guilty to the allegation.

The prosecutor, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Marie Sesay, told the court that there are no available records against the accused

LOCAL NEWS APPA says elections were free, fair, transparency, credible

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

Former Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Cocker, who doubles as the Chairman of the All Political Parties Association (APPA) has stated that the June 24 general elections were free, fair, transparency and credibly conducted.

He said as opposition political parties they are satisfied and accepted the result.

He was speaking at the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone office in Freetown where he led members of other opposition political parties to commend the Chairman, Mohamed K. Konneh.

He said many including him participated in the June 24 general elections and that even though they didn't win, but that they were satisfied with the outcome of the election.

He said during the process, members

of every political party were present at the Political Party Regulation Commission (PPRC), and that most of them agreed to the terms and conditions.

He called on other political parties to accept the result and join the winner of the election to work for the development of the country.

"This is one of the most free, fair and credible elections ever conducted in this country and everything went on peacefully. The staff of the Commission were very professional even though some people wanted to disturb, but they handled it professionally," he said.

Chairman of EC-SL, Mohamed K. Konneh said every sierra Leonean yearning the best for the country hence participated in the elections, noting in an election there will always be just one winner.

He said those who didn't win should embrace the winner and make their



A cross section of APPA members

contribution to national development.

He said they expected that, not anybody will be happy with the outcome of the elections and that they

didn't go outside the laws in conducting the election, but followed the election law that guides them about how election should be conducted.

We are committed to reducing maternal mortality by 2025

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

-Minister of MoHs



Minister of Health and Sanitation Dr. Austin H. Demby, and Dr. Kabba

The Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin H. Demby, has informed health development partners that they are committed to achieving the reduction of maternal mortality to less than 300 by 2025.

The minister made the statement during a meeting with health development partners on Thursday 27th July, 2023, at the ministry's conference room, Youyi Building in Freetown.

Dr. Demby said as a national leader in maternal safety, he is committed to help understand and address the complex interplay of clinical and nonclinical factors that contribute to the health of mothers and babies.

He assured the health development

partners that they are committed in reducing maternal mortality, adding that what they need is a proper data system to see how far they have achieved and what they need to do more.

"The MoHs has a vision and strong ambition to institutionalise life-saving approach in the public health system with a broader aim of preventing disease and reducing disease burden on individuals, household, community, and the health system by addressing services delivery at all stages of life," he said.

He thanked all the health development partners for their tremendous effort in supporting the MoHs during his first term in office and assured them that with the

support and confident they have in him he will continue to deliver.

He continued that they were trying to hold another National Health Summit as a way to strengthening the health sector to ensure no one is left behind.

He added that they were also trying to launch a fellowship program and that they will take twenty fellows that will come to the ministry and understudy the process and procedure of the ministry for a period

of two years.

He urged the health development partners to help the ministry to achieve the process, noting that they have already developed a concept note which they will send to them.

The health development partner in Sierra Leone have given their commitment to the Minister that they will continue to support the ministry in all the project and ensure that the health system in Sierra Leone is improved.

Convict gets 5 years imprisonment for house breaking

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

One John Alie Sankoh was convicted and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment by Justice Suliama Bah for house breaking.

The convict was arraigned before the court on one count charge of house breaking and larceny contrary to Section 25 (1) 2 of the Larceny Act 1916 and Section 13 (a) of the Larceny Act of 1916.

The convict on 29th September, 2020, in Freetown, entered into the house of the complainant and stole therein property and money to the total value of two Million three hundred and fifty thousand Leones, property of Samuel Karankey Conteh

Delivering the judgment, Justice Bah said the complainant brother saw the accused at the entrance of the front door about 5am during the night of the incident.

Justice Sesay said the complainant's brother testified in court that, he immediately called his elder brother and informed him about the incident.

He said the witness in the morning hours took his brother where the accused resided and arrested him with some of the items he took from the house.

He said the prosecution has proven their case beyond all reasonable doubt against the accused person.

In her plea of mitigation for and on behalf of the accused, defence counsel, R.S Bangura from the Legal Aid Board, said the accused is a young man with lot of potential.

He pleaded with the presiding judge to temper justice with mercy, adding that the accused must have learnt his lesson while on remand at the Pademba Road Male Correction Centre.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Russia's trade with Africa increased by 35% in the first half of 2023



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a working breakfast with heads of African regional organizations during the second Russia-Africa summit in Saint Petersburg on July 27, - Copyright © africanews MIKHAIL METZEL/AFP

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the trade turnover between Russia and African countries had increased by almost 35% in the first half of 2023 despite international sanctions and the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at a trilateral meeting with the Chairperson of the African Union, President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, Putin said "despite the difficulties related to the coronavirus pandemic and the imposition of illegal sanctions against Russia, it was possible to ensure the growth in the pace of trade and economic ties" with African countries.

Putin added last year, "the volume of mutual trade amounted to about 18 billion dollars."

"In the first half of this year, the trade turnover increased by almost 35%," Putin noted.

"Russia continues to be a reliable supplier of food

to Africa," he added, saying that in 2022, Russian exports of this group of goods had amounted to 4.7 billion dollars."

Some African leaders arrived in Russia for a summit with Putin as he seeks allies amid the military operation in Ukraine, while the Kremlin accused Western powers of "outrageous" efforts to pressure other African heads of state not to attend.

Putin has billed the two-day summit that opens Thursday in St. Petersburg as a major event that would help bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage.

But Azali Assoumani told Putin during the meeting that they were "not going to close our eyes to the issue between Russia and Ukraine, because these are two countries with which we have partnerships, and we can see the negative consequences around the world, specifically in Africa."

What's at stake at the Russia-Africa summit

Many African countries have taken a neutral stance over the conflict in Ukraine, as they seek to strike a delicate balance between relations with Russia and Western allies.

And yet, Russia's decision to invade Ukraine, and most recently to end a grain deal that allowed safe passage of grains from Ukraine has led to higher food and oil prices for many African nations.

The second Russia-Africa Summit which aims at bringing about a "new level of mutually beneficial partnership" between Russia and the African continent comes as Moscow continues to wage war against Ukraine.

Gustavo de Carvalho is a Senior Researcher on Russia-Africa ties in our African Governance and Diplomacy Programme at SAIIA and Aleksandra Matviitchou, Ukrainian lawyer and Nobel Peace

Prize Laureate joined us for more insights

-Angolan kwanza's fall stokes inflation pressure - The Angolan kwanza is one of the worst-performing African currencies this year as low oil prices and an increase in debt payments have made it harder for the central bank to prop it up. Our Angolan correspondent provides a report on the update on the country's economic and financial situation.

- Gabon: the Nkok Special Investment Zone - Meeting in Libreville, 18 countries from across the continent signed the statutes governing the operation of the Association of Administrative Management Bodies of African Economic Zones, with the aim of competing more effectively with other regions of the world in emerging markets. Here are the details of this from our correspondent in Gabon.

9th Francophone Games: A boon for Kinshasa?

The 9th Games of La Francophonie, a meeting place for some 3,000 young athletes and artists from around thirty countries, opens on Friday in Kinshasa, a real challenge for a state deemed chaotic, at war in its eastern part and in the year electoral.

Lately, the government and the organizing committee have multiplied field visits, to silence the detractors and show that the Democratic Republic of Congo would be there.

Awarded in 2019 to the DRC, these games should have taken place in 2021, four years after those of Abidjan. But they were postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, then again in 2022 because nothing was ready.

Because to welcome the athletes, the country, notoriously devoid of infrastructure, had to spend tens of millions of dollars to rehabilitate or build new facilities in Kinshasa, the largest French-speaking city in the world, with more than 15 million inhabitants.

These expenses were added to the war effort

against armed groups and rebellions in the east of the country, in particular against the "M23" which, supported by Rwanda, has occupied large swaths of territory since last year.

And the Congolese State must also ensure the financing of the elections planned for the end of the year, in a tense climate and weighed down by the assassination of an opponent, on July 13 in Kinshasa.

The brand new sports infrastructure is an investment for Congolese youth, justifies the government. The same goes for the buildings on the university campus renovated to house the participants, for the new ambulances that will then go to different health structures or for the equipment provided to official television.

These are the games of "hope and solidarity", repeat the authorities who, rather than the daily difficulties of the Congolese, highlight their hospitality and the joyful sides of life in Kinshasa, "capital of rumba and elegance".

It is about changing the image of the DRC, often

Before Niger, several recent coups in the Sahel

The Sahel region has experienced several coups since August 2020 in countries plagued by jihadist violence, before the current one in Niger. After a day of tension on Wednesday in Niamey, putschist soldiers announced in the evening on national television that they had overthrown the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, in power since 2021. They justified this coup d'état by "the continuous deterioration of the security situation" in Niger.

The president, sequestered in his official residence, and his government, however, said Thursday still represent the legitimate authorities of the country.

The junta, which brings together all the corps of the army, the gendarmerie, and the police, suspended the institutions, closed the land and air borders, and established a curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. (9 p.m. to 4 a.m. GMT).

Mali: two coups in 9 months

On August 18, 2020, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was overthrown after several months of political crisis. On October 5, a transitional government was formed, supposed to return power to civilians within 18 months.

But on May 24, 2021, the military arrested the President and the Prime Minister after the appointment of a new transitional government which displeased them. Colonel Assimi Goita was invested in June as transitional president.

France withdraws its troops from the country in the summer of 2022, where public opinion is increasingly hostile to it. In June 2023, Malians



Supporters of mutinous soldiers demonstrate in Niamey, Niger, on 27 July 2023. - Copyright © africanews Sam Mednick/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved.

approve with 97% of the votes a draft new constitution, promulgated in July.

Its detractors describe it as tailor-made for keeping the junta in power beyond the presidential election scheduled for February 2024, despite its initial commitment to handing over the place to civilians after the elections.

Burkina Faso: two putsches in 8 months

On January 24, 2022, soldiers in uniform announced on public television that they had seized power and ousted President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba is sworn in as president on February 16.

On the evening of September 30, Damiba was in turn removed from his post by the military, in favor of Captain Ibrahim Traoré. Demonstrators attack several symbols of the French presence in the country.

Traoré is invested as transitional president until a presidential election scheduled for July 2024, supposed to allow a return of civilians to power. At the beginning of 2023, he obtains the departure of French troops and approaches Russia and Mali..

Kenya: Opposition holds vigil for victims of police violence

Kenyan opposition leaders on Tuesday held a vigil for victims of police violence that left 30 people dead in the wake of protests against the rising cost of living and the levying of new taxes.

Police have been accused of shooting at protesters using live bullets in areas where the opposition enjoys wide political support.

The ministry said one officer died and more than 300 others were injured in the protests.

Footage of the vigil showed mourners lighting candles, wailing, and a mother crying over the death of her son.

"Why are they being congratulated? They are

killing their own people. The brutality is too much. Where are we heading to as a nation?" said Zamzam Mohammed Chimba, member of parliament in Kenya.

In the last three weeks, demonstrations have spread across Kenya with people calling out President William Ruto's administration over the rising cost of living and newly imposed taxes that have caused a fuel price hike as tax on petroleum products doubled from 8% to 16%.

Human rights groups condemned the police for using excessive force to disperse protesters.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

associated with "war and violence", government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said again on Wednesday during a press conference at the People's Palace, seat of Parliament.

This long-planned event started more than two hours late, a sign, according to comments from participants, that the magic of La Francophonie has not yet worked on certain Congolese habits.

-Security-

A few weeks ago, preparations seemed very late and doubts remained about the holding of the games.

In June, several countries decided to reduce their participation or gave up altogether, like Quebec, which cited security and health reasons for not sending athletes or artists to Kinshasa. The Wallonia-Brussels Federation sends artists but not sportsmen and France will not be in the running in athletics or cycling.

"Our first concern was to think about the safety of the participants," insisted the director of the national games committee, Isidore Kwandja, on Wednesday.

Some 4,500 police officers will be deployed in the city, a private company is responsible for the security of the playgrounds and the Republican Guard is called in as reinforcements.

In view of the execrable relations between the DRC and Rwanda, the presence on Friday evening at the opening ceremony of the Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), the former Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Louise Mushikiwabo, is debated.

On Monday, the government had announced her presence, but her spokesperson said the next day that she would not come because she had not been invited, which the OIF administrator repeated on Wednesday. , Caroline St-Hilaire, who replaces her in Kinshasa.

"The Secretary General deemed it appropriate not to shed light on her presence at the opening of the games," added Ms. St-Hilaire.

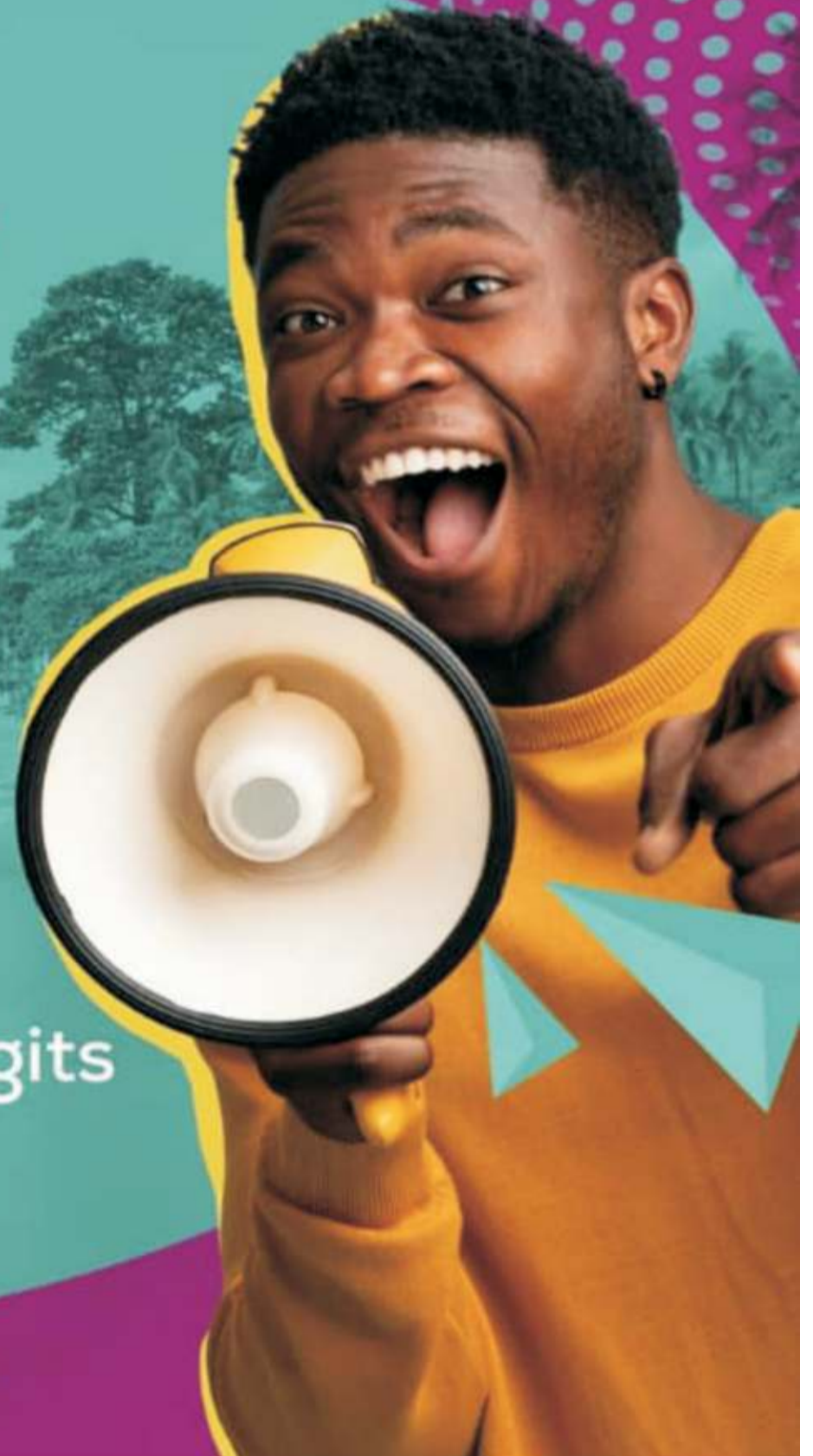
Until August 6, the Games of La Francophonie, in which young people aged 18 to 35 participate, will give rise to nine sports competitions and 11 cultural competitions.

The sports are men's football (under 20), women's basketball (18-25), athletics and para-athletics, road cycling, free and African wrestling, judo and table tennis. The cultural program includes painting, sculpture and photography, song, dance, digital creation, literature, storytelling, ball juggling, giant puppets and hip hop.



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Technical Partner for Growth Accelerator Programme to support women-led cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Sierra Leone

Deadline: 4th August 2023



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sierra Leone initiated a Growth Accelerator Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in 2022. The Growth Accelerator aims to support the growth of innovative, viable, and ambitious MSMEs with transformative economic impact through improved access to finance with a specific focus on women and youth-led enterprises in Sierra Leone. During the first year of implementation, a number of informal and formal MSMEs were supported through access to investments from UNDP in form of grants to grow their enterprises, provision of technical assistance, business mentorship and coaching.

The second cohort for 2023 will support growth of innovative, viable, and ambitious women-led cooperatives and MSMEs. In this regard, UNDP seeks services of a technical partner to support in the management of the Growth Accelerator Programme focusing on women-led cooperatives and MSMEs in Sierra Leone. The deadline for submitting bids is 4th August 2023 at 11:00 PM Sierra Leone time.

This specific tender is managed via the new supplier portal system of UNDP Quantum. Interested organizations (Firms, CSO/NGO/Academia/Foundation) should submit their bids following instructions on the UNDP procurement website (https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=8822).

Bids must be submitted directly in the system following this link: <http://supplier.quantum.partneragencies.org> using the profile you may have in the portal. In case you have never registered before, you can register a profile using the registration link shared via the procurement notice and following the instructions in guides available in UNDP website: <https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/resources-for-bidders>. Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not remember the password or the username from previous registration.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

**Request for Expression of Interest (REIO)
Terms of Reference (TOR) for Individual Expert to Develop Standard
Operating Procedures (SOP) on Temporary Relocation of Students
during Renovation of Existing Classrooms**

**UNDER THE SIERRA LEONE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT
(Individual Consultant Selection)**

Country: Republic of Sierra Leone

Name of Project: Sierra Leone Free Education Project (SLFEP)

Grant Number: P16789

Assignment Title: HIRING OF A CONSULTANCY FIRM TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GENDER AUDITING AND EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF THE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Reference No. SL-MBSSE-364662-CS-INDV

Date of Issuance: July 28th 2023

1.0 Source of Funds

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a grant from a Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for the implementation of the Sierra Leone Free Education Project (FREE). The Free Education Project is worth US\$72.82 million (US\$50 million from IDA (World Bank) and US\$15.97 from Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTF) supported by DFID, now FCDO, EU and Irish Aid), and (US\$6.85M) towards Covid-19 Response from the Global Partnership for Education-GPE). The project has been well aligned with the main objectives and focus of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2019-2023, as well as the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2018–2020, which also reflects the Government's and Development Partners' (DPs) priorities and strategies. These documents are geared towards addressing education sector challenges and transforming the education system over the long term. Specifically, the project was designed in close collaboration with the Government and its Development Partners, especially to support the Government's flagship Free Quality School Education (FQSE) Program—with the aim of ensuring that free quality education is provided to all school age children from pre-primary to secondary school.

This project is implemented by the Ministry of Basic Education and Senior Education (MBSSE) and coordinated by the Free Education Project Secretariat (FEPS). The project became effective in August 2020 and will continue to be implemented for a period of five years across all sixteen districts in Sierra Leone. The Project's Development Objectives are to improve the management of the education system, teaching practices and learning conditions with six major components:

- I. Policy, Governance, Accountability and Systems Administrations
- II. Teacher Management and Professional Development
- III. School Level Development
- IV. Project Management and Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation
- V. Contingency Emergency Response
- VI. COVID-19 Response.

About the Free Education Project Secretariat (FEPS)

The FEPS is tasked with coordinating all relevant institutions to implement the Free Education project and serves as liaison between the donors (MDTF) and the implementation agencies. It ensures that donors' regulations and policies are followed and stakeholders' expectations are met. It also serves as a major source of information and communication between the MBSSE, the Government and the public.

The overall environmental and social risk rating of FREE is classified as moderately satisfactory. This risk rating takes into consideration the tendency for the project to conduct an independent environmental, social and gender evaluation and monitoring of the project activities. In this regard, the Free Education Project Secretariat intends to engage an independent consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and monitoring of the project's environmental, Social and gender activities.

Background / Introduction

The Free Education Project renovating existing classrooms to improve the learning environment and infrastructure. During the renovation process, it is necessary to temporarily relocate students to alternative spaces to ensure their safety and continuity of education. To ensure a smooth and organized relocation process, the organization requires the expertise of an individual expert to develop comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the temporary relocation of students.

Objective of the assignment

The main objective of this assignment is to develop a detailed SOP for the temporary relocation of students during the renovation of existing classrooms. The SOP should provide clear guidelines and procedures to ensure the safety, well-being, and uninterrupted education of the students during the relocation process. The expert will work closely with the project team and relevant stakeholders to develop a tailored SOP that meets the specific needs and requirements of the organization.

Scope of Work

The individual expert will be responsible for the following tasks:

- a. Conduct a needs assessment and analysis of the existing classrooms and infrastructure to understand the renovation requirements and potential challenges associated with the temporary relocation of students.
- b. Review relevant policies, guidelines, and best practices related to temporary relocation of students during construction or renovation projects in the education sector.
- c. Consult and collaborate with key stakeholders, including school administrators, teachers, parents, and students, to gather input, insights, and concerns regarding the temporary relocation

process

Time:

Qualification and requirements of the expert.

Education: The individual should have a master's degree in education, project management, social safeguards or a related field.

Experience: The individual should have experience in managing projects related to education infrastructure and construction, particularly with respect to temporary relocation of students during renovation activities. Experience in developing SOPs, policies, or guidelines related to education infrastructure is preferred.

Technical knowledge: The individual should have technical knowledge and expertise in the construction and renovation of educational facilities, including familiarity with building codes, regulations, and standards. They should have an understanding of the specific challenges related to temporary relocation of students during renovation activities and the associated risks and mitigation measures.

Communication skills: The individual should have excellent communication skills, including the ability to communicate technical information to non-technical audiences. They should be able to effectively collaborate with stakeholders, including school administrators, teachers, parents, and construction teams.

Analytical and problem-solving skills: The individual should possess strong analytical and problem-solving skills, including the ability to analyze complex situations, identify key issues, and develop effective solutions. They should be able to develop and implement appropriate risk management strategies.

Attention to detail: The individual should have strong attention to detail to ensure that the SOP accurately reflects the specific needs and circumstances of the school and students.

Time management: The individual should be able to manage their time effectively to ensure that the SOP is completed within the required timeframe and in accordance with the agreed-upon scope and objectives.

The Government of Sierra Leone, through MBSSE, now invites eligible ("Consultant") to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

2.0 Brief Description of the Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to engage a consultant to conduct a water quality and pumping test for a school WASH project. The consultant will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive study of the water quality and quantity at the school site and providing recommendations for the implementation of the WASH project.

3.0 Deliverables

The following deliverables will be expected from the consultant:

The inception report and revised work plan
Draft Standards Operation Procedure (SOP)
Final Draft Standards Operation Procedure (SOP)
Training of contractor and teachers

Note: All of the above-mentioned deliverables must be informed by relevant stakeholders' contribution through accepted methods of strategic plan development.

5.0 Duration of Assignment

The consultant will complete the project within six weeks from the date of signing the contract.

6.0 Selection Criteria

The consultant will be selected in accordance with World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers November 2020, for procurement of goods, works, non-consultancy services and consultancy services as stated below in the procurement regulations.

7.0 Further information

Further details should be obtained from the Environmental Specialist, FREE Education Project-Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School, 126 Regent Road, SS Camp, Regent, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Submission Procedure and date

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education now invites consultants to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above services.

The envelope must be clearly marked "EOI Terms of Reference (TOR) for Individual Expert to Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Temporary Relocation of Students during Renovation of Existing Classrooms"

This REOI will lead to the preparation of a short list of consultants

Expressions of Interest may take any format to represent the consultant qualifications and experience.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or e-mail, by August 25th, 2023 on or before 16:00hrs (Sierra Leone Time).

Interested candidates should send their applications accompanied by their curriculum vitae and copies of diplomas and certificates to:

The Project Coordinator
Sierra Leone Free Education Project Secretariat
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
126 SS Camp, Regent Road, Regent, Freetown
Sierra Leone.

Application packages can also be forwarded by email to:

Email: menakallon@yahoo.com

Deadline: August 25th, 2023

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

**Request for Expression of Interest (REIO)
HIRING OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT
HYDROLOGICAL STUDY AND COLLECT WATER QUALITY DATA
FROM ALL FREE EDUCATION WASH PROJECT' FACILITIES
UNDER THE SIERRA LEONE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT
(Consultant Selection)**

Country: Republic of Sierra Leone

Name of Project: Sierra Leone Free Education Project (SLFEP)

Grant Number: P16789

**Assignment Title: HIRING OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT
HYDROLOGICAL STUDY AND COLLECT WATER QUALITY DATA FROM ALL
FREE EDUCATION WASH PROJECT' FACILITIES**

Reference No. SL-MBSSE-364654-CS-QBS

Date of Issuance: July 21st 2023

1.0 Source of Funds

The Government of Sierra Leone proposed a project to support the development of the education sector in the country. The project is designed to support the Government's flagship Free Quality School Education (FQSE) Program – with the aim of ensuring that free quality education can be provided to all children in the short- and longer-term. Funding for the project is provided through a US\$66 million grant consisting of US\$50 million from the International Development Agency (IDA) – World Bank, and a total of US\$16 million from UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), Irish Aid, and European Union (EU) operated as a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). The project is to be executed through the Investment Project Financing (IPF) instrument.

Background / Introduction

The Free Education Project is a flagship initiative of the Government of Sierra Leone. The project involves the construction of schools and renovation and WASH infrastructure across the country. The school WASH project aims to provide access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities for the students, teachers, and staff at the school. The project involves the construction of hand dug wells and boreholes and the construction of sanitation facilities. Before the project implementation, there is a need to conduct a water quality and pumping test to determine the quantity and quality of the water at the site and the suitability of the borehole for the project.

The consultant will work closely with the school administration and other stakeholders to conduct a water quality and pumping test for the school WASH project. The consultant will deliver a water quality test report, a pumping test report, a site assessment report, and a comprehensive report on the water quality and pumping test. The reports will include recommendations for the implementation of the WASH project, ensuring access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities for the school community.

Scope of Work

Water Quality and Pumping Test for School WASH Project

The consultant will undertake the following:

- Water quality test: The consultant will collect water samples from the borehole and test them for various parameters, including pH, total dissolved solids, hardness, iron, and coliform bacteria. The consultant will also test the water quality of the storage tank and the tap water.
- Pumping test: The consultant will conduct a pumping test to determine the yield and sustainability of the borehole. The pumping test will involve pumping water from the hand dug well or borehole for a specified period and measuring the water level and discharge rate.
- Site assessment: The consultant will conduct a site assessment to determine the suitability of the borehole and the location of the water storage tank and sanitation facilities. The assessment will include analyzing the geological and hydrogeological conditions of the site.
- Report writing: The consultant will prepare a comprehensive report on the water quality and pumping test. The report will include an analysis of the data collected, an assessment of the borehole's yield and sustainability, and recommendations for the implementation of the WASH project.

The Government of Sierra Leone, through MBSSE, now invites eligible ("Consultant") to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

2.0 Brief Description of the Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to engage a consultant to conduct a water quality and pumping test for a school WASH project. The consultant will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive study of the water quality and quantity at the school site and providing recommendations for the implementation of the WASH project.

3.0 Deliverables

The consultant will deliver the following:

- A water quality test report, including an analysis of the water quality data collected from the borehole, storage tank, and tap water.
- A pumping test report, including an analysis of the borehole yield and sustainability.
- A site assessment report, including an assessment of the suitability of the borehole and the location of the water storage tank and sanitation facilities.
- A comprehensive report on the water quality and pumping test, including recommendations for the implementation of the WASH project.

Note: All of the above-mentioned deliverables must be informed by relevant stakeholders' contribution through accepted methods of strategic plan development.

4.0 Qualification and Experience of the Consultant.

Academic Qualification

Hydrological Knowledge: Gain a comprehensive understanding of hydrological processes, including surface water and groundwater systems, water cycle, precipitation analysis, streamflow measurement, and water quality assessment.

Water Quality Assessment: Acquire knowledge and skills in water quality assessment, including sampling techniques, analysis of physical, chemical, and biological parameters, and understanding the relevant water quality standards and regulations. This includes knowledge of common water quality testing methods and laboratory procedures.

Fieldwork Experience: Gain practical experience in conducting fieldwork related to hydrology and water resource management. This includes experience in taking water samples from different water sources such as, groundwater wells, familiarize with the proper protocols for collecting representative water samples, maintaining sample integrity, and adhering to health and safety guidelines.

Data Collection and Analysis: Develop skills in collecting and analyzing hydrological and water quality data. This includes proficiency in using instruments and equipment for measuring, water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and other relevant parameters.

Regulatory Knowledge: familiar the World Bank regulations and guidelines related to water quality monitoring and sampling in and the National Water agency protocols

The consultant must have at least a Master's Science (water quality and monitoring, hydrology or related discipline. Environmental study is an added advantage.

Experience: Five years in Water studies

5.0 Duration of Assignment

The consultant will complete the project within one month from the date of signing the contract.

6.0 Selection Criteria

The consultant will be selected in accordance with World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers November 2020, for procurement of goods, works, non-consultancy services and consultancy services as stated below in the procurement regulations.

7.0 Further information

Further details should be obtained from the Environmental Specialist, FREE Education Project-Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School, 126 Regent Road, SS Camp, Regent, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

8.0 Submission Procedure and date

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education now invites consultants to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above services.

The envelope must be clearly marked **"EOI HIRING OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT HYDROLOGICAL STUDY AND COLLECT WATER QUALITY DATA FROM ALL FREE EDUCATION WASH PROJECT' FACILITIES"**

This REOI will lead to the preparation of a short list of consultants

Expressions of Interest may take any format to represent the consultant qualifications and experience.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or e-mail, by **August 18th, 2023** on or before 16:00hrs (Sierra Leone Time).

Interested candidates should send their applications accompanied by their curriculum vitae and copies of diplomas and certificates to:

**The Project Coordinator
Sierra Leone Free Education Project Secretariat
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
126 SS Camp, Regent Road, Regent, Freetown
Sierra Leone.**

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GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

Request for Expression of Interest (REIO)
HIRING OF A CONSULTANCY FIRM TO CONDUCT
INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GENDER
AUDITING AND EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF THE
FREE EDUCATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES

UNDER THE SIERRA LEONE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT
(FIRM Selection)

Country: Republic of Sierra Leone
Name of Project: Sierra Leone Free Education Project (SLFEP)
Grant Number: P16789

Assignment Title: HIRING OF A CONSULTANCY FIRM TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GENDER AUDITING AND EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF THE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES
Reference No. SL-MBSSE-364661-CS-QBS
Date of Issuance: July 28th 2023

1.0 Source of Funds

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a grant from a Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for the implementation of the Sierra Leone Free Education Project (FREE). The Free Education Project is worth US\$72.82 million (US\$50 million from IDA (World Bank) and US\$15.97 from Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTF) supported by DFID, now FCDO, EU and Irish Aid), and (US\$6.85M) towards Covid-19 Response from the Global Partnership for Education-GPE). The project has been well aligned with the main objectives and focus of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2019-2023, as well as the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2018-2020, which also reflects the Government's and Development Partners' (DPs) priorities and strategies. These documents are geared towards addressing education sector challenges and transforming the education system over the long term. Specifically, the project was designed in close collaboration with the Government and its Development Partners, especially to support the Government's flagship Free Quality School Education (FQSE) Program—with the aim of ensuring that free quality education is provided to all school age children from pre-primary to secondary school.

This project is implemented by the Ministry of Basic Education and Senior Education (MBSSE) and coordinated by the Free Education Project Secretariat (FEPS). The project became effective in August 2020 and will continue to be implemented for a period of five years across all sixteen districts in Sierra Leone. The Project's Development Objectives are to improve the management of the education system, teaching practices and learning conditions with six major components:

- I. Policy, Governance, Accountability and Systems Administrations
- II. Teacher Management and Professional Development
- III. School Level Development
- IV. Project Management and Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation
- V. Contingency Emergency Response
- VI. COVID-19 Response.

About the Free Education Project Secretariat (FEPS)

The FEPS is tasked with coordinating all relevant institutions to implement the Free Education project and serves as liaison between the donors (MDTF) and the implementation agencies. It ensures that donors' regulations and policies are followed and stakeholders' expectations are met. It also serves as a major source of information and communication between the MBSSE, the Government and the public.

The overall environmental and social risk rating of FREE is classified as moderately satisfactory. This risk rating takes into consideration the tendency for the project to conduct an independent environmental, social and gender evaluation and monitoring of the project activities. In this regard, the Free Education Project Secretariat intends to engage an independent consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and monitoring of the project's environmental, social and gender activities.

Background / Introduction

A consultancy firm is required to conduct an environmental and social evaluation and monitoring for the Free Education project school construction and renovation in certain communities in Sierra Leone. The school construction and renovation project is aimed at building modern school structures and improve others that will provide conducive learning environments for students in various communities in Sierra Leone. The project will cover various aspects such as the construction of new schools, renovation of existing schools, provision of furniture, and construction of toilets, among others.

Objective of the assignment

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) through the Free Education Project Secretariat requires the services of an independent consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and monitoring of the project's environmental, social and gender activities for the Project Implementation team to ensure the project maintains compliance with the World Bank's safeguards policies and relevant Government of Sierra Leone policies and laws.

Scope of Work

The consultancy firm will be required to conduct an environmental and social evaluation and monitoring of the ongoing school construction project in the country. The evaluation and monitoring will cover the following areas:

Environmental Evaluation:

Conduct regular environmental assessments to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of the project on the air, water, and soil quality, biodiversity, and other related areas.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the environmental management plan (EMP) implemented by the project team.

Identify and assess the potential risks associated with the project, including the risks of pollution, soil erosion, and water contamination and climate change.

Propose measures to mitigate any potential risks and enhance the positive environmental impacts of the project.

Provide training to the project team on the importance of environmental sustainability and the need to comply with relevant laws and regulations.

Social Evaluation:

Conduct regular social assessments to identify and assess the potential social impacts of the project on the local communities, including their livelihoods, health, and well-being.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the Grievance Redress mechanism (GRM) implemented by the project team.

Identify and assess the potential risks associated with the project, including the risks of displacement, social conflict, and marginalization.

Propose measures to mitigate any potential risks and enhance the positive social impacts of the project.

Provide training to the project team on the importance of social sustainability and the need to comply with relevant laws and regulations.

The consultancy firm will be required to conduct a gender evaluation of the ongoing school construction project in Sierra Leone. The evaluation will cover the following areas:

Gender Analysis:

Conduct a gender analysis to identify and assess the potential gender-related issues associated with the project.

Assess the current gender dynamics and the status of gender equality in the project area.

Identify any potential barriers to gender equality, including social norms, cultural practices, and other related factors.

Propose measures to promote gender equality in all aspects of the project.

Participation and Empowerment:

Evaluate the level of participation and empowerment of women in the project activities, including decision-making processes and access to project resources.

Identify any potential barriers to women's participation and empowerment and propose measures to promote their involvement in all aspects of the project.

Access to Services:

Assess the access of women and girls to project services, including school infrastructure, sanitation facilities, and other related services.

Identify any potential barriers to their access and propose measures to enhance their access to project services.

Capacity Building:

Identify the capacity-building needs of women and girls in the project area, including their access to education and training opportunities.

Propose measures to enhance their capacity and empower them to participate in the project activities and decision-making processes.

Monitoring and Reporting:

Develop a monitoring and reporting plan to ensure that the project's environmental, social and gender performance is regularly evaluated and reported.

Conduct regular site visits to monitor the project's compliance with environmental, social gender standards and regulations.

Provide regular progress reports to the project team and the project manager, detailing the project's environmental, social and performance, potential risks, and proposed measures to mitigate them.

Prepare a final report summarizing the findings of the environmental, social and evaluation and monitoring, including recommendations for improvement.

Provide regular progress reports to the project team and the project coordinator, detailing the project's gender-sensitive performance, potential gender-related issues, and proposed measures to mitigate them.

The Government of Sierra Leone, through MBSSE, now invites eligible ("Consultant") to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

2.0 Brief Description of the Assignment

The purpose of this consultancy is to engage a consultant to conduct a water quality and pumping test for a school WASH project. The consultant will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive study of the water quality and quantity at the school site and providing recommendations for the implementation of the WASH project.

3.0 Deliverables

The following deliverables will be expected from the consultancy firm:

A comprehensive report detailing the findings of the environmental, social and gender performance of the project

A comprehensive report detailing the findings of the environmental, social and gender evaluation and monitoring, including the potential impacts of the project and proposed measures to mitigate them.

A monitoring and reporting plan outlining the measures to be taken to ensure that the project's environmental, social and gender performance is regularly evaluated and reported.

Regular progress reports detailing the project's environmental, social and gender performance, potential risks, and proposed measures to mitigate them.

A final report summarizing the findings of the environmental, social and evaluation and monitoring, including recommendations for improvement.

Note: All of the above-mentioned deliverables must be informed by relevant stakeholders' contribution through accepted methods of strategic plan development.

4.0 Qualification and Experience of the Consultant.

Academic Qualification

Team qualification and requirements. The should have the following key staff, team lead (environmental specialist, Gender specialist and social safeguards specialist)

Environmental and Social Evaluator Team lead

To qualify as an Environmental Team Lead for conducting E&S (Environmental and Social) auditing for school construction and renovation, should possess a combination of education, experience, and relevant skills. Key requirements

Five years' specific experience in Environmental and social safeguarding.

Education: A bachelor's or master's degree in environmental science, environmental engineering, sustainability, or a related field would be advantageous. The degree should cover topics such as environmental impact assessment, environmental management systems, environmental regulations, and sustainable development.

Experience: Prior experience in conducting environmental audits, preferably in the construction or infrastructure sector, is highly valuable. Experience in the education sector or with school construction and renovation projects would be an added advantage. The individual should have a strong understanding of environmental issues related to construction activities, waste management, energy efficiency, water conservation, and indoor air quality.

Knowledge of Regulations: must be familiar with national environmental regulations, policies, and standards is crucial. This includes understanding the EPA and world bank E&S standards related to construction activities, waste management, air and water quality, hazardous materials, and energy efficiency.

E&S Auditing Skills: The Environmental Team Lead should have expertise in conducting environmental and social audits. This involves assessing the environmental impact of construction and renovation activities, identifying potential risks and impacts, evaluating compliance with regulations and industry standards, and recommending mitigation measures to minimize negative environmental and social effects.

Project Management: require strong project management skills for overseeing the evaluation process. The Environmental Team Lead should be capable of coordinating with various stakeholders, managing timelines, and ensuring that the audit is conducted efficiently and effectively.

Communication and Reporting: Excellent written and verbal communication skills are necessary for preparing audit reports, documenting findings, and presenting recommendations to project stakeholders. The ability to explain complex environmental concepts in a clear and concise manner is crucial.

Sustainability Knowledge: A comprehensive understanding of sustainable practices, green building principles, and environmentally friendly technologies is beneficial. This includes knowledge of energy-efficient design, renewable energy systems, water conservation strategies, waste reduction methods, and green materials.

A Gender Specialist

Minimum five years' experience in mainstreaming gender into project activities

Education: A bachelor's or master's degree in gender studies, women's studies, social sciences, international development, or a related field would be advantageous. The degree should cover topics such as gender and development, gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, and social justice.

Gender Expertise: Strong expertise in gender issues, gender mainstreaming, and gender-responsive approaches is crucial. The Gender Specialist should have a deep understanding of the social, cultural, and economic factors that influence gender dynamics and inequalities in the context of education and construction projects.

Experience: Prior experience working as a Gender Specialist or in a related role is important. Experience in conducting gender evaluations or gender impact assessments in construction projects, preferably in the education sector, would be highly valuable. Familiarity with gender-sensitive indicators, tools, and methodologies is essential.

Knowledge of Gender Policies and Standards: Familiarity with international and national gender policies, guidelines, and standards is necessary. This includes understanding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to gender equality, relevant international conventions, and local regulations concerning gender equality and women's empowerment.

Gender Analysis Skills: The Gender Specialist should possess strong analytical skills to assess the gender implications of school construction activities. This involves conducting gender analysis to identify potential gender biases, inequalities, and social impacts in the project. The specialist should also be able to propose strategies and measures to promote gender equality and inclusiveness in construction processes.

Stakeholder Engagement: The Gender Specialist should be skilled in engaging with diverse stakeholders, including local communities, school administrators, construction teams, and policymakers. Building effective relationships and facilitating gender-sensitive consultations and discussions is crucial for understanding the needs and perspectives of different groups.

Communication and Reporting: Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, are necessary for preparing reports, documenting findings, and presenting recommendations. The Gender Specialist should be able to effectively communicate complex gender concepts and issues to different audiences, including non-experts.

Cultural Sensitivity: Sensitivity to cultural contexts, diversity, and local norms is essential for a Gender Specialist. Understanding the intersectionality of gender with other social identities such as age, ethnicity, religion, and disability is important in assessing the specific challenges faced by different groups.

Continuous Learning: Keeping up-to-date with the latest research, best practices, and emerging trends in gender equality and women's empowerment is important for a Gender Specialist. Participating in relevant training programs and conferences can contribute to ongoing professional development.

Social safeguards specialist qualification

The social safeguards specialist would typically need a combination of education, skills, and experience in the field of social safeguards, environmental management, and construction practices. Key requirements

Five years specific experience in social safeguards works.

Education: A bachelor's or master's degree in fields such as social sciences, environmental management, sustainable development, or a related discipline would be beneficial.

Knowledge of social safeguards: Gain a comprehensive understanding of social safeguards and their application in construction and renovation activities. This includes understanding the relevant national and international regulations, standards, and guidelines related to social impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, labor rights, health and safety, community development, and indigenous peoples' rights. World Bank experience is required.

Environmental management knowledge: Familiarize f with environmental management practices within the construction industry. This includes understanding environmental impact assessments, waste management, pollution prevention, and sustainable resource management.

Professional experience: Gain practical experience in the construction industry, particularly in projects involving social and environmental considerations.

5.0 Duration of Assignment

The consultancy firm will be required to conduct a yearly environmental, social evaluation and monitoring throughout the duration of the project. However, the duration of the assignment is three months (3)

6.0 Selection Criteria

The consultant will be selected in accordance with World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers November 2020, for procurement of goods, works, non-consultancy services and consultancy services as stated below in the procurement regulations.

7.0 Further Information

Further details should be obtained from the Environmental Specialist, FREE Education Project-Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School, 126 Regent Road, SS Camp, Regent, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Submission Procedure and date

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education now invites consultants to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above services.

The envelope must be clearly marked "EOI HIRING OF A CONSULTANCY FIRM TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GENDER AUDITING AND EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF THE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES"

This REOI will lead to the preparation of a short list of consultants

Expressions of Interest may take any format to represent the consultant qualifications and experience.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or e-mail, by **August 25th, 2023** on or before 16:00hrs (Sierra Leone Time).

Interested candidates should send their applications accompanied by their curriculum vitae and copies of diplomas and certificates to:

The Project Coordinator
Sierra Leone Free Education Project Secretariat
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
126 SS Camp, Regent Road, Regent, Freetown
Sierra Leone.

Application packages can also be forwarded by email to:

Email: menakallon@yahoo.com

Deadline: **August 25th, 2023**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.




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**Government of Sierra Leone
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security**

RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER

Project Location/Duty Station: MOYAMBA TOWN

**Recruitment of Project Manager - Sierra Leone Agribusiness
and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARiS)**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is implementing the Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Development Project (SLARiS). **The development goal of the project is to stimulate a viable upstream agribusiness sector in Sierra Leone in order to promote economic diversification, food security, sustainable employment opportunities, and improved livelihoods. The project primarily focuses on the rice value chain, the staple food in Sierra Leone. It is also supporting the emergence of maize as a secondary value chain which has the strong potential to meet domestic food demands, import substitution, improving nutrition and farmers' income. The SLARiS project, which is executed in the identified high-potential agroecological zones in the country (specifically Kambia, Kenema, and Moyamba), is being implemented over a period of five (5) years (2019 – 2024).**

This objective would be achieved through a) support and promotion of reliable access to quality input markets (seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides) through liberalization, adequate regulation and certification of the sub-sector which in turn is expected to facilitate the entry of new actors and expansion of business opportunities by the existing players; b) creation of an enabling environment for private sector led agribusiness growth upstream in the value chain through support to the emergence and growth of private seed producers and agri-input (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) agrodealers c) empowering young men and women to engage in the agriculture sector d) supporting growth in farmer efficiency, productivity and income through providing improved technologies, climate-smart farming techniques, innovations and good agricultural practices e) increasing reliable output market through strengthening outgrower farming models

For the implementation of this project MAF is recruiting a Project manager for the Project Management Unit.

How to apply:

For all information on how to apply and to view the job description please visit the MAF website: <http://www.maf.gov.sl> under the About Us Page Section and go to the Jobs page

Women are particularly encouraged to apply

Deadline for submission is COB on Friday 4th August 2023



Request for Proposals **LTA for General Premises,** **Building and Electrical** **Maintenance Works**

The United Nations Children's Fund invites tenders for Premises Maintenance, Building and Electrical Works through a Long-Term Agreement for an initial period of 24 months with possible extension for another 12 months.

Please visit the United Nations Global Market (UNGM) Website and download the tender documents.

The Tender Documents can be downloaded at the site below.

GENERAL PREMISES, BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE WORKS
(ungm.org)

There will be a bid conference on Friday 21st July at 10.30 am at the UNICEF Freetown Conference Room.

The deadline for the submission of bids is at 10 am on Thursday 3rd August



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Country: Sierra Leone

Project: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Assignment Title: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ANNUAL OUTCOME SURVEY

Reference No. SLE-2000001544-0008-CS-QCBS

Selection Method: Quality and Cost Based Selection Method

The **Government of Sierra Leone** has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI) towards the cost of **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consultant for the **Consultancy Services for Annual Outcome Survey**

The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**

The overall purpose of this study is to assess the annual achievement of the project in the respective four value chains and cross cutting areas against the project interventions and provide quantitative and qualitative interpretations on specific indicators as reflected in the project M & E matrix (logframe) and provide suggestions to the project to improve project's supports to get the targeted outcomes during the project implementation. More specifically, the study strives to achieve the following objectives:

- To measure the positive and/or negative changes/outcomes taking place on relevant indicators at the household/group/FBOs/agribusiness level;
- To measure the AVDP second and third level results at beneficiaries/local producers and household level;
- To provide timely project performance information so that corrective actions may be taken to implement the project activities, if required;
- To provide early evidence of project success, changes or failure.
- As assess the project's risks/assumptions and proffer recommendations

The **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security ("the client") now invites eligible consulting firms ("consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. Interested firms should fill the template for expressions of interest found at the following link: <https://bit.ly/44yVwW7> or request for the EOI template by sending email to

avdppmu@gmail.com

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Activities and Operations. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The consultant shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest. A consultant with an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest shall be disqualified unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Fund. A consultant including their respective personnel and affiliates are considered to have a conflict of interest if they a) have a relationship that provides them with undue or undisclosed information about or influence over the selection process and the execution of the contract, b) participate in more than one EOI under this procurement action, c) have a business or family relationship with a member of the Purchaser's board of directors or its personnel, the Fund or its personnel, or any other individual that was, has been or might reasonably be directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of this REOI, (ii) the shortlisting or selection process for this procurement, or (iii) execution of the contract. The consultant has an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection Method** set out in IFAD's project procurement handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement.

The shortlisting criteria can be found in the template for expressions of interest the aforementioned weblink.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Any request for clarification on this REOI should be sent via e-mail to avdppmu@gmail.com no later than 4th August, 2023. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by 7th August, 2023

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form using the forms provided for this purpose. EOIs shall be uploaded to the link below no later than **15th August, 2023 at 16:00 GMT**.

Link to upload EOI: <https://bit.ly/3NXwUIR>

PMU



**AHF SIERRA LEONE
6 CARLTON CAREW ROAD,
FREETOWN.**

RE-ADVERTISMENT TENDER NOTICE

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is a global nonprofit organization providing high-quality HIV care and services to those in need. We generate new, innovative ways of treating and addressing barriers to care for our clients through a network of pharmacies, thrift stores, health, and wellness centers.

AHF is requesting tenders from construction enterprises/companies for the construction/rehabilitation of Waterloo and Makeni clinics respectively as follows.

Sn.	Lot no.	Location	Bid Security	Duration of Work
1	1	Waterloo	Nle200,000	4 months
2	2	Makeni	Nle30,000	2 months

The following documents are essential.

1. An updated NASSIT Clearance.
2. An updated Tax clearance.
3. An updated work certificate from Ministry of Works.
4. Local Council certificate.
5. Copy of business registration certificate.
6. Bid security from a recognized commercial bank in Sierra Leone as indicated above.
7. Completion certificate of at least two of similar work performance.

AHF has the right to award contracts to reliable and good contractors and does not award based on lowest bidding.

Bids must be clearly marked and delivered to the address below.

AHF Sierra Leone

6 Carlton Carew Road, Off Wilkinson Road, Freetown

The bidding document can be obtained at our office address above with no cost.

Closing date of receipt of application is Tuesday, 8th August 2023.



The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone (CCM SL) Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) with Procurement Number: GF CCMSL/2023/003 Terms of Reference for National Consultant to support CCM SL Positioning during the period Monday 4th September to Tuesday 31st October 2023

Context The Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Policy outlines that the CCM should be positioned at the highest level responsible for multi-partner and multi-sectoral development planning in a country. The Global Fund encourages all countries to build on their national structures, wherever possible, and to position the CCM and/or CCM functions within existing health platforms to contribute to central coordination of health program, investments and pandemic preparedness. **Scope/Objective** The national consultant will identify existing national health structures, governance mechanisms and platforms responsible for coordinating the health sector and disease-specific issues. For the transition context, this should have an added focus on key national stakeholders that are most appropriate for strengthening transition planning, preparedness, implementation, and overall efforts to strengthen sustainability. The consultant will map each identified platform's position within the national systems and in relation to the CCM. The consultant will also support the CCM in developing a Positioning plan based on three main phases (refer to the Positioning Guidance Note): Knowledge, Coordination, and Sustainable Structure.

The national consultant is expected to perform the following tasks:

Task	Metric
Understand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning	Positioning & Learning module completed, and guidance notes reviewed. Positioning and Operational Guidance notes developed.

For the transition context, understand the transition line and how it fits within Positioning

- Governance documents (e.g. bylaws, governance manuals, etc.) of up to 10 health governance bodies reviewed (CCM included).
- When available, Sustainability and Transition assessment reviewed.

Interview key stakeholders at the national level.

- At least one stakeholder per governance body interviewed, including, if possible, one high-level government official.

Map existing national health structures.

- Organogram/map/diagram showing the positions and relations of up to 10 health governance bodies (CCM included).

Develop a summary report.

- Report drafted (2-4 pages) with thematic tables and analysis on:
 - Mandate
 - Composition
 - Structure
 - Legal Status
 - Anchorage level to the national system.
- Presentation on key results
- Moderated sessions on the following phases of the CCM Positioning Journey: Coordination, Sustainable Structure.

The consultant should bring together stakeholders on coordinating and aligning platforms and include the civil society voice.

Proposal developed on the appropriate positioning of the CCM. It should include:

- Necessary linkages/information exchange channels and alignment with other significant coordinating platforms in country. Long-term vision to embed CCM functions within existing or emerging health platforms, including ensuring strong inclusion of civil society and participating in efforts to strengthen sustainability of Global Fund investments.

Deliverables

Deliverable	Content
Mapping of existing national health platform brief	The map should show the positioning of the CCM and other health structures and their relationships within the national health sector.
Interim summary report	An executive summary of key findings, conclusions, options and next steps (including activities for inclusion in baseline assessment work plan - optional based on country context).

(2-4 pages)	Key findings and conclusions from the mapping exercise.
Power Point Presentation	
Positioning plan	Plan with clear outlined deliverables, steps and timeline.

Reporting Lines The consultant will report to the CCM Management Committee, the Chair CCM Sierra Leone and the Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator CCM Sierra Leone.

The consultant will work in close collaboration with the CCM representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

The consultant has 25 LoE to be used over a period of 2 months i.e., September to October 2023.

Candidate Profile

A. Qualifications Essential:

- Advanced degree in public health, finance, public administration or business administration, or related field.

B. Experience Essential:

- Solid experience in developing partnerships in political environments and in mediating complex issues and deliverables at country, regional and international levels.
- Rich professional experience, including a track record of working in strategy and policy analysis, program planning and management, and/or equivalent experience.
- Solid understanding and experience of strategic, organizational, financial and management issues.
- Solid understanding of the Sierra Leonean context.
- Solid understanding of the Global Fund processes and of its funding model.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Desirable:

- At least 3 years of professional experience (international or national) working in planning and management in the humanitarian sector.
- Experience in public health and disease program management with focus on HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.
- Documented experience of coordination across multiple stakeholders.

C. Competencies

Language: Working level of English as well as knowledge of the local language (particularly the one most widely spoken by key population representatives) are a requirement for this role.

Technical skills:

- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications.
- Robust understanding of governance matters.
- High degree of organization, initiative and political awareness.

Knowledge of public health issues

- Strong interpersonal skills and proven ability to communicate and interact with high-level officials from the government, NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector.
- Strong writing, presentation and communication skills and IT competences are essential.
- Ability to lead a team and set priorities while handling multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Previous development experience and/or background with government or private sector desirable.

Date Posted Wednesday 26th July 2023 6th July 2023

Deadline for receipt of application Friday 11th August, 2023

To Apply: Send a Letter of Intent (LOI), Updated CV with three (03) referees to ccmsecretariat@vabos.com

The recruitment process will abide by CCM SL Conflict of Interest Policy.



The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone (CCM SL) Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) with Procurement Number: GF CCMSL/2023/002 Terms of Reference for National Consultant to support CCM SL Engagement during the period Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September, 2023.

Introduction The national consultant will support with preparations for pre- and post-Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings for key populations, civil society and communities of people living with and/or affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

Background of key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases in CCM, such engagement should continue throughout the grant life cycle to provide valuable input to strengthen the delivery of programs and achievement of targets. Each CCM should establish a mechanism to engage with these constituencies in a way that allows their input and voices to be heard.

To simplify the participation and voice of a CCM's key populations, civil society and people living with and/or affected by the three diseases constituencies, this assignment will enhance their preparation and participation both prior to and following CCM (and relevant CCM Committee) meetings. The planned support will be provided by a national consultant hired independently by the CCM or in consultation with an existing regional civil society network.

Objectives

1. Amplify the participation and voice of representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases in CCM meetings and related decision-making forums (e.g. CCM sub-committees), and more generally in governance and stewardship of CCM activities.
2. Build and strengthen the civil society constituencies to effectively prepare for and participate in CCM meetings.
3. Enhance bi-directional feedback mechanisms between CCM representatives and their constituencies.

Scope of Work

CCM: Understand the principle of Engagement and its relationship to the other Evolutions prescriptors such as Positioning and Oversight.

Understand a desk review:

- Obtain relevant CCM documents, conflict of interest management policies, civil society communication/information of civil society constituencies, calendar of activities.
- For transitional contexts, the relevant documents should also be reviewed, where it exists.

CCM representatives: Conduct a desk review of the CCM representatives to obtain their background and for the purpose of this assignment, but is not limited to, representatives for: People living with and/or affected by the three diseases representatives CCM Secretariat CCM Executive Committee or Leadership.

Support preparation of up to 3 CCM meetings (general CCM meetings, oversight committees, other sub-committees, technical meetings, etc.).

- Receive key individuals from the CCM Secretariat in advance of CCM meetings.
- Prepare for meetings by helping them review and key documents in advance.
- Facilitate consultation process with their constituency to obtain input (e.g. qualitative or quantitative data) and positions on the agenda and any emerging issues requiring high influence and visibility.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing their review and key documents in advance.
- Facilitate consultation process with their constituency to obtain input (e.g. qualitative or quantitative data) and positions on the agenda and any emerging issues requiring high influence and visibility.

At the beginning of the assignment, at least one meeting will be held.

At the end of the assignment, at least one meeting will be held.

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's degree required, with social science, public health, population studies or related field, and orientation highly desirable.

Experiences and competencies

- At least 3 years of experience working with key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society and community groups.
- Ability to engage populations most vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community representatives, encourage participation, keep people's attention and keep the discussion moving.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information.

- Ability to coach/mentor.
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.
- Strong communication and facilitation skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to the role of communities in responses to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria, and the principles of meaningful community engagement.
- Demonstrated expertise and experience of consulting with multi-stakeholder bodies in the areas of civil society organizations engagement, management, capacity development, and/or rights advocacy of populations most vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community groups.
- Working level of English as well as knowledge of the local language (particularly the one most widely spoken by key population representatives).

Optional qualifications, expertise and competencies

- Demonstrated knowledge/experience of the Global Fund grant architecture.
- Demonstrated knowledge/experience of CCM governance related issues.
- Experience in successful provision of technical assistance in the short and medium terms.
- Demonstrated understanding of civil society constituencies' role in the Global Fund.

Date Posted Wednesday 26th July 2023

Deadline for receipt of application Friday 11th August 2023

To Apply: Send a Letter of Intent (LOI), Updated CV with three (03) referees to ccmsecretariat@vabos.com

Preference will be given to consultants who are living with and/or affected by the three diseases, /or key populations themselves/ or working with Key Populations. During the recruitment process, the CCM SL will abide by its Conflict of Interest Policy.

Facilitate debates from CCM

- Virtual meeting, conducted to discuss and identify key issues to be raised at the next CCM meeting.
- Bi-directional communication on the issues raised and decisions made during CCM meetings by the CCM civil society and community members and/or representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society and people living with and/or affected by the three diseases and community with respective constituencies.

Engagement/communication plan, tools and/or templates developed for information-sharing and exchange pre- and post-meeting.

- Develop a summary report with key findings, including communication goals.
- Prepare documents and speaking notes summarizing the position(s) of key populations, civil society, and communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.
- Quarterly reports (prior to CCM meetings) summarizing decisions made at CCM meetings and follow-up actions by representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.
- Evidence of functional and effective bi-directional accountability/feedback communication channels and tools for rapid sharing of data/information by representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases to their constituencies.
- Strong communication skills, recommendations to strengthen bi-directional feedback, outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings.

Deliverables

- CCM to agree on deliverables, which may include the following:
 - Work plan with activities to improve the quality of pre-post meeting preparation.
 - Preparation documents and speaking notes summarizing the position(s) of key populations, civil society, and communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.
 - Quarterly reports (prior to CCM meetings) summarizing decisions made at CCM meetings and follow-up actions by representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.
 - Evidence of functional and effective bi-directional accountability/feedback communication channels and tools for rapid sharing of data/information by representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases to their constituencies.
 - Strong communication skills, recommendations to strengthen bi-directional feedback, outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings.

Reporting Lines The consultant will report to the CCM Management Committee, the Chair CCM Sierra Leone and the Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator CCM Sierra Leone.

Level of effort The consultant will be required to support pre- and post-meeting preparations for at least three (03) CCM (or relevant CCM committee) meetings between Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September 2023 (3 days per week for three (03) hours each day).

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree required, with social science, public health, population studies or related field, and orientation highly desirable.

Experiences and competencies

- At least 3 years of experience working with key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society and community groups.
- Ability to engage populations most vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community representatives, encourage participation, keep people's attention and keep the discussion moving.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information.

- Ability to coach/mentor.
- Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.
- Strong communication and facilitation skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to the role of communities in responses to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria, and the principles of meaningful community engagement.
- Demonstrated expertise and experience of consulting with multi-stakeholder bodies in the areas of civil society organizations engagement, management, capacity development, and/or rights advocacy of populations most vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community groups.
- Working level of English as well as knowledge of the local language (particularly the one most widely spoken by key population representatives).

Optional qualifications, expertise and competencies

- Demonstrated knowledge/experience of the Global Fund grant architecture.
- Demonstrated knowledge/experience of CCM governance related issues.
- Experience in successful provision of technical assistance in the short and medium terms.
- Demonstrated understanding of civil society constituencies' role in the Global Fund.

Date Posted Wednesday 26th July 2023

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To Apply: Send a Letter of Intent (LOI), Updated CV with three (03) referees to ccmsecretariat@vabos.com

Preference will be given to consultants who are living with and/or affected by the three diseases, /or key populations themselves/ or working with Key Populations. During the recruitment process, the CCM SL will abide by its Conflict of Interest Policy.

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Ready, Steady, Bake!

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"The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table."

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Spaghetti Jollof. You can use Padi items to cook it and it will taste delicious, promise!

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Mama Mia!

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Daddy you are my best Padi!

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You Padi the Kitchen

Spread the love!

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You Padi the Kitchen

I followed my heart and it led me to the kitchen.

Padi

Truly Natural & Healthy

Good Morning Padi Premium Black Tea

Finest Ceylon Blend

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

INT'L SPORT

Manchester United 'are edging closer to sealing a deal for Sofyan Amrabat worth £22m plus add-ons'

Manchester United is close to agreeing a deal to sign Fiorentina midfielder Sofyan Amrabat, according to reports.

The Red Devils were keen to sign the Moroccan during the January transfer window but the Serie A side were reluctant to sell him.

United instead opted to sign Marcel Sabitzer on loan from Bayern Munich but their strong interest in Amrabat has remained.

According to Gazzetta, United and Fiorentina are closing to agreeing a £22million deal for the 26-year-old.

The report states Amrabat is keen to join Erik ten Hag's side and the Italian side have accepted he will leave, with plans to replace him underway.

Securing the services of Amrabat would allow United to strengthen their capabilities in central and defensive midfield, and the club have previously registered their interest in a number of alternatives

in the position.

The club's fruitless pursuit of Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong last summer fell through in its final stages, with the player unwilling to leave the Camp Nou just three years after his long-desired move to the Camp Nou.

Amrabat had a sparkling season both for his club and his country, after playing a key role in helping Morocco make historic progress at the World Cup in Qatar.

Their fourth-place finish marked the highest-ever for an African nation, and came on the heels of landmark wins against Belgium, Spain, and Portugal.

Amrabat also helped guide Fiorentina to the Europa Conference League final where they lost to West Ham in Prague last month.

He had Barcelona chasing his signature but their financial



restrictions meant a proposed loan deal never materialised during winter.

United have already strengthened their midfield with the signing of Mason Mount, who joined from Chelsea for £60m.

Goalkeeper Andre Onana has also joined the club last week following the departure of former No 1 David De Gea.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

Kylian Mbappe: Paris Saint-Germain grant forward permission to speak to Al Hilal after world-record bid

Paris Saint-Germain have granted permission for Kylian Mbappe to speak to Al Hilal after the Saudi club's world-record £259m bid.

The French champions have put Mbappe up for sale and left him out of their squad for the pre-season tour of Japan and South Korea, having made it clear they only want to include players who are committed to the club.

Al Hilal's record-breaking offer is not the only one PSG have received. They have been approached with a mix of offers for Mbappe, including cash plus players, but Al Hilal have shown their intention by tabling the world-record bid.

PSG believe at least five clubs are interested in signing Mbappe, with Tottenham among them.

There is said to already be a "hot market" for the France captain, with the interested clubs including Chelsea, Manchester United, Inter Milan and Barcelona.

PSG will listen to any offer and all proposals to sell Mbappe, and if it was left to the French champions they would just sell him to the highest bidder, although other clubs will struggle to come anywhere near Al Hilal's offer.



The forward has one year remaining on his contract and is unwilling to sign a new one, with PSG believing he has already agreed to join Real Madrid for free next summer.

The 24-year-old will not play for PSG again if he does not extend his contract.

However, real may now be tempted to make a formal bid for the player to make sure they do not miss out on him again.

PSG are determined not to lose Mbappe - who reportedly cost more than £150m when he signed from Monaco - for nothing.

Interested clubs have been alerted to the fact that PSG are even willing to loan Mbappe out for the season.

However, Mbappe is willing to dig his heels in, sit on the sidelines next season and leave for Madrid on a free transfer next summer.

The France forward will receive a loyalty bonus of £51.6m if he is still a PSG player on August 1, with his contract stating he is due the bonus in instalments, subject to certain conditions.

PSG insiders are urging Mbappe to speak to Al Hilal, with the Parisians viewing a switch to Saudi Arabia as a win for all parties, especially if the player only moves for just one season. Mbappe would get his PSG loyalty bonus, Al Hilal signing-on fee and massive wages, as well as a "free transfer" move to Madrid next summer, when he would get a £160m signing-on fee, plus more massive wages.

Meanwhile, PSG would get some return on their investment in the player and the Mbappe saga would end, while Madrid would get the player they want next summer as planned on a free transfer.

In addition, Al Hilal and Saudi Arabia would get one of the best players in the world, albeit for just one season.

"It's all well and good the club giving Al Hilal permission to speak to

Kylian Mbappe - but does Mbappe want to speak to Al Hilal? So far there has been no indication Mbappe is interested in moving to Saudi Arabia at this stage of his career.

"A lot of people are saying, 'he only wants to go to Real Madrid, Al Hilal and all these other clubs are wasting their time'. But these Saudis, the sovereign wealth fund and PIF are the same people who have effectively just bought golf. They just bought a whole sport, pretty much.

"They're the same people who offered Tiger Woods \$700m to sign up with the LIV Golf tour. If they can afford to spend \$700m on Tiger Woods, who is past his best and approaching the end of his career, why wouldn't they throw enormous sums at Kylian Mbappe, who a lot of people would say is the best player in the world at the moment?"

"There are some incredible numbers flying around. Some US outlets are reporting that Al Hilal are offering Mbappe something like €700m for one season and saying he can then go and move to Real Madrid. That is not something I've seen. All I know for sure is this offer was made from Al Hilal to PSG on Saturday for €300m."

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news>

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Mogbwemo Queens to face AS Mande of Mali in Women's Champions League Qualifiers



Sierra Leone's female league champions, Mogbwemo Queens, will battle against AS Mande of Mali, AS Dakar Sacre Coeur of Senegal and hosts Determine Girls of Liberia for a place in the final grouping of the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League.

The Queens are placed in a group of four teams and will play a round-robin system with the best team progressing to the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League – now on its third year in a row – to be played in Côte d'Ivoire from 05 to 19 November 2023.

Before the team's departure to Liberia, the President of the Sierra Leone Football Association, Thomas Daddy Brima pledged the sum of Five Thousand United States Dollars (\$5,000) and external transportation to the Queens.

Also part of his dedication, the SLFA President assured the Management and players of the team that they will not be left alone. "We will be providing our technical and professional support to you every step of the way," he said.

President Brima also urged the team to put up their best performance and ensure qualification to the next stage of the tournament, adding: "You are now

ambassadors of our beloved country as you will be competing against other female clubs across Africa, representing not just Mogbwemo Queens as a club but Sierra Leone as a nation."

The WAFU Zone A tournament will feature four teams from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, and Senegal, all vying for a chance to advance to the next stage of the competition.

The opening match of the day will see Liberia's defending champions, Determine Girls, take on As Mande from Mali. The day will conclude with a match between Senegal's As Dakar Sacre Coeur and Sierra Leone's Mogbwemo Queens.

On August 9, 2023, As Mande of Mali will face off against Sierra Leone's Mogbwemo Queens, while As Dakar Sacre Coeur of Senegal will battle it out against Liberia's Determine Girls.

The highly anticipated WAFU Zone A Qualifiers will culminate on August 12, 2023, with a match between Senegal's AS Dakar Sacre Coeur and their French counterpart, As Mande. Hosts Determine Girls will wrap up the competition by taking on the neighbouring team Mogbwemo Queens from Sierra Leone.

Cricket: Sierra Leone suffers second defeat in World Cup qualifier

Sierra Leone Junior Cricket Men's Team, Young Patriot suffered their second defeat in the ongoing ICC Under-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifier losing to Namibia by 83 runs.

The West Africa side on Tuesday suffered a four-wicket defeat to Kenya in the ongoing 50 Overs tournament and were looking forward to a bounce back only to taste defeat again this time to Namibia.

The Southern Africa side opened the batting and posted a total of 170 all out on the board as Jack Thomas Brassell (41 runs off 85 balls) was Namibia's top run-getter with both Johannes Wilhelm Visagle and Pete-Daniel Blignaut scoring 17 runs from 16 and 42 balls respectively.

However, Sierra Leone's bowling attack did not allow big numbers with both George Sesay and Ibrahim Sesay securing three wickets apiece.

Sierra Leone replied from the crease in the opening order was never encouraging as quick dismissals in early overs. However, Sierra Leone's James Bangura top-scored for the West African with 16 runs not out followed by Ibrahim



Sesay and Ibrahim Kpaka with 12 and 11 runs respectively.

Namibia's Morris Gerhardt Kariata in six overs secured four wickets from 16 runs conceded; while Gerhard Johannes

Janse Van Rensburg and Peter-Daniel Blignaut both pulled off two wickets respectively.