

**OPINION POLL REPORT ON GOVERNANCE IN SIERRA LEONE:
*ARE THEY GETTING THERE?***



*‘We Tin Di Pipul Say:
An Assessment of the Government’*

**A PROJECT BY THE CAMPAIGN FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE WITH
FUNDING FROM CHRISTIAN AID**



January 2009

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page No.
Table of Content.....	2
Background and Introduction.....	3
Methodology.....	6
Executive Summary.....	7
Country-wide Presentation of Analysis and Findings.....	12
Key Conclusions.....	21
Annexes	
<i>Annex I: Questionnaire.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Annex II: District Individual interview results.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Demographic Presentation.....</i>	<i>24</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Soliciting and analyzing information from Sierra Leonean citizens on the government's one year performance has been a worthwhile undertaking. This project would not have materialized without the contributions of dedicated individuals and institutions. Against this backdrop, it is prudent to recognize and appreciate all those who in direct or indirect ways supported the successful execution of this project.

We firstly acknowledge the financial support of Christian Aid who shares our vision in promoting accountability and transparency in order to promote development. We are strongly convinced that this report would shape the contours of the democratization process in the country.

We laud the contribution of CGG project officers country-wide and program staff for their professional administration of the individual questionnaires and organizing of focus group discussions and collating of the information.

We specially appreciate the contributions of Michael Vandi Belmoh (CGG colleague) who did the computations of the raw data that enabled a much easier interpretation and analysis of findings.

Special appreciation is extended to all ordinary citizens, opinion leaders, policy makers and all those who made themselves available to provide information that has informed this analysis.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Sierra Leone conducted its second post-conflict Presidential and Parliamentary elections on 11th August 2007 and a Presidential run-off on 8th September 2007. These elections though internationally and nationally acclaimed as credible, were characterized by tensions/violence that invariably invoked apprehension amongst many citizens. There were fears that the country could disintegrate into chaos and anarchy leading to another civil conflict. Understandably, this was rather a new experience for Sierra Leoneans as this was the first time the country experienced a relatively peaceful transition from one civilian government to another.

CGG has a tradition of facilitating citizens' assessment of government policies. Dating back to 2003, CGG conducted its first opinion poll on the erstwhile SLPP government's first year during its second term in power. The 2003 opinion poll report mirrored citizens' perceptions on critical government policies made and their implementation. Such bottom-top communication exercises ensures that the governments are more accountable in the delivery of services to the public and work hard towards actualizing promises made before or after taking power. Such ratings bring two critical things to the fore: the opinions of the public on the government of the day in terms of their delivery of those services as enshrined in their manifestos; and also serve a unique purpose of enabling the governments to become more focused on those areas that are of concern to their citizens and to strengthen and consolidate areas that have shown some level of progress.

There has been an increasing consciousness among civil society groups to be assessing governments' performance in Sierra Leone in recent years. It shows the importance civil society is attaching to improving and widening the space of participatory governance. In addition, in September 2008, the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) organized a three days evaluation workshop to audit the government's performance within its one year period in office using the All Peoples Party (APC) Manifesto, Inaugural speech, etc. as benchmarks. Diverse stakeholders ranging from civil society (including CGG), community based organizations, religious groups and the university participated. One of the key outcomes of the exercise was the issuing of a statement encapsulating the inputs of all the participating stakeholders. These kinds of assessments speak volumes. Firstly, it is a strong demonstration of the willingness of citizens to assume their oversight role in a democracy. It also expresses the cardinal role civil society is playing by facilitating public discourses while correspondingly providing alternatives in the form of recommendations to engender improvements. Once governments are aware that they are being periodically assessed by citizens, if not for anything but for the sake of gaining international recognition and attracting foreign investment and support they would be compelled to fulfill some of their key pro-poor promises. The Sierra Leone political history teaches that governments generally do not deliver on their promises if strong and persistent demands are not made by citizens. As it has been doing in the past, CGG will continue to facilitate the creation of platforms for citizens' voices to resound strongly in governance.

The President (Dr. Ernest Koroma) during his campaigns and other public functions such as the inauguration ceremony, state opening of parliament reiterated his commitment to ensure reconciliation and to bridge the political divide that was created during the 2007 General elections. He also emphasized that he and his working team would maintain ‘zero tolerance on corruption’, implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and increase the opportunities for women especially in political office.

This project is aimed at bringing to light the views of citizens who directly participated and even those that did not participate in the electoral processes that brought the government into office on its performance to date. The notion that citizens should wait until the expiration of an elected government’s tenure before deciding as to whether to retain or remove it, has little weight in modern democratic discourse. When there is a governance crisis in a state, citizens suffer the most. Ways to periodically assess a democratic government’s performance is not only necessary, but also an imperative. Governments need to be getting constructive feedback from the governed in order to make the ‘social contract’ meaningful. A dearth of feedback from citizens only makes governments unresponsive at best and authoritarian at worst, which will serve as a recipe for bad governance. This is a scenario that CGG strives to discourage!

The APC Manifesto, Presidential Address to Parliament, and Handing over Ceremony speech were mainly used as the barometer for this enterprise. We reckon that a one year time-frame is insufficient for the government to have delivered all of its promises. By the same token, it is expected that clear policies would have been formulated; activity plans drawn out by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA); and reasonable steps taken to implement especially the immediate priorities of the government. We expect that the opinions expressed in this report would be taken in good faith, and resonate in the formulation and implementation of public policies and development programmes.

METHODOLOGY

Field study and desk research was the methodology used to execute this project.

CGG programme staff held a one day working session for the development of the individual and focus group questionnaires. In the desk research phase, information assembled from the APC manifesto, presidential address to parliament, inaugural address, 2008 budget were used for the development of the questionnaires and also to inform the context and issues of the project. The questionnaires were pre-tested in selected areas in Western Area. The inputs deduced from the pre-testing helped in the reshaping of the questionnaires before the final administration. The questionnaires entailed structured questions for easy understanding, administration, collation and analysis. Enumerators only interviewed Sierra Leonean citizens who had resided in the country for the past two years. The essence was to ensure that only the opinions of reasonably informed and experienced citizens (meaning, those who were present when the most important political processes starting with the electoral boundary delimitation until the government's one year anniversary were unfolding) are captured.

A training session followed for both enumerators from CGG and other CSOs in order to guide, contextualize and administer their questionnaires within the required framework. A total of eight hundred and fifty (850) Sierra Leonean citizens country-wide desegregated by sex, ethnic group, occupation, age and location were individually interviewed for this exercise. Also, in each district eleven (11) of the individual respondents were selected to participate in the focus group discussions. The significance of this technique was to compare focus group discussions and individual responses to enhance the quality of the analysis. Information realized were computed and analyzed in this report form.

The standard error is 0.05102 using the 99% confidence interval.

AIM

The overall aim of this project is to utilize the opinions, knowledge and attitude of Sierra Leonean citizens as a barometer to generally assess whether the government has met its expectations, or is seen meeting its targets since it came to power to date.

OBJECTIVES

The strategic objectives of this project are:

- *To serve as a reminder to the government that it has an obligation to be transparent and accountability to the entire citizenry.*
- *To encourage citizens to be more involved in the issues of governance through engaging their elected leaders*
- *To provide recommendations that will enable the government deliver more effectively and efficiently on its promises to its citizens*
- *To serve as a medium through which constructive state-society relations are fostered to improve governance and accountability*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section of the report enumerates the key findings of the survey. It also captures the key recommendations for the attention of all relevant stakeholders, especially the government. **The Sierra Leonean populace has spoken aloud!** CGG hopes that this survey would influence government policies for a holistic country development. It is imperative that the government in particular harnesses these findings and attending recommendations to ensure all citizens live a life of respect and dignity.

Given the comparatively limited role women have been playing in the country's economic, political and social life, the government promised upon assuming office that it was going to improve their involvement and active participation, especially in the decision making process. To do comparison between the erstwhile (SLPP) and present (APC) regimes we found out that there has been some increases and in some areas the status has been the same. In essence, not much difference has been made but the environment seems positive for increased women's participation at the decision making level. To do with some statistics, during the past regime, 19 women were parliamentarians; while there are 17 female parliamentarians in the present government. There is a slight reduction in the number. In the local councils, whilst there were 64 women during the past regime, the number has increased to 84 under the present government. For ministerial and vice-ministerial positions, there is a slight difference in numbers of female representatives. There were three women occupying ministerial positions and another three assuming deputy ministerial positions under the past regime; and in the present government three of the ministers are women and four are deputy ministers. There is an appreciable number of women in top positions in government parastatals under the present government. For example, Mrs. Salamatu Manley and Mrs. Yabome Kanu are Directors of Rokel Commercial Bank; Ms. Yvonne Bart-Williams is a Director of Sierra Leone Housing Corporation; Mrs. Umu Jultimie Tejan Jalloh is a Director of Sierra Leone Postal Services Limited; Haja Imatu Sesay, is a Director of Sierra Leone Ports Authority; Mrs. Mamie Sesay, is a Director of Sierra Leone Airport Authority; Ms. Finda Diana Konomanyi is the Chair, and Mrs. Marie Kessebeh is the Director of Sierra Leone National Shipping Company; Hon. Mary Massalay is a Director of Mining and General Services; Dr. Nana Pratt is the Chair of Guma Valley Water Company; and Mrs. Maude R. Peacock is the Chair of the National Power Authority.

Below is the summary of the key findings:

- When asked to **rate the government's fight against corruption**, 23.1% of **respondents** thought it was very high, 25.0% are of the opinion it was high, 35.4% held the view that it was on the average, 13.0% stated it was low, and 3.1% mentioned very low. In the focus group discussions, 26.5% assumed it was very high, while 23.5% noted it was low.
- Asked **whether the government is accountable**, 54.6% said yes, 13.1% stated no, and 32.3% were unsure of what to say. In the focus groups, while 51.5% mentioned yes, 16.7% said no, and 31.1% were unsure.

- On the general *performance of the Ministry of Health*...4.2% individually said very high, 20.4% confirmed high, 50.0% said it was average, 18.5% stated low, and 6.9% alleged it was very low. In the focus group discussion, while 14.4% stated very high, 27.3% noted that it was low. On *whether health standards improved since the government came to power*, in the individual interviews, 28.1% stated yes, 55.0% said no, and 16.5% were unsure. In the focus groups, 45.4% said yes, 34.1% stated no, and 20.5% were unsure. On *whether they do visit the hospital/health post/clinic when they fall sick*, in the individual interviews 83.5% said yes, 11.9% said no. On *whether they believe in the government's commitment to improving health*, in the individual interviews 55.8% said yes, 28.5% stated no, and 15.8% were unsure. In the focus groups 53% said yes, 17.4% affirmed no and 29.5% were unsure.
- Regarding, *whether they believe in the government's commitment to give them access to clean drinking water*, 42.3% said yes, 26.9% said no, and 30.8% were unsure. In the focus groups, 44.7% affirmed yes, 22.7% stated no, and 32.6% were not sure.
- Assessing the *general security situation*, individually 9.6% said it improved, 31.5% noted high, 40.4% affirmed average, 12.7% alleged it was low, and 5.8% thought it was very low. In the focus groups, 9.8% noted very high, 34.1% stated average, and 13.6% mentioned low.
- Concerning what they thought was *the government's first priority in power*, 23.1% of the individual interviewees and 19.7% of focus group respondents said it was to '*retain its place in power*'; 10% individually and 18.9% in the focus groups said it was to '*profit from its place in power*'; and 66.9% individually and 61.4% in the focus groups believed it was to '*improve the lives of Sierra Leoneans*'.
- Being questioned on *whether they believe the government is delivering on its promises so far*, 46.3% said yes, 23.8% said no, and 30% were not sure. In the focus groups, 50% said yes, 24.2% did not believe, and 25.8% were unsure. On the question of *whether they are convinced the government is enjoying their (citizens) confidence*, 48.8% believed so, 24.2% did not think so, and 26.9% were not sure. In the focus groups, 53.8% believed, 23.5% did not believe, and 22.7% were unsure.
- Gauging their views on the *government's effort to maintain peace and reconciliation*, individually 11.5% said it was very high, 26.6% thought it was high, 39.6% believed it was average, 16.9% held the opinion it was low, and 5.4% said very low. In the focus groups, 15.2% noted very high, 21.2% stated high, 40.2% remarked it was average, 16.9% affirmed low, and 5.4% stated very low.
- Determining *whether citizens have faith in the government's performance targets to stimulate development*, individually, 68.1% believed so, 4.6% did not

believe so, and 27.3% were unsure. In the focus groups, 67.4% stated yes, 10.6% mentioned no, and 22.0% were unsure.

- Nationally ***assessing the government electricity power supply***, individually, 1.9% said very high, 3.1% stated high, 8.1% said average, 11.5% mentioned low, and 73.1% mentioned very low. In the focus groups, 0.8% said very high, 1.5% asserted high, 12.1% stated average, 8.3% thought it was low, and 77.3% believed it was very low. Obtaining ***information only from districts enjoying government electricity power***, individually in Bo 5% confirmed very high, 20% said high, 55% noted average and 20% mentioned low. In Kenema, 15% said very high, 15% alleged it was high, 60% thought it was average, and 10% alleged it was low. In the Western Area (rural and urban) 11% said very high, 12.3% thought it was high, 23.1% said it was average, 42% noted low and 13.6% affirmed very low. Evaluating their ***opinion on the completion of Bumbuna Hydro electric project by the end of 2009***, 26.9% believed it would happen, 11.9% did not believe, and 61.2% were unsure.
- Pertaining to ***whether the standard of education improved since the government came to power***, individually 28.1% believed so, 48.8% said no, and 25.8% were unsure. In the focus groups, 26.5% said yes, 56.1% affirmed no, and 17.4% were not sure. Regarding the ***quality and affordability of education***, individually 23.5% said yes, 49.2% asserted no, and 27.3% were not sure. In the focus groups, 12.1% noted yes, 63.6% stated no, and 24.2% were not sure. On ***whether they were convinced that the government was committed to improving education***, individually 51.9% indicated yes, 4.2% did not believe, and 33.8% were unsure. In the focus groups, 38.6% registered yes, 18.2% stated no, and 43.2% were not sure.
- Questioned on their opinions of ***agricultural productivity in their district since the government came to power***, individually, 4.2% noted it was very high, 16.2% maintained it was high, 32.7% thought it was average, 32.7% stated it was low, and 14.2% confirmed very low. In the focus groups, 8.3% said very high, 19.7% indicated high, 18.9% asserted it was average, 28.8% alleged it was low, and 24.2% affirmed very low.

Recommendations

Health

- *The government should provide timely, affordable and essential drugs in government hospitals/clinics/health posts across the country.*
- *Effectively monitor the supply of drugs and other medical supplies to government hospitals/clinics/health posts across the country. The monitoring should ensure that those categories of citizens (pregnant women, under-five children etc.) that*

should benefit from some free medical treatment and drugs in government hospitals/clinics/posts should do so.

- *The government should ensure that trained medical personnel are deployed especially in remote parts of the country with realistic wages and required benefits.*

Education

- *The government should ensure quality education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary level and also improve on the quality and control of vocational institutions.*
- *Improve the conditions of service of teachers/lecturers in government assisted schools and tertiary institutions across the country.*
- *The Education Ministry should speedily act upon the findings of the current verification exercise on-going in educational institutions across the country.*

Agriculture

- *Timely provide agricultural support (seeds, fertilizers, tools etc.) to farmers country-wide.*
- *Provide periodic trainings for registered/recognized farmers across the country, especially in agriculturally viable areas.*

Electricity

- *Fast-track the implementation of the Bumbuna hydro-electronic dam project against the end of 2009.*

Peace and Reconciliation

- *Ethnic divide and political intolerance was clearly manifested during the 2007 general elections, and concrete steps should be taken to entrench peace and reconciliation in the country. For example, the All People's Party (APC) 'Rising Sun Radio' and the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) 'Unity Radio' should embark on reconciliation/peaceful programmes rather than the hate broadcasts they are well known to be embarking on since their establishment.*
- *Efforts should be made to directly implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).*

Accountability/Oversight

- *Further strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission to checkmate corruption, not only in the public, but also in the private sector. The ACC should periodically monitor the declaration of assets of top government officials (not only when they assume office, but most importantly, while in office and when leaving).*
- *The declaration of assets can make more meaning to the wider citizenry when it is done in public. The relevant law should be fine-tuned to make the President and other top government officials periodically declare their assets to the general public so as to enable journalists, civil society and other concerned stakeholders perform their 'watch-dog' roles better.*

General

- *The Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) annual surveys should be timely utilized. Steps taken to use the findings should be made public so that civil society and other actors can effectively engage.*
- *The office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice should be speedily separated. This is a key promise of the government, and should be timely honoured as it is also one of the recommendations of the constitutional review commission.*
- *The government should expedite the formulation of the freedom of information act.*
- *The 'cocaine saga' in 2008 is a bane that Sierra Leoneans would not forget in a hurry. The government should as a matter of top priority formulate anti-drug laws to appropriately deal with drug related crimes.*

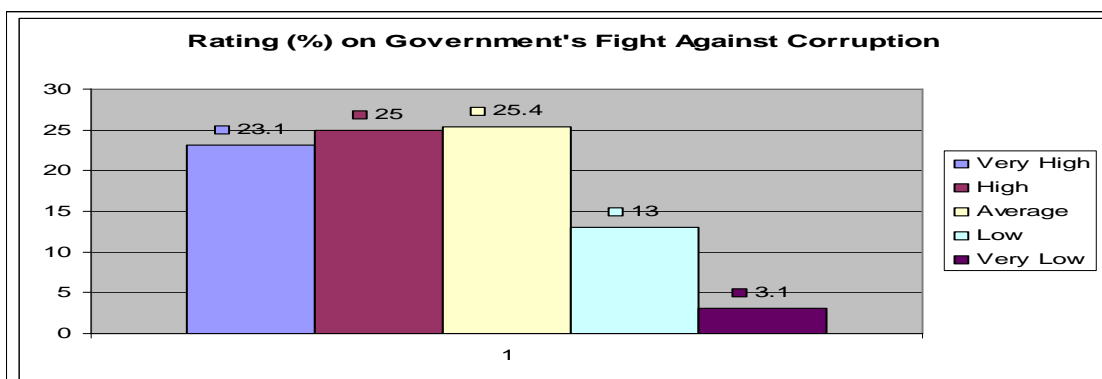
CHALLENGE

- *It was difficult to engage a wider group especially those residing in remote parts of the provincial districts. Only citizens residing in the district headquarter towns were interviewed. Targeting citizens living in remote parts would have further enhanced the representativeness of the report.*

COUNTRY-WIDE PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

1. How would you generally rate the present government's fight against corruption?

On assuming office, the government made an ambitious promise to eliminate corruption in Sierra Leone. President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma's very popular 'zero tolerance on corruption' phrase during his inauguration ceremony still remains in the minds of Sierra Leoneans. The phrase gives the war already waged on corruption an additional boost. This question is geared towards evaluating citizens' perception on the government's strides 'since it assumed' office to stamp out corruption, especially in the public sector. Amongst the 850 citizens that were nationally interviewed for this exercise, 23.1% thought the government's efforts to fight corruption was very high, 25% alleged it was high, 35.4% held the view that it was average, 13% stated it was low, and 3.1% mentioned very low. Compared to the focus groups, 26.5% assumed it was very high, while 23.5% noted it was low. A graphical presentation of the individual assessment can be seen below:



By this statistics, the government seems to be doing fairly well in the fight so far. The focus groups result supports the individual interviews in drawing this conclusion. Recent developments like the review of the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) Act, President's declaration of assets to the Commission among others, may be the likely reasons accounting for this positive rating. However, the government needs to double its efforts to achieve 'zero tolerance' within the five year mandate given by the people.

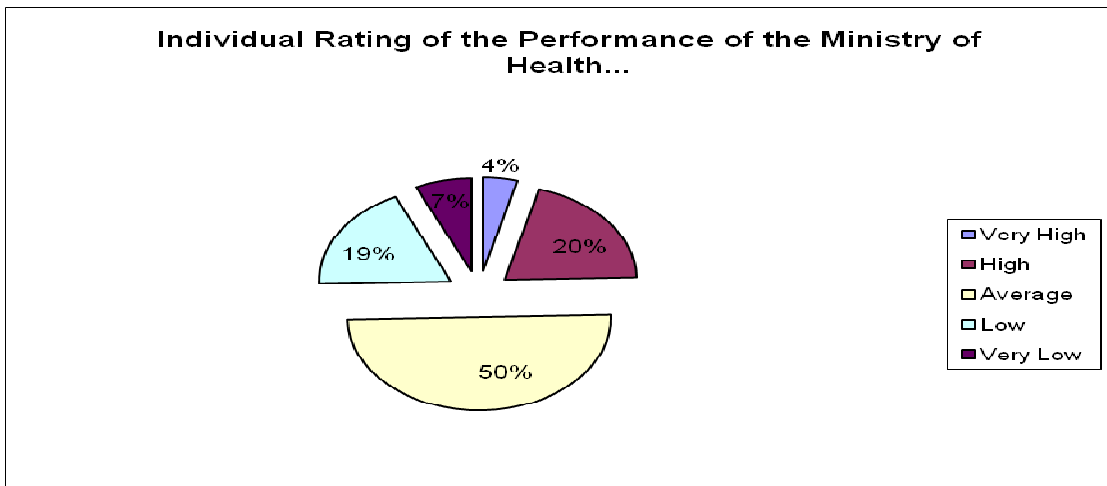
2. Are you convinced that the present government is accountable?

The twin concepts of transparency and accountability are the bedrock of modern democratic good governance; in fact, they serve as conduit to the fight against corruption. Accountability enhances effective state management, and creates the platform for civic groups to perform an oversight role. It gives citizens an opportunity to understand governance and development processes taking place; and enables them engage from an informed perspective. When individually asked the above question, 54.6% said yes, 13.1% stated no, and 32.3% were unsure of what to say. In the focus groups, while 51.5% mentioned yes, 16.7% said no, and a comparatively huge 31.1% were unsure of their responses. The figures tells us that a high proportion of citizens do believe that the government is so far accountable. This track-record should be maintained or improved upon. However, a huge proportion of citizens are still skeptical. This is something to strongly think about and work on.

3. How would you rate the general performance of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation?

The cliché ‘health is wealth’ is of no little significance in the development process. A state that does not give serious consideration to improving the health of its citizens has a skeletal prospect to develop. A country like Sierra Leone where the relics of the civil war in terms of trauma, insanity and other associated infirmities are still palpable, needless to say that augmenting health standards is non-negotiable. Sierra Leone has one of the worst health standards in the world. Maternal and infant mortality levels, to borrow from 2008 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index are startlingly high. Many citizens either do not have access to proper health facilities or cannot afford the relatively high costs. Sometimes even when the facilities are available, the quality is poor - most times resulting in high death rate and prevalence of diseases. When asked the above question, 4.2% in the individual interviews asserted that the government’s performance is very high, 20.4% confirmed high, 50% thought it was average, 18.5% stated low, and 6.9% alleged it was very low. Compare this result with the focus group results, while 14.4% rated the performance to be very high, 27.3% held the view that it was low. The government’s efforts on health so far are not impressive. Health implications can cause disorders and death, which in turn threatens the country’s workforce. The poor who can hardly meet the costs in the hospitals/clinics/health centres (that is, if they are fortunate to have one in their locality) as alternatives depend on traditional herbs with their own corresponding complications as well. Clinics and health centers in the communities remain unattended by medical personnel. When further asked, *‘Has the health system improved in your community/district since the present government came to power?’*, in the individual interviews, 28.1% stated that the health system improved in their community/district since the government came to power, 55% said no, and 16.5% were unsure of their responses. In the focus groups, 45.4% said yes, 34.1% stated no, and 20.5% indicated that they were unsure of what to

say. The results shows that majority of citizens do not believe that the government has done well in improving health. This is very discouraging. For a country with such unenviable health record, the government as a matter of top priority should render undiluted support to the health sector. When further asked: ***'When you fall sick, do you normally go to the hospital/health post/clinic in your community'?***, in the individual interviews 83.5% of respondents said yes, 11.9% said no, and 5.8% were unsure of their answers. In the focus groups, 88.6% said yes, 4.5% indicated no. As is indicated in the limitation section, interviewees for this exercise were got from the respective district headquarter towns – which may explains the high proportion of those who normally go to hospital/health/post/clinic when they fall sick. When additionally asked: ***Do you believe that the government is committed to improving health and sanitation in your community/district?***, in the individual interview 55.8% said yes, 28.5% stated no, and 15.8% were unsure. In the focus groups 53% said yes, 17.4% affirmed no and 29.5% were unsure. A reasonably high proportion of citizens have faith that the government either by its actions or otherwise is committed to improving health in their communities. In spite of citizens' opinions that health standards did not improve within the government came to power, they nonetheless believed that there is a commitment to do so. The government has to work harder to meet citizens' increasing expectations. To meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on health by 2015, a lot needs to be done to significantly improve health and sanitation standards in the country. Below is a general evaluation of the performance of the Health Ministry.

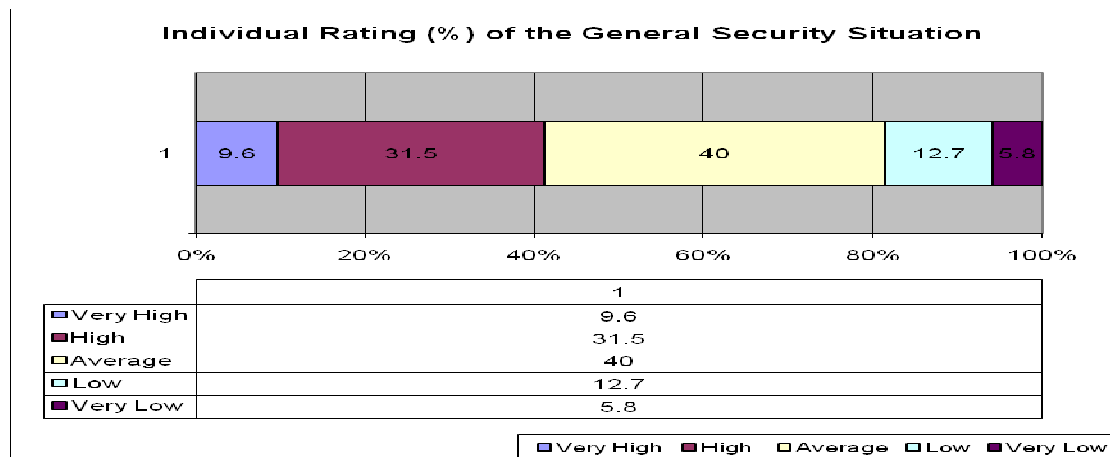


4. Do you believe that the government is committed to ensuring that you have access to clean drinking water in your community?

This question is closely tied to the above health questions, in the sense that there are health implications for not having access to clean drinking water. In the individual interviews, 42.3% confirmed that the government is committed to providing them access to safe drinking water, 26.9% said no, and 30.8% were unsure. In the focus groups, 44.7% said yes, 22.7% stated no, and 32.6% were not sure of what to say. Generally, the results are poor. More needs to be done to provide citizens with not only access, but also to be able to afford safe drinking water.

5. How would you generally assess the security situation in the country?

The eleven years civil conflict in Sierra Leone serves as the most conspicuous reminder to improve the security situation. All gains made after the civil conflict could go to the drains if the country’s security is threatened. Security engenders stability and growth, and enables a country plan well and executes its short-term, medium-term and long-term development agenda. In response, 9.6% individually asserted that the security situation in the country was very high, 31.5% held the view that it was high, 40.4% maintained that it was average, 12.7% alleged that it was low, and 5.8% thought it was very low. In the focus groups, 9.8% noted very high, 34.1% stated average, and 13.6% mentioned low. The above statistics reveal that many citizens believed the security situation is moderate (40.4%). For a country emerging from conflict, this is not a commendable result. Citizens’ sense of security needs to be very high, especially when they are expected to actively participate in development processes. Foreign investment would be discouraged, and brain-drain would be compounded. Below is a graphical presentation of the findings.



6. What do you think is the government's first priority?

We thought it prudent for citizens to express their general opinion on what they consider to be the government's first priority. Respondents were given three options to choose from. The first option was whether the government came to '*retain its place in power*'; the second was whether the government is poised to '*profit from its place in power*'; and thirdly, whether its plan was to '*improve the lives of Sierra Leoneans*'. In response, 23.1% of the individual interviewees and 19.7% of focus group respondents associated with the first option. 10% of the individual interviewees and 18.9% of focus group respondents connected to the second option. 66.9% of individual respondents and 61.4% of focus group participants aligned with the third option. Those who believed that the government is in power to improve Sierra Leoneans' lives in both the individual interviews and focus groups are relatively high. But if you add the percentages for the first and second options for the individual interviews (which both connote greed) you will get a significant 42.8%. It sends a clear signal that though comparatively most people have faith in the government to deliver, but a significant proportion is uncertain about the government's intention. Instructively, this chariness is expressed just a little over the government's one year in office. It will be interesting to see if this confidence in the government will be maintained or not as the years go by.

7. Do you think the government is delivering on its promises?

Citizens' confidence in government's promises is important, especially that many Sierra Leoneans claimed to have voted in the 2007 elections for a 'change'. Governments should not only make promises for the sake of winning votes. They should be made taking cognisance of a lot of other factors including the time-frame, available and potential resources (material, human and financial) among others. When citizens believe that the government is poised to perform, or is already delivering on its promises, they feel compelled to render their vital support. 46.3% of citizens individually interviewed confirmed that they believed the government is delivering, 23.8% did not believe so, and 30% were not sure of what to say. In the focus groups, 50% were convinced, 24.2% did not believe, and 25.8% were unsure of their answers. In the individual interviews, if you add the percentages of those who did not believe and those who were unsure, we are talking about 53.7% in this regard. Though it can certainly be argued that not all those who were unsure would have necessarily expressed disbelief if they had rated the government, but it nonetheless points to the fact that the majority of citizens either does not believe or are not clear about whether the government is delivering. Conversely, in a country with a history of citizens little faith in governments making realistic their usually ornate promises, this is not a discouraging result. It should not necessarily be greeted with applause and satisfaction, but should be interpreted as a reminder for government to deliver on its promises made. It is often said that to whom much is given, much is expected. When further individually asked: '*Do you believe the government is enjoying the confidence of the people,*' 48.8% believed so, 24.2% did not think so, and 26.9% were not sure of what to say. In juxtaposition with the focus groups results, 53.8% believed, 23.5% did not believe, and 22.7% were unsure. The response is not

radically different from that of the parent question above. The government needs to do more to convince citizens it is capable of shaping their destiny for the better.

8. How would you rate the government's efforts to sustain peace and reconciliation?

Peace and reconciliation is a critical element in the development process, since it ensures peace building, especially for a post conflict society and one that experienced ethnic polarization during the 2007 general elections. Consolidating peace and reconciliation was one of the government's top priorities upon assuming power. It is important to measure citizens' perception on the government's actions or inactions to promote peace. In the individual interviews 11.5% registered that the government's efforts were very high, 26.6% thought it was high, 39.6% believed it was average, 16.9% held the opinion that it was low, and 5.4% confirmed it was very low. In the focus groups, 15.2% maintained it was very high, 21.2% stated high, 40.2% remarked it was average, 16.9% affirmed low, and 5.4% stated very low. The government is not ranked very high for maintaining peace. Though many citizens averagely believed the government is making efforts to sustain peace, there is the need to improve upon this status-quo. Citizens need to see and believe that inherent divisive vices like ethnicity, regionalism and patronage are soberly and urgently addressed. The consequences of not doing so could lead to brain-drain, pockets of unwarranted tensions/violence, disillusionment and non-cooperation of particular segments of the society - especially those who for one reason or another believe they are being unduly marginalized.

9. Do you believe that the performance targets set by the government will lead to development?

Arguably, in an attempt to accentuate productivity, the government upon assuming power set itself performance targets. To put things in perspective, the President is on record to have vowed to 'run Sierra Leone like a business.' This measure is hoped would warrant especially ministers and other top government officials to be healthily competitive and productive in the discharge of their duties. This evaluative system is premised on the assumption that performance would dictate whether some ministers and top government officials would be periodically removed, transferred, demoted or promoted. In the individual interviews, 68.1% asserted that they believed the performance targets would lead to development, 4.6% did not believe so, and 27.3% were unsure of their responses. Comparatively, in the focus group discussions 67.4% of respondents believed so, 10.6% did not, and 22% said they were unsure of what to say. The results of the individual interviews and focus groups are in agreement. In short, most citizens do believe the performance targets would lead to development. It should be noted that the results are the judgments of citizens on whether the targets would lead to development, and not the rating of the ministers and top government officials' performances. With this overwhelming expression of hope, the government needs to prove to citizens that the targets can be met and would yield positive results as time progresses.

10. How would you rate the electricity supply in your district?

At the time the questionnaires were administered, we realized that just Western Area, Bo and Kenema districts have access to government electricity power supply. Nonetheless, the views of citizens residing in districts not enjoying government electricity power were also considered. For the purposes of clarity and better analysis, the overall results are presented, followed by the specific results of the Western Area, Bo and Kenema districts. It must be emphasized that electricity power supply to citizens was one of the topmost priorities, and therefore at the zenith of the government's promises. In the country-wide individual interviews, 1.9% of citizens rated the electricity to be very high, 3.1 stated high, 8.1 said average, 11.5% mentioned low, and 73.1% mentioned very low. To compare this results with that of the focus groups, 0.8% said very high, 1.5% asserted high, 12.1% stated average, 8.3% thought it was low, and 77.3% believed it was very low.

Narrowing the analysis on the few areas that have access to government electricity supply, in the Bo district 5% said very high, 20% stated high, 55% noted average, and 20% mentioned low. In the Kenema district, 15% held the view that it was very high, 15% alleged it was high, 60% thought it was average, and 10% alleged it was low. In the Western Area (rural and urban) 11% said very high, 12.3% thought it was high, 23.1% agreed it was average, 42% noted low and 13.6% affirmed very low. When further asked: *'Do you believe that the Bumbuna hydro project would be completed by the end of 2009'?*, in the country-wide results for the individual interviews, 26.9% believed, 11.9% did not believe so, and 61.2% were unsure. The tabular presentation below further explains the information derived.

Individual Rating of government electricity power supply

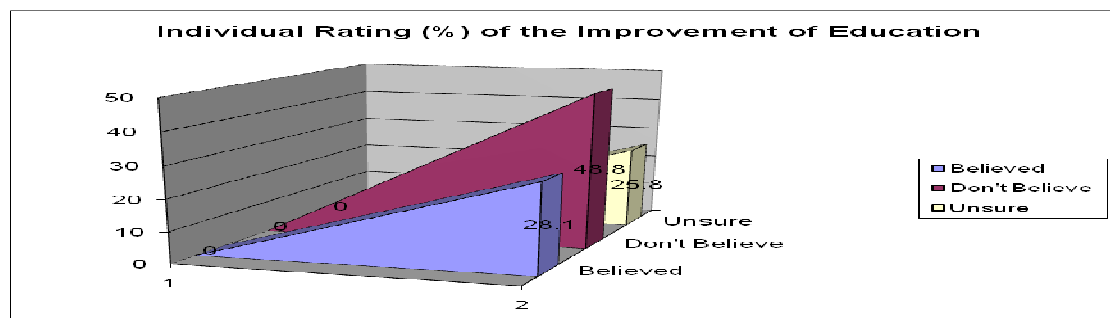
	Very High	High	Average	Low	Very Low
Western Area	11%	12.3%	23.1%	42%	13.6%
Bo	5%	20%	55%	20%	0%
Kenema	15%	15%	60%	10%	0%

It is mandatory to note that Bo and Kenema districts had been enjoying relative stability in the supply of electricity power (from the 'Bekongor' mini hydro dam) before this government assumed office. The government explicitly promised to institute interim

measures to provide Western Area residents with quality and regular electricity power supply before the ‘completion of the Bumbuna hydro electric project by the end of 2009’. Generally, citizens seem to be quite hazy of whether the government will be able to pull this Bumbuna project against its self-imposed deadline. The litmus test is for the present government to deliver against its own deadline. The count-down started since the promise was made... If for unsatisfactory excuses the deadline for completion is extended in due course, it is surely not going to be welcome news for the majority of citizens.

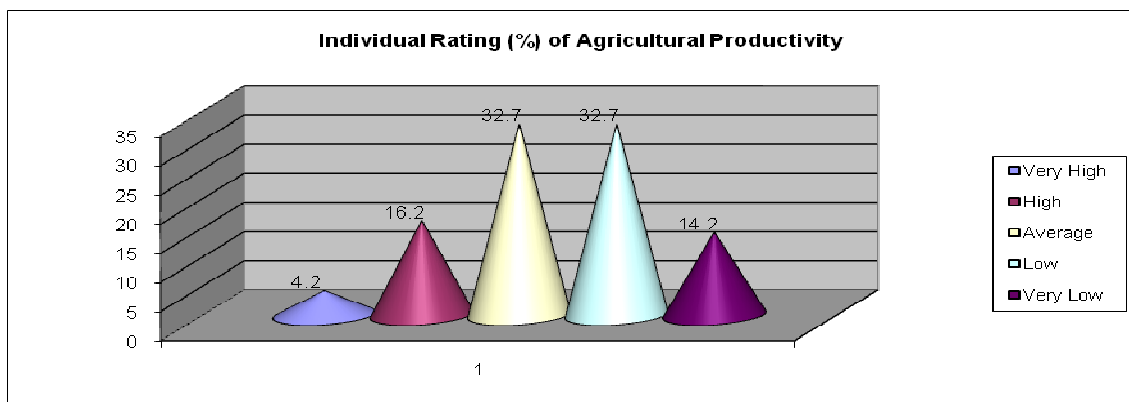
11. Has the standard of education improved since the present government came to power?

The essence of quality and affordable education for a given population can never be overstated. Education is inextricably linked with the socio-economic, cultural and political development of any country. Respondents were asked the above question. In the individual interviews, 28.1% believed education improved, 48.8% said no, and 25.8% were unsure of their answers. To contrast this individual information with the focus groups’, 26.5% said yes, 56.1% affirmed no, and 17.4% were not sure of what to say. When pointedly asked: *‘Has education been made more affordable and with improved quality since the government came to power?’*, in the individual 23.5% said yes, 49.2% asserted no, and 27.3% were unsure of their answers. In the focus groups, 12.1% noted yes, 63.6% stated no, and 24.2% were not sure of what to say. The above results for education are very discouraging at best. Given this gloomy picture, citizens were further asked: *‘Are you convinced that the government is committed to improving education?’* In the individual interviews, 51.9% indicated yes, 4.2% said they did not believe, and 33.8% were unsure. In the focus groups, 38.6% registered yes, 18.2% stated no, and 43.2% were unsure. Again, the results for the above question show astounding optimism. In as much as the preceding results for education has not been encouraging, citizens nevertheless have an appreciable faith that the government will be able to promote education in due course. A graph showing the general rating of education is shown below:



12. Generally rate the agricultural productivity in your district since the government came to power?

Recent development statistics have it that 70% of Sierra Leone's able-bodied citizens are farmers. This high percentage is sufficient to illustrate the significance of the agricultural sector to endogenous economic growth. Sierra Leonean farmers are amongst the poorest of the population. With antiquated farming tools, paucity of financial resources, little or no state support, poor road networks/electricity/storage system etc. etc. agricultural yields in recent years has been on the nosedive. Arguably, the agricultural sector has great potential to improve the country's export base than any other sector. All that is needed is the right attention... In the individual interviews, 4.2% stated that agricultural yields was very high, 16.2% maintained it was high, 32.7% noted it was average, 32.7% stated it was low, and 14.2% confirmed very low. In the focus groups, 8.3% said very high, 19.7% thought it was high, 18.9% asserted it was average, 28.8% alleged it was low, and 24.2% affirmed very low. For easy understanding, a graphical presentation is shown below:



The results reveal poor agricultural productivity in the country. The government has to be pro-active to harness the available under-utilized manpower to improve the agricultural sector. The present government is said to have drawn its support mainly from the poorest segments of society during the 2007 general elections. Logically, one would expect that if the government is to cater for the welfare of poor citizens, the agricultural sector should be of utmost priority when it comes to national budgetary allocations. It is a pity that the reality is proving to be otherwise.

KEY CONCLUSIONS

The facts presented above clearly represent citizens' opinions. By citizens' estimation the government was able to make progress in some sectors and not in others since it came to power to date. The government was unable to make a mark in pro-poor sectors like agriculture and health. Given the aforementioned presentation and analysis of findings, we are obliged to draw the following conclusions:

- *Government support to critical pro-poor sectors like agriculture and health is poor.*
- *Most citizens are optimistic that the government has potentials to deliver upon its promises in due course.*
- *Majority of Sierra Leoneans are not enjoying government electricity power supply.*
- *Government has made some improvements in accountability, and the fight against corruption.*
- *Most citizens believe that the government's first priority is to improve their welfare.*
- *The government's efforts to maintain peace and reconciliation are less impressive.*

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION:

1. Gender: (1) male (2) female
2. Age: (1) under 25 (2) 26-35 (3) 36-45 (4) 46 and over
3. Where were you born?
4. Where are you living now?
5. What is your ethnic background?
6. What is your occupation?
7. Can you read and write?
8. What level of schooling did you attain?

SURVEY SECTION:

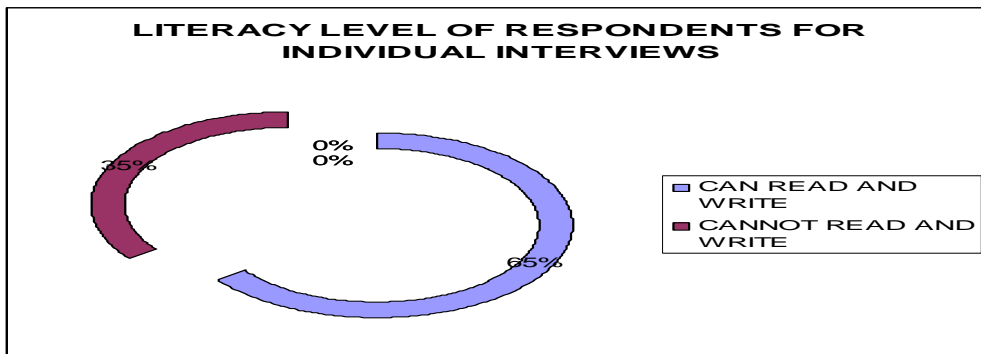
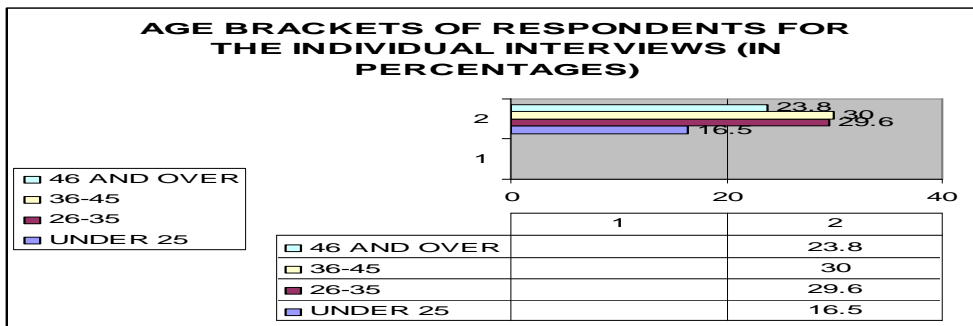
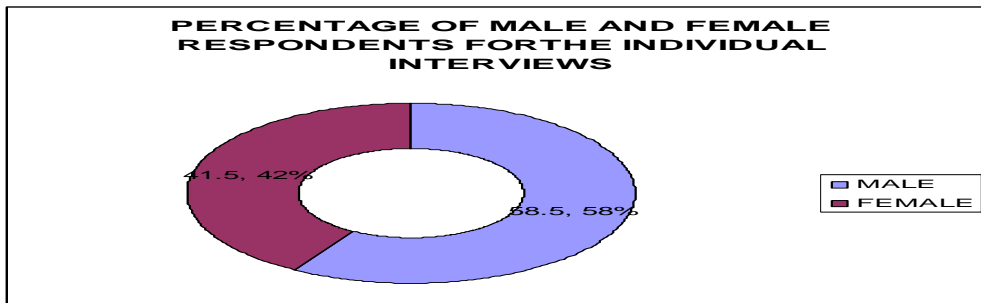
9. How would you generally rate the present government's fight against corruption? (1) Very High (2) High (3) Average (4) Low (5) Very Low
10. Are you convinced that the present government is accountable? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
11. How would you rate the general performance of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation? (1) Very High (2) High (3) Average (4) Low (5) Very Low
12. How would you generally assess the security situation in the country? (1) Very High (2) High (3) Average (4) Low (5) Very Low
13. What do you think is the government's first priority? (1) To retain its place in power (2) To profit from its place in power (3) To improve the lives of sierra Leonean
14. Do you think the government is delivering on its promises? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
15. Do you believe the government is enjoying the confidence of the people? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
16. How would you rate the government's efforts to sustain peace and reconciliation? (1) Very High (2) High (3) Average (4) Low (5) Very Low
17. Do you believe that the performance targets set by the government will lead to development? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
18. How would you generally rate the electricity supply in your district? (1) Very high (2) High (3) Average (4) Low (4) Very low
19. Do you believe that the Bumbuna project will be completed by 2009 as promised by the government? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
20. Do you believe the government is committed to ensuring that you have access to clean drinking water in your community? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
21. When you fall sick, do you normally go to the hospital/health post/clinic in your community? (1) Yes (2) No
22. Has the health system improved in your community/district since the present government came to power? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
23. Do you believe the government is committed to improving health and sanitation in your community/district? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
24. Has the standard of education improved since the present government came to power? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
25. Has education been made more affordable and with improved quality since the government came to power? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
26. Are you convinced the government is committed to improving education? (1) Yes (2) No (3) Unsure
27. Generally rate the agricultural productivity in your district since the government came to power? (1) Very high (2) High (3) Average (4) Low (5) Very low
28. Kindly give two recommendations to improve upon governance and service delivery?

ANNEX II: DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW RESULTS (IN PERCENTAGES)

QUE. NO.	W/A	PU J.	MO	TON	KEN	BO	BON.	KAL.	KON	KAM.	BOM.	P./ LOKO	KOI.
9.	20	0	0	0	5	25	10	20	5	15	75	10	45
	35	15	30	25	25	40	0	15	10	50	20	40	50
	45	60	25	70	30	25	40	45	30	35	5	45	0
	0	15	35	5	35	5	40	20	35	0	0	0	5
	0	10	10	0	5	5	10	0	20	0	0	0	0
10.	90	15	45	30	20	55	70	40	55	45	75	50	95
	0	20	35	10	30	10	10	25	5	0	5	20	0
	10	65	20	60	55	35	20	35	40	55	20	30	5
11.	5	5	0	0	10	0	0	5	5	0	0	15	15
	25	15	15	10	5	40	5	30	45	5	10	30	30
	70	65	30	90	35	40	75	40	25	60	45	45	35
	0	10	55	0	35	10	15	20	20	35	20	5	15
	0	5	0	0	15	10	5	10	5	0	25	5	5
12.	0	0	0	0	5	0	10	5	5	5	5	20	70
	40	20	20	0	10	45	20	10	40	90	55	40	20
	60	65	40	80	30	50	60	15	35	5	35	40	10
	0	5	25	20	45	5	5	40	15	0	5	0	0
	0	10	15	0	10	0	5	30	5	0	0	0	0
13.	15	20	40	70	50	25	35	5	0	20	0	10	10
	0	15	30	0	15	10	5	25	0	5	15	5	5
	85	65	30	30	35	65	60	70	100	75	85	85	85
14.	95	40	15	25	25	40	0	15	50	65	90	70	80
	0	40	85	15	40	10	35	50	15	10	0	0	10
	5	20	0	60	35	50	65	35	35	25	10	30	10
15.	55	35	20	45	15	65	15	5	60	75	90	65	90
	15	25	65	10	35	15	45	50	15	25	5	5	5
	30	40	15	45	50	20	40	45	25	0	5	30	5
16.	10	0	10	0	0	5	10	5	5	15	15	15	45
	35	15	5	5	10	30	35	10	35	55	55	30	40
	55	60	30	70	35	30	45	35	40	30	30	45	10
	0	10	40	25	40	35	10	35	10	0	0	10	5
	0	15	15	0	15	0	0	15	10	0	0	0	0
17.	85	60	90	40	40	80	95	50	70	90	85	65	70
	5	10	0	10	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
	15	40	10	50	40	20	5	50	30	10	15	25	30
18.	5	0	0	0	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	10	5
	0	0	5	0	15	20	0	0	0	0	5	10	0
	20	5	0	0	60	55	5	0	0	0	5	10	0
	20	10	0	5	10	20	10	0	20	0	0	15	0
	55	85	95	95	0	0	85	100	80	100	90	55	95
19.	90	10	20	30	5	25	15	15	15	5	35	25	75
	5	20	35	0	25	25	20	40	5	0	0	15	0
	5	70	45	70	70	50	65	45	80	95	65	60	25
20.	65	35	15	45	10	10	30	20	60	45	75	50	75
	0	15	80	10	55	50	20	65	15	0	5	15	50
	35	50	5	45	35	40	50	15	25	55	20	35	25
21.	95	95	65	95	40	95	90	60	85	90	85	75	100
	5	50	35	0	55	5	5	15	10	10	5	5	0
	0	0	0	5	5	0	5	25	5	0	10	20	0
22.	55	25	15	10	10	5	10	25	45	75	35	45	60
	15	40	85	90	80	70	90	50	35	15	45	35	20
	30	35	0	0	10	25	0	25	20	10	20	20	20
23.	70	80	40	55	25	25	30	30	65	75	60	95	75

	30	10	55	45	50	30	10	55	15	15	25	5	25
	0	10	5	0	25	45	60	15	20	10	15	0	0
24.	30	0	10	5	10	10	70	20	25	65	30	40	50
	5	70	85	60	80	65	5	70	45	10	30	45	30
	65	30	5	35	10	25	25	10	30	25	40	15	20
25.	10	0	10	5	5	10	60	10	25	65	35	20	10
	15	70	90	60	90	40	20	40	60	15	25	50	65
	75	30	0	35	5	50	20	50	15	20	40	30	25
26.	75	15	30	30	15	45	80	25	70	75	85	65	65
	5	25	50	0	45	5	5	30	5	5	0	5	5
	20	60	20	70	40	50	15	45	25	20	15	30	30
27	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	30	5	5	0
	5	0	0	0	0	15	0	15	35	60	40	35	5
	50	35	25	20	25	40	40	45	45	10	10	35	45
	40	25	55	60	50	35	45	15	10	0	20	25	45
	5	40	20	20	20	10	15	10	0	0	25		5

ANNEX III: DEMOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION





Optimistic President Koroma delivering his inaugural address at the national stadium (15th Nov. 2007)

Lead Researcher and Author:

Christian Lawrence
CGG