

HOPE - SIERRA LEONE {H/SL}

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Overview

Hope-Sierra Leone (H-SL) is a peace and development organisation, and is registered with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Finance and Development as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO). It has been working actively in Sierra Leone since 2001. Its non partisan and non political approach has enabled it to partner with a wide spectrum of organisations in the country.

Expertise

H-SL puts human development before all other forms of development, and through its capacity-building training, provides people who

- Work strategically for peaceful and effective post-conflict reconstruction
- Demonstrate the flexibility needed to respond to changing situations
- Give corruption-free leadership that is able to target key fault lines in the nation's infrastructure, without fear or favour.

Mission Statement

H-SL seeks, through a review of personal attitudes and motivation, to

- Create an environment free from violence, hate, greed and indifference
- Enable reconciliation and healing to take place in situations of conflict at family, community and national level
- Tackle the root causes of corruption, poverty and marginalization of women and youths.

Strategic activities/goals

H-SL has been concentrating its efforts in three main areas:

1. ***Moral Foundations for Democracy (MFD)*** – a human development programme for reconciliation and transformation – for the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and Civil Society.

Following pilot courses (72 people) and a Training of Trainers (ToT) course (23 people) in 2005, regular 5-day courses and one-day outreach programmes have been held most months since September 2006 (totalling 450 and 980 people respectively). A second ToT course was held in January 2008 (39 people).

See also www.iofc.org/en/abt/newsroom/190/html and www.iofc.org/en/abt/newsroom/1332.html

Key elements: Issues relating to personal identity; Standing against corruption; Teamwork and trust-building; Trauma healing and conflict transformation.

A series of 8 MFD Dialogues for parliamentarians and paramount chiefs, **funded by UNDP**, is due to begin in October 2008. These will take place in 7 venues all over the country over a 2-month period.

2. **Clean Elections Campaign (CEC)** – a good governance programme, launched in January 2007, to help free the electoral process from illegal manipulation, violence and corrupt practices. (www.iofc.org/en/abt/newsroom/2809.html) Key elements:
 - 3-day Clean Elections Dialogue for Political Parties, April 2007. 7 out of 8 registered parties were represented. (www.iofc.org/en/abt/newsroom/3308.html)
 - 3-day Dialogues on Clean Elections for Paramount Chiefs and Major Stakeholders in Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Freetown, June 2007, funded by UNDP. 152 participants, including 33 Paramount Chiefs (www.hopesierraleone.org/latest_news.html)
 - One-month emergency ‘Save Mama Salone’ campaign, September 2007, funded by UNDP; 2500 youths targeted (www.hopesierraleone.org/save_mama_salone.html)
 - An 18-month post-elections Media & Governance project in Bo and Bombali Districts started in April 2008, funded by DANIDA.
3. **Mutual Farming for Peace Building and Reconciliation** – a rice-cultivation pilot project in Makari Gbanti and Bombali Shebora Chiefdoms, Northern Province (funded by DANIDA since 2004). 1500 acres of land have been made permanently available to H-SL. After years of conflict this food security initiative is also helping to bring reconciliation between ex-combatants and the local community. So far 100 ex-combatants have been re-integrated into their home area. (www.iofc.org/en/abt/newsroom/1332.html and www.hopesierraleone.org/peace_farm.html).

International Support

In 2003, Danish Friends of the Founder of H-SL, John Bangura, formed the *Denmark-Sierra Leone Friendship Association*. The Association has given major support to H-SL as it has struggled to build its capacity in response to the increasing demands being made on it.

Through its affiliation to *IofC-International*, H-SL has been able to bring major stakeholders in the post-conflict reconstruction process to the annual gatherings at Caux, Switzerland – the international conference centre of *Initiatives of Change*. In response to an invitation from senior police and army personnel for training in character building/human development, an international IofC faculty from Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Ghana, USA and UK facilitated the 2005 MFD courses (see p.1). An international support group now acts in an advisory capacity and facilitates Training of Trainers courses when required. Cordaid (Netherlands) provided funds for the initial phase of the MFD programme. The second Training of Trainers course was funded by the **Dutch Embassy in Senegal**. Additional financial support for the work of H-SL has come from **IofC national bodies and individuals in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, UK and USA**.

Future strategy

During the next 2-5 years H-SL will prioritise its activities in the following areas:

- Youth Empowerment and Employment (see below)
- Post Elections Campaign: Media and Governance, Bo and Bombali Districts 1 April 2008-30 September 2009. This will target 22 elected MPs, 40 local journalists and 80 community leaders
- MFD dialogues and outreach programmes for security forces and civil society (particularly concentrating on youth leaders, teachers, and local government officials)
- MFD capacity-building programme for the judiciary and civil service 2009-2010
- Expansion of the Mutual Farming project to improve living conditions and increase stability and security in the rural population of Makeni and Bo Districts 2009-2012.

Youth Empowerment and Employment

With its unique blend of leadership and energetic moral enterprise, H-SL is currently negotiating with UNDP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, to initiate employment schemes that will help young people to find productive work. These include:

- A national tyre and re-tread facility employing 2-300 people
- Letter and Parcel delivery service in Freetown, employing up to 15 people
- Rice-growing project in Bonthe District, employing up to 500 people

When partnering with other organisations, H-SL facilitators will give moral leadership training to all employees as the bed-rock for sustainable development..