



DE BARRAY

PRODUCED BY THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE

Volume I
Issue 6
Nov. 2005
13A Howe St.
Freetown
Sierra Leone
Africa Region

HIGHLIGHT OF CRITICAL NATIONAL CHALLENGES

Controlling excesses of political party loyalists

Media reports were full of stories about political disturbances in Sierra Leone's second capital, Bo, on November 19 2005.

According to the *Concord Times* newspaper, tension heightened when Charles Margai, standard bearer of the yet-to-be-registered Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) and his key party supporters were cited to the local police station after a riot at the Christ the King College (CKC) annual school thanksgiving. Charles Margai had earlier arrived at the occasion as Keynote Speaker long before the arrival of the Vice President, Solomon Berewa, to serve as Chairman.

The disturbance began when Margai left the ceremony with a large crowd at the time of Mr. Berewa's arrival. The *Concord Times* said Margai's supporters then thronged the surroundings while chanting anti-government slogans. Chaos started as the Vice President decided to leave the scene but was blocked by the protesters who trooped around his motorcade and allegedly rendered it powerless to move out.

The police shot bullets and tier gas in the air afterwards and Margai was cited to make a statement. He was released thereafter and was reportedly persuaded to call for calm over the local radio station.

The *Cocorioko* online newspaper commented after all that "the Bo turmoil cast an ugly pall over the possibility that Sierra Leonean politicians and their supporters have learnt anything from the country's bloody war" □

Managing expectations as all gear up for the S/L CG

A dialogue aimed at managing the expectations of citizens ahead of the November 29 Consultative Group (CG) donors conference in London was on November 21 organized by ENCISS, a DFID-supported civic engagement project. The participants were linked up to the public for live phone-in calls via local radio stations.

Four key questions asked that hinge on public expectations were: (1) which PRSP needs were left out, and which included, in the re-prioritized budget request for the November CG and why? (2) How comes and why the postponed June CG budget request of over a billion dollars has now been cut down by one-third for the November CG? (3) What provisions are being made to ensure that whatever resources are derived from the November CG will be utilized effectively afterwards? (4) Are their prospects for raising more money for the Sierra Leone PRSP beyond the November CG?

Kawusu Kebbay, Director of the Development Assistance Coordination Office (DACO), said the budgeted request for the coming CG has been downsized because the request for 2005 is no longer required as this year is about ending by the time of the November CG. He assured the participants that the re-prioritized budget does not leave out a specific sector, but shows where the top priority gaps in the PRSP budget are.

World Bank Country Manager, James Sackey, said the CG is just one of the means of mobilizing resources for the country and that Sierra Leoneans should not assess prospects for the success of the PRSP merely from the outcome of the November CG □

Phasing from keeping to building peace after war

It has been well publicized that the UN focus in Sierra Leone, effective 1st January 2006, would shift from peace keeping to peace building and the UN Peace Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) which is in charge of the former would finally give way to UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) in line with Security Council resolution 1620.

The UN Peace Consolidation Strategy for Sierra Leone spells out that UNIOSIL is led by the UN Resident Coordinator, in an expanded capacity as the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General (ERSG), while continuing to serve as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Victor Angelo has already been appointed by the United Nations Secretary General to serve in this capacity. The integrated nature of this presence will enable all of the UN's pertinent resources—political, development, and human rights—to be brought to bear on the task of peace consolidation.

UNIOSIL is mandated to assist national actors in addressing issues that could precipitate violent conflicts until the time the country's longer-term development challenges have begun to be addressed in the PRSP". The UN Strategy also spells out that in order "to better support the implementation of development plans, UNIOSIL will provide assistance to build the relevant capacities of its national and local counterparts to carry out similar efforts, especially the prevention of violent conflicts" □



'De Barray' is a typical gathering point in Sierra Leone where, mostly, critical issues are discussed to inform decisions.

To know more about the World Bank activity in Sierra Leone visit www.worldbank.org/sierraleone

Telephone: +232 22 227555 Fax: +232 228555. E-mail: msheriff@worldbank.org





FROM THE WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL PRESS ARCHIVE

Improving abilities to identify civil war risks

A World Bank press release from Washington on November 8 says civil wars around the world since 1945 have killed approximately 20 million people and displaced at least 67 million. A new Bank report, **'Understanding Civil War'**, explores the conditions that make a civil war probable.

"An understanding of the how and when," said Paul Collier, co-editor of the publication, "will improve our ability to identify countries at greater risk of an outbreak of civil war, and the more we understand the process of conflict escalation, the better we will become at designing time-sensitive policy interventions."

Until recently, academics had not concentrated much attention on the problem of civil war. Experts saw conflict as an exogenous shock like a natural disaster or an adverse swing in the terms of trade – an unfavorable and unfortunate event that happened from time to time.

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler's seminal research at the World Bank supported partly by the Bank's Post Conflict Fund (PCF) was the basis for an economic model – the Collier-Hoeffler – of civil war, which argued convincingly that it is not political and social grievance per se that leads to civil war, but rather, for given levels of grievance, it is the opportunity to organize and finance a rebellion that determines if a civil war will occur or not

Managing migrants flow and their remittances

The World Bank issued a press release from Washington on November 16 citing the World Bank's annual Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report for 2006 which disclosed that international migration can generate substantial welfare gains for migrants and their families, as well as their origin and destination countries, if policies to better manage the flow of migrants and facilitate the transfer of remittances are pursued.

"With the number of migrants worldwide now reaching almost 200 million, their productivity and earnings are a powerful force for poverty reduction," said François Bourguignon, World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. Migrants' "remittances, in particular, are an important way out of extreme poverty for a large number of people"

This year's GEP entitled 'Economic Implications of Remittances and Migration', also forecasts economic growth in developing countries to slow to 5.9% this year, and to 5.7% in 2006, down from 6.8% in 2004. Developing economies will continue to grow at historically very high rates, and more than twice as fast as high-income economies. Growth in the latter is also expected to slow from 3.1% growth in 2004 to around 2.5% in 2005 and 2006.

High oil prices, capacity constraints and gradually rising interest rates are the key factors that have been dampening the global expansion

Calling for more efforts to slow HIV pandemic

Ahead of World Aids Day (WAD), 1st of December 2005, the World Bank published an article on the TODAY page of its internal website on November 28, quoting the [UNAIDS/WHO report](#) that HIV infection rates are decreasing in several countries but overall trends in transmission are still increasing, calling for greater prevention efforts to slow the epidemic.

People living with HIV today exceed 40 million worldwide. The AIDS epidemic has profoundly affected quality of life and progress towards poverty alleviation, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. In countries that have been less severely affected, it threatens to do so in the absence of effective and timely prevention efforts.

Since the late 1980s, the Bank has launched efforts to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS through participation in global programs. The Bank has financed analytic work, engaged in policy dialogue, and provided loans, credits, and grants for HIV/AIDS projects.

Each year, the Bank Group marks World AIDS Day with a week-long series of events, looking at what's been accomplished and what remains to be done. Among the events taking place in Washington, President Wolfowitz will deliver a keynote address on WAD outlining current issues facing the world community and the Bank



DE BARRAY

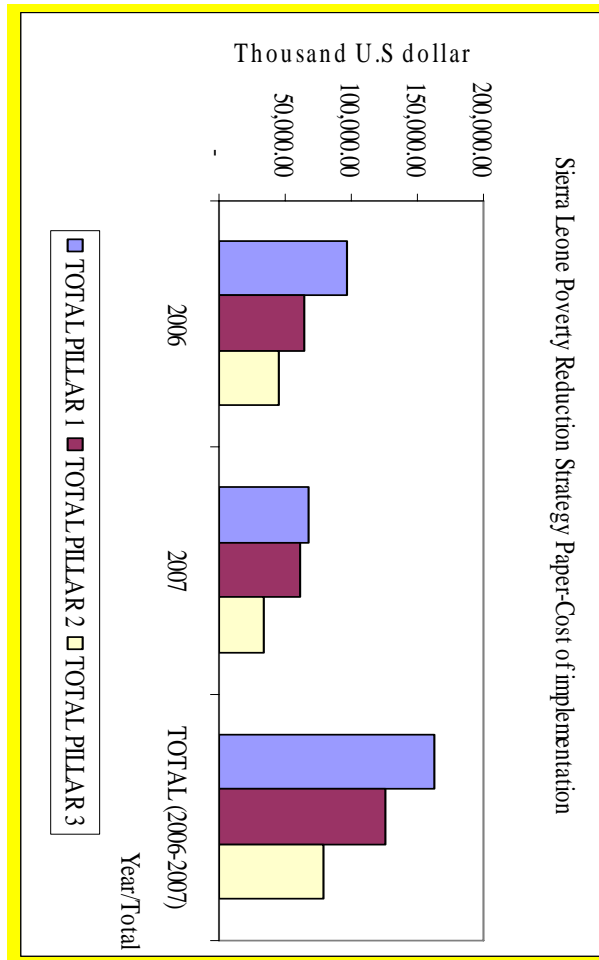
*The place to meet, inform,
amuse, discuss and decide*



SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE SIERRA LEONE CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETING

How Sierra Leone's PRSP priorities were articulated at the London CG

When all is said and done, the donors – from whom the pledges were solicited – wanted to see the big picture of what Sierra Leone actually requires in the immediate future: **2006 and 2007**. The [PRSP Activity Matrix](#) below was presented to show this requirement in the broadest possible term, and at a single glance:



The PRSP total requirement presented for all the 3 pillars (governance-P1, growth-P2 and human development-P3) for 2006 and 2007, shown in above chart, is US\$364,101.85. Out of this, US\$ 203,424.39 is required for all the pillars in 2006 and US\$ 60,677.46 for all the pillars in 2007. Of the total two-year and three-pillar requirements, **44.95%** will be spent on **governance** (Pillar I), **33.94%** on **growth** (Pillar II) and **21.89%** on **human development** (Pillar III).

How the donors responded and what was the outcome of the Sierra Leone CG



Following the end of the two-day London CG on November 30 2005, the World Bank issued a press release announcing that thirty of Sierra Leone's development partners expressed confidence in the government's plans for poverty reduction in one of the world's poorest countries with aid promises for 2005 – 2007 totaling \$800m, after two days of talks.

Three key themes of the discussions were food security, employment - particularly youth employment - and governance. Development partners also agreed on plans to foster greater donor coordination and more focus on the government's own poverty reduction strategy. UN Resident Coordinator in Sierra Leone Victor Angelo said: 'The many countries and multilateral organizations represented at this meeting have recognized the tremendous progress achieved by the government and people of Sierra Leone in the short period since the end of the civil war – and given a significant vote of confidence to the government's poverty reduction strategy.'

The UK Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn said his government's commitment to Sierra Leone remains strong and that the country has made significant progress in rebuilding the machinery of government and reforms to help sustain peace, stability and encourage further economic growth.

Co-chaired by the Government of Sierra Leone, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the United Nations and the World Bank, the Consultative Group for Sierra Leone met in London on November 29 & 30. President Ahmad Kabbah and Vice President Solomon Berewa led the Sierra Leone delegation.

Since ending its civil war in January 2002, Sierra Leone has re-established security and begun the process of restoring public services. An annual GDP growth rate averaging about 7% over three years since 2002 emphasises how far the country has progressed, with the IMF predicting future growth of 6-7% per year. A key achievement was the successful completion of the first local government elections in 32 years in May 2004.

At the conclusion of the meeting, World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia Mats Karlsson welcomed the constructive outcome of the talks and said the collective donor efforts at the the CG have demonstrated substantial progress and a real commitment in turning a fragile success into a robust one.





SUMMARY OF KEY COUNTRY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

KENEMA KILLINGS CREATES CHAOS

The awareness Times newspaper reported on November 7 that Sierra Leone's diamond-and-produce-rich eastern region capital, Kenema, was in chaos following the murder of four motorbike riders overnight.

Following this, soldiers were mobilized to help the Police maintain peace in the town which had been tense following the killings by unknown persons presumed to be thieves. The Police then put the town under a strict curfew order with everyone forced indoors.

The use of motorbikes (Okadas) by youths as a means of commercial transport, especially in the provincial towns of Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Kono, is a post-war job creation coping strategy in Sierra Leone. The idea of Okadas are said to have been borrowed from other West African countries.

The Motorbike Riders in Sierra Leone are said to consist of mostly former combatants, most of whom traded their reintegration benefits from the DDR program and pulled their proceeds together in small groups to buy motorbikes for transport business

SIERRA LEONE'S GDP REVISITED

Statistics-Sierra Leone issued a press release on November 14 that it is engaged in an intensive data collection to facilitate the calculation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other related macroeconomic aggregates for Sierra Leone.

The release disclosed that questionnaires were being sent out to various Economic Operators in the country for completion.

The release said, staff of *Statistics-Sierra Leone* would be moving from institution to institution to assist in completing the questionnaires where necessary.

The release called on national institutions to share with *Statistics-Sierra Leone* annual reports and statements of account for the years requested (not mentioned in the release) along with the completed questionnaires.

The release concluded that the data collected by *Statistics Sierra Leone* is done in accordance with the Statistics Act 2002, which makes it mandatory for all establishments operating in Sierra Leone to disclose relevant statistical information for the purpose of policy advice as well as development planning

SIERRA LEONE IN THE GEP 2006 VC

Sierra Leone was on November 16 among countries across the world, including two other African countries – Ghana and Zambia - linked in a video conference to the World Bank Washington Office to listen to the authors of the World Bank's annual **Global Economic Prospects (GEP)** report for 2006, focusing on **international migration & remittances**.

The authors buttressed the finding of the research which led to the publication that international migration can generate substantial welfare gains for migrants and their families, as well as their origin and destination countries, if policies to better manage the flow of migrants and facilitate the transfer of remittances are pursued.

According to World Bank's Herbert Boh, who monitored the event from Washington, "the launch via video conference of the GEP 2006 was successful". He said, "about 16 professionals of the media, including TV crews from Ghana's 3 TV networks, the country's two leading radio stations and the main newspapers were in attendance. About 14 journalists joined the launch from the Bank offices in Lusaka and a similar number was online from Freetown"

THE PRSPs DO NOT DEPEND ON CGs

Three days before departing for the Sierra Leone Consultative Group (CG) donors' conference on November 29-30 in London, the World Bank Country Manager for Sierra Leone, James Sackey, pointed out on November 21 that the CG is just one of many and various means of resource mobilization for translating the Sierra Leone Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) into action.

He therefore cautioned Sierra Leoneans against the tendency of assessing prospects for the success of the PRSP merely from the outcome of the November 29th 2005 Consultative Group meeting in London.

He made this statement in a civil society dialogue meeting aimed at quelling the high public expectations that all the resources outlined in the country's PRSP will be acquired in London. The meeting was organized by ENCISS, a DFID-supported civic engagement project in Sierra Leone.

The salient point made was that even though the CG solicits financial support from donors to fill the funding gaps in the PRSP, such supports do not end with the CG just as they did not start with it. So PRSPs do not depend entirely on CGs for funding

This newsletter provides information to the Sierra Leone public and internet users interested in Sierra Leone on activities of the World Bank Group, and on developments about Sierra Leone that are of interest and of concern to the Bank Group; seeking also to solicit feedback from Sierra Leone on the Bank Group's global strategies, policies, programs and projects.

