



'DE BARRAY'

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HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR COUNTRY UPDATES

Towards Resolving The Border Dispute Between Guinea and Sierra Leone

DACO, February 20 2005 – Yenga, a pre-war village in Sierra Leone near the Guinea border, and its immediate surroundings, have for some time continued to dominate the front pages of Sierra Leone newspapers following Guinean troops occupation of the area in 2001 as a result of pursuing retreating rebels from Guinea who passed through the mountainous and militarily strategic town on their way to Liberia. Until recently, Guinea had not officially acceded to Sierra Leone's right to Yenga. Guinean Prime Minister Diallo, representing President Lassana Conte in a Mono River Union Heads of State meeting with the Presidents of Sierra Leone and Liberia in Freetown now says Yenga is no longer an issue as there are clear border demarcations to which the Guinean government will abide – that is, the 1912 Franco-British treaty recognized by the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) in 1963. But identifying the actual boundary separating the two countries is now difficult due to the fading away of very old beacons. President Kabbah said he and President Lansana Conte had earlier agreed to get experts from their two countries to study the relevant maps and replace those beacons that have been lost. President Kabbah indicated that his government will approach the British High Commissioner and UN Resident Representative for assistance in recruiting an independent consultant that would assist to install the missing beacons along the boundary. The meeting also resulted into the signing of a communiqué which seeks to strengthen previous protocols of the Mano River Union (MRU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and African Union (AU). Amongst other resolutions, it seeks to promote peace and to expedite the provision of aid for the reconstruction of their localities. It also called for the re-establishment pre-war international markets.

UN Envoys... Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire/SL Meet in Freetown

DACO, March 11 2005 -- United Nations Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire and Senegal met in Freetown with their Sierra Leone counterpart, Daudi Mwagawago. Issues of small arms trafficking as well as the implications of cross-border armed group collaboration and regional security were high on their agenda. It was the fourth such rotational meetings that aim at promoting regional integration, co-operation and information sharing. Consultations of this nature have been deemed as important and timely since a war in one country, if not forestalled, has shown to have quickly spilled and spread to its neighbors. Evidently, the civil war in Liberia which was initiated in 1990 by a group of rebels of multinational West African backgrounds came from Cote D'Ivoire and spilled over to Sierra Leone in 1991 and again to Guinea in 2001.

Anti-Corruption Strategy Launched

DACO, February 15 2005 – The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) launched its National Anti-Corruption Strategy at the British Council Hall in Freetown. The document, which was launched by President Kabbah, aims at wiping out corruption especially in public institutions. The strategy and action plans developed will be implemented by government in conjunction with other stakeholders like UNDP, World Bank and the Civil Society. Prior to the launching, a two-day national consultative conference was organized for about 200 participants across the country to discuss attitudes, causes and cost of corruption and to recommend measures to be included in the strategy. The ceremony was preceded by an Integrity Retreat between the ACC and government ministers responsible for the main areas of reform. The ACC was established in 2000 to address corruption as the country's greatest single obstacle to economic growth and human development.

In Spite of War, New Census Report Shows A 4.9% Population Increase In 10 yrs

DACO, March 4 2005 -- the Central Statistics Office (CSO) – now renamed 'Statistics Sierra Leone' has released provisional results of a nationwide population and housing census. The exercise which took place in December 2004 was done to review data from the last census conducted in 1985, six years before the start of the war. The exercise captured geographic data in terms of location and numbers of chiefdoms and wards and sections as well as demographic data which includes estimated, projected and provisional figures, national and district population trends from 1964 - 2004, household size, sex ratio and population density. Information on the voting population useful for the National Electoral Commission was also captured. The exercise was completed after two weeks and was financed by UNFPA, EU and the GoSL. The provisional results which were announced in February 2005 showed a 4.9% increase in the estimated 3.5 million people in the country in 1985. The results also show that approximately 16% of the country's population are concentrated in the Western Area.

Sierra Leone to Assemble Tractors with Chinese Assistance

DACO, April 1 2005 -- The government of Sierra Leone has finalized arrangements with a Chinese company to assemble tractors in the country. This arrangement will impact positively on the economy, as it will not only help reduce the cost of tractors but also provide employment opportunities for youths as well as enhance agricultural productivity and overall development in the country. The Chinese have been steadily progressing with the rehabilitation and conversion of the National Workshop at Cline town into an industrial zone. Official opening for the outfit is being planned to coincide with a trade fair and exhibition in May.



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- FROM THE BANK'S NEWS ARCHIVE -

Public Consultation Outcome on the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) in Sierra Leone

The public was informed on January 12 2005 that the World Bank Group was initiating nationwide consultations with various segments of the Sierra Leone society as part of preparing its Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) to support the country's development efforts. When the consultations were completed, the public was again informed on February 25 2005 of the recommendations from the civil society, youth and local councils that poor public sector governance was deemed as the most important poverty issue under the Governance Pillar of the country's PRSP. Also, unemployment, food insecurity and unstable economic growth were ranked first, second, and third in terms of priority under the Growth Pillar. For the Human Development Pillar, education, health, water, sanitation and housing were ranked first, second, third and fourth. In the private sector and NGO discussions, support to rebuilding collapsed institutions, long-term private sector financing, institutionalized micro-financing, vocational skills training, human capital development and supportive infrastructure were the areas proposed for the Bank's attention. Developing income-earning and micro-enterprise skills for youths, combating HIV/AIDS and protecting the environment were considered as cross-cutting issues.

Shared Growth Among Priorities For Africa

The public was informed on April 22 that World Bank officials have identified improving health outcomes for women and children, combating HIV/AIDS and ensuring that countries achieve "shared growth." as the competing but complementary priorities for Africa. The Bank's Chief Economist for the Africa Region, John Page, said 'shared growth' must be an important objective of public policy in Africa aimed at ensuring that *"the poor are able to contribute to and benefit from growth to the maximum extent possible."* He pointed out that although growth rates across Africa are currently an average of 3.5%, they need not only to be raised to about 7% or around 4 to 5% in per capita terms, but also governments need to ensure that growth benefits the poor, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Families need disposable incomes to procure mosquito bed nets or drugs and they must recognize an economic value in sending their children, notably daughters, to school, if they are to do so. On how to kick-start growth in Africa, Mr. Page said Africa's marginalization from the world economy had to stop and its share of global exports – now smaller than 30 years ago – had to grow through both domestic policy changes and investments that make exports cheaper, more attractive, and more diversified. Direct foreign investments, he said, needed to go beyond the minerals sector where it is currently concentrated. He stressed the need to invest more on agriculture and groom the private sector to create jobs. African leaders, Mr. Page said, need to expand intra-Africa trade and link subsistence and isolated farmers within and beyond the continent.

World Bank and Japan Assist Sierra Leone to Build Social Capital Through Block Grants -- European Union Joins

The World Bank Group and the Government of Sierra Leone announced on February 21 2005 the Government of Japan's acceptance of the 'Capacity Development to Strengthen Social Capital' project by which the grant amount of US\$1,888,700 financed by the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) and administered by the World Bank was being made available for 30 months as pilot initiative that empowers villages and wards to design and implement development plans on their own and to devise means for decision makers to be transparent and accountable. Pilot activities of the project would be implemented in Bombali and Bonthe districts, occurring in approximately 10 wards and 60 villages per district over a 30-month period. These districts were selected based on the objective analysis of data related to rural poverty, donor activity coverage and accessibility. The selection was approved by stakeholders from government and civil society mandated with operational and policy decisions affecting the project. According to the Project's Task Team Leader, Dan Owen, the pilot project would assist villages and wards to articulate a vision of their future and begin putting such plans into action through the provision of block grants. Through such a process, communities would work together to tackle development challenges in an inclusive and accountable manner. In building on the progress made so far by this project within the overall framework of the Institutional Reforms and Capacity Building Project (IRCBP), the European Union also plans to contribute additional block grants through a recently signed memorandum of understanding with the World Bank.

World Bank Endorses the Tony Blair Commission for Africa Report

The World Bank on March 11 2005 welcomed the release of the Commission for Africa Report and expressed the hope that the global community will work to advance its principal recommendations. The Bank shares the hope expressed in the report that the unacceptable trends of impoverishment and marginalization in the world's poorest region can be reversed and that African governments can build on progress already evident in a number of countries that have reduced conflict, are addressing corruption and developing national strategies to generate economic growth and cut poverty levels. The Bank admonished the international community, for its part, to deliver on promises for substantial increases in aid and debt reduction as well as improved market access. The Commission for Africa Report calls for a doubling of aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, including an investment of \$150 billion in infrastructure over the next decade. Investing in assets such as rural roads, safe water, ports, a transport network and power generation, in addition to health and education, can lead to growth and job creation, helping Africa make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.



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INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD BANK GROUP

Conceived in 1944 to reconstruct war-torn Europe, the World Bank Group has evolved into one of the world's largest sources of development assistance, with a mission to fight poverty with passion by helping people help themselves. The World Bank Group consists of five closely associated institutions whose member countries carry ultimate decision-making power.

I. THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (IBRD)

Established 1945 184 Members

Cumulative lending: \$394 billion

Fiscal 2004 lending: \$11 billion for 87 new operations in 33 countries



IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries by promoting sustainable development through loans, guarantees, and (nonlending) analytical and advisory services. The income that IBRD has generated over the years has allowed it to fund several developmental activities and to ensure its financial strength, which enables it to borrow in capital markets at low cost and offer clients good borrowing terms. IBRD's 24-member Board is made up of 5 appointed and 19

elected Executive Directors, who represent its 184 member countries.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA)

Established 1960 165 Members

Cumulative commitments: \$151 billion

Fiscal 2004 commitments: \$9 billion for 158 new operations in 62 countries



Contributions to IDA enable the World Bank to provide approximately \$6 billion to \$9 billion a year in highly concessional financing to the world's 81 poorest countries (home to 2.5 billion people). IDA's interest-free credits and grants are vital because these countries have little or no capacity to borrow on market terms. IDA's resources help support country-led poverty reduction strategies in key policy areas.

III. THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)

Established 1956 176 Members

Committed portfolio: \$23.5 billion (includes \$5.5 billion in syndicated loans)

Fiscal 2004 commitments: \$4.8 billion for 217 projects in 65 countries



IFC promotes economic development through the private sector. Working with business partners, it invests in sustainable private enterprises in developing countries without accepting government guarantees. It provides equity, long-term loans, structured finance and risk management products, and advisory services to its clients. IFC seeks to reach businesses in regions and countries that have limited access to capital. It provides finance in markets deemed too risky by commercial investors in the absence of IFC participation and adds value to the projects it finances through its corporate governance, environmental, and social expertise.

IV. THE MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT GUARANTY AGENCY (MIGA)

Established 1988 164 Members

Cumulative guarantees issued: \$13.5 billion (Amounts include funds leveraged through the Cooperative Underwriting Program)

Fiscal 2004 guarantees issued: \$1.1 billion



MIGA helps promote foreign direct investment in developing countries by providing guarantees to investors against noncommercial risks, such as expropriation, currency inconvertibility and transfer restrictions, war and civil disturbance, and breach of contract. MIGA's capacity to serve as an objective intermediary and to influence the resolution of potential disputes enhances investors' confidence that they will be protected against these risks. In addition, MIGA provides technical assistance and advisory services to help countries attract and retain foreign investment and to disseminate information on investment opportunities to the international business community.

V. THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES (ICSID)

Established 1966 140 Members

Total cases registered: 159

Fiscal 2004 cases registered: 30



ICSID helps encourage foreign investment by providing international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes, thereby helping foster an atmosphere of mutual confidence between states and foreign investors. Many international agreements concerning investment refer to ICSID's arbitration facilities. ICSID also issues publications on dispute settlement and foreign investment law.

The term "**World Bank Group**" encompasses all five institutions. The term "**World Bank**" refers specifically to two of the five, IBRD and IDA.



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Do You Know?

...that malaria is a dangerous disease which kills more than 3,000 people a day in Sub-Saharan Africa,

... that at least 85 percent of deaths from malaria occur in Africa, eight percent in Southeast Asia, five percent in the eastern Mediterranean region, and one percent in the Western Pacific,

... that there are more malaria-induced deaths in Sierra Leone than deaths induced by any other single medical cause,

... that malaria is the most frequently threatening opportunistic disease that accelerates the process of acquiring AIDS by HIV positive patients,

...that progress in combating malaria has been too slow and uneven – with over 500 million new cases emerging in the world each year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa,

...that the World Bank Group has developed a new global strategy released on April 24 2005 to mark Africa Malaria Day. And that the strategy will be supported by a booster program to make funding available to countries to enhance programs to combat the disease? (see [dedicated website](#)).

MALARIA: NEW SENSE OF URGENCY FROM THE BANK

Building on lessons learned, the Bank's Africa region has taken on a new sense of urgency and purpose. The region has set up a team which is now finalizing proposals to ask the Bank's Board of Directors to approve a very substantial increase in funding by the Bank.

The Bank Africa Region Vice President, Gobind Nankini, says the aim is to assist African countries to do much better in their fight against malaria (see [Eritrea experience here](#)).

"The Bank recognizes the important contributions made by African countries themselves, by our partner agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Roll-Back-Malaria partnership (RBM), as well as several bilateral agencies, foundations, NGOs, individuals and OECD countries, but it is not enough by a long shot," Nankani says.

Reflecting on the crushing burden of malaria, he notes the disease has "devastating consequences for economic growth of African countries, perpetuates their poverty cycles and serious undermines their investments in human capital and their efforts to meet the MDGs."

"For the region, the Booster Program will become a catalytic funding and prompt those who have so far hesitated to contribute in a bigger way to follow the Bank's example and join us to "boost" their funding to address malaria in Africa and beyond," says Nankani.

"If sufficient new partners from both the private sector and the public sector join the Bank and those already active in this field, to increase funding for effective and performance-based programs, the large financing gap in most African countries will be reduced. That, together with concurrent improvements in management and implementation capacity, will make a difference in curbing this terrible disease."

The expectation is the Bank's enhanced effort will boost and redouble the action by the international community to agree on ways to provide African families with enough of the right anti-malarial drugs, especially the new and effective ACT drugs. Another key issue is investing in malaria research to ensure more effective prevention and treatment, including new and cost-effective vector control interventions, new drugs to which the malaria parasites will have no resistance and, hopefully, an effective malaria vaccine.

There is a new sense of possibilities and commitment to the fight against malaria. Nankani summed it up: "I am confident that our renewed efforts, vigorously pursued with African countries and their people and together with all the other RBM partners, can result in all of us jointly meeting the Millennium Development Goals for malaria control ten years from now."

Olusoji Adeyi led the Malaria Task Force, a Bank-wide team drawn from corporate units, networks, operational vice presidential units (VPUs), and IFC. The Task Force considered the negative effects of malaria on development, strong demand from clients, effective technologies, and the Bank's potential to do more and better. "Our conclusion is straightforward: it is time for a strong and sustained Bank effort," he says.

"The economic and human disaster of malaria is an immense barrier to attaining the MDGs," says Dr. Alexander Soucy, National Coordinator of RESULTS Canada, a non-governmental organization based in Canada. "It is with great hope that I see that the World Bank starting to address malaria as no less an emergency than AIDS. With cheap and effective interventions available, there is no excuse for delaying any longer."

This newsletter seeks to provide public information on the World Bank Group activities in Sierra Leone and to relay feedback from Sierra Leone on its global strategies, policies and programs.