



ORGANIZATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (OFID)-SIERRA LEONE

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About OfID-SL

Introduction

The Organization for Inclusive Development-Sierra Leone (OfID-SL) is a Social Enterprise and Research-focused organization that promotes and advocates for economic and social justice, inclusivity, Good Governance and Environment protection for all Sierra Leoneans. Our programmes focus on Natural Resource Governance, The Environment, Human Rights, Youth empowerment, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. OfID-SL conducts research; develop programmes and innovative approaches o policies and advocate for transformative development.

Our organization works with communities on a number on initiatives through dialogue and collective actions that complements efforts to address Governance issues, the Environment, Social inequalities, Gender, Youth and livelihoods.

The Organization for Inclusive Development was established on 1st July, 2013 to agitate for a society that can experience comprehensive development that is people-centred whereby the gains in Natural Resource Governance, Environmental protection, Human Rights, Youth empowerment, Gender and livelihood can truly reflect the demographic dividends as a nation.

Our Vision: A Nation where development truly reflects transformation in the lives of all persons in Sierra Leone

And Mission: To serve as an Advocate and Catalyst for a Rights-based and mutually inclusive development in Sierra Leone.

Goal: To be an Agency that contributes to transformative development in A Sierra Leone. OfID-SL aims to be and should always be an organization of excellence that is committed to the empowerment of our communities; an institution of choice to development partners, state and non-state actors.

The Four Core Principles of OfID

1. Transformation
2. Inclusion
3. Fairness
4. Sharing Skills

In Sierra Leone today, regardless the country's acclaimed endowment in natural and human resources, (notably, Diamond, Iron-ore and Rutile and the old glory of being the Athens of West Africa), a lot of rhetoric and convoluted development has been witnessed in past decade (post War and Ebola crisis). Various sources have been quoted suggesting that the Country is growing at a faster pace, with little evidence that translates into personal and national transformation and development.

OfID-SL core Programmes

The Inspiration for setting up this Advocacy organization is to agitate for a Society that can experience comprehensive development, irrespective of Region, Tribe/ethnicity, creed or age. In pursuing that OfID is focussed on the following programmes;

- I. Good Governance and Human Rights,
- II. Gender, Women and Girls Empowerment
- III. Youth and Development
- IV. Environment-friendly and Sustainable livelihood

Main Activities

- (i) Research
- (ii) Advocacy
- (iii) Capacity Development and;
- (iv) Policy Generation

Why our involvement?

The OfID proponents believe that the Participation of people in a consultative manner for informed decision is a strong foundation to economic development. It can serve as a

prospective way to empower poor communities and strengthen the voice of marginalized groups for informed decision-making. But to fulfil these potential, the needs of the people has to be analysed, starting with their very participation at the outset. Considering the fact that communities cannot always be homogenous, there is an extant need for every local development initiative to be designed in a socially inclusive manner – giving voice and decision making responsibility to women, the Disabled, the elderly, youth, and ethnic groups, This will be a conduit to pay attention to issues of social inclusion; where groups of poor people may be excluded and investment choices may not reflect the true needs of the poor, and impacts may be significantly compromised.

To maintain stability and sustainability in the realm of development, there is the extant need to bring all varying needs of the differential persons for national development for the purpose of sustainability. In acknowledgement of the fact that not all development investments may bring direct income and change to every man and woman in our society, alternative and sustainable livelihood initiatives must be undertaken to cater for the well-being of those in need.

Situation Analysis

Looking back at the Country's history it is evident that there has been a travesty of one development after the other. Dating back to the Post-colonial era, it is apparent that Sierra Leone had had no coherent and sustainable development path in the real sense of it. It has pursued one route as dictated by development partners or the other- mostly with the prospect of donor funds. The introduction of the IMF/WB Structural Adjustment Programme (the equivalent of today's austerity measures) did not usher the desired results to the people. Despite the Country's endowment of vast mineral resources, there is very little to show as there is hardly any real development impact on the nation since independence.

In our society where the poor and marginalized groups are the first to bear the brunt of lopsided development and crisis, human rights and good governance are ignored in the exigency of pursuing "development" or in responding to emergencies. Sierra Leone in this century is recording significant growth and some elements of developments, but it is often a question of; at what cost and for whom? Development is a right! In order for it to be sustainable and have far-reaching effect, it must be designed and implemented in a deliberate way that pays attention to the rights of all persons to be affected directly or indirectly.

There should be great strides for gender mainstreaming in every development policy and activity. The state must take necessary actions to empower women and make Gender-Responsive Budgeting as one of the key as one of the tools that will promote gender equity and

equality. It should be a policy of the state and development partners that gender accountability becomes one of the key indicators for accountable and transparent delivery of services.

We will further campaign for a development for economic growth that will preserve our environment and eco-system. The antecedents of a debilitating Climate change is already palpable in our society largely due to human activities fuelled by the search for resources, survival and habitat. A looming environmental degradation is looming with recent activities in the infrastructure and mining sectors. Thus there is every reason to stem the tide of the environment degradation before it reach catastrophic level.

With an uneven share of resources in our society, it is obvious some persons will be marginalized or affected consciously or inadvertently in the development pursuit. To ensure a fair share of resources, the state and non-state actors must regard development as the means to alleviate poverty, bridge the divide and transform lives.

OfID-SL Core Principles

The initiative is borne out of the conviction that there is the need to put expertise together that will address the malaise through advocacy and/ or support the government and development partners' efforts in for transformative development. Thus we believe that for a purpose for any sustainable development the following principles must be the core of it;

- ❖ Good Governance/Human Rights Rights-based Approach are at the core of any development initiative and so should be done in a rights-based manner;
- ❖ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is at the heart of any policy as sustainable development is only possible when men, women, boys and girls have an equal opportunity and platform to participate and reap the benefit of the resources;
- ❖ Environmental considerations are given due diligence in any every activity of state or non-state actors and persons;
- ❖ Sustainable livelihood are provided as alternatives to other investments and economic activities

Approach/Mechanism to achieve our Goal: We believe that the key Driver for reaching our goal of an inclusive and sustainable development in Sierra Leone is a continuous campaign for Accountable and transparent Governance. The economic growth and development mantra would be a mirage if the state is not held accountable for the actions or inactions in pursuing a development agenda. The organization is also a service delivery agency serving as a catalyst for change.

Coverage

OfID-SL has a national character and a nationwide coverage. It is headquartered in Freetown but has implemented several programmes in the field. From 2014-2017, OfID-SL had a Field office in Moyamba, from where it operated in five chiefdoms in the District. OfID-SL has also conducted activities in Western Rural and Kenema Districts.

Partners

OfID-SL has partnered with Action Aid-Sierra Leone, UN Women and Government of Sierra Leone.