

Annual Progress Report 2024 on Implementation of MTNDP (2024-2030)



**A Transformative Acceleration Agenda for Food Security, Human
Capital Development and Job Creation**



Compiled and Edited by the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate

Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED)

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Acronyms

AU	African Union
BFHI	Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives
CLSG / WAPP	Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea / West Africa Power Pool
COMAHS	College of Medicine and Allied Health Services
CTI	Communication, Technology and Innovation
ECOWAS	Economic Communities of West African States
EU	European Union
FSNMS	Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey
FSRP	Food System Resilience Programme
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
GVWC	Guma Valley Water Company
GPS	Global Positioning System
Ha	Hectares
HCD	Human Capital Development
HEIs	Higher Educational Institutions
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HPV	Human Papillomavirus Vaccines
OHRMO	Human Resource Management Office
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ITN	Insecticide-Treated Bed Net
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MBSSE	Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education
MDAs	Ministeries, Departments and Agencies
MOPAPA	Ministry of Public Administration and Political Affairs
MoPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
MSGs	Mothers Support Groups



MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
MT	Metric Tons
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MTNDP	Medium-Term National Development Plan
NaCSA	National Commission for Social Action
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PCMH	Princess Christian Maternity Hospital
PCS	Pee Cee and Sons
PHUs	Peripheral Health Units
SALWACO	Sierra Leone Water Company
SATF	Salone Access to Finance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
LAs	Service Level Agreements
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
SWBO	Stronger with Breastmilk Only
ToC	Theory of Change
TB	Tuberculosis
TVET	Technical Vocational Educational Training
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
USD	United States Dollar
WCC	Wage and Compensation Commission

Word from the Minister



The MTNDP 2024-2030 has been implemented for one year, since it was launched on January 30 2024. As the coordinating ministry responsible for the formulation of the plan, I am happy that my team was able to take stock of what has been done so far by the MDAs and provide a report, albeit a glimpse of progress in 2024, in terms of targets and indicators contained in the plan and its accompanying results framework.

The assessment is by no means a way to cast blame on MDAs for none achievement but a wakeup call to everyone involved that we have to be accountable for whatever commitments we have made as a government as we go through a learning process in delivering results. The outcomes of the assessment is presented in the form of “traffic light” colours, namely, green, amber and red, with arrows superimposed to show the direction of progress. Green for good progress, amber / yellow for moderate progress and red for minimal progress. Even though some of the MDAs have just started laying the foundation for future successes, this could be an opportuned time to re-plan in the case of others to become more productive and efficient in the years ahead.

As a ministry, we are committed to undertake an annual assessment of this nature and report our findings to all interested parties. It is our firm belief that this report will propel all of us to double our efforts in fulfilling our promises to the people of Sierra Leone.

Finally, let me thank my colleague ministers and staff of their respective MDAs for their cooperation throughout the process of putting together this report. I wish all us many successful years ahead.

Madam Kenyeh Barlay,

Minister of Planning and Economic Development



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Executive Summary

The Medium Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) is a seven-year plan spanning 2024-2030, strategically designed to map out the development trajectory of the country over the period. Unlike previous plans which lasted for five years, this plan was developed to fully align its goals with other global and development frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030; African Union (AU) Agenda 2063; Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) Vision 2050 and the g7+; and Sendai and Climate Change frameworks.

The current plan focusses on the Government Big Five Game Changers, namely: Big 5.1 Feed Salone, the flagship programme, aimed at boosting agricultural productivity to ensure food security, inclusive economic growth and social stability; Big 5.2 Human Capital Development (HCD), focusing on delivering inclusive skills and a healthy population for the 21st century demands through scaled-up investment in human capital development; Big 5.3 Youth Employment Scheme, catalysing democratic sustainability, economic productivity and national security aimed at supplying 500,000 jobs for youths in the next five to seven years; Big 5.4 Technology and Infrastructure, focusing on increasing investment in infrastructure, technology and digitalisation; and Big 5.5 Transforming the Public Service Architecture, to ensure efficiency and professionalism in the public sector to achieve effective service delivery and maximised development results. The plan also has five Enablers, namely: E1 Diversifying the Economy and Promoting Growth, E2 Governance and Accountability, E3 Advancing Climate Resilience and Environmental Action, E4 Gender Mainstreaming and E5 Financing, Partnerships and Implementation and Risk Mitigation.

After one year of implementation, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) has undertaken an assessment of progress achieved by the respective ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). The cope of the assessment is limited to indicators, key targets and key policy actions in the plan and the accompanying results framework. The objective of the assessment is to cover learning and accountability requirements as enshrined in the plan.

The degree of achievements were designated using coloured arrows as follows: (i) green arrows mean significant progress above 90%; amber / yellow arrows mean progress between 40-90%; and red arrows mean progress less than 40%.


1.1 Summary of progress for selected key target / indicators under the Big Five Game Changers in 2024

1. Feed Salone

- ***Agriculture sector's key achievements assessed included:***

(i) A total of 607,207 hectares (ha) representing 109.5% increase in target for land cultivated for rice; (ii) 2.15 MT/ha rice yield representing 92.7% of the target; and (iii) decreases in the values of imports for key staples such as rice, onions, poultry and flour.

- ***Other achievements in the agriculture sector included:***



Establishment of state-of-the-art cashew factory in Newton; a large scale hatchery established by Leecon Hatchery in Makeni, producing 10,000 day-old chicks; Pee Cee and Sons (PCS) Ltd which was the largest importers of onions has evolved into the country's top producer of onions; development of soil suitability maps; MAFS in collaboration with BSL has introduced a USD 10 million credit facility aimed at supporting established businesses in rice, onion, and poultry sectors; with support from the World Bank, MAFS launched a USD 7.9 million matching grant under the Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP) for agribusinesses specializing in rice, cassava, and livestock; and Salone Access to Finance project (SATF) which is a five-year project, USD 12 million initiative funded by the European Union (EU) under its jobs and growth initiative, implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in collaboration with Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL).

- ***Fisheries and marine sector - key achievements assessed included:***

(i) Industrial catch increased from 245,000 to 269,473 MT representing 108% increase on target; (ii) revenue generation increased from NLe 105 million to NLe 150.47 million representing 135% increase on target; and (iii) certificate for exportation of fish to the China market obtained.

- ***Other achievements in fisheries and marine sector included:***

Establishment of SABCO Sardine Factory, represented a strategic shift from a supermarket chain to a fishing enterprise, as the facility uses locally sourced ingredients to produce sardines, offering fish processing and smoking services that boost the availability of nutrient-rich foods; the ministry successfully negotiated for fishing harbor; MOU signed between Arab Republic of Egypt for commercial fishing and aquaculture; and Bo experimental fish farm re-established.

- ***Nutrition sector's key achievements included:***

Due to the unavailability of key data on targets and indicators, progress on achievements for 2024 could not be carried out. However, the respective agencies namely the Directorate of Nutrition in the Ministry of Health and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat await the outcome of surveys to be concluded in 2025 to reveal actual achievements.

- ***Other achievements in the nutrition sector included:***

(i) Set up national advisory and breast feeding committee; capacity building of clinical and non-clinical staff and provided support to Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives (BFHI); (ii) training of all nutritionists in the 16 districts and health staff on the management of acute malnutrition without complications; (iii) capacity building on maternal and young child nutrition for health workers; local production with emphasis on complementary food for children (6-23 months) with four production sites established in three districts fully managed by Mother's Support Group (MSGs) members; and (iv) cascaded training of health workers in ten districts on anaemia prevention and control.

2. Human Capital Development (HCD)

- ***Free quality basic and senior secondary education - key achievements assessed included:***

In the case of schools and educational institutions with curriculum responsive to needs of labour market, it was reported that only ten (10) schools representing 71.4% of the target were achieved; the average pupil –to-qualified teacher ratio across the educational levels was 57:1 (pre-primary recorded 41:1; primary recorded 62:1, junior secondary schools (JSS) recorded 41:1, and senior secondary schools (SSS) recorded the highest ratio of 87:1) representing 105% improvement on target; and efforts to provide for children with special needs education are being established.



Other achievements in basic and senior secondary school education included:

About 10% of schools have access to the curriculum through internet sites like MBSSE Website; two thousand five hundred and seventy-four (2,574) teachers appraised and awaiting placement; Radical Inclusion Steering Committee reviewed and the first meeting took place on the 28 August 2024; and recruitment of 200 School Quality Assurance Officers (Inspectors) to monitor activities of schools.

- ***Tertiary and higher education- key achievements assessed included:***

(i) Enrolment in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) was 175,171 students in six public HEIs representing 157% of the target; (ii) 590 students representing 21.4% of the target succeeded in accessing student loan scheme; and (iii) 4,836 students (1,186 and 3,650 enrolled in public and private technical vocational educational training (TVET) institutions respectively) representing 169% of the target were empowered with TVET skills.

Other achievements in tertiary and higher education sector included:

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) established a national research and innovation policy and partnered with other research organisations; helped establish workshops to train young people in servicing Japanese vehicles; offered scholarships to students through an online portal; and developed a bill for student loan scheme.

- ***Health care delivery - key achievements assessed included:***

There were notable changes in the health indicators showing positive trends in the sector. Maternal mortality reported was 315 deaths/100,000 representing 110% of the target, while infant mortality was 76 deaths/1,000 live births representing 97.3% of the target. Life expectancy reported was 56.3 years representing 102.4% of the target and health worker density was 18.8 health workers per 10,000 population.


Other achievements in the health sector included:

Ministry of Health (MoH) finalized the construction of Lumley hospital; rehabilitated and provided medical equipment for Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH); turned the sod for the construction of a faculty of basic medical sciences at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Services (COMAHS) in April 2024; launched the first Climate-Health unit in April 2024; developed a Digital Health Roadmap for 2024-2026; and sent 60-65 young medical doctors on a one-year rural posting.

- ***HIV/AIDS - key achievements assessed included:***

In the fight to eliminate HIV/AIDS by 2030, (i) the 2024 Global Estimates indicated that 77,247 Sierra Leoneans are living with HIV. Of this number, 76,556 are currently enrolled on life-long sustainable treatment; (ii) in terms of over-achieving the Global targets of 95-95-95 and the country's target of 98-98-98 by 2030 as depicted in the MTNDP 2024-2030, Sierra Leone is currently at 83-83-62; and (iii) Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV baseline was 15.8% in 2023. The target set for 2030 was to reduce it to less than 5% by 2030. The current progress as at 30 June 2024 stands at 12% marking a reduction of 3.8%.

- ***Malaria - key achievements included:***



Nationwide malaria vaccine and routine Human Papillomavirus Vaccines (HPV) for girls aged between 9 to 14 years was introduced; and Insecticide Treated-bed Net (ITN) mass distribution campaign in 15 districts.

- ***Water, environmental sanitation, waste management and hygiene - key achievements assessed included:***

Accessing clean, portable water is an age-old problem in many communities in the country especially in the dry season. However there have been various interventions by Government and partners in constructing bore holes especially in rural communities. The percentage of population with access to safe portable drinking water remained unchanged at 63% which was 94.2% of the target for 2024. The average population with access to safely managed sanitation was 58.5% which represented 96.7% of the target.

Other achievements in Water, environmental sanitation included:


The Ministry signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with 14 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the construction of a mix of boreholes with mechanized systems and hand pumps as well as sanitation and hygiene facilities in communities, schools and Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) in rural communities across the country; the Ministry secured a grant from the Government of Saudi Arabia for the construction of 200 mechanized solar powered boreholes across the country; 3 Million Litres a Day Water Supply System constructed in Angola Town, Western Rural Area by Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC); and Western Area Peninsular Water Fund established and launched as a multi-stakeholder process for water resources management.

- ***Women's empowerment - key achievements assessed included:***

Disaggregated and accurate data for women's access to financial products and services was not available at the time of reporting. As part of the achievements of the Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) in 2024 were: (i) successfully tabled the prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2024; (ii) strengthened measures against gender-based violence to create a safer society for women and girls; (iii) as part of the UNFPA/ UNICEF Global Programme to end Child Marriage, the Ministry established 5 Adolescent friendly Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Hubs in Koinadugu and Falaba districts to enhance adolescent's access to family planning services. Within the period under review, 670 adolescents received family planning services in the SRH Hubs. Generally, there has been an increase in uptake of contraceptive services across the country; and (iv) Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NEWMAP) Secretariat established and fully operationalized, to coordinate capacity building and other support for elected and appointed female officials.

- ***Children, the aged and disability welfare - key achievements assessed included:***

The Government has made a number of interventions in advancing the development of children. In recent past, the Government has declared rape as a state of emergency issue in 2019, followed by the "Hands off Our Girls" campaign to protect girls from sexual violence. According to reported data from DonBosco International, in the case of rescued children from the street, 88.9% of the target were reunified with caregivers / parents nationwide; 66.7% of the target of children were placed in safe homes; child labour, violence and abuse rates were lower than expected representing 158% of the



target; and 83.3% of the children survivors / victims of abuse and violence had access to rehabilitation and reintegration services.

Aged - key achievements included:

The Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) in collaboration with partners, undertook the following activities: (i) MSW held monthly coordination meeting with Aged Serving organizations; (ii) King George VI Home for the Aged provided with both technical, food, corrugated iron sheets and financial support; (iii) Aged Serving Organizations provided with grants; (iv) commemorated International Day for Older Persons; (v) advocacy events for the aged observed; and (vi) facilitated the screening and provision of free Malaria, diabetics high blood pressure treatment for Older Persons in Moyiba, Deep Eye Water, Kanikay, Kroo Bay, and Cline town communities.

- ***Social protection - key achievements assessed included:***

GoSL is committed to supporting youth, poor and vulnerable through a number of activities including direct cash transfer provided by National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA). A total of 879,768 poor households received cash transfers representing 156.9% of the target; employment was provided to 10,716 youth representing 51% of target; and in the provision of special support to at least 30% of vulnerable populations (including women, persons with disabilities, older persons, and children) by 2030, a total of 879,768 vulnerable population representing 156% of target were recipients of such support.

- ***Other achievements under social protection included:***

Thirteen (13) Community Health Centre / Posts under construction (at various levels of completion); prepared a social work plan and Bill to improve the lives of people with disabilities; and awarded one million dollars to the India United Nations Development Partnership Fund to empower people with disabilities economically.

3. Youth Employment Scheme


In a bid to address the issue of high unemployment, the Government pronounced that it would facilitate the provision of 500,000 jobs to youth and young people. Through the interventions of public and private entities, it was estimated that a total of 22,540 (private -17,130 and public -5,410) new jobs were created representing 60.4% of the target in 2024.

Other achievements in youth employment scheme included:

The Ministry of Youth Affairs (MoYA) awarded grants to 216 young entrepreneurs and 40 female-led organisations; trained women in non-traditional trades; provided farm placements for graduates in aquaculture, poultry, animal husbandry and crop production; engaged 4,200 young people in agriculture through the Food Systems Resilience Programme; provided 200 tricycles and 50 local fishing boats to support youth employment in transport sector and livelihood to rural communities respectively; established Youth Connect Africa Hubs; and created a youth empowerment portal.

4. Infrastructure, technology and innovation

- ***Energy - key achievements assessed included:***



Access to reliable and sustained electricity has been a major concern to Government and the people of Sierra Leone. In terms of percentage of population with access to electricity, the reported achievement was 36% representing 100% of the target. However, the percentage of households with access to electricity was also 36% representing 120% of the target.

Other achievements in energy sector included:

Forty-five (45) solar mini-grids were completed in several chiefdoms; 10MW grid solar power plant for Makoth and 10 MW at Koidu were completed and commissioned; 225kV CLSG transmission line from Liberia to Kenema was commissioned, with electricity received in Bo and Kenema cities; 5 out of the 29 communities along CLSG/ WAPP transmission network were electrified; stringing of 538 km of transmission lines across seven districts were completed; on the policy front, the environmental guidelines for small and mini-grid projects, the national action plan on gender mainstreaming in energy access etc. were developed; and Sierra Leone Water and Electricity Act (2011) reviewed and approved by cabinet in October 2024.

- ***Road and transport systems - key achievements assessed included:***

The aviation industry successfully passed the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) audit with a safety rating of 74% representing 97.4% of the target, guaranteeing the Freetown International Airport as certified by the ICAO. The new airport is now rated as an International Airport with all relevant facilities that meet International Standards of ICAO.

Other achievements in road and transport systems included:

The transport sector successfully conducted maritime security assessment on all five ports, to ensure the safety of life and property at sea; the ministry of transport through the IRUMP project delivered: 50 buses, 4 footbridges, bus stops terminal at Lumley and the construction of a Market at Lumley which is ongoing; and an Ultra-modern MoT fitness regime through Autospect and Auto part Freetown were successfully implemented.


- ***Communication, technology and innovation - key achievements assessed included:***

In recent times, growth in communications, technology and innovation (CTI) in the country has rapidly increased as it is now considered very important for the growth of other sectors. Also in a recent development worth mentioning is that the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) introduced national switch that will facilitate instant payment services. Key achievements revealed the following: (i) number of internet users were 2.2 million representing 110% of target (ii) access to digital financial services was 96.8% of target (iii) ground work in the establishment of a Smart City in Bo city, has commenced with the ministry securing a total of 130 acres of land in Tikonko chiefdom, Bo district.

Other achievements in communication, technology and innovation sector included:

Expansion of fiber network backbone to 14 out of 16 districts, increased the fixed broadband connections by 100% from 5,000 subscribers in 2022 to 10,000+ subscribers, and launched Starlink which is estimated to increase internet users by at least 900 across the country.

5. Transforming the public service architecture



The main objective highlighted in the plan is to create an efficient, professional, and result-oriented Civil / Public Service that attracts and retains the brightest talents to be at the forefront of rolling out the Government’s agenda. In pursuit of this agenda, some ground work are now in place to actualise this dream. Notable achievements in 2024 were: (i) a biometric attendance system developed and piloted in 20 out of 46 MDAs representing 43.5% of the target; and (ii) job advert portal developed to upload job vacancies / adverts as deemed necessary representing 100% of the target.

Other achievements transforming the public service architecture included:

The Ministry of Public Administration and Political Affairs (MOPAPA) in collaboration with Human Resource Management Office (HRMO) have validated and launched a road map for the transformation of the public service; and the public service act was reviewed as a first step in drafting a bill to promulgate a public service act.

1.2 Summary of progress for selected key target / indicators under the Enablers in 2024


Enabler 1: Diversifying the economy and promoting growth

- **Transforming the tourism sector – key achievements included:**

The transformation and optimal use of our touristic potentials could provide enormous benefits to the people of Sierra Leone including job creation and serve as foreign exchange earner. During the course of 2024, the sector’s notable achievements included: (i) identification of seven (7) Tourism Development Areas (TDAs) across the country; (ii) upgraded Cultural Policy and Heritage Bill which is at the stage of drafting; (iii) the development of all three sites namely, Bureh Beach, Tacugama and Leicester Peak have reached 70%, and will be handed over to the Ministry by October to December 2025; (iv) the Ministry of Lands handed over 6,000 acres of forestland at Tacugama, Regent, to Ministry of Tourism for protection and development for tourism purposes; (v) completion of an engineering assessment of proclaimed and potential assets in Magburaka, Kono, Moyamba and Port Loko; (vi) the ministry implemented the One Year-Long “Tourism for All” Campaign engaging stakeholders at regional and district levels, raised awareness on domestic tourism and preservation of cultural and environmental heritages; and (vii) the Ministry produced promotional materials such as Visitors Guide to Sierra Leone, Handy Guide, Brochures, Posters, Folders, pens, etc. that were distributed at local and international fairs, Embassies at home and abroad, and other tourist establishments.

- **Strengthening private sector for trade and sustainable development- key achievements included:**

The private sector plays a pivotal role in the development of the economy through job creation, facilitation of ntrade domestically and internationally among others. During the course of 2024, the following achievements were made: (i) three (3) assessment studies of Sierra Leone's preparedness for the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement. (AfCFTA); (ii) The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) successfully hosted the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) team in June 2024; (iii) a total of 160 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) had access to finance to facilitate business growth, productivity and competitiveness, and Cocoa Factory was established in Sierra Leone worth US\$ 600,000; (iv) MoTI in collaboration with the AfCFTA secretariat and the MoF, is actively working on gazetting of Tariff



Schedule A; (v) establishment of the SEZ at KOYA currently at an advance stage; (vi) 150 SMEs and local entrepreneurs were promoted within the agribusiness sector to make them export ready; (vii) 3,000 SMEs accessed finance through the MUNAFA fund.

Value addition and efficient management of natural resources

- **Mining - key achievements included:**

The Ministry of Mines in collaboration with partners were able to achieve the following in 2024:

(i) Environmental rehabilitation was undertaken in five mined sites; (ii) non tax revenues amounted to approximately US\$ 50 million, while tax revenues generated from the sector were between US\$ 8-9 Million; (iii) total mineral export value dropped from US\$ 1.6 billion in 2023 to US\$ 1.2 billion in 2024 largely due to Sierra Rutile halting operations; and (iv) FG Gold was licensed, with a projected export generation of US\$ 300 million annually which is a substantial increase from the current US\$ 1 million in large-scale gold export.

Other achievements in the mining sector included:


Government's revenue generation drive was supported by increasing large-scale license fees from US\$500,000 to US\$1,000,000; (ii) rehabilitation of mined out sites was funded by Development and Peace Caritas Canada through Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) in Tongo, Tankoro, Gbense, Nimikoro and Mogbemo; (iii) German International Cooperation (GIZ) conducted training on combating the smuggling of precious metals and stones along porous borders. GIZ supports the Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Taskforce in conducting sensitization on mining-related issues; (iv) Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Communities in Koinadugu, Kono and Kailahun Districts were trained on Environmental and Social Compliance Standards; and (v) the National Minerals Agency (NMA) paid a 1-year subscription fee for the Maintenance of Oasis Montaj for the eGIMS infrastructure and ArcGIS Online Subscription and Maintenance for the ESRI Suite of Applications.

- **Oil and gas - key achievements included:**

The oil and gas sub-sector reported the following achievements in 2024: (i) enhancement of transparency and accountability ensuring that oil and gas licenses are publicly available; mainstreaming of revenue receipts will be accomplished after modernization of web portal; and beneficial ownership information will be made available in real time after the enactment of related legislation; (ii) creation of a National Oil Company to be known as Sierra Leone National Oil Company (SLENOC) is in progress- Memorandum and Articles of Association finalized and deposited in accordance with the Companies' Act 2009; (iii) draft amendment to the existing legislation incorporating onshore exploration activities already published in The Sierra Leone Gazette, and bill expected to be tabled in Parliament; and (iv) amendment to the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act 2011 is ongoing and when promulgated, provisions would have been made for onshore hydrocarbon exploration, and ultimately, natural hydrogen exploration.

- **Financial inclusion for strengthened rural and informal economies - key achievements assessed included:**

Some major achievements recorded in the drive towards financial inclusion included: (i) access to client-centric financial products and services indicator was reported at 31% which represented 100.9% of the



target; (ii) development and usage of digital financial services indicator was reported at 32% representing 101.3% of target; (iii) number of active digital financial service users indicator was reported at approximately 2.7 million people representing 100% of target; and (iv) on digital economy score, the score for 2024 remained at 48% which represented 100% of target.

Other achievements under financial inclusion included:

The recently launched national payment switch is up and running; BSL is currently working on the formation of a financial inclusion data committee at the Bank; BSL is also seeking technical support from one its donor partners to engender the effective roll-out and usage of the financial inclusion data templates and dashboard; development of fintech regulation ongoing; and implementation of DigiGov initiative funded by AfDB to improve digitalization of Government payment is ongoing and on track.

Enabler 2: Governance and Accountability

Political modernization for consolidating peace and national cohesion

- **Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC)**

Key achievements/ activities: (i) ICPNC trained staff on data gathering and early warning; (ii) trained regional staff of the commission on internal controls and auditing among others; and (iii) secured media platforms with key media outlets across the country for confidence building, stakeholders' engagement, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.


- **Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC)**

Key achievements/ activities: (i) PPRC organized 60 radio engagements and 15 TV discussions to increase the awareness and educate the public on the importance and benefits of national cohesion across the country; (ii) the Commission organized stakeholders engagements with the leadership of political parties to discuss on possible areas of review in the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 following the submission of the Tripartite Committee's Recommendations; (iii) the Commission provided training for 1,360 political party leaders on dispute resolution and conflict management across the 16 districts; (iv) the Commission held two (2) Inter-Party Dialogue Committee Meetings bringing together the leadership of the 17 registered political parties; (v) the Commission monitored the activities of Political Parties in line with the provision of section 34 & 35 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the provisions of the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022; and (vi) the Commission organized stakeholder meeting with the leadership of political parties in the Western Region.

- **Strengthening the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows**

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was established to combat corruption in the country. Some of the achievements in 2024 included: (i) the number of MDAs with established and functional integrity management committees increased to 64 representing 84.4% of the target; (ii) according to Transparency International (TI), the country's ranking on Corruption Index dropped from 108 in 2023 to 114 in 2024, which is a worrying sign for the ACC in the fight against corruption; and (iii) the commission has finalized and launched the 2024-2028 National Anti-Corruption Strategy for implementation.

- **Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA)**



Key achievements / activities: (i) FIA reviewed and enacted new legislation, the AML/CFT/PF Act 2024; (ii) the Agency has submitted a proposal for the development of Asset Management Regime including proposed Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), which was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (now renamed the Advisory Board); (iii) gains were recorded in securing technical and financial support from the World Bank for the development of the National AML/CFT/PF National Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2029; (iv) the Financial Crimes Working Group (FCWG) led by the FIA has completed a Study Report on Entry-Exit Point Financial Crimes Threat Assessment; (v) development of the Draft Study Report for the Entry-Exit Point Financial Crimes Threat Assessment; (vi) development of Draft Directives and Guidelines for Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions; (vii) development of the review framework for the Directives and Guidelines for financial institutions (Fis); (viii) FIs, from the board of directors to front-line staff, are being trained on the issue of insider threats, bank/financial fraud, and corruption; (ix) MoUs have been signed with stakeholders, including youth groups focused on the fight against corruption; and (x) the National Strategy and Action Plan has a whole pillar focused on raising awareness and building the capacity of stakeholders. However, ongoing efforts are being made to engage stakeholders at all levels on the dangers of financial crimes, including corruption.

- **Public financial management (PFM)**

Key achievements / targets assessed under PFM included: (i) By 2026, domestic revenue increased to at least 18 percent of GDP from 13 percent in 2022: actual revenue was 8.8% representing 98.9% of target and 111.4% of baseline, corresponding to green arrow; (ii) By 2026 Debt to GDP Ratio will be reduced from 98.9% to not more than 70%: it was reported that the actual debt-to-GDP ratio in 2024 was 46% which was well within the targeted limit, corresponding to green arrow; and (iii) By 2028, public expenditure management architecture will be significantly strengthened: the reported actual total expenditure and net lending as a % of GDP (rebased) was 16.3% representing 101.2% and 99.4% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow.

Other achievements included: (i) drafted fiscal decentralization strategy and policy was developed in 2024 and approved by Cabinet in 2025; (ii) established the Sierra Leone Mines and Mineral Development and Management Corporation and the Mineral Wealth Fund in 2024 by an Act of Parliament; (iii) MoF developed and enacted the Finance Bill 2024 to support domestic revenue mobilization; (iv) finalized the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS), developed its implementation plan, and organized steering and Technical Committee meetings with key stakeholders on the MTRS's implementation progress; (v) continued the implementation of the Tax and Duty Exemption Act to ensure the rationalization of exemptions; (vi) continued to support implementing systems such as the Electronic Cash Register (ECR), Excise Tax Stamp, and N-SOFT software processes for domestic revenue mobilization; (vii) collaborated with the Fiscal Decentralisation Division to conduct a nationwide engagement with local councils to mobilize their own sources of revenues; (viii) engaged key stakeholders through a public-private dialogue to support and tax the informal economy and worked with the NRA to conduct tax expenditure study and analysis; and (ix) Conducted Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA), involving the National DSA Team (MoF, NRA, BSL, Stats SL, CSO – Budget Advocacy Network).



- **Audit services**

Some achievements made by the ASSL included: (i) full annual performance audits were conducted representing 100% of target; and (ii) revenue audit was also conducted and submitted to parliament, representing 100% target.

Other achievements / activities included: (i) ASSL successfully completed the audit of MDAs for the financial year 2023 and Auditor General's Report was submitted to Parliament on 9 December 2024 and tabled on 17 December 2024; (ii) three performance audit reports were completed and submitted and tabled in Parliament in 2024; (iii) ASSL completed one revenue audit as planned in 2004; the audit covered various government revenue streams, including customs duties, corporation tax, PAYE, and some non-tax revenue streams; (iv) significant progress was made in the implementation of an automated system for the follow-up of audit recommendations in 2024. The software deployed for this purpose is being managed by the Internal Audit Department at the Ministry of Finance.


Inclusive and accountable justice institutions

- **Ministry of Justice**

Major highlights of progress in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) can be summarized under the following headings **(a) legislative and policy development** which included the preparation and submission of eight (8) cabinet papers namely: Proposed Law Officers' Bill, Contempt of Court Bill, Referendum Bill, Copyright (Amendment Bill), Legal Practitioners Bill, Sierra Leone Correctional Service (Amendment) Bill, and the proposed Amendments to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Act; (ii) Key draft bills reviewed or developed included: Criminal Procedure Bill, Occupational Safety and Health Bill, Merchant Shipping Bill, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration Bill and Sierra Leone Railway Development Bill. **(b) Bilateral and Multilateral cooperation** the Ministry signed several important international instruments and cooperation agreements including: (i) drafted MoU on immigration management between the Sierra Leone Immigration Department (SLID) and the Federal Service Interior of the Kingdom of Belgium; (ii) drafted bilateral agreement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Sierra Leone for the waiver of visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders. **(c) Human resource capacity development:** targeted workshops and training sessions were conducted to strengthen legal knowledge and competencies among State Counsels, particularly in the Civil and Commercial Division. **(d) Access to justice and infrastructure enhanced:** court infrastructure was improved, and case management systems were increasingly digitized to reduce delays and improve efficiency.

- **Judiciary**

The following key targets were assessed: By 2030, ensure that the number of cases awaiting judgement for six months are considerably lower than in 2023: it was reported that 75% of the cases were completed while 15% of the matters were carried forward by way of adjournment and the remaining 10% of the matters reserved for ruling and or judgment; (ii) By 2030, increase public confidence and trust in the justice sector as measured in periodic surveys: with improved service delivery of justice sector institutions, 91.3% and 119.7% of target and baseline were achieved, corresponding to green



arrow; and (iii) By 2030, all administrative districts have more resident High Court Judge- number of resident high court judges in administrative districts (state councils across the country): it was reported that each district currently has a resident Magistrate; some like Port Loko district have three Magistrates given the size of the district, others like Kenema and Bo have two each.

- **Legal Aid Board**

Achievements and progress made in key targets / indicators in 2024 included: (i) a total of 22,898 reported cases of legal representations (indigent persons regardless of nationality) were handled in 2024 representing 3.6% improvement in 2023 cases. It was also noted that in both sexes and age categories (adults and juveniles), the number of cases with legal representations were higher for males than females; (ii) legal advice and assistance / mediation: no targets were set for 2024. In a similar vein, the reported cases were higher in 2024 representing an increase of 25.8% in 2023 cases (iii) 107 Child Maintenance Accounts were opened at the Rokel Commercial Bank outlet at the Legal Aid Board head office in Freetown; and (iv) monitored 282 Local Courts and a lot more Traditional Justice Mechanisms commonly called Informal Courts around the country.

- **Decentralisation, local governance, and rural development**

Achievements and progress made in key targets / indicators in 2024 included: (i) village/chiefdom level planning rolled out to 10 villages/chiefdoms; (ii) village and section level plans were prepared in 2024 across 9 chiefdoms and 5 districts; (iii) dissemination of Local council Operational guidelines done across 16 districts and 22 Local Councils; the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs reported that according to the Comprehensive Local Government Performance Assessment System (CLOGPAS), 75% of the Local Councils are using the operational guidelines; and (iii) according to Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) a Human Resource Management Guidelines for Local councils was developed in 2024. The guidelines are meant to address issues of recruitment, postings and transfer of Local Council staffs.


- **Security institutions**

Achievements in the security included: (i) early warning and response capacity of the security institutions significantly higher than in 2023: a total of 1,240 coordinating meetings were held representing 70.1% of the target; (ii) community engagements in security processes and functions was greater than in 2023: a total of 187 community engagements representing 149.6% of the target; (iii) strengthened the interface among security sector institutions, and between these institutions and the populace, MDAs, and the Government; (iv) reviewed existing legislations governing the security sector with a view to bringing them in line with best practice; and (v) strengthened the intelligence wing of the security sector to detect and thwart threats to national security.

Enabler 3: Advancing climate resilience and environmental action

- **Building national environmental resilience**

Achievements in building national environmental resilience included: (i) prosecuted 15 Civil and 5 Criminal Lawsuits against defaulters of the Environment Protection Agency Act 2022 and its regulations; (ii) Sector



Specific EIA fees regulations and agro-based industries regulations developed; (iii) standards on Air Quality, Water Quality, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and Noise developed; (iv) ozone regulation was amended to incorporate HFCs' phase-down plan and management; (v) the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) intensified public education about the dangers of mercury among school nature clubs in Koidu City, Kono district; and (vi) recruited individual consultant or firm for baseline ecological, environmental and socio-economic studies of the Scarce River and Sierra Leone River Estuary Marine Protected Area.

- **Forestry management and wetland conservation**

Achievements in forestry management and wetland conservation included: (i) MoU signed between the National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA) and the Loma Community Conservation Programme (LCCP) for the implementation of the Loma Project was completed, on Friday 11 October 2024; (ii) the NPAA under the Outamba Kilimi—Kuru Hills—Penselli—Soyah (OKKPS) project supported by the European Union (EU) conducted a popularization and sensitization tour within the OKNP landscape to continue protecting biodiversity and the ecosystem in OKNP; (iii) conducted a law enforcement routine surveillance and patrol across the Outamba Kilimi National Park (OKNP) to stop all illegal activities in the Park from the 16- 20 September 2024; and (iv) conducted a training on Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) from the 2 - 7 September 2024 at the Sea Coach Conference Hall, 75 Sir Samuel Lewis Road Aberdeen.

- **Disaster management and governance**

Achievements in disaster management and governance included: (i) the reported achievement for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policies, strategies, plans, and programmes are mainstreamed into sectoral and local development plans, doubled over the period representing 200% of the target; (ii) percent of disaster risk reduction interventions that were decentralized was reported at 40% representing 200% of the target; (iii) progress on national early warning and early response system immensely scaled up was reported as low representing 100% of target; (iv) as at December 2024, 74 out of 193 chiefdom disaster management committees, 6 out of 16 district disaster management committees and 5 out of 5 regional disaster management committees have been set up; (v) the agency has offices in all regions that coordinate risk reduction activities in the regions with support from the ONS; and (vi) the headquarters and regional offices collaborates with Red Cross and National Fire Force (NFF) to do rapid assessments when disasters occur.

Enabler 4: Gender mainstreaming

Key achievements in gender mainstreaming included: (i) regulations developed as provided by the GEWE Act; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2024 passed in parliament representing 100% of target; (ii) in both levels of governance, parliament and local council, the participation of women have been very good, in parliament and local councils the target of 30% and 41% were respectively achieved; (iii) about 27% of women are reported to have access to financial services, representing 90% of target for 2024; (iv) all ministries now have gender units established representing 169.5% of target; (v) 25% of districts have implemented GBVIMS representing 50% of the target for 2024.



Enabler 5: Financing, partnerships for implementation and risks management

- **Public investment programme (PIP)**

The total projected cost of the seven-year MTNDP 2024-2030 was estimated at US\$12.05 billion (US\$6.62 billion represents direct project-related costs and US\$5.43 billion represents the government's statutory expenditures to support project implementation). Total public expenditure on the implementation of PIPs from domestic capital amounted to NLe 3,963,677,000, initially planned to support a total 196 projects in 2024. However due to funding constraints only 107 were financed. In actual terms, the highest support went to infrastructure, technology and innovation (27 projects) followed by to HCD (26 projects), governance (20 projects) etc. The flagship programme, Feed Salone had 10 projects financed under the PIP.

In terms of actual amounts disbursed for project implementation, there were six (6) out of nine (9) project categories where overspending was evident: the biggest amount overspent was NLe 2,514,068,000 on infrastructure, technology and innovation, followed by HCD with an amount of NLe 885,282,000. Underspending was also observed as follows: Feed Salone- NLe 136,033,000 was disbursed as against NLe 836,027,000; so also was transforming the public service architecture with NLe 2,625,000 disbursed as against NLe 4,500,000; and diversifying the economy in which NLe 5,000,000 was disbursed as against NLe 26,300,000.

Five programme categories received counterpart funding totaling NLe 434,500 in 2024 as follows: HCD received the biggest counterpart funding to the tune of NLe 227,500,000 accounting for 10.2% share of total allocation; infrastructure, technology and innovation in the amount of NLe 120,000,000 accounting for 5.4% share of allocation; Feed Salone, NLe 71,200,000; financing, NLe 13,500,000; and diversifying the economy, NLe 1,500,000. There four programme categories did not receive any counterpart funding because there were no grant-funded programmes in their respective portfolio.


- **Multilateral and bilateral support in the implementation of MTNDP 2024-2030**

Development partners, multilateral and bilateral have been very supportive of Government's agendas for decades. Interventions have been financial through direct project support, grants, technical assistance and so on. The provision of such support to the implementation of the Big Five Game Changers is one of the latest interventions in recent times. NGOs, national and international are also used as conduits to channel support in aid of Government's interventions.

During the course of 2024, it was reported that, total multilateral and bilateral support amounted to US\$ 327.62 towards the implementation of MTNDP 2024-2030. In comparison to 2023, total support reduced by 7.6% from US\$ 354.71 million to US\$ 327.62 million.

- **Challenges in the implementation of the MTNDP**

The four main categories of challenges highlighted were: (i) inadequate funding / late disbursement of funds / counterpart funding not forthcoming; (ii) weak coordination among MDAs; (iii) limited capacity in some MDAs: inadequate logistics, limited space to accommodate personnel; (iv) inadequate / absence



of data to enable proper planning and monitoring of progress in the implementation of activities; and (v) poor internet connectivity.

- **Looking forward**

The achievements by MDAs in the first year of implementation of the MTNDP 2024-2030 was commendable with a good number of key targets / indicators assessed progressing in the right direction. However, there is still room for improvement and in certain cases some catch ups towards achieving significant growth in the coming years. Also, we must not lose sight of the ground work already laid in some instances that are vital in taking the next few steps in actualizing specific results and outcomes.

In order for MDAs to fully translate their plans into reality, a number of strategic actions have to be taken, among which are the following: (a) amidst of limited funding for the implementation of programmes and projects, exploring innovative means of financing becomes an inevitable option while MDAs have to observe improved financial discipline to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery; (b) improve capacity of personnel through professional trainings in relevant / specialized areas while paying close attention to planning, monitoring and evaluation; not forgetting the need for quality data and how it can influence project results and outcomes; (c) improve operationalization of SWGs to support coordination of MDA activities and enhance interaction with development partners; and (d) the need to promote high level technological solutions, fueled by internet connectivity remains undisputed and is a necessity.

1.3 SUMMARY OF KEY TARGETS / INDICATORS ASSESSED IN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

1. BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS

FEED SALONE		
Land cultivated	Rice yield	Import values
Overall improvement in Global Food Security Index	Industrial catch	Revenue generated
Certification for export of fish to China market	Prevalence of stunted children under 5 years	Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 years
Anaemia in women of child-bearing age	Prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years	
HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT		
Schools curriculum responsive to needs	Pupil-to-qualified teacher ratio	Children with special needs provided with support
Enrolment in HEIs	Number of students accessing loan scheme	Additional 20,000 youth empowered with TVET skills
Maternal mortality	Infant mortality	Life expectancy
Health worker density	Population with access to safe and portable drinking water	Population with access to safely managed sanitation
Cash transfers to additional 35,000 households	Provide employment to 9,00 youth by 2030	Provide support to 30% of vulnerable population by 2030
Develop four dam water supply systems in Western Area	Rescued children from the streets and reunified with caregivers / parents nationwide	Children placed in safe homes
Child labour and abuse: lower rates of child labour, violence and abuse	Access to rehabilitation and reintegration services to all children survivors / victims of abuse and violence	
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME		
No. of youth employed		
INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION		
% population with access to electricity	% of households with access to electricity	ICAO Aviation Safety Rating
ICAO Aviation Safety Rating	Annual bus ridership nationwide	Additional number of all-weather roads (645 Km) constructed
Additional amount of feeder roads rehabilitated, upgraded and maintained	Number of internet users	Internet penetration rate (mobile data penetration)
Access to digital financial services	Establish a Smart City in Bo District	
TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SERVICE ARCHITECTURE		
Bill to rationalise mandates of MDAs enacted	Public service act promulgated	Migrating of all public service workers from paper to digital platforms
Job adverts are uploaded in portal platform	A public sector coordinating body is established	

2. THE ENABLERS

DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY AND PROMOTING GROWTH		
■ Access to client-centric financial products and services	■ Development and usage of digital financial services increased	■ Number of active digital financial service users increased.
■ Digital economy score increased		
GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY		
■ Systems and processes in public and private bodies improved	■ Number of MDAs Monitored for Compliance on Systems Review Recommendations Increased	■ Number of MDAs with established and functional Integrity Management Committee increased
■ Percentage of MDAs service charter and policies monitored	■ Law enforcement against corruption, unethical conduct, and illicit financial flows enhanced	■ Partnership with other MDAs in the fight against and control corruption increased
■ Domestic revenue increased	■ Debt to GDP Ratio reduced	■ Public expenditure management architecture significantly strengthened
■ Full annual performance audits conducted	■ Revenue audit conducted annually and submitted to Parliament	A system to fully implement and follow up on all financial audit recommendations set up
■ Number of cases awaiting judgement for six months are considerably lower	■ Public confidence and trust in the justice sector	Number of resident high court judges in administrative districts
■ Early warning and response capacity of the security institutions is higher	■ Community engagement in security processes and functions is greater.	■ Strengthen the interface among security sector institutions etc.
■ Review existing legislations /regulations/policies governing security sector	■ Strengthen the intelligence wing of the security sector	■ Enforce private security regulations of private security companies
■ Implement the National Protective Security Framework (NPSF) across MDAs etc.	■ Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policies, strategies, plans, and programmes are mainstreamed	■ Percent of disaster risk reduction interventions are decentralized
■ National early warning and early response system immensely scaled up		
GENDER MAINSTREAMING		
■ Number of Legal and policy frameworks adopted and/ or reviewed	■ Proportion of seats held by women in parliament and local councils	■ Percent women with access to financial
■ Percent women with access to financial services	■ Percentage of ministries with Gender Units established	■ Number of districts implementing the GBVIMS





PART 1: CONTEXT



1.1 Introduction

The current Medium Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) was concluded and launched in January 2024, clearly mapping out the development pathways and strategic direction of the country for the next seven years (2024-2030); unlike previous plans that were implemented for five years. The new plan builds on gains made from its predecessor implemented between 2019 and 2023.

The present plan aims to address unfinished businesses from the last plan and emerging challenges, with accompanying strides to ensure full alignment with global development frameworks, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Agenda 2030 (**Figure 2**)¹; regional and sub-regional development frameworks, including the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) Vision 2050 and the g7+, Sendai and climate change frameworks.

The current plan is focusing on the Government’s Big Five Game Changers that constitute the country’s overarching agenda for 2030. The Big Five Game Changers are:

- Big 5.1 Feed Salone, aiming at boosting agricultural productivity to ensure food security, inclusive economic growth and social stability;
- Big 5.2 Human Capital Development (HCD), focusing on delivering inclusive skills and a healthy population for the 21st century demands through scaling-up investments in HCD;
- Big 5.3 Youth Employment Scheme, catalysing democratic sustainability, economic productivity and national security aimed at supplying 500,000 jobs for youths in the next five to seven years;
- Big 5.4 Technology and Infrastructure, focusing on increasing investments in infrastructure, technology and digitalisation; and
- Big 5.5 Transforming the Public Service Architecture, to ensure efficiency and professionalism in the public sector to achieve effective service delivery and maximised development results.



Figure 1: Nexus of the Big Five Game Changers

¹ MTNDP 2024-2030, p. 28



Figure 2: Alignment of Big 5 Game Changers and SDGs

A comprehensive description / illustration of how and why the change anticipated in the MTDP by 2030 could be achieved in the context of Sierra Leone is summarized in the theory of change (ToC) in

Figure 3² “Within the theory of change, specific actions will be aimed at achieving specific and measurable targets and strategic objectives (intermediate results) within the ten Broad Result Areas (the Big 5s + the five Enablers) towards the ultimate achievements of the overarching Five Strategic Goals of the new MTNDP. The change required also depends on the internal nexuses among the Big 5s and the external five Enablers³.”

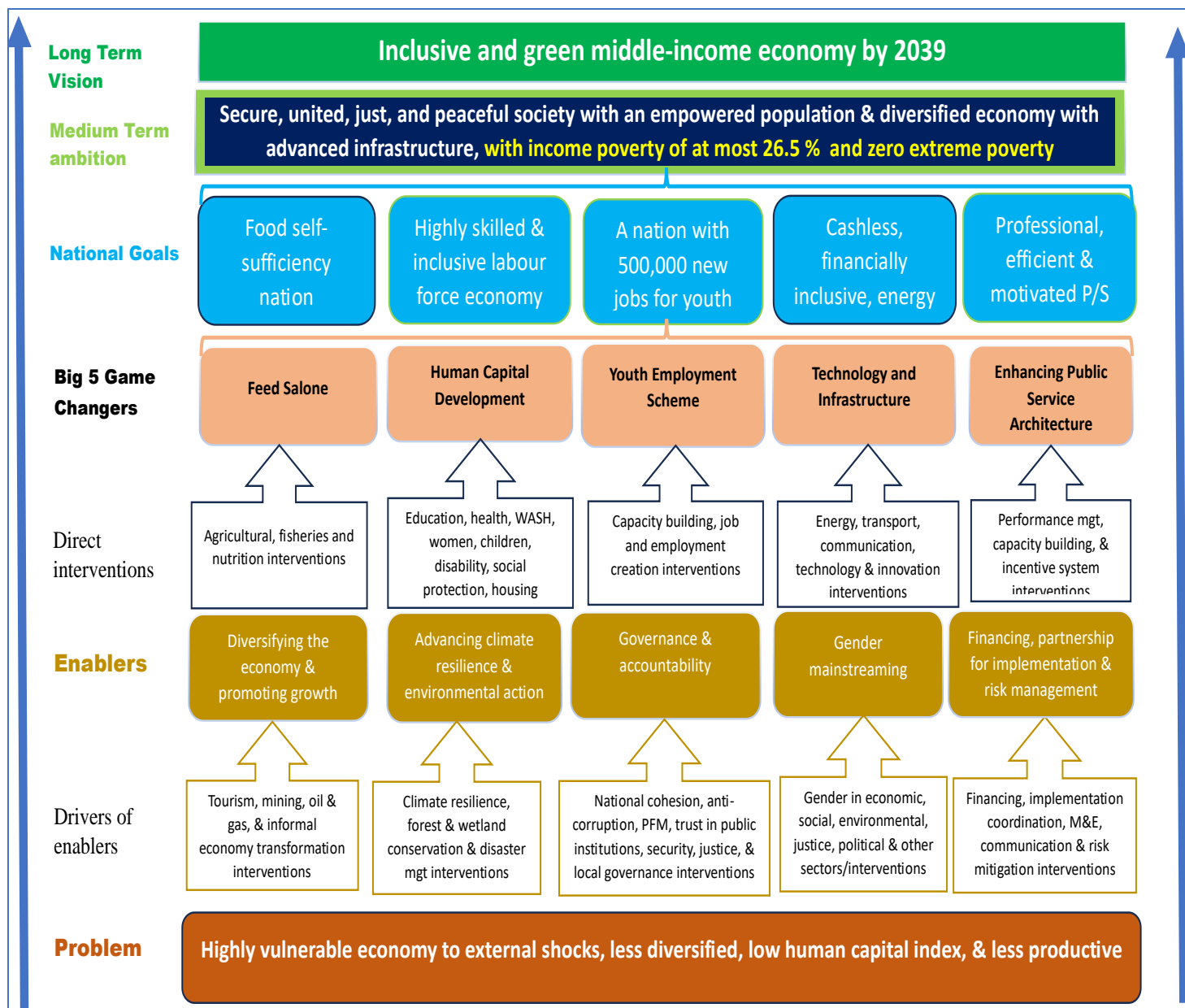


Figure 3: Theory of Change

² Ibid. p. 32

³ Ibid. p. 31



1.2 Scope and objective of assessment

After a year of implementation by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) has undertaken an annual assessment to assess progress of implementation in 2024 in a bid to determine achievements against targets set for the various sectors. The main objective of the assessment is to cover learning and accountability requirements in fulfilling agreed tasks as outlined in the MTNDP.

The scope of the assessment is limited to annual targets and key policy actions as stated in the MTNDP and its accompanying Result Framework. The assessors relied on secondary data and information reported by MDAs.

The progress on achievements were designated with coloured arrows superimposed on coloured backgrounds (**Table 1**) to denote the following:

- Green arrow – significant progress (>90%) on annual targets;
- Yellow (Amber) arrow – moderate progress (greater than 40% but less than 90%), on annual targets; and
- Red arrow – minimal progress (less than 40%), on annual targets.
- Grey – no assessment due to insufficient or lack of data.

Table 1: Classification of Progress on Achievements of Annual Targets

<40%	≥40%≤90%	≥90%
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1.3 Limitations

Data and information presented in this report were reported by focal persons in MDAs during the period of assessment. No verification exercises or spot checks were carried out to ensure accuracy of such.

1.4 Major highlights of macro-economic performance in 2024

Following years of macroeconomic instability stemming from adverse external shocks and policy slippages, the economy is beginning to stabilize. A combination of tight monetary and fiscal policies, alongside the implementation of structural reforms, has played a crucial role in restoring macroeconomic stability—a prerequisite for sustained, inclusive, and robust growth.

Despite the decline in inflation and stable exchange rate, Treasury Bill rates remain sticky at 40% in 2024 reflecting the increase in Government borrowing from the domestic market to finance the budget deficit. International reserves also fell to two months of imports cover as at end December 2024.

Preliminary estimates put real GDP growth at 4.0% in 2024, driven by higher than expected iron ore production, increased activities in agriculture, construction, light manufacturing, and a rebound in services, including tourism and travel. A sharp increase in credit to the private sector also supported growth outturns in 2024. However, this growth is slightly lower than the 5.3 and 5.7 growth rates recorded in 2022 and 2023, respectively, reflecting the decline in Iron ore prices and weak performance of the mining sector in general.

Inflationary pressures continue to moderate, declining from its peak of 54.5% in October, 2023 to 13.8% in December 2024 (see Figure 3 and Figure 4), as tight monetary policy action take hold supported by fiscal consolidation. The decline in headline inflation also reflect the relative stability in exchange rate, increased food production, and softening international energy prices. Food and non-food inflation also declined to 13.89 and 13.69, respectively from the elevated levels in 2023.

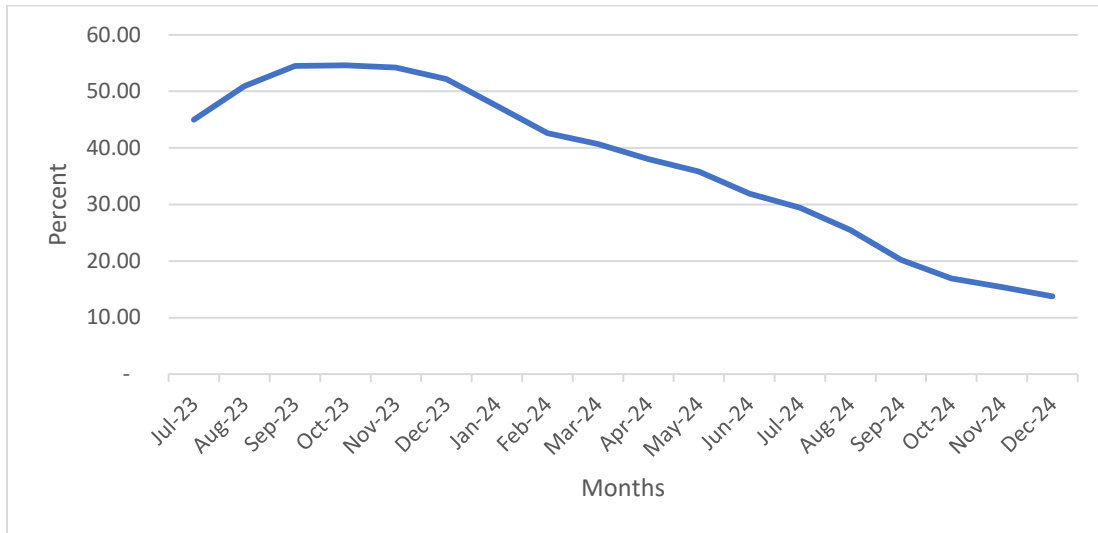


Figure 4: Consumer Price Index 2024

Source: MoF

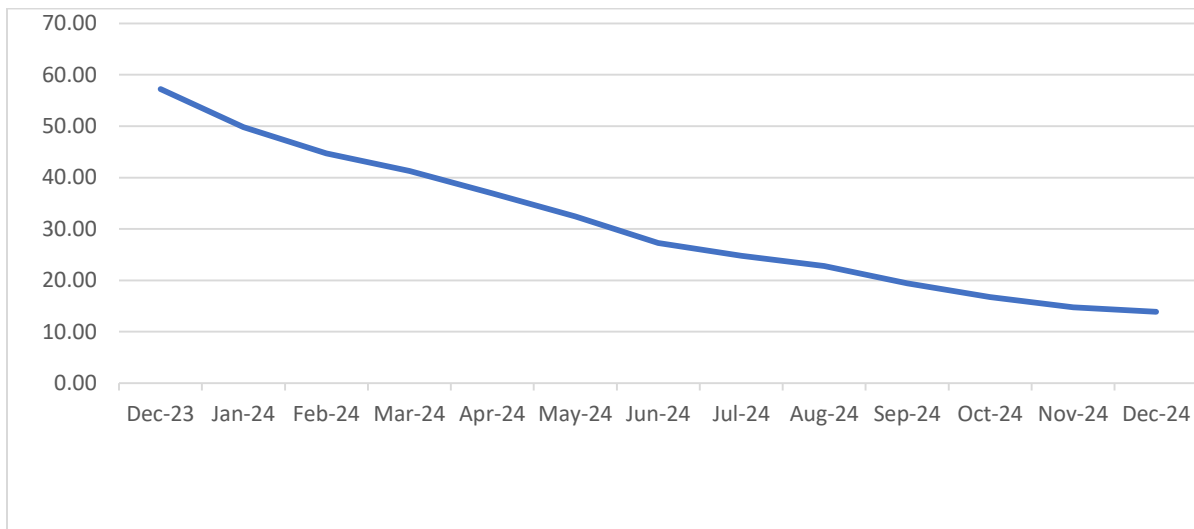



Figure 5: Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages in 2024

Source: MoF

Fiscal performance improved in 2024 supported mainly by increase in domestic revenue collection. Domestic revenue increased to 8.8% of GDP in 2024 from 7.9% of GDP in 2023. Total expenditure and



net lending declined slightly to 16.3 % of GDP in 2024 from 16.4% of GDP in 2023 As a result, the overall fiscal deficit, including grants, narrowed to 4.8 percent of GDP in 2024, from to 5.3 percent of GDP in 2023.

External sector performance improved significantly in 2024, with the trade deficit narrowing to USD 499.1 million in 2024 from USD 588.9 million in 2023, reflecting strong growth in mining exports. The value of total exports increased by 16.2% to USD1.549 billion in 2024 from USD1.333 billion in 2023. Total mineral exports, which account for 76.8% of total exports, increased by 27.4% to USD 1.143 billion, with iron ore exports increasing by 10.0% to USD 830.0 million.

Total value of merchandized imports increased by 6.6% to USD 2.0 billion in 2024; of which food import amounted to USD 446.2 million; rice USD 175.6 million; and petroleum product, USD 476.0 million. Rice and petroleum imports accounted for 38.1% of total imports in 2024.

The decline in reserves was to support the importation of essential commodities including rice, medical supplies and petroleum products, and the payment of external debt.

The depreciation of the exchange rate moderated in the second half of 2023 and continued throughout 2024; hence the exchange rate remained relatively stable in 2024, reflecting the improvement of the trade balance and recent policy support by BSL, including measures to repatriate export receipts and the removal of restrictions in the foreign exchange market. According to data from BSL, the Leone/ US\$ exchange rate appreciated slightly by 0.67% from NLe 22.8466 in January to NLe 22.6920 in December 2024.

The banking system remains stable, adequately capitalized, and profitable. Non-performing loans declined, as banks implemented a combination of loan write-offs and robust loan recoveries.

Gross international reserves of BSL amounted to US\$ 410.95 million (2.4 months of imports), as at end December, 2024 from US\$ 468.35 million (2.6 months of imports) in December 2023



PART 2: SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS





GAME CHANGERS

5.1 Feed Salone

5.1.1 Accelerating productivity and commercialisation of the agricultural sector

The focus of the agriculture sector is to build on the gains of the previous plan and address major bottlenecks towards achieving food self-sufficiency and security. The Feed Salone Flagship programme's approach involves channeling investments into districts with the highest potential for success and growth by leveraging each district's comparative advantage among others.

Feed Salone's first year has laid a solid foundation for transforming Sierra Leone's agriculture sector, demonstrating that farming can be a profitable and sustainable business. These efforts are helping to reposition agriculture as a viable and rewarding livelihood, attracting more goodwill and support from international partners. With targeted interventions and continued investments in key areas, Sierra Leone is on track to build a robust, self-sufficient agricultural sector that will drive prosperity for current and future generations.⁴

A strong political will resulting in increased budget allocation to the agricultural sector from 2% to 7% aiming to reach at least 10% in 2025, in line with the Malabo Declaration.

Feed Salone: One year Report, 2023-

⁴ Minister of Agriculture's Foreward-2023-2024 Feed Salone: One year Report.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to promote self-sustenance in key staples, boost export earnings, create new job opportunities and generate income, alleviate hunger and malnutrition, improve climate resilience techniques in crop production and boost productivity in livestock and fish for increased commercialization in the agriculture sector.

Progress

There were significant increases in achievements on the three key targets assessed marking a very positive start to the implementation of the Feed Salone initiative. The progress recorded in the agriculture sector in 2024 are stated below (also see **Table 2**).


- Land cultivated for rice: the total land cultivated for all agro ecologies was 607,207 ha representing 103.6% and 109.5% of target and baseline figures respectively, corresponding to a green arrow;
- Rice yields per hectare (ha): 2.15MT/ha was reported representing 92.7% and 113.2% of target and baseline figures achieved respectively, corresponding to a green arrow; and
- Import values of key staples (rice, poultry, onions and flour): no aggregated figure was reported. However trends in import values for various staples revealed a reduction in the importation of basic food items, including a 16% reduction in rice, 34% decrease in onion, 13% reduction in chicken, and 25% decrease in egg imports, saving foreign exchange to the tune of US\$24 million. The development contributed to the decline in food inflation and stability in the exchange rate, which in turn improved the purchasing power of citizens⁵



Table 2: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Agriculture under Feed Salone

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Land cultivated for rice	554,401 ha	586,081 ha	607,207 ha	103.6% of target, 109.5% of baseline	↑
Rice yields per ha	1.9 MT/ha	2.32 MT/ha	2.15 MT/ha	92.7% of target, 113.2% of baseline	↑
Overall Improvement in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI)	40.5 in 2022	41.6	NA	2024 Report on GFSI to be released later	

⁵ MoF, Presentation by Minister at Q1 DEPAC 2025, February 20, 2025

Import values of key staple food (rice, poultry, onions and flour)	US\$ 500 Million	\$ 438.14M	NA	No aggregated value was provided. Reported values ⁶ for each stable food revealed decreases	
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Sources: MAFS; Feed Salone One Year Report -2023-2024. MTI

Major highlights of other achievements in agriculture in 2024 included⁷:

- The first state-of-the-art cashew processing factory in Sierra Leone was commissioned in Newton, developed in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and Solidaridad; the facility processes over 800 kilograms of raw cashew nuts daily and about 200 MT annually and employs over 300 women and youth from the Waterloo Cashew Processors and Sellers Association.
- Leecon Hatchery, located in Makeni, is Sierra Leone’s first large-scale hatchery, producing 10,000-day-old chicks weekly, with an annual capacity of 5 million. The locally produced chicks are priced significantly lower than imported alternatives, helping to reduce the country's reliance on imports.
- Pee Cee and Sons Ltd (PCS), one of Sierra Leone’s largest importers of onions, has evolved into the country's top producer of onions. Supported by the MAFS and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), PCS has significantly increased local onion production using innovative technologies. The company has mechanized its operations in Mathen village, Lokomassama Chiefdom, cultivating more than 30 hectares of onions.
- Developed soil suitability maps: the maps highlight areas across Sierra Leone that are best suited for different crops, aiming to maximize agricultural productivity.
- MAFS in collaboration with BSL has introduced a USD 10 million credit facility aimed at supporting established businesses in rice, onion, and poultry sectors. This facility offers loans through commercial banks at a significantly reduced interest rate of 10%, compared to the current market rate, which exceeds 30%.
- With support from the World Bank, MAFS launched a USD 7.9 million Matching Grant under the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) for agribusinesses specializing in rice, cassava, and livestock.
- Salone Access to Finance project (SATF): This project is a five-year, USD 12 million initiative funded by the EU under its jobs and growth initiative, implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in collaboration with GoSL. The project focuses on



⁶ Import values were obtained from MTI

⁷ Feed Salone: One Year Report 2023-2024

supporting agroMSMEs and creating jobs through four key pillars: Investment, Insurance, Digital Finance, and Business Environment.

5.1.2 Accelerating productivity and sustainable management of fisheries and the marine sector

The fisheries and marine resources sector in Sierra Leone include fisheries biomass such as Shrimps, Demersal Finfish, Pelagic and Tuna Fishery, which are caught from marine and riparian sources, as well as land and aquaculture. About 45% of the total annual fish produced is sold in local markets in Sierra Leone. The fisheries sector is a vital component of Sierra Leone’s economy, contributing approximately 12% to the country's GDP, employing about 1,000,000 people representing approximately 14% of the total population.

Strategic objective




The strategic objective is to scale up production and industrial processing of fisheries and other marine products.

Progress

The fisheries and marine sector recorded notable achievements in all key targets assessed. **Table 3** reveal progress of three key targets assessed:

- Industrial catch reported was 269,473 MT representing 108% and 110% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Revenue generation: a total of NLe 150.47 million representing 135% and 42.9% of target and baseline respectively; and
- Certification for export of fish to EU and China markets obtained: no target was set for 2024. However, certification for the export of fish to the China market was successfully negotiated and obtained in 2024.

Table 3: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Fisheries and Marine Sector

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Industrial catch	245,000 MT	250,000 MT	269,473 MT	108% of target; 110% increase of baseline	
Revenue generation	NLe 105 Million	NLe 111.5 Million	NLe 150.47 Million	135% of target; 42.9% of baseline	
Certification for export of fish to EU and China markets obtained	Zero	-	1	100% target achieved. Although there was no target for 2024, certification to China market was obtained by the end of 2024	

Source: MFMR

Other achievements in fisheries and marine sector

- Establishment of SABCO Sardine Factory, represented a strategic shift from a supermarket chain to a fishing enterprise, as the facility uses locally sourced ingredients to produce sardines, offering fish processing and smoking services that boost the availability of nutrient-rich foods;
- The Ministry successfully negotiated for a fishing harbor;
- MoU signed between Arab Republic of Egypt for commercial fishing and aquaculture;
- Bo experimental fish farm re-established.

5.1.3 Availability, access, and consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious foods

In 2024, research studies and surveys focused on nutritional status of women and children were completed, especially on school-aged pupils. Also, the collaboration of Government agencies, academic institutions, and development partners led to successful monitoring programs, data-driven policies, and Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) conducted capacity-building workshops for stakeholders in the food value chains, launched integrated food systems programs, strengthened partnerships between government agencies, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and improved infrastructure for food production and processing.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic objective is to increase access to and consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious foods for sustainable reduction of malnutrition, especially for women and children.

Progress

Due to lack of recent data on key targets and indicators, an assessment of the progress on achievements cannot be done. However on-going and pending surveys such as the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) and Micro -Nutrient Survey to be undertaken during the course of 2025 will provide a clearer and more accurate assessment of the progress made in the nutrition sector. The reported data of key targets assessed are presented in **Table 4**.

- Prevalence of stunted children under 5 years: no data available;
- Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 years: no data available;
- Prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years: no data available; and
- Anaemia in women of child-bearing age: no data available.

Table 4: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Nutrition

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
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Prevalence of stunted children under 5 years	26.2%	21%	NA	Awaiting results of DHS 2025	
Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 years	5.2%	4.9%	NA	Awaiting results of DHS survey in 2025	
Prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years	11%	10.3%	NA	Awaiting results of DHS survey in 2025	
Anaemia in women of child-bearing age	47.0%	44.6%	NA	Awaiting Micro -Nutrient Survey 2025	

Source: Nutrition Directorate, MoH

Other achievements / activities in Nutrition

1. Prevalence of stunted children under 5 years of age
 - Set up a National Advisory and breast-feeding promotion committee.
 - Continue Community engagements on Stronger with Breastmilk Only (SWBO) Initiative.
 - Continue with the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) alongside capacity building of clinical and non-clinical staff, equipment support, and regular monitoring and supervision for both mothers/caregivers and maternity staff.
 - Commemoration of the World Breastfeeding Week (1 -7 August) with sensitization nationwide
2. Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 years of age
 - Results of Food Security and Nutrition
 - Monitoring Survey shows a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 3.6%
 - Training of all Nutritionists in the 16 districts and health staff on the management of acute malnutrition without complications.
 - Attain a cure rate of 98% of children admitted in facilities for Severe Acute Malnutrition.
3. Prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years of age
 - Completed a capacity building training on maternal, infant and young child nutrition for health workers
 - Commenced local production with emphasis on complementary food for children (6-23 months) with 4 production sites established in 3 districts fully managed by Mother Support Group (MSG) members
4. Anaemia in women of child-bearing age
 - Training of trainers (DHMT members) on anemia prevention and control in adolescent in all sixteen districts.
 - Cascade Training of health workers in ten districts on Anemia prevention and Control

Additionally, the Directorate of Food and Nutrition (DFN) have commenced the following intervention to improve the nutritional status of the populace: (i) the Breastmilk Substitute Act 2021 (to improve infant

and Young Child Nutrition, with the National Advisory and Breastfeeding Promotion Committee set-up); (ii) an innovative self-educational complementary feeding bowl and spoon, was introduced in 2024; (iii) a Mother Support Groups (MSGs) functionality strategy to revamp operationalization was developed; and (iv) commenced conduct of Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition for Health Workers after 6 years in 2024.

5.2 Human Capital Development

During the previous plan (2019-2023), the flagship programme was human capital development (HCD). With the change in priority to Feed Salone, the focus of HCD now is to build on the gains already achieved and continue to expand on activities necessary to enhance human capital for development.

5.2.1 Accelerating and expanding free quality basic and senior secondary education

In 2024, Government developed and rolled out key policies including: Radical Inclusion Policy; Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy; School Feeding Policy; Teacher Management Policy among others, in order to lay the foundation for effective delivery of basic education services.⁸



Strategic objective

The strategic objective of the sector is to improve learning outcomes in the education system for all children and youth, ensuring that every child, regardless of circumstance, will have the opportunity to access and complete quality education, whilst showing proficiency in all assessed areas.



Progress

Despite the gains made in formulating relevant policies and their implementation, as mentioned above, not so much was achieved in the key targets as stated in **Table 5** below.

- Schools and educational institutions with curriculum responsive to needs of labour market: it was reported that only 10 schools were able to modify their curricula, thus representing 71.4% and 10% of target and baseline figures achieved respectively, corresponding to amber arrow;
- Pupil-to-qualified teacher ratio: 105% and 109.5% of target and baseline figures were achieved corresponding to a green arrow. It must be noted that there were considerable variations across the different educational levels (pre-primary recorded 41:1; primary recorded 62:1, junior

⁸ 2025 Budget Speech: P 19.

secondary schools (JSS) recorded 41:1, and senior secondary schools (SSS) recorded the highest ratio of 87:1; resulting in an average ratio of 57:1, (Figure 6: **Pupils-to-Qualified Teacher Ratio**); and

- Children with special education needs provided with support: it was reported that the ministry had made efforts to provide necessary amenities to support special needs education and in the absence of adequate data no assessment was done on this target.

Table 5: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Basic and Secondary Education

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Schools and educational institutions with curriculum responsive to needs of labour market	Zero	14%	10%	71.4% of target, 10% of baseline	
Pupil-to-qualified teacher ratio	63:1	60:1	57:1	105% of target, 110.5% of baseline	
Children with special education needs provided with support	Zero	14%	NA	Efforts to provide necessary amenities to support special needs education are being established	

Source: MBSSE

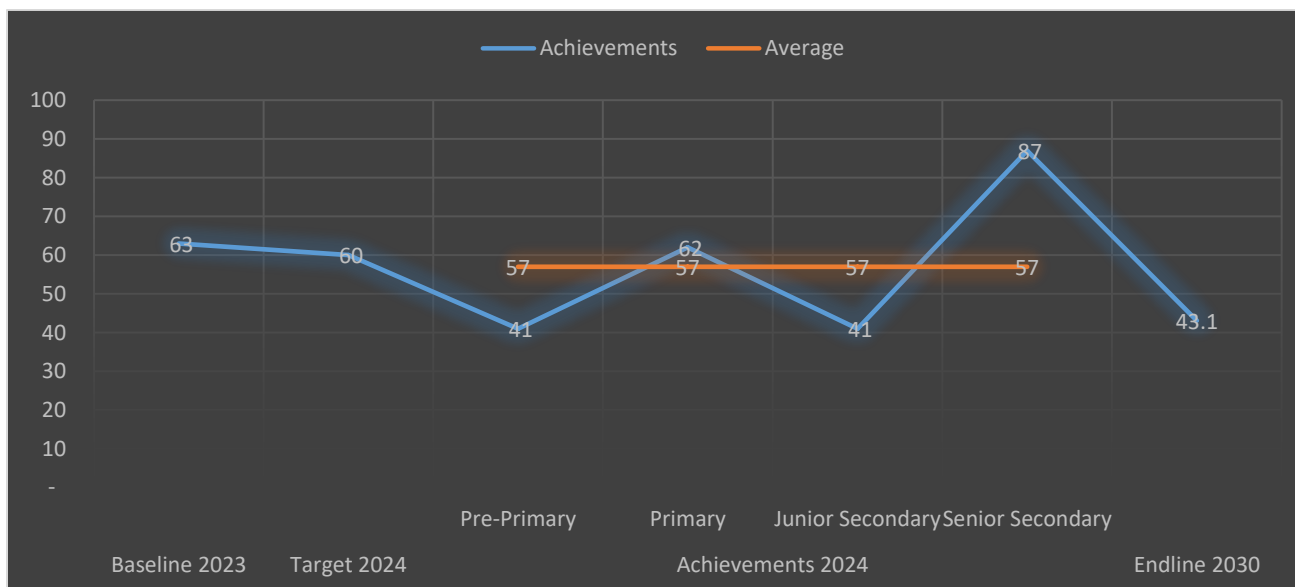


Figure 6: Pupils-to-Qualified Teacher Ratio

Source: MBSSE

Other achievements/ activities by MBSSE

- About 10% of schools have access to the curriculum through Internet sites like Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) Website, www.mbsse.gov.sl; Learning Passport, www.lp.dsti.gov.sl; the MBSSE Knowledge Platform, www.mbsseknowledgeplatform.gov.sl; and google world wide web
- Two thousand Five hundred and seventy-four (2,574) teachers appraised and awaiting placement
- Radical Inclusion Steering Committee reviewed and the first meeting took place on the 28 of August 2024.
- Recruitment of 200 School Quality Assurance Officers (Inspectors) to monitor the activities of schools;
- Provision of digital platforms for monitoring exercises with Global Positioning System (GPS) facilities and Images of facilities.
- Development of the comprehensive safety policy and the monitoring of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in schools.
- Provision of sanitary pads to the girl child in schools; provision of cubicles for girls and separate toilets for boys and girls in schools.
- Infrastructural works for four (4) Government schools i.e Bo School, Kenema Government Secondary School, Magburaka Boys Secondary School and Prince of Wales are ongoing.

5.2.2 Strengthening tertiary and higher education

Tertiary and higher education institutions have witnessed an increase in enrolment in the last few years due largely to the fact that many more pupils are successful in the West African secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and have met the basic requirements for admission into these institutions.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to increase equitable access to quality higher/skills education that promotes research, innovation, and entrepreneurship for growth, stability, and sustainable national development.

Progress




The progress on targets assessed in the tertiary and higher education sub-sector are shown in **(Table 6)** below:

- Enrolment in HEIs: a total 175,171 students were reported to have been enrolled in the six (6) public HEIs, representing 157% and 172.3% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Number of students accessing student loan scheme (30% female): a total of 590 students accessed such loans representing 21.4% and 50.2% of target and baseline respectively corresponding to an amber arrow. The number of beneficiaries included 170 students who were recipients of additional loans granted after recovery of the initial loans, plus 420 beneficiaries in

the second pilot. Also, a point worthy of note was that the female target of 50% was not met because there were fewer female applicants.

- Additional 20,000 youth empowered with TVET skills: a total of 4,836 student, that is 1,186 and 3,650 enrolled in public and private TVET institutions respectively, representing 169% and 4,835%% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow.

Table 6: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Tertiary and Higher Education

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Enrolment in HEIs	101, 645 (2023)	111,645	175,171	157%% of target, 172.3% of baseline	
Number of students accessing student loan scheme increased to 10,000 with at least 30% female	168 (2023)	1,572	590	21.4% of target, 50.2% of baseline	
	50 female	472	118	25% of target, 236% of baseline	
Additional 20,000 youth empowered with TVET skills	Zero	2,856 youth	4,836 youth	169% of target, 4,836% of baseline	

Source: MTHE

Other achievements / activities by MTHE

- Developed a bill for student loan scheme
- Helped established workshops to train young people in servicing Japanese vehicles
- Established a national research and innovation policy and partnered with other research organisations
- Offered scholarships to students through an online portal
- Tertiary Education Commission Act 2001 reviewed, finalized and gazette, awaiting parliamentary approval
- National Council for Technical Vocational and other Awards (NCTVA) Act 2004 reviewed and seeking parliamentary approval. The Act will enhance quality in TVET provision
- Dual Apprenticeship Policy (DAP) developed and launched for TVET. The policy is geared towards strengthening the linkages between TVET training institutions and those of the industries
- National Science, Technology and Innovation (NSTI) Policy developed together with the implementation plan
- A member of staff participated in the “Enhancing Teacher Professional Growth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education: Towards Effective STEM Learning Competences in Africa” programme organized for STEM practitioners. The programme was organized by Ministry of Education, Directorate of National Science Centre, supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), aiming to enhance understanding of effective learning in STEM Education



5.2.3 Improving health care delivery

Over the years there have been some improvements in health care delivery with the most prominent been free health care to lactating mothers and under five children. These initiatives at both policy and operational levels have contributed to improvements in some health indicators in recent times.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to build a resilient and responsive health care system that provides equitable access to affordable quality healthcare services to all Sierra Leoneans across the life stages.

Progress





There were remarkable progress recorded in the health sector with notable changes in key targets assessed. Details of the progress on achievements reported are presented in **Table 7**.

- Maternal mortality figures reported had decreased from 443 to 315 deaths/100,000 representing 110% and 128.9% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;



- Infant mortality: decreased from 78 to 76 deaths/1,000 live births representing 97.3% and 128.9% of target and baseline achieved respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Life expectancy had increased from 54 to 56.3 years representing 102.4% and 104.3% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow; and
- Health worker density improved from 13.4 to 18.8 health workers per 10,000 population representing 130.6% and 140.3% on target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow.

Table 7: Summary of Progress on Key Targets / Indicators in Health

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Maternal mortality	443 deaths/100,000	350 deaths/100,000	315 deaths/100,000	110% of target, 128.9% of baseline	
Infant mortality	78 deaths/1,000 live births	74 deaths/1,000 live births	76 deaths/1,000 live births	97.3% of target, 102.6% of baseline	
Life expectancy	54 years	55 years	56.3 years	102.4% of target, 104.3% of baseline	
Health worker density	13.4 health workers per 10,000 population	14.4 health workers per 10,000 population	18.8 health workers per 10,000 population	130.6% of target, 140.3% of baseline	

Source: MoH

Other achievements / activities in the health sector

- MoH in collaboration with JICA finalized the construction of JMB-Pediatric Centre of Excellence at Lumley;
- Rehabilitated and provided medical equipment for Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH);
- Turned the sod for the construction of a faculty of basic medical sciences at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Services (COMAHS) in April 2024;
- Launched the first Climate-Health unit in April 2024;
- Developed a Digital Health Roadmap for 2024-2026; and
- Sent 60-65 young medical doctors on a one year rural posting.

5.2.4 Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis

These three diseases remain a public health concern in the country. The Government, together with support from partners have made several efforts in reducing the rates of transmission of these diseases as the health ministry work towards their elimination by 2030.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to ensure that Sierra Leone ends Malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB by 2030, as a public health threat in line with SDG 3.3.



Progress

The progress made in HIV/AIDS and Malaria are reported below.

- The 2024 Global estimates indicated that 77,247 Sierra Leoneans are living with HIV/AIDS. Of this number, 76,556 are currently enrolled on life-long sustainable treatment.
- In terms of over-achieving the Global targets of 95-95-95 and the country's target of 98-98-98 by 2030 as depicted in the MTNDP 2024-2030, Sierra Leone is currently at 83-83-62.
- Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV baseline was 15.8% in 2023. The target set for 2030 was to reduce it to less than 5% by 2030. The current progress as at 30 June 2024⁹ stands at 12% marking a reduction of 3.8%.

Achievements / activities under Malaria interventions

- Introduced a nationwide malaria vaccine and routine Human Papillomavirus Vaccines (HPV) for girls aged between 9 to 14 years.
- Insecticide-Treated Bed Net (ITN) mass distribution campaign in 15 districts
- Malaria Programme Bi-annual Review meeting in Bo city
- Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in Bo and Bombali districts
- Completed the Malaria Operational Planning (PMI-MOP)
- Malaria Surveillance assessment in Bonthe and Kenema district

5.2.5 Water, environmental sanitation, waste management and hygiene

The need to consume clean, portable water cannot be overemphasized. However the issue of accessing clean water has been an age old problem, with acute scarcity observed in some locations especially during the dry season. Efforts by GoSL and partners in constructing bore holes especially in rural communities have somehow lessened the burden of women and children traversing long distances to fetch clean water. Sanitation has been a serious concern everywhere in the country especially the management of solid and liquid wastes.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to increase access to safe and potable water and to promote the provision of safely managed sanitation through relevant infrastructure and hygiene services for the growing population.

Progress

The progress made in the water sub-sector are presented below (also see **Table 8**).

- Population with access to safe and portable drinking water: the achievement remained the same with no progress reported. However the reported figures were 94.2% and 100% of target and baseline achieved, corresponding to green arrow; and

⁹ Reports from the Secretariat revealed that this data is reviewed through an audit and updated after every six months.

- Population with access to safely managed sanitation: the average across the country was 58.5% having access to safely managed sanitation representing 96.7% and 102.2% of target and baseline respectively achieved, corresponding to green arrow.
- **Figure 7** show the completion rates of water infrastructure interventions in several locations in the country. The reported data revealed that Kambia had a completion rate of 80%, followed by Kabala on 70% and Bonthe on 68% etc.

Table 8: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Water and Sanitation

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Population with access to safe and portable drinking water increased	63%	66.9%	63%	94.2% of target; 100% of baseline	↑
Population with access to safely managed sanitation increased	84% (Urban); 33% (Rural) Avg. 58.5%	86% (Urban); 36% (Rural) Avg. 61%	59.8%	96.7% of target; 102.2% of baseline	↑
Develop four dam water supply systems in Western Area	1	–	NA	No target was set for 2024	

Source: MoWRS

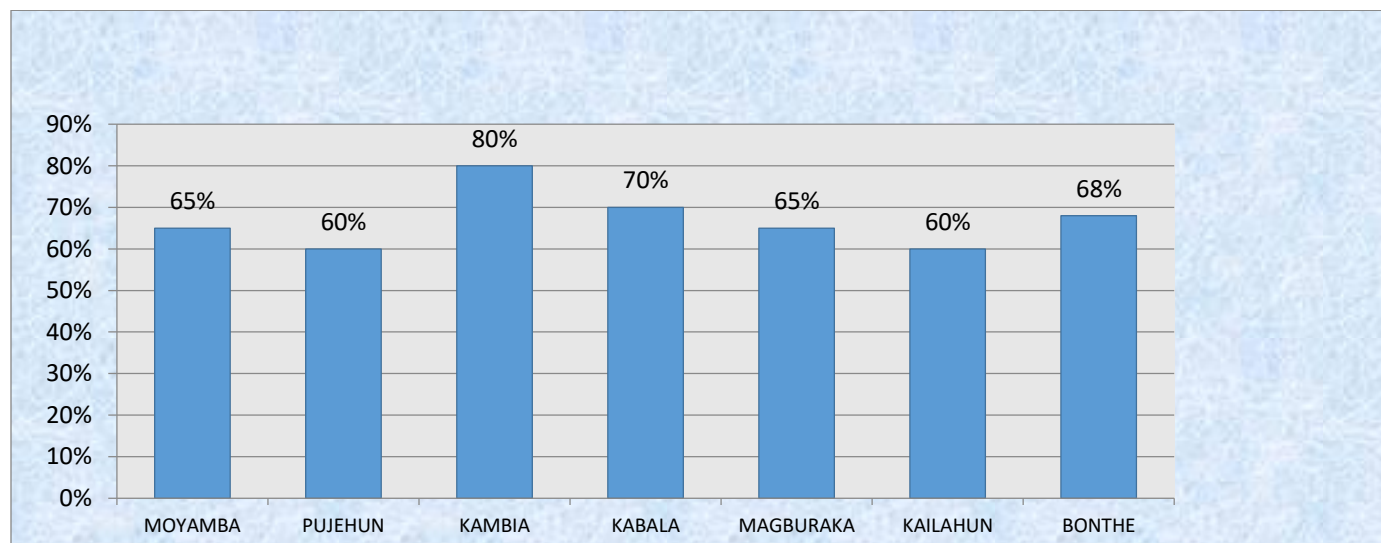


Figure 7: Water Supply Completion Rate by Location

Source: SALWACO

Other achievements in water and sanitation

- The agency signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with 14 NGOs for construction of a mix of boreholes with mechanized systems and hand pumps, as well as sanitation and hygiene facilities in communities, schools and Peripheral Health units (PHUs) in rural communities across the country.
- The Ministry secured a grant from the Government of Saudi Arabia for the construction of 200 mechanized solar powered boreholes across the country
- 3 Million Litres a Day Water Supply System constructed in Angola Town, Greater Freetown Area by Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC).
- Western Area Peninsular Water Fund established and launched as a multi-stakeholder process for water resources management.

5.2.6 Women's empowerment



Over two decades now, women's increasing roles in national development have come to the forefront of our country's agenda and therefore considered a prerequisite for



sustained delivery of human capital development. In the current MTNDP, women's empowerment "is derived from the process by which women have power and control and equal opportunity and resources on the basis as men to pursue personal, social and economic endeavours at family, local and national levels¹⁰". Government has passed numerous acts in favour of women's empowerment and this plan also highlights the need for gender mainstreaming in our development interventions.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to consolidate and promote gains from the state's investment in advancing the empowerment of women in the political, social, economic, and cultural spheres.

Progress

The progress made under women's empowerment has not gone unnoticed, albeit limited to what is reported below as achievements by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MGCA).

- Successfully tabled the prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2024.
- Strengthened measures against gender-based violence to create a safer society for women and girls.

¹⁰ Ibid. p.89

- As part of the UNFPA/ UNICEF Global Programme to end Child Marriage, the Ministry established five (5) adolescent friendly Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Hubs in Koinadugu and Falaba districts to enhance adolescent’s access to family planning services. Within the period under review, 670 adolescents received family planning services in the SRH Hubs. Generally, there has been an increase in uptake of contraceptive services across the country.
- Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NEWMAP) Secretariat established and fully operationalized, to coordinate capacity building and other support for elected and appointed female officials
- Through the Child forums Network, the Ministry facilitated the participation of girls at regional and international forums. The President of the Children’s Forum Network was part of the country’s delegation to the first Global Conference on Ending Sexual Violence against Girls held in Colombia in October 2024.
- Through the Scaling Business Development for Women Empowerment Project jointly implemented by the MOGCA, CARE and UNWOMEN, 1,875 women in three chiefdoms in Falaba district received entrepreneurship training and business financial support.
- Gender Focal Points/ Units stabilized in 28 ministries.
- Steering committee established for implementation of the GEWE Act, 2022.

5.2.7 Children, the aged and disability welfare

- **Children**

The Government has made a number of interventions in advancing the development of children. In recent past, the Government has declared rape as a state of emergency issue in 2019, followed by the “Hands off Our Girls” campaign to protect girls from sexual violence.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to ensure a ‘children first’ approach for the survival, protection, and development of children, including disabled and vulnerable children, as well as to prioritise the best interests of children at all times, with a special focus on addressing sexual violence, teenage pregnancy, child marriage, orphans, vulnerable children, child trafficking, child labour, and juvenile justice.





Progress

According to data reported by Don Bosco International, the progress on key targets made under the children sub-sector are contained in **Table 9**.

- Rescued children from the streets and reunified with caregivers / parents nationwide: rescued efforts of street children was reported at 88.9% of target corresponding to amber arrow;
- Children placed in safe homes: 66.7% of target corresponding to amber arrow;
- Child labour and abuse: lower rates of child labour, violence and abuse: considerable improvements have been reported resulting in 157.5% and 165% of target and baseline achieved respectively, corresponding to green arrow; and

- Access to rehabilitation and reintegration services to all children survivors / victims of abuse and violence: a reasonable achievement of 83.3% of target, corresponding to amber arrow.

Table 9: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Children Sub-sector

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Rescued children from the streets and reunified with caregivers / parents nationwide	45%	45%	40%	88.9% of target; same for baseline	
Children placed in safe homes	30%	30%	20%	66.7% of target; same for baseline	
Child labour and abuse: lower rates of child labour, violence and abuse	66%	63%	40%	157.5% of target; 165% of baseline	
Access to rehabilitation and reintegration services to all children survivors / victims of abuse and violence	30%	30%	25%	83.3% of target; same for baseline	

Source: Bon Bosco International

- **Empowering persons with disabilities**

“The pursuit of the welfare of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in national development plans is driven by the principle of *leaving no one behind* in the UN Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. It is especially consistent with SDG16 on promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, which clearly captures the need for the active inclusion of everyone in development processes, including PWDs, and SDG10 focusing specifically on reducing inequality within and among countries, including empowering and promoting the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, or other status”¹¹.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives are to ensure the comprehensive review and implementation of policies and laws relating to disability; scale-up efforts to make public facilities disability friendly; review and improve incentives for teachers in special needs institutions; provide free health care for the physically challenged; and provide livelihood support to persons living with disability for economic empowerment and self-reliance.

Progress

¹¹ Ibid, p90

The following actions were undertaken to improve the welfare of PWDs:

- Awareness raising on provisions in the Act of 2011 (Implement Political Inclusion and participation with Sight Savers and Catholic Relief Services).
- Facilitated the enrollment of PWDs in higher institutions as per section 14 in the Act (500).
- Facilitated Free Medical Care for PWDs in Government hospitals.
- Collaborated with MoH and Clinton Health Access Initiative CHAI to train nurses and teachers in Early Screening for Children with Disabilities as per Section 18.
- Supported all Disabilities Advocacy Days.



The Aged

“In Sierra Leone, like in other developing nations, the aging of the population is often regarded as a demographic dividend. This population presents tremendous opportunities for socioeconomic growth and development of society if their contribution is effectively optimised, with critical understanding of their varying contexts”¹².

Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives are to ensure the comprehensive review and implementation of policies and laws relating to the aged; and provide substantial health care and continued employment opportunities for this category to increase and sustain their self-reliance.

Progress

The Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) has been very instrumental in support of the aged and related organisations working for their common good. Below are some of the achievements reported by MSW.

- Held monthly coordination meeting with Aged Serving organizations.
- King George VI Home for the Aged provided with both technical, food, roofing materials and financial support.
- Aged Serving Organizations provided with grants.
- Commemorated International Day for Older Persons.
- Advocacy events for the aged observed.
- Facilitated the screening and provision of free malaria, diabetics high Blood pressure treatment for older persons in Moyiba, Deep Eye Water, Kanikay, Kroo Bay, and Cline town communities.

¹² Ibid, p92

5.2.8 Social protection

The Government has placed some attention to the implementation of social protection interventions like cash transfers to vulnerable people and communities.

Strategic objective




The strategic objective is to ensure strengthened state-citizen responsibilities and relationships, enhanced human capital development, effective management of risks and vulnerability, community livelihood development, sustained social cohesion and nation building, and inclusive macroeconomic development.

Progress

GoSL is committed to supporting youth, poor households and vulnerable population through a number of activities including direct cash transfers. These efforts are yielding results through National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA's) social protection initiatives among others. NaCSA's interventions are shown below (also see **Table 10**).

- Cash transfers provided to an additional 35,000 poor households by 2030: a total of 879,768 recipients of cash transfers exceeded the target resulting in 156.9% and 131% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Employment is provided to 9,000 youths by 2030: 10,716 jobs were provided to youth in 2024 representing 51% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow. It was observed that the achievement of 10,716 jobs has exceeded the target set for 2030 which was 9,000 jobs; and
- Provide special support to at least 30% of vulnerable populations (including women, persons with disabilities, older persons, and children) by 2030: special support were provided to a total of 879,768 recipients representing 156.9% and 131% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow.

Table 10: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators on Social Protection

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Cash transfers provided to an additional 35,000 poor households by 2030	380,778	560,748	879,768	156.9% of target, 131% on baseline	
Employment is provided to 9,000 youths by 2030	Zero	21,000	10,716	51% of target, 10,716% of baseline	
Provide special support to at least 30 percent of vulnerable populations (including women,	380,778	560,748	879,768	156.9% of target, 131% of baseline	

persons with disabilities, older persons, and children) by 2030



Source: NaCSA

Other achievements under social protection

- Thirteen (13) Community Health Centre / Posts under construction (and at various levels of completion);
- Prepared a social work plan and Bill to improve the lives of people with disabilities; and
- Awarded one million dollars to the India United Nations Development Partnership Fund to empower people with disabilities economically.

5.2.8 Land, housing, and urbanization

The Government of Sierra Leone continues to consider the lands and housing sector as a leading contributor to the socioeconomic transformation of the country. Land and housing are critical welfare assets which count a lot in multidimensional poverty metrics among other considered multidimensional indicators in presenting a better understanding of household welfare status¹³.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to ensure effective land management and administration that is environmentally sound and sustainable for equitable access and control over land, including providing affordable housing for low- and middle-income groups to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth.

Progress

In the pursuit of its strategic objective, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP) in 2024 reported the following achievements:

- Completed the allocation of land parcels to TAF, and installed billboards to develop affordable homes at John Obey. The production of a master plan was completed, and TAF commenced the construction of 100 affordable homes.
- Completed the development of the Electronic State Land Records/Management System in support of the National Cadastral Records Management System and Strategy development.
- A ToR has been developed for Land Management Information Systems (LMIS). The specific Procurement Notice and Request for Proposal (RFP) for developing the LMIS has been completed. RFP has been opened, and the RFB evaluation has been completed.
- In the area of policy, MLHCP commenced implementation of the National Land Commission and Customary Land Rights, including the regulations in the Western Area, Bo, Kenema, Port Loko, Bombali, and Bonthe districts. The New Country Planning Act was developed and laid in Parliament.

¹³ Ibid, p96

- Comprehensive project proposal for the development of the National Housing Policy has developed draft Land Registration, Land Adjudication, and New Survey Acts. The Government signed and ratified one (1) Joint Venture Agreements (JVA) and constructed 200 affordable housing units at John Obey, Freetown -TAF Micro City Development. Over ten (10) drafts Joint Venture Agreements (JVA) were developed.
- MLHCP GIS lab was established and equipped to support the digital production of cadaster survey plans. MLHCP staff and surveyors are trained to produce digital survey cadaster plans and collect systematic land survey data. MLHCP completed the demarcation and production of a cadaster survey plan to protect Tacuguma Wildlife Sanctuary. An inventory of all encroachments on the sanctuary was developed and a relocation strategy designed.
- The Ministry has completed allocating parcels of land to support affordable housing development in Sierra Leone as follows: (i) Angel Global Initiative Ltd.(Agi), 150 acres of land parcel; (ii) HBSI LIMITED, 150 acres of land parcel; (iii) Home Builders Plus Limited, 30 acres of land parcel; (iv) J L Properties Limited, 70 acres of land parcel; (v) Kaf Properties Limited, 40 acres of land parcel; (vi) Sierra Affiliates LLC, 50 acres of land parcel; (vii) Sierradev Real Estate and Construction Lt 14 acres of land parcel; and (viii) over 1,600 Ha of land parcel demarcated and allocated for industrial and economic expansion; and demarcation report laid in Parliament for ratification.

5.2.9 Consumer protection and competition law

GoSL has demonstrated a strong commitment to advance Sierra Leone’s economic development through fair trade and healthy competition. The government has sought to promulgate competition laws and protect the rights of consumers in promoting economic prosperity, innovation, and trade development¹⁴.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to promote fair trade and investments in Sierra Leone to protect and promote the interests of consumers.

Progress

The achievements under consumer protection and competition law are highlighted below.

- Reviewed the Draft 2012 Policy and Competition Law to reflect contemporary commerce, and trade and to align with regional and global frameworks from November to December 2024.
- Conducted consumer Education and Awareness raising on rights and obligations across the country.
- Markets are monitored for substandard and expired products (food and non-food) and those in default are confiscated.
- MoUs signed with other statutory regulatory institutions e.g. Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB).

¹⁴ Ibid, p97

- The Commission has recruited competent staff who are all graduate inspectors save for the consumer protectors who are diploma employees. They have all received some training that will enable them deliver on their roles but this will be intensified in 2025 to further sharpen their skills to be able to deliver. Local and overseas training is a prerequisite to ensure that required skills are acquired.
- The Sierra Leone Standards Bureau is already providing quality assurance of goods. GoSL and its partners have supported the rehabilitation of its laboratory facilities and are working assiduously to source other opportunities that will build the capacity of the institution to deliver this mandate.
- Competition Policy and Draft documents reviewed and awaiting next steps for enactment.
- No Completion Law exists at the moment except a Consumer Protection Law. Significant work has been done on educating the consumers on the importance of consumer protection since 2023 but this will be intensified in 2025 and beyond to ensure achievement of 50% threshold. Once the Competition Law is enacted and entrusted to the NCPC for implementation, an education strategy will be developed to educate the business constituency and consumers.

5.3 Youth Employment Scheme

5.3.1 General employment promotion for youth

In a bid to address the high rate of unemployment especially among young people and youth, the Government made a pronouncement that it will create 500,000 jobs between 2024 and 2028. These jobs were to be provided by the private and public sectors at a projected ratio of 70:30 corresponding to 350,000 and 150,000 jobs respectively.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to create a youth sector enabling environment to support young people to utilize their talents, undertake viable and innovative business activities through start-up projects and to promote collaboration among them by taking advantage of their receptiveness to global opportunities, including digital penetration in socioeconomic activities.

Progress

The progress of key target assessed are presented in **Table 11**.

- Number of youths employed, both skilled and unskilled: reported data on new jobs created revealed that approximately 22,540 jobs (17,130 and 5,410 in the private and public sectors respectively) representing 60.4% of target achieved corresponding to amber arrow. The jobs created included all categories of employment such as permanent, seasonal / temporary over a short period and self-employment facilitated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs (See **Table 11** below).

Table 11: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Youths Sector

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
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Number of Youths employed, both skilled and unskilled	Zero	37,3 00	22,540	60.4% of target	➡
Source: MTI; total - 17,130 Manufacturing: ODAV Steel :1000, Cement:1800, Beverage:900; SERVICE:12,000; SMEs:1,440; Source: MOYA: total - 5,410 Block Making and Masonry: 124 (91 M, 33 F); Kekeh: 200 (162 M, 38 F); Boats: 1,400 (840 M, 560 F)					

Source: MOYA & MTI

Other achievements / activities by MoYA

- Awarded grants to 216 young entrepreneurs and 40 female-led organisations.
- Trained women in non-traditional trades.
- Provided farm placements for graduates in aquaculture, poultry, animal husbandry and crop production.
- Engaged 4,200 young people in agriculture through the Food Systems Resilience Programme.
- Provided 200 tricycles and 50 local fishing boats to support youth employment in transport sector and livelihood to rural communities respectively.
- Established Youth Connect Africa Hubs.
- Created a youth empowerment and employment portal.



5.3.2 Addressing irregular migration

“In recent times, irregular migration ventures have been pervasive amongst young people as it serves as a survival strategy for lack of employment opportunities for many of these youths. Unemployment in youth can cause vulnerability to irregular migration and mental health disorders due to feelings of hopelessness, financial insecurity and rapid social change. Furthermore, unemployed youths are opting for irregular migration routes to countries they perceive as holding greener pastures for them”¹⁵.


Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to ensure that internal and external migration is reduced and effectively managed.

Progress

Below are highlights of achievements and activities undertaken to address irregular migration.

¹⁵ Ibid, p101



In 2024, conviction rate of human traffickers increased to 2%, with the target against 2030 been 5% higher than the figure in 2023. The following lessons were learnt to enhance effectiveness in curbing irregular migration:

- a) Multi-channel approach: utilizing a variety of communication channels (e.g., social media, community meetings, radio, and television) ensures a broader reach and more comprehensive coverage.
- b) Interagency collaboration: coordinating efforts across various MDAs is crucial for a cohesive approach to managing migration.
- c) Strengthening legal frameworks: enhancing and enforcing existing laws and policies related to human trafficking are vital to deterring traffickers and protecting victims.
- d) Capacity building for law enforcement: continuous training for law enforcement officers on detecting, preventing, and investigating human trafficking cases is crucial for improving response rates.
- e) Victim support and protection: providing adequate support services for trafficking victims, including legal assistance, counseling, and rehabilitation, encourages more victims to come forward and cooperate with authorities.
- f) International cooperation: engaging in regional and international dialogues on climate-induced migration ensures that national efforts align with broader global strategies and benefit from shared experiences and best practices.

5.3.3 Sports

“The sporting landscape in Sierra Leone has the potential to enrich and deliver numerous services and support to the youth population that mostly make up the sport competitors, even administrators and other stakeholders. It is in this light that GoSL has hugely invested in the sports sector over the last five years”¹⁶.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective for sports development is to empower the sector to play a leading role in the employment of youth talents, skills and services while serving as a key driver for education, entertainment, general revenue generation, national cohesion, and consolidation of peace.

Progress

- Ministerial Agreements (Acts, MoUs, rectifications): (i) the Ministry of Sports has a framework agreement with the MBSSE and MTHE on sports development and promotion in schools and colleges; and (ii) the Ministry has finalised the composition of the framework committee and the committee has drafted its TOR and ready to work.
- Ministry work related policies, strategies and legislation (inventory): the Ministry has developed policy regulations that guides the system, structure and operations of the sport sector- linking the Ministry and its agency (NSA).

¹⁶ Ibid, p111

- Competency development (percent increase in required competency of staff): development on competency level has increased by 5% in the first and second quarter of the FY 2024 through a joint retreat organized by the MoS and the NSA to highlight, upgrade and explain key operational areas to staff for better performance.
- Statutory Obligation- Compliance level of statutory obligation: the audit queries of compliance has been taken into account and considered seriously.
- Citizen Engagement: the MoS and NSA as its agency, accompanied by the Executive Director of NSA are currently engaging the public once every month; the number of outreach sessions conducted have increased by 5% in 2024.
- Review the National Sports Policy and NSA 2017: The National Sport Policy was looked at as part of the review process in the joint retreat of the MoS and its agency, the NSA. Both institutions will continue their engagements through the other stages for the review process to be completed.



5.4 Infrastructure, technology and innovation

5.4.1. Energy

Access to reliable and sustained electricity has been a major concern to GoSL and the people of Sierra Leone. This perennial challenge in the energy sector has led to power outages nationwide. The unreliable power supply had led to alternative sources of power such as solar, wind and other renewable alternatives.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to provide adequate, affordable and sustainable power supply nationwide, to stimulate economic development through the consolidation, improvement and expansion of existing energy supply infrastructure and ensuring energy security for sustainable development.

Progress






Key targets / indicators assessed in the energy sector are presented below (also see **Table 12**).

- Percentage of population with access to electricity: the reported achievement was 36% of the population now have access which was 100% and 112.5% of target and baseline respectively,

corresponding to green arrow; Percentage of the households with access to electricity: the reported achievement was 36% of households have access representing 120% and 141.7% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow; and

- Number of districts headquarter towns with reliable electricity supply increased: the target of ten (10) district headquarters was achieved representing 100% and 111.1% of baseline respectively corresponding to green arrow.

Table 12: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Energy

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Percentage of population with access to electricity	32%	36%	36%	100% of target, 112.5% of baseline	
Percentage of the households with access to electricity	25.4%	30%	36%	120% of target, 141.7% of baseline	
Number of districts head-quarter towns with reliable electricity supply increased	9	10	10	100% of target, 111.1% of baseline	

Source: MoE

Other achievements in the energy sector

- 45 solar mini-grids were completed in several chiefdoms.
- 10MW grid solar power plant for Makoth and 10MW at Koidu were completed and commissioned.
- 225kV Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea / West Africa Power Pool (CLSG) transmission line from Liberia to Kenema was commissioned, with electricity received in Bo and Kenema cities.
- Five (5) out of the 29 communities along CLSG/ WAPP transmission network were electrified.
- Stringing of 538km of transmission lines across seven districts were completed.
- On the policy front, the environmental guidelines for small and mini-grid projects, the national action plan on gender mainstreaming in energy access etc. were developed.
- Sierra Leone Water and Electricity Act (2011) reviewed and approved by cabinet in October 2024.
- Installation of thermal plants in Bonthe, Pujehun, Moyamba, Kailahun (test runs done); delivery of Kambia plant; stringing of 538km of transmission lines; 225kV CLSG line commissioned; 45 solar mini-grids installed.
- Thirteen (13) electricity regulations developed and ratified; grid code, environmental guidelines, gender action plan created; National Electrification Strategy (draft), LPG Strategy (final draft); 2011 Water and Electricity Act reviewed and approved.

- Forty thousand (40,000) prepaid meters procured (37,000 single-phase, 3,000 three-phase); 240 AMI meters installed.

5.4.2. Road and transportation systems

“The transport system consists of a network of infrastructure including all transport modes such as road, rail, seaports, airports and inland waterways, and the transport services operating on the network”¹⁷.

However transportation by road dominates the movements of people, goods and services nationwide. Sea transport is also pivotal in the transportation system domestically and internationally.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to plan, develop, and implement the national transport infrastructural system in an integrated, holistic, and cross-sectoral manner that will increase connection and safety for better utilisation of the transport system and broader benefit across the country.



Progress

Key targets / indicators assessed in road and transport systems are presented below (also see

Table 13).

- ICAO Aviation safety rating: 74% of the proposed safety target was achieved representing 97.4% and 103% of target and baseline achieved respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Annual bus ridership nationwide: 38% of the proposed target was achieved representing 95% and 109% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Additional number of all-weather roads (645 Km) constructed: a total of 1,975 Km of roads were

constructed representing 99.5% and 101% of target and baseline respectively corresponding to green arrow; and





- Additional amount of feeder roads rehabilitated, upgraded and maintained: it was reported that a total of 2,110 Km of feeder roads were rehabilitated/upgraded and maintained, representing 94.6% and



¹⁷ MTNDP, p. 117

109% of target and baseline achieved respectively corresponding to green arrow.

Table 13: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Road and Transportation Systems

Key Targets	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
ICAO Aviation Safety Rating	72%	76%	74%	97.4% of target; 103% on baseline	
Annual bus ridership nationwide	35%	40%	38%	95% of target; 109% on baseline	
Additional number of all-weather roads (645 Km) constructed	1,966	1,986	1,975	99.5% of target; 101% of baseline	
Additional amount of feeder roads rehabilitated, upgraded and maintained	1,930	2,230	2,110	94.6% of target; 109% of baseline	

Source: MTA

Other achievements in the road and transportation system

- Transport sector successfully conducted Maritime Security assessment on all five ports, to ensure the safety of lives and property at sea.
- The Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA) through the IRUMP project delivered: 50 buses, 4 Footbridge, bus stops terminal at Lumley and the construction of the Market at Lumley is ongoing.
- An Ultra-modern MoT fitness regime through Autospect and Auto part Freetown was successfully implemented.
- The aviation industry successfully passed the ICAO audit with a safety rating of 74%, guaranteeing the Freetown International Airport as certified by the ICAO. The new airport is now rated as an International Airport with all relevant facilities that meet international standards of ICAO.
- Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Ambassador Col. (Rtd) Alhaji Fanday Turay Esq. on Tuesday 4th June, 2024 signed performance contracts with Heads of Agencies that are under the Ministry's oversight . The signing of the contracts is to ensure that the Minister, together with the heads of agencies, work in line with President Bio's agenda on big five game changers.
- In January 2024, in an effort to deliver efficient transport systems in Freetown, the MTA through the World Bank funded project the Sierra Leone Integrated Resilient Urban Mobility Project (SLIRUMP) launched and operationalized fifty (50) Waka Fine buses along the two (2) Corridors

in Freetown (Lumley and Calaba town to CBD), with 21,000 daily ridership of which 49% of beneficiaries were women.

- In supporting H.E President Bio’s vision of providing ultra-modern infrastructure in Sierra Leone, as part of the big five game changers, the MTA has completed the construction of a state-of-the-art transport transit terminal in Lumley, to offer dignified service and means of commuting up to about 14,500 public transport users.
- SLPHA has successfully recruited over 200 youths into the permanent service.
- The Sierra Leone’s MTA, in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), successfully hosted the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) Airshow on July 29-30, 2024, at the Lagoonda Conference Center, Mamba Point Hotel.
- Transport Minister presents dry port agreement: *“The dry port will significantly enhance the capacity of the Port of Freetown (Queen Elizabeth II Quay), allowing for more vessels to call at Freetown port, thereby boosting the port's competitiveness relative to other countries.”*
- Parliament ratified US\$ 1.5 million Gento Group of Company concession agreement on July 11, 2024



5.4.3. Communication, technology and innovation

In recent times, growth in communications, technology and innovation (CTI) in the country has rapidly increased as it is now considered very important for the growth of other sectors. The development in the sector has also contributed positively in upgrading digital financial solutions and quite recently the establishment of the national switch to enhance digital payments systems nationwide. Mobile penetration rate has increased resulting in increased internet usage also.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to increase the supply of communications, technology and innovation services for their increased access and affordability to ensure they are effectively integrated into all development initiatives for growth, innovation, entrepreneurship, and building a digital economy.

Progress

The achievements in the CTI sector and key targets assessed are shown below (also see **Table 14**).




- Number of internet users: it was reported that approximately 2.2 million internet users are now in Sierra Leone representing 110% and 119% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;
- Internet penetration rate (mobile data penetration): it was reported that penetration rate was at 41.76% representing



165% and 197% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow;

- Access to digital financial services: it was reported that approximately 27.5% of the population have access to such services representing 96.8% and 110% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow; and
- Establish a smart City in Bo District: although no target was set for 2024, the Ministry has secured 130 acres of land to establish a technology and innovation (Smart) city in Tikonko chiefdom, Bo city.

Table 14: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Communication, Technology and Innovation

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Number of internet users	1.84 Million	2.0 Million	2.2 million	110% of target, 119.6% on baseline	
Internet penetration rate (mobile data penetration)	21.2%	25.3%	41.76%	165% of target, 197% of baseline	
Access to digital financial services	25%	28.4%	27.5%	96.8% of target, 110% on baseline. BSL introduced instant payment services recently	
Establish a Smart City in Bo District	Zero	–	NA	Secured 130 acres of land for technology and innovation city in Tikonko chiefdom, Bo district	

Source: MoCTI

Other achievements / activities in communication, technology and innovation

- Expansion of fiber network backbone to 14 out of 16 districts.
- Increased fixed broadband connections by 100% from 5,000 subscribers in 2022 to 10,000+ subscribers.
- Launched Starlink: estimated to increase internet users by at least 900 across the country.
- The ministry developed several policy documents: (i) the national broadband strategy (NBS); (ii) the Government Enterprise Architecture Framework; (iii) the National Innovation Entrepreneurship Strategy; (iv) the Sierra Leone Postal Service Bill; and (v) established strategic agreements with digital technology partners, including Kazakhstan, Huawei, and the ECOWAS Commission. And land secured for establishing the Smart City in Bo district.
- Rollout of a new government-wide email system, with 6 ministries already migrated to the new platform.
- The Ministry has upgraded internet connectivity bandwidth to 54 MDAs.
- The Ministry Zero-rated 19 essential educational websites to empower citizens by providing free access to educational and research sites

- 100 university graduates trained and hired by MoCTI to facilitate the ICT Talent Development program. And 12 graduates hired to supervise the implementation of the ICT Talent Development program

5.5. Transforming the public service architecture

The public service is the Government’s machinery to guide its operations and deliver the necessary goods and services to propel national development agenda, Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063. However the service is faced with numerous institutional deficiencies such as weak human capacity, low sense of accountability, political patronage and poor remuneration. Nonetheless, this game changer is envisioned to streamlining the public service so that it becomes an efficient, inclusive and accountable entity in Sierra Leone.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective to pursue during the implementation of the MTNDP 2024-2030 is to create an efficient, professional, and result-oriented Civil/Public Service that attracts and retains the brightest talents to be at the forefront of rolling out the Government’s agenda as well as tackling complex national challenges for socio-economic development.








Progress

Some ground work has been done in a number of areas in a bid to transform the public service (**Table 15**) into a well-structured an effective delivery and support system in order to achieve greater success in the remaining Big four Game Changers. Notable achievements included:

- By 2026, migrating of all public service workers from paper to digital platforms: a biometric attendance system was developed and tested in 20 out of 46 MDAs, accounting for 43.5% of the target in 2024, corresponding to amber arrow;

- By 2026, all job adverts are uploaded in one portal platform as deemed necessary: in promoting the use of technology and providing information in real time, a job portal has been developed (100% completed), to upload job adverts as deemed necessary;
- By 2026, a public sector coordinating body is established: although a target was not set for this indicator, a coordinating body has been set up representing 100% of target and corresponding to green arrow; and
- Other necessary development to pave the way in transforming the public service are: (i) in the area of enacting a bill to rationalise mandates of MDAs, MOPAPA in collaboration with HRMO have validated and launched a strategic road map for the transforming of the public service; and (ii) public service act promulgated – the public service act was reviewed which will lead to the drafting of the bill.


Table 15: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Transforming the Public Service Architecture

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Bill to rationalise mandates of MDAs enacted	Zero	1	1	50% of target; validated and launched a strategic road map for the transforming of the public service	
Public service act promulgated	Zero	-	1	60% of target; the PS Policy reviewed that will lead to the drafting of the Bill	
By 2026, a public sector coordinating body is established	Zero	-	1	No target was set for 2024. 100% target as a coordinating body has been established	
By 2026, migrating of all public service workers from paper to digital platforms completed	Zero	46	20	43.5% of target; Biometric Attendance System piloted in 20 out of 46 MDAs	
By 2026, all job adverts are uploaded in one portal platform as deemed necessary	Zero	-	1	No target was set for 2024, 100% target for 2026 was achieved already; PSC Web Portal established to upload job adverts.	

Source: HRMO

Other achievements / activities in public sector

- The Annual Manpower Report of MDAs- this provides the nominal role of Civil Servants across MDAs, including gender.

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- Wage and Compensation Commission (WCC) and HRMO are finalizing work on the reintroduction of the spinal points into the pay structure as an incentive scheme to promote staff retention.
 - WCC commenced work on 2nd January 2024.
 - Jobs recruitment process ongoing at the PSC for various MDAs.
 - Management and Functional Review ongoing at the Civil Service Training College to capture the full staff complement for the Public Service Academy.
 - Free Balance engaged to incorporate the **CSM** module into IFMIS system to effectively migrate public service workers from paper to digital platforms.
 - Roadmap to outsource non-core government services has been developed for this activity awaiting implementation in 2025.
 - A framework for joint implementation of cross-sectoral programmes / projects developed and launched.
 - MoPAPA is working in collaboration with MoCTI and MoICE on improving digital applications in the Public Service.
 - The review of the Civil Service Code and Rules which serves as Code of instructions for Civil Servants has been completed and Cabinet has approved the modified Code after nationwide consultation and validation exercises.
 - Concept note prepared for the payroll head count; engagement ongoing to solicit funding for the conduct of the Payroll Head Count.
 - The Biometric Attendance System piloted in some MDAs.

PART 3: SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE ENABLERS



THE ENABLERS

Enabler 1: Diversifying the economy and promoting growth

1.1 Transforming the tourism sector

Realizing the huge potentials of the sector, Government has placed significance hope in developing and transforming these potentials as a way to diversify the economy. The tourism sector, if well harnessed can create numerous jobs, boost domestic and international tourism and become a very important source of foreign exchange earner for the country.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to develop the sector to the level where in Sierra Leone as a destination will be competitive in the sub-regional and regional tourism market, thereby contributing significantly to the economic development of the country and by extension enhancing national pride and prestige.

Progress

The achievements in the tourism sector are presented below.

- Identified seven (7) Tourism Development Areas (TDAs) across the country but yet to be declared as TDAs
- Upgraded Cultural Policy and Heritage Bill at the stage of drafting; these documents are currently at the Law Officer's Department (LoD) for legal review.
- Developed three sites: all sites, Bureh Beach, Tacugama and Leicester Peak have reached 70%, and will be handed over to the Ministry by October to December 2025.
- The Ministry of Lands handed over 6,000 acres of forestland at Tacugama, Regent, to Ministry of Tourism for protection and development for tourism purposes.
- An engineering assessment of proclaimed and potential assets in Magburaka, Kono, Moyamba and Port Loko was completed.
- Research and visitation assessment of the Ro Tumba ruins along the Port Loko River completed.
- The ministry implemented the One Year-Long "Tourism for All" Campaign: engaged stakeholders at regional and district levels, raised awareness on domestic tourism and preservation of cultural and environmental heritages.
- Produced promotional materials such as Visitors Guide to Sierra Leone, Handy Guide, Brochures, Posters, Folders, pens, etc. distributed at local and international fairs, Embassies at home and abroad, and other tourist establishments.



- Supported the Sierra Leone Professional Chef Association, successfully participated in West Africa competitions and organized first National Cuisine Competition 2023/2024.
- In terms of enhancing eco-tourism, the ministry completed awareness raising campaign in Levuma, River Number 2, Tacugama and Milton Margai Technical University (MMTU) on “Environmental awareness for ecotourism.” MTCA and its agencies planted over 100 tree including Coconut, Almond and other beautification trees; hired labour and trucks to clean beach fronts; and coordinated the contribution of stakeholders to the sound development of the Wildlife Tourism Policy and Business Plan.
- To enhance entrepreneurship, the ministry facilitated and supported the participation of Sierra Leone Professional Chef Association in Ghana and Liberia regional Chef Competition. Organized the first ever Sierra Leone cuisine competition in April 2024. And created at least 1,000 local partnerships with tourism and cultural entrepreneurs in Kambia, Kono, Moyamba and Pujehun in August 2024, with the aim of promoting tourism activities that links with rural economy.
- To facilitate collaboration and sustainable tourism, the Ministry established Inter-MDA committee on the organization of Women in Tourism Leadership Africa Congress (WiTLAC) in October 2024 at Bintumani Conference Center; established Inter-MDA committee and coordinated the organization of the finish line of the Budapest Bamako Rally 2024. The Ministry has engaged all the relevant MDAs and carved out the cross-cutting issues as they relate to tourism and culture for effective operations and service delivery.
- The ministry supported skills and entrepreneurship initiatives to advance and empower women in tourism, hospitality and creative industries; 2,500 women were trained and 800 women entrepreneurs were certified on handicraft and business model.

1.2. Strengthening Private Sector for Trade and Sustainable Development

The private sector has been pivotal in the development of Sierra Leone especially in the provision of jobs to all categories of the working class and facilitation of trade, domestically and internationally among others. The roles of SMEs as engines to propel economic growth has also been well documented.

Strategic objective




The strategic objective is to strengthen the role of trade in the diversification, infrastructural development and economic competitiveness of the country.

Progress

The achievements in the private sector for trade and sustainable development sector are presented below.

- Sierra Leone’s trade repositioned for the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): in the absence of a baseline, a target of



three (3) agreements was set; it was reported that only two (2) of these targets were met representing 66.7% of the target and 200% of baseline, corresponding to amber arrow.

- Three (3) assessment studies of Sierra Leone's preparedness for the AfCFTA completed.
- The Ministry successfully hosted the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) team in June 2024.
- A total of 160 MSMEs have access to finance to facilitate business growth, productivity and competitiveness; a Cocoa factory was established in Sierra Leone worth USD 600,000.
- The MTCA in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance, are actively working on the gazetting of Tariff Schedule A. This critical milestone will enable Sierra Leone to commence trading under the AfCFTA GTI, solidifying its commitment to regional trade and economic integration.
- The establishment of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) at KOYA is currently at an advanced stage.
- Cabinet decision obtained on the proposal to develop a SEZ law and the establishment of the Sierra Leone SEZ authority law and its attendant regulation.
- Letter of Agreement (LOA) Signed with UNDP to review the National Export Strategy; this will benefit at least 2 million Sierra Leoneans.
- One hundred and fifty (150) SMEs and local entrepreneurs were promoted within the agribusiness sector to make them export ready.
- Awareness raising on: AfCFTA, America Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS).
- Regional Market integration and stakeholder engagement on trade facilitation was conducted nationwide.
- Three thousand (3,000) SMEs accessed finance through the MUNAFA fund; 50 participants participated in the training on TBT & SPS issues.
- Commissioned the first ever Multi Steel Industry (ORDAV) steel industry to promote the manufacturing industry.
- Four (4) bilateral agreements signed on trade and investment with the following countries: the People's Republic of Turkey; South Korea; Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Nine (9) Public-Private Dialogues (PPDs) were held on the following thematic areas: importers of essential commodities, exporters of essential commodities, Importers of Iron Rods, importers of cement, traders organisations, plastic manufacturers and sachet water processors, engagement with private sector players for the development of the pricing formula, engagement with private sector players for the development of regulations to create transparency and common market structures regarding the business of scrap metals in the country and agri-businesses.
- Developed two (2) pricing formulas for (i) petroleum products and (ii) essential commodities.
- World Trade Organization (WTO) engagement strengthened with (i) ratification of fisheries subsidy agreement and (ii) Sierra World Trade organization policy review meetings.
- Validated ECOWAS Common Trade Policy and Ongoing Review of Produce Monitoring Board (PMB) Act, Cap 185.



1.3. Value addition and efficient management of natural resources

- **Mining**

The mining sector has been a major contributor to the economy for a very long time, employing a significant amount of the labour force and an export earner. The sector is highly diversified and covering small scale artisanal mining to large scale mechanized enterprises.


Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to improve the governance and management of the mining sector, including value addition for employment, poverty reduction, community benefit, environmental rehabilitation, and revenue generation.

Progress

The progress in the mining sector in 2024 is presented below.

- Environmental rehabilitation in five mined sites: a total of five (5) environmental rehabilitation have been undertaken in mined sites, representing 500% of the target for 2024 and already achieving the target set for 2028.
- Non tax revenues amounted to approximately US\$ 50 million, while tax revenues generated from the sector were between US\$ 8-9 Million.
- Total mineral export value dropped from US\$ 1.6 billion in 2023 to US\$ 1.2 billion in 2024 largely due to Sierra Rutile halting operations. The breakdown of 2024 export contributions: Iron Ore accounts for 70% of total exports worth US\$ 785million, Diamonds accounts for 12% worth US\$ 102 million; Gold worth US\$ 11 million.
- FG Gold was licensed, with a projected export generation of US\$ 300 million annually which is a substantial increase from the current US\$ 1 million in large-scale gold export.
- Government's revenue generation drive was supported by increasing large-scale license fees from US\$500,000 to US\$1,000,000.
- The rehabilitation of mined out sites was funded by Development and Peace Caritas Canada through Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) in Tongo, Tankoro, Gbense, Nimikoro and Mogbemo.
- German International Cooperation (GIZ) conducted training on combating the smuggling of precious metals and stones along porous borders. GIZ supported the Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Taskforce in conducting sensitization on mining-related issues.
- Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) communities in Koinadugu, Kono and Kailahun districts were trained on environmental and social compliance standards
- The National Minerals Agency (NMA) paid a 1-year subscription fee for the Maintenance of Oasis Montaj for the eGIMS infrastructure and ArcGIS online subscription and maintenance for the ESRI suite of applications.
- Forms have been developed, and deployment is in progress: Marine Draught Survey tool, Artisanal Mines Monitoring Tool, Mining Operations Tracking Tool, Airport Mineral Export



Tracking Tool, Monitoring and Surveillance Tracking Tool, Compliance Sensitization Tool, Containerized Bulk Mineral Tracking Tool.

- **Oil and Gas**

Sierra Leone possesses huge natural resources some of which remained unexploited. In the recent past, GoSL through private entities has made frantic efforts at exploring the petroleum potentials with particular reference to oil and gas exploration.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to revitalise the oil and gas industry through sustainable exploration and expansion of its scope, while building the capacity of the sector for operational excellence.

Achievements / activities in oil and gas sector

- Enhancement of transparency and accountability: Oil and Gas licenses are publicly available; mainstreaming of revenue receipts will be accomplished after modernization of web portal; and beneficial ownership information will be made available in real time after the enactment of related legislation.
- Creation of a National Oil Company: Sierra Leone National Oil Company (SLENOC) is in progress-Memorandum and Articles of Association finalized and deposited in accordance with the Companies' Act 2009; creation of related Board in the offing.
- Draft amendment to the existing legislation incorporating onshore exploration activities already published in The Sierra Leone Gazette, and bill expected to be tabled in Parliament.
- Amendment to the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act 2011 is ongoing and when promulgated, provisions would have been made for onshore hydrocarbon exploration, and ultimately, natural hydrogen exploration.

1.4. Financial inclusion for strengthened rural and informal economies

Integrating the informal sector and unbanked population into the formal economy has always being a major concern in Sierra Leone's development trajectory for decades. Despite recent efforts achieved in promoting financial inclusion such as establishment of Community Banks (CBs) and Financial Services Associations (FSAs) in some rural communities, the rural economy still remain largely unattended in terms of accessibility to formal financial institutions that would ensure that financial products and services are brought closer to the rural populace.

Strategic objective





The strategic objective is to increase financial inclusion (defined as the rate of 15+ years old that have an account at a formal financial institution) from 29% in 2022 to 50% in 2030, with a special focus on expanding access of financial products and services to underserved population groups such as women, youth, rural communities, and MSMEs.

Progress

A number of improvements were recorded under financial inclusion that would help strengthen rural and informal economies, thus laying a solid foundation for future growth in the sector. The achievements under financial inclusion are stated below (also see **Table 16**).

- Access to client-centric financial products and services was reported at 31% which represented 100.9% of target and 106.9% of baseline achieved, corresponding to green arrow;
- Development and usage of digital financial services increased: it was reported at 32% representing 101.3% of target and 110.3% of baseline achieved, corresponding to green arrow;
- Number of active digital financial service users was reported at approximately 2.7 million people representing 100% of target and 122.7% of baseline achieved corresponding to green arrow; and
- Digital economy score increased: the score for 2024 remained at 48% which represented 100% of target, 104.3% of baseline corresponding to green arrow.

Table 16: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Financial Inclusion for Strengthened Rural and Informal Economies

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Access to client-centric financial products and services	29% in 2022 (WB Findex Report)	30.7%	31% in 2024 (BSL Data)	100.9% of target, 106.9% of baseline	
Development and usage of digital financial services increased	29% in 2022 (WB Findex Report)	31.6%	32% in 2024 (BSL Data)	101.3% of target, 110.3% of baseline	
Number of active digital financial service users increased.	2.2 million in 2021 (NSFI2022-2026)	2.7 Million	2.7 million (BSL Data)	100% of target, 122.7% of baseline	
Digital economy score increased	46% in 2020 (NSFI-2022/2026)	48%	48%	100% of target, 104.3% of baseline	

Source: BSL

Other achievements / activities in financial inclusion for strengthened rural and informal economies

- BSL launched national payment switch which is up and running.
- BSL is currently working on the formation of a financial inclusion data committee at the Bank. This committee will help facilitate the effective roll out of the financial inclusion data templates and dashboard.

- BSL is also seeking technical support from one its donor partners to engender the effective roll-out and usage of the financial inclusion data templates and dashboard.
- The restructuring of the Fintech Association is ongoing and the Bank recently approached its donor partners to seek funding.
- Development of Fintech regulation ongoing.
- Implementation of DigiGov initiative funded by African Development Bank (AfDB) to improve digitalization of Government payment is ongoing and on track.

Enabler 2: Governance and Accountability

2.1. Political modernization for consolidating peace and national cohesion

Several institutions such as the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) and the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) have been established by Government to enhance political participation and foster peace and strengthen national cohesion in the country. Also, a major objective of setting up these institutions was to address some of the root causes of the civil war so as to avoid a repetition in the future.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to promote a peaceful, united, and cohesive Sierra Leone where diversity, inclusion, transparency, accountability, and human rights are respected.

Progress


- **Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC)**

The ICPNC focused on peace promotion, mediation, reconciliation, early warning, early response, enhancing national cohesion and advisory to the Government¹⁸.

Achievements / activities with ICPNC

- Trained staff on data gathering and early warning.
- Trained regional staff of the commission on internal controls and auditing among others.
- The ICPNC has secured media platforms with key media outlets across the country for confidence building, stakeholders' engagements, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- One-day collaborative Peace Awareness and Sensitization Campaign on Conflict Prevention and Peace Promotion in Freetown, featuring the recently appointed Peace Ambassador H. E Alhaji Amadu Bah (aka LAJ) on 15 June, 2024.
- The Peace CSO Coalitions were established in all the 16 districts of the country in order to champion issues of peacebuilding in the various districts across the country. Generally, the meetings were well attended; gender inclusive, interactive and the desired objectives were met.
- With support from the Kofi-Anna Institute of Peace and the Africa Union, 25 Peace mediators were trained from each district resulting in a total of 400 peace mediators on alternative

¹⁸ Ibid, p 152



dispute resolution mechanism (ADRM). However, the Commission was unable to resolve most of the reported cases in the regions due to insufficient support and funds.

- **Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC)**

“The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) was also established by Government to effectively regulate the conduct and activities of political parties through the passage of the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 (PPA, 2022), which saw political accountability and transparency in political parties increased to 40 percent in 2023”¹⁹.

Achievements / activities with PPRC

- The PPRC organized 60 radio engagements and 15 TV discussions to increase awareness and educate the public on the importance and benefits of national cohesion across the country.
- The Commission organized stakeholders engagements with the leadership of political parties to discuss possible areas of review in the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 following the submission of the Tripartite Committee’s recommendations.
- The PPRC recruited more qualified and professional staff and also subjected its staff to specialized training.
- The Commission provided training for 1,360 political party leaders on dispute resolution and conflict management across the 16 districts.
- The Commission held two (2) Inter-Party Dialogue Committee Meetings bringing together the leadership of the 17 registered political parties.
- The Commission monitored the activities of political parties in line with the provisions of section 34 and 35 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the provisions of the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022.
- The Commission organized stakeholder meeting with the leadership of political parties in the Western Region.

2.2 Strengthening the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows


The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was established to combat corruption in the country through its four pillars, namely prevention, public education, investigation, and prosecution as stated in their strategic plan.

Strategic objective

The ultimate objective of the commission is to reduce corruption significantly through the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of corruption in all its forms and scaling up the fight against illicit financial flows in Sierra Leone to increase domestic revenue to finance development programmes.

Progress

¹⁹ Ibid, p 152



Some of the progress made by the ACC in 2024, are highlighted below (also See **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**).

- Systems and processes in public and private bodies improved: it was reported that five (5) reviews were conducted at SLRA, OARG, MMTU, Produce Monitoring Board and Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board; the achievement was 165% of the target, corresponding to green arrow;
- Number of MDAs Monitored for Compliance on Systems Review recommendations Increased: all targeted MDAs namely MMTU, SLRA and OARG were monitored, representing 100% of target and corresponding to green arrow;
- Public awareness of the dangers of corruption, and the benefits of a corrupt-free society







Sierra Leone ranked 114 out of 180 countries in 2024, down from 108 in 2023 Corruption Perception Index.

Transparency International

increased: according to Transparency International (TI), the country's ranking on Corruption Index in 2024 dropped and remains a worrying sign for the ACC in their fight against corruption;

- Number of MDAs with established and functional Integrity Management Committee increased: it was reported that a total of sixty-four (64) MDAs had established functional integrity management committees representing 84.4% of target;
- Percentage of MDAs service charter and policies monitored: a target of 20% of MDAs service charters were not monitored as planned and therefore the target was not met and corresponding to red arrow;
- Law enforcement against corruption, unethical conduct, and illicit financial flows enhanced: a total of 116 cases were assigned to the investigation department but only 47 of the cases were completed in 2024 representing 40.5% of target; and
- Partnership with other MDAs in the fight against and control corruption increased: it was reported that considerable efforts have been made locally and recognized internationally by the MCC thus recording an improvement in MCC score on corruption from 49% to 74% in the last seven years.

Table 17: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in the Fight against Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows

Key Targets	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narratives	Colour Code
Systems and processes in public and private bodies improved	0%	17 %	28%	165% of target	
Number of MDAs Monitored for Compliance on Systems Review Recommendations Increased	0	3	3	100% of target	
Number of MDAs with established and functional Integrity Management Committee increased	52	64	54	84.4% of target	
Percentage of MDAs service charter and policies monitored	0%	20%	0%	0% of target	
Law enforcement against corruption, unethical conduct, and illicit financial flows enhanced	0	116	47	40.5% of target	
Partnership with other MDAs in the fight against and control corruption increased to 100%	49%	60%	74%	Performance in MCC scorecard in the last 7 years: 49% to 74%	

Source: ACC, FIA

Other achievements / activities with ACC

- The commission through its prevention department conducted five (5) corruption risk assessments in public bodies in order to ensure transparency and accountability in service delivery.
- Based on the commission’s strategic plan, the commission aims to conduct three (3) comprehensive reviews annually; however, from January to December 2024, five (5) reviews have been conducted i.e. SLRA, OARG, MMTU, Produce Monitoring Board and Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board.
- The commission has concluded monitoring for compliance of three (3) MDAs: MMTU, Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) and Office of the Administrator and Register General (OARG) in January to December 2024.

- There has been an increase in public awareness on the dangers of corruption over the years. As Transparency International Corruption Perception Index – 2024 Report ranked Sierra Leone 114 out of 180 nations.
- The commission has finalized and launched the 2024-2028 National Anti-Corruption Strategy for implementation. The number of MDAs with established IMC has increase from 52 to 64 for the implementation of related acrtioun points.
- A well-designed mechanism established by the commission for planning, monitoring and reporting of results.
- The commission continues with its strategy of getting more partners on board in the fight against corruption and the control of contribution. The commission has partnerned with the following organizations by signing MoUs: Amaze TV, NaCSA on PSSNYE Projecvt and Corruption Watch Sierra Leone, National Consortium on Public Accountability.
- The commission has developed policy manuals for all of its operational departments that provide a clear path in the implementation of its activities that includes: Prevention Corruption Risk Manual, Communicational Manual, Investigation Manual, Asset Declaration Manual and Prosecution Manual.
- The commission is yet to independently monitored and evaluate the effectiveness of service charter in MDAs in 2024.
- In 2024, a total of 126 cases were assigned to the investigation department, however, a total of 71 cases were completely investigated.
- The commission continues with its strategy of getting more partners on board in the fight against corruption and the control of contribution. The commission engaged two organisations by signing MoUs: Amaze TV, NaCSA on PSSNYE Project and Corruption Watch Sierra Leone.

- **Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA)**

"The Sierra Leone Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) plays a leading role in the prevention of money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) activities in the country. The Unit is responsible for receiving, processing, and analyzing statutory reports made by financial institutions (reporting entities) or other entities in accordance with the requirements of domestic AML/CFT laws and regulations"²⁰.

Progress

Some of the progress made by the FIA in 2024, are highlighted below.

- Reviewed and enacted new legislation, the AML/CFT/PF Act 2024.
- The agency has submitted a proposal for the development of Asset Management Regime including proposed Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), which was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (now renamed the Advisory Board).
- For the FIA, gains were recorded in securing technical and financial support from the World Bank for the development of the National AML/CFT/PF National Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2029.

²⁰ FIA website: <https://fiu.gov.sl/>

- The Financial Crimes Working Group (FCWG) led by the FIA has completed a Study Report on Entry-Exit Point Financial Crimes Threat Assessment.
- Development of the Draft Study Report for the Entry-Exit Point Financial Crimes Threat Assessment.
- Development of Draft Directives and Guidelines for designated non-financial businesses and professions.
- Development of the review framework for the Directives and Guidelines for Fis.

Financial institutions, from the board of directors to front-line staff, are being trained on the issue of insider threats, bank/financial fraud, and corruption.

- MoUs have been signed with stakeholders, including youth groups focused on the fight against corruption.
- The National Strategy and Action Plan has a whole pillar focused on raising awareness and building the capacity of stakeholders. However, ongoing efforts are being made to engage stakeholders at all levels on the dangers of financial crimes, including corruption.

2.3. Public financial management

“The Government remains steadfast in its determination to ensure continued policy action in advancing effectiveness, probity, transparency and accountability in the use of public resources. It has continued to recognize that the state can only realise effective and sustainable economic management and public service delivery in Sierra Leone if it sustains policy focus on driving effectiveness and efficiency in public financial management (PFM) systems”²¹.

Strategic objective

The overall strategic objective for PFM in the MTNDP 2024-2030 is to continue to ensure the prudent, efficient, effective and transparent use of public funds consistent with the Public Financial Management Act 2016 and the new PFM Strategy 2023-2027.

Progress




The data and information below (also see **Table 18**) reviews the PFM achievements in 2024, using 2023 as the baseline year, highlighting key targets and policy actions. Notable achievements include significant progress in domestic revenue, a reduction in public debt as a percentage of GDP, strengthened fiscal decentralization, and the establishment of a transformational development fund for the effective management of our natural resource revenues.

- By 2026, domestic revenue increased to at least 18 percent of GDP from 13 percent in 2022: actual revenue was 8.8% representing 98.9% of target and 111.4% of baseline, corresponding to green arrow;
- By 2026 Debt to GDP Ratio will be reduced from 98.9% to not more than 70%: it was reported that the actual debt-to-GDP ratio in 2024 was 46% which was well within the targeted limit, corresponding to green arrow; and

²¹ Ibid, p 155

- By 2028, public expenditure management architecture will be significantly strengthened: the reported actual total expenditure and net lending as a % of GDP (rebased) was 16.3% representing 101.2% and 99.4% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow.

Table 18: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Public Financial Management

Key Objectives	Baseline 2023	Targets 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour code
By 2026, domestic revenue increased to at least 18 percent of GDP from 13% in 2022	Domestic Revenue to GDP (Rebased nominal GDP) baseline as of 2023 was 7.9%	Targeted Domestic Revenue as a percentage of GDP in 2024 was 8.9%	Actual Revenue as a percentage of GDP in 2024 was 8.8%	98.9% of target, 111.4% of baseline	
By 2026 Debt to GDP Ratio will be reduced from 98.9% to not more than 70%	Debt-to-GDP baseline as of 2023 was 98.9% (Old GDP) Debt to GDP (Rebased) 52.7%	Targeted Public Debt to GDP in 2024 not more than 70%	The actual debt-to-GDP ratio in 2024 was 46%	Achievement well within limits	
By 2028, public expenditure management architecture will be significantly strengthened	Expenditure and Net lending as a percentage of GDP in 2023 was 16.4%	Targeted Expenditure and Net lending as a percentage of GDP in 2024 was 16.1%	Actual total expenditure and net lending as a % of GDP (rebased) was 16.3%	101.2% of target, 99.4% of baseline	

Source: MoF

Other achievements / activities by the Ministry of Finance

- A draft fiscal decentralization strategy and policy was developed in 2024 and approved by Cabinet in 2025.
- The Sierra Leone Mines and Mineral Development and Management Corporation and the Mineral Wealth Fund was established in 2024 by an Act of Parliament.
- Developed and enacted the Finance Bill 2024 to support domestic revenue mobilization.
- Finalized the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS), developed its implementation plan, and organized steering and Technical Committee meetings with key stakeholders on the MTRS's implementation progress.
- Continued the implementation of the Tax and Duty Exemption Act to ensure the rationalisation of exemptions.

- Continued to support implementing systems such as the Electronic Cash Register (ECR), Excise Tax Stamp, and N-SOFT software processes for domestic revenue mobilization.
- Collaborated with the Fiscal Decentralisation Division to conduct a nationwide engagement with local councils to mobilize their own sources of revenues.
- Engaged key stakeholders through a public-private dialogue to support and tax the informal economy and worked with the NRA to conduct tax expenditure study and analysis.
- Conducted Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA), involving the National DSA Team (MoF, NRA, BSL, Stats SL, CSO – Budget Advocacy Network)
- Continued to issue Medium-Term Bonds to lower refinancing and rollover risks in the debt portfolio.
- Completed Annual Public Debt Bulletin for the consumption of all stakeholders.
- Trained staff of ASSL and Internal Auditor on specialized audit of public Debt.
- Completed three quarterly issuance calendars to inform the Government’s intervention in the Primary Market.
- No contraction of non-concessional debt to minimize the amplification of risks of debt distress.
- Revamped Cash and debt Management meetings bi-weekly to guide the allocation and management of cash for fiscal policy.
- Developed a Fiscal Decentralisation Policy and Strategy – awaiting Cabinet Approval.
- Facilitated the timely transfer of funds for devolved functions to ensure the achievement of the EU budget triggers for 2025.
- Organised the first round of local revenue forum in each region in collaboration with Ministries of Mines, Environment, Local Government, and National Minerals Agency MA for the effective implementation of the revenue mobilization strategies.
- Developed and rolled out revenue mobilisation strategies for 5 local councils. Work is ongoing to create revenue mobilisation strategies for four (4) City Councils in 2024.
- Prepared and rolled out manuals on roles and responsibilities for financial management committees of local councils.
- Completed the assessment of existing fiscal cadastral systems in four local councils to harmonize them into a National Municipal Property Tax System to be used by all local councils.

2.4. Audit services

The Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL) was established to primarily audit MDAs that receive public funds; and to ensure accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the use of such financial resources.

Strategic objective



The strategic objective is to support government institutions in improving revenue generation and service delivery to citizens, by strengthening the independence of ASSL and increasing its audit coverage in undertaking financial, compliance, and performance audits.

Progress

Some of the achievements recorded by ASSL are presented below (also see **Table 19**).

- Full annual performance audits conducted: these activities were fully undertaken and assessed at 100% of target and 300% of baseline, corresponding to green arrow;
- Revenue audit conducted annually and submitted to Parliament was achieved, representing 100% of target and baseline respectively, corresponding to green arrow; and
- A system to fully implement and follow up on all financial audit recommendations set up: no target was set for 2024.

Table 19: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators for Audit Services

Key Targets	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Full annual performance audits conducted	1	3	3	100% of target, 300% on baseline	
Revenue audit conducted annually and submitted to Parliament	1	1	1	100% of target and baseline respectively	
A system to fully implement and follow up on all financial audit recommendations set up	0	NA	NA	No target was set for 2024	

Source: ASSL

Other achievements / activities by ASSL

1. Audit of MDAs: ASSL successfully completed the audit of MDAs for the financial year 2023. The Auditor General's Report was submitted to Parliament on 9 December 2024 and tabled on 17 December 2024. The coverage for 2024 remained at approximately 85%, consistent with the coverage for the 2023 financial year.



reports submitted to Parliament for both 2023 and 2024 remained the same.

2. Performance audits: in 2023, the ASSL completed three performance audit reports. These reports were submitted and tabled in Parliament in 2024. Out of the three reports submitted, two were tabled in Parliament. Also in 2024, the ASSL completed six performance audits. However, due to printing challenges, none of these reports were tabled in Parliament before the end of the year. Despite this, the number of performance audit

3. Revenue audit: in 2024, the ASSL completed one revenue audit as planned. This audit covered various government revenue streams, including customs duties, corporation tax, PAYE, and some non-tax revenue streams. Additionally, special information systems audits were conducted on the Assycuda World System and the ITAS systems to further test the tax administration systems used by the National Revenue Administration. This expanded scope of the revenue audit in 2024 was built upon the single revenue audit completed in 2023.

4. Automated system for follow-up on audit recommendations: significant progress was made in the implementation of an automated system for the follow-up of audit recommendations in 2024. The software deployed for this purpose is being managed by the Internal Audit Department at the Ministry of Finance. The ASSL's role is to provide the necessary information to be inputted into the system and to offer assurance on the implementation of the recommendations.

In the execution of their mandate, ASSL also facilitated the following:

- In a drive to improve stakeholder engagements and wider publicity, the ASSL hired a consultant to help strengthen the Information, Education and Communication division and to prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and a Stakeholder Engagement Handbook. A 3-day accountability and stakeholder engagement workshop was held with support from EU. It attracted all permanent secretaries, all accountability bodies and Chief Administrators of the 22 Local Councils.
- Under the Accountable Governance for Service Delivery Project, the ASSL is currently working with its partners, including AFROSAI-E, to obtain the A-SEAT audit software. As of 31 December 2024, the advertisement for the enhancement of the ASSL-ICT Infrastructure had been launched. Discussions with AFROSAI –E and the World Bank to upgrade the A-SEAT software to accommodate the additional requirements needed by the ASSL also took place.

2.5. Inclusive and accountable justice institutions




Sierra Leone's Justice Sector continues to play a recognizable role in facilitating reforms crucial to the advancement of the rule of law, promoting justice, and guaranteeing and protecting citizens' human rights. The justice sector has been proactive in ensuring access to justice as a key component of

Sierra Leone's thriving democracy²².

Strategic objective

²² Ibid, p158



The strategic objective is to ensure that all citizens benefit from a fair, impartial, and effective justice sector by enabling increased access to justice, expedition of justice, protection of human rights, and equal opportunities for economic development.

Progress

Reports from the Ministry of Justice and allied institutions under the inclusive and accountable justice sector indicated the following achievements during the course of 2024 (also see **Table 20** and **Table 21**).

1. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)




- a. **Legislative and policy development:** (i) the Ministry prepared and submitted eight (8) cabinet papers, including the Proposed Law Officers' Bill, Contempt of Court Bill, Referendum Bill, Copyright (Amendment Bill), Legal Practitioners Bill, Sierra Leone Correctional Service (Amendment) Bill, and the proposed Amendments to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Act. These legislative proposals were developed to address legal gaps, promote access to justice, strengthen institutional mandates, and enhance the efficiency and integrity of the justice system. (ii) Key draft bills reviewed or developed included: Criminal Procedure Bill, Occupational Safety and Health Bill, Merchant Shipping Bill, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration Bill and Sierra Leone Railway Development Bill. These initiatives form part of the government's broader legislative reform agenda aimed at ensuring legal coherence and sectoral development in areas such as maritime administration, criminal justice, and transport regulation.
- b. **Bilateral and multilateral cooperation:** the Ministry signed several important international instruments and cooperation agreements including: (i) drafted MoU on immigration management between the Sierra Leone Immigration Department (SLID) and the Federal Service Interior of the Kingdom of Belgium; (ii) drafted bilateral agreement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Sierra Leone for the waiver of visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders; and (iii) drafted MoU between the Diplomatic and International Relations Institute (DIRI) of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Foreign Service Academy of Sierra Leone.
- c. **Human resource capacity development:** targeted workshops and training sessions were conducted to strengthen legal knowledge and competencies among State Counsels, particularly in the Civil and Commercial Division. Specialized training was also delivered on critical areas such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), cybercrime, and cybersecurity.
- d. **Access to justice and infrastructure enhanced:** court infrastructure was improved, and case management systems were increasingly digitized to reduce delays and improve efficiency. These efforts contribute to the broader objective of ensuring equitable, timely, and transparent access to justice for all citizens across Sierra Leone.

2. Judiciary

- By 2030, ensure that the number of cases awaiting judgement for six months are considerably lower than in 2023: in the absence of a baseline, it was reported that 75% of

- the cases were completed while 15% of the matters were carried forward by way of adjournment and the remaining 10% of the matters reserved for ruling and or judgment;
- By 2030, increase public confidence and trust in the justice sector as measured in periodic surveys: with improved service delivery of justice sector institutions, 91.3% and 119.7% of target and baseline were achieved, corresponding to green arrow; and
 - By 2030, all administrative districts have more resident High Court Judges - number of resident high court judges in administrative districts (state councils across the country): it was reported that each district currently has a resident Magistrate; some like Port Loko district have three Magistrates given the size of the district, others like Kenema and Bo have two each. All the district headquarters have a resident judge with the exception to Kono and Kabala.

Table 20: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in the Inclusive and Accountable Justice Institution

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
By 2030, ensure that the number of cases awaiting judgement for six months are considerably lower than in 2023	NA	100% completion of cases	75% of the matters completed	75% of target	
By 2030, increase public confidence and trust in the justice sector as measured in periodic surveys	61% (2023)	80%	73%	91.3% of target, 119.7% of baseline	
By 2030, all administrative districts have more resident High Court Judges- Number of resident high court judges in administrative districts (state councils across the country)	NA	NA	NA	Resident Judges and Magistrates to be assigned to each administrative district nation wide	

Source: MoJ, Judiciary JSCO, Legal Aid Board.

Other achievements / activities by the Ministry of Justice, JSCO and Judiciary

- Enacted the Justice Sector Coordination Office (JSCO) Bill into law to give a legal foundation that will enhance the authority and resources of the sector thus making the central hub for coordination within the justice sector: (i) following engagement with the leadership of the justice sector in August 2024, in finalising the Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2024-2030, discussions on transforming the JSCO from an ad-hoc coordination and policy institution to a directorate under the ministry of justice have commenced.

- b. Initiated policy reviews, and ensure communication amongst justice sector institutions in improving public awareness of the activities of the justice sector: (i) through the justice strategy (2022-2025), a justice sector communication unit was constituted and fully operational in communicating sector activities’ (ii) the JSCO website is also functional and fully operational, enhancing transparency and communication of sector activities.
- c. Increased capacity of JSCO through various staff training initiatives: (i) the JSCO has recruited additional staff, increasing its operational capacity; (ii) orientation sessions have been conducted for new recruits to put them to speed with the demanding nature of assigned duties.
- d. Implemented measures to enhance transparency by making legal proceedings and decisions more accessible to the public: (i) the Judiciary has conducted circuit courts in areas distant from the Courts in the district headquarters to ensure the communities feel part of the justice process and availing the access to participate; (ii) witness allowances are provided to ensure full participation; (iii) the judgements delivered in the High courts are lodged in the Judicial website and made available for public consumption.

3. Legal Aid Board

- Legal representations: no targets were set for 2024. A total of 22,898 reported cases of legal representations (indigent persons regardless of nationality) were handled in 2024 representing 3.6% improvement in 2023 cases. It was also noted that in both sexes and age categories (adults and juveniles), the number of cases with legal representations were higher for males than females; and
- Legal advice and assistance / mediation: no targets were set for 2024. In a similar vein, the reported cases were higher in 2024 representing an increase of 25.8% in 2023 cases.

Table 21: Summary of Progress on Targets/ Indicators on Inclusive and Accountable Justice

Cummulative Data					
Category	Adult		Juveniles		Total
	Male	Female	Boys	Girls	
Legal Representations					
2024	16,452	2,382	3,678	386	22,898
2023	16,456	1,966	3,274	402	22,098
TOTAL	32,908	4,348	6,952	788	44,996
Legal Advice & Assistance /Mediation					
2024	30,601	71,747	25,662	47,049	175,059
2023	25,469	58,461	17,180	38,405	139,515
TOTAL	56,070	130,208	42,842	85,454	314,574
GRAND TOTAL	88,978	134,556	49,794	86,242	359,570

Source: Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board



Other achievements / activities under inclusive and accountable justice

- The Legal Aid provided free legal representation to 10,517 poor/indigent persons. These included: 15 accused persons in the Court Marshall and 786 sentenced inmates in the prison court in May – June 2024.
- A total of 81,684 poor/indigent persons benefitted from Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation of civil or non-criminal matters and community level disputes.
- A total of 802,677 benefitted from legal education through community outreach, school outreach, radio phone-in programmes and workshops. These included, 600 commercial biker riders commonly called Okada riders .
- A total of 107 Child Maintenance Accounts were opened at the Rokel Commercial Bank outlet at the Legal Aid Board head office in Freetown.
- Monitored 282 Local Courts and a lot more Traditional Justice Mechanisms commonly called Informal Courts around the country.
- Proportion of persons on remand without indictment in the capital of Freetown: according to information from the Inmate Affairs Section of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service, there were 189 remand inmates without indictment at the Pademba Road Correctional Center as of 7th February 2025.
- Legal Advice and Assistance: Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation. 175,059 persons benefitted from civil matters mediated by the Board in 2024. Child Maintenance matters account for over 60% of beneficiaries. 139,515 persons benefitted from civil matters mediated by the Board in 2023. Child Maintenance matters account for over 60% of beneficiaries in the period.

2.7. Decentralisation, local governance, and rural development

In the last two decades, Government has implemented a decentralised policy in the administration of local councils and in the process several ministries have devolved their functions to these councils. The re-establishment of District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) highlights one of the major achievements to date. The DDCCs were established to undertake effective monitoring, supervision, and reporting on development progress at community level.


Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to strengthen local governance architecture, address the staff retention deficiencies in local councils, enhance local level food security, and promote local economic development.

Progress

The information provided below details achievements and progress made in decentralisation, local governance and rural development by institutions in 2024.

- Village/chiefdom level planning rolled-out to at least 40% of the chiefdoms: no baseline was stated, and a target of 10 village/chiefdom plans were set for 2024. It was reported that nine (9)



of such plans were successfully rolled out, representing 90% of target and 100% of baseline corresponding to green arrow.

- Village and section level plans were prepared in 2024 across 9 chiefdoms and 5 districts. In Koinadugu district 13 village plans were prepared in 4 sections within Wara wara Yagala, Sengbeh and Wara Bafodia chiefdoms. In Moymaba district, 9 village plans were prepared in 3 sections within Bagruwa and Fakunya Chiefdoms. In Kailahun district, 5 village plans were prepared in 1 section in the Upper Bambara Chiefdom. In Kono district 30 village plans were developed in 4 sections within Sandor and Soa Chiefdoms. In Karene district, 15 village plans were developed in Kalangba section in the Sandatedaren Chiefdom.
- Concept note has been developed titled “Continuation of the de-amalgamation of chiefdoms”; ToR for the review and reversion of Local Courts from the judiciary to the MLGCA. The ToR speaks to land acquisition and ownership which is a core responsibility of chiefdom administration.
- Dissemination on local council operational guidelines done across 16 districts and 22 Local Councils.
- MLGCA reported that according to the Comprehensive Local Government Performance Assessment System (CLOGPAS), 75% of Local Councils are using the operational guidelines. Key among the Local Councils are: Bo District and City Councils, Pujehun DC, Moyamba DC, Kailahun DC, Kenema District and City Council, Koidu New Sembehun City Council, Bombali DC, Makeni City Council, Falaba DC, Koinadugu DC, Karene DC and Freetown City Council (FCC).
- According to Local Government Service Commission (LGSC), the development of a management and functional review framework is in progress with 40% completion rate.
- According to LGSC, a Human Resource Management Guidelines for Local councils was developed in 2024 to address issues of recruitment, postings and transfer of local council staffs.

2.8. Security institutions

The provision of national security remains the primary responsibility of the Government and a prerequisite for sustainable development²³.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to have a security sector that is efficient, effective, highly apolitical and professional, one that can contribute significantly to sustainable development and the advancement of democracy and the rule of law, and can ensure a robust response to national threats and emergencies.

Progress

During the course of 2024, the undermentioned progress were implemented and realized by the various security apparatus in the country (also see **Table 22**).

²³ Ibid, p164


- 
- Early warning and response capacity of the security institutions significantly higher than in 2023: a total of 1,240 coordinating meetings were held representing 70.1% of the target and 70.33% of the baseline, corresponding to amber arrow;
 - Community engagements in security processes and functions is greater than in 2023: a total of 187 community engagements were conducted representing 149.6% of the target and 153.3% of baseline corresponding to green arrow.
 - Strengthen the interface among security sector institutions, and between these institutions and the populace, MDAs, and the Government: it was reported that 60% conflicts were resolved representing 100% of target and 109.1% of baseline, corresponding to green arrow;
 - Review existing legislations /regulations/policies governing the security sector with a view to bringing them in line with best practices: a total of four (4) legislations /regulations/policies were reviewed representing 133.3% of target and 50% of baseline, corresponding to green arrow;
 - Strengthen the intelligence wing of the security sector to detect and thwart threats to national security: a total of 28 intelligence reports were attended to, representing 80% of target and 107% of baseline corresponding to amber arrow;
 - Enforce private security regulations and conduct regular joint inspections of private security companies: a total of 83 private security companies were licensed representing 96.5% of target and 172% of baseline, corresponding to green arrow; and
 - Implement the National Protective Security Framework (NPSF) across MDAs and critical national infrastructure: a total of 26 MDAs implemented protective security measures representing 104% of target and baseline.

Table 22: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators by Security Institutions

Key Targets	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Early warning and response capacity of the security institutions is significantly higher than in 2023	1,763 Coordination meeting	1,770	1,240	70.1% of target, 70.33% of baseline	
Community engagement in security processes and functions is greater than in 2023.	122 (2023) Community engagements	125	187	149.6% of target, 153.3% of baseline	
Strengthen the interface among security sector institutions, and between these institutions and the populace, MDAs, and the Government	55% of conflicts resolved in 2023	60%	60%	100% of target, 109.1% of baseline	
Review existing legislations /regulations/policies governing the security sector with a view to bringing them in line with best practices	8 (2023)	3	4	133.3% of target, 50% of baseline	
Strengthen the intelligence wing of the security sector to detect and thwart threats to national security	30 intelligence reports (2023)	35 intelligence reports	28 intelligence reports.	80% of target, 107% of baseline	
Enforce private security regulations and conduct regular joint inspections of private security companies	48 Private Security Companies (PSCs) licensed (2023)	86	83	96.5% of target, 172.9% of baseline	
Implement the National Protective Security Framework (NPSF) across MDAs and critical national infrastructure	Protective Security measures applied in 25 MDAs (2023)	25 MDAs to be monitored	Protective Security measures implemented in 26 MDAs	104% of target, 104% of baseline	
	77 public officials vetted (2023)	80 public officials to be vetted	116 public officials vetted	145% of target, 150.6% of baseline	

Source: ONS



Other Achievements/ activities by the security sector

1. Strengthened the interface among security sector institutions, and between these institutions and the populace, MDAs, and the Government.


- a. Office of National Security (ONS) enhanced coordination of the security sector through the provision of leadership and or secretariat services for NSC sub-committees, both at national and decentralized levels.
- b. The Strategic Communications and Public Relations Directorate of the ONS regularly engaged the public/relevant MDAs on emerging security issues, creating situational awareness and a forum for interaction throughout 2024.
- c. ONS conducted a Security Sector Study Day in April 2024 to review the operations of the National Security Architecture, with particular emphasis on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Early Warning and Early Response mechanism.
- d. ONS conducted a Joint Maritime Committee (JMC) study day in August 2024 to discuss ways to enhance the operational effectiveness of the committee.
- e. In October 2024, ONS coordinated operations Diamond Dare, an operation aimed at detecting and addressing operational bottlenecks in response to emerging security threats.

2. Reviewed existing legislations governing the security sector with a view to bringing them in line with best practices

- a. ONS completed and submitted the Counter-Terrorism Bill to Parliament.
- b. ONS developed and launched the first-ever National Security Policy and Strategy (NSPS) in Sierra Leone in 2024. The document provides a guide for development of sub-strategies by various MDAs with mandate on issues that have bearing on security. A Planning, Implementation and Coordination Committee (PICC) has been put together to steer implementation through inter-agency cooperation and collaboration.
- c. In 2024, ONS led the review of the Military Aid to Civil Authority (MACA); the broad policy under which are Military Aid to Civil Power (MACP), Military Aid to Civil Communities (MACC), and Military Aid to Government Departments (MAGD). In as much as the three strands of the MACA policy were addressed, the review prioritized military assistance to civil communities because of the evolving role of the military in democratic dispensations.

3. Strengthened the intelligence wing of the security sector to detect and thwart threats to national security.

- a. ONS enhanced coordination of the intelligence community through its weekly Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) meetings. The JIC met 52 out of 52 times, it did not cancel or reschedule a single meeting.

- 
- b. ONS continued monitoring implementation of the National Threats Assessment (NTA) and National Intelligence Requirements (NIR), key documents that guide operational planning and resource allocation among members of the intelligence community and the relevant government MDAs.
 - c. The Research and Assessment Directorate (RAD) at the ONS developed a number of assessment papers during the year to guide strategic policy decisions. Among the assessment papers developed were: (i) Proposed Increase in Tariffs at the Toll Gate; (ii) Excesses of Secret Societies; (iii) Challenges Faced by Renewable Energy Service Providers; (iv) Operations of Ponzi Schemes and Fraudulent Travel Scams; and (v) Challenges to Healthcare Service Delivery. The Strategic Situation Group (SSG) chaired by ONS also developed a number proposals, some of which were on the following issues: (i) Business Regulations; (ii) Removal of Squatters from the Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority (SLPHA) Facility; (iii) Illegal Mining Activities; (iv) How Local Governance Influence and Impact on Central Administration; and (v) Paramount Chiefs Relationship with their Subjects.

4. Enforced private security regulations and conduct regular joint inspections of private security companies.

- a) The vetting and Protective Security (VaPS) Directorate of ONS continued to monitor compliance of regulations by Private Security Companies (PSCs) through field exercises and formal engagements. The National Security and Central Intelligence Act (NaSCIA), 2023 criminalizes violation of regulations by PSCs and makes provision for prosecution and punishment of offenders. In line with this provision, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Southern Lion Security and Logistics Company was prosecuted and charged with criminal offences.

5. Implemented the National Protective Security Framework (NPSF) across MDAs and critical national infrastructure (CNI).

- a) VaPS conducted several re-assessment exercises in selected MDAs/CNI including the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA) facility at Falcon Bridge, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company (EGTC) at Kingtom, MDAs at New England Ville, Sierra Leone Correctional Service (SLCS) headquarter at Jomo Kenyatta Road and GoSL communication installation at Leicester Peak.

6. Facilitated Conflict Resolution in Communities

- a. 60% of conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, land/boundary disputes, local authorities and their subjects, landholding families and mining companies were settled or resolved.



Enabler 3: Advancing climate resilience and environmental action

3.1. Building national environmental resilience

Climate and environmental issues have gained prominence in recent years in the country. As a result Government has established a separate Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in 2021, to provide political leadership and policy direction in the environmental governance architecture of the country.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to strengthen the environmental governance architecture of the country, promote the sustainable management of natural resources, and build resilience and adaptive capability to climate change, nuclear and radioactive wastes for the well-being and socio-economic livelihoods of Sierra Leoneans.

Progress

The undermentioned information revealed the progress on key targets and policy actions in building national environmental resilience during the course of 2024.

- Prosecuted 15 Civil and 5 Criminal Lawsuits against defaulters of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Act 2022 and its regulations.
- Sector Specific EIA fees regulations and agro-based industries regulations developed; ODS regulations reviewed.
- Standards on Air Quality, Water Quality, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and Noise developed.
- Ozone regulation was amended to incorporate HFCs' phase-down plan and management.
- EPA intensified public education about the dangers of mercury among school nature clubs in Koidu City, Kono district.
- Organised a networking, collaboration and award of funding cheques to the three winners of the Youth-Led GREEN SOLUTIONS Innovation Challenge 2024 to support their innovative enterprises. They will also benefit from a year-long incubation program with Timbuktoo Africa #Unipod.
- Officially launched the Gender-Sensitive National E-Mobility Strategy for Sierra Leone (2024-2035) and Pilot Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations.
- Recruited individual consultant or firm for Baseline ecological, environmental and socio-economic studies of the scarce River and Sierra Leone River Estuary Marine Protected Area.
- MoU signed to work together on the Abidjan Convention small grant project, "Strengthening Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation through Effective Marine Protected Area Management in Sierra Leone."
- EPA and the Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP) explored avenues to curtail lead-paint exposure in Sierra Leone.
- Trained importers and retailers on controlled substances and ozone-depleting substances in Makeni, Bombali district.



3.2. Forestry management and wetland conservation

The management of forests and wetland conservation has gained some prominence lately with the view to accelerating the protection of forested areas, conserve natural resources and biodiversity.

Strategic objective


The strategic objective is to promote biodiversity conservation, wildlife management, research, and the harnessing of ecosystem services in an integrated way for the well-being of present and future communities; and ensure an integrated sector governance structure for the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources in protected areas, while diversifying and expanding resource mobilisation, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnership, and supporting programme development.

Progress

The information provided below details achievements and progress made in forestry management and wetland conservation in 2024.

Achievements / activities in 2024 by National Protected Areas Authority (NPAA)

- MoU signed between NPAA and the Loma Community Conservation Programme (LCCP) for the implementation of the Loma Project was completed, on Friday 11 October 2024.
- NPAA under the Outamba Kilimi—Kuru Hills—Penselli—Soyah (OKKPS) project supported by the EU conducted a popularization and sensitization tour within the OKNP landscape to continue protecting biodiversity and the ecosystem in OKNP.
- Conducted a law enforcement routine surveillance and patrol across OKNP to stop all illegal activities in the park from the 16- 20 September 2024.
- Conducted a training on Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) from the 2 - 7 September 2024 at the Sea Coach Conference Hall, 75 Sir Samuel Lewis Road Aberdeen.
- Conducted a Judicial Procedure Training on Protected Area Management Laws for the Sustainable Management of OKNP from the 22nd - 26th August 2024, at the Kamakwie Community Centre, in the Karene District.
- Conducted popularization and sensitizations tour within OKNP landscape in order to continue with the protection of the Biodiversity and EcoSystem in OKNP.
- NPAA and the Office Guinéen des Parcs Nationaux et Réserves de Faune (OGPNRF) in Guinea, the two institutions conducted a joint transboundary patrol on the OKKPS landscape from the 19th - 23rd July 2024.
- NPAA has on the 5th July 2024 signed a Grant to promote Conservation of high-value Biodiversity areas in Sierra Leone, which is a significant step towards the conservation and protection of the Loma Mountain National Park in Koinadugu District and Tingi Hills in Kono district.
- Launched the Mangroves Restoration project in degraded areas in the Ribbi Chiefdom coastal Area in the Ribbimen community , Moyamba District on the 29th, June 2024.
- NPAA in collaboration with the MTA sponsored by the Sierra Leone integrated Resilient Urban Mobility Project (IRUMP), on the 10th June 2024 engaged stakeholders of the Newtown and



Bonga Town Communities on restoration and protection of mangroves in the Aberdeen Creek Communities.

- Launched three fibreglass boats to protect the OKNP, Tambaka Chiefdom in the Karene District, Northern part of Sierra Leone.

3.3. Disaster management and governance

Sierra Leone continues to be prone to both man-made and natural hazards such as floods, landslides, tropical storms, coastal erosion, and droughts that cause severe economic damage and loss of lives with disproportionate effects on the poorest and most vulnerable²⁴.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to mainstream disaster risk management into national, sector and local development plans and policies and ensure an integrated and robust national response to future emergencies with minimised human, infrastructural and related costs.

Progress

The information provided below details achievements and progress made in disaster management and governance in 2024 (also see **Table 23**).

- Percent of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policies, strategies, plans, and programmes are mainstreamed into sectoral and local development plans: the reported achievement doubled over the period representing 200% of the target and 400% of the baseline corresponding to a green arrow;
- Percent of disaster risk reduction interventions are decentralized: it was reported that 40% of the interventions were decentralized representing 200% of the target corresponding to a green arrow; and
- National early warning and early response system immensely scaled up: with an initial baseline of moderately low, the target for 2024 was set at low, and the achievement reported was low representing 100% of target, corresponding to green arrow.

Table 23: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Disaster Management and Governance

²⁴ Ibid, p168



Key Targets	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Percent of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policies, strategies, plans, and programmes are mainstreamed into sectoral and local development plans	10 %	20%	40%	200% of target, 400% of baseline	↑
Percent of disaster risk reduction interventions are decentralized	Zero	20%	40%	200% of target	↑
National early warning and early response system immensely scaled up	Moderately low	Low	Low	100% of target	↑

Source: National Disaster Management Agency

Other Achievements/ Activities

- As at December 2024, 74 out 193 chiefdom disaster management committees, 6 out of 16 district disaster management committees and 5 out of 5 regional disaster management committees have been set up.
- The agency has offices in all regions that coordinate risk reduction activities in the regions with support from the ONS.
- The headquarters and regional offices collaborates with Red cross and NatNFF to do rapid assessments when disasters to occur .
- The agency through the RUSLP (World Bank) program revised 3 national policy documents (The National Disaster Risk Management Policy, The National Disaster Response and Recovery Plan and The SOP on relief and Response).
- With funding from the central government, the Agency provided capacity building in early warning and early actions for ten (10) prone communities in the western Area.
- The Agency in collaboration with Bournemouth University developed an Agency Service Charter.
- With support from UNDP, the Agency worked with 16 chiefdoms in Bonthe and Moyamba in community based early warnings and early actions.
- With support from GOAL , the Agency worked with 6 coastal communities on Blue Economy. The Agency in collaboration with other MDAs and Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) conducted a research on disaster displacement and its socioeconomic impact on coastal communities using Plantain Island as a case study.



Enabler 4: Gender mainstreaming

Achievements in gender mainstreaming during the implementation of Sierra Leone’s previous plan indicated that the country had been on a trajectory towards reducing

gender imbalances in the political, social and economic spheres of life. This is reflective of the country's commitment to several normative frameworks at international and regional levels, including the Sustainable Development Goals²⁵.

Strategic objective

The strategic objective is to ensure effective mainstreaming of gender into national, sectoral and local policies, plans, budgets and programmes in order to significantly narrow gender inequality.

Progress

- The progress on achievements of key targets and indicators under gender mainstreaming are presented below (also see Table 23).
- Number of legal and policy frameworks adopted and or reviewed: regulations developed as provided by the GEWE Act; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2024 passed in parliament representing 100% of target, corresponding to green arrow;
- Proportion of seats held by women in parliament and local councils: in both levels of

governance, the participation of women have been very good, in parliament and local councils the target of 30% and 41% were respectively achieved;

- Percent women with access to financial services: about 27% of women are reported to have access to financial services, representing 90% of target and 108% of baseline;

- Percentage of ministries with Gender Units established: it was reported that all ministries now have gender units established representing 169.5% of target, corresponding to green arrow; and

- Number of districts implementing the GBVIMS: it was reported that 25% of districts have implemented GBVIMS representing 50% of the target and corresponding to green arrow.

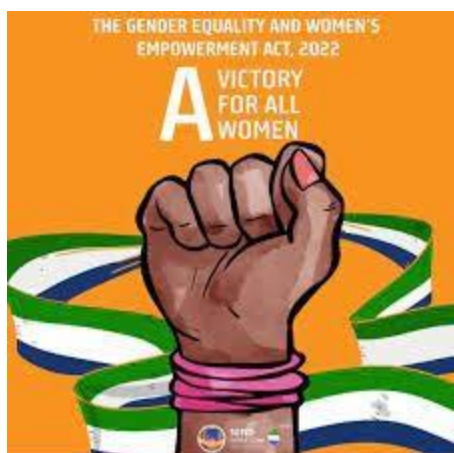


Table 24: Summary of Progress on Key Targets/ Indicators in Gender Mainstreaming

Key Target / Indicator	Baseline	Target 2024	Achievements 2024	Narrative	Colour Code
Number of Legal and policy frameworks adopted and/ or reviewed	GEWE Act, GEWE Policy, Sexual Offences Act,	0	1	100% of target	↑

²⁵ Ibid, p171

	2012 as Amended in 2019				
Proportion of seats held by women in parliament and local councils	Parliament - 30%	Parliament – 30%	Parliament - 30	100% of target, 100% of baseline	
	Local Council - 41%	Local Council - 41%	Local Council - 41%	100% of target, 100% of baseline	
Percent women with access to financial services	25%	30%	27%	90% of target, 108% of baseline	
Percentage of ministries with Gender Units established	5%	59%	100%	169.5% of target, 2,000% of baseline	
Number of districts implementing the GBVIMS	0%	50%	25%	50% of target, 2,500% of baseline	

Source: MoGCA

Enabler 5: Financing, partnerships for implementation and risks management

The total projected cost of the seven-year MTNDP 2024-2030 was US\$12.05 billion (US\$6.62 billion represents direct project-related costs and US\$5.43 billion represents the government's statutory expenditures to support project implementation). The government had projected to raise US\$9.49 billion from both internal and already committed external resources, leaving a total financing gap of US\$2.56 billion for seven years²⁶.

“Financing the implementation of the MTNDP 2024-2030 will require strict adherence to key principles especially exploration of innovative means of financing, ensuring strengthened PFM systems, enhancing development cooperation, and scaling up sectoral coordination, coherence and alignment of multi-stakeholder operations”²⁷.

Progress

1. Public Investment Programme (PIP)

Total public expenditure on the implementation of public investment programmes (PIP) from domestic capital amounted to NLe 3,963,677,000, supporting a total 196 projects in 2024. However, due to

²⁶ Ibid, p176

²⁷ Ibid, p176

funding constraints only 107 were financed as shown in **Figure 8**. In actual terms, the highest support went infrastructure, technology and innovation (27 projects) followed by to HCD (26 projects), governance (20 projects) etc. The flagship programme, Feed Salone had 10 projects financed under the PIP (**Figure 8**).

- **Public expenditure on Big Five Game Changers**

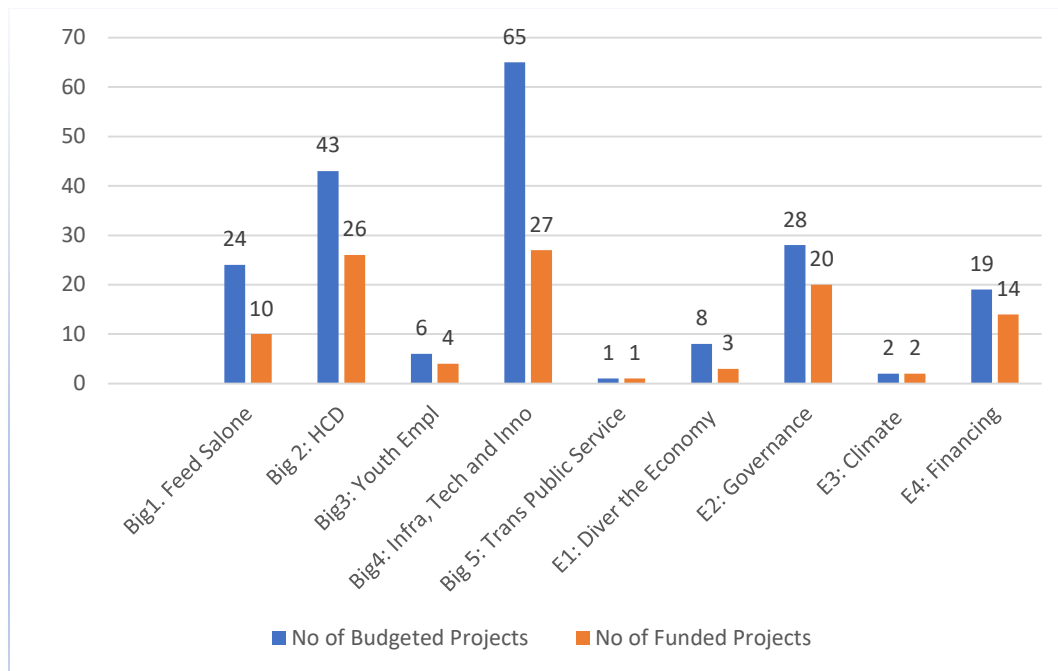


Figure 8: Implementation of PIP in FY 2024 (Domestic Capital)

Source: PIM Directorate, MoPED

In terms of actual amounts disbursed for project implementation, there were six (6) out of nine (9) project categories where overspending was evident (Figure 9):

- The biggest amount overspent was in the infrastructure, technology and innovation category wherein the actual amount spent was NLe 2,514,068,000 as against NLe 773,000,000;
- The second biggest overspending was in the HCD category with the actual amount spent being NLe 885,282,000 as against 276,700,000;
- There was also overspending in youth employment scheme, governance, climate and financing.
- On the contrary, there were three project categories where underspending was reported such as: Feed Salone, the flagship programme in which NLe 136,033,000 was disbursed as against NLe 836,027,000; so also was transforming the public service with NLe 2,625,000 disbursed as against NLe 4,500,000; and diversifying the economy in which NLe 5,000,000 was disbursed as against NLe 26,300,000.

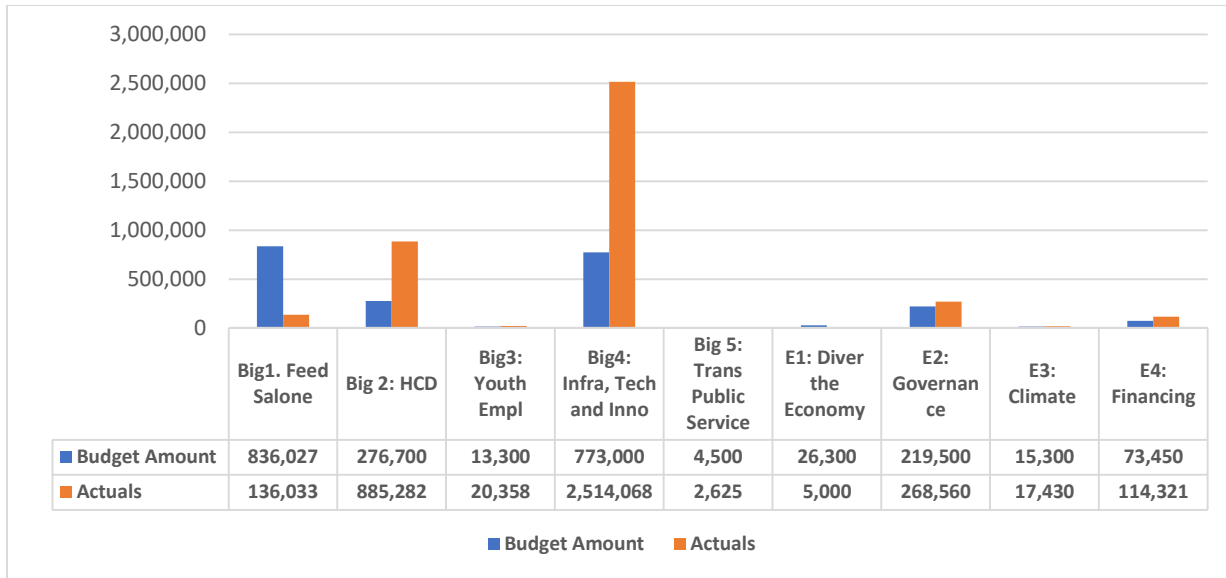


Figure 9: PIP Budget & Actual

Source: PIM Directorate, MoPED

GoSL providing counterpart funding to grant-funded programmes and projects is sometimes a prerequisite for multilateral and bilateral partner-supported projects. Five programme categories received counterpart funding totaling NLe 434,500 in 2024 as follows:

- HCD received the biggest counterpart funding to the tune of NLe 227,500,000 accounting for 10.2% share of total allocation;
- The second biggest programme category of counterpart funding was infrastructure, technology and innovation in the amount of NLe 120,000,000 accounting for 5.4% share of allocation;
- The remaining three in decreasing amount were Feed Salone, financing and diversifying the economy with NLe 71,200,000, NLe 13,500,000 and NLe 1,500,000 respectively.
- However, four programme categories did not receive any counterpart funding because there were no grant-funded programmes in their respective portfolio.

Table 25: PIP Implementation for the FY 2024- Domestic Capital

Big Five Game Changers/Enablers	Counterpart Allocation	% Share of Total Allocation
B.1 : Feed Salone	71,200	3.20
B2: Human Capital Development	227,500	10.20
B3: Youth Employment	0	0.00
B4: Infrastructure, Technology and Innovation	120,800	5.40

B5: Transforming the Public Service Administration	0	0.00
E1: Diversifying the Economy and Promoting Growth	1,500	0.10
E2: Governance and Accountability	0	0.00
E3: Climate Change and the Environment	0	0.00
E4: Financing, Partnership, Implementation and Risk Management	13,500	0.60
Total	434,500	19.40

Source: PIP Directorate, MoPED

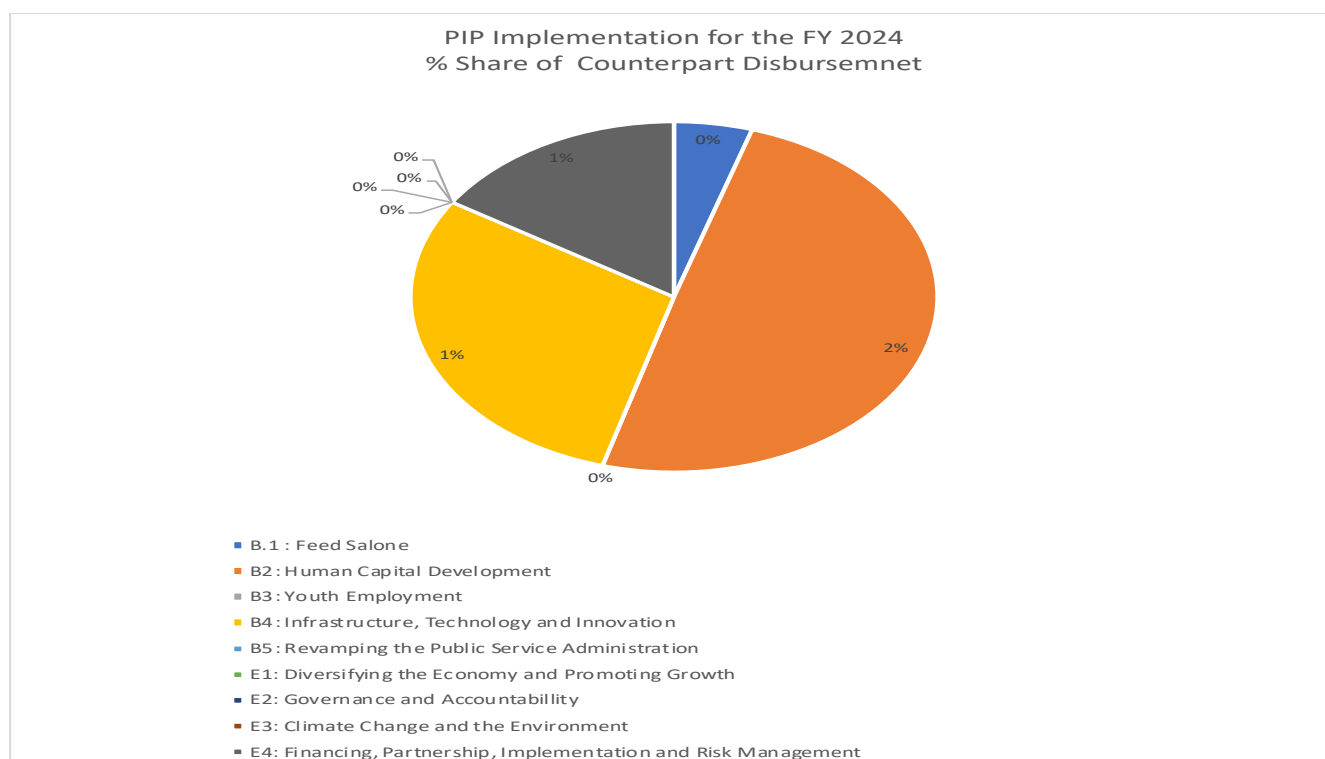


Figure 10: Percent Share of Counterpart Disbursement in 2024

Source: PIP Directorate, MoPED

- **Multilateral and bilateral support in the implementation of MTNDP 2024-2030**

Development partners, multilateral and bilateral have been very supportive of Government's agendas for decades. Interventions have been financial through direct project support, grants, technical assistance and so on. The provision of such support to the implementation of the Big Five Game

Development Partners financial support to Government programmes and projects decreased by 7.6% in 2024

Changers and Enablers is one of the latest interventions in recent times (**Figure 11**). NGOs, national and international are also used as conduits to channel support in aid of Government’s interventions.

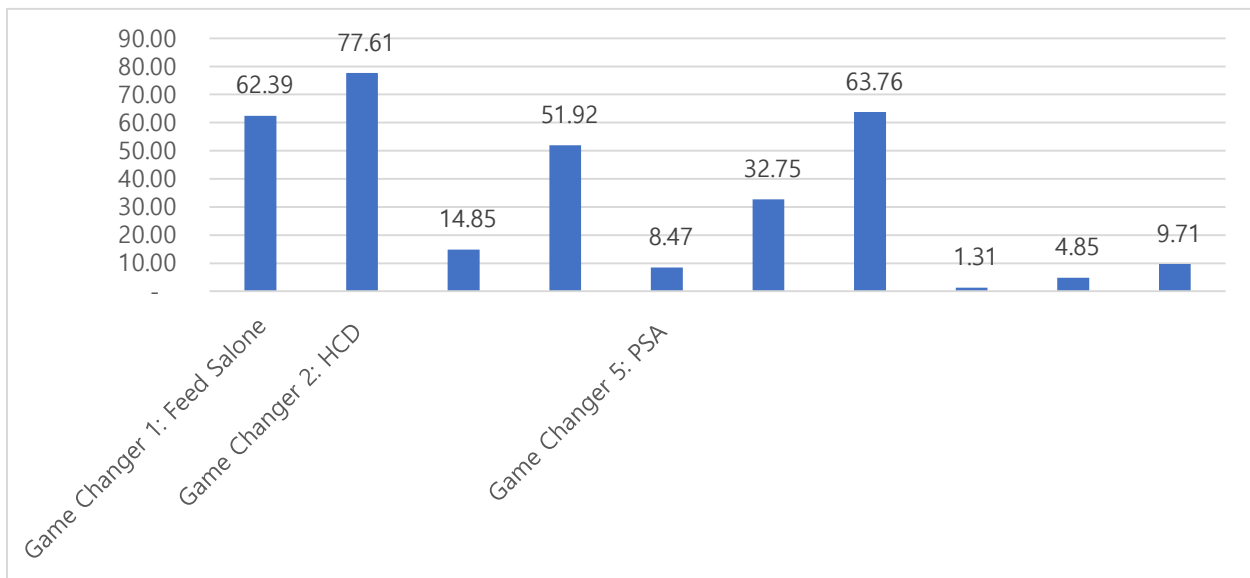


Figure 11: Support to the MTNDP by Big Five and Enablers (US\$ Millions)

Source: DACO, MoPED

During the course of 2024, it was reported that total multilateral and bilateral support amounted to US\$ 327.62 towards the implementation of MTNDP 2024-2030 (see **Figure 12**). In comparison to 2023, total support reduced by 7.6% from US\$ 354.71 million to US\$ 327.62 million.

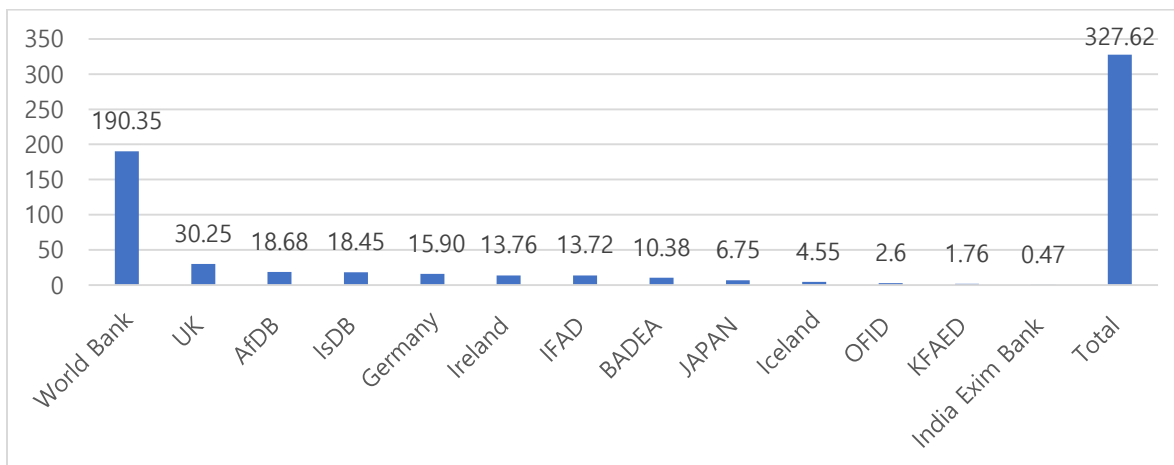


Figure 12: Total Support to the MTNDP in 2024 by Partners (US\$ Million)

Source: DACO, MoPED

Challenges



The major challenges highlighted by MDAs were summarized into the following:

1. Inadequate funding / late disbursement of funds / counterpart funding not forthcoming.
2. Weak coordination among MDAs.
3. Limited capacity in some MDAs: inadequate logistics, limited space to accommodate personnel.
4. Inadequate / absence of data to enable proper planning and monitoring of progress in the implementation of activities.
5. Poor internet connectivity.

Looking forward

The achievements by MDAs in the first year of implementation of the MTNDP 2024-2030 was commendable with a good number of key targets / indicators assessed progressing in the right direction. However, there is still room for improvement and in certain cases some catch ups towards achieving significant growth in the coming years. Also, we must not lose sight of the ground work already laid in some instances that are vital in taking the next few steps in actualizing specific results and outcomes.

In order for MDAs to fully translate their plans into reality, a number of strategic actions have to be taken, among which are the following: (a) amidst of limited funding for the implementation of programmes and projects, exploring innovative means of financing becomes an inevitable option while MDAs have to observe improved financial discipline to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery; (b) improve capacity of personnel through professional trainings in relevant / specialized areas while paying close attention to planning, monitoring and evaluation; not forgetting the need for quality data and how it can influence project results and outcomes; and (c) improve operationalization of SWGs to support coordination of MDA activities and enhance interaction with development partners.

