

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
ADDITIONAL FINANCING**

Report No.: PIDA23728

Project Name	Social Safety Nets Additional Financing (P154454)
Parent Project Name	Sierra Leone Safety Nets Project (P143588)
Region	AFRICA
Country	Sierra Leone
Sector(s)	Public administration- Other social services (10%), Primary education (17%), Health (17%), Other social services (56%)
Theme(s)	Social Safety Nets/Social Assistance & Social Care Services (67%), Social Protection and Labor Policy & Systems (33%)
Lending Instrument	Investment Project Financing
Project ID	P154454
Parent Project ID	P143588
Borrower(s)	Republic of Sierra Leone
Implementing Agency	National Commission for Social Action
Environmental Category	C-Not Required
Date PID Prepared/Updated	30-Apr-2015
Date PID Approved/Disclosed	19-May-2015
Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion	06-May-2015
Estimated Date of Board Approval	20-Jul-2015
Appraisal Review Decision (from Decision Note)	The review did authorize to proceed with Negotiations, in principle

I. Project Context

Country Context

The EVD crisis is occurring in a context of already high poverty and food insecurity. Sierra Leone is a post-conflict country that has experienced strong growth over the last decade, yet nearly half of the population remains poor. Prior to the outbreak, the country had been on a recovery path since emerging from a decade-long civil war in 2002, averaging 5.8 percent annual per capita growth between 2003 and 2011. Despite this growth, in 2011 more than half (53%) of the country's six million inhabitants remained below the poverty line and nearly one million (14%) were extremely poor. Although poverty reduction over this period was higher outside of the capital, Freetown, poverty in Sierra Leone remains disproportionately rural, with 78% of the poor living in rural areas. In addition to high levels of poverty, a large number of Sierra Leoneans are also food insecure and exposed to shocks. According to the World Food Program (WFP), before the crisis almost half (45%) of households or 2.5 million people experienced food insecurity during the lean season.

Recent gains in poverty reduction are being threatened by the EVD outbreak, while the country lacks adequate safety nets to protect the poorest. Sierra Leone has reported the highest level of cases of any country, with 11,600 cases and 3,600 deaths as of March 1, 2015. The crisis reduced the country's growth in 2014 to 4.0% from 11.3% expected prior to the outbreak. Recent estimates from high-frequency cell phone surveys indicate significant declines in employment, high food insecurity, and reduced utilization of services, which could potentially have a negative effect on long-term household well-being. The latest estimates also indicate food insecurity continues to be stubbornly high throughout the country, with more than half (53%) of households taking at least one negative coping measure (e.g., reducing meals). Since the outbreak the employment rate declined significantly in urban areas (7 percentage points), particularly among the non-farm self-employed and impacts on the agricultural sector could still emerge. There is also evidence of a decrease in utilization of health services for non-EVD conditions, with a lower proportion of women in Freetown receiving post-natal care. While the crisis is affecting households of all income levels, the poorest are likely to suffer most given their limited ability to meet basic consumption needs prior to the outbreak and limited access to safety nets. Yet coverage of safety nets remains low and many existing programs face high leakage and inefficient administration, revealing the need for scale up based on solid systems.

Sectoral and institutional Context

Prior to the EVD outbreak the country was making important strides toward reducing fragmentation, duplication, and leakage in the social protection sector. In 2011, the Cabinet approved a National Social Protection (SP) Policy that defined specific outcomes, prioritized interventions for the sector, and called for analytical work to rationalize safety nets spending and expansion. In 2013, the Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of the World Bank, completed an SP Assessment to inform the implementation of the SP policy. The Assessment recommended that Government focus on three main programs –including cash transfers to very poor households – and on establishing systems to increase the cost-effectiveness and improve coordination between actors implementing SP and related programs. To implement these recommendations, in 2013 the Social Protection Secretariat was established within the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) to lead the development of common SP systems and enhance policy coordination. National coordination mechanisms have since been established and are functioning regularly, namely: (i) the SP Inter-Agency Forum, chaired by the Office of the President and composed of Ministers; and (ii) the SP Technical Steering Committee (TSC), composed of Technical Directors from key sector ministries. Through these mechanisms the sector has moved toward a more coordinated approach, including through strong participation in establishment of the SP systems.

The systems and coordination mechanisms supported by the SSN allowed the Government to be responsive towards mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of the crisis. In February 2015, the Government introduced the Rapid Ebola-Social Safety Net (RE-SSN) to reach highly affected districts beyond SSN coverage, with financing from the Ebola Emergency Response Project (EERP) and technical support from the Bank and UNICEF. The RE-SSN provides cash transfers to 9,000 extremely poor, Ebola affected households in the six districts with the highest Ebola caseloads not already covered by the SSN. While the RE-SSN is envisaged as an intensive intervention of short duration (nine months) to protect extremely poor households in the context of the EVD outbreak, the RE-SSN design acknowledges that the impacts of EVD will be long lasting and would necessitate longer-term support for some of these households.

The EVD outbreak has increased attention both internally and from external partners to what was already a pressing need to expand coverage of social protection interventions. Therefore, while the crisis has provided an opportunity to garner more resources for safety nets, successful scale up will require continued strengthening of coordination, capacity, and systems.

II. Proposed Development Objectives

A. Current Project Development Objectives – Parent

The project development objective is to establish the key building blocks for a basic national safety net system and to provide income support to extremely poor households in Sierra Leone.

III. Project Description

Component Name

Development of Systems for Implementation of Social Safety Net Interventions

Comments (optional)

The proposed additional grant would maintain the original objective of this component, which is to put in place the building blocks of a basic national safety net system in Sierra Leone. The proposed AF will finance the scale up of social protection systems elements, namely costs related to expansion of operational systems (targeting and enrollment, payments, and GRM) to the five new districts.

Component Name

Cash Transfers to Extremely Poor Households

Comments (optional)

The proposed additional grant would maintain the original objective of this component, which is to provide income support to extremely poor households. The proposed AF will finance: cash transfers to an additional 7,000 beneficiaries in five new districts, extension of the payment horizon for the original 12,000 beneficiaries, and expansion of complementary workshops.

Component Name

Program Management and Capacity Building

Comments (optional)

The proposed additional grant would maintain the original objective of this component, which is to ensure efficient program implementation and to provide capacity building to key stakeholders at both central and local levels. The proposed AF will finance the scale up of additional program management and institutional capacity building activities, namely additional staff, equipment, training/knowledge events, and operating expenses for efficient project implementation, M&E, and coordination in the five new districts and extension of these activities in the existing districts up to the new closing date.

IV. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	15.80	Total Bank Financing:	10.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
For Loans/Credits/Others			Amount

BORROWER/RECIPIENT	1.50
IDA Grant	10.00
UK British Department for International Development (DFID)	4.30
Total	15.80

V. Implementation

The Project would use the existing and well-established institutional arrangements currently used for the implementation of the Social Safety Nets Project, with the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) as the main implementing agency of the Project. NaCSA has a long history of implementation of Bank social protection projects, including recent interventions to: (i) provide cash transfers to youth conditional on participation in public works under the Youth Employment Support Project; (ii) establish SP systems and provide cash transfers to extremely poor households under the Social Safety Nets Project; and (iii) rapidly deliver cash transfers to poor, Ebola affected households under the Ebola Emergency Response Project. Under the proposed Additional Financing, NaCSA would expand delivery of cash transfers while continuing to consolidate the nascent SP systems built under the SSN.

VI. Safeguard Policies (including public consultation)

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x
Pest Management OP 4.09		x
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x

Comments (optional)

VII. Contact point

World Bank

Contact: Nina Rosas Raffo
Title: Social Protection Specialist
Tel: 458-5250
Email: nrosas@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Name: Republic of Sierra Leone
Contact: Adams Kargbo
Title: Ag. Coordinator, Integrated Project Administration Unit, MOF
Tel: 232-76-614710
Email: adamsk_23222@yahoo.com

Implementing Agencies

Name: National Commission for Social Action
Contact: Alie Mansaray
Title: Commissioner, National commissioner for Social Action
Tel: 232-76-603484
Email: badara.mans@gmail.com

VIII. For more information contact:

The InfoShop
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 458-4500
Fax: (202) 522-1500
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/infoshop>