

Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund Mid-Term Report

Country	Sierra Leone		
ATLAS Project Number:	00061235		
Project Title:	Open Government Initiatives		
Approved Amount	US Dollar 300,000		
Name of Contact Point(s)	Edward Kamara, Yuichiro Sakai		
Relevant SRF Outcome and Output	Strategic Plan Key Result Area 2.2 Strengthening responsive governing institutions	Strategic Plan Outcome 2.2.4 National, regional and local levels of governance expand their capacities to reduce conflict and manage the equitable delivery of public services	Outcome: The quality of national development policy and effectiveness of its implementation enhanced through the transformative leadership support capacity development
			Output: 1. Executive branch's strategy and actions regularly communicated and discussed with the general public 2. Improved dialogue between Members of Parliament and their constituents 3. Increased public knowledge of cases heard in court
Current status of project (check appropriate box):	Pre-approval stage:		
	Approved but not yet on-going:		
	On-going: X		
	Completed:		
Total Project Expenditures as of June 30 2008¹:	US\$17,592.89 (as of Sept. 11 2008)	Expected Total Project Expenditures	USD 300,000
Progress achieved towards annual Output targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Government Initiatives (OGI) Coordinator placed in the Office of the President to coordinate all activities and logistic support provided. Since August, the project reformulation has been taking place, and implementation is accelerating. 2. A comprehensive field visits timetable for the President and Ministers have been developed to take place starting September 12 through December 2008 during which time a series of Town Hall meetings will held in various administrative districts across the country. These meetings will create the opportunity for direct communications between the people in the district and the Presidency. 3. The first field visit to Bombali District, known for farming, was conducted on 13 September, which included monitoring visits by the President and relevant ministers to community farm sites and a town hall meeting with participation of about 300 people. 		
How has your project mainstreamed the corporate development drivers and core results²?	This project focuses on improving the accountability and transparency of the targeted branches of government (Executive and Judiciary) by enhancing the visibility of the government, and fostering a two-way communication that brings the people closer to the government. This objective is achieved by piloting direct/interpersonal and non-traditional mass media means of promoting open government, such as field visits and town hall meetings in provinces by the Presidency, and dialogue between the general public and the government through radio, mobile SMS and website. In a similar vein, it will also create the opportunity for the Judiciary to give account of their work to the public and allow them to ask questions for purposes of clarity.		
Success Stories:	The town hall meetings in provinces give opportunities for the people to directly interact with the Presidency, thereby bypassing bureaucratic layers and strengthening direct accountability. Furthermore, these town hall meetings are combined with monitoring visits by the Presidency of the government projects undertaken in the corresponding areas, providing the government the first hand views on the projects.		
Problems Encountered	The newness of the project concept within the CO coupled with the fact that the government itself is nascent with no proper structure yet in place contributed to the late start of the project implementation. This however, has now been resolved following a series meetings between the UNDP Senior Management and the responsible government ministries with agreement reached on the management arrangements of the project. Hence the designed of a comprehensive implementation plan that has been agreed upon by both parties.		

¹ Please distinguish between DGTTF and other resources, if applicable.

² As specified in the 2006 DGTTF Guidelines