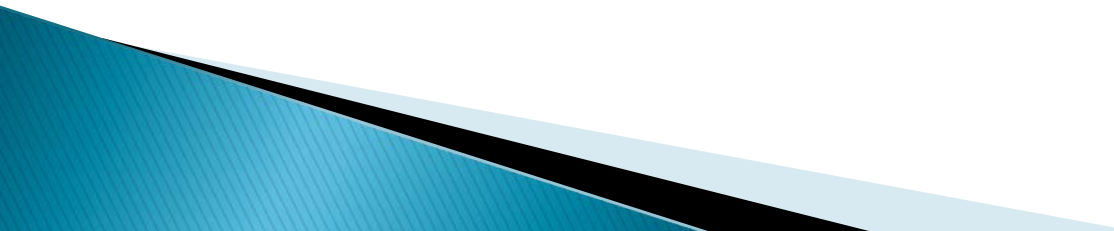


Status of Gender Mainstreaming in Sierra Leone

Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and
Children's Affairs

Presentation Outline

- ▶ Background
 - ▶ Institutional Mechanisms supporting GM
 - ▶ Achievements
 - ▶ Opportunities
 - ▶ Challenges
 - ▶ Conclusions / recommendations
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Background

- ▶ Gender Mainstreaming is defined as the integration of gender concerns into policies, plans, programmes and legislations. The ultimate goal of gender mainstreaming is gender equality.
- ▶ The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to gender mainstreaming and successive governments have translated these commitments into concrete actions.
- ▶ Sierra Leone is a signatory to so many International, Regional and sub-Regional frameworks for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Such frameworks include but not limited to CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, AU Protocol on Women, AU Heads of State Solemn declaration on Gender Equality, AU and ECOWAS Gender Policies

Institutional Mechanisms

- ▶ In 1988 the Women's Bureau was established in the Ministry of Social Welfare, and Gender and Desk Officers/Focal Points were established in sectoral departments and agencies
- ▶ In 1993, under the NPRC Military Government, a Gender Desk was established in the office of the Chairman and Head of State at State House to coordinate Gender and Development activities.
- ▶ In 1996 under the democratically elected government, a Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs was established. This signaled a novel and significant commitment by the Government to address gender issues at the highest level a move that gave encouragement to women

Institutional Mechanisms contd

- ▶ Again in 1998, after the interregnum of the Military Junta Government established a restructured Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs
- ▶ In 2010, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's went through functional management reform to make the Ministry into Directorates. Gender Policy and Advocacy Affairs is one of the five Directorates.
- ▶ The Government of H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma whilst demonstrating his commitment to gender equality in 2012 appointed a Gender and Women's Affairs Advisor to the Office of the President.

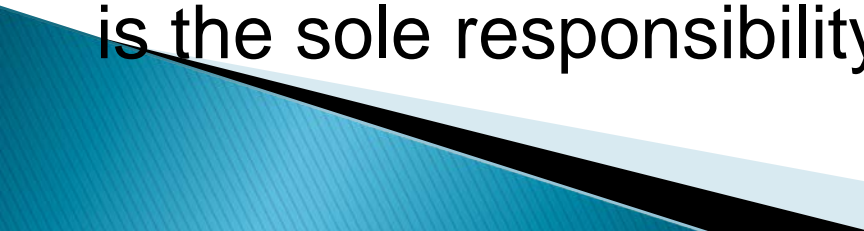
Achievements

- ▶ The government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs developed and adopted the twin policies: National Policy on the Advancement of Women and the National Policy on Gender Mainstreaming
- ▶ Gender is mainstreamed in most of the policies, plans and legislations in recent times. For instance, the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2005, the 'Gender Justice Laws' of 2007, Sexual Offences Act 2012 etc.
- ▶ Development of National Gender Strategic Plan (2010), Sierra Leone National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 & 1820 (2010), National Action Plan on GBV (2012), National Referral Protocol on GBV (2012), draft National Lands Policy etc
- ▶ Most importantly, government has ensured that gender is mainstreamed in the PRS dubbed as the Agenda for Prosperity (AfP) whilst at the same time having a standalone pillar in the AfP.
- ▶ Appointment of women in governance at all levels since women form critical mass of the population.

Opportunities

- ▶ Government's political will and sustained commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- ▶ Gender and green growth are mainstreamed and a whole pillar crafted on gender equality and women's empowerment in the country strategy (AfP)
- ▶ Institutional mechanisms established for moving gender mainstreaming processes forward.
- ▶ Women and energy is a whole project under the AfP which in itself is a demonstration and commitment on the part of government in moving this process forward.

Challenges

- ▶ Weak monitoring and coordination of mainstreaming programmes, projects, plans and legislations
 - ▶ Institutional and technical capacity of MSWGCA still remains a challenge due to limited staff.
 - ▶ Limited financial support to fully implement the policies, plans and legislations put in place
 - ▶ Perception of gender as a welfare and women's issue and not as a developmental process.
 - ▶ The notion that implementation of gender programme is the sole responsibility of MSWGCA
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Conclusion & Recommendation

- ▶ Sierra Leone has the institutional and policy mechanisms in place but needs to be strengthened
 - ▶ Support existing women and energy initiatives like the 'Barefoot' Women Solar College
 - ▶ Support the development and implementation of sub-regional and national action plans on women and energy (clean and renewable)
 - ▶ Development Partners and Government's to mobilize and invest more resources on clean and renewable energy
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