

Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD)

ANNUAL REPORT (January - December 2004)

Introduction

The programmes of the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) were being promoted at both the national and community levels. At the community level, the programmes were geared towards building the capacity of people in NMJD's operational areas through training, support to agricultural and income generation activities as well as the promotion of adult literacy and community development programmes. The national programmes were generally designed to facilitate the establishment and strengthening of civil society advocacy coalitions/networks across the country. These networks/coalitions were supported with the necessary training and skills that would make their work effective and relevant to issues of governance, accountability and socio-economic justice.

General Operational Objectives

- To establish functioning community development structures that will spearhead development initiatives in NMJD operational areas

- To establish and strengthen civil society coalitions/networks at district level on the national budgetary processes
- To establish independent civil society monitoring structures to enhance government accountability and transparency
- To sensitize civil society on the SLPRSP process and build their capacity with training to maximize their participation in the process
- To encourage and support civil society groups to advocate for government's equitable distribution of national resources and to ensure just mining.
- To ensure the existence of community associations/coalitions undertaking advocacy campaign on issues of trade, good governance and democracy, gender and human rights, at community and national levels.
- To develop and enhance the creation of community economic capital base.
- To intensify the practice of alternative dispute or conflict resolution mechanisms in all NMJD operational areas.
- To stimulate and support the review, formulation and implementation of pro-poor policies in order to ensure a favourable investment climate in agriculture, mining and trade and the environment.
- To ensure the existence of youth coalitions for advocacy, promotion of awareness and response to HIV/AIDS prevention.
- To integrate and mainstream gender justice and human rights principles into families and traditional community structures in NMJD operational areas.
- To ensure effective coordination of all programmes
- To facilitate the recruitment and deployment of staff, timely financial allocation of funds and accountability.
- To promote and ensure the implementation of NMJD policies on the general operations and implementation of programmes and project activities.
- To facilitate collaborative linkages through networking and partnering for advocacy in promoting and addressing national developmental issues

- To promote the use of participatory tools in advocacy and community development.
- To facilitate the rehabilitation and construction of community infrastructure in NMJD operational areas.
- To facilitate and develop effective coordination, monitoring, reporting and information dissemination mechanisms at community and national levels, on national and international economic, social and political policies.
- To motivate members of staff in order to enhance effective and efficient output to meet set targets.

Specific Objectives

- To sensitize and facilitate the establishment of community structures (human rights, gender, PRSP/HIPC, budget and just mining advocacy groups, network of peace promoters, professional community associations) for advocacy on human rights, democracy, gender and economic justice issues
- To train and support community groups, women and youths on entrepreneurial skills development, democracy, human rights principles, basic legal education, community development, advocacy and lobbying skills
- To ensure the provision of legal aid/representations for marginalized women and children in NMJD operational areas
- To facilitate consultations, information sharing and public debates, document and publish information on national and international governance, policy and human rights (budget, mining, PRSP, HIPC, NEPAD and trade)
- To research and develop resource materials on gender, democracy, human rights, especially economic rights, governance, NEPAD, national budget, HIPC, HIV/AIDS and PRSP

- To mobilize local and international resources for the rehabilitation and construction of schools, grain stores, drying floors, community peace centres, latrines, water wells, recreational, counseling and rehabilitation centres
- To facilitate and improve on existing human resource base through training, exchange programmes, seminars, conferences and symposia
- To facilitate planning sessions (staff sessions, planning, team general assembly, Board of advisors, strategic planning meetings) and assess the implementation of programmes.

Overview of Outcomes of Activities Undertaken

The activities undertaken by NMJD either singly or through coalitions and networks during the period under review have contributed to a general improvement in governance and livelihoods of communities in operational areas and to building the capacity of civil society through training and support to community projects. Furthermore, these activities have made, for the first time, the World Bank to react to and take an encouraging stance on issues raised by a local advocacy group.

NMJD supported farming communities in (their) operational areas/chiefdoms across the country with IVS seed rice, Upland seed rice, groundnut seeds and assorted farming tools and implements. Various groups were also supported to undertake vegetable gardening. The vegetable gardens have been harvested with part of the harvest used for food and the other part sold to generate income to address other equally pressing family needs. This provided a temporary relief for the beneficiary communities whose traditional earning capacity cannot cope with the unprecedented high cost of living in the country. The successful harvest was also made possible by specially designed training sessions on modern tropical agricultural skills organized for these communities.

Also, NMJD through the several civil society Task Teams formed in the regions and districts greatly enhanced the participation of all sectors of society across the country in the formulation of the PRSP. In each region a "Focal Organization" and Contact Person were chosen based on a set of criteria collectively developed, which, among other things, must have a wealth of experience working at grassroots level. The regional focal points in concert with the PRSP Animators supervised the formation of District Task Teams (all inclusive and gender sensitive) and coordinate their activities/programmes.

The DTTs in turn are responsible, with support from NMJD, to sensitize their communities and set up chiefdom level Task Teams. Women actively participated in the activities of Task Teams in their areas and in national programmes. In fact, some District Task Teams like Tonkolili and Bo districts are headed by women

Furthermore, as a result of the trainings organized for civil society groups on budgetary processes and advocacy, independent civil society groups have sprung up to monitor the implementation of some of the public-funded projects across the country. These groups have proved to be effective in Kambia and Lunsar in the Northern Province and Kono in the Eastern Province. In Kambia, the group monitored scrupulously the construction of the District Hospital to ensure the funds provided for the project were used judiciously. This met serious resistance from government functionaries and the contractor who believed the group was overstepping its limit. But the group stood its ground, and today, Kambia boasts of having the best hospital buildings in the whole country. Youths in Lunsar also took a similar stance in the construction of a junior secondary school in the township. Civil society groups in Kono and other parts of the country have also started the monitoring of the implementation of public-funded (especially HIPC-funded)

projects in their communities. Regular meetings and information sharing among coalition members/civil society groups further enhanced this.

The Local Council elections were held across the country despite the lack of interest on the part of the general populace at the beginning of the process due to several factors, key among them was the rapid economic decline of the people. With support from the UNDP, NMJD and other organizations undertook robust sensitization and education programmes across the country to ensure the active participation of all Sierra Leoneans in the electoral process. The programme started with the development and production of local government manuals, followed by sensitization and dissemination of the manuals.

NMJD was the lead implementing partner in Kono, Bo, Bonthe and Pujehun districts. In all, 120 ward leaders and 881 Civic Education Facilitators (CEFs) in the four districts were trained who in turn trained a critical mass of about 300,000 people. One of the principal considerations in selecting ward leaders and CEFs was that 50% of the ward leaders should be women and 30% of the CEFs should be women also. Even though this was not fully achieved, women were in reasonable numbers.

NMJD have also effectively and successfully mobilized civil society and affected communities in Kono to challenge the inhuman treatment and impunity of the Koidu Holdings SA Ltd who began blasting of the Koidu Kimberlite pipe in November last year. The KHL carried out their operations with no regard to the welfare and human rights of the people as well as to national laws and international mining and environmental standards. This is causing a lot of suffering, and further impoverished the affected communities.

The government, who has a constitutional mandate to protect and seek the welfare of the people at all times, pitched tent with KHL at the dismay and disappointment of the people. Through a series of well-designed programmes aimed at educating and sensitizing the people about the policies relating to mining and the environment as well as the impact of mining on their livelihoods, the people organized themselves into formidable advocacy groups to challenge the excesses of the company. Despite the crude tactics of intimidation, harassment and threats employed by the government to frighten advocates away from the issue, the campaign continued to gain momentum to the extent that Miga (World Bank) had to refuse the political risk insurance of KHL. The main purpose for taking this stance was to force KHL to respond satisfactorily to the allegations levied against them by NMJD and Campaign for Just Mining.

The activities undertaken within the period under review also contributed to the recognition in some operational communities such as Bumpe Ngao and Semabu Folobu of the right of women to family property. In Bumpe Ngao, a woman called Komeh Gbondo was finally allowed access to her family land, which was denied her for a very long time, while at Semabu Folobu a woman was elected to head the Village Development Committee and she is enjoying the cooperation of her male folks.

Achievements of Activities Undertaken

As a result of the organization's intervention, farming communities in operational areas were able to increase their acreage in both In-Valley Swamp and Upland rice farming.

Over 300 people in operation communities in the South and Eastern Provinces attended on diverse dates and places Community Peace Sessions and adult literacy

programmes. In Gorama Kono, Small Bo and Nongowa communities, 161 people participated in these sessions, 91 of them were women, while 150 beneficiaries participated in Kakua and Bumpe Ngao. One of the results of these activities was the emergence of action groups to address issues that normally lead to conflicts as well as human rights-related issues such as wife beating and other forms of domestic violence. Human rights clubs were established in secondary schools in Bo and Kenema Townships and they are very much effective in disseminating and educating school-going children about peace and human rights issues.

NMJD successfully carried out a baseline survey in Kenema, Kono and Kailahun districts so as to create a database of youth organizations in the Eastern region. The organization also organized and successfully hosted the first national meeting of youth serving agencies in Kenema. The meeting, which was attended by 25 youth serving agencies from across the country, among other things, mapped out strategies for the successful implementation of the youth coalition activities at national level. The Youth Against Aids (YAA) project has succeeded in increasing the awareness level of youths in Kenema district about HIV/AIDS. The effectiveness of this project lies on the fact that it is youths that engage and communicate to their peers. This success is evidenced by the number of youths (40 peer educators) that go to night clubs and other entertainment centres to engage commercial sex workers and to talk to them against unsafe sex.

Another achievement scored by NMJD within the period under review was the refusal by the World Bank Multilateral Investment Agreement (MIGA) to grant Koidu Holdings SA Limited's political risk insurance. This action came as a result of the consistent pressure from the civil society whose protestation, though discountenanced by the powers-that-be in the country, was heard loud and clear by the international community.

It is also worth mentioning that the establishment of functional civil society task teams at district and community levels has greatly enhanced the easy and quick flow of information between and among civil society groups and has placed NMJD in a good stead to bring together civil society across the country at even very short notices. For instance, the organization was instrumental in organizing regional and district consultations for PASCO on the pillars of the PRSP, civic engagement on the PRSP spearheaded by Action Aid - Sierra Leone and a sub-regional economic justice advocacy training workshop for Trocaire Ireland in Bo. The latter brought participants from Liberia, and it was the beginning of a process to establish a Mano River Union advocacy forum on economic justice issues.

The period under review also saw the organization increasing their staff strength to a total of 64. The growing volume of work that usually characterizes a country emerging from a devastating war necessitated this increase. Among the newly recruited staff are six PRSP animators, four youth animators, five community animators, two finance officers and 17 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence staff (a specialized project supported by UNHCR resulting from the Gender Advocacy Programme of NMJD). There are also a host of volunteers attached to the various programmes of the organization, among them are agricultural field supervisors, finance clerks, peace promoters, paralegals and adult literacy facilitators.

Impacts of Activities Undertaken

1. There is a drastic reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers by farming associations in NMJD operational areas thus equally reducing the cost of farming. This is made possible by training workshops organized for farmers in modern tropical agricultural skills and in the use of compost manure. The reduction in the cost of production has encouraged some farming

- associations in Semabu Folobu and Gbotima in Bumpeh Gao chiefdom, Tegroma in Nongowa chiefdom, Gelehun in Small Bo chiefdom and Tikonko in Gorama Kono chiefdom to use proceeds from their harvests to support other farming associations in other communities with seed rice.
2. A good number of structures that will promote continuity and sustainability of project activities as well as good governance at the community level now exist in targeted NMJD operational communities. These structures include Village Development Committees, Peace Promoters, Human Rights and Gender Activists Groups, Paralegals, Task Forces on Campaign for Just Mining, Task Teams on the PRSP/HIPC, Youths Against HIV/AIDS, School Peace and Human Rights Clubs, Adult Literacy Management Committees and Gender-Based Violence Steering Committees.
 3. Heightened HIV/AIDS awareness has led to a decrease in denial of HIV/AIDS and the de-stigmatization of condoms as evidenced by the increase in demand and use of condoms.
 4. There is improved sanitary practice in communities where latrines have been constructed and beneficiaries trained on their proper use as evidenced by the reduction in the use of rivers and bushes as toilets. These communities include Dassamu, Semabu Folobu, Ngieya, Vulahun and Kortumahun in the Bumpeh Gao chiefdom, and Bunabu, Tikonko and Njagbema in the Gorama Kono chiefdom.
 5. Heightened awareness of beneficiary groups (students inclusive) on human rights issues. This has led to the emergence of functional groups at community level that are advocating on issues of household injustice, property ownership, court fines, etc. One community chief succinctly puts it thus: "We are gradually being pushed out of our jobs and means of income by the growing influence of peace promoters and human rights activists. I

only hope there would be an alternative to let us have hold on and control over our subjects.”

6. NMJD has gained respect and recognition for its mode of operations and the achievements it has made in the areas of community mobilization and empowerment as evidenced by the following awards and feedback from the wider community:

- The Best National NGO in the Southern Region awarded by SLBS 96.5 FM in Bo
- The Best Implementing Partner of UNHCR awarded at a ceremony organized by the Camp Management of Tobanda-Lutheran World Federation.
- The successful completion of the construction of the Bo office in the Southern region has endeared the organization to beneficiaries and other stakeholders who now see it as not just a fry in the pan, but something that has come to stay
- NMJD is receiving several requests for affiliation and partnership from various community-based, youth and other organizations like CARE International's "*le wi lar*" and "*my brother's keeper*" projects. UNHCR has also requested NMJD to expand its Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Programme to all refugee camps and host communities in the country.

7. Increased knowledge and awareness of targeted communities about the budgetary processes and the role of civil society in the formulation and implementation of national and local government budgets. This has resulted in some communities in Bo district such as Baoma to engage their councilors so as to ensure that their development needs are factored into the budget.

8. Awareness on the rights of children to education has increased in some communities and among school-going children, especially girls. For example,

in Dassamu, the enrolment of pupils increased from 96 in 2003 to 160 in 2004; in Bellor community, the enrolment increased from 94 in 2003 to 140 in 2004. The School Peace and Human Rights Club in Bo Government Secondary School, through sensitization and peace sessions, has helped to reduce the level of inhuman treatment meted on new students during drilling exercises. This is evidenced by the drastic drop in the number of reported cases of injuries received by the school administration.

9. The School Peace and Human Rights Clubs initiative has been replicated in some schools in the Kenema Township.
10. In the area of collaborative linkages and partnering, NMJD has been able to work with other like-minded organizations to initiate and facilitate the re-organization of civil society structures and engagement process resulting in the establishment of the Civil Society Alternative Process (CSAP). The emergence of CSAP has thus created new opportunities for civil society to be more pro-active in their engagement on national and regional issues.

Even though CSAP is still in its embryonic stage, it is now enjoying a good deal of recognition and support among civil society groups and government departments and agencies. During the National Consultative Forum held in September, CSAP was given a nod of approval by a cross-section of the international community and diplomatic corps in Freetown as well as government agencies such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, Poverty Alleviation Strategy Coordinating Office, SAPA/NaCCA, etc. For instance, CSAP has had two policy dialogue meetings with PASCO with regards the formulation of the SLPRSP. Through CSAP also, the civil society has been able to contribute to the final stages in the formulation of the SLPRSP and such contributions have been highly commended by PASCO as relevant and critical to the overall success of the process.

Also, the recognition and acceptability of CSAP as an alternative process was evidenced by the invitation to participate in the First West Africa Social Forum meeting held in country, Guinea. The successful and impressive way CSAP members acquitted themselves in Guinea led to their invitation to participate in the World Social Forum slated for January 2005 in Brazil. Meanwhile, some organizations at home and abroad have such as Trocaire Ireland, Action Aid International have consented to support the participation of some CSAP members.

11. The involvement of NMJD in facilitating civil society engagement on the SL-PRSP process has greatly contributed to building and strengthening capacity of civil society organizations such as Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CDHR) to enable them mainstream the PRSP into their project/programme activities. Further to this, there is greater citizenry participation in the SL-PRSP process as evidenced by the rich contributions made by the public in identifying/highlighting gaps and weak areas in the implementation of the I-PRSP/HIPC Initiative so as to make some improvement on the SL-PRSP. This engagement has equally facilitated dialogue and engagement of civil society with Parliament.
12. NMJD is a core partner on the Special Court-Civil Society Interactive Forum. Its position on the Forum created/provided the environment for the organization's engagement and contribution in the planning and organization of the War Victim Commemoration Initiative. It is also recognized by the Special Court Outreach Unit for its efficiency and commitment on its public education outreach agreement that is being undertaken in the Western Area and Kono district.

Further more, NMJD was one of the few organizations called upon by the Special Court to work in developing and addressing the legacy issues of the

Special Court for Sierra Leone. In recognition of its work, NMJD has been honoured with key positions by several organizations and coalitions:

- Chair of the National Forum for Human Rights
- Chair of the National Collaborative Peace Network of Sierra Leone
- Panelist on the SGBV-BBC Discussion Forum
- Member of the Management Committee of the Mano River Union Peace Forum
- Member of the Community-Police Partnership Board in the Eastern Region
- Chair of the GBV Steering Committee in the Southern Region
- Member of the GBV Steering Committee in the Eastern Region
- Member of the Youth and Food Security Committees in the Eastern Region
- Member of the Kenema District Budget Oversight Committee
- Member of the Approval Committee of NaCSA

13. There is an increased level of interfacing/dialogue between policy/lawmakers and ordinary citizens. This is evidenced by the regular Parliamentary briefing sessions on the SLPRSP/HIPC and the frequency of meetings held with PASCO and Ministry of Finance. This in turn has led to an increased level of citizens interest in the policy process and they (civil society) are now making demands for their views to be reflected in policies that affect their lives eg the physically challenged.

14. NMJD's HIV/AIDS interventions, using participatory methodologies (games for life, debates, drama and quiz competitions and peer education), have seen beneficiaries/targeted communities coming out openly to confess their change of behaviour, attitude and perceptions about HIV/AIDS.

15. As a result of NMJD's youth empowerment activities, youths are now attracting other agencies that are now providing project support for youth

- initiatives on national issues. Such agencies include, UNAMSIL DDR, UNDP, Girls OFF the Street Project and UNAMSIL Peace Training and Peace Jamboree.
16. In collaboration with the Gender and Children's Affairs Ministry and other gender-focused organizations, there has been increased awareness on gender inequalities in the laws of Sierra Leone. This led to concerted and sustained advocacy resulting in the production of a "Women's Agenda" document for the Law Reform Commission.
 17. A positive transformation of attitudes towards women holding leadership positions has taken place in most NMJD operational communities as evidenced by the increased number of women now occupying leadership positions, especially in the refugee camps. For example, there are three camp chairladies, eight chairpersons for the GBV Committees and eight women counselors in the Southern Region.
 18. Increased level of men's involvement in gender justice work in all NMJD's operational communities. This is demonstrated by the formation of men's action groups against GBV in these communities. This engagement has helped men to deconstruct their masculinity that always leads to violence.
 19. The relationship between community members, especially youths and local authorities has greatly improved through NMJD's intervention in the use of Conflict Transformation tools e.g. mapping attitude behaviour context, ABC triangle, onion, pyramid and youth seminars on emerging issues as evidenced by the reduction in the levying of heavy fines. And since the levying of heavy fines has always been one of the causes for the mass exodus of especially youths, a good number of them now stay in their communities to undertake community development activities.

Programmes and Projects Carried Out

The organization carried out several activities in the first half of the year under its traditional programmes - Economic Justice, Youth Empowerment, Human Rights Advocacy, Gender Advocacy, Culture of Peace, Community Development and Rehabilitation, Participatory Development Approaches and Communication and Documentation. In addition to the above, several other activities were also implemented at both community and national levels through projects initiated and supported by NMJD. These programmes and projects created space and enhanced collaboration and coalition building among civil society groups and communities. The key programmes and projects are:

1. Economic Justice Programme

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
- Budget Monitoring and Advocacy
- Campaign for Just Mining
- Annual Diamond Sector Review

2. Human Rights Advocacy Programme

- Human Rights Education
- Access to Justice

3. Gender Advocacy Programme

- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response Project
- Gender Awareness Training and Mainstreaming

4. Training and Culture of Peace Programme

- Adult Literacy using REFLECT methodologies
- Conflict Transformation

5. Community Development Programme

- Water and Sanitation project
- Shelter/Construction
- Support to Agricultural Activities
- Rights Enhanced through Agricultural Production

6. Communication and Documentation Programme

- Eastern Community Radio
- Publications

7. Youth Empowerment Programme

- HIV/AIDS Education for Prevention
- Youth Coalition Building for Advocacy
- Youth Animation

8. Emergent Projects/Programmes

- Civic Engagement on the PRSP
- Civic Education on Decentralization and Local Governance
- Civil Society Alternative Process
- Consultancy Services with CARE International, Methodist Church Sierra Leone, Special Court, etc.

Coordination and Administrative Issues

The Area Teams continue to enjoy semi-autonomous status that the decentralization of the organization conferred on them. Area Teams are at liberty to develop programme activities for their respective areas within the general objectives of the organization and the three-year Strategic Plan. This is to ensure

that whatever activity is carried out by these Area Teams conforms to the broad goal and mission of NMJD. Area Teams are headed by Programmes Coordinators.

In order to increase level of collaboration among staff, Area Teams meet every month to share information on programme activities and plan for future work. These monthly meetings are also meant to help staff to *au fait* themselves with the different activities undertaken in their areas so as to enable them to know who does what, when and where. Programme Officers submit reports to the Programmes Coordinators at the completion of every activity, and also prepare and submit monthly, half-yearly and yearly reports, which place much emphasis on results and impact analysis of activities carried out. Other staff members also do their own reporting as scheduled.

There is a good number of volunteers attached to the various programmes of the organization. They range from drivers, office assistants, accounts clerks and other skilled members of the beneficiary communities. Sometimes, volunteers represent the organization in meetings/training workshops in and outside the country and they are required to submit reports on their return so as to share what was learned with other partners. This practice has so far proved effective and productive since it enables beneficiaries and the wider civil society to be a part of the organization.

The Management Team of NMJD comprising the National Coordinator, Programmes Coordinators, Administrator and Financial Controller meets every three months to discuss issues relating to programming, collaboration, funding, coordination, administration and staff welfare. On the other hand, the Board of Advisors (5 men 4 women) meets every six months to review reports and key decisions taken by management as well as to approve the yearly operational plan of the organization.

(Meanwhile, the process of reconstituting the Board, since the life of the present Board has ended, is in progress).

Management has also deemed it necessary to not only increase the number of Animators, but to also provide basic statistics such as motor-bikes to enhance their effectiveness in implementing and monitoring of project/programme activities. The staff of NMJD is appraised every six months. Members of staff themselves do this exercise. It helps to keep track of staff performance and effectiveness.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of impacts of the organization's activities, a system of regular reporting is developed and scrupulously practiced: The Village Development Committees (VDCs) are monitored weekly by the animators, who, in turn, are monitored every two months by the Programme Officers. The Programmes Coordinators, who are also the Area Team leaders, monitor Programme Officers every quarter and report directly to the National Coordinator who provides continuous monitoring of the overall activities of the organization and reports to the Board of Advisors.

However, staff of the organization has not properly assimilated the Performance Monitoring Indicators (PMI) as a monitoring frame. This is the challenge to face in 2005.

Partners/Donors

The organization continues to enjoy the confidence and support of donors/partners because of the impact their support and collaboration is creating in the operational areas. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that our long-standing partners are still supporting us. In fact, some of them such as D&P, CAFOD, Partnership Africa Canada and Christian Aid have increased their portfolio of support to the activities of the organization. New partners have also come onboard to collaborate or further strengthen their partnership with us. Among them are Trocaire Ireland, World Bank Sierra Leone Country Office, UNDP Governance Section, DOEN Foundation in The Netherlands, Bread for the World in Germany and UNHCR. On the home front, the organization continues to collaborate with other human rights and development-oriented organizations as well as national and community-based groupings to address a wide range of issues that affect the lives of Sierra Leoneans.

In Sierra Leone, the organization enjoys collaborative support from UNDP, World Bank Sierra Leone Country Office, International Rescue Committee, CARE Sierra Leone, UNHCR, etc. (*See Appendices*).

Relationship with Government

Generally, NMJD enjoyed a good but cautious working relationship with the government and some state institutions and functionaries. One of the key government institutions the organization had close collaboration with is PASCO. PASCO was established by the government to coordinate and supervise the formulation of the Sierra Leone Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (SL-PRSP). PASCO did not only involve NMJD in their work, but heavily relied on them for the planning and conduct of their activities across the country and also in mobilizing the citizenry to ensure popular participation.

NMJD also partnered and collaborated with the Ministries of Youths and Sports, Agriculture and Food Security, Gender, Social Welfare and Children's Affairs in the implementation of national programmes that have far reaching effects on the great mass of the populace. Also, the organization and the civil society Task Teams they are spearheading have had series of meetings with different Parliamentary Committees to discuss issues of national importance ranging from human rights to the PRSP/HIPC Initiative.

NMJD's relationship with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Law Reform Commission (*all are agencies of government*) remained good also. Both agencies widely consulted NMJD (*and through them, their operational communities*) and sought inputs from them in the processes of developing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and reforming the laws of Sierra Leone. In fact, NMJD organized the eastern region consultative meeting for the ACC in Kenema.

Furthermore, as part of the Management Committee of the Mano River Union Peace Forum, NMJD worked closely with Members of Parliament of the Mano River Union resulting in the holding of a training workshop on issues of human rights and peace for selected MPs in Conakry, Guinea, in December. NMJD did not only play a lead role in organizing the workshop, but was also a lead facilitator.

But it was not all a bed of roses. NMJD's swift intervention to organize and raise the awareness of affected communities in Kono district about the excesses of the Koidu Holdings SA Limited (Mining Kimberlite Diamond in Kono) did not go down well with the government who publicly branded the organization as enemies of state. At the height of the debate over the activities of the company, high ranking government officials including the president and his vice threatened court action against the organization for what they referred to "as subversion and undermining

the efforts of government to revamp the economy". But these threats did not succeed in frightening NMJD to back off from advocating better living conditions for the affected communities.

Also, either by coincidence or design, the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning was seen to be dragging its feet to renew NMJD's certificate of registration even though it was one of the first NGO to fully meet the requirements for renewal of registration. The geological books and radio equipment and other school materials that were sent to NMJD for distribution to the University of Sierra Leone and schools in operational areas were unreasonably delayed, causing the organization to pay close to US\$5000 in demurrage charges. These were all measures apparently aimed at frustrating the organization's efforts and derail them from their set goal/objective.

Challenges

National

A lot of challenges emerged as a result of the various activities undertaken within the period under review as well as the socio-economic and political evolution in the country. At the national level, the challenge is for us to maintain peace and security after UNAMSIL would have completed their phasing out. This is perhaps the biggest challenge because of the several factors that might threaten this hard-won peace.

- In the first place, the people are gradually losing confidence in their political leaders to protect. This is due largely to the upsurge in incidences of armed robberies and spate of what appears like ritual killings in the city and big towns across the country. There is also the Yenga issue which poses a serious threat to the sovereignty of the country. Guinean soldiers have

occupied Yenga, a piece of Sierra Leonean territory in the Kailahun district, Southern Sierra Leone, said to be rich in minerals since 1998 and they are now subjecting Sierra Leoneans in this disputed land to all kinds of harassment and intimidation.

- Corruption, especially among senior public officials, seems to flourish with impunity while the greater mass of Sierra Leoneans continues to wallow in abject poverty. This has resulted in loss of confidence in the government and a general disillusionment.
- The operations of the Koidu Holdings SA Limited and the recklessness and irresponsible way they carry out their activities is a potential point of conflict. For instance, the company handed over ten poorly built houses with no ventilation (*out of 200 houses*) to ten affected households in the operational areas in a colourful and widely publicized ceremony. But some intended beneficiaries outrightly refused to accept the houses as a protest against the operations of the company. Human rights abuses, environmental destruction, disregard for standards (both national and international) and poor relations with community people all pose a threat to life and livelihood of community people

There is also the challenge of ensuring that the SL-PRSP works because there is a general fear that the PRSP alone without total debt cancellation and fair trade deal can reduce poverty and promote growth.

Organizational

- At organizational level, there is the challenge of ensuring that experienced staff are maintained by paying them salaries and allowances that are

commensurate with the general cost of living in the country. There is also a need to expose the staff to training so as to enable them acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address the emerging issues, and face the challenges of the day.

- NMJD has broadened its scope and area of operations resulting in the recruitment of more staff. In order to maintain this enlarged staff and support the additional programmes/activities, the organization needed to explore other areas to raise more resources. The capacity of staff also needed to be strengthened to square up to the new demands and challenges that the expansion brought along. There is a need to expose staff to modern technology such as modern computer (eg power point, Excel) and communication skills.
- The documentation aspect of the organization is poor thereby giving rise to poor communication flow between and among programme staff. NMJD is doing so much in the areas of policy advocacy and community development, but this good work is not always adequately captured and documented and even publicized/disseminated. Poor Internet facilities, poor recording and record keeping and means of linkages compound the issue.

The Performance Monitoring Indicators (PMI) which is supposed to be the general monitoring frame for the organization is not properly understood by a good number of programme staff, especially newly recruited ones who have not had the opportunity of undergoing any form of orientation on the process. The use of the PMI is therefore not effective.

The civil society Task Teams/Task Forces that have been created across the country should be maintained and sustained. This is another challenge

facing NMJD, especially now that these groups have been exposed to a lot of trainings and have started making positive impacts in their respective communities.

Appendices

Detailed Activities Undertaken by Area Teams

Appendix 1

Southern Area Team

Specific Objectives

- To facilitate the assessment and documentation of data on NMJD's impact in the Southern region in violence against women and girls, economic policies on women, girls and youths, etc.
- To train civil society and community volunteers and activists in human rights, conflict transformation, gender justice, tropical agricultural skills and animation.
- To train and support 15 farmers' associations in Kakua and Bumpeh Ngao chiefdoms to embark on improved food production, processing and marketing.
- To sensitize civil society in the southern region on the PRSP process
- To support advocacy for government's equitable distribution of national resources.
- To ensure that NMJD's professionalism and expertise is recognized and used by other organizations judiciously.
- To facilitate the civil society in the Southern region to play active role in the decentralization and local governance process.

Activities Undertaken

- Assessment of NMJD's 2003 impact in the southern region
- Documentation of violations against women and children
- Review and update of training modules on gender, animation, peace-building and conflict transformation and micro-enterprise management
- Radio panel discussions

- Production and airing of jingles on thematic issues
- Community dialogue sessions
- Training in tropical agricultural skills
- Animation phase I training
- Training of adult education facilitators in REFLECT approach
- Facilitating farmers' associations to engage in viable and improved agricultural activities
- Human rights education for schools
- Collection of seed rice loans
- Holding of area team monthly meetings
- Regular monitoring and reporting on activities implemented
- Exchange visits and Civil Society Mapping
- Celebration of the Day of the African Child
- Consultancy services to other organizations
- PRSP planning meetings
- Orientation workshop for PRSP task team members
- Official launching of the PRSP civic engagement project
- Workshop on the budgetary process in Sierra Leone
- Quarterly regional meeting of the PRSP task team
- PRSP district level training of trainers workshop
- SGBV Programme Activities
- Civic Education programme on Local Government

Outcomes of the above Activities

- A detailed report on the survey made available to the area team as reference material for future intervention
- The survey exercise helped to strengthen the knowledge and skills of the participating team members in the use and application of some important PRA tools and skills such as graphic construction, matrices, mapping, focus group discussions, semi-structured interview etc.

- Relevant information and materials have been collected and compiled on the different thematic issues i.e. gender, animation, peace-building and conflict transformation, and micro-enterprise management.
- Insight gained as to how Trainers can tailor topics to suit the understanding of Trainees.
- Trainers gained knowledge in various topics such as module development, Gender mainstreaming, Conflict Transformation, Peace building and micro-enterprise development.
- A first draft of a compiled training manual containing the different thematic topics like gender advocacy, animation, peace-building and conflict transformation and micro-enterprise management has been produced on both hard and soft copies and given to Southern and Eastern area teams to proof read and make comments where necessary.
- Availability of data for future intervention process.
- Awareness of communities heightened as they now make reports to monitors and human rights action groups within the community.
- Indicators for a well-animated community developed, which have to be followed up by the internal animators in the various communities.
- Action plan developed for the reformation and strengthening of community structures in each operational community according to criteria set by participants during the workshop.
- Formation of action groups to address domestic violence i.e.: wife beating, disobedience to authority and communal labour i.e. participation in activities of the farmers associations
- Increased awareness on thematic human rights issues especially the rights of citizens as stipulated in the National Constitution and the rights and duties of citizens as evidenced by their contributions and issues raised during discussion. i.e.: Government inability to fulfill its responsibilities to citizens as stated in cap 3 of the constitution.

- Action plans were formulated and focal/responsible persons identified to carry out the plans, which were geared towards setting things in motion to implement the adult literacy programme.
- Potential center for Adult Education identified.
- Communities opted to provide basic learning materials and erect temporary booth in areas where there is no existing structures to be used for learning
- Participants' knowledge and skills increased in the following: conceptual understanding of REFLECT, PRA and graphic construction, linking PRA with literacy and numeracy, unit development and micro-facilitation, REFLECT management etc. as evidenced by the numerous questions they asked and good performance in the group work.
- Awareness of Listening Public in Bo town and environs increased and heightened on the aforementioned issues evidenced by the discussion generated around these themes and feed back received on the streets from mostly Men. These comments are negative about Human Rights. Example that it will lead to problems in the Homes as children may become wayward.
- The Students participants gained skills in jingle production and are now confident to talk on radio.
- Participant's knowledge on the afore-mentioned issues strengthened in a bid to ensure the effective promotion and protection of human rights in target communities.
- Human Rights and Peace Clubs restructured to take action on child rights violations within their communities.
- Plans for a human rights education workshop for teachers/supervisors of the school clubs suggested by the student.
- Participants' interest heightened in human rights promotion and protection work through organizing meetings inviting NMJD staff and their teachers, making frequent visit to NMJD office to make enquires.
- Knowledge base of student's strengthened on key human rights issues highlighted during the commemoration i.e.: right to education, protection from discrimination, right to belong to a family, etc.

- NMJD's relationship with other like-minded organizations consolidated.
- NMJD's contribution towards human rights promotion highlighted
- Relevant information compiled by Participants for the development of an Economic Justice Advocacy by the Trocaire Consultant
- Awareness raised among task team members on what Poverty and PRSP is, its background importance and core principles.
- Participants' awareness raised on the striking poverty indicators in their communities.
- Participants urge for further PRSP training increased.
- Participants' horizon broadened on PRSP, its importance and core principles.
- Participants' awareness on the need to fight poverty challenged as was shown by video clips and skit from the comedy groups.
- Increased knowledge of participants on poverty and the PRSP.
- Governments support for the PRSP process as well as other key implementing partners' intervention like Action Aid Sierra Leone, PASCO, NMJD, MRD etc demonstrated at this session
- Civic Education Manual reviewed and formalized, Strategies designed for the recruitment of Ward Leaders and Civic Education Facilitators, Critical Mass targeting strategies and Training formula designed and practiced.
- The planning session resulted in the designing of implementation plan with budgets and Teamwork and Monitoring strategies of the process.
- A pool of facilitators with broad knowledge on the budgetary process now trained.
- Action groups formed of task teams at district level charged with the responsibility of conducting budget reading sessions in their communities when once the national budget is read so that input can be made into it where necessary.
- Increase awareness on PRSP and increase diffusion of PRSP information to the districts.
- Well-established district and regional task team put in place.

- Dissemination of information and implementation of PRSP action in the region ensured.
- Ninety-seven (97) Ward Leaders were identified and trained whom in turn identified and trained Six hundred and ninety-six (696) Civic Education Facilitators.
- The Civic Education Facilitators targeted and sensitized 62,640 peoples in various communities in the three districts we coordinated in the South.
- A pool of district task team members trained as facilitators with expertise of carrying out sensitization on PRSP and conducting sessions on rural dialogue, co Knowledge and skills gained from briefings used in undertaking survey on accessing service delivery in all four districts.
- Community social mappings done, problems and needs highlighted and recommendations for solutions put forward in the reports.
- NMJD owned seed banks created in both Kakua and Bumpeh Ngao chiefdoms with which other groups would be supported.
- NMJD's expenditure on purchase and supply of seed rice for farming associations the following year reduced.
- The mindset of farming associations about the habit of eating all their harvests and later cry to NMJD for seed support changed. They can now reserve certain quantity of their harvests as seeds for the following year's farming activities. For example, Kortumahun, Vulahun, Semabu clustered, Dassamu and Muloma in Bumpeh Ngao and Kakua respectively did not ask NMJD this year for seed rice support
- Space created for participants to share their traditional knowledge, ideas and skills in farming activities.
- Increased knowledge of participants in modern and improved methods and technologies of agriculture. For example, crop rotation as against shifting cultivation, compost construction and application as against excess use of chemical fertilizers etc.
- Farming associations have redoubled their efforts by engaging in large-scale rice and vegetable productions this year.

- Arrangement made with the trainer to be going round on periodic basis to farming groups trained to check their replication of skill learnt from the training
- Farming activities in all operational communities and groups started on time and are going on well. For example, cassava and groundnut planting have been completed, vegetable gardening is in progress, swampland brushing has started and ploughing has been completed in the uplands.
- Existence of large-scale farm lands due to the redoubling efforts of the farming associations.

Appendix 2

Western Area Team

Specific Objectives

- To collaborate with ministry of health on the sensitization and training of communities on health and sanitation issues
- To plan workshop objectives and content with trainers and beneficiaries
- To construct 10 VIP latrines each in target communities (Yams Farm/George Brook)
- To monitor and supervise project activities.
- To mobilize required external resources to communities
- To organize sensitization meetings in communities
- To facilitate the successful completion of the toilet construction project in target communities.
- To attend to other collaborative meetings and duties as and when required.
- To meet with the community again to find out what has happened so far after the previous meeting held on the 7th of Feb 2004 in Kono and to look at the way forward based on the progress made so far.
- To plan with task force members in the South and East on further activities in these regions.

- To equip Task Force members with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) tools and how to effectively carry out monitoring the EIA of development activities.
- To strengthen the institutional capacity of regional Task Forces and to technically equip Task Force members, the multi-stakeholders, and other Campaign structures with knowledge and skills in advocacy, lobbying and important mining-related issues.
- To facilitate consultations, information sharing, public debates documentation and publication of issues on HIPC and PRSP at community, district and national levels.
- To facilitate the procurement of broadcasting equipment for the Eastern Radio in Kenema.

Activities Undertaken

- Community meetings held with agricultural groups in the western area, who were supported with IVS seed rice and vegetable seeds.
- Visitations to agricultural supported activities in the Western
- Phase Two training on tropical agricultural practices conducted
- VIP toilet construction sensitization meetings held
- Toilet construction project planning meetings
- Construction of VIP toilets
- Procurement and distribution of construction materials for the construction of 10 toilets in each of the operational communities - Yams Farm and George Brook
- Designing and development of training program on the environment, health and sanitation.
- Training workshop on health and hygiene
- Sensitization meetings with child welfare committees in George Brook and Yams Farm
- Monitoring and supervision of toilets construction and other project activities in NMJD operational areas

- Environmental impact Assessment Training
- Quarterly Regional Task Team meeting
- District Mobilization and Sensitization meeting
- Bi weekly meetings with the Ministry of Youths and Sports
- Collaboration with the Outreach Unit of the Special Court
- Collaboration with Campaign Against Violent Events, Commission for Democracy and Human Rights, Campaign for Good Governance and the National Forum for Human Rights Secretariat on the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Access to Justice Program
- Collaboration with the Mano River Peace Forum

Outcomes of above Activities

- Five groups in the mentioned areas have harvested 11 bushels of IVS rice
- The groups also harvested five acres of vegetables.
- Part of the harvest was used as food in the households and the other part sold to generate income.
- Farmers acquired skills in modern farming technology and are now practicing new agricultural techniques.
- Application of skills learnt
- Increased supervision of groups during cultivation and harvesting
- Yams Farm community's awareness raised on the mode of the VIP toilets construction
- Yams Farm/George Brook communities agreed to provide mud-bricks, stones and unskilled labour
- Yams Farm agreed to provide sticks for roofing except, for the wall plates and doors.
- Involvement and participation of all stakeholders in community meetings at all times e.g. community leaders, beneficiaries, CBO/Project committee members
- Four successful planning meetings attended by all stakeholders in George Brook and Yams Farm.

- Increased awareness in the communities on the issue of community contributions with regard the project activities undertaken in the operational areas
- Use of local resources according to the situation/location of each community e.g. provision of sticks for roofing by Yams Farm instead of boards.
- Increased community willingness/cooperation to fully participate in their environmental and sanitation activities
- Shared responsibility by both community and donors/NMJD
- Involvement and participation of women in planning meetings
- Availability of toilet structures in operational communities
- Local expertise and resources were provided in the construction activities and this has increased community commitments and participation in the construction work.
- Animator exposed to deeper understanding of group dynamics and community relationship
- Availability of local resources by beneficiaries prior to the start of construction work.
- Sustainability of the project is manifested by the input given by the beneficiaries.
- Project helped to build good human relationship and a better understanding of the organization's approach to community development work.
- Direct participation of the Ministry of Health in the development and facilitation of the training programme.
- Direct community input and participation in the content of the training programme
- The health and sanitation issues prevalent or affecting the communities were identified and documented.
- Increased awareness on health and hygiene related issues in the target communities
- Increase use of latrines by households
- Proper use of VIP latrines
- Improved personal hygiene

- Re-establishment of children's club
- Both committee members and children's representatives revisited their community plans.
- Communities expressed their views about the Child Rights projects
- Animator/NMJD well informed about community activity and community participation in projects
- Community action plan developed
- Proper facilitation and coordination in community activities
- Introduction of participants to the concepts of EIA and issues related to mining and the environment
- Participants equipped with resource materials and information on EIA findings necessary for the Just Mining Campaign
- Brought together all the PRSP task teams and focal organizations in the Western Area and also in the Northern province
- Increased knowledge of participants on NMJD involvement in the PRSP process not only in the Western Area but also in the Northern province.
- Increased participants' awareness on the Involvement of other agencies like the Catholic Relief Services, Action Aid and Forum for African Women Educationalists on the PRSP process
- The sessions enabled participants to better understand the roles they are expected to play in the PRSP process
- Draft plans of activities for the two regions were developed and the executive members of the regions' Task Teams were elected
- Increased participants' understanding on the development of indicators for monitoring issues of governance, equity, transparency and accountability.
- Involvement of Task Teams in initiating, planning and organizing community sensitization activities.
- Sustained sensitization activities on the PRSP at community level
- Increase in the membership of the task teams in the two regions
- Identification and increased awareness of Task Teams on HIPC- funded projects

- Knowledge base of the organization (NMJD) enriched on the issues of youths.
- Participation of NMJD on the Special Court Interactive Forum.
- Collaboration with the Outreach Unit of the court strengthened
- Recognition of NMJD as a Core partner of the Forum
- Interaction and free flow of information with other civil society groups in the Mano River Union Basin on the conflict in Liberia and its impact on the situation in Guinea and Sierra Leone
- Availability of radio equipment.

Appendix 3

Eastern Area Team

Specific Objectives

- To reduce vulnerability in NMJD operational areas through training and sensitization
- To support food security initiatives
- To facilitate the construction and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure in operational areas

Activities Undertaken

- A Leadership training workshop was held in Mattama
- 50 light cutlasses were distributed among the six operational villages for under brushing
- 70 bushels of IVS seed rice were distributed to farming communities
- IVS rice, upland rice and groundnut seeds were distributed in Nongowa
- Grain store and drying floor constructed at Tisoh
- 2 radio Panel discussions on activities held at the SLBS 93.5 FM
- Vocational skills traing center for Delei group rehabilitated
- Needs assessment was done for 8 youth groups
- Grain store and drying floor were constructed for Ngelehun
- IVS rice, upland rice seeds were distributed to 14 community groups in Small Bo
- One community session was held

- 2 Adult Literacy booths were constructed at Saahun, Lungeima and Sawula. 5 communities are attending classes
- A conflict transformation and Advocacy workshop was held at Saahun (Blama)
- The Torkpombu barre was rehabilitated
- 80 bushels of upland rice were distributed in Gorama Kono
- 2 community sessions were held in Kangama and Torkpombu
- New HIV/AIDS sensitization jingles were prepared and airing started
- Youth desks were set up at Kailahun and Kono, with the employment of 3 youth Animators
- Baseline survey on youth groups/organizations in the region were done at district level
- A program review workshop was held on the youth coalition and HIV/AIDS
- A youth peer Education workshop was held
- A sensitization workshop on Peace and Gender was held. Financial and material support was given to the youth coalition to kick-start the restaurant and bar projects at the youth Sports Club
- Sporting materials were provided for youth groups
- Tool kits were provided for trained youths in computer hardware
- Income generation micro-loans were given to Blamawo and Tegлома youths
- Sensitization on the decentralization and on Local governance took place
- Joint monitoring on the Civic Education activities were conducted - NMJD and Civil Society Movement in the region.
- Land was secured in Kenema for the Eastern Radio; site clearing done and foundation started.
- 2 Quarterly regional meetings were held
- 1 project Animator for Kono was employed
- Exposure/learning trip to SEND Foundation, Ghana
- Thematic research on the content and process of developing/formulating the PRSP done
- Community sensitization sessions on the PRSP
- Training of trainers workshops

- Community assessment/survey on service delivery

Outcomes of the above Activities

- One community session was held for the Lekpetieh community at the Sport Club Kenema. 67 in all attended, 25 female, 42 male. The key issues that arose from the session were: youths desire to join the NMJD program on youth empowerment; Child Rights Abuse and violations in the Sierra Leonean context and how to minimize it.
- A Conflict Transformation and Advocacy workshop was held with participants drawn from all operational communities plus three potential ones - Nongoba, Taninahun and Tijeini (Blama)
- One-grain store and drying floor were constructed at Tissoh and Nongowa chiefdom to complement their food security initiatives.
- In Gorama Kono, the Torkpombu barre was rehabilitated. This barre serves as a meeting place and also for social and cultural functions. CI Sheets and cement were provided by NMJD and the community provided labour, sand tones and water.
- The Rights Enhancement through Agricultural Productivity (REAP) project is funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) through Care Sierra Leone. REAP is implemented in the Bunabu section of Gorama Kono - Six villages were covered. In the period under review, a sensitization leadership/management workshop was held for 48 participants; 6 villages Development communities were formed;
- 50 cutlasses distributed to farmers; six swamps identified and 70 bushels of rice distributed to farmers; the underbrushing of 600 acres of tree crops started with 50 youths engaged.
- Village Development Committees were formed in all six communities namely: Mboamahun, Mboama, Brimala, Tangabu, Kpakpakiya and Mattama. Each has a total of 9 persons out of which at least three are women.

- The VDCs and the Agricultural Advisor identified/verified twenty swamps for support. Seventy-bushels of high yield IVS seed rice were secured and distributed.
- A three-day workshop was organized for 48 VDC members in Human Rights and Leadership Management. Out of the 48 participants, 18 were women. Key among topics dealt with were leadership styles and skills, communication, cooperation for development and planning.
- 41 plantation owners comprising the vulnerable, widows, disabled and aged were engaged. 50 youths were also engaged for the underbrushing of 600 acres of cash crops. 50 local cutlasses were also purchased and distributed.
- A total of 90 women in all were involved in the project out of the targeted 360 beneficiaries, through sensitization, provision of cooking utensils, cooking, participating in workshop, crops and swamps identification.
- Two literacy booths were constructed to provide accommodation for learners. Five communities are engaged in the literacy program at three centers. At the Saahun Centre 42 learners are on role - 19 men and 32 women; at the Lungeima Centre there are a total of 59 learners, 28 women and 31 men and at Sawula there are 60 learners - 20 women and 40 men.
- The current focus of the Youth Empowerment project is "to facilitate the establishment of youth networks and coalitions across the country as a way of creating a platform for youth to advocate for the mainstreaming of youth issues.
- Baseline surveys (KAP) were done in the three districts in the Region - Kenema, Kailahun and Kono. The main objective was to create a database of youth organizations in the regions.
- 20 persons representing youth serving agencies across the country attended a one-day meeting in Kenema and discussed the implementation of the youth coalition activities at National level. The organization involved include CCYA, IYF and SLYEO in Freetown, CDHR in the North, the Methodist Youth Resource Centre and Conciliation Resources in the South and NMJD in the East

- A five-day training on HIV/AIDS was organized for out-of-school youths. At total of 35 youths participated - 15 female, 25 male. The main aim was to enable participants to have the knowledge, skills and methodologies on how to sensitize communities. After training, the youths will be engaged in effective sensitization activities targeting risk areas in the communities.
- A meeting was attended by NMJD Field Coordinator, Kono district, on plans for the reclamation and rehabilitation of mined-out areas in Kono district. The Peace Diamond Alliance (PDA) in Kono District organized this meeting at the Fachima Hall, Koidu Town. Kaisambo was identified as the pilot project for rehabilitation.
- In Kenema the Task Force for the Campaign for Just Mining had three meetings aimed at charting ways of revitalizing the Campaign. It was decided that its membership should be reviewed. A set of criteria was put together for selecting members. Also the terms of reference were drawn and shared and endorsed at the National meeting.
- Kono district has a pool of trained, willing and committed volunteers on the PRSP at community level.
- 25 participants from different Christian Aid partner organizations attended a refresher course on life skills for youth

Appendix 4

Outlook of the Sierra Leone Context

Political

Programme implementation during the period under review was done in an atmosphere of calm and improved security throughout the country. Local government elections were held across the country in May, thus setting the stage for decentralization of the local governance. Local councils were suspended in 1972 due largely to high level corruption and mismanagement. This left the people with no mechanism through which they could hold their leaders accountable for their actions.

As a prelude to the local council elections, the Parliament of Sierra Leone adopted the Local Government Act 2004 in March. The Act makes provision for decentralization and devolution of powers, functions and services from the center to local councils. The conclusion of the elections does not only bring governance closer to the people, but also empowers them to actively participate in the socio-economic and political development of the country. It once again gives power back to the people. The newly elected councilors have been sworn-in and inaugurated. This gives civil society another opportunity to shape their own destiny, and be part of the development and governance processes.

However, the local government electoral process was greeted by apathy from the voter registration right through the entire process. There were numerous incidences of coercion of voters by the major political parties during nomination and election process, coercion and marginalization of independent candidates by party stalwarts. This has resulted to dissatisfaction in most communities, as the people they wanted to vote for were intimidated and forced to back-down.

Thus there was a sharp increase in voter apathy in the whole local government elections. The dissatisfaction with the government by the people who voted 80% in the 2002 General Elections for the government has been attributed to the rapid

declining of the economic situation in the country as the cost of living has become very much unbearable for the ordinary man and woman. The above, coupled with high level corruption by government and other public officials who carried out their graft with impunity has resulted to a general state of disillusion among the general populace in the country.

Despite the successful conduct of the elections and inauguration of councilors across the country, it is apparent that the central government and the newly constituted councils are lurked in power struggle as to who does what in total disregard to the Local Government Act 2004. At provincial level there is conflicts between the local authorities and newly elected local councilors over the mobilization and control of resources especially the local tax. This undue disagreement has affected the operations of the councils as clearly evidenced by the eyesore garbage and filth that has become a common feature of most of our cities and big towns.

Security

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) is steadily progressing with the phasing out of its troops from Sierra Leone, and has handed over the security of the country to the national army and the police. In order to place themselves in good stead for the task ahead, the army has established garrisons in strategic parts of the country like Kambia along the Guinea border and Pujehun and Kailahun on the Liberia border. Both the army and the police have come up with several initiatives aimed at improving their appalling relationship with the general populace.

On the other hand, tension is brewing along the Sierra Leone-Guinea border where Guinean soldiers occupied Yenga, a piece of land rich in mineral resources belonging to the territory of Sierra Leone. The soldiers occupied the land in 1998 when they were assisting the Sierra Leone government to fight the RUF rebels. Even though the war has ended, they have not only refused to withdraw from the land, but have also publicly declared that Yenga belongs to Guinea. They are now said to be

subjecting Sierra Leoneans living in the disputed land to all sorts of harassment and to paying taxes directly to them. They are also reported to be seriously engaged in diamond mining and other illegal and intimidating activities. A government delegation is in Guinea negotiating for peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The growing dissatisfaction and disenchantment of the people of Kono over the operations of Koidu Holdings SA Limited and the tacit support government is giving to the company in total disregard of the plight of the people is a potential threat to peace in the Kono district.

Further there is incidence of murder, robbery and kidnapping of people especially in Freetown and other major towns.

Transitional Justice Mechanisms

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was established to maintain an impartial record of what actually happened during the 11 years of civil war in Sierra Leone, have finally concluded their public hearings. The long overdue report of the TRC has been officially launched in Freetown and handed over to the President.

The planned nationwide sensitization of the masses on the report which was to have started beginning of December has been stalled due to allegations that the report which was launched and handed over to the President is the "doctored" version and that the correct version has been released by unknown persons in the web. The fundamental difference between the two is that the correct version has critical comments about government's interference and manipulations during the entire exercise while the other doesn't. There is a growing feeling that government is behind the whole messy and scandalous affair

On the other hand, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone established to try people who bear the greatest responsibilities for the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone 11 years' civil war has commenced sittings. However there is a serious debate in the country over the relevance and legality of the court.

Senior officers of two of the warring factions - the local militia outfit called Kamajors who were fighting on the side of the government, and the Revolutionary United Front - have been indicted and are now standing trial. Efforts to hand over indicted former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, to the Special Court have been stepped up on both local and international fronts. The search for the run-away former leader of the barbaric and brutal AFRC junta, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, has also been intensified on all fronts.

Socio-Economic

The economic activities of the country are characterized mainly by mining, farming and commerce, with petty trading making up a bulk of the latter. Also, some of the corporate mining companies that ran away during the war have recommenced operations, while others are trying to do so. The most notable among these corporate bodies is the Koidu Holdings SA Limited that commenced blasting of the Koidu Kimberlite Pipe in November last year. The ownership of this company is as controversial and its activities, which have triggered heated debates all over the country, resulting in the establishment/strengthening of civil society advocacy groups.

The Sierra Leone Rutile Company is also to resume operations soon. This assurance came after the Government of Sierra Leone signed a Euro 25 Million grant agreement with the European Union. The money will be on loan to the company to help them re-open the rutile mines. A development seen by many Sierra Leoneans as unwise and ill-timed.

The establishment of FM and community radios in different parts of the country is facilitating faster dissemination of information to especially people in remote areas. This has further helped to promote expressed values of the society through open dialogue and debate.

There is a poor road network across the country leading to total cut-off of some major towns in spite of numerous government promises and pledges.

The general cost of living in the country still remains a cause for concern; prices of basic commodities and foodstuffs increase on a daily basis without any corresponding increase in salaries and wages of public workers. However, there have been calls by the Sierra Leone Labour Congress and other civil society and human rights organizations for government to step in by raising the minimum wage level. Government appears reluctant to do so. Negotiation still continues between selected committees and government.

Sierra Leone Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (SLPRSP)

The Government of Sierra Leone with the support of its development partners stepped up its efforts for the formulation of the Sierra Leone Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper through a participatory process that requires the input of everybody regardless of social status. This process started way back in May 2001 when the government finalized and submitted the I-PRSP to the Boards of the World Bank and IMF. This qualified Sierra Leone for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, thereby making it a candidate for the full PRSP.

Both the government and civil society organizations organized a lot of sensitization and various forms of consultations across the country. All these efforts were meant to maximize citizenry participation in the process so as to influence the by-product. At the moment the final draft of the SL-PRSP is nearing completion for presentation to government's development partners and the Boards of the World Bank and IMF. The final phase of the formulation is going hand-in-hand with the costing of the various activities designed for the implementation process.

Appendix 5

Table Showing NMJD Donor Partners

No	Donor Partner	Areas of Support
1	Development & Peace (D&P) -Canada	Institutional support and Eastern Radio
2	Christian Aid (UK)	PRSP, youth coalition, HIV/AIDS and culture of peace, Diamond Advocacy
3	Cafod (UK)	Youth animation
4	Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) - Canada	Campaign for Just Mining, Annual Diamond Sector Review and quarterly newsletter (The Network)
5	Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC) - Canada	Education, peace, agriculture and health and sanitation and child rights issue (Salone Rights Project)
6	Bread for the World (Germany)	Eastern Community Radio
7	Trocaire - Ireland	Economic justice issues and budget monitoring and advocacy
8	DOEN Foundation - The Netherlands	Eastern Community Radio and human rights within the mining sector
9	UNDP - Sierra Leone Office	PRSP and Civic Education on Local Government and Decentralization
10	UNHCR - Sierra Leone Office	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response project
11	World Bank - Sierra Leone Office	Transparency and Accountability in Local Governance
12	Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (through CARE International)	Rights Enhanced through Agricultural Production (REAP)
13	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention in Refugee Camps (Logistics support)

Appendix 6

List of NMJD Staff

No	Name of Staff	Position	Location
1	Abu A. Brima	National Coordinator	Freetown
2.	Ms Helen Bash-Taqi	Prog. Coordinator (Western Area Team)	Freetown
3	Khalidou Abu	Financial Controller	Freetown
4	Justin Kamara	Accounting Assistant	Freetown
5	Sallieu Kamara	Communication and Documentation Officer	Freetown
6	William Dauda	PRSP Project Animator, Western Area	Freetown
7	Alusine Koroma	PRSP Project Animator, Bombali District	Makeni
8	Sahr R. Sourie	Admin. Assistant	Freetown
9	Ms Esther Kamara	Campaign for Just Mining Project Officer	Freetown
10	Ms Stella Stevens	Community Development Animator, Western Area	Freetown
11	Augustine Mattia	Office Assistant	Freetown
12	Ms Eleanor Kamara	Secretary	Freetown
13	Abass Kamara	Researcher	Freetown
14	Adolphos Anderson	Security (Night)	Freetown
15	Musa Konneh	Driver	Freetown
16	Tamba Conteh	Volunteer Office Assistant	Freetown
17	S. Benny Sam	Prog. Coordinator (Eastern Area)	Kenema
18	Ms Alice M'Carthy	Administrator	Kenema
19	Morlai Kamara	Economic Justice Officer	Kenema
20	Abdul Karim Bah	Youth Empowerment Officer	Kenema

21	Ms Susan Tucker	Secretary	Kenema
22	Adama Jusu	Community Development Animator (Nongowa)	Kenema
23	Cecilia Alieu	Community Development Animator (Small Bo)	Blama
24	Daniel Moiwo	Youth Animator	Kenema
25	Ms Fredrica Koroma	HIV/AIDS Animator	Kenema
26	Vandi Mansaray	Office Assistant	Kenema
27	Sylvester Vibbie	Driver	Kenema
28	Theophilus Carew	Driver	Kenema
28	Edwin Conteh	Security	Kenema
29	Ambrose G. Brima	Finance Clerk	Kenema
30	Luseni Joe Baun	Finance Clerk (on contract)	Kenema
31	Ms Patience K. Yamba	Volunteer Secretary	Kenema
32	Andrew Musa	Community Development Animator (Gorama Kono)	Gorama Kono
33	Patrick Tongu	Field Supervisor (Kono District)	Koidu
34	Dennis Lansana	Youth Animator (Kono District)	Koidu
35	Joseph Ansumana	PRSP Project Animator (Kono District)	Koidu
36	Ms Hannah Charles	Volunteer Finance Clerk	Koidu
37	John B. Saidu	Youth Animator, (Kailahun District)	Kailahun
38	Paul L. Koroma	Prog. Coordinator (Southern Area Team)	Bo
39	Sheku James	Training Officer	Bo
40	Ms Gladys G. Brima	Gender Advocacy Officer	Bo
41	Ms Agnes S. Tamba	Human Rights Officer	Bo

42	Ms Josephine Kenneh	Community Development Animator (Kakua)	Bo
43	Moses Lamin	Community Development Animator, Bumpe Gao	Bumpe
44	Ms Susan Dauda	Secretary	Bo
45	Alfred Taylor	Office Assistant	Bo
46	Issac P. Tucker	Budget Monitoring Project Animator, Southern Region	Bo
47	Musa Kamara	Security	Bo

Appendix 7

List of SGBV Prevention Project Staff

1	Bobor O. R. Brima	Asst. Programme Officer, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)	Bo
2	Ms Rosa V. Vandi	Field Supervisor (SGBV)	Taima/Gondama Camps
3	Ms Agnes Coomber	Social Worker (SGBV)	Taima
4	Edward Kamanda	Project Animator (SGBV)	Taima
5	Ms Mary Vandi	Field Supervisor (SGBV)	Tobanda
6	Steven B. Lahai	Project Animator (SGBV)	Tobanda
7	Ms Patricia Kamara	Social Worker (SGBV)	Tobanda
8	Jasper Sesay	Project Animator (SGBV)	Gondama
9	Ms Kula Massallay	Social Worker (SGBV)	Gondama
10	Emmanuel Aruna	Project Animator (SGBV)	Bandajuma
11	Ms Satta Kallon	Social Worker (SGBV)	Bandajuma
12	David Lahai	Field Supervisor (SGBV)	Jimmy Bargbo
13	Eddie Gbappy	Project Animator (SGBV)	Jimmy Bargbo

14	Ms Isatu Saidu	Social Worker (SGBV)	Jimmy Bargbo
15	Albert Gilbert	Driver (SGBV)	Tobanda
16	John Tommy	Driver (SGBV)	Bo
17	Josephine Sagba	Secretary (SGBV)	Bo