MID-TERM EVALUATION FOR THE "CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (P 150) IN KENEMA DISTRICT"

Final Report

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List of Abbreviation

ABCs	Agribusiness Centers
CDCC	Citizen-Driven Climate Change
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CWASHComs	Climate WASH Committees
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
CU	Credit Union
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ETUSL	Eastern Technical University Sierra Leone
EWB-DK	Engineers Without Borders Denmark
FBOs	Farmer Based Organisations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HDC	Health Development Committee
iNAP	Initial National Adaption Plan
KDC	Kenema District Council
KDWASHCord	Kenema District WASH Coordination
KII	Key Informant Interviews
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoEC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTR	Mid-Term Review
MTR	Mid Term Report
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEND-SL	Social Enterprise Development- Sierra Leone
SPSS	Statistical Package for Service Solutions)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
VSLA	Village Serving and Loan Association
WASH	Water Sanitation and Health
WHI	World Hope International
WDC	Ward Development Committee
WMC	Water Management Committee

INTRODUCTORY CONTEXT

This section describes the project background, purpose, objectives, and the scope of mid-term evaluation.

1.1 Project Background

Social Enterprise Development-Sierra Leone (SEND) Sierra Leone and World Hope International (WHI), funded by Engineers Without BordersDenmark (EWB-DK) are implementing the CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (P 150). The overall development objective of the intervention is to improve livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance – target population 610,000 persons. The project seeks to help communities to adapt to the new climate hazard realities and to serve as an example to other communities in the Kenema district and Sierra Leone as a whole. Using a bottom-up approach, the initiative facilitates and supports the "bridge building" between the users (population) and the private service providers as a central element in sustainable and climate-robust WASH infrastructure to promote cross-sector partnerships. This directly impacts 50 rural communities and will use the partners' local experience in community-driven Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) engagement to respond to the climate-induced challenges for civic-driven climate adaptation experiences in the WASH sector.

1.2 Project Objective

The overall objective of the project is to improve livelihood in the Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance – a population of 610,000 persons. Specifically, the project aims at

1. Access to climate-robust WASH structure in 50 rural communities in Kenema district (implementation of community-driven climate-sensitive WASH actions toward climate-robust access to water and sanitation)
2. Kenema District applied participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance (capacity building on the national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district Health Development Committee (HDC)'s Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)s and stands and promotion of a market-driven service approach at the community) district level in Kenema).
3. Kenema district serves as a catalyst example of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies (Policy influence from below - demonstration of citizen-driven climate-resilient WASH management from the community level).

1.3 Objective of the assignment

The purpose of the Mid-Evaluation of the project will be to assess the project performance, in consultation with the key stakeholders, and identify, describe the main lessons learned from the program implementation to be disseminated to internal and external stakeholders. The objective of the evaluation is to undertake an in-depth analysis of the project in Kenema to generate comprehensive and specific evaluation feedback of the program.

The specific objectives of the mid-term evaluation are to:

- Identify the extent to which the project has been effectively implemented in the project communities.
- Measure the results/impact against the target indicators.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of the project baseline indicators
- Understand the impact created among the district stakeholders and project beneficiaries at the community level.
- Document lessons learned and best practices and provide recommendations to scale up climate mitigation and adaptation strategies within the Kenema district.

To fulfil its purposes and objectives, the evaluation is expected to assess the financial and non-financial results of the CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (P 150) and its management by the Implementing Partners per the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria of relevance, coherence effectiveness, efficiency, likelihood of impact, and sustainability. The evaluation questions (EQs) are grouped under these headings in Table 1.1 below:

Table 1.1: Proposed questions for Mid-Term Evaluation

No	Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions (Suggestions)
1.	Relevance	The extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies.
2.	Effectiveness	The extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance.
3.	Efficiency	A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results.
4.	Impact	Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.
5.	Sustainability	The continuation of benefits as proactive intervention after major development assistance has been completed.
6.	Learning and Replicability	Lessons that may have implications for the future of the development intervention or may be relevant for wider application.

1.3.3 Scope of work

In general, the scope of the evaluation is to consider but not limited to;

- assess project outcomes at all levels: including all result areas, beneficiaries, and project stakeholders.
- It will determine the impact and relevance of the project's intervention on the citizens driven climate adaptation approach (through mainstreaming of climate adaptation), strategic service delivery (improved climate robust infrastructure and private sector engagement),

organization and capacity building of civil society (community approach), strengthening of democratic and transparent WASH sector governance–through capacity building, standardization/quality control and introductions of new technology, regulatory frame private sector engagement, IoT, transparency and governance influencing national policymaking from below – based on empiric evidence on citizen drive Climate adaptation through strategic service delivery in Kenema district.

- assess the project management and activity implementation to address the results achieved, the partnerships established, and issues of capacity development for SEND and WHI.
- establish best practices and lessons learned for future engagement while providing recommendations for the rest of the implementation.
- Assess the logical framework matrix and the indicators to assess their appropriateness for monitoring the program performance and to what extent they were used by the program team.
- Assess the application of the project strategies, principles, and prospects of the sustainability of the program outcomes.

METHODOLOGY

This mid-term evaluation was conducted within the target district of Kenema in Sierra Leone. The target sample for the study was drawn and decided upon between the consultant and client. The evaluation targeted all 21 project communities which is 42% of the total direct beneficiary communities of 50. To deliver this service, the following systematic process and procedures to ensure the timely and effective delivery of this evaluation exercise were followed.

I. **Inception Meeting:** An inception meeting was online via zoom with the project management staff on the 17th of April 2023 prior to field work. This meeting gave in-depth knowledge of the project implementation, actual project activities, and challenges faced. The TOR and methodology were discussed. All relevant project documents were shared by Programme manager and team.

II. **Review of relevant documents**: Documents included Final P105 Climate Risk Assessment, project log frame, training reports, monthly activity reports, Concept Note, Log Frame, Activity Progress Reports, Monthly reports, training manuals, project budget, list of communities and other Project Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data, M&E reports, etc. These documents provided in-depth knowledge of the project.

III. **Data collection tools**: Both qualitative/quantitative questionnaires were designed based on project log frame and result chain from the strategic and M&E plans for engaging households, groups and stakeholders in the project area in order to collect data that achieved the objectives/scope of the assignment. The survey instruments were designed in such a way as to capture the result/output indicators in the result matrix or log-frame. The qualitative

questionnaires were based on the DAC criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and likelihood of impacts.

IV. **Sampling and Sample Size for Household interviews:** A total sample size of 300 households was agreed upon between the consultant and SEND-SL, World Hope International (WHI) and Engineers Without Borders (EWB-DK). Table 2.1 below shows the distribution of the number of household interviews conducted across five selected chiefdoms and communities of the project intervention areas.

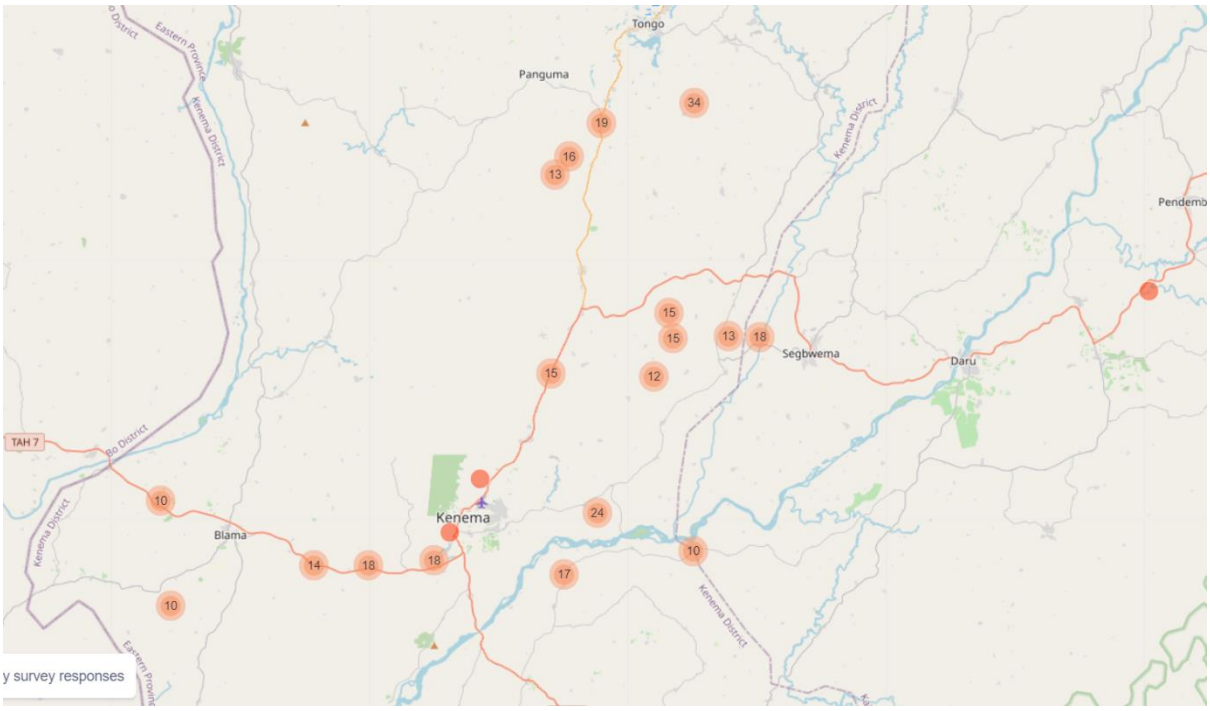
Table 2.1: Distribution of number households across communities and chiefdoms

No	COMMUNITIES	CHIEFDOM	Number of households interviewed	FGDs Communities
1	Kamboma	Lower Bambara	16	FGD
2	Pujehun	Lower Bambara	19	
3	Bindika	Lower Bambara	15	
4	Vaama	Lower Bambara	20	FGD
5	Fullawahun	Lower Bambara	13	
6	Madina	Nomo	10	
7	Yabaima	Nongowa	15	
8	Bandama	Nongowa	9	
9	Majihun	Dama	15	FGD
10	Tawahun	Dama	5	
11	Gelehun	Small Bo	10	
12	Soweima	Nongowa	12	
13	Kpai	Small Bo	18	FGD
14	Madina	Small Bo	10	
15	Serabu	Small Bo	12	FGD
16	Wonde	Nongowa	15	FGD
17	Gangama	Nongowa	15	FGD
18	Majihun	Nongowa	17	
19	Malehun	Nongowa	14	
20	Levuma	Nongowa	19	
21	Walima	Nogowa	15	FGD
	Total		**294**	**8**

V. **Field data collection**: Data collection started on 14th of May 2023 and ended on 20th May 2023. Both primary and secondary data were collected. Primary data were collected through beneficiary household interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews and Personal Observations. A total of **294** out of the sampled 300 household interviews were conducted. This led to response rate of **98.0%** for the household interviews with only 2% non-

response rate. These 2% of the data was not include in the analysis due to errors found during data cleaning however it is scientifically acceptable.

Figure 2.1: Map showing the distribution household during fieldwork



Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions were conducted with conducted with were conducted in 8 selected communities making sure that at least one FGD in each selected chiefdom was conducted. The communities where FGDs were conducted can be seen in Table 2.1 above. This was done in consultation with field officers of SEND and WHI in the selected chiefdoms.

Key Informant interviews (KIIs)

Key Informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with project team and its partners, key WASH and climate actors at the district level.

Data Management and Analysis

The quantitative data was analysed using Statistical Package for Service Solutions (SPSS) and pivot tables. Tables and graphs of key indicators outlined in the logframe were generated. At the end of each day during field work, the FGD and KII audios are properly labelled and using WhatsApp (a social media app), they are uploaded to the overall supervisor who will then download them into a digital folder both on the computer and in the cloud using Dropbox. All the audios are then compiled into their respective folders. Transcription of the audios were done before analysis. In analysing the transcribed data, content analysis was used.

2.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

To fulfil the purposes and objectives of the assignment, the evaluation is expected to assess the financial and non-financial results and its management by the Implementing Partners per the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, likelihood of impact, and sustainability. The proposed evaluation questions (EQs) would be grouped under these headings in Table 2.2 below:

Table 2.2: Proposed questions for End-Line Evaluation

No	Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions (Suggestions)
1.	Relevance	The extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies.
2.	Effectiveness	The extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, considering their relative importance.
3.	Efficiency	A measure of how economic resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results.
4.	Coherence	The compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution.
5.	Impact	Positive and negative, primary, and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended, or unintended.
6.	Sustainability	The continuation of benefits as proactive intervention after major development assistance has been completed.

Each of the criteria will be rated from 1 (Unsatisfactory) to 5 (exceptional) as shown in table below:

Table 2.3: Evaluation Criteria Rating

Criteria	Rating (1 low, 5 high)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Relevance					
Effectiveness					
Coherence					
Efficiency					
Likelihood of Impact					
Sustainability					

The below graph shows the description for each of the ratings for the criteria.

Figure 2.2: Guidance for rating the evaluation criteria

Guidance for rating the evaluation criteria:

Rating	Definition
1. Unsatisfactory	Performance was **consistently below expectations** in most areas of enquiry related to the evaluation criteria. **Overall performance** in relation to the evaluation criteria **is not satisfactory** due to serious gaps in some of the areas. Significant improvement is needed. Recommendations to improve performance are outlined in the evaluation report and Action Against Hunger will monitor progress in these areas.
2. Improvement needed	Performance **did not consistently meet expectations in some areas of enquiry**–performance failed to meet expectations in one or more essential areas of enquiry. Some improvements are needed in one or more of these. Recommendations to improve performance are outlined in the evaluation report and Action Against Hunger will monitor progress in these key areas.
3. On average meets expectations	On average, performance **met expectations** in all essential areas of enquiry and the overall **quality of work was acceptable**. Eventual recommendations over potential areas for improvement are outlined in the evaluation report.
4. Meets expectations	**Performance consistently met expectations** in all essential areas of enquiry, and the overall **quality of work was fairly good**. The most critical expectations were met.
5. Exceptional	**Performance consistently met expectations** due to **high quality of work** performed **in all essential areas of enquiry**, resulting in an **overall quality** of work that was **remarkable**.

Main limitations of the methodology

The only obvious limitation of the survey is time and budget limitation which prevented consultant to increase the sample size to cover more communities and households.

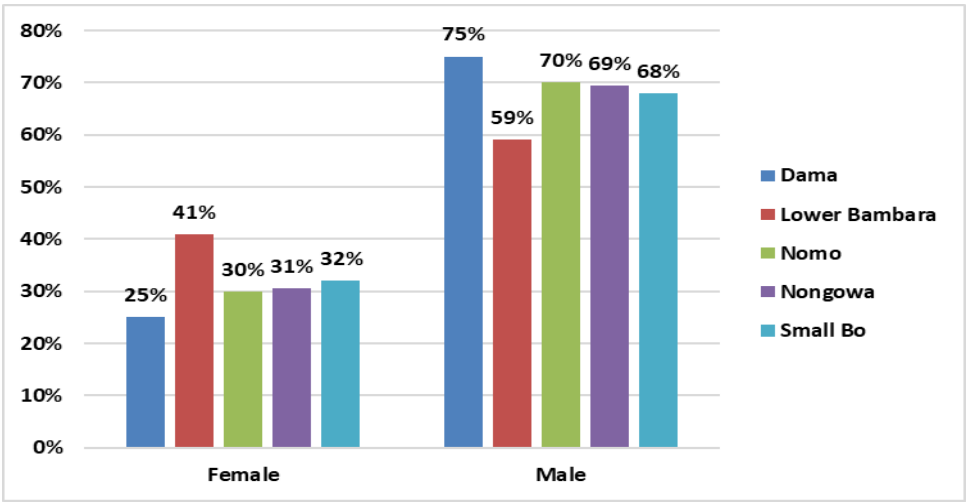
EVALUATION FINDINGS

This section of the report presents discussions and findings from both primary and secondary data collected and analysed. The first part of this section presents the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of project beneficiaries. This broadly gives background of beneficiaries which plays a is significant role of such beneficiaries in the project achieving its objectives. The final evaluation findings are structured around the Evaluation criteria (DAC) instituted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The evaluation analysis for each of the criteria is found below.

3.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of Project Beneficiaries

This section of the report will present findings on sex, age, marital status, education, occupation and average income of respondents interviewed. There was a total of 5 chiefdoms (Dama, Lower Bambara, Nomo, Nongowa and Small Bo) and 21 selected communities (Table 2.1) above these chiefdoms as reflected in the sample. It must be noted that the selection project beneficiaries were done in consultation with SEND-SL and WHI to ensure representative of the target beneficiaries and inclusiveness. To start with, about 67% of respondents interviewed were males while 33% were females, which make a female: male ratio of 1:3. Across the five chiefdoms, more female respondents was reported in Lower Bambara Chiefdom (41%) than the rest of the other chiefdoms. Dama has the least of female respondents; with a just quarter of the total respondents in the chiefdom (25%). In total, there was more respondents in the survey because most of the household heads in the country are headed by males. Figure 3.1 below presents the sex distribution of respondents across the five chiefdoms.

Figure 3.1: Sex of respondents across chiefdoms

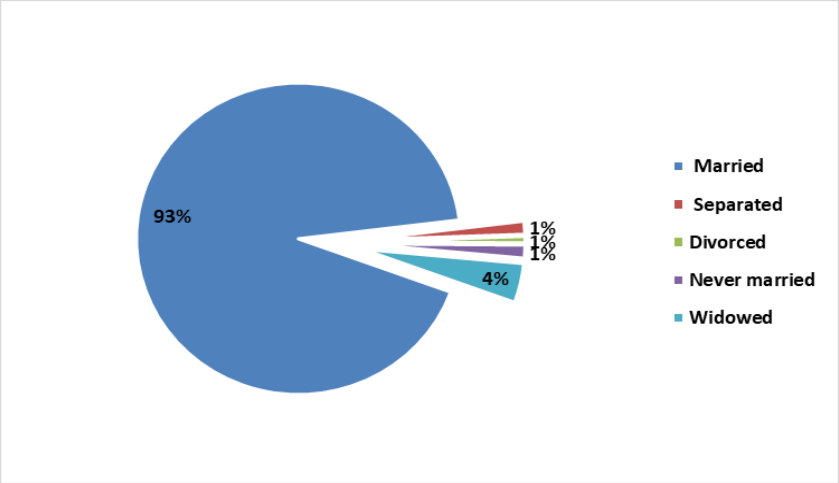


Source: MTR Survey, 2023

Marital status provides an insight of the capacity of an individual to take responsibility of the basic needs of other persons under his/her care. It also serves as a qualification to be given certain responsibilities of the community. For this mid-term evaluation, respondents were asked about their marital status to ascertain whether beneficiaries with family responsibility for providing food, educational opportunities and healthcare were included in the project.

Figure 3.2 shows the marital status of the households interviewed during the MTR. Almost all the respondents interviewed reported that they are married across all the chiefdoms. There was consistency in terms of responses across the chiefdoms due to the homogenous nature of such community. Respondents who reported to be widowed were only 4% with those who were separated, divorced, never married accounting for 1% apiece.

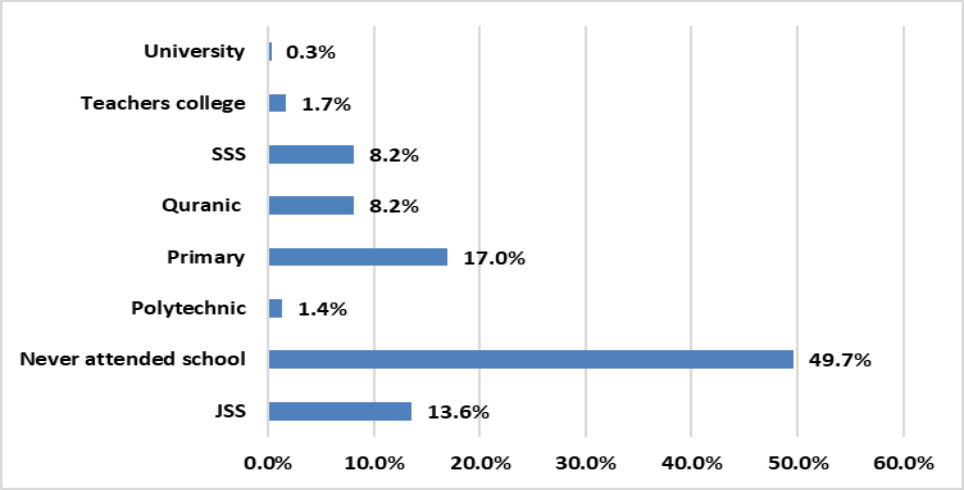
Figure 3.2: Marital Status of respondents



Source: MTR Survey, 2023

The level of education of the beneficiaries can be a source of livelihood and capacity to contribute to the development activities of a community. Beneficiaries with a higher level of education within a community are more likely to be given leadership roles in community, chiefdom, ward or district committees. For the P105 mid-term evaluation, about 50% of the respondents never attended school; with 13.6%, 17% and 8.2% attending JSS, primary and SSS respectively. A little over 2% have higher education in project communities sampled (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Level of education of respondents



Source: MTR Survey, 2023

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 shows the distribution of educational levels across both gender and chiefdoms respectively. It is evident in table 3.1 that about 62% of females never attended school compared to their counterparts 43%. This finding is consistent with national statistics that more males attend school than females in the rural areas due to the notion that women are groom for domestic purposes and marriage. It can also be seen that no female interviewed had attended university as against the men (0.5%). Notwithstanding, there is gradual growth in education for females as reflected in about 37% being in primary, JSS and SSS. In Table 3.2, Nongowa chiefdom recorded the highest number of respondents to have never attended school due to large number of sample sizes and number of communities interviewed compared to other chiefdoms else the chiefdoms exhibit homogeneity in terms of educational level.

Table 3.1: Distribution of educational level by gender

	Sex of respondents		
Education level	**Female**	**Male**	**Grand Total**
JSS	12.2%	14.3%	13.6%
Never attended school	62.2%	43.4%	49.7%
Polytechnic	0.0%	2.0%	1.4%
Primary	20.4%	15.3%	17.0%
Quranic	0.0%	12.2%	8.2%
SSS	4.1%	10.2%	8.2%
Teachers' college	1.0%	2.0%	1.7%
University	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0 %**	**100.0%**

Source: MTR Survey, 2023

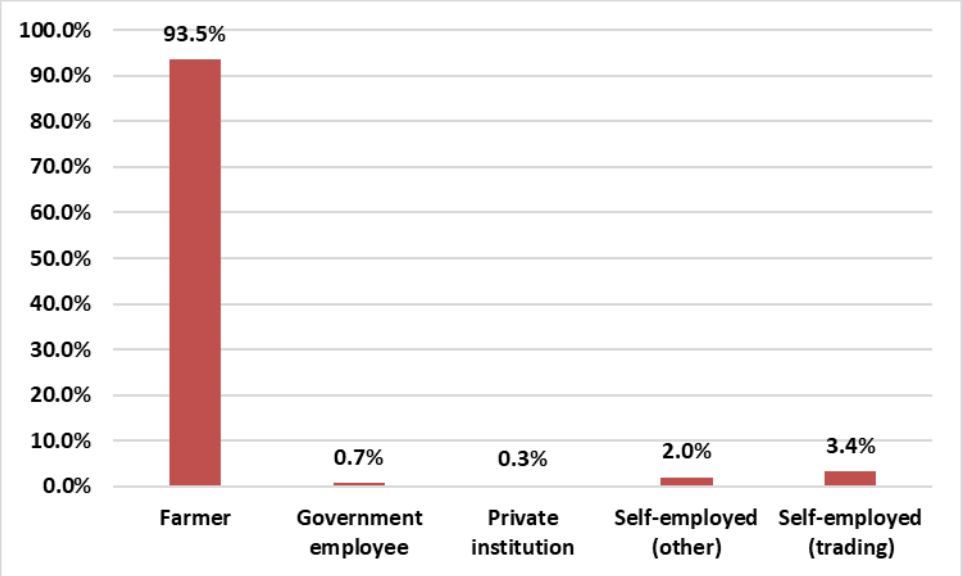
Table 3.2: Distribution of educational level by chiefdoms

Education level	Chiefdoms					Grand Total
	Dama	Lower Bambara	Nomo	Nongowa	Small Bo	
JSS	15.0%	19.3%	10.0%	7.6%	20.0%	13.6%
Never attended school	20.0%	44.6%	50.0%	61.1%	40.0%	49.7%
Polytechnic	0.0%	1.2%	20.0%	0.8%	0.0%	1.4%
Primary	15.0%	9.6%	0.0%	22.9%	18.0%	17.0%
Quranic	30.0%	9.6%	0.0%	2.3%	14.0%	8.2%
SSS	20.0%	13.3%	10.0%	4.6%	4.0%	8.2%
Teachers' college	0.0%	2.4%	10.0%	0.8%	2.0%	1.7%
University	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.3%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0 %**

Source: MTR Survey, 2023

The main occupation of the household head is important for the livelihood of members of the household in terms of provision of the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare. The main occupation of the household head also provides a measure of the level of participation in the delivery of socioeconomic opportunities in the community and involvement in the governance and decision-making processes. It can be seen from Figure 3.4 that almost all the respondents are farmers with 3.4% being traders.

Figure 3.4: Occupation of respondents



Source: MTR Survey, 2023

3.2 EVALUATION FINDINGS USING THE DAC CRITERIA



RELEVANCE

The project's overall goal is "CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (P 150)" is an intervention which directly addresses the key development problems in the country. Climate change has adverse impacts on Sierra Leone's economic development and poses a fundamental threat to the realization of the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023. Climate change being a national problem is felt in most districts in Sierra Leone and Kenema is among the top three. The government made several strides to improving the situation by charging the various line ministries to implement the National Adaptation Plan in 2019.

The approach of engaging district councils, WASH and climate change actors at both national and district level, NGOs/CSOs, technical institutions and WASH coordinators at the wards and community beneficiaries enhanced active participation in the implementation of the project. The active participation and ownership of the project by key stakeholders addressed the problems of climate change and its impacts of WASH related activities will go a long way to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 13 for the country.

The project had clearly defined objectives and priorities that directly targets beneficiaries at all levels as detailed in the result framework. The overall project ***objective) was i***mproved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance - population 610.000 persons.

- ***Objective 1:*** 50 rural communities in Kenema district have climate robust WASH infrastructure *(implementation of community driven climate-sensitive WASH actions towards climate-robust access to water and sanitation and construction/rehabilitation).*
- **Objective 2:** Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance *(capacity building on national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district HDC's SOPs and stands and through promotion of a market-driven service approach at community and district level in Kenema)*
- **Objective 3**. Kenema district serves as a catalytically examples of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies. *Policy influences from below - demonstration of citizen-driven climate-resilient WASH management from the community level.*

As can be seen from the objectives, the planned project made sure that, to fully capture the overall impact of the project, stakeholders at all levels needed to be included. From the problem analysis, the objectives, priorities and focus of the project are clearly defined and is in line with the needs of the beneficiaries both at community and district level.

Engagements at the community level, beneficiaries were vocal about their lack of WASH facilities and knowledge of the impact of WASH activities. Also, most district level stakeholders and community beneficiaries expressed their lack of knowledge on some of the national polices that guides climate change and WASH activities in the country. The above intervention objectives, especially 2 and 3 will to a large extent adequately address these specific needs of the beneficiaries at both community, district level and national level as detailed in the impact matrix.

SEND-SL and WHI over the years of its operations in the country have set good interpersonal relationship in all districts of operations and interventions areas to make sure that all the key structures and stakeholders are taken into consideration during project design. The project used a similar approach to make sure that anticipated structural problems such as non-acceptance of the project by some districts due to activities of other NGOs, low consultations with local councils and chiefdom stakeholders was non-existent. SEND-SL and WHI engaged other NGOs (GOAL etc.) in the sector of operation in this case climate-sensitive WASH interventions to avoid problems during implementation in the project districts.

SEND-SL and WHI were aware and appreciate that there are norms and standards of approach compatible with different sets of beneficiaries across different districts. Kenema occupy different tribes hence have different ways of life. SEND-SL and WHI over the years have clear strategies of community engagement and entries that are in line with the norms and standards which communities have shown appreciation of how it was done. The approach of paying courtesy calls to the various chiefs at both chiefdom and sections down to community levels during community entries have over the years helped in project implementation of such kind.

SEND-SL and WHI's drive for community driven interventions have made it easy for previous project interventions. The design of the planned project will make sure that all project beneficiaries are factored in to avoid delay in the implementation due to conflict of interest at both district and community level. Project activities and selection of beneficiary communities are decided upon with both district and chiefdom representatives using the climate vulnerability and poverty index as some of the proxies. Also, the vulnerable groups (women, youth and disable) were given priority as it has come out to be one of the key factors of project conflict of interest from higher ranks in previous assignments. Also, SEND-SL and WHI have set out Safeguarding Principles and Protocols to ensure that project beneficiaries are not harmed either by staff or external consultants which help in the implementation of projects. Staff and consultants hired by SEND-SL and WHI signed it before commencement of work geared towards safety of project beneficiaries.

To sum it up, the project has put together the above measures discussed to make sure that the project does the right thing considering the welfare and standards at both community and district level to ensure that direct beneficiaries and other key stakeholders at both district and national level get the desired results outlined in the project log frame.

COORDINATION AND PROJECT COHERENCE



The project coherency will look at how planned project is suitable for beneficiaries and to ascertain what national policies back the planned project. It also looks at whether the project is coherent with the goals of SEND-SL and WHI and how their activities are implemented to avoid overlaps with similar interventions in the selected districts.

The "CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (P 150) is coherent with national policies of the country. This project is consistent with National Adaptation Plan (iNAP) developed by the government of Sierra Leone through Environmental Protection Agency. The iNAP responds to the overall objectives of the UNFCCC's National Adaptation Plan Guidelines for reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience of the country and facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant existing and new policies, programmes and activities. The country's iNAP also gives guidance and provides information on actions to reduce climate change vulnerability regarding water resources, agriculture and food security, public health, coastal zones, and communities across the country. The range of adaptation

options has been well-defined through systemic and bottom-up national-level consultative processes[1]. The planned project which's aim is "improvement livelihood in the Kambia, Pujehun and Kenema districts through the cross-sector engagement of climate-sensitive WASH governance" is consistent with the national guidelines for climate change and its impact on WASH interventions.

The priority of the government is to also improve access to WASH facilities and human rights of the vulnerable groups are all part of the millennium and sustainable development goals (SDG 6 and 13) of the country. Overall, the project being implemented is coherent with what the government of Sierra Leone is seeking achieve for the people of the country.

The activities as can be seen in the result target more beneficiaries in the vulnerable groups and given the planned activities of community engagements and district consultations, SEND-SL will make sure such activities are consistent with human right principles and national policies that guides communities.
SEND-SL and WHI's approach to project design of involving beneficiary stakeholders and communities is to elicit information about similar interventions implemented by other stakeholders (organisations) in the same context. This approach guided by district council and community stakeholders is to make sure that similar interventions are not duplicated. SEND-SL and WHI will look at the possibility of expanding the scope of the existing similar interventions in beneficiary communities by sending MoU with implementing agency to scale up and add more value to the ongoing intervention.

The planned CDCC project is coherent with the mission and principles of "promoting good governance, voice, accountably basic services and equality for women and men in Sierra Leone". SEND-SL principle of "development is multi-dimensional, involving economic, political and social issues requiring integrated programming approaches to promote community-driven development initiatives, economic literacy and policy advocacy" sit-well with the current proposed project.

The priority of the government is to also improve access to WASH facilities and human rights of the vulnerable groups are all part of the millennium and sustainable development goals of the country. Overall, the project being implemented is coherent with what the government of Sierra Leone is seeking to achieve for the people of the country.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT

3.5

Achievements/non achievements of the project objectives

This section of the report looked at what the project achieved as against targeted impact, outcome and outputs established during the design of the project. This section throws light on the key activities implemented and what have been achieved with detailed information on project activities.

The Key Project Objectives

Impact (Overall objective): Improved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance - population 610.000 persons

[1] Sierra Leone National Adaptation Plan, 2019

Objective 1: 50 rural communities in Kenema district have climate robust WASH infrastructure *(implementation of community driven climate-sensitive WASH actions towards climate-robust access to water and sanitation and construction/rehabilitation).*

Objective 2: Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance *(capacity building on national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district HDC's SOPs and stands and through promotion of a market-driven service approach at community and district level in Kenema)*

Objective 3. Kenema district serves as a catalytically examples of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies. *Policy influences from below - demonstration of citizen-driven climate-resilient WASH management from the community level.*

Were these objectives achieved?

The achievements of the project objectives will be looked at two levels. The first section will look at what direct project beneficiaries (households) feel about the intervention and the second section will look at achievements with respect to the various outputs outlined in the project log frame. Details on what the direct beneficiaries perceive to have been achieved as discussed below.

Beneficiaries' perception on project achievements

This section seeks to learn from beneficiaries' perspectives on what the project has contributed to various livelihood assets in their communities. From Table 3.3 below, it is evident that the project has improved access to safe drinking water in the project communities with 8.5% of household interviewed saying the project improved their access to water to a very large extent and 40.5% of respondents saying to access to improve safe drinking has improved to a large extent. Households in Nongowa chiefdom were more positive with respect to improvement in access to safe drinking water by the project (99.2%) due to the fact its host the district capital and most of the communities interviewed are around Kenema City where Nongowa chiefdom can be found. About 90% of respondents in Nomo believed their access to safe drinking water has improved because of the project. Dama chiefdom recorded the least in terms of improvement in access to safe drinking water compared to other chiefdoms. It must be noted that the project is still in the mid-term phase and that improvement could be made at such chiefdom to get a positive response like other chiefdoms at the endline evaluation.

Table 3.3: To what extent would you say the activities implemented has improve access to safe drinking water in your community?

	Chiefdoms					
Scale	**Dama**	**Lower Bambara**	**Nomo**	**Nongowa**	**Small Bo**	**Grand Total**
To a very large extent	15.0%	28.9%	50.0%	74.8%	22.0%	48.0%
To a large extent	65.0%	51.8%	40.0%	24.4%	54.0%	40.5%
To some extent	20.0%	4.8%	0.0%	0.8%	14.0%	5.4%
To a low extent	0.0%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	4.1%
To a very low extent	0.0%	6.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Improvement in health and sanitation in project communities because of the implementation of P105 project was lauded by households as can been in Table 3.4 below. More than half of the respondents interviewed believed activities implemented by the project have improved health and sanitation in their communities to a very large extent.

Table 3.4: To what extent would you say the activities implemented has improve health and sanitation in your community?

	Chiefdoms					
Row Labels	**Dama**	**Lower Bambara**	**Nomo**	**Nongowa**	**Small Bo**	**Grand Total**
To a very large extent	10.0%	36.1%	60.0%	74.0%	36.0%	52.0%
To a large extent	85.0%	50.6%	30.0%	24.4%	46.0%	39.8%
To some extent	5.0%	4.8%	0.0%	1.5%	18.0%	5.4%
To a low extent	0.0%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
To a very low extent	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

The project has implemented a lot capacity building for community members on series climate smart WASH practices in communities. Training on climate adaptations and its impact on WASH has been conducted. Households were therefore asked to what extent such activities implemented by SEND-SL and its partners have improved their knowledge on climate smart WASH practices in their communities and their responses can be seen in Table 3.5.

About 48% of the respondents felt that the capacity building activities implemented by the project has improved their knowledge to a very large extent on climate smart WASH practices in their communities. Lower Bambara and Dama chiefdom reported high values of 65% and 56.6% respectively that the activities implemented has improved their knowledge on climate smart WASH practices in their community to a large extent while Nongowa to still record the highest due to higher sample size and more communities interviewed during the mid-term evaluation.

Table 3.5: To what extent would you say the activities implemented has improve your knowledge on climate smart WASH practices in your community?

	Chiefdoms					
Row Labels	**Dama**	**Lower Bambara**	**Nomo**	**Nongowa**	**Small Bo**	**Grand Total**
To a very large extent	30.0%	24.1%	40.0%	73.3%	28.0%	47.6%
To a large extent	65.0%	56.6%	50.0%	23.7%	46.0%	40.5%
To some extent	5.0%	10.8%	0.0%	3.1%	26.0%	9.2%
To a low extent	0.0%	8.4%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

One of the key project outputs was awareness of WASH rights in communities. WASH right is a key indicator for SDG 6 but prior to this project lots of communities were not aware of it. The Citizen

Driven Climate Sensitive Wash Management Project (P 150) provided training on awareness of community members on their right to access WASH facilities. About 43% of the respondents across the sample believed that the seminars and training have improved their awareness on WASH rights in their communities to a very large extent with about 41% saying it improved their awareness by 41% to a large extent. There is consistency across chiefdoms in terms of respondents who believed the activities implemented by the project has improved their awareness on WASH rights to a large extent except for Nongowa chiefdom.

Table 3.6: To what extent would you say the activities implemented has improve your awareness on WASH rights (SDG 6) in your community?

	Chiefdoms					
Row Labels	**Dama**	**Lower Bambara**	**Nomo**	**Nongowa**	**Small Bo**	**Grand Total**
To a very large extent	5.0%	22.9%	40.0%	70.2%	18.0%	42.5%
To a large extent	70.0%	54.2%	50.0%	24.4%	48.0%	40.8%
To some extent	25.0%	15.7%	10.0%	5.3%	34.0%	14.6%
To a low extent	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
To a very low extent	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Participation and inclusiveness in community development initiatives have proven to be an issue for project implementation. The ability of the project to make sure the vulnerable groups are included in key activities and decision-making is very critical for every successful project. The project put measures in place to make sure that everybody has an equal chance of being part of the Health Development Committees (HDCs) and Climate WASH Committees (CWASHComs) during its formation. To know the extent to which the measures put in place by the project have improved participation and inclusiveness, households were asked to share their opinion. From Table 3.7, about 42% of respondents were of the opinion that the WASH governance in their community is participatory and inclusive. It is worth noting that some households interviewed in Dama, Small Bo and Lower Bambara chiefdoms were a little skeptical with respect to the project improving participation and inclusiveness in their communities especially Lower Bambara chiefdom where 8.4% of the respondents reportedly believed participation and inclusion in WASH governance is low.

Table 3.7: To what extent would you say WASH governance in your community is participatory and inclusive?

	Chiefdoms					
Row Labels	**Dama**	**Lower Bambara**	**Nomo**	**Nongowa**	**Small Bo**	**Grand Total**
To a very large extent	5.0%	21.7%	40.0%	71.8%	14.0%	42.2%
To a large extent	65.0%	54.2%	50.0%	26.7%	42.0%	40.5%
To some extent	30.0%	15.7%	10.0%	1.5%	44.0%	15.0%
To a low extent	0.0%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Respondents have expressed opinions on the various livelihood benefits that the project activities have helped improve as discuss extensively above so respondents were asked to express their opinion to what extent they think the project activities implemented so far has improve livelihood in their household and community as a whole. Nongowa chiefdom which Kenema City is located and the selected localities for the evaluation in the chiefdom closer to it, they have consistently reported that the implementation of P105 project has improvement in access to safe drinking water, decision making, business services, WASH infrastructures, VSLAs and other livelihood activities in their households and communities as whole to a very large extent (Table 3.8). About 25% of respondents in Lower Bambara chiefdom on the other hand believe that activities implemented so far have improved livelihoods in the household and community to a low extent. As can be seen in table 3.8, the rest of the chiefdoms believe that the project activities implemented so far have improved their livelihoods.

Table 3.8: To what extent would you say the activities implemented by SEND has improve livelihood in your in your household and community as a whole?

	Column Labels					
Row Labels	**Dama**	**Lower Bambara**	**Nomo**	**Nongowa**	**Small Bo**	**Grand Total**
To a very large extent	5.0%	25.3%	30.0%	76.3%	34.0%	48.3%
To a large extent	75.0%	57.8%	50.0%	18.3%	36.0%	37.4%
To some extent	20.0%	9.6%	10.0%	5.3%	30.0%	11.9%
To a low extent	0.0%	7.2%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Grand Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

In conclusion, various capacity building and implementation of climate smart WASH activities according to beneficiaries have improved access to safe drinking water, health and sanitation in their communities to a large extent. It has also increased their knowledge on climate smart WASH practices in project communities. Project beneficiaries are now aware of their WASH rights to a large extent. The project implementation prioritised participation and inclusiveness and these were agreed upon by beneficiaries as they felt throughout the P105 design and implementation, they were involved and participated fully in all the activities. Even though, the project has not concluded, about 86% of beneficiaries believed that P105 project implemented so far as improved livelihoods in households and project communities.

Key Project Outputs implemented.

The outputs are discussed with information from project log frame, project reports using data from fieldwork to serve as validation.

Inception and monitoring

The project was launched on 4th of March 2022 at Paloma conference hall. There was a total of 194 participants with 74 females and 120 male community participants instead of the target of 150. There was an inception seminar also conducted with 17 participants (7 females and 10 males) as at the time of the MTR.

Object 1: 50 rural communities in Kenema district have climate robust WASH infrastructure.

Indicator 1.1: # of communities with climate robust WASH infrastructure by Jan. 2024

Assessment of WASH infrastructures was done by the WASH Engineer. and participatory prioritization sessions were held in all 50 communities and all of them came up with defined priorities for their

communities in terms of WASH needs. During the MTR, no community training on climate adaptation skills was conducted with no climate sensitive WASH infrastructures documented.
The rehabilitation and construction climate resilient WASH infrastructures are yet to be implemented. But 19 water points have been identified in 11 communities for rehabilitation.

Indicator 1.2: Evidence of communities aligned with new district-level climate-resilient WASH policies by Jan. 2024

At the time of the evaluation, the strategy on community resilience on Climate WASH developed has been developed and disseminated in 50 project communities and the KDWASHCord in August 2022. The CWASHCom have been formed to champion climate WASH adaption and mitigation actions in their communities. The findings made during the climate risk assessment formed the basis for the formulation of the district action plan and the designing of the climate robust WASH infrastructures in the 50 project communities.
Fifty CWASHComstructures capacity and climate action unit (comprises of 3 participants per CWASHCom) integrated into the WASH Management Committee.

Indicator 1.3: # of communities with functional standardized WASH governance structures (50 HDCs) by Jan. 2023

During April 2022, 30 communities were engaged on the formation/re-establishment of Health Development Committees/Climate WASH Committees in 5 chiefdoms (Dodo, Lower Bambara, Nongowa, Simbaru and Small Bo). A total of 30 Climate WASH Committees/HDCs were formed in 30 communities of which, 17 Climate WASH Committees-CWASHCom were re-established in 17 old communities (namely: Wonde, Tijobu, Talia, Potehun, Ngelahun, Levuma, Niehun Bavoehun, Lorwuma, Malehun, Gangema, Waliama, Majihun, Komende, Ngandeyama, Soweima and Gbandoma in Nongowa Chiefdom; and Gelehun in Small Bo Chiefdom) and 13 new CWASHCom. Were from in 13 new communities (Kpia, Serabu, Madina, Longaema in Small Bo Chiefdom; Pujehun, in Nongowa; Sandiyaru in Dodo Chiefdom; Kamboma, Talama, Tijobu, Vaama, Fallawahun and Ngeihun in Lower Bambara; and Goma in Simbaru Chiefdom)[2] however at the time of mid-term evaluation in May 2023, all the established WASH structures (CWASHCom and HDCs were fully functional and operation with full participation of all strata in the communities and wards. Plate 1 and 2 are evidence of the formation of some of the CWASHComs.
There were a total of 1062 meetings, encounters and sessions in project communities where issues regarding the mandate and functionality of HDCs and WASH communities. There was a total of 150 refresher trainings for community members with 327 female and 392 male participants. The project was successful with respect to the number of communities proactively implementing the action as 41 communities as against 25 at baseline proactively using the action.

[2] April monthly report, 2022



Plate 1: Participants during the CWASHCom. formation meeting in Komende Station Nongowa Chiefdom, Kenema District



Plate 2: Illustrating CWASHCom formation meeting in Potehun

Indicator 1.4: Communities with the capacity to engage in WASH sector climate adaptation.

CWASHCom were trained on their roles, responsibilities, transparency, accountability, reporting partway, and community mobilization. There was a total of 1300 community meetings (624 in 24 new communities and 676 in 26 old communities) with CWASHCom and all 40 communities are well documented their resources mobilized and invest on WASH with few communities not mobilizing user fee. Some communities have been linked with the service providers. However, there was no community with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the private sector.

Indicator 1.5: At least 80% reduction on the frequency of response to WASH infrastructure breakdown.
This activity is still pending at the time of the evaluation.

Object 2: Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance.

Indicator 2.1: Evidence of KDWASHC district climate hazard assessment conducted and published.

One KDWASHC district climate hazard assessment was conducted and published in March 2022.

Indicator 2.2: Annual climate incidents report developed and published by KDWASHC ('22 and '23)

The project is supposed to develop two annual climate incidents reports as reported in the log frame but as at the time of the evaluation, the data collection process for the first annual climate incident report was still ongoing.

Indicator 2.3: Develop standard mandate for HDCs and sub-WASH Committees on climate sensitive policies and standards to guide community governance structures on climate change adaptation.

During the MTR, the target of developing one district mandate for Climate WASH Committees done and signed by KDWASHCord (Water Directorate) on climate sensitive policies and standards to guide community governance structures on climate change adaptation.

Indicator 2.4: At least 2 annual WASH plans developed and circulated that demonstrate climate adaptation initiatives with corresponding budget ('23/'24 plan)

This activity was not undertaken at the time of the evaluation. However, there is one annual district action plan developed and district baseline on climate hazards and WASH related impacts conducted and report launched.

Indicator 2.5: At least 7 private sectors are trained and certified by the KDWASHC and engaged in management system on climate change adaptation.

The project did well to go beyond the baseline value of at least 7 private sectors at baseline to train 21 private sectors to engaged in management system on climate robust WASH infrastructure. There is no evidence of certification for private sectors by KDWASHC for them to engage in management systems on climate change adaptation during the MTR.

Indicator 2.6: # of service providers and ETU students trained and certified on management system.

Twenty out of the targeted 60 students from the Eastern Technical University Sierra Leone (ETUSL) have been trained in climate risk assessment during the mid-term evaluation. But none of the service providers from the ETUSL were trained on the certified WASH management system.

Objective 3. Kenema district serves as a catalytically examples of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies.

Indicator 3.1: Evidence of advocacy strategy to influence national policy formulation on climate adaptation in the WASH sector - targeting National Adaptation Plan

The planned advocacy strategy to influence national policy formulation on climate adaptation in WASH sector targeting the NAP has been developed by the project. The seminar for the development of the advocacy strategy had a total of 86 stakeholders from community, chiefdom and district levels (27 females and 59 males) which are greater than the project target.

There was a seminar on district wide knowledge on the NAP process with a total of 55 community participants (15 females and 40 males). It worth nothing that, the NAP has been approved by UNFCCC and the project team in collaboration with the district authorities (KDWASHCord, EPA, ETUSL, and CSO) operationalize the NAP into the advocacy and district action plan (Kenema district Adaptation Plan-KAP).

Indicator 3.2: Evidence of approaches, experiences, and lessons learned regarding standardized climate robust WASH governance.

Communication Manager together with the Advocacy Advisor gathered experiences and lessons regarding standardized climate robust WASH governance in the communities. Two communities were reported to have documented processes and outcomes.

An MoU has been signed between SEND and Nyapui Radio in Kenema to do radio campaigns on climate sensitive WASH planning. One annual workshop has been conducted on project progress, evidence, approaches, experiences and lessons learnt regarding standardized climate robust WASH governance in the district.

Indicator 3.3: # of national conferences held to market and disseminate mechanisms documented in the project and the national climate adaptation plan (NAP).

There is no national conference held to market and disseminate mechanisms documented in the project and the national climate adaptation plan (NAP) during the MTR.

Indicator 3.4: Evidence of KDWASHC formal registration as member in the national WASH network by March 2022

KDWASHC has become a formal partner in the WASH network representing a participatory space between gov. inst. and civil society by June 2022.

To sum it up, the project has been implemented in the most effective way as the approach of using participation and inclusiveness of project beneficiaries has proven effective. This was echoed by households and district stakeholders during household interviews, FGDs and KIIs with stakeholders at the district. From the discussions above, it is evident that most activities planned under the project have been implemented fully with few activities ongoing or pending as at the time of the MTR, hence we recommend that key activities outstanding like the construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities and national conference to market and disseminate mechanisms documented in the project and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) be carried out as soon as possible as they have a big roles in ensuring full impact of the project has been achieved. From the MTR, the P105 project's implementation has been effective and on course to complete activities planned by the project.

EFFICIENCY



Efficiency in project implementation

Adequacy of time and budget to implement the planned activities.

SEND SL and its partners revealed during the interviews that the project is a long-term project (3 years) and that they feel confident in what has been achieved midway through the project. budget been adequate to implement the project. The total approved budget of the project was **EURO 293,264.30**. SEND-SL and its partners described the project budget stated above to be very limited. The objectives were fine at the time of design, but there were few challenges that implementation sometimes a little difficult. A lot of costs have changed and unexpectedly higher costs have been experienced as some personnel cost were not captured in the project budget For example, prices of fuel and other materials budgeted during project design have increased massively due to ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

The budget therefore has to be modified several times to make sure certain materials whose prices changes quickly are purchased in large quantities to avoid higher prices.

In all the adjustments, the project ensured it complied with the donor and partner regulation in budget adjustment, in which you cannot exceed chapter budget, even though one cannot exceed 10% at subheading level.
Another way circumventing increase in prices, some of the partners in the project signed Framework agreement with suppliers so that even if the prices change, the project will still pay the price signed in the agreement.

Summary of Budget disbursed and yet to be disbursed as of 28th February 2023

According to the SEND-SL Budget Realignment as of 28th February 2023, of the total EURO 293,264.30, about EURO 110,074.36 (37.5%) has been disbursed with an outstanding disbursement of EURO 183,189.93.

Was the project implemented in the most efficient way?

Given the limited budget line in the implementation of the project, the project team are doing their best to be able to implement all activities by the end of this project. A review of all the project activities implemented as discussed above shows a great move towards completion of the project, the project approach to implementation is deemed efficient given time, budget and achievement so far.

To conclude, the project absorption capacity of about 38% at the time of the MTR is a step in the right direction given that key activities that takes bulk of the budget is still to be implemented. It was obvious during engagements with implementing partners that the budget was adequate at the time of design of the project but due recent hikes in prices contributed largely due to high increase in fuel prices because of ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has created challenges in implementation. The MTR recommend that in future project design, inflation factor and other unforeseen events that has the potential to disrupt and influence budget should be put in place. This can be done by way of additional 5% of the total budget for contingencies. Given the limited budget line in the implementation of the project, the project team are doing their best to be able to implement all activities by the end of this project.

LIKELIHOOD OF IMPACT 3

Impact: Improved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance - population 610.000 persons

The project has contributed to improvement in livelihoods in project communities across the climate WASH sector through cross sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance to some extent. From the FGDs and KIIs conducted, all of them were of the opinion that some of the impacts are being felt in the areas that have been implemented but to fully have the desired impact, all project activities have to be implemented.
This project needed more time to create the desired impact regarding improving livelihood in Kenema Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance. However, there was evidence of improvement in the chiefdoms with respect to improvement in access to safe drinking water, health and sanitation and knowledge on climate smart WASH practices. Also, there is

improvement in awareness of WASH rights in communities and participation and inclusion in WASH governance in communities.

It is evident from discussions during the engagements with direct beneficiaries under project that there has been impacts created by the project even though it is mid-way with key activities to be implemented. It is laudable given that the project is on course to bringing the desired impact during the design given time to complete all the activities in the project. From the MTR, if the project implementation plan and approach is followed, desired impact of improving livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance will be achieved.

3

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of Project assets and benefits

Project beneficiaries revealed during both household interviews and focus group discussions that SEND-SL and partners were explicit on who owns the project which means the project was for them. It came out of the discussions that beneficiaries were willing to continue their monthly contributions so they can repair the WASH facilities if get broken down. In fact, it was revealed that they have started contributing and that they have book for their contributions as can been below in Plate 3.



Plate 3: Illustrating photo of the community user`s fee collection book during the staff monthly mobilization visit in Saguehun Community, Nongowa Chiefdom

Furthermore, beneficiaries highlighted the importance of the capacity building given to them on climate-sensitive WASH practices, climate adaptation and business services during the FGDs. They said the knowledge gained will be with them and that if the programme phases out, they will continue to practice they have learnt.

Setting up local structures such as HDCs and CWASHComs and capacity to continue to sensitize the beneficiaries for them to sustain the benefits of the project were also some of the sustainability mechanisms put in place by the project.

All these activities undertaken above are what the project believes if done effectively and efficient the project sustainability can be achieved after its phasing out.

In conclusion, the P105 project right from the design phase had a sustainability plan by way of setting up community and district structures (HDCs and CWASHComs) to continue to function by providing capacity building on how to sustain the project. Also, community user fees implemented by the project as a way of repairing facilities when breakages happen was also a sustainability strategy for the project. However, to fully ensure that the project is sustained, there should be a clear and easy to read exit and sustainability strategy with the full participation of the households, FBOs, ABCs, chiefs, and other local authorities, MoEC, EPA, Project Partners, the District Council, and other partners. This will document all possible sustainability strategies and serve as a reference for not only structures set by the project but also households and the district actors as whole.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This final section of the report focuses on conclusions and recommendations from the mid-term evaluation.

Conclusion

SEND Sierra Leone and World Hope International (WHI), funded by EWB-DK, are implementing the CITIZEN DRIVEN CLIMATE SENSITIVE WASH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (P 150). The overall development objective of the intervention is to improve livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance – target population 610,000 persons. The project was implemented in 50 communities in the Kenema district.

This mid-line evaluation covered 21 project communities in Kenema district. SEND and its implementing partners have done tremendous work given the time of project implementation and the acceptance and commendations given during both FGDs and KIIs says it all. The strength of the project at first sight is SEND and WHI's coordination ability with partners and stakeholders in ensuring that all activities are implemented together.

The project beneficiaries and district stakeholders were very appreciative of the improving livelihood through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance as one of its kind. It was evident that SEND-SL, World Hope International and Engineers Without Borders are very appreciated in the district. These organizations have established a very good relationship with not only district stakeholders and line ministries but also community leaders and members as reported during the FGDs and KIIs. Some of the strengths pointed out by stakeholders were their participatory and inclusive approach to project implementation. Constant consultations with key stakeholders at both district and community levels have been praised and beneficiaries were hopeful that these organisations continue to their approach and bring more interventions for them.

However, it was evident that the budget allocated for the project during the design phase was too small leading to challenges to fully implement project activities. Coupled with high inflation and the increase in prices of planned activities.

The project has put series of measure in place for sustainability, but a project of such nature should have very a clear is clear exit and sustainability strategies.

Recommendations

A. Project activities not completed in schedule should be completed before the end of project duration.

B. More capacity building on climate smart WASH practices was appreciated hence participants crave for more.

C. Design a very clear exit and sustainability strategy with the full participation of the FBOs, ABCs, chiefs, and other local authorities, MoEC, EPA, Project Partners, the District Council, and other partners.

D. SEND should review the complaint mechanism to improve the information flow between project partners and communities who were very critical of the fact that their views were not taken into consideration during project implementation.

E. During project design and planning, it is advisable to take into account unforeseen issues like inflation. Partners expressed concern over under budgeting due to price hikes in commodities.

F. Any prior contribution from beneficiaries should be made clear from the inception phase so that beneficiaries do not feel like they are being exploited.

ANNEX A: PHOTOS



Illustrating CWC member watering her tree in Sandeyaru community



Illustrating photo of representative from Nyandeama community at the credit.



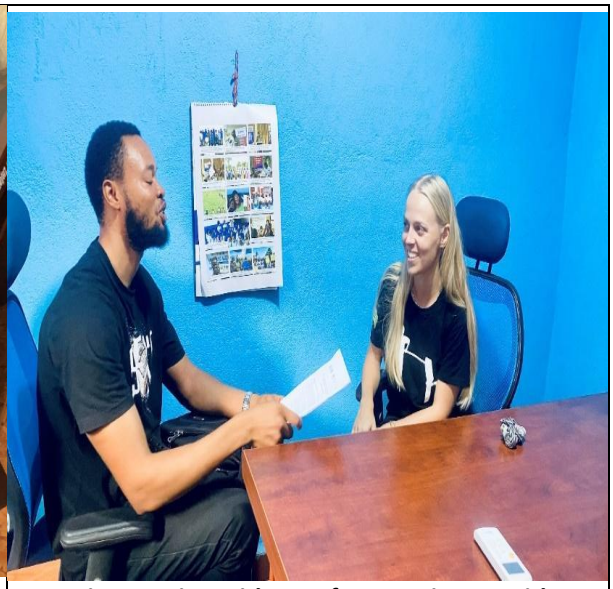
Illustrating staff facilitating community stakeholders in Fallawahun during the CWASHCom. formation



Illustrating tree planting and fencing of water point in Vaama Community in Lower Bambara Chiefdom.



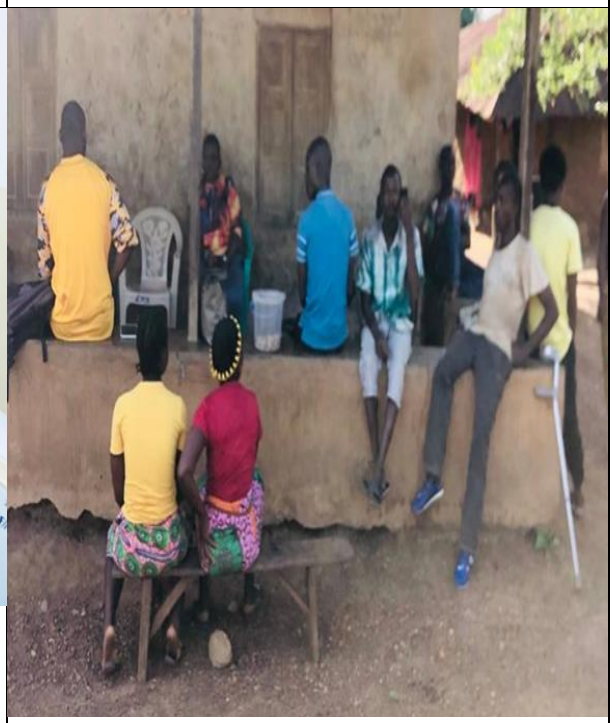
Mid-Term Enumerators Training session at SEND Conference room, Kenema



Interview session with Sara from Engineers without Borders-Denmark (EWB-Dk)



Interview session with Mr. Patrick Jakaman Deputy Chief Administrator, Kenema District Council



Focus Group Discussion at Malehun community

ANNEX B: PROJECT RESULT FRAMEWORK

Result Framework: Citizen Driven Climate Sensitive WASH Management Project (P 150)					
Development objective: Improved livelihood in Kenema district through cross-sector engagement in climate-sensitive WASH governance - population 610.000 persons					
Outcomes / Outputs	**Key Result Indicators**	**Base line**	**Target**	**Source / Means of Verification**	**Progress/Update**
Objective 1. 50 rural communities in Kenema district have with climate robust WASH infrastructure (implementation of community driven climate-sensitive WASH actions towards climate-robust access to water and sanitation and construction/rehabilitation) .	# of communities with climate robust WASH infrastructure by Jan. 2024	25 communities with climate robust WASH infrastructure	50 communities with climate robust WASH infrastructure by Jan. 2024	Physical inspection of WASH infrastructure, official certification, progress reports.	50 communities with climate robust WASH infrastructure
	Evidence of communities aligned with new district-level climate-resilient WASH policies by Jan. 2024	25 communities are aligned with new district-level climate-resilient WASH policies	50 communities are aligned with new district-level climate-resilient WASH policies by Jan. 2024	Physical inspection, official certification by National WASH platform, pictures and videos	Strategy on community resilience on Climate WASH developed and disseminated in 50 project communities 50 communities structures capacitated and climate action unit integrated into the WASH Management Committee Note: There is no District climate resilience WASH policy. The only available policy is the "The National Water and Sanitation Policy".

	# of communities with functional standardized WASH governance structures (50 HDCs) by Jan. 2023	25 communities have functional standardized WASH governance structures (50 HDCs)	50 communities have functional standardized WASH governance structures (50 HDCs) by Jan. 2023	Community climate resilient HDC mandate, WASH governance action plans	50 communities have functional WASH governance structures led by the Climate Development Committees (CDCs)
	At least 80% reduction on the frequency of response to WASH infrastructure break down.	Response time on WASH infrastructure break down is 60.5%	Response time on WASH infrastructure break down has been reduced with 80 %	Data logged monitoring at community level by NGO staff, data systems combined with KDWASHC incident reports.	Pending
Objective 2. Kenema District governing WASH structure applies participatory and inclusive climate-robust WASH governance (capacity building on national climate adaptation plan, participatory governance structures, development of district HDC's SOPs and stands and through promotion of a market-driven service approach at community and district level in Kenema)	Evidence of KDWASHC district climate hazard assessment conducted and published	0 assessment of climate hazards conducted by KDWASHC district wide	1 KDWASHC district climate hazard assessment conducted and published	Assessment report of climate hazards, pictures, videos	1 KDWASHC district climate hazard assessment conducted
	Annual climate incidents report developed and published by KDWASHC ('22 and '23)	0 annual climate incidents report developed by KDWASHC	2 annual climate incidents report developed and published by KDWASHC (2022 and 2023)	Annual climate hazard incident report, pictures, videos	Annual report on climate incident report development is ongoing
	Develop standard mandate for HDCs and sub WASH Committees on climate sensitive policies and standards to guide community governance structures on climate change adaptation	0 district level climate sensitive standards on community governance structures mandate (HDCs) developed.	1 district mandate for HDCs and sub WASH Committees developed on climate sensitive policies and standards to guide community governance structures on climate change adaptation	A standard mandate for HDC and sub-WASH committees, Guideline on how to work at community level with climate adaptation on WASH.	1 district mandate for Climate WASH Committees developed and signed on climate sensitive policies and standards to guide community governance structures on climate change adaptation

	At least 2 annual WASH plans developed and circulated that demonstrate climate adaptation initiatives with corresponding budget ('23/'24 plan)	0 annual WASH plans developed and circulated that demonstrate climate adaptation initiatives with corresponding budget.	2 annual WASH plans developed and circulated that demonstrate climate adaptation initiatives with corresponding budget ('23/'24 plan)	Climate sensitive annual WASH sector Plan and budget, pictures, videos	Pending
	At least 7 private sectors are trained and certified by the KDWASHC and engaged in management system on climate change adaptation	0 management system for private sector engagement developed (capacity building and certification system)	7 private sectors are trained and certified by the KDWASHC and engaged in management system on climate change adaptation	Capacity building plan and certification system	20 private sectors are trained to engaged in management system on climate robust WASH infrastructure
	# of service providers and ETU students trained and certified on management system	0 service providers and ETU students trained and certified on management system	60 service providers and ETU students trained and certified on management system by 2022	Activity report, pictures, videos, certificates issued	20 students from the ETUSL trained on climate risk assessment
Objective 3. Kenema district serves as a catalytically examples of citizen-driven rural climate adaptation in the WASH sector influencing national climate adaptation strategies. Policy influence from below - demonstration of citizen-driven climate-resilient WASH management from the community level	Evidence of advocacy strategy to influence national policy formulation on climate adaptation in the WASH sector - targeting National Adaptation Plan	0 advocacy strategy to influence national policy formulation on climate adaptation in the WASH sector.	1 advocacy strategy to influence national policy formulation on climate adaptation in the WASH sector - targeting 1 National Adaptation Plan	Advocacy strategy, Minutes of Meetings, National Adaptation Plan	1 advocacy strategy developed to influence national policy formulation on climate adaptation in the WASH sector
	Evidence of approaches, experiences, and lessons learned regarding standardized climate	0 document on approaches, experiences, and lessons learned regarding standardized climate robust WASH governance	1 document on approaches, experiences, and lessons learned regarding standardized climate robust WASH governance	Organizational reports, Case studies, videos, pictures	Pending

	robust WASH governance				
	# of national conferences held to market and disseminate mechanisms documented in the project and the national climate adaptation plan (NAP).	0 national conference held to market and disseminate mechanisms documented	1 national conference held to market and disseminate mechanisms documented	List of program and participants, activity report from national conference.	Pending
	Evidence of KDWASHC formal registration as member in the national WASH network by March 2022	0 registration/certification of KDWASHC members in the national WASH network	1 registration/certification of KDWASHC members in the national WASH network	KDWASHC certificate of registration	1 registration/certification of KDWASHC members in the national WASH network