

SIERRA LEONE COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT II PROJECT

Measured Works of Quick-Wins Projects in Port Loko, Karena and Tonkolili Districts Wednesday 18th – Saturday 21st April, 2018

1.0 Background

The Sierra Leone Community Driven Development (SLCDD) Project Phase II, “GIETRENK”, is funded by the International Development Bank (IDB) with an amount of USD 46.68 million and the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) contributing USD 5.25 making a total of USD 51.93. The project is implemented by NaCSA. The project aims to reduce poverty and attain sustainable improvement in the well-being of some sections of the Sierra Leone population by providing them with access to socio-economic opportunities and capacity building. Implementation is currently on-going in seven chiefdom headquarter towns with hub-village and section capitals or headquarter towns that constitute the network of satellite villages, namely: Lower Bambara (Kenema District), Dibia and BKM (Port Loko District), Kholifa Mabang and Kunike Sanda (Tonkolili District), Bagruwa and Ribbi (Moyamba District).

The roll-out of the 21 Quick Win Sub-Projects in the various RGP Chiefdoms and signing of the contracts was done in late January 2018. This was followed by advance payment of 20% in mid-February 2018, following which construction work has started in all the sites.

As a result of the advance payment and signing of the contracts in mid-February 2018, a field mission to cover Dibia and BKM (Port Loko District), Kholifa Mabang and Kunike Sanda (Tonkolili District) was undertaken from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st April, 2018 to the construction sites in the Port Loko, Karena and Tonkolili Districts to determine the precise nature of progress achieved to date.

1.1 Objectives of the Exercise

The main objective of the field mission was to monitor, supervise and conduct measured works on the on-going 12 Quick Win Sub-Projects in three (3) RGP Chiefdoms (Hubs) in Port Loko, Karena and Tonkolili that were visited, with participation of key stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the site visits were to:

- Monitor and supervise the on-going 12 Quick Win Sub-Projects in the three (3) RGP chiefdoms
- Conduct or review measured works for payment of the second 20% of contract cost
- Provide corrections and measured solutions where needed
- Discuss with the contractors ‘ work plans and progress of work at each project site

- Resolve emerging construction issues at site (from construction materials, safety and security to specifications)
- Monitor disbursement from the CMC accounts
- Take pictures to support certificate of payment qualified contractors and for reporting
- Update CMCs about the land agreements for 21 Quick Win Sub-Projects

1.2 Team Composition

The Field Mission was undertaken by a Joint Team comprising the Core Team from NaCSA Headquarters including the Senior Director Programmes (SDP), Project Manager (PM) SLCDDII, KFW Engineer, Acting Project Manager, M&E Officer and the Mission Driver. There was also the District Team including some Staff of Port Loko and Tonkolili Districts – District Coordinators (DCs), Hub Bases Specialists (HBS’), Clerk of Works (COW’s), Community-Based Facilitators (CBF’s), Community Management Committees (CMCs), some Contractors and some Site Supervisors.

1.3 Pattern of Consultations Adopted During Exercise

The same pattern of consultation was adopted in all project sites visited.

On arrival at the various sites, a short meeting is convened by the PM SLCDD II (15 - 30 minutes) with all stakeholders of the projects explaining modalities particularly to the CMCs and the project contractors. The discussions included the following;

- First 20% were given to all contractors between end of January and 15th February
- The first 20% is for both foundation and window level work
- The second 20% to cover work up to lintel level
- The third 20% to cover the plastering and roofing aspect of the work
- The fourth 20% to take care of the finishing aspect – plumbing, electrical, painting, etc.
- The last 20% is shared in two halves; the first half is given to the contractor for decoration and the balance 10% is held by NaCSA for up to 6 months for cracks or other faults that might arise. If no faults the balance 10% is returned back to the contractor.

2.0 Findings/Observations Common to all 12 Quick Win Projects

- No visible sign boards showing donors name/implementing body contracting body, etc., were seen in all 12 project sites (Community Health Posts, Primary Schools and Junior and Senior Secondary Schools)

- Sign posts displaying entry requirement to visitors on site were missing in all the project sites.
- A visitor's registration book was presented to mission team by construction team to the mission team at all 12 project sites visited;
- Local youths and men from the various project communities formed part of the casual labor force and in a few locations, skilled workers. They accounted for between 55 – 64% of the total work force in the various sites.
- All contractors for the 12 Quick Win Projects had in February received the first 20% of the contract fee.
- Construction work has started in all 12 Quick Wins Project in the 5 Chiefdoms in the Districts of Port Loko and Tonkolili, though at various levels of construction work.
- Women were also included in the workforce as casual workers, mainly for fetching water, in 11 out of the 12 project sites in the various communities.
- The Chief, the CMCs and other community stakeholders in the chiefdoms of project implementation are all aware of the role of NaCSA as the institution implementing and monitoring the projects on behalf of the GoSL.
- The community stakeholders are all very much enthusiastic about these Quick Win Sub-Projects being implemented in their localities. As a result all the CMCs show a great deal of commitment and dynamism towards monitoring of the projects which they do on a daily basis even for the few projects who are slow in their implementation of their work.
- Stakeholders at the various sites reiterated that the building of the schools will not only reduce overcrowding but will provide a conducive learning atmosphere for the kids.

2.1 Specific Findings of the Exercise

2.1.1 Port Loko District – BKM Chiefdom

- Two (2) Projects – Mange Morie Community Health Post (CHP) plus Staff Quarters and the Mange Morie Primary School plus Head Master's Quarters at Mange Morie Section, Mange Bureh, BKM Chiefdom have all reached lintel height. The two contractors Messrs. CIS Construction (whose Manager is a woman) and Messrs. PENDAR Investment are involved in very impressive work in this chiefdom.
- Construction of Rogbinthon Primary School is still at the foundation level. It was understood that the Contractor, Messrs. Maksam Construction, rarely visit the project site and was last seen there in early March. Other challenges included – lack of materials – no cement; no backfill for the foundation; not enough sand and granite; the dirt has not been compacted well which will cause cracks and breakages; the staff complained of late payment of wages. Only 3 bags of cement and 1 ton iron rod were seen at the site.

It was rumored by a sub-contractor that the main contractor has gone to India which is why the work has stopped.

- The sub-contractor for the Rogbinthon Primary School, Maksam Construction Company has done a very neat and professional job with concrete mixer; other building equipment, a very big generator etc. were seen on the site at the time of visit.
- The Rogbinthon Primary school when completed will serve 10 villages the farthest village at a distance between 2-3 miles.
- The school will also help to reduce overcrowding of the old school structure.
- Construction work of CHP and 2 staff quarters at Kagbanthama was allocated to YEASU Investment who subcontracted Sheriff Kamara to undertake the work.
- This new structure will replace the dilapidated 1 room PHU where one classroom is used for two different classes
- Work has started and looks very neat and sober; Sheriff brought machines such as concrete mixer, block maker, etc. and a big generator and also skilled staff; he also on his own bought 12 trip sand and lights the generator on his own account.
- Work has stopped as no money was remitted into sub-contractors account after the first 20% payment was paid directly into Primary Contractor's account.

2.1.2 Dibia Chiefdom, Masorie Area – Karena District

- The Double Effort Construction Company is constructing the of Gbinti Junior Secondary School; the structure is still at the foundation level; when completed, it will complement the old school and reduce overcrowding of the classes which hosts up to 55 students presently.
- The Contractor blamed the elections for the slowness of the work.
- The school when completed will cater for also for students in the surrounding villages who are mostly sent away due to lack of space.

2.1.3 Gbinti Community Primary School

- Abbrist Construction and General Supplies Company presently working on the Sub-structure as foundation already completed. This structure is to complement the old school structure.
- The site however has 32 (12 skilled, 10 casual workers and 10 women), which is a relatively good number of workers.

3.0 Tonkolili District – Kunike Sander Chiefdom

3.1 Tonkolili District Primary School –

- Wall block (almost wall height) reached.
- At the foundation stage, up to 38 (31 men, 7 women) workers were used; currently, 24 workers are on site (19 men, 5 women).
- School currently used is not a proper school structure but a dwelling house and not spacious.
Safety gears

3.2 Maranatha Junior Secondary School – Jamar Construction and Trading Enterprise

- Construction work is at foundation level
- Land terrain very steep; leveling of the site to a flat land resulted in the use of much more material as the height came up to over 4ft resulting in the use of a lot of materials – cement, sand, stones, etc.
- Out of 31 workers in the site, only 8 (26%) had helmets and other protective gears
- No First Aid kits available on site; in the event of accident the local clinic is used

3.3 Petifu Line Primary School – Albenty Construction

- Very impressive (neat work) piece of work done here
- 6 classroom building and staff quarter has reached window height level
- Block work done by machine elsewhere; concrete mixer, generator etc. present on site
- 22 workers (10 skilled, 12 manual workers) seen on the site
- 13 (59%) of the workers had proper safety gears on (rubber boots, helmets, gloves, highlighter jackets)
- No women involved in the work; women were involved in the early stages of the work but now are busy with farm work

3.4 Komrabai Primary School – Bassion Construction Company

- The Contractor of Bassion Construction seldomly visits the work site, according to both NaCSA staff and the CMCs.
- Six (6) classrooms to be built; work pace very slow, still at foundation level, the least of all the Quick Win Projects in Port Loko and Tonkolili Districts
- The contractor Musa Kamara was present at the site at the time of visit; he was chastised by the PM SLCDD II and would receive a warning letter. Musa Kamara apologized about his attitude and promised to work harder to make up for time lost
- Few workers seen with protective gears – only 2 (13%) out of 15 workers had protective gears on

3.5 Mabang Junior Secondary School – Khallam Engineering Construction Services

- Construction work on a 7 classroom structure still at foundation level; construction is far behind schedule, even though funds were received in February 2018
- Contractor only been at the site once according to the CMCs; site supervisor is the one carrying conducting work on site
- Workers complained of delayed payment for work done
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3.6 Mathinka Lol Community Health Post – Sanu Construction Company

- Work is here is the most impressive of all Quick Win Projects visited as it had far exceeded the expected level
- All four (4) structures (1 CHC, 2 staff quarters and 1 mortuary) have all reached roofing level as roofing started already
- 28 (80%) of the 35 workers are from the community, leaving only 7 (20%) workers from outside
- Both the CMCs and the contractor are in very good terms; the NaCSA CBF is said to be very a very active and vibrant person.

Table 1: Tabular Presentation of Summary of Findings

| District | Chiefdom | Community | Name of Project | Status of work | Name of Contractor | Comments/Challenges |
|-----------|----------|-------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Port Loko | BKM | Mange Morie | Construction of community Health Post (CHP) plus Staff Quarters | Reached lintel height | Messrs. CIS Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work speed good as 2 of the three structures (CHP & staff quarter) have reached lintel height • One of the few contractors who did not request for the first 20%; Look forward to first and second payments |
| District | BKM | Mange Morie | Construction of primary School plus Head Master's Quarters | Reached lintel height | Messrs. PENDAR Investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work neatly done, both structures already reached roofing level - very impressive in terms of speed also |

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|-----------|--------------|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| | BKM | Rogbinthon | Construction of Primary School | Foundation level | Messrs. Maksam Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irregular visit of the contractor on site Lack of industrial and local materials on site Earth in the foundation not compacted well, which will lead to cracks Late payment of wages to labour force |
| | BKM | Kagbanthama | Construction work of CHP and 2 staff quarters | Work has started and looks very neat and sober | YEASU Investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has stopped as no money was remitted into sub-contractors account after the first 20% payment was paid directly into Primary Contractor's account. |
| Karene | Dibia | Gbinti | Construction of Gbinti Junior Secondary School | Structure is still at the foundation level | Double Effort Construction Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work started late, therefore behind schedule The Contractor blamed the elections for the slowness of the work |
| | Dibia | Gbinti | Construction of Gbinti Community Primary School | Structure at foundation level | Abbrist Construction and General Supplies Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work done not commensurate to expectation of stipulated SLCDD' II projects guidelines |
| Tonkolili | Kunike Sanda | | Construction of Tonkolili District Primary School | Wall block height reached | | |
| | Kunike Sanda | Maranatha | Construction of Maranatha Junior Secondary School | Construction work is at foundation level | Jamar Construction and Trading Enterprise | Land terrain very steep; leveling of the site to a flat land resulted in the use of much more material as the height came up to over 4ft resulting in the use of a lot |

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|--------------|--------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | of materials – cement, sand, stones, etc. |
| Kunike Sanda | Petifu Line | Construction of 6 classrooms and staff quarters – Petifu Line Primary School | Reached window height level | Albenty Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work done commensurate to expectation of SLCDD'II projects guidelines | |
| Kunike Sanda | Komrabai | Construction of 6 classrooms primary school building | Work pace very slow, still at foundation level | Bassion Construction Company | The Contractor of Bassion Construction seldom visits the work site | |
| Kunike Sanda | Mabang | Construction of a 7 classrooms Junior Secondary School | Work is at foundation level | Khallam Engineering Construction Services | Contractor only been at the site once according to the CMCs; site supervisor is the one carrying conducting work on site | |
| Kunike Sanda | Mathinka Lol | Construction of a Community Health Post | All four (4) structures (1 CHC, 2 staff quarters and 1 mortuary) have all reached roofing level as roofing started already | Sanu Construction Company | Most outstanding contractor of all the Quick Win Sub-Projects in the Port Loko and Tonkolili Districts | |

