

SIERRA LEONE		
OFID Project Country Fact Sheet		
Population	5.7 million	(2009 UN World Population Policies)
HIV cases	38,000-59,000	(2009 UNAIDS)
% of female HIV cases	61%	
Prevalence:		
HIV	1.6 %	(2009 USAIDS)
HIV and TB	0.06 %	(2010 WHO Global TB Control Report)
Basic Project Data		
	Title: Strengthening the World of Work Response on HIV/AIDS	
	Duration: 1st September 2009 – 31st October 2011	
	Funding: OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) \$200,000 US International Labour Organization (ILO) \$200,000 US	
	Sector: Education, Fishery, Mining	
	Beneficiaries: Sectoral ministries, employers, workers organization and their families	
Results Achieved		
<p>The OFID-ILO provided support to the post-conflict reconstruction of Sierra Leone in its HIV responses by partnering directly with a workplace unit in the National AIDS Secretariat. This unique partnership was able to achieve an unprecedented level of treatment adherence, and VCT uptake for mine workers and the surrounding communities. It also facilitated the systematic development of sectoral HIV workplace policies for the Education, Fishery and Mining sectors while building the capacity of nascent workers trade unions and employer organizations in HIV responses.</p>		
Results Achieved:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The first HIV prevalence study was conducted among the fisherfolks ▪ A plan was developed and approved in the fishing and mining sectors to increase services to prevent maternal to child transmission of HIV ▪ The response of the Mine Workers Union to provide HIV and AIDS education to its members and surrounding communities was strengthened ▪ The Ministry of Labour was empowered to ensure wider implementation of the national workplace policy on HIV and AIDS ▪ A comprehensive programme on HIV and AIDS prevention and impact mitigation strengthened the private sector 		
Partner Organizations and Contact Persons		
ILO:		
Abdul-Rahman Sessay , Deputy Director, National AIDS Secretariat Lee-Nah Hsu , ILO/AIDS Department, Geneva, Switzerland		
Ministry: Ministry of Employment & Industrial Relations & Social Security		
Employers' organizations: Sierra Leone Employers' Federation		
Workers' organizations: Sierra Leone Labour Congress		
Other organisations: National AIDS Secretariat (NAS) of Sierra Leone		

Project objectives

- At least two workplaces provide comprehensive service for TB and for HIV, including VCT, PMTCT, and ART
- Up to 40% of pregnant fisherfolks have access to PMCT
- The capacities of the Ministry of Employment, Social Security, Labour Relations, employers' organizations, and trade unions in the mining sector strengthened to implement comprehensive workplace HIV programmes

Country situation

In Sierra Leone, the HIV prevalence is higher in women (1.7%) than in men (1.2%), reflecting gender inequities; in urban areas (2.5%) than in rural areas(1%); in those over 25 years old (1.7%) than those younger (1%). The HIV prevalence is particularly high in mobile workforce sectors such as diamond and gold miners (1.3%) compared to the general population.

Project implementation results as of end of project October 2011:

Output 1

Conduct a baseline assessment on HIV vulnerability of the fishery sector to establish the sectoral HIV prevalence providing the knowledge-base to formulate a targeted programme for this sector.

Year I	Year II
100%	100%

Output 2 - More than 200% as the OFID_ILO partnership programme expanded the service sites from 2 to 5 Development of a comprehensive mining sector response to HIV including adoption of a national HIV workplace policy for the sector, designing a strategic action plan for a comprehensive HIV programme for mining sector and its surrounding communities as well as implementing the tripartite programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's National AIDS Secretariat as part of the first private – public partnership in Sierra Leone.

Output 3

Dock workers' union was strengthened to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS services to their members

Year I	Year II
100%	100%

Output 4

The Ministry of Employment, Social Security and Industrial Relations were empowered to implement the National HIV workplace policy

Year I	Year II
100%	100%

Additional activities in 2012 since the completion of project

1. A sustaining Public-Private Partnership

In view of the positive results demonstrated by the OFID-ILO partnership supported workplace programme with the mining camps, Sierra Rutile Mines, the major multinational mining company signed an agreement with the government of Sierra Leone in 2012 to invest in the workplace HIV programme for all its mines and surrounding communities in the country, in partnership with the National AIDS Secretariat.

2. Analysing and identifying good practice

An evaluation, jointly conducted by ILO, the National AIDS Secretariat, Ministry of Health and Sierra Rutile Mining Company, started in 2012 and is in progress. This evaluation aims to identify factors contributing to the high treatment adherence for ART and PMTCT services for the mining communities. The adherence and treatment completion rates are higher than all other HIV VCT, ART and PMCT services sites in the country as well as higher than the international norms.

The study will ascertain whether any of the following factors contribute to such results:

- the public (National AIDS Secretariat) and private (Sierra Rutile Mining Company) partnership;
- the enabling HIV workplace policy environment;
- the tripartite partnership (government, employers and workers); and
- the corporate social responsibility programmes

Through the OFID-ILO partnership programme, the Sierra Rutile Mining Company has extended its comprehensive HIV prevention, AIDS treatment and care services to the communities where the mining camps are located.