



Advocacy Initiative for Development (AID)

...transforming lives and communities in Africa!

AID is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in the State of Washington, U.S.A EIN #: 33-1221581

AID is also registered as a National NGO in Sierra Leone Reg. #: NNGO/266



Notes: AID's Communication on Engagement (COE) for the UN Global Compact Initiative

28th January 2022

A statement by the Co-Founder & President of AID expressing continued support for the UN Global Compact and renewing our organization's ongoing commitment to the initiative.

Even though our organization experienced the most challenging period of our existence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to confirm that the Advocacy Initiative for Development's continued support for the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to continue to advance these principles within our scope of influence, and will continually make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also renew our pledge to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible – through, for instance, participation in Country/Local Networks; involvement in specialized initiatives and workstreams; engagement in partnership projects; and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress.

Sincerely yours,

.....
Mr. Sylvanus Murray
Co-Founder & President

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During the period under review, our organization successfully implemented a UNDP funded project in Sierra Leone, (Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change) a program which clearly demonstrates practical actions taken by the organization in supporting the UN Global Compact principles and to continually engage with the initiative.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sierra Leone happens to be a country that has been experiencing dreadful climate change effects in recent years. There are a plethora of state and non-state actors that do make varied, and unfortunately not too very successful attempts to mitigate the scourge of climate changes, especially in the provision of water services in the country. As much as state authorities take primacy in making decisions to enhance the resilience of communities to harmful climate change hazards, ordinary citizens and other organized non-state actors too have been contributing significantly over the years in achieving the desired goal. It has been discovered that the inadequate, if not lack of harmonization of strategies and collaboration among the diverse state and non-state actors makes it daunting to efficiently checkmate the hazardous effects of climate changes in the country.

Alarmingly, up to 30% of all Sierra Leonean schools are managed without running water. Planning, including communication to combat unfavorable climate change effects to water services has been lopsided and disjointed, and so is the implementation of programmes at the community levels. Generally, referencing the AMCOW/WHO/JMP, 57% of the country's population has access to safe drinking water. Despite serious efforts, Sierra Leone has not been successful in meeting its target to cut by 50% the segment of the population that goes without adequate sanitation and safe drinking water.

To further show the density of the water crisis, in a study undertaken by WASH-Net, Ministry of Water Resources, Freetown WASH Consortium and Guma Valley Water Company, of a total of 19 water catchment areas explored, all have been defiled/poached by citizens for cultivation and construction purposes. It gets frightening to realize that 79% of these water catchment areas have dried up; 59% have been lost to construction of houses, cultivation, and timber logging; The Water Sanitation and

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Hygiene Network (WASH-Net) 2014 report records that an alarming 14% of all children who die under five years is as a consequence of water related diseases like diarrhoea. .

This project strives to hone the capacities of the various state and non-state actors on what is practically required to do to stem the bad effects of climate changes to water services provision, and to also foster synergies and healthy information sharing and cooperation amongst them to achieve the objectives of the project. The relevant climate change and water services state and non-state institutions would be strengthened; the full awareness of all the actors raised on adaptive climate change measures; and a better working relationships forged – all with the intention of putting the effects of climate change to water services provisions in check.

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B. EXPECTED OUTPUTS *(Based on AWP)*

Output	Baseline	Indicators	Project Target Results	<i>Actual</i> Target Results <i>(Achieved)</i>
1 Project Orientation meeting organized for Project Staff.	0	Project staff attending Orientation meeting and making contributions.	5 project staff were made provisions for to attend the Orientation meeting.	5 project staff attended the Meeting and made contributions
Organise 2 Inception Meetings (1 in each district) for the project stakeholders.	0	Relevant district and community stakeholders attending the meetings and making pledges to support implementation	60 participants (30 from each district) were invited to participate in the meetings	60 district and community stakeholders attended
2 Focus Group Discussions on Climate Change and Water Management held	0	Key climate change and water management stakeholders attending the focus group meetings and making meaningful inputs.	50 participants (25 from each district) were expected to attend and actively participate	50 participants (25 from each district) attended and actively participated in the meetings
4 Dialogue Fora organized between duty-bearers and	0	Climate change and water management stakeholders shows up and takes part in the deliberations;	100 participants (50 from each district)	100 participants (50 from each district) attended and made valuable contributions

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rights-holders on Climate Change and Water Management Services.		Some of the issues discussed, and recommendations proffered were heard on the climate change radio discussion programmes	were invited to the dialogue programmes	
Organize 40 Community Radio Panel Discussions	0	Relevant Climate Change and Water Management experts/stakeholder being heard on the radio discussing ways to mitigate climate changes in the project districts; Community stakeholders were sending text messages making their contributions during the programmes	35 community radio panel discussion programmes were planned to sensitize stakeholders in the project locations	30 community radio panel discussion programmes were held during the period under review
Conduct 2 theatre drama performances	0	Community members and district stakeholders were seen attending live theatre drama performances on Climate Change.	2 theatre drama performances were planned with an estimated 150 community members (from each district) to be in attendance.	2 theatre drama performances were organized, with a total number of 425 (for both locations) in attendance
Production and distribution of 1000 climate change 'Adaptation Measures'	0	Hard copies of climate change Information Packs were developed Hard copies of climate change Information Packs being seen shared to	1000 information packs were planned to be developed and shared to relevant stakeholders.	1000 information packs were developed, and 820 have been shared so far.

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Information Packs.		relevant stakeholders in Kambia and Kono.		
Organize 1 Monitoring Exercise.	0	Availability of Monitoring framework/tool that was used to monitor the project's activities; Project team members were seen monitoring activity implementation in the two districts.	1 comprehensive Monitoring exercise was scheduled	1 comprehensive Monitoring exercise was planned, executed, and the information/learning generated were used to inform the preparation and implementation of subsequent activities
Project Evaluation Exercise	0	This activity is yet to be implemented	Organize 1 Evaluation meeting in which stakeholders from both districts will participate	

Challenges	Actions Taken
The heavy downpour of rains in Kono and Kambia temporarily delayed the commencement of some of the activities, since some of the main stakeholders showed up late. .	AID-SL staff and partner encouraged stakeholders to be leaving their home much earlier to attend the programmes. This helped because subsequent activities were relatively better/timely attended.
Managing community members' expectations was tough. Some stakeholders expected financial and other kinds of tangible support like providing them with fast growing seeds/trees to forestall harmful climate changes. This kind of support was not within our purview.	AID-SL staff and partners provided simple and clear explanations to them about what the project does, and does not do. Also, ways were shown as to how those interested stakeholders could access seeds and technical support at the Ministry of Agriculture.

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Some key district personnel found it difficult to attend meetings due to other competing official engagements within and outside of the project districts.	The project staff and partners were careful and patience enough to explain the importance of the project to them, which increased their commitment/participation in the activities.
The Local Council bye-elections that were held in both districts during the implementation period distracted some of our invitees to programmes.	AID-SL and partners doubled their efforts in doing reminders to invitees to participate in our programmes. This strategy helped.
Some highly connected timber merchants and politicians that have been profiting from felling tree were averse to the project. Some of them tried to influence some of our invitees not to turn up for our programmes, but were unsuccessful.	AID/SL and partners vigorously explained the short-term and long-term benefits of curbing climate changes in their communities. This helped our stakeholders to stay focused.

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SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ *Two Project Inception meetings were held* in Kono and Kambia district in which the relevant stakeholders got introduced to the project; and the implementation team got acquainted with the terrain and nuances that ensured the smooth implementation of the project so far.
- ✓ Two Focus Group Discussion Programmes on Climate Change and Water Management were organized which fostered information sharing, and increased the stakeholders' climate change adaptive capacities.
- ✓ Three dialogue fora were held between duty-bearers and rights-holders on Climate Change and Water Management in which workable solutions to curtail the sour impacts of climate changes were found.
- ✓ Two theatre drama performances were organized on climate change adaptive measures that helped raise awareness of the effect of climate change in the management of water facilities in the communities.
- ✓ One thousand climate change 'Adaptation Measures' Information Packs were produced and distributed. They have been serving as reference materials to show communities how to identify and cope with climate changes.
- ✓ Thirty radio panel discussion programmes were held on Climate Change and Water Management that sensitized and elicited feedback from community stakeholders on how to curb harmful climate change effects.
- ✓ Two 'Town Criers' were hired and equipped, and they succeeded in sensitizing community stakeholders on community-based climate change adaptive measures to water services.
- ✓ One monitoring exercise was organized and a report produced. The findings helped the project team in appropriately adjusting the implementation of activities to enable the achievement of the project's objectives.

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AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Inception Meeting in Kono District -



PC Emmanuel T. Foyor, Chairman Council of Paramount Chiefs, Kono District making statement of commitment in support of the Awareness Raising campaign at chiefdom and community levels.



Rebecca Yambasu, Kono Women's Network member, explaining their support in ensuring the Awareness Raising exercise benefits the women more as they use water most.



Kono District stakeholders in full attendance during project launching/inception meeting in Koidu at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office.



Ibrahim L. Moigua, Programme Manager, AID-SL, presenting in detail the project activities, as against project output and expected outcomes in Kono District.



Support Officer at the Tankoro Police Division is with an undivided attention during project inception meeting in Kono. He pledged, on behalf of his Division their support in ensuring that Adoptable measures are monitored and enforced.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Inception Meeting in Kambia District -



District stakeholders in Kambia during the inception meeting showing full commitment and support of the project activities to help mitigate Climate Change and its effect on Water Services.



Participants posing for group photo after a successful inception meeting in Kambia.



Mr. Hassan Conteh, representing the UNDP giving a talk during the project inception meeting in Kambia.



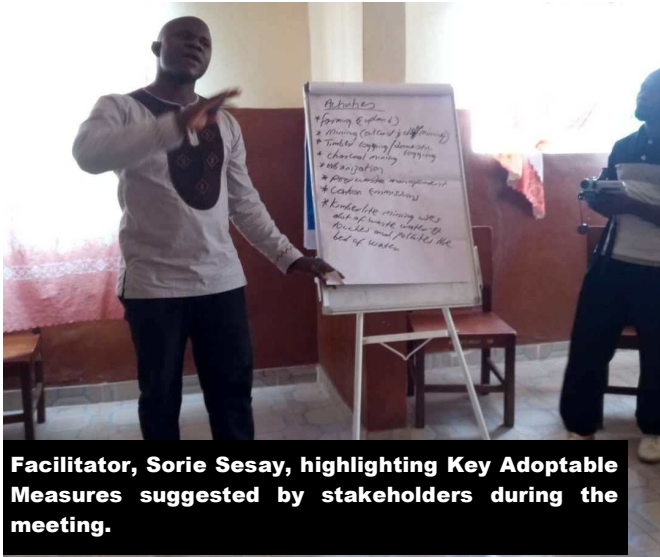
Line Ministries' staff (Health, Agric & Education) in attendance at the inception meeting in Kambia.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Focus Group Discussions in Kono District -



Sorie Sesay, Head of Programmes, ASJD-SL, Facilitating the Focus Group Discussions in Kono.



Facilitator, Sorie Sesay, highlighting Key Adoptable Measures suggested by stakeholders during the meeting.



A cross section of project stakeholders and beneficiaries participating in the Focus Group Discussions.



A cross section of project stakeholders and beneficiaries participating in the Focus Group Discussions.



Mr. Marrah dressed in the brown suit is the Environmental Officer of the Kono District Council seated by Mr. George Sorie, Mappa Officer in the Ministry of Water Directorate Office Kono. He presents the acute water shortage and other problems with the available water facility in the district. While the environmental officer is in deep thinks how much Council spent on repairs and maintenance of wells every year across the district. Deforestation must be mitigated if not stop.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Focus Group Discussions in Kambia District -



Kambia District Forestry Officer making a statement during the Focus Group Discussions.



Development Officer, Kambia District Council expressing full commitment to the process during the Focus Group Discussions.



The Kambia District Forestry Officer informing other participants of the availability of fast growing seeds for communities to access and plant to mitigate climate change effect on their water services.



Group photo of stakeholders and community representatives after a successful Focus Group Discussions in Kambia.



Traditional Leader of Youths explaining how they can help in disseminating the adaptive measures taken during the forum to mitigate climate change at community level.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Dialogue Fora in Kambia District -



A member of an active WaSH-Net group proposing effective monitoring of the actions agreed upon during the Dialogue Forum



Chairman, Kambia District Council making firm commitment in the Dialogue Forum and promised to include such awareness raising initiative into Council's Development Plans next year.



Development Officer, Kambia District Council, explaining how the awareness raising exercise can help mitigate the effect of climate change and their water services.



A representative from the Office of National Security (ONS) made a statement on climate change; he confirmed that climate change is real and needed serious attention.



Group photo of stakeholders and community representatives after a successful Dialogue Forum in Kambia.



A traditional leader suggesting that government should hands-off timber logging for the sustainable future of their community and environment.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Dialogue Fora in Kono District -



AID-SL staff explaining to stakeholders during the Dialogue Forum how they can take the adaptive measures forward in mitigating climate change on our water services.



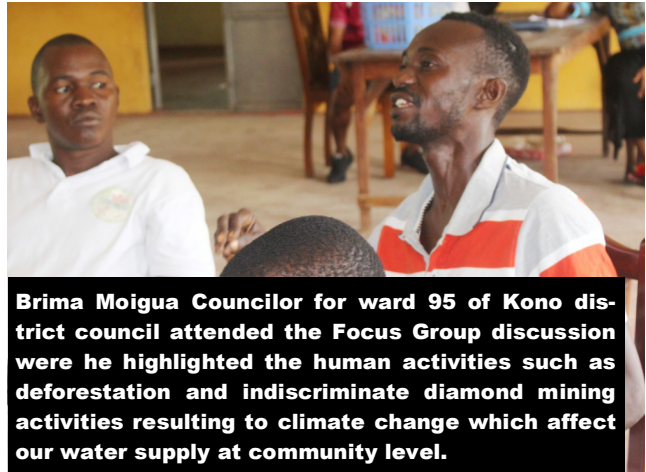
PC Foyor Foyor chairman council of chiefs promising robust actions in monitoring the adoptive measures agreed on during the dialogue forum.



Jalahun Kamara/ WASH Net staff working in Kono attended the dialogue forum she promised to disseminate the measures agreed upon to mitigate climate change in the communities she works.



Kono District Chairman Solomon Gbondo and Honorable Musa Fofana during the dialogue forum made statement on taken forward the adoptable measures agreed to mitigate climate change at community levels.



Brima Moigua Councilor for ward 95 of Kono district council attended the Focus Group discussion where he highlighted the human activities such as deforestation and indiscriminate diamond mining activities resulting to climate change which affect our water supply at community level.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Dialogue Fora in Kono District (cntd.) -



Councilor Mariama of the Koidu New Sembehun City Council explains the effect of climate change on the vegetable farming which is the major source of income for women in rural communities.



Kono Women's Network member close by him is the chairman for People With PWD attended the dialogue both representatives presented the acute shortage of water supply in their communities which is as a result of climate change. Moving forward all hand needs to be on board to mitigate it.



Cross section of Kono stakeholders in attendance of the district dialogue forum at the Kumba Satta Amara resource Hall, Koidu City, Kono.



Mrs. Tumbay staffs of the City Council in Koidu, presenting during the dialogue the limited water facility in the city and the facilities are threatened by climate change. Its serious some action needs to be taken to stop deforestation



A group photo after the district dialogue forum with district stakeholders and project beneficiaries in Kono.

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Theatre Drama performances in Kono District -



Theatre Drama performance in Yardu community in Gbense chiefdom, Kono disseminating key and interesting climate change messages caused by deforestation and mining to community



In Yardu community Kono district, the Mamie Queen after the drama performance expressed thanks and appreciation to AID/SL and UNDP for supporting such an educative exercise; "we are grateful for that." She encouraged all community members present to explain the climate change and deforestation messages which affect our water services.



The young lady says "how can we stop deforestation in the communities when government gives licenses to people to cut our trees for timber. Please AID/SL and Partners, tell government to hands-off timber logging, its affect our environment and our future."

AID-SL - Awareness Raising on Adaptive Capacities of Water Services to Climate Change - Photos

- Theatre Drama performances in Kambia District -



Theatre Drama performances in Kambia central lorry park and Barmoi Luma international market in Magbema Chiefdom, Kambia District.

