



PAACET UPDATES APRIL-JUNE 2017

SIERRA LEONE ACTIVITIES

PAACET has been working in collaboration with other key stakeholders to meet the growing human rights and governance accountability demands and challenges in Sierra Leone. Some of the current engagements are as follows;

A. Steering Committee on addressing Inequality in Sierra Leone - Member

The committee includes selected organisations including;

- OXFAM
- IBIS
- Institute for Governance Reform
- PAACET
- Sierra Leone Adult Education Association (SLADEA)
- Campaign for Just Mining

The steering committee have put together an advocacy plan targeting the addressing of inequalities. The advocacy objectives are as follows;

1. Promote equitable resource distribution to address geographical inequalities, including rural-urban extremely deprived districts
2. Influence the targeting of social protection programmes in favor of the aged, disabled people and youths and establishment of social safety nets using revenues from minerals

The advocacy plan, once funded, will be rolled out at the national level.

B. Strengthening Electoral Accountability and Governance in Sierra Leone – SEAG Consortium – National Coordinating Team Member

As Sierra Leone approaches its forth post-conflict presidential, parliamentary and local council elections, scheduled to take place on 7th March 2018, and considering that the country has just concluded its Constitutional Review Process (CRP) and still awaiting the government's publication of its responsive "White Paper" following the concluding report of the Constitutional

Review Committee (CRC), a referendum is due to be held after the publishing of the White Paper, six months before the elections. Voter register is also due to be out six months before elections.

At this stage of the country's post-conflict transitional phase, the role of non-state actors in complementing and supporting the 2018 election process is especially crucial. Recognising the need for the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Government of Sierra Leone's (GoSL) Agenda for Prosperity, in addition to the need to promote peace, justice, and fundamental human rights, it is imperative that government, non-state actors/civil society, national partners, international partners and other strategic stakeholders maintain their unbiased role to ensure that credible elections are held in March 2018.

"Strengthening Electoral Accountability and Governance in Sierra Leone – SEAG Consortium" has been established as a mechanism to strengthen and support citizens' needs for better government accountability and informed, unhindered participation in the democratic process. This initiative builds on previous and current efforts to support the strategic electoral goals that is consistent with best democratic electoral practices in promoting and protecting voters' rights, ensuring participation in the electoral process, fostering peaceful and non-violent elections, and ensuring a smooth political transition. The consortium builds on existing efforts and best practices frameworks and draws insights from GoSL Agenda For Change (PRSP II 2008-2012) in promoting human rights, thus expanding the shrinking CSO space, supporting women's participation in governance by advocating for an increase to the 30% quota for women and 10% quota for youth, promoting participation and sustained engagement with persons with disabilities, and popularising the Affirmative Action concept. The consortium will support the electoral agenda and plan of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) and other Elections Management Bodies (EMBs). Most of the consortium members have previously played pivotal roles in national and international electoral

processes and will draw lessons from their prior engagements to uphold public confidence and sustain partnerships with donors and stakeholders. It seeks to promote a collective leadership agenda and set the stage for actions that will ensure a smooth, unbiased and transparent electoral administration and management process across the board.

The consortium has five thematic focus areas (TFA) and each thematic focus area is led by two organisations.

The consortium will support the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) and other Elections Management Bodies (EMBs) in implementing the electoral agenda.

An outline of specific outputs that supports its Goal, Purpose and Outputs are mentioned below;

GOAL: To secure the necessary conditions for peace and non-violence in Sierra Leone through participatory and inclusive governance and accountability trainings in the democratic process.

PURPOSE: To strengthen and support citizens' capacity to request better governance accountability, participate effectively in the 2018 election process and support a sustainable and inclusive long term electoral cycle in a manner that will increase and sustain public confidence and trust in the democratic process.

Project Description:

The project "Strengthening Electoral Accountability and Governance in Sierra Leone – SEAG Consortium exists to strengthen and support citizens' capacity to require better governance accountability, participate effectively in the 2018 election process and support a sustainable and inclusive long term electoral cycle in a manner that will increase and sustain public confidence and trust in the democratic process.

Five thematic focal areas are as follows;

1. Civic and Voter Education
2. Peace and Non-Violence Communication
3. Promoting Electoral Laws with the Rule of Law
4. Organisational Development and Capacity Building
5. Monitoring and Evaluation

C. Internship Placement

The objective is to support PAACET's focus to promote human rights and social justice issues primarily on human rights and peace education and training. The volunteer will support the roll

out of PAACET's thematic areas on Human Rights and Social Justice, Conflict Prevention, Healing and Reconciliation and Peace Education and Training as articulated in PAACET's Programme Area Description in order to strengthen PAACET's operational capacities.

D. Africans Rising Movement – Member

PAACET's role in promoting this agenda is fundamental in promoting human rights, peace and inclusive governance in Africa. The Sierra Leone Chapter was launched on May 25th, 2017 with declaration messages that were read out by five organisations, including PAACET. The resolve of the Kilimanjaro Declaration is the foundation on which the chapter was launched, resolving that the work should build a local National, Continental and Global Campaign that is;

- i. Expanding space for civic and political action
- ii. Fighting for women's rights and freedoms across society
- iii. Focusing our struggles on the right to Equity and Dignity
- iv. Demanding good governance as we challenge corruption and impunity
- v. Demanding climate and environmental justice.

E. International Peace Day – September, 2017

Keeping in mind the significance of the International Day of Peace, PAACET is putting together plans to celebrate the day and is currently seeking volunteers to help in the planning and fundraising for this event. We also hope to refurbish the Bomaru War Monument into a Peace Monument, pending the availability of funds.

F. Establishment of a Peace and Human Rights Library

PAACET has received a consignment of books from one of its board members in Canada to set up a peace and human rights library. We are seeking additional donations of books and supplies to make this dream a reality.

G. Meeting with the Head of Social Sciences Department, Njala University

On-going discussions with Njala University has led to an agreement to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the University and PAACET. This will lead to fulfilling our core programme areas as will be agreed between the two parties.
