

Implementation of the National Water and Sanitation Policy Revised General Terms of Reference for Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector Policy Coordination Team (SPCT) and Working Groups

Introduction

To implement the National Water and Sanitation Policy (NWSP), the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MeWR) established the WASH Sector Policy Co-ordination Team (SPCT) to oversee and coordinate externally-focussed sector activities supporting the WASH policy. The SPCT manages and coordinates all actions needed to implement the NWSP and has representation from relevant sector actors.

Overall an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) serves as an apex body for overseeing WASH sector reform. The committee validates the measures proposed by the Minister of Water Resources for achieving the aims of the NWSP. (See diagram below).

In early 2013, the Government of Sierra Leone separated the MEWR to form two new ministries, the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Energy in order to better prioritise water and energy in the development agenda.

The newly-formed Ministry of Water Resources will continue to engage with the multiple state and non-state actors in the WASH sector through the SPCT. In addition, and as the Ministry transforms from having a bilateral remit and outdated implementation function, it will also coordinate external policy reforms with internally-focussed institutional reforms of the Ministry. These external and internal reforms are inextricably linked.

The broad Terms of Reference of the SPCT remain unaltered as set out below.

Outline Aim

- Direct, coordinate and manage implementation of the NWSP
- Establish and ensure strong collaboration between the main government partners in setting strategic direction to Policy implementation – especially MHS as lead on sanitation and hygiene aspects and Ministry of Finance and economic Development (MFED) on budgeting for the reforms and for the sector;
- Take active measures to involve civil society in debate, reflection and learning to inform MWR policy;
- Ensure good communication of the reform in order to manage change and achieve timely decisions and actions from partner government agencies and wider stakeholders necessary for implementation;
- Oversee, manage, direct, and coordinate Ministry-led multi-stakeholder Working Groups in delivering policy outputs with their attendant framework documents and guidelines on the different aspects of the NWSP; and
- Coordinate with the Change Management Team to ensure that the Ministry has the internal capacity to meet the demands of implementing the NWSP.

Composition of WASH Sector Policy Co-ordination Team

1. Permanent Secretary, MWR (Chair)
2. Chief Medical Officer, MHS (Co-Chair)
3. Director, Water Directorate
4. Representative, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
5. Representative, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
6. Representative, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
7. Representative, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology
8. Representative, Ministry of Social Welfare and Gender
9. Representative, Office of the President (SPU or PSRU as appropriate)
10. Representative, SALWACO
11. Representative, GUMA
12. Representative, Donor Partners
13. Representative, WASHNET
14. Representative, INGOs
15. Representative, Private Sector
16. Representative, WASH-related Academic/Research institutions

Other government and external stakeholders as required relating to specific issues e.g. Attorney-General's Department, SLEPA, SLIEPA, Ministry of Marine Resources, specific Local Councils

SPCT Working Groups

As the Water Directorate is progressively recruited and counterpart structures and staff for the different aspects of policy implementation are being established, the Ministry has formalised **six SPCT Working Groups** with TORs set out following the broad SPCT TORs. These formal Working Groups will enable the Ministry and the sector to better coordinate the increasing number and breadth of activities being undertaken, and provide focal loci for WASH Facility projects to better enable sector learning. The SPCT will retain the flexibility to establish other Working Groups if required.

Sector Working Group – Budget (SWG-B):

Aims

- Ensure that MWR and sector agency budgets are harmonised with the budget cycle and activities are funded
- Ensure that MWR, other MDAs, Local Government, and other public sector WASH agency budgets are coordinated, and aligned to sector deliverables
- Produce an Annual WASH Budget Framework Paper linking policy with FM and defining results at Outcome and Output levels
- Monitor performance against targets of WASH agencies against targets set in BFP

Composition

- Urban WASH Consortium lead
- MWR, MHS, MLGRD, MAFFS, utilities, WASH-NET, UNICEF
- Secretariat from MFED

Environmental Sanitation Working Group (ESWG):

Aims

- Assist in the drafting of Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene (ESH) Policy and related Strategy (consultations, validation, finalisation)
- Ensure ESH Policy and Strategy complement RWS Strategy
- Guide development of toolkits for ESH strategy
- Oversee and facilitate Feedback forums, make recommendations on incorporating experience/lessons learned to evolve ESH/Toolkit
- Oversee progress and provide focal counterpart for ESH WASH Facility projects
- Provide a forum for actors engaged in ESH to share information on ongoing and planned activities

Composition

- Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MHS) lead
- MWR, MLGRD, UNICEF, WHO, Community Led Total Sanitation Group and Schools' Sanitation Group members, other as required

Rural WASH Working Group (RWWG):

Aims

- Finalise draft Rural Water Supply (RWS) document and ensure RWS complements ESH Policy and Strategy
- Guide development of relevant Toolkits and Guidelines related to RWS Strategy and ESH Strategy
- Oversee and facilitate Feedback forums, make recommendations on incorporating experience/lessons learned to evolve RWS/Toolkit
- Oversee progress and provide focal counterpart for WASH Facility projects relating to rural water supply
- Provide a forum for actors engaged in Rural WASH to share information on ongoing and planned activities

Composition

- MWR lead
- MHS, MLGRD, MFED Local Government Finance Department, SALWACO, NGO representation, other as required

Urban WASH Working Group (UWWG):

Aims

- Finalise Urban Water Supply (UWS) policy and strategy documents and ensure UWS complements ESH Policy and Strategy
- Guide development of relevant Toolkits and Guidelines related to UWS Strategy and ESH Strategy
- Oversee and facilitate Feedback forums, make recommendations on incorporating experience/lessons learned to evolve UWS/Toolkit
- Oversee progress and provide focal counterpart for WASH Facility projects relating to urban water supply
- Provide a forum for actors engaged in Urban WASH to share information on ongoing and planned activities

Composition

- MWR lead

- MHS, Freetown City Council, MLGRD, MFED Local Government Finance Department, Guma Valley Water Company, Urban WASH Consortium, other City Councils and organisations as required

Water Security Working Group (WSWG):

Aim

- Provide input and oversight of the MWR' Water Security (WS) Strategy document and ensure it complements the National Water Resources Bill, Local Government Act 20014
- Guide development of relevant Toolkits and Guidelines related to Water Security Strategy
- Oversee and facilitate Feedback forums, make recommendations on incorporating experience/lessons learned to evolve Water Security Toolkit
- Oversee progress and provide focal counterpart for WASH Facility projects relating to water security and water resources management
- Provide a forum for actors engaged in Water Security and WRM to share information on ongoing and planned activities

Composition

- MWR lead
- Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency (EPA), MLGRD, MFED, SALWACO, Guma Valley Water Company, Private Sector representative(s), NGO representation, other as required

Sector Learning Working Group (SLWG):

Aim

- Provide input and oversight of the MWR' Sector Learning Framework and build consensus and ownership among WASH actors
- Guide development of relevant Toolkits and Guidelines related to the Sector Learning Framework
- Oversee and facilitate Feedback forums, make recommendations on incorporating experience/lessons learned to evolve the Sector Learning Framework and its components
- Oversee progress and provide focal counterpart for WASH Facility projects relating to Sector Learning
- Provide a forum for actors engaged in Sector Learning to share information on ongoing and planned activities

Composition

- NGO (Concern) lead
- MWR, MHS, MLGRD, MFED, Sierra Leone EPA, SALWACO, Guma Valley Water Company, Private Sector representative(s), NGO representation, other as required

Technical and administrative support to the SPCT

Adam Smith International, in partnership with Action Aid Sierra Leone and Triple Line Consulting, as the MEWR's service providers (SP), will give advisory support to the SPCT and its constituent Working Groups

MEWR Co-ordination Unit (also serving the CMT and providing the Secretariat to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on WASH) will provide administrative and logistical support.

Reporting

The SPCT will report to the Minister of Energy and Water Resources. The Minister will in turn report to his colleagues of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on WASH (as illustrated below).

WASH Policy Implementation Structures

