

**Government of**



**Sierra Leone**

**Adapting the SDGs to National Development  
Planning Processes in Sierra Leone**

**Government of Sierra Leone  
July 2016 HLPF, New York**

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

# Items to Present

- 1. Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early**
- 2. Summary of SDGs Adaptation Steps Taken So Far**
- 3. Relevance of the HLPF Theme of “Leaving No One Behind” from the Standpoint of Sierra Leone**
- 4. Balancing the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions of Sustainable Development**
- 5. Sierra Leone’s SDGs Indicator Framework**
- 6. Implementation Arrangement for the SDGs**
- 7. Lessons, Next Steps, Challenges & Strategies**

# Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

- We had a weak start with the MDGs in 2000, coming out of a devastating civil war at the time, **although we strove very hard to make some progress in the implementation of the goals**
- Poverty headcount had declined from 70 percent in 2003 to 52.9 percent in 2013
- We achieved the ratio of girls to boys in primary school of 1:1 by 2015
- HIV/AIDS prevalence dropped from 1.5 percent in 2005, to 0.12 percent in 2015
- Access to safe drinking water increased from 36.7 percent in 1990 to 62.6 percent in 2015

# Our Motivation to Start the MDGs Early

## A number of MDGs indicators remained especially worrying

- Maternal mortality rate: estimated at 1,165 deaths per 100,000 births in 2013; compared to 1,800 deaths in 2000
- Under-five mortality rate: estimated at 156 deaths per 1,000 births in 2013; compared to 286 deaths in 2000
- Infant mortality rate: estimated at 92 deaths per 1,000 births in 2013; compared to 170 deaths in 2000
- Population with improved sanitation: 48.7% in 2015; compared to 10.1% in 1990

# Our Motivation to Start the MDGs Early

- The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in May 2004 substantially reversed our efforts in the implementation of the MDGs
- The EVD killed more than 3,500 of more than 8,000 infected persons
- Plunged GDP growth from 20.1% in 2013, to 4.6% in 2014, and minus 23.5% by end 2015; with the price of our leading export commodity, iron ore, crashing as the disease was raging
- At least 2.3 million people had their livelihoods worsened during the epidemic

# Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

## Key lessons learned during the MDGs

- **Sierra Leone was (and is) still seriously a fragile state**
- **No economy can grow sustainably without being well diversified**
- **And hardly so without sustainable development of neighbouring and sub-regional economies: the Ebola outbreak was a spillover from Guinea as the civil war from Liberia**
- **Indeed, we needed to do more on the governance front**
- **The graph on the next slide is a reflection of our development series since 1980, illustrating that we have really not been developing sustainably**

# Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early



# Our Motivation to Start the SDGs Early

**Thus, the SDGs have provided enhanced platform for international development cooperation and engagement to resolve national, regional and global problems that have huge bearing on the sustainable development of Sierra Leone**

- For this reason our Government wasted no time to start the process of integrating the SDGs into local development planning processes**
- We are therefore among the 22 countries being reviewed at this HLPF to share our perspective as to how (i) we intend to implement the SDGs locally; (ii) the challenges we envisage going forward; and (iii) proposal to overcome them**



# Summary of Adaptation Steps Taken so far

- **Produced Simplified Version of the SDGs**
- **Conducted nationwide sensitization to the new goals, targeting public sector, CSOs, NGOs, the private sector, trade unions, university colleges, parliament and the general public**
- **Aligned the new global goals to the Agenda for Prosperity (A4P) and 2016 National Budget—and shall be in the upcoming Budget**
- **Formulated National Integrated Results Framework aligning the SDGs to the A4P monitoring and evaluation arrangement**
- **Drafted Sierra Leone specific SDGs indicators**
- **Establishment of Sierra Leone International Benchmark System is underway, and will largely be guided by the SDGs**

**Relevance of the Theme of this HLPF**  
***Leaving No One Behind***  
**From Sierra Leone's Standpoint**

# Leaving No One Behind in Sierra Leone

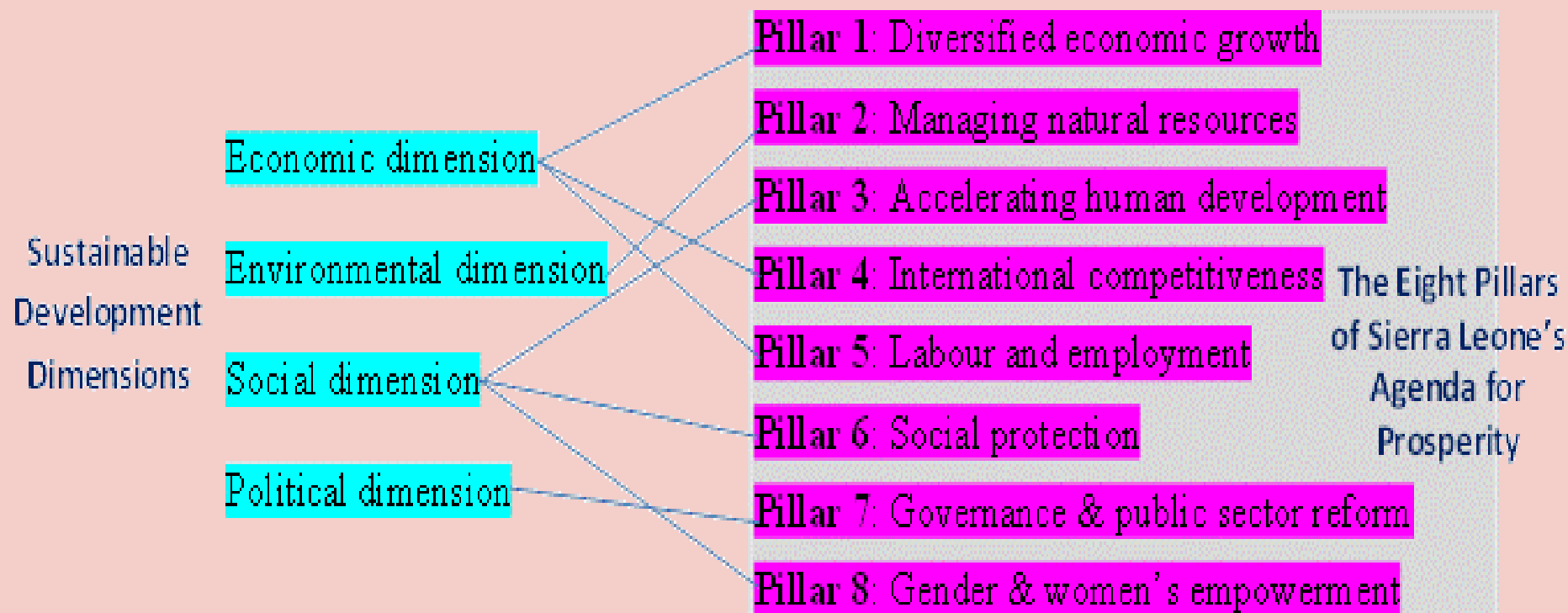
- The principle of leaving no one behind is very dear to us
- Understanding what it is and how do we get there is fundamental to our achievement of the SDGs
- Thus, we took the global debate on this requirement at national level

## National perspectives on leaving no one behind

- Exclusion from decision-making & socioeconomic participation
- Disabilities, marginalization and stigmatization
- Welfare of the incarcerated & effectiveness of justice system
- Populations enmeshed in food insecurity and extreme poverty
- Welfare of those in island and coastal communities
- Natural resource management and the survival of those yet unborn
- Data disaggregation
- Rural development

# Balancing the *Economic, Social and Environmental* Dimensions of Sustainable Development—we have added *political governance*

- This is embedded in our national development plans; clearly reflected in the Eight Pillars of the Sierra Leone's Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018)
- And to us, this is a requirement for leaving no one behind



# Sierra Leone SDGs Indicator Framework

## Major Sources of Priority Indicators

The MDGs Outcome

Sierra Leone's Vision 2035

Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018)

The Ebola Recovery Strategy

Sector and Local Government Strategies

Leaving No One Behind Debate

Fragility Assessment & g7+ indicators

## RESEARCH

Tier 1 Indicators:  
56  
*With Provisional  
Baseline & Target*

**Sierra Leone  
Specific SDGs  
Indicator**

Tier 2 Indicators:  
139  
*With Baselines  
and/or Target or  
Not*

## SURVEYS

## Lead Actors in Processing Priorities

Office of the President

Ministry of Finance & Economic

Development  
Ministry of Foreign  
Aff. & Intern'l  
Cooperation

Statistics Sierra  
Leone

Right to Access Info  
Commission

NGOs & Civil Society

Development  
Partners

# Implementation Arrangement for the SDGs

Presidential Body on SDGs

- Office of the President/OGI/OGP/SPU
- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Ministry of Information & Communication
- United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office

Steering Committee on SDGs

- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency
- Statistics Sierra Leone
- Civil Society and Private Sector Representatives

**Technical Level**

A4P/PWG1

SDG7,8&9

A4P/PWG2

SDG11-15

A4P/PWG3

SDG3-6; 11

A4P/PWG4

SDG7-9

A4P/PWG5

SDG7-9

A4P/PWG6

SDG1,2&10

A4P/PWG7

SDG16

A4P/PWG8

SDG5

SDG17 corresponds to Parts 4&5 of the A4P on capacity development for implementation of strategies

# Implementation Arrangements for the SDGs

- **Furthermore, Sierra Leone is a signatory to the New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States championed by g7+ countries**
- **As the current Chair of the g7+ and Co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building, Sierra Leone is committed to promoting use of country systems and Mutual Accountability Frameworks in the implementation of SDGs in our fragile contexts**
- **We re-iterate our commitment through the Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World to implementing the New Deal as a means of ensuring the delivery of SDGs across all fragile and conflict affected environments**
- **The preparation of our SDGs Adaptation Report has given keen consideration to these international guidelines**
- **Finally, we are mindful of the need to pursue strong sub-regional approach to implementation of the SDGs**

## **Key lessons learned in the SDGs adaptation process**

- **Timely planning has huge prospects of yielding results**
- **Participatory approaches remain fundamental to results;**
- **Impossible to have effective plans without a good data system**

## **Next Steps**

- **Continue follow up with key government institutions and non-state institutions in the SDGs process**
- **Analysis of existing data and preparation of relevant research papers to inform the process**
- **Commence SDGs needs based assessment towards the preparation of a national SDGs investment plan**
- **Reactivate existing technical working groups to embed SDGs planning, follow-up & reporting**
- **Commence ministerial committee meetings on the SDGs**



# Lessons, Next Steps, Challenges, Strategies

## Challenges ahead

- Having many actors to coordinate, with
- Domestic revenue shortfalls and unpredictable external assistance
- Extended effects of Ebola epidemic; and ensuring diversified and inclusive economy
- Data bottlenecks; and continued fragility of the state (climate change effects, large numbers of youths to employ, etc.)
- Weak incentives for civil service

## Envisaged approaches to overcoming challenges

- Sustain government commitment and enhance partnerships with development partners; step up local revenue mobilization
- Increase capacity to development bankable development projects
- Strengthen coordination and implementation of reform programmes
- Fully identify the drivers of fragility & work out concrete action plan to address them
- Leverage efforts to build strong national data system

**Thank You**