



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY  
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT  
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

# ACBF's cooperation with **Sierra Leone**



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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACR	Africa Capacity Report
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
PSMT	Public Sector Management Training
SMTP	Medium Term Strategic Plan
USD	United States Dollars

ACBF STRATEGIC PLANNING	
PHASE 1	1991-1997
PHASE 2	1998-2001
SMTP 1	2002-2006
SMTP2	2007-2011
SMTP3	2012-2016
ACBF STRATEGY	2017-2022
ACBF STRATEGIC PLAN	2023-2027

## INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Sierra Leone became a member of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in 2007. Since then, the collaboration between ACBF and the Republic of Sierra Leone has grown significantly. The country is represented by its Minister of Planning and Economic Development in the ACBF Board of Governors.

## ACBF'S INVESTMENTS IN SIERRA LEONE

The Foundation's investment in Sierra Leone, to date has reached about US\$ 1.2 million **and** ACBF is proud to have supported human and institutional development in the country. The Foundation has to date funded national programs in Sierra Leone to the tune of US\$0.86 million. This support has gone to the Parliament of Sierra Leone and supported projects like Poverty Reduction Programming, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME-Sierra Leone). The Foundation has also invested about US\$0.3 million to regional projects implemented in Sierra Leone, such as the Mano River Union Training Program (MRUTP).

**Table 1: ACBF-supported projects and programs in Sierra Leone (US\$)**

National Projects/Programs	Phases	Investments
PRIME - Sierra Leone	SMTP I	516,114
Parliament Sierra Leone	SMTP II	344,401
<b>Total National Programs</b>		<b>860,515</b>
Regional Projects/Programs	Phases	Investments
Mano River Union Training Program (MRUTP)	SMTP II	306,069.43
<b>Total Regional Programs</b>		<b>306,069.43</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,166,584.43</b>

The Foundation has conducted several research studies to inform policy formulation and implementation in Sierra Leone. Some of the knowledge products prepared for Sierra Leone are elaborated in Annex 2.

**Table 2: Current ACBF-Supported projects in Sierra Leone (2023)**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DETAILS
Capacity building for empowering women and youth entrepreneurs	The project seeks to resolve the capacity challenges facing youth and women entrepreneurs. It aims to (i) enhance evidence-based support for women and youth-led interventions; (ii) strengthen human and institutional capacity of women and youth associations for effective participation in Africa's economic transformation; and (iii) to improve

	financing and business development opportunities for women and youth.
African-Finnish Partnerships on Taxation Capacity in Africa	The aim is to strengthen the capacity of selected African governments and pan-African organizations to increase Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) through informed policy-making and effective tax administration
African Union Transformative Climate Finance program	The projects aim at addressing the capacity gaps in climate change adaptation in Africa. Key activities include a Scoping and mapping of green growth landscape in Africa, conducting of a Capacity Needs Assessment and Development of a Capacity Development Program.

### SIERRA LEONE'S CONTRIBUTION TO ACBF

ACBF has benefitted from the regional and global political influence of the Government of Sierra Leone. Since 2007, when it became a shareholder, Sierra Leone has made a cumulative contribution of US\$1.1 million to the financing of the ACBF.

With the support of the Republic of Sierra Leone, ACBF has been able to leverage resources from the international community to support capacity development across Africa and to achieve significant results in support of the continent's development process. Notably, ACBF has been catalyzing change in Africa by investing in capacity development initiatives in the public and private sectors as well as in civil society organizations; providing technical assistance in implementation of capacity development interventions; generating, managing and sharing knowledge on best practices in capacity building and development management.

The Foundation has strengthened public policy across Africa, produced highly skilled public sector economists and managers, strengthened institutions of financial accountability and enhanced the effectiveness of non-state actors. ACBF has also supported the creation of platforms for dialogue on, and coordination in capacity development, supported improvements in trade and regional integration, empowered women and strengthened parliaments.

**Table 3: Republic of Sierra Leone's contributions to ACBF (US\$)**

FINANCING PHASE	PLEDGE	PAYMENTS	OUTSTANDING
SMTP II (2007-2011)	250,000	250,000	
SMTP III (2012-2016)	750,000	750,000	
ACBF STRATEGY 2017-2022	500,000	100,000	400,000
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>

**ACBF SUPPORT TO ETHIOPIA- PROJECT DETAILS**

Project Name	Key objectives/Focus
<b>Capacity Building for The Parliament of Sierra Leone</b>	To strengthen the institutional capacity of Parliament to enable it to provide an environment for effective legislative work. To build Skills of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to enable them to effectively perform their duties. To strengthen Parliamentary Committees to effectively carry out their oversight functions in monitoring reforms and policy implementation. To institutionalize gender integration in parliamentary activities.

## ANNEX 1: SUCCESS STORIES

### ***The support to the Parliament of Sierra Leone contributed significantly in taking Parliament closer to the people***

Until more recently, the institutional capacity of the Sierra Leone Parliament was very weak and fragile. The autonomy of the legislature as a forum of the people's representatives was hardly recognized. With the Executive firmly in control of the allocation of budgetary resources, Parliament was mostly under-resourced and many of its administrative and oversight activities stifled. It was against this backdrop that ACBF was requested to support the Parliament with institutional capacity building program. As a result, a conducive environment for effective legislative work was created and the capacity of Parliamentary Committees was strengthened; enabling them to effectively carry out their oversight functions. Key achievements are as follows:

- a) A revitalized internet facility within Parliament that has tremendously improved research and information sharing. Committee Chairpersons, Clerks and other staff can now meet their research needs and report writing with less difficulty than before. Thus, accessing internet, linking Parliament through a website, posting parliamentary debates and documents on the web bring Parliament closer to the people.
- b) Video image and voice recording CCTV Cameras and Television Screens installation has resulted into enhanced storage and retrieval of parliamentary proceedings in the Chamber, and Members of Parliament (MPs). Being mindful of the improvement in live recording and viewing of parliamentary debates, MPs are now more eager to partake in debates and average attendance has also increased.
- c) Recruitment of new staff has availed new skills set enabling the Management of the Parliament to effectively perform monitoring, evaluation and finance functions. Training and knowledge upgrading have increased skills and performance. Staff and MPs no longer strain to access internet. During parliamentary sittings and debates, it is reported that there is usually an atmosphere of confidence building, which makes MP's to contribute meaningfully to debates, especially on policy issues.

Communication and outreach have somehow increased the level of interaction and engagement with Parliamentary Committees, CSOs, MPs and other stakeholders.

Finally, the ACBF support to capacity building initiatives of the Sierra Leone House of Parliament (SL HOP) has contributed to increased citizens' participation in parliamentary activities and also increased citizens' knowledge of what parliament does and what it does not.

### ***ACBF successfully established a Performing and Sustained Management Unit for Poverty Reduction in Sierra Leone***

For many years, ACBF has been at the forefront of building capacity of Performance Management Units within government Departments and Ministries with the objective of enhancing institutional, program and policy delivery effectiveness. The Poverty Reduction (programs) Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Initiative funded by the ACBF were aimed at improving performance of government Departments and Agencies. In Sierra Leone, ACBF supported the Ministry of Finance and Planning to set up Performance Management Units to monitor and evaluate implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs, which were funded by Partners and the Governments. This was done under a program called Poverty Reduction Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME). ACBF worked with the governments to set up special purpose Units that tracked progress on the ground relating to implementation of the poverty reduction initiatives.

The ACBF intervention enabled the Government of Sierra Leone to collect and review data on implementation of the poverty reduction programs. The Government was able to identify gaps in implementation of the poverty programs. The capacity and policy gaps identified were fed into subsequent programs introduced by the Government.

Key to the success of the PRIME program was the inclusive nature of the program design and implementation. Steering Committees were set up in all the countries that involved key stakeholders such as Statistics Departments, Ministry of Finance, departments responsible for personnel management, Ministries of Local Government, Health, Women and Children Affairs, among others. It was the responsibility of these Steering Committees to oversee

preparation of work plans by the PRIME Secretariats / Units. With the active involvement of key stakeholders in the planning and execution of activities, the PRIME Units were able to roll out the program seamlessly and effectively. At the end of the project funded by the ACBF, the Government decided to mainstream the activities of the PRIME project into the main Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to ensure continuity in collecting, review, analysis and reporting on poverty data in the country.

## ANNEX 2: SELECTED ACBF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BENEFITING SIERRA LEONE

**Table A: Selected knowledge products to support African Union (AU) agenda, policy and development programs where Sierra Leone was covered.**

Year	Type of Knowledge Product	Title/Theme	Coverage for Sierra Leone
2019	Africa Capacity Report 2019	Fostering Transformative Leadership for Africa's Development	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics
2017	Africa Capacity Report 2017	Building Capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa's Transformation	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics
2015	Africa Capacity Report 2015	Capacity Imperatives for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics
2014	Africa Capacity Report 2014	Capacity Imperatives for Regional Integration in Africa	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics
2013	Africa Capacity Report 2013	Capacity Development for Natural Resource Management	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics
2012	Africa Capacity Report 2012	Capacity Development for Agricultural Transformation and Food Security	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics
2011	Africa Capacity Report 2011	Capacity Development in Fragile States	Sierra Leone country Capacity Profile & Compendium of Statistics

**Table B: Selected knowledge sharing events and networking to support African Union (AU) agenda, policy and development programs which Sierra Leone has benefitted from**

Year	Knowledge Event	Title/Theme	Coverage for Sierra Leone	Date and Venue
2018	2018 TTS	<i>Tackling Africa's Youth Unemployment Challenge: Innovative Solutions from the Think Tanks</i>	1 participant from the Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building sponsored to attend (CERCB)	5 - 7 April Accra, Ghana
2018	Fourth Planning Meeting for the African Union Committee of 10 Heads of State Championing Education, Science and Technology in Africa (C10) Conference	<i>Science, Technology and innovation (STI)</i>	1 participant from Njala University sponsored to attend	26 - 27 March Lilongwe, Malawi
2017	2019 Africa Capacity Report Data Collectors' Training Workshop	<i>Fostering Transformative Leadership for Africa's Development</i>	1 data expert hired and sponsored to participate in data collection training workshop	29 May - 1 June

Year	Knowledge Event	Title/Theme	Coverage for Sierra Leone	Date and Venue
				Harare, Zimbabwe
2017	Natural Resources Management for Results Knowledge and Learning Workshop	<i>Natural Resources Management for Results</i>	1 participant from the National Minerals Agency sponsored to attend	27 - 29 April Arusha, Tanzania
2017	2017 Africa Think Tank Summit	<i>African Think Tanks and Industrialization in Africa</i>	1 participant from the Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building (CERCB) sponsored by ACBF to attend	6 - 8 April Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire
2016	2016 AfCoP Annual Forum	<i>Mobilizing Domestic Resources for Africa's Transformation</i>	1 participant from the National CoP sponsored to attend	13 - 15 July Nairobi, Kenya
2016	2016 Africa Think Tank Summit	<i>Creating a Sustainable Future for African Think Tanks in Support of SDGs and Agenda 2063</i>	2 participants sponsored to attend: 1 from Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building and 1 from the Centre for Policy Studies (CEPS)	8 - 10 April Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
2015	2017 Africa Capacity Report Data Collectors' Training Workshop	Building Capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa's Transformation	1 data expert hired and sponsored to participate in data collection training workshop	16-19 November Harare, Zimbabwe
2015	Board of Governors' Meetings	<i>Domestic Resource Mobilization</i>	Director, Centre for Economic Research and Capacity Building- Freetown, Sierra Leone	2 - 4 September, Addis Ababa Ethiopia
2014	2015 Africa Capacity Report Data Collectors Training Workshop	Capacity Imperatives for Domestic Resource Mobilization in Africa	1 data expert hired and sponsored to participate in data collection training workshop	12-15 February Harare, Zimbabwe
2014	2014 Africa Capacity Report Data Collectors' Training Workshop	Capacity Imperatives for Regional Integration in Africa	1 data expert hired and sponsored to participate in data collection training workshop	17-21 October Harare, Zimbabwe
2014	Validation Workshop of the Position Papers on the US-Africa Relations	<i>Validation of Draft position papers on U.S.-Africa relations</i>	1 Lecturer, University of Sierra Leone President, and 1 Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, Sierra Leone	18 - 19 July Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2013	2013 Africa Capacity Report Data collectors training	Capacity Development for Natural Resources Management	1 data expert hired and sponsored to participate in data collection training workshop	8-11 October Harare, Zimbabwe
2013	Africa Capacity Report (ACR) 2013 Launch	<i>Capacity Development for Natural Resources Management</i>	7 students from Sierra Leone studying PSMTSP sponsored to attend	22 March Accra, Ghana

Year	Knowledge Event	Title/Theme	Coverage for Sierra Leone	Date and Venue
2011	2012 Africa Capacity Report Data Collectors' Training Workshop	<i>Capacity Development for Agricultural Transformation and Food Security</i>	1 data expert hired and sponsored to participate in data collection training workshop	13 – 18 June. Harare, Zimbabwe
2010	2011 Africa Capacity Report Data Collection Training Workshop	<i>Capacity Building in Fragile States</i>	1 data expert hired and sponsored to attend training workshop	13 – 16 July Harare, Zimbabwe



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