



Building the Pathway to Ensure Success in Education

With lessons learnt from the Ebola epidemic and the implementation of the recently concluded President Recovery Priorities (PRP), MEST takes on the task of creating a clear pathway to achieve set educational outcomes.

This commitment has been made evident during the transition phase from PRP to post PRP. The adaptation of coordination activities such as regular meeting cycles were updates are shared and decisions are taken are some of the key drivers that will ensure the achievement of set education outcomes. *Getting it Right through Service Delivery Integrity and learning* is what MEST aim to achieve within its sector by the end of 2020.

Quote of the Month

*Ambition is the path to success
persistence is the vehicle you
arrive in.*

Bill Bradly



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Independent appraisal of the draft 2018-2020 Education Sector Plan (ESP) was conducted from the 12th of June to the 12th of July 2017. The external evaluator in addition to previous assessments, further evaluated the input MEST has made towards the development of its updated sector plan. The assessment came with preliminary findings and recommendations some of which MEST intends to consider in the finalisation of the document.

The month of July 2017, saw the closing ceremony of the Presidential Recovery Priorities (PRP) and the Endorsement of UNICEF as the newly appointed Grant Agent for the Next Round of GPE allocation to the education sector.

The PRP Legacy

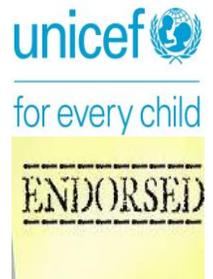
The President's Recovery Priorities represented a multi-sectorial investment approach, led by the Government of Sierra Leone. The programme was focused on delivering priority public services across education, energy, governance, health, private sector development, social protection and water. The PRP has laid a strong foundation for coordination amongst MDAs, Council, development Partners and communities. The programme also strengthened data systems that were used to track 185 indicators from which evidence based decision making were made a legacy that is currently been passed on through the transition period. On the 7th of July 2017, the PRP was officially brought to an end during its closing ceremony at the Hotel Bintumani Conference Center, Aberdeen, Freetown. The occasion was graced by high-powered delegates including His Excellency The President

Dr. Ernest Bai-Koroma, Cabinet Ministers, representatives of Local Government, Paramount Chiefs, Development Partners and representatives from the fourth estate, school and college students as well as the general public. MEST was identified as the best performing ministry under the PRP. Following the closing ceremony was the PRP exhibition which showcased the outcome of work that was done by line ministries during the implementation of the project.

 **UNICEF BECOMES THE GRANT AGENT FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF GPE APPLICATION.** The development of the Updated Education Sector Plan has come with a set of conditionalities that should be met by MEST for it to be in a position to solicit external support in implementing the plan. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) a multilateral development

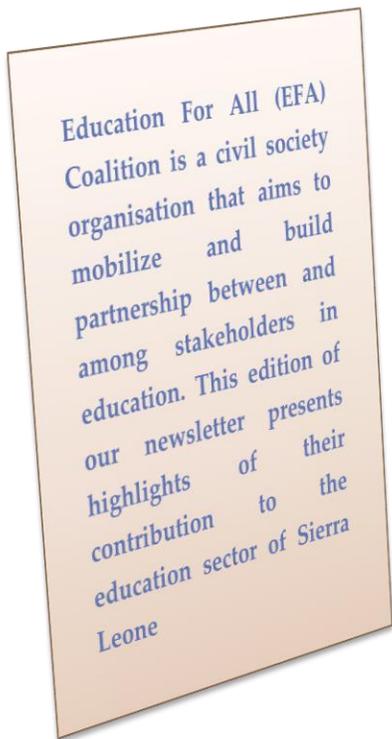
organisation that is committed to supporting the development of education in developing countries, has allocated \$17.2 million to support the development of education in Sierra Leone. This allocation is intended to support the development of education in sierra leone for a period of three years (2018-2020).

One of the criterion for a country to access such funds is the ensure that there is proper utilization and management of such a support. Following this conditionality, a Grant agent has to be appointed and endorsed by the local education group in the country seeking support. An endorsement of the nominated GPE grant agent for the \$17.2 million allocation to Sierra Leone was done during the Education Development Partners Meeting on the 18th of July, 2017. UNICEF was



nominated and endorsed by the EDP as the Grant Agent for the \$17.2 million GPE allocation to Sierra Leone.

Partner Support Profile



Education For All Sierra Leone Coalition (EFA-SL) aims to mobilize and build partnerships between and among all stakeholders in education, including government, to expand and promote a sustainable campaign to achieve Quality Basic Education for All in Sierra Leone. EFA-SL coalition as a Civil Society Organization has contributed in diverse ways in promoting education development in Sierra

Leone through Advocacy and Campaign, Capacity Building of our Networks and education partners and in monitoring effective Service delivery in the Education Sector.

Coalition support to the Education Sector 2016/2017

Among other things and apart from the coalition being a member of the Education Development Partners, our membership have served on different Committees within the Ministry of Education Science and Technology including the support to the Sector Review Process and the drafting process of the Education Sector Plan 2018 - 2020. The coalition participated fully in the Mid Term Review of the Education Sector Plan 2017 as one of the panelist to discuss the findings of the plan in areas of Access, Equity and Completion at the Bintumani Hotel in April. As for capacity enhancement the coalition has conducted trainings in two specific areas for key education stakeholders geared towards improving their monitoring and knowledge base of continental issues and to be



Joseph A Cobina, National Coordinator Education For All Sierra Leone Coalition

abreast with Global focus for the national benefits;

CSOs Coordination

EFA-SL is currently working with other education partners in establishing a CSOs coordination platform in Sierra Leone. The idea to have CSOs coordination assumes that there is no pre-existing coordination mechanism. The CSOs Partners coordination if established will be led by a team of education civil society group drawing support from its membership who will be willing to be involved and at the same time collaborating with the line ministry (The Ministry of Education Science and Technology). The intension is for CSOs/NGOs in the Education Sector to agree on a strategy for coordination and better information sharing because it was revealed that CSOs needed a strong coordinating mechanism to be able to influence education development in Sierra Leone.

Research-EFA-SL has been very vociferous on the issues around education Financing and had over the past years advocated for increase in education budgetary allocation to 20% with a GDP of 6%. The coalition has conducted a study titled Gaps in Education Financing in 2016 and had made series of follow up meetings with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Members of the Parliamentary Committee for Education. The coalition has also initiated a study on Brussels, Belgium, commitments in June 26, 2014. This will be looking at the Global Partnership for Education Replenishment Conference: Commitments on Education by the Government of Sierra Leone to Continue to provide scholarships for girls who sit and pass the national Grade 9 examination, develop and implement a comprehensive policy on the education of children with disabilities, further strengthen teaching and learning and allocate additional resources to

capacity and systems development.
Advocacy and Campaign
Community dialogue meetings on Education rights in the 14 districts, Campaign on teen age mothers back to school, Media engagement-Radio, TV shows, Newsletter and jingles on Rights framework: access, retention completion and emerging issues, Developed and disseminated IEC materials on Education Financing in and Rights based approach to Education, Community dialogue meeting with Mothers Clubs, School Management Committee (SMCs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWC) on teenage pregnant girls, School visitation by CWCs, Mothers Club, SMCs and Role Models on Teenage age pregnancy, sex education, access, retention and completion of school.
Summary of Plans EFA-SL Coalition
Raise awareness on the SD4, Education 2030 and the Continental strategy for

Africa and to follow on how Sierra Leone is progressing with the new benchmarks, targets and indicators
Study in-depth on Privatization of the Education sector and engage on findings for the structured dialogue with duty bearers on the issues raised
changes on teachers management issues in Sierra Leone and provide progress on update of teacher management
Follow up on the GPE Replenishment and the implementation of the ESP 2018-2020

Our Next publication will present highlights of support given to the education sector by the Global Partnership For Education (GPE).

*Our dedicated phone lines for partners support:
076490260/ 076635604*

Thanks

