

Background

Sierra Leone has made notable progress in consolidation of peace and democratic governance since the end of the 11-year civil war in 2002. This includes the successful administration of three elections, including a peaceful transfer of power in 2007 and peaceful presidential, parliamentary, and local council elections in 2012, with significantly less international involvement than the previous elections. However, a lot more remains to be done to address the underlying challenges in the country as well as to solidify democratic norms. The 2012 elections while hailed as a milestone in the country's consolidation of democratic governance also demonstrated deep seated ethno-regional political factions – with several potential flashpoints that could lead to deterioration of social/political stability and the resumption of violence. The gains made are not yet irreversible and the situation remains fragile. Despite recent marked economic progress, young people – who constituted the majority of combatants during the civil conflict and now comprise almost 70% of the population – face a very high unemployment rate, which in turn poses a key challenge to the consolidation of peace. Such issues continue to colour the political and social life of the country, and need to be addressed, politically, legally and socially.

Sierra Leone currently operates on the basis of the 1991 Constitution. The Constitution signalled an end to one-party rule and ushered in a new political dispensation of multi-party democracy. However, the Constitution was endorsed three months after the civil war broke out. As part of the process of negotiating the end to the civil war, Article X of the July 1999 Lome Peace Accord provided for a review of the Constitution. Subsequently, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), established in 2002 also urged the Government of Sierra Leone to give “serious consideration” to the creation of a “new constitution”, in order to contribute to human rights. To that end, a broad ranging Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) representing different stakeholders in society, including political parties, democratic institutions, NGOs, the media and key independent bodies has been appointed. The 2013 CRC has been tasked with the reviewing of the 1991 Constitution. As part of its work it is envisaged that CRC will undertake a major civic education and consultation process, which will engage all segments of society in identifying recommendations for constitutional change. In accordance with the 1991 Constitution, at the conclusion of the process, Parliament will need to, pass a Bill after which a referendum will be held to approve the new Constitution.

The project represents an integrated UN initiative in support of the constitutional review process in Sierra Leone. The project serves as the overall substantive framework for the UN, with all actors contributing to the results as articulated in the document. By the project's end, it is expected that the intended project output of Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Committee capacitated to expertly lead an inclusive, transparent, participatory and peaceful process of constitutional reform would have been achieved.

The project is designed to be implemented with the following guiding principles; Ensuring conflict sensitivity; Peace building and reconciliation ; Promoting social cohesion as a key overarching theme; Promoting the core principles of inclusiveness, participation, transparency and national ownership ; Promoting a more educated and empowered citizenry as a key overarching theme; Ensuring a flexible approach to respond to the fluid political environment; Maximising partnerships

In line with the guiding principles outlined above, the project is expected to contribute to the achievement of the overall programme Outcome upon its completion in 2014, namely ***Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Committee capacitated to have an expertly-led inclusive, transparent, participatory and peaceful process of constitutional reform.*** The six outputs for the project are as follows:

1. Capacity of CRC members enhanced to undertake effective constitutional review process and produce final recommendations;
2. Capacity of CRC secretariat to provide legal and research services to CRC enhanced;
3. CRC communication and messaging strategy designed and implemented;
4. Civil society led inclusive and informative civic education process completed;
5. CRC led inclusive & transparent civic education and public consultation process completed;
6. Capacity of MPs, democratic institutions, political parties and civil society strengthened to effectively support and participate in the review process;

III Quarter one (Q1) Progress Table

INTENDED OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS
Output 1. Capacity of CRC members developed to undertake effective constitutional review process and produce final recommendations.		
<p>Baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CRC and CRC Secretariat being set up currently; - legal/technical capacity of CRC members and Secretariat staff is variable. Exact baseline to be established using an anonymous self-assessment survey of knowledge and skills; - No CRC Communication Strategy or activities underway - No CRC Civic Education and Public Consultation Strategy in place or implemented - Limited coverage of constitutional review issues by media - Limited Variable capacity of CSOs, media and MPs to engage with constitutional review process - Citizens ill informed about 	<p>1.1 Conduct induction training on the gaols and principles of constitutional making, the Sierra Leone constitutional process, substantive content issue and messaging /</p>	<p>Induction workshop was organised for the induction of 80 CRC members and 20 CRC secretariat staff. In this workshop, thorough universal and country specific guiding principles of constitutional review process was highlighted by the UNDP CTA for the constitutional review process. All of the participants showed their level of understanding and usefulness of this aspect of the induction as very well.</p> <p>In the induction workshop also, substantive thematic areas were presented by various experts in the areas before through sub group and later plenary discussions done. The main areas covered in this workshop were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Republic of Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Programme. - Revisiting the Constitution: Enabling Sustainable and Inclusive Natural Resource Management. - Review of the Constitution – Chapter VI, Parliament. - Public Service Reforms in Sierra Leone: Challenges and Opportunities. - Peace and Security – Constitutional Arrangements and Best Practices. - Civil Registration Reform in Sierra Leone and Related Constitutional Issues. - Youth Engagement Strategy, Best Practices, Challenges and Remedies. - Public Finance Issues in the Constitution: Lessons from Other Countries.

<p>members of CRC, CR process even after official launch</p>		<p>In another workshop that focussed on media engagement in constitutional process, the Peace and Development Advisor for the UNCT-Elizabeth Solomon took the CRC members through conflict sensitivity, dialogue and negotiation.</p> <p>The CRC members were given the opportunity to evaluate the each of the sessions throughout the induction process. The CRC members generally agreed that the sessions were very useful and have equipped them for a good start to the whole CR review process.</p> <p>Also as means of capacitating the CRC secretariat, UNDP recruited and deployed 2 national UNV personnels.</p>
	<p>1.2 Support development of the rule of procedures.</p>	<p>Rules of procedures of CRC developed and endorsed by CRC members</p>
	<p>ToRs for Sub- Committees:</p>	<p>On the 3rd of December 2013, CRC held its fifth meeting and approved the following sub-committees with their Terms of Reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Executive Branch of Government ii. Legislative Branch iii. Judiciary Branch iv. Local Government and other ancillary branches of Government v. Fundamental Principles of State Policy and Human Rights vi. Research vii. Information, Education and Communications viii. Management of Natural Resources and Climate Change ix. Report Writing
	<p>1.3 Support development of ToRs for CRS Sub-committees. Constitutional Expertise:</p>	

	1.4 Conduct training for CRC Sub-Committees on key constitutional issues within their mandate , including specific mediation training with respect to sensitive constitutional issues	1.4 During the induction workshop for CRC members and the CRC secretariat personnels, key topics were covered including the following; Enabling Sustainable and Inclusive Natural Resource Management., Civil Registration Reform in Sierra Leone and Related Constitutional Issues, Public Finance Issues in the Constitution and youth unemployment and, youth development issues and how to address that in constitutional review process. In addition to this the subcommittees participated in extra technical sessions on key constitutional issues. 10 CRC members participated in sessions on mediation and conflict sensitive issues related to constitutional reviewed process
	1.5 Provide high level constitutional expertise and technical advice to CRC plenary and Sub-Committees as requested	The CTA has been providing ongoing key technical supports using his wealth of experience in constitutional review process gained from other countries. He has also utilised expertise from various other UNDP/UNIPSIL colleagues in relevant thematic areas. In the induction training for instance, experts in the following areas provided useful presentations; public Finance, Natural Resources Governance, peace and Development, journalism and communication, security and conflict resolution, youth development and public sector reform , Gender Mainstreaming in the Constitutional Reform and Constitutional Reform in favour of children
	1.6 Support preparation of draft amendments/proposals and final report	Theme specific template developed Chapters/section specific templates developed
	1.7 Support, conduct and report on national Constitutional Conference	
Output 2. Capacity of CRC Secretariat to provide legal and research services to CRC developed. Develop organization structure and prepare job description and ToRs for staff		
Baselines:	2.1 Recruit and conduct induction training for secretariat staff	The 80 CRC members and 20 CRC secretariat staff have been given induction trainings. Additionally, UNDP has assigned four national UNVs (in the areas of ICT, event and workshop management, multimedia and programme specialist) to support the CRC secretariat.

<p>2.2 Provide ongoing capacity development support to all secretariat staffs, including basic training on dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution</p>	<p>The CTA's ongoing support on the Constitutional Review Process has been remarkable and has also included support from other UNDP/UNIPSIL colleagues to improve knowledge in key areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Finance - Natural Resources Governance - Peace and Development - Journalism and Communication - Security and Conflicts Resolution - Youth Development - Public Sector Reform
<p>2.3 Commission papers from national /international experts on topics as requested</p>	
<p>2.4. Provide quality assurance and technical advice to support secretariat Unit inside CRC to provide CRC members with high quality advice</p>	
<p>2.5. Supplemental offices supplies and equipment to complement the contribution of the Government of Sierra Leone</p>	<p>-</p>

Output 3: CRC Communication & Messaging Strategy designed and implemented		
<p>Baseline</p> <p>Expected Outputs and baseline associated indicators and annual targets</p> <p>Community radio station engaged in disseminating CRC's civic education and public consultation messages - # of media personnel's (mae/female) trained - % of media personnel's satisfied with usefulness of training</p>	<p>3.1 Develop a simple Communication & Messaging Strategy to explain the CRC's work, manage the public's expectations, and ensure regular updates provided to public and key stakeholders.</p>	<p>Systems are currently developed and used to highlight the CRC work using social media platforms such as facebook and twitter. Regular discussions on issues of CR process are done on local radio and television stations. Issues are also highlighted on local and international newsletters</p>
	<p>3.2 Provide ongoing capacity development support to all Secretariat staff, including basic training competencies/responsibilities of Secretariat departments</p>	<p>From his wealth of experience, the CTA have organized workshop with support from other International experts to improve skills related to Record Keeping; Archiving; Workshop and Event Management; Documentation and Research Reporting</p>
	<p>3.3 Support the maintenance of the CRC website, twitter and Facebook pages</p>	<p>A dedicated and interactive website is designed and set up to facilitate the inclusive contribution from the public to the work of the CRC. The web address www.constitutionalreview.gov.sl and twiter, and facebook accounts have proven as useful means of disseminating and sourcing information for the CR process.</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>3.4 Produce monthly CRC newsletter for website and in print</p>	<p>3.4. Two Newsletters have been produced so far. The first one was done in January 2014 and another more comprehensive one produced in February 2014. Can be accessed on CRC's website</p>
	<p>3.5 Develop communication programme with community and other radio stations</p>	<p>3.5, Request for proposals have been developed and a call for proposal made through advertisement. Various service providers have submitted proposals and four of the request have been reviewed.</p>

<p>- # of copies of constitution and report produced - % of copies of constitution and report disseminated - Documents highlighting issues of Civic Education (CE) and PC drafted - Types and quantity of CE materials produced - Civic education strategy with implementation plan developed - # of type of activities to engage youth in review process organized - # of youth (male/female) engage in the process</p>	<p>3.6 Provide constitutional making training to journalist, editors, media house executives with a focus on ethical, objective and</p>	<p>3.6 Sixty media (31 males and 29 females) practitioners from radio, television and print media and 20 CRC secretariat staff were trained on various topics related to media in constitutional review process. The topics include; Episodic and thematic media coverage during constitutional review process; the role of the media in human right sensitive constitution making; conflict sensitive reporting for the preservation of peace; the media and the constitutional review process in Sierra Leone-highlighting the challenges and opportunities facing the media in relation to the constitutional review process. The facilitators from the UNDP were experts in media, peace & development and conflict sensitive journalism.</p>
	<p>3.7. Print and distribute copies of the 1991 Constitution, 2008 CRC report and CRC process brochure. Produce CD's of same for citizens who cannot read</p>	<p>3.7. The combined document is already developed ready for print.</p>
	<p>3.8 Support CRC to review the 1991 Constitution and 2008 CRC report in other to frame issues for civic education and public consultation</p>	<p>Several thematic and technical sessions have been held with the CRC members to review the constitution and the 2008 CRC report. A simplified civic education strategy is developed and extensive outreach and public consultation plan developed. These plans can be found in a comprehensive strategic paper developed by CTA with consultation of CRC Members and staffs</p>
	<p>3.9 Support CRC to develop a conflict and gender sensitive , human rights based and peace building focused Civic Education materials as well as Civic Education Strategy + programme implementation plan</p>	<p>A Gender Adviser is hired and has already developed gender related civic education materials. In sessions already held with 10 CRC members/staff, several gender sensitive human right issues and means identified and shared.</p>

<p>3.10. Develop and implement a programme to engage youth in the constitutional reform process, including outreach with Universities and through social media</p>	<p>3.10. These activities are earmarked to be implemented in the first month of the second quarter. The programme for nationwide consultation has already been developed and ready to be implemented.</p>
<p>Output 4: Civil Society led inclusive and informative civic education process completed</p>	
<p>4.1 Conduct a civic and legal awareness baseline survey, including integrating questions to identify potential conflict triggers</p>	
<p>4.2 Prepare detailed proposals pertaining to CSO involvement in the constitutional review process</p>	<p>Several CSO's have submitted proposals and work on processing the grants including preparation of the Micro Capital Grant (MCG) have been finalized with inputs from partners and civil donors.</p>
<p>4.3 i. Research & Capacity Building for CSOs and Media. ii. Research on specific issues especially by interest and marginalized groups. iii. CSOs Capacity Building & Mentoring.</p>	<p>Will be done in the second quarter</p>

	<p>4.4 Prepare conflict and gender sensitive focused civic education strategy and programme implementation plan.</p>	<p>The Gender Adviser has already developed gender related civic education materials. In sessions already held with 10 CRC members/staff, several gender sensitive human right issues which includes but not limited to Women’s Rights to land and property and, Access to fair justice has been mapped out</p>
	<p>4. 5 Conduct national and sub-national civic education campaigns and stakeholders consultations before and after the various stages of constitutional review process i.e. After the first CRC draft is produced, after the Bill of Constitutional Amendments is tabled to Parliament, and in the run up to the referendum.</p>	<p>4.5 Various proposals of CSOs were reviewed and discussion with CSOs with regards the implementation of activities has been held</p> <p>Civic Education campaigns have been schedule to start in April</p> <p>The four CSO proposals reviewed are now awaiting decision by the CTA in consultation with CRS Members and staffs</p>
	<p>4.6 Produce findings of consultations process, print and distribute to public and share with the CRC.</p>	
	<p>4. 7 Conduct consensus building, coordination meetings and workshops between the CRC and key civil society</p>	
<p>Output 5 : CRC led inclusive and transparent civic education and public consultation process completed.</p>		
	<p>5.1 Prepare, print and disseminate public consultation materials (including non-written materials)</p>	<p>Ongoing process – Public consultation materials already developed and disseminated during the Technical Workshop for CRC members, Media Training, Women Advocacy Workshop and Workshop for Paliamentarians</p>

5. 2 Conduct training of trainers on public consultation for CRC, media and civil society, incl. training on dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution	-
5.3 Support the CRC to undertake civic education throughout the country at ward level	-
5.4 Support organization of constitutional dialogue conferences, including for MPs, traditional chiefs, CSOs (including women and youth groups) and public at large, with a focus on supporting peace-building and nation-building goals	-
5.5 Work with Secretariat to distribute civic education materials (brochures, posters, CDs, radio spots, illustrations, etc.)	-
5.6 Establish and administer a Small Grants Facility to support civil society organizations to undertake outreach, advocacy and awareness raising activities with their members and to assist them to engage effectively with the CRC process	-
5. 7 Conduct training of trainers on civic education and public for CRC, MPs, media and civil society, including training on dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution	-

5. 8 Produce recordings / transcripts of all relevant public discussions and dialogue	
5.9 Support the design of web site interface to receive public inputs. Analyse public consultation data and prepare report – collate and synthesize views and draft reports from public consultations	· · ·
5.10 Support the CRC to undertake additional public consultations on the CRC’s Draft Recommendations	·
5.11 Support the Government and Parliament to undertake additional public consultations on the draft Constitutional Amendment Bill	·
Output 6: Enhance capacity of MP’s, political parties and traditional leaders to effectively support and participate in the review process	
6.1 Share best practices on key constitutional issues through information exchange	· ·
6.2 Providing training on dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution to MPs in support of constitutional outreach, as well as issues-based training	6.2 A workshop was held on the 31st march 2014 which comprise of CRC members from two sub committees (Executive and Legislative) and 46 MP's of which 4 were females and 44 were males respectively. Other groups that graced the occasion were representatives from the media and Academic Institutions. Five thematic issues were deliberated upon during the workshop which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentarians and Constitutional Making Process • Causes of Conflicts in Africa and role of National Constitution

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Root causes, Impacts and Post Conflicts Experiences and Critical Issues for the CRC • Conflict Handling Style/Mechanism- Consensus Building, Mediation and Peace Promotion in the CRC Process • Role of the Parliamentarians in Promoting the CRC <p>Another significant matter that came out during the workshop was made by one of the Presenters : Dr. Henry Mbawa, who clearly advised that changing the Constitution alone is not enough to produce a peaceful and democratic society hoped for in SL, but changing the culture is also of paramount importance for sustainable development</p>
6.3 Support specific dialogues and outreach work between the CRC and (i) MPs and (ii) political parties.	
6.4 Conduct consensus building meetings and workshops between the CRC and MPs and political parties on the CRC draft recommendations, as necessary	
6.5 Work with the Ministry for Local Government and other stakeholders to develop outreach and consultation activities with chiefs and other local officials	6.5 This activity is planned for 7th and 16th March 2014
6.6 Share best practices on key constitutional issues through information exchange	.
6.7 Develop and implement a programme to promote gender equality issues throughout	A workshop was organised to inform the formulation of programmes that promote gender equality related to the constitutional review process. The

the constitutional process and content, including providing capacity support and technical advice to women's advocates (e.g. the Ministry of Women and women's NGOs)

workshop focussed on gender equality including the rights of women and girls to be inclusive in the constitutional review process and promotion of equal right for both men and women in Sierra Leone. Examples of focussed areas were; women access to education, land, women economic empowerment, improving access to justice for women and separation of the office of the attorney General and that of the Minister of Justice to ensure fair play. There were altogether 70 Participants (all women) that attended the workshop from all the four Provinces of the Country. Participants included Government Officials ; women from parliaments; Local Council; CBO's; CSO's; Rural Women etc.

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