



SIERRA LEONE

October 30, 2015

SIERRA LEONE—THIRD AND FOURTH REVIEWS UNDER THE EXTENDED CREDIT FACILITY ARRANGEMENT AND FINANCING ASSURANCES REVIEW, REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS FOR NONOBSERVANCE OF PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND MODIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE CRITERIA, AND REQUESTS FOR REPHASING AND AUGMENTATION OF ACCESS UNDER THE EXTENDED CREDIT FACILITY—INFORMATIONAL ANNEX

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The African Department
(In consultation with other departments)

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RELATIONS WITH THE FUND

(As of September 30, 2015)

Membership Status: Joined 9/10/62; Article VIII

General Resources Account:	SDR Million	% Quota
Quota	103.70	100.00
Fund holdings of currency	103.69	99.99
Reserve position	0.02	0.02

SDR Department:	SDR Million	% Allocation
Net cumulative allocation	99.51	100.00
Holdings	107.52	108.06

Outstanding Purchases and Loans:	SDR Million	% Quota
ECF Arrangements	149.31	143.98

Latest Financial Arrangements:

Type	Date of Arrangement	Expiration Date	Amount Approved (SDR Million)	Amount Drawn (SDR Million)
ECF	Oct 21, 2013	Oct 20, 2016	140.00	104.45
ECF	July 01, 2010	June 30, 2013	31.11	22.20
ECF ¹	May 10, 2006	June 22, 2010	51.88	51.88

Projected Payments to Fund²

(SDR million; based on existing use of resources and present holdings of SDRs):

	Forthcoming				
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Principal		0.36	12.11	12.99	11.27
Charges/Interest		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.30</u>
Total		0.36	12.11	13.00	11.57

Implementation of HIPC Initiative:

	Enhanced Framework
Commitment of HIPC Initiative assistance	
Decision point date	March 2002

¹Formerly PRGF.

² When a member has overdue financial obligations outstanding for more than three months, the amount will be shown in this section.

Assistance committed (NPV terms)	
By all creditors (US\$ million) ³	675.20
Of which: IMF assistance (US\$ million)	125.21
(SDR equivalent in millions)	100.00
Completion point date	December 2006
Disbursement of IMF assistance (SDR million)	
Amount disbursed	100.00
Interim assistance	66.03
Completion point balance	33.97
Additional disbursement of interest income ⁴	6.58
Total disbursements	106.58

Implementation of Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI):

I. MDRI-eligible debt (SDR Million) ⁵	117.34
Financed by: MDRI Trust	76.75
Remaining HIPC resources	40.59
II. Debt Relief by facility (SDR Million)	

Eligible Debt

<u>Delivery Date</u>	<u>GRA</u>	<u>PRGT</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 2006	N/A	117.34	117.34

Implementation of Catastrophe Containment and Relief (CCR):

Date of Catastrophe	Board Decision Date	Amount Committed (SDR million)	Amount Disbursed (SDR million)
N/A	Mar 02, 2015	20.74	20.74

As of February 4, 2015, the Post-Catastrophe Debt Relief Trust has been transformed to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief (CCR) Trust.

³ Assistance committed under the original framework is expressed in net present value (NPV) terms at the completion point, and assistance committed under the enhanced framework is expressed in NPV terms at the decision point. Hence these two amounts cannot be added.

⁴ Under the enhanced framework, an additional disbursement is made at the completion point corresponding to interest income earned on the amount committed at the decision point but not disbursed during the interim.

⁵ The MDRI provides 100 percent debt relief to eligible member countries that qualified for the assistance. Grant assistance from the MDRI Trust and HIPC resources provide debt relief to cover the full stock of debt owed to the Fund as of 2004 that remains outstanding at the time the member qualifies for debt relief.

Safeguards Assessment:

The 2015 safeguards assessment found that despite the Ebola epidemic, the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) has maintained essential operations and related controls. Governance bodies were reconstituted without delay, following the expiration of the previous terms, and the Audit Committee continued its oversight of BSL operations. However, the modernization of the internal audit function, recommended by an independent external quality assessment, has not been fully completed. While financial statements continue to be prepared and audited in accordance with international standards, audits are not completed within the statutory deadline.

Exchange Rate Arrangement:

For customs valuation purposes and for official transactions, the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) calculates an official exchange rate every Friday morning as the weighted average of the auction rate, the commercial bank mid-rate, and the bureau mid-rate in the previous week. Commercial banks may buy foreign exchange from and sell it to individual customers and may trade among themselves or with the BSL on a freely negotiable basis. As of September 30, 2015, the BSL mid rate was Le 5,292.6=US\$1.

Sierra Leone's *de jure* exchange rate regime is classified as floating, with the value of the leone determined by the market. Furthermore, effective November 1, 2008, the *de facto* exchange rate arrangement has been reclassified to 'floating' from a 'stabilized arrangement'.

With effect December 14, 1995, Sierra Leone has accepted the obligations of Article VIII, Sections 2, 3, and 4, and maintains an exchange system free of restrictions on the making of payments and transfers for current international transactions. Sierra Leone maintains one multiple currency practice subject to Fund jurisdiction arising from the applied multiple-price Dutch auction system, as there is no formal mechanism in place to prevent spreads of effective rates between winning bids from exceeding 2 percent.

Article IV Consultation:

The Executive Board concluded the 2013 Article IV consultation on October 21, 2013. The next Article IV consultation will be held in accordance with the 2010 decision on consultation cycles.

Technical Assistance:

Department	Purpose	Date
FAD	Review of the PFM law and arrears	April 2014
	Assist in drafting a new Public Financial Management (PFM)	February 2014
	Follow up Managing Natural Resource Wealth (MNRW) project	December 2013
	Tax Policy under Module 1 of the Managing Natural Resource Wealth (MNRW) project	November 2013
	Module 2 of MNRW	July 2013
Department	Purpose	Date
MCM	Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations	October 2013; February 2014
	Financial Stability Analysis	October 2013; November 2013
	Medium-term Debt management Strategy	January 2013
	Liquidity Forecasting and Development of Interbank Foreign Exchange Market	July 2012; January 2013; February 2014
	Long-term expert on financial stability	2013–14
STA	Annual National Accounts Statistics Module Mission within the Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative Project for Africa	July, August 2013
	National Accounts under Module 5 within the Managing Natural Resource Wealth (MNRW) project,	April, May 2013
LEG	TA in Fiscal Law (FAD MNRW TTF)	June, November 2013; January 2014

Resident Representative:

Ms. Iyabo Masha assumed responsibility for the Fund office in Freetown on February 1, 2015.

JOINT WORLD BANK-IMF WORK PROGRAM, 2015–16

Title	Activities	Provisional Timing of Mission	Expected Delivery Date
A. Mutual Information on Relevant Work Programs			
World Bank work program			
	Supplemental Emergency Economic and Fiscal Support Operation	Jul 2015	Dec 2015
	Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project	May, Nov 2015; Apr 2016	Aug 2019
	Financial Sector Development Project	Jul, Feb 2015	N/A
	Core Minerals Policy Review	Mar 2015	N/A
	Mining Sector TA Project	Sep, Oct 2015; Mar 2016	N/A
	Pay and Performance Project	Mar, Aug 2015; Mar 2016	Jul 2016
Technical Assistance:			
	Payments System and Hazard Pay	Mar, Jul, Nov 2015; Mar 2016	N/A
	National Statistics Development Strategy	Sep 2015; Jan 2016	N/A
	Labor Force Survey (2014 and 2016)	May, Sept 2015; Apr 2016	N/A
	2016 Integrated Household Survey	Apr, Sep 2014; Feb, May 2015	N/A
	AML/CFT, National Risk Assessment	Mar, Jul, Nov 2015; Mar 2016	N/A
	Mineral Licensing Toolkit	Mar, Jul, Nov 2015; Mar 2016	N/A
	Anti-Corruption, asset disclosure system	Apr, Nov 2015	N/A
IMF work program	Article IV and Fifth Review of the ECF Arrangement	March 2016	May 2016
Technical Assistance:			
	FAD		
	PFM: Legal framework	Sept 2015	N/A
	Medium-term expenditure framework	Sept, Dec 2015	N/A
	Program-based budgeting	Oct 2015	N/A
	Update Custom Operational Manual	November, December 2015	N/A
	Monitoring Research and Planning	February 2016	N/A
	Capacity Building in macro-fiscal projection	February 2016	N/A
	Assistance on specialized audits and transfer pricing	2016	2016

Title	Activities	Provisional Timing of Mission	Expected Delivery Date
	Finalization of resource revenues regulation, including the setting of a fiscal rule	2016	2016
	Review of the structural issues of the FARI model in light of the collapse of mineral sector	2016	2016
	Training for non-resource revenue forecasting (micro simulations)	2016	2016
	MCM		
	Assessment of FX Measures	June 2015	
	Medium-term Debt Management Strategy Formulation	June 2015	
	Stress Testing	June 2015	
	Contingency Planning and Crisis Management	July 2015	
	Multiple Topic	July 2015	
	Capacity Assessment Program	July 2015	
	Debt Market Development	August 2015	
	Monetary Operations	September, October 2015	
	Enhancing Offsite Supervision	March 2016	
	Enhancing Risk Based Supervision	March, April 2016	
	Liquidity Forecasting	April 2016	
	Financial Stability	April 2016, April 2017	
	STA		
	Balance of Payment Statistics	June, July 2015	
	Consumer Price Index	July 2015	
	National Accounts	February, March 2016	
	Producer Price Index	March 2016	
	Monetary Data Reported in Staff Reports	April 2016	
	LEG		
	Program TA in Fiscal Non-Tax	April 2015	
B. Agreement on Joint Products and Missions			
Joint products in 2015	Assisting the authorities to strengthen their banking supervision and enhancing financial sector stability.		Continuous

STATISTICAL ISSUES

As of September 30, 2015

I. Assessment of Data Adequacy for Surveillance

General: Data provision is broadly adequate for surveillance with some key data shortcomings in national accounts, fiscal, monetary, and external sector statistics. A major and sustained improvement in the coverage and timeliness of economic data will require greater interagency coordination and restructuring of the institutional framework.

National Accounts: Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) produces and disseminates GDP estimates by activity in value and constant prices of 2006, according to the 1993 SNA. Under the DFID-funded project annual GDP estimates have been improved, especially regarding the compilation of construction, estimation of informal sector activity, measurement of government services, agricultural production, household final consumption, and constant price gross domestic product (GDP). Remaining issues concern developing better data sources for agricultural and mineral production, and generally continuing the improvement of informal sector measurement. However, shortages of resources and staff continue to pose major constraints to the statistical development undertaken by SSL.

Price Statistics: The SSL compiles the CPI monthly and publishes it with a lag of about three weeks. It has been rebased to 2007 using the 2007 Sierra Leone integrated household survey and continues to cover the capital city and three main districts. While a national CPI is being compiled, the authorities continue to publish the old CPI (1992=100). They have requested technical assistance for the preparation and adoption of a single index.

Technical assistance missions last visited Freetown in April 2014 to review the CPI and to advise on the development of a producer price index (PPI). The authorities are working to improve the calculation methods for the CPI and procedures to aggregate regional CPIs to obtain the national index.

Regarding the new PPI, the Authorities have developed the index weights, selected a representative sample of establishments, and selected representative products and transactions for price collection. A work plan, in the form of Project Framework Summary, was drafted and agreed with the authorities for the preparation of this new PPI.

Government Finance Statistics: The budget reporting system was established with assistance from the Fund/UNDP technical assistance project. Monthly cash flow data on central government budgetary revenue, current expenditure, and financing are provided. The transaction coverage of the central government budgetary cash flow is incomplete. There is an urgent need for more timely and accurate data on foreign-financed development projects. Reports on implementation of the development budget and its financing are currently not produced in a format that is suitable for budget analysis because the necessary data are not available.

The authorities are currently considering the introduction of a flash reporting system for government expenditure in general and for foreign aid-financed projects, in particular. As part of the GDDS regional project for Anglophone African countries, work has been undertaken to reconcile fiscal and monetary data and to improve the coverage and classification of the two data sets. With the current drive towards decentralization and the growing role of local government, there is an urgent need to compile and monitor the operations (and financial balance sheet data) for the consolidated general government.

Financial sector surveillance: Sierra Leone does not participate in the IMF's Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS), Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) and Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs) databases.

Monetary and Financial Statistics: The main components of the central bank balance sheet are available daily and weekly under the early warning system on key financial targets. The full monetary survey is compiled by the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) with a lag of about six weeks; it has comprehensive coverage of commercial banks.

Progress has been made by the BSL in the compilation of monetary data. The BSL, with assistance from STA, has completed the migration to standardized report forms (SRFs) for the central bank and other depository corporations (ODCs). However, there is a need to expand the coverage of monetary and financial statistics by including data on other financial institutions.

External sector statistics: The BSL is responsible for compiling BOP and IIP statistics, which are currently prepared on an annual basis. Primary data sources are administrative-based data (BSL own records, line ministries, and Customs and Excise Department (Customs) records), partner-country and international organizations data, and the annual survey of major companies for estimates on services, income, and financial flows relating to direct, portfolio, and other investments.

External transactions are characterized by a large volume of activities in the informal sector. Trade data include some estimates for unrecorded diamond exports—by deducting official diamonds export figures from trading partners' official diamonds imports from Sierra Leone. Coverage issues also exist for services, primary and secondary income, and capital and financial accounts.

Information on official grant and loan receipts is of generally good quality and is prepared by the IMF African Department (AFR) staff on the basis of contacts with the authorities and donor agencies. Data on private financial flows should be improved; Information on financial transactions of banks are obtained directly from commercial bank records; entries are estimated as differences in amounts of outstanding foreign assets and liabilities of commercial banks and may thus include valuation and other changes.

While the authorities are producing data on the IIP, the coverage as well as the consistency with BOP data should be improved. There is a critical need to improve the quality and coverage of Balance of Payment. The recent double counting of mineral resources exports, the revision of which generated large historical errors, makes BOP data even less reliable. On this regard, the BSL has strongly requested TA to strengthen the capacity to undertake the independent survey to validate BOP data and to design a program to significantly strengthen the BOP data collection and forecasting.

II. Data Standards and Quality

Sierra Leone is participant in the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) since 2003.

No data ROSC is available.

III. Reporting to STA

Data are reported for publication in the *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*, with the most recent data referring to 2012, but no sub-annual data are reported for inclusion in the *International Financial Statistics*.

The BSL started reporting monetary data in the SRF-format to the IMF in April 2010.

Sierra Leone: Table of Common Indicators Required for Surveillance
September 2015

	Date of Latest Observation	Date Received	Frequency of Data ¹	Frequency of Reporting ¹	Frequency of Publication ¹
Exchange Rates	09/30/2015	10/01/2015	W	W	W
International Reserve Assets and Reserve Liabilities of the Monetary Authorities ²	08/31/2015	09/30/2015	M	M	M
Reserve/Base Money	08/31/2015	09/30/2015	M	M	M
Broad Money	08/31/2015	09/30/2015	M	M	M
Central Bank Balance Sheet	08/31/2015	09/30/2015	M	M	M
Consolidated Balance Sheet of the Banking System	08/31/2015	09/30/2015	M	M	M
Interest Rates ³	08/31/2015	09/30/2015	M	M	M
Consumer Price Index	07/31/2015	09/01/2015	M	M	M
Revenue, Expenditure, Balance and Composition of Financing – General Government	06/30/2015	09/01/2015	M	M	M
Revenue, Expenditure, Balance and Composition of Financing– Central Government	06/30/2015	09/01/2015	M	M	M
Stocks of Central Government and Central Government-Guaranteed Debt	06/30/2015	09/01/2015	Q	Q	Q
External Current Account Balance	12/31/2014	09/01/2015	A	A	A
Exports and Imports of Goods and Services	12/31/2014	09/01/2015	A	A	A
GDP/GNP	12/31/2014	09/01/2015	A	A	A
Gross External Debt	06/30/2015	09/01/2015	A	A	A
International Investment Position ⁴	12/31/2014	09/01/2015	A	A	A

¹ Daily (D), Weekly (W), Monthly (M), Quarterly (Q), Annually (A); Irregular (I); Not Available (NA).

² Any reserve assets that are pledged or otherwise encumbered should be specified separately. Also, data should comprise short-term liabilities linked to a foreign currency but settled by other means as well as the notional values of financial derivatives to pay and to receive foreign currency, including those linked to a foreign currency but settled by other means.

³ Both market-based and officially-determined, including discount rates, money market rates, rates on treasury bills, notes and bonds.

⁴ Includes external gross financial asset and liability positions vis-à-vis nonresidents.