Public Consultation and Disclosure Report For the proposed Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention (RESPITE) project in Newton and Lungi

Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA)
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

RESPITE Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention

ADFD Abu Dhabi Fund for Development BESS Battery Energy Storage Systems

DSI Design, Supply and Installation

EDSA Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority

Environmental Protection Agency - Sierra

EPA-SL Leone

ESF Environmental and Social Framework

ESIA Environmental, and Social Impact Assessment

ESS Environmental and Social Standards

GoSL Government of Sierra Leone

km Kilometre kV Kilovolt

MoE Ministry of Energy MV Medium voltage

MW megawatt

MWac Mega-Watt, Alternating Current

MWh Megawatt-hour MWp Megawatt peak

O&M Operation and Maintenance

PCDP Public Consultation and Disclosure Programme

PIT Project Implementation Team

PV Photovoltaic WB World Bank

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention (RESPITE) project, led by the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) through the Ministry of Energy (MoE) and Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA) with World Bank (WB) financing, addresses the fiscal and energy crises caused by high oil prices and power outages due to reliance on oil-based generation. It aims to (i) alleviate the fiscal burden of high oil prices, creating room to address food crises; (ii) increase affordable, clean energy supply to mitigate the power supply crisis and (iii) transition from heavy fuel oil and diesel generation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The RESPITE Project will be implemented in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), and the applicable Environmental and Social Standards (ESS). Eight of the ten ESS were considered relevant for the project:

- ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
- ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions
- ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
- ESS4 Community Health and Safety
- ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
- ESS6 -Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
- ESS8 Cultural Heritage
- ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The Project Development Objective is to rapidly expand grid-connected renewable energy capacity and enhance regional integration among participating countries. Of its 4 components, the following apply to Sierra Leone:

Component 1: Construction of Solar Photovoltaic (PV), Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Grid Connections (US\$184 million equivalent IDA) will finance all costs associated with the Design, Supply and Installation (DSI) and Operation and

Maintenance (O&M) for the first three years of the solar PV power plants and any associated works for grid connection.

<u>Sub-Component 1B: Solar PV and Battery storage at two locations in Sierra Leone</u> (<u>US\$63.5 million IDA equivalent</u>) will finance all costs associated with (i) the expansion of an existing 5MWac/6MWp power plant at Newton to 35 MWac with associated substation, adding storage to it and undertaking works for power evacuation, and O&M for three years, and (ii) the addition of about 10 MWac ground mounted solar PV with battery storage, undertaking works for power evacuation, and O&M for one to three years at Lungi and Newton. Feasibility studies have been completed for both sites. Support for O&M will include training and capacity building at the utility to ensure that the utility staff have the technical know-how to operate and maintain the power plant.

- a. Development of 39 MWp (30 MWac) with 15MWh Battery storage and addition of 7MWh battery storage to the existing 6MWp/4.9MWac at Newton (US\$44 million): A 6MWp solar power plant has been developed in the Newton area through a grant to GoSL from Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD). This component will finance the DSI and O&M for additional storage capacity for the existing plant and adding 39MWp (30MWac) of ground-mounted solar PV. The proposed site is located at 8.322621°, -12.993666 with the government already having acquired 205 acres plot of land. The site will be linked to the proposed Waterloo substation through a 33kV line and further to the 161kV Bumbuna transmission line to Newton.
- b. Construction of 13 MWp (10 MWac) solar PV plant in Lungi Airport Area with 6MWh storage (US\$19.5 million): A 13 MWp (10 MWac) solar PV site is planned in the Lungi area that houses the Lungi International airport. The government has acquired 45 acres of land (8.663171, -13.187704) for this purpose. The proposal is for a 13MWp (10MWac) fix tilt PV power plant to be connected to the existing MV switching station at Lungi through 11kV lines. The sub-component will finance the DSI and O&M for the power plant and 5 MWh storage system as well as the construction of 11kV connection to the existing 11kV substation.

Component 3: Distribution Expansion and Transmission Optimization (US\$15.5 million equivalent IDA) will finance the expansion of distribution networks and optimization of

transmission in Sierra Leone and Togo to help the newly installed capacity to be connected to regional interconnectors and/or reach national populations.

- Sub-Component 3A: Supply and installation of voltage regulation equipment at 161/11kV Substation of Freetown to increase the evacuation capacity of the 161kV transmission line and Supply and installation of 33kV and 11kV distribution lines to optimize the integration of the Newton Solar Park (US\$6 million). This sub-component will finance the works associated with increasing the wheeling capacity of the existing 161kV transmission line from 70MW to 90MW. The 161kV line is around 205km long which results in a high impedance that induces voltage drop along this line, especially during peak demand operations; this significantly impacts both the power transfer and voltage profiles in Freetown. The planned solar PV plant at Newton will evacuate part of its generation to the 161kV transmission line and use 33kV sub-transmission line that is being built under WB financed Electricity Sector Utility Reform Project (P120304). This sub-component will cover the cost of design, procurement, and installation of devices for reactive power compensation (capacitor banks) and/or shunt reactors for voltage regulation support, and the 33kV and 11kV distribution lines needed to optimize the use of the solar plant. Increasing the 161kV line capacity will alleviate grid congestion and help in meeting the rapidly growing demand in Western Areas.
- Component 4: Regional Coordination, Institutional Strengthening, Implementation Support and Technical Assistance (US\$50.5million equivalent IDA)

2.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The Public Consultation and Disclosure Programme (PCDP) is a strategic framework designed to ensure continuous, transparent, and inclusive communication between MoE/EDSA and all relevant stakeholders throughout the lifespan of the project. The PCDP aims to facilitate collaboration, address concerns, and promote trust by fostering multi-directional communication.

Key objectives include:

i. Validate Baseline Study Data:

- Confirm and refine the information collected during the stakeholder meetings held, socio-economic and bio-physical surveys as part of the project baseline study conducted the ESIA study.
- Use stakeholder input to ensure the data accurately reflects local conditions, priorities, and concerns, forming a reliable foundation for project decision-making and planning.

ii. Meet EPA-SL Regulatory Requirements:

- Fulfil the Environmental Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) mandate to engage communities in discussions of the Environmental, and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report after its submission.
- Provide stakeholders with clear, accessible information on the findings, impacts, and proposed mitigation measures outlined in the ESIA.
- Encourage feedback and participation from community members to address environmental and social concerns effectively and inclusively.

3.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE METHODOLOGY

The PCDP was organised by EDSA-Project Implementation Team (PIT) and in collaboration with the lead consultant, the workshop was implemented. The following methods were used for the PCDP workshop

- **Public Announcement**: A public announcement about the disclosure was made from November 26 to December 3, 2024, inviting interested parties. The notice appeared in the widely read Exclusive and Satellite newspapers (see Annex i) and was broadcast in Krio and Temne on key local radio stations in the project areas, and in Krio and English in Freetown. Coverage included Radio Lungi (FM 106.1) in Lungi, Viacity Radio (FM 100.5) in Newton-Waterloo, and SLBC Radio (FM 100.1) for Freetown and the Waterloo-Newton area.
- **Invitation Letter**: Invitation letters were dispatched to project stakeholders, government institutions, and other interested parties ahead of the workshop.
- **Disclosure Consultations/Meetings**: As outlined in the public notice, disclosure meetings took place in Lungi on Thursday, December 5, 2024, and in Newton on Friday day, December 6, 2024. Section 4 of this report provides a detailed account of the discussions held during these consultative sessions.
- **Reporting**: The discussions from the meetings were documented, and a rapporteur prepared a draft report summarizing the deliberations.

4.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

The sessions featured presentations by the ESIA consultants and the RESPITE project team, followed by an interactive plenary session where participants raised concerns, asked questions, and provided valuable feedback on the project and its proposed implementation. This report summarizes outcomes of the respective events in Lungi and Newton

4.1 Lungi Workshop (5th December, 2024) -Day 1, Community Centre, Masoila, Main Ferry Road, Lungi

Chairman's Opening Remarks- Pa Alimamy S. Dumbuya (Chiefdom Speaker)

The Chairman welcomed attendees and conveyed greetings on behalf of the Paramount Chief of Kafu Bullom. He described the project as a significant milestone in achieving energy sufficiency in Sierra Leone and expressed gratitude to the government for leading the initiative and bringing it to Lungi. He thanked the World Bank for funding the project, calling it a smart solution to the energy crisis. He highlighted that Kafu Bullom felt privileged to host such a transformative project and pledged the chiefdom's support to ensure its success. The Chairman also commended EDSA for commissioning an ESIA, emphasizing the importance of addressing environmental and social concerns in implementing such a project. He acknowledged the efforts of the ESIA consultants, noting that the study was conducted in thorough consultations with the people in the area while attesting that he was part of some consultative meetings during the study period. He encouraged attendees to make meaningful contributions during the disclosure meeting to help shape the project for the benefit of all.

Statement by Mr. Edward Williams (Representative of the Member of Parliament)

He expressed satisfaction that Sierra Leone is benefiting from the RESPITE project, emphasizing that the public disclosure process underscores transparency and a people-centred approach. He noted that the project had been in progress for the past three years, during which updates were consistently provided. He commended the MPs' office for monitoring the project and ensuring its advancement, highlighting its potential to address the energy crisis in the area. He praised the landowners for their cooperation in providing land for the project and emphasized that RESPITE would significantly enhance electricity availability in Lungi, making it more affordable. He urged community members to support the project and ensure its success.

Statement by Mr. Sheku Tejan Saccoh (the Port Loko District Council Chairman)

The District Council Chairman described RESPITE as a welcome initiative, recognizing electricity as crucial for development. He appreciated the community's cooperation, particularly from landowners and those affected by the project, and appealed for their continued support. He highlighted the project's potential to create employment opportunities for the youth and encouraged them to engage diligently. He urged community members to address grievances through appropriate channels to ensure smooth implementation and pledged the Council's oversight and supervisory support for the project.

Statement by Pa Alimamy S Kamara (Section Chief, Gbanneh Bana) On behalf of the Gbanneh community and landowners, the Section Chief pledged their unwavering support for the project, expressing commitment to its success so that everyone benefits from the electricity. He assured the project team of the community's protection of the project site and a welcoming attitude towards workers involved in the initiative.

Statement by Mr. Ansumana Dauda Sawanneh (the Project Area Councillor) The Councillor thanked the government and all stakeholders for bringing such significant development to the area. He appealed to the project proponents to prioritize employment opportunities for local community members, especially the youth, to ensure smooth implementation. He also urged community members to support the project and take full advantage of the benefits from the project.

Statement by Reverend Sesay-Jones (a senior resident of Kufu Bullom /Former Deputy Minister of Lands)

Reverend Sesay-Jones acknowledged the importance of the public disclosure, highlighting that it demonstrates community ownership of the project. He emphasized the potential impact of RESPITE on various sectors, including education and healthcare. He appealed for additional development projects such as bridges and roads while expressing gratitude to the government, EDSA, and the World Bank for funding the project.

Statement by Mr. Alieu Alhaji Sesay (Chief Imam, Kaffu Bullom)

The Chief Imam expressed appreciation for the project and assured full community

support. He also called for other development projects including road construction in Kafu Bullom. He urged the project team to implement the project judiciously, emphasizing the need to create opportunities for residents to improve their economic conditions and foster cooperation.

Statement by Ya Alimamy M F Kamara (the Chiefdom Mammy Queen)

The Chiefdom Mammy Queen appealed to the Gbanneh community to support the project. She urged the project team to exercise caution in their interactions with women and young girls and advocated for women to be prioritized in employment opportunities. She expressed gratitude for the project, noting that women stand to benefit significantly, especially through increased business opportunities.

Statement by the Kafu Bullom Youth Chairman

The Youth Chairman highlighted the project as a massive opportunity for young people and urged them to take ownership of it while maintaining peace. On behalf of the youth, he pledged their full support and commitment to the project's swift implementation.

Statement by Ing. Ibrahim T Dumbuya (EDSA Station Engineer Lungi)

The EDSA Station Engineer described the project as crucial for expanding and rehabilitating Lungi's electricity infrastructure. He emphasized its potential benefits given the high energy demand in the area. He appealed to residents to avoid illegal electricity connections and property vandalism and encouraged best practices in preparation for the project's completion.

Statement by Mohamed B Kamara (One Salone Director)

The One Salone Director emphasized the need to act as ambassadors for the project, ensuring its protection, stability, and security. He noted that while the project could have been implemented elsewhere, Kafu Bullom was chosen, and its residents should maximize the opportunity to unlock further development in the area.

Statement by Major Osman Kamara (the Military Representative)

The Military Representative recognized the project's significance for Kafu Bullom's development and reiterated the importance of community ownership. He assured

attendees of the military's commitment to providing security to protect the facilities from theft and misuse.

Statement by Mr. Solomon George (the EPA-SL Representative) The EPA-SL Representative provided a brief overview of the agency's role, emphasizing environmental protection and community involvement. He noted that EPA-SL acts as a mediator between the project proponents and the people, ensuring compliance with environmental and social standards. He assured attendees that the agency would monitor the project at every stage to maximize its benefits while safeguarding the environment and the community's well-being.

Presentations

1st presentation: Introduction and Project Description- Rashidu Sinnah (Social Risk Safeguard EDSA-PIT)

2nd presentation: Environmental Baseline and Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures -James Moanah (Lead ESIA Consultant)

3rd Presentation: Socioeconomic Baseline, Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures John S. Moanah (ESIA Consultant)

4th presentation: Stakeholder Engagement and Labour Management Plan - Keifala P. Koroma (GBV Specialist EDSA-PIT)

Plenary Session

The presentations concluded with an open discussion, where participants were invited to share their views, raise concerns, or ask questions about the project and its implementation.

Table 1: Question and Answer Session-Lungi

Name/Designation/Institution	Question/Concern/Comment	Response/Action Point			
Pa Alimamy Kapen Kargbo (Section chief, Rotifunk)	1 /	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: The project has been commissioned, and the construction timeline is 12 months. The contractor has committed to completing it within that timeline. However, construction will start once the ongoing RAP is completed, and affected persons are compensated for their disturbance and losses.			
Councillor Ansumana Dauda Sawaneh	consultant left out some villages, mentioning only 8 villages in the study. Villages like Sander,	r, were conducted. However, the villages yo			

	are they not mentioned or involved in the study?	socioeconomic component, where household da was collected.	
Alieu Alhaji Sesay -Chiefdom Imam	A major challenge is the high tariff and deductions we face when buying top-ups for our meters. Will this solar project have a different tariff that will be reasonable?	and a 15% GST will be deducted monthly. If you don't purchase electricity for several months, the	
Member, Landowning Family	Are the funds and activities outlined in the CDAP going alongside the project?	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: The CDAP requires project proponents to allocate funds to support identified development needs. Its implementation will proceed alongside the project.	
Chiefdom Youth Leader	How many community members, especially youths, will be employed in the project?	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: The exact number cannot be determined at this stage. It will depend on the project's scope and the contractor undertaking the construction.	

Ya Alimamy M F Kamara (Chiefdom Chairlady)	 CDAP should cover additional needs such as schools and health facilities. Will the community have access to the boreholes on the project site for their water needs? 	stakeholders. 2. Accessing the boreholes in the project site will
Pa Santigie Destiny Sesay (Airport Community Chief)	If someone has skills but no certification, will they still be employed?	
Pa Alimamy S Dumbuya (Chiefdom speaker)	 Will women be given funds to start businesses? How many people are affected by the distribution line? 	ESIA Consultant: 1. The CDAP does not currently include provisions for business startup funds for women or others. 2. The RAP team is currently mapping and verifying affected persons; the exact numbers will be determined soon.

Mohamed Davis Kanu (Vice	The surrounding villages need	EDSA Station Manager, Lungi: The existing
Chair, Landowners)	transformers. Will this be	network will be expanded to ensure electricity
	considered?	reaches surrounding areas. The RESPITE project's
		capacity will allow for sufficient electricity
		distribution in Lungi and the surrounding
		community.

Closing statement by EPA-SL Representative

He thanked the people for their meaningful contributions while applauding the disclosure workshop. He maintained that the institution will consider granting an ESIA license to the project when the board members meet very soon. Before concluding, he asked a question to the attendees about their support for the project, to which the community responded with resounding approval, reflecting their eagerness for its implementation.

Chairman's closing remarks

In his closing courtesy, the chairman further thanked everyone for their contribution to the disclosure. He thanked the people for showing overwhelming support for the project while encouraging them to use that energy to continuously support the project in every way possible. He noted that the ending of what he described as a successful disclosure marks a significant milestone in the transformation of the Kafu Bullom which he urged the people to prepare for and take full advantage of. He drew the curtains close to the workshop as he thanked the government and the World Bank for the project on behalf of the Paramount chief.

4.2 Newton Workshop (6th December 2024)- Day 2, Cashew Production Centre, Magbafti, Newton

Chairman person's opening remarks - Madam Aminata Mansaray

The Chairlady welcomed everyone to the disclosure workshop and expressed gratitude for their presence. She highlighted the significance of the RESPITE project, emphasizing its transformative potential for the residents of the project site communities. She noted that electricity drives development enhancing socioeconomic growth, and stated that this project offers an incredible opportunity for the local communities to benefit in various ways. She urged participants to ensure the project's success by supporting it wholeheartedly. She also encouraged attendees to listen attentively to the presentations, ask questions, and share their views during the plenary session.

Statement by Mr. Brima Kamara (Headman, Kattu Town)

The Headman welcomed participants and acknowledged the importance of the disclosure meeting. He expressed excitement about the RESPITE project and its anticipated benefits for the community. He cautioned against repeating past mistakes, referencing the 6MW project, where promises of community electrification went unfulfilled. He emphasized the community's hope for tangible benefits from this project and pledged their full support to ensure its success.

Statement by Madam Isata Koroma (Project Area Councillor)

The Councillor expressed excitement about the progress of the RESPITE project, noting its importance for community development. She shared his pride in having played a role in lobbying for electricity ehich has eventually landed such a significant project and stated that its realization would bring substantial benefits, especially to women and young people. She emphasized the project's potential to improve business opportunities by resolving longstanding electricity challenges. She commended the government and the World Bank for bringing such a timely and impactful initiative to the community and assured their support for its successful implementation.

Statement by Mr. Solomon George (EPA-SL Representative)

The EPA-SL Representative reiterated the agency's commitment to ensuring that the RESPITE project adheres to strict environmental and social standards. He emphasized the importance of protecting the environment and preserving community well-being throughout the project's lifecycle. He explained the EPA's role as a mediator between the project proponents and the community, ensuring that development is achieved responsibly. He added that the agency would closely monitor the project's implementation, ensuring that all environmental safeguards are followed. He urged the community to collaborate actively to maximize the project's benefits.

Presentations

1st presentation: Introduction and Project Description- Joseph Cole Jr. (Environmental Specialist EDSA-PIT)

2nd presentation: Environmental Baseline and Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures -James Moanah (Lead ESIA Consultant)

3rd Presentation: Socioeconomic Baseline, Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures John S. Moanah (ESIA Consultant)

4th presentation: Stakeholder Engagement and Labour Management Plan - Keifala P. Koroma (GBV Specialist EDSA-PIT)

Plenary Session

The presentations concluded with an open discussion, where participants were invited to share their views, raise concerns, or ask questions about the project and its implementation.

Table 2: Question and Answer Session-Newton

Name/Designation/Institution	Question/Concern/Comment	Response
Head man Kattu Town	We only saw that electricity will be provided to 3 communities. What about the other communities?	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: This project will serve 40 communities, and preparations have already begun with the erection of poles for the RESPITE electricity.
Councillor Isatu Koroma	Will the road leading to the project site be tarred or just graded?	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: Two budgets (one for a tarred road and the other for grading only) have been submitted by SLRSA to the government. The road will be rehabilitated, but the final decision is pending a review of the budgets.
Mohamed Jalloh (Headman, Magbafti)	Is the liaison officer for the project coming from the communities or the project team?	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: The project has a Grievance Redress Committee, and most employment will be facilitated through this committee and community stakeholders. The liaison officer will work closely with community representatives to ensure effective communication and employment facilitation.

Kadiatu Turay (Women's Leader, Kpoubu)	manual jobs will not be given to	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: Manual labou jobs are not assigned to women to protect their health and well-being. There are several othe jobs that women can do in the project. They will have as equal job opportunities as men.		
Alpha Mansaray (Youth Chairman, Magbafti)	Magbafti has grown significantly since the study was conducted. Will this new development be captured by the time electricity distribution starts?	ESIA Consultant: The study reflects the situation at the time of the assessment which is November 2022 to May 2023. However, updates and reviews will be made by EDSA as necessary during service provision to account for population and community changes.		
Sorie Dumbuya (Chairman, Disability Group, Magbafti)	_	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: Employment opportunities for persons with disabilities will be prioritized based on their skills and qualifications.		

We plead that our safety on the road	Rashidu Sinnah- EDSA-PIT: Safety measures,
during the construction be considered	including traffic control and pedestrian
to ensure we are protected from the	protection, will be implemented during the
heavy vehicles that will ply the route.	construction phase to ensure the safety of
	community members.
	during the construction be considered to ensure we are protected from the

Closing Statement by EPA-SL Representative

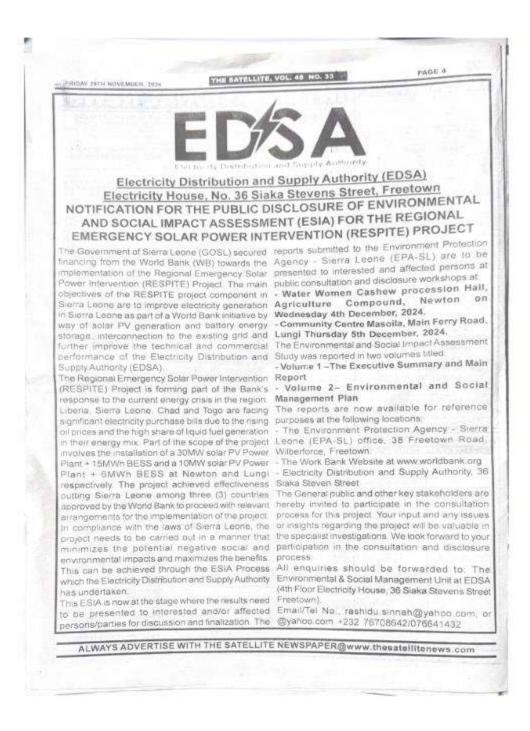
The EPA-SL Representative thanked the participants for their active engagement and insightful contributions during the workshop. He emphasized the importance of the ESIA in ensuring that projects align with environmental standards and community needs. He reassured the gathering that the EPA-SL's board will review the ESIA report to issue a license to the project. Before concluding, he asked a question to the attendees about their support for the project, to which the community responded with resounding approval, reflecting their eagerness for its implementation.

Chairperson's closing remarks

The chairperson thanked everyone for attending the disclosure. She noted that the event is important as they have gained meaningful insights about the project and how effectively it will be implemented to maximize its benefits while complimenting environmental sustainability. She thanked members for their contributions and encouraged them to be ambassadors of the project as they should go back to their respective communities and positively inform everyone. She assured that the project will be embarrassed with the utmost significance and support by community members.

5.0 ANNEXES

Annex i: Newspaper Advert



Public Disclosure of ESIA for the Construction of a 13 MWp (10 MWac) Solar PV Facility in Lungi, Port Loko District, Northern Sierra Leone

ESIA Solar PV Facility in Lungi, Port Loko District

Presented by

James Moanah

Team Lead

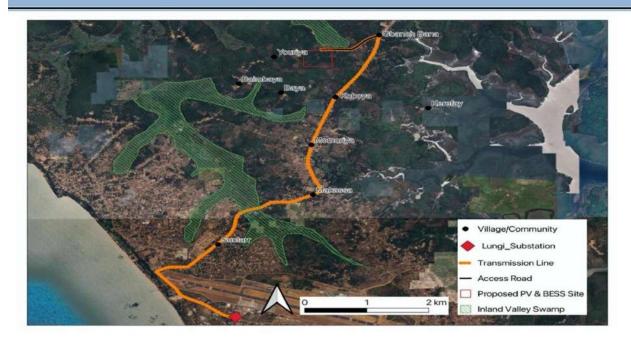
Presentation Outline

- Background to the Project
- Purpose of the ESIA Study
- Policy, Legal, and Institutional Frameworks
- Environmental Baseline
- Environmental & Social Risks And Impacts
 And Mitigation Measures
- Project Alternative

Project Background

- GoSL, via EDSA and MoE, initiated the WB-funded RESPITE project to address impacts of the Ukraine war and rising oil prices.
- The project includes a 13 MWp (10MWh) solar PV plant with 6 MWh of storage in Lungi, aiming to enhance renewable energy, mitigate emissions, and promote regional integration.

Project Location



Purpose of the ESIA Study

- The overall objective of this assignment is to identify and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of this proposed project, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate mitigation, management, and monitoring measures.
- It also involves preparing an ESIA and corresponding ESMP for the Lungi location in accordance with the SL-EPA, World Bank's ESF, the project ESCP, EHS General Guidelines, and Energy/Electricity-specific recommendations.

Cont. ... Purpose of the ESIA Study

 Recommendations of this ESIA will be incorporated into the final project designs, investment decisions and project implementation processes to ensure the sustainable management of the environment during the pre-construction, construction, operation/ maintenance, and decommissioning phases

Policy, Legal, and Institutional Frameworks

The project will complies with national policies and regulations, including the :

- Environmental Protection Agency Act (2022): requiring an EIA for construction.
- National Electricity Act (2011): defining EDSA's role,
- Customary Land Rights Act (2022): protecting land rights,
- Gender Equality Act (2022): promoting workplace equality.
- Roads Authority Act (2010): setting road RoW

Cont.. Policy, Legal, and Institutional Frameworks

- Renewable Energy Policy (2016), and
- Climate Change Policy (2021).

Key institutions include:

- · MoE,
- · MECC,
- · EPASL,
- · SLRA, and
- · Port Loko District Council for oversight

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Water Quality

 All drinking water sources met WHO guideline for drinking.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Noise

- Noise assessments at five locations in the project area showed that noise levels exceeded 55 dB in all locations except the PV and BESS site.
- Major noise sources include intermittent traffic, and motorcycles.

Cont. Environmental Baseline

Air Quality

- Air quality measurements were conducted at five sites, focusing on PM2.5 and PM10, ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and sulfur dioxide (SO2).
- PM2.5 levels were within acceptable limits
- PM10 exceeded thresholds at Lungi Government
 Hospital during heavy traffic but fluctuated throughout the
 day.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Cont.. Air Quality

- Ozone levels were well below WHO's recommended limits.
- NO2 exceeded recommended levels at three locations.
- SO2 concentrations were well below OSHA's permissible exposure limit.
- Motorbike transportation was identified as the primary source of dust emissions.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Traffic Monitoring

- A traffic assessment was conducted at the project site and the Gbaneh Bana junction.
- Motorcycles, known as "Okadas," are the most common mode of transport in the area.
- Traffic peaks between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Ecology

- A few Flora and Fauna were found
- No threatened species of mammals, birds or butterflies were recorded. Identifying any of these species during the survey is one of the key aspects of the study.

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following are *impact-generating* activities during the design, planning, construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the project:

- · Land acquisition for the PV/BESS site
- Site preparation
- Minor excavation and levelling
- · Hauling of earth materials and wastes
- · Cutting and drilling

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- Erection of concrete and steel structures
- Road upgrade (if necessary)
- · Painting and finishing
- Clean up operations
- Landscaping and afforestation
- Erection of Poles and stringing of lines

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Positive E&S Impacts

 The RESPITE project is expected to significantly improve both human well-being and the environment.

Below are some of the suggested project activities' possible advantages:

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Cont.. Positive E&S Impacts

- · Carbon Emissions Reduction
- · Reduced Indoor Pollution
- Preservation of Ambient Environmental Conditions
- · Improved Security
- · Improved Delivery of Social Services, Health and Education
- Employment Generation
- · Improved Livelihoods
- Incentives for Small-Scale Enterprises
- Improvement of Local Skills

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Negative Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Preconstru	ction Phas	е		
Selecting an inappropriate or flawed design	The project/Huma ns	National	Permane nt	Very Likely	Major
Loss of land, Assets and Livelihoods	Humans	Local	Permane nt	Very Likely	Minor
SEA/SH Risk	Humans	Local	Long- term	Very Likely	Moderate

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Preconstru	ction Phas	е		
The lack of community consultations or limited stakeholder consultations	Humans	Local	Long- term	Unlikely	Major
Risks associated with site mobilization and the transportation of equipment and materials to the site	Humans /Biodiversity	Local	Short- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Inefficiency resulting from the sourcing of construction materials	The project/Huma ns	National	Long- term	Very Likely	Moderate

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
Construction Phase					
Climate	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Short - term	Unlikely	Negligible
Ambient Air Quality Deterioration	Humans	Local	Short - term	Very likely	Moderate
Noise Nuisance	Humans /Biodiversity	Local	Short- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Water Contamination	Humans /Biodiversity	Local	short- term	Very Likely	Moderate

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
Construction Phase					
Soil contamination	Biodiversity	Local	Long - term	Very Likely	Moderate
Pressure on Water Resources	Humans	Local	Short- term	Likely	Minor
Impact on Local Ecology	Biodiversity	Local	Long- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Solid Waste/ Hazardous Generation and Management Issues	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Long term	Very Likely	Moderate

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude			
Construction Phase								
Erosion and Loss of Soil Resources	Biodiversity	Local	Long - term	Very Likely	Moderate			
Occupational Health and Safety Hazards for Workers	Humans	Local	Long - term	Likely	Moderate			
Community Health and Safety	Humans	Local	Long- term	Very Likely	Moderate			
Impact on Cultural/Archaeological Resources	Humans	Local	Short- term	unlikely	Negligible			
Tension from unrealistic expectations from communities	The project	Local	Long term	Likely	Major			

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Operatio	nal Phase	1		
Waste Generation and Management Issues	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Long term	Very Likely	Moderate
Pressure on Water Resources	Humans	Local	Long- term	Likely	Minor
Impact on Local Ecology	Biodiversity	Local	Short - term	Very Likely	Moderate
Nuisance noise	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Short- term	unlikely	Minor
Ambient Air Pollution	Humans	Local	Short- term	unlikely	Minor

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude				
Operational Phase									
Change in Landscape and Visual Amenity	Humans	Local	Long- term	Very Likely	Minor				
Occupational Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short- term	Very Likely	Minor				
Community Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short- term	Very Likely	Minor				
Emergency Situations	Humans	Local	Short- term	Very likely	Moderate				

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
Decommissioning Phase					
Community Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short- term	Likely	Moderate
Ambient Air Quality Deterioration	Humans	Local	Short- term	Likely	Minor
Noise nuisance	Humans	Local	Short- term	Likely	Minor
Water Contamination	Humans/Bio diversity	Local	Long- term	Likely	Moderate
Waste Generation and Management Issues	Humans/Bio diversity	Local	Long - term	Very Likely	Moderate

Project Alternative

- The "No Project Alternative" is deemed illogical given Sierra Leone's electricity demand and the project's role in enhancing energy access.
- Renewable energy sources, particularly solar PV and BESS,
 were chosen over conventional methods for their sustainability.
- Gbaneh Bana was selected based on factors like land suitability, terrain, and grid accessibility.

Cont... Project Alternative

- Mono-facial crystalline silicon solar panels with a fixed tilt were chosen for cost efficiency and reliability.
- String inverters were preferred for their scalability and ease of maintenance.
- Concrete poles were recommended for power transmission due to durability and environmental suitability.

Cont... Project Alternative

- Transmission routes were evaluated, with the proposed line minimizing environmental impacts and resettlement issues.
- The PV/BESS plant will connect to the 11kV network via overhead lines, utilizing long-rod insulators for efficiency.

Cont... Project Alternative

- The BESS design supports energy storage, offsets generator reliance, and ensures safety through advanced cooling and fire protection systems.
- · Overall, the project design focuses on balancing cost, sustainability, and operational efficiency while addressing environmental and social considerations.

Thank You!

Public Disclosure of ESIA for the Construction of a 13 MWp (10 MWac) Solar PV Facility in Lungi, Port Loko District, Northern Sierra Leone

ESIA Solar PV Facility in Lungi, Port Loko District

Presented by

John Moanah

Social Baseline

- The socio-economic baseline study highlights the existing social and economic conditions in the project area, forming the basis for evaluating the proposed project's potential impacts.
- Key findings focus on demographic, economic, and community insights essential for impact assessment.

Cont.. Social Baseline

Composition

- The project area consists of eight primary communities (Baimbaya, Youriya, Koimaya, Gbaneh Bana, Koboya, Baya, Kerefay, and Santigieya) with standard dwelling units made of cement blocks or burnt bricks.
- Each dwelling unit typically accommodates one household.

Livelihood and Economy

- Farming (64.7%) and trading (18%) are the primary
 income sources for the community, with fishing also
 vital for coastal areas.
- Agriculture is mainly subsistence-based, focusing on crops like rice, cassava, and vegetables sold in local markets.
- The "Lumar" trading system boosts the local economy and regional trade.

Cont.. Social Baseline

Land Tenure and Land Use

- Land in Gbaneh Bana/Koimaya follows a
 customary ownership system, held in trust by tribal
 authorities.
- The William Sheka Koroma family claims
 ownership of the proposed project site, primarily
 used for crop cultivation like cassava, rice, and
 palm trees.

Cont.. Land Tenure and Land Use

- The GoSL allocated 44.7583 acres in Lungi Port Loko
 District to the MoE via a willing-buyer, willing-seller
 arrangement with the family.
- The process included documented agreements, compensation payments, and a conveyance letter dated 4th July 2023, transferring the land to MoE.

Cont.. Social Baseline

Literacy and Education

- Education levels are low, with 60.1% lacking formal education.
- Limited schools, facilities, and high dropout rates affect access.

Medical Facility

- The project area has limited hospitals and health centers, leading to overcrowding and inadequate medical care.
- The local Community Health Post (CHP) in Gbaneh Bana, which serves over *fourteen* communities, including the *eight* communities in the project area, is the preferred treatment facility but faces challenges regarding facilities and equipment.

Cont.. Social Baseline

Cont.. Medical Facility

- The local health post has no GBV response mechanism and tool kit.
- Traditional healers and herbal medicine are sometimes relied upon due to limited access to healthcare.

Cont.. Drinking Water Facility

- Hand pump wells serve as the primary improved water source for drinking in the communities.
- Although intermittent shortages occur, especially during the dry season, the water from these sources is considered safe for consumption

Cont.. Social Baseline

Sanitation and Waste Management

- The primary disposal methods for household-generated waste are burning and throwing it in the bush.
- These methods are not environmentally friendly.
- A proper waste disposal method for the project is outlined in the ESMP.

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

- No archaeological or cultural site of significance is found in the site for the proposed project area.
- However, the ESMP has captured measures to appropriately deal with chance findings during the project's construction phase.

Cont.. Social Baseline

Vulnerable Groups

- Vulnerable groups in the project area, including women, children, the elderly, and marginalized communities, face limited access to resources and opportunities.
- Addressing gender disparities, empowering women, and promoting social inclusion for people with disabilities are crucial for equitable socio-economic development and project planning.

Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- Stakeholder consultations for the ESIA were conducted between November 2022 and May 2023, involving 240 participants (140 men, 100 women).
- Government agencies, local leaders, residents, and vulnerable groups were engaged through formal letters, SMS, and calls.
- Meetings provided project details, gathered feedback, and addressed concerns.

Key issues and action points were identified:

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- The local community residents expressed their support for the project and their commitment to its success.
- The land-owning family involved in the consultation expressed willingness to provide the identified land through a willing-seller-willing buyer arrangement.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- The CHP staff highlighted the need for additional facilities to handle the high number of patients due to the influx of migrant workers and requested support to address these deficiencies before the project commences.
- Women in the community showed enthusiasm for the project and requested employment opportunities while advocating against discrimination and abuse.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- Local community leaders expressed dedication to promoting the project and increasing awareness and acceptance among residents.
- Youth representatives emphasized the importance of job creation and pledged to maintain peace while addressing any future grievances through the appropriate GRM.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- The stakeholders also raised points, such as the need for training opportunities for community residents and the importance of respecting the area's laws, customs, and traditions.
- The local bike rider's union expressed concern about road safety during the construction phase due to dust generated by heavy vehicles but acknowledged the project's positive impact on their industry.

Thank You!

Public Disclosure of ESIA for the Construction of a 39 MWp (30 MWac) Solar PV Facility in Newton, Western Area Rural District of Sierra Leone

ESIA Solar PV Facility in Newton, Western Area Rural District

Presented by

James Moanah

Team Lead

Presentation Outline

- Background to the Project
- Purpose of the ESIA Study
- Policy, Legal, and Institutional Frameworks
- Environmental Baseline
- Environmental & Social Risks And Impacts
 And Mitigation Measures
- Project Alternative

Project Background

- GoSL, via EDSA and MoE, initiated the WB-funded RESPITE project to address impacts of the Ukraine war and rising oil prices.
- The initiative includes a 39 MWp (30 MWac) solar plant with 15MWh battery storage and a 7MWh battery expansion for Newton's 6MWp/5MWac facility.

Cont.. Project Background

 Infrastructure connections involve a 10-kilometer 33/11kV line to the Waterloo substation and linking to the 161kV Bumbuna line. Aiming to enhance renewable energy, mitigate emissions, and promote regional integration.

Project Location



Purpose of the ESIA Study

- The overall objective of this assignment is to identify and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of this proposed project, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate mitigation, management, and monitoring measures.
- It also involves preparing an ESIA and corresponding ESMP for the Lungi location in accordance with the SL-EPA, World Bank's ESF, the project ESCP, EHS General Guidelines, and Energy/Electricity-specific recommendations.

Cont. ... Purpose of the ESIA Study

 Recommendations of this ESIA will be incorporated into the final project designs, investment decisions and project implementation processes to ensure the sustainable management of the environment during the pre-construction, construction, operation/ maintenance, and decommissioning phases

Policy, Legal, and Institutional Frameworks

The project will complies with national policies and regulations, including the :

- Environmental Protection Agency Act (2022): requiring an EIA for construction.
- National Electricity Act (2011): defining EDSA's role,
- Customary Land Rights Act (2022): protecting land rights,
- Gender Equality Act (2022): promoting workplace equality.
- Roads Authority Act (2010): setting road RoW

Cont.. Policy, Legal, and Institutional Frameworks

- Renewable Energy Policy (2016), and
- Climate Change Policy (2021).

Key institutions include:

- MoE,
- · MECC,
- · EPASL,
- SLRA, and
- Western Area Rural District Council for oversight

Water Quality

 All drinking water sources met WHO guideline for drinking.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

<u>Noise</u>

- Noise levels were measured at five locations, averaging 69.88 dB, exceeding the IFC daytime guideline of 55 dB except at the proposed PV and BESS site.
- Sources included vehicle traffic, heavy equipment, and bike riders

Air Quality

- Air quality measurements were conducted at five sites, focusing on PM2.5 and PM10, ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and sulfur dioxide (SO2).
- PM2.5 & PM10 readings remained below the daily average threshold of 25 µg/m³.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Cont.. Air Quality

- Ozone levels were well below WHO's recommended limits.
- NO2 values are below maximum limits.
- SO2 concentrations were well below OSHA's permissible exposure limit.

Ecology & Biodiversity

- The solar PV project site lies in an agricultural landscape that is minimally used by local communities, adjacent to a government agricultural establishment in Newton
- The vegetation of the area includes the following:

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Cont.. Ecology & Biodiversity

- Forest regrowth a natural regeneration resulting from primary forest that was cleared a long time ago. Only small patches occur now on the southern section of the site.
- Swamps soft and wet areas that are covered by water either seasonally or permanently and they occur along both the west to southwest edge and the east to southeastern edge of the site.

Cont.. Ecology & Biodiversity

- Farm bush area that have been cultivated and harvested and temporarily abandoned to allow fallow (i.e. regeneration and nutrient replenishment). This is the most common feature of the vegetation of the site.
- Farmlands these are areas where active farming is ongoing. The most common crop farmed in the area is groundnut followed by cassava and vegetables.

Cont.. Environmental Baseline

Cont.. Ecology & Biodiversity

- The assessment identified five mammal species in the project area through visual evidence, footprints, or faecal matter, with local farmers confirming their presence.
- A sixth species, the vulnerable Tree Pangolin (IUCN Red List), has rarely been observed recently.

Cont.. Ecology & Biodiversity

- The survey documented 74 bird species across 27
 avian families in the project area, including forest dependent and migratory birds.
- No threatened bird species were identified.
- The local swamps provide suitable habitats for migratory waterbirds.

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following are *impact-generating* activities during the design, planning, construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the project:

- Land acquisition for the PV/BESS site
- Site preparation
- Minor excavation and levelling
- Hauling of earth materials and wastes
- Cutting and drilling

- Erection of concrete and steel structures
- Road upgrade (if necessary)
- · Painting and finishing
- Clean up operations
- · Landscaping and afforestation
- Erection of Poles and stringing of lines

Cont.. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Positive E&S Impacts

 The RESPITE project is expected to significantly improve both human well-being and the environment.

Below are some of the suggested project activities' possible advantages:

Cont.. Positive E&S Impacts

- Carbon Emissions Reduction
- Reduced Indoor Pollution
- Preservation of Ambient Environmental Conditions
- Improved Security
- Improved Delivery of Social Services, Health and Education
- Employment Generation
- · Improved Livelihoods
- Incentives for Small-Scale Enterprises
- · Improvement of Local Skills

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude					
	Preconstruction Phase									
Selecting an inappropriate or flawed design	The project/Huma	National	Permanent	Very Likely	Major					
Loss of land, Assets and Livelihoods	Humans	Local	Permanent	Very Likely	Minor					
SEA/SH Risk	Humans	Local	Long-term	Very Likely	Moderate					
The lack of community consultations or limited stakeholder consultations	Humans	Local	Long-term	Unlikely	Major					

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Precor	nstruction	Phase		
Risks associated with site mobilization and the transportation of equipment and materials to the site	Humans /Biodiversity	Local	Short- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Inefficiency resulting from the sourcing of construction materials	The project/Huma ns	National	Long-term	Very Likely	Moderate

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Construc	ction Pha	ise		
Climate	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Short - term	Unlikely	Negligible
Ambient Air Quality Deterioration	Humans	Local	Short - term	Very likely	Moderate
Noise Nuisance	Humans /Biodiversity	Local	Short- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Water Contamination	Humans /Biodiversity	Local	short- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Soil contamination	Biodiversity	Local	Long - term	Very Likely	Moderate

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude				
Construction Phase									
Pressure on Water	Humans	Local	Short-term	Likely	Minor				
Resources									
Impact on Local	Biodiversity	Local	Long-term	Very Likely	Moderate				
Ecology	PACE.								
Solid Waste/	Humans/	Local	Long term	Very Likely	Moderate				
Hazardous	Biodiversity								
Generation and									
Management Issues									
Erosion and Loss of	Biodiversity	Local	Long -term	Very Likely	Moderate				
Soil Resources	3,050								
Health and Safety	Humans	Local	Long -term	Likely	Moderate				
Hazards for									
Workers									

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Co	nstructior	Phase		
Community Health and Safety	Humans	Local	Long- term	Very Likely	Moderate
Impact or Cultural/Archaeolo gical Resources		Local	Short- term	unlikely	Negligible
Tension from unrealistic expectations from communities	, ,	Local	Long term	Likely	Major

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude
	Operat	ional Pha	se		
Waste Generation and Management Issues	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Long term	Very Likely	Moderate
Pressure on Water Resources	Humans	Local	Long- term	Likely	Minor
Impact on Local Ecology	Biodiversity	Local	Short - term	Very Likely	Moderate
Nuisance noise	Humans/ Biodiversity	Local	Short- term	unlikely	Minor

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude				
Operational Phase									
Ambient Air Pollution	Humans	Local	Short-term	unlikely	Minor				
Change in Landscape and Visual Amenity	Humans	Local	Long-term	Likely	Minor				
Occupational Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short-term	Very Likely	Minor				
Community Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short-term	Very Likely	Minor				
Emergency Situations	Humans	Local	Short-term	Very likely	Moderate				

Risk & Impact	Receptor	Extent	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude		
Decommissioning Phase							
Occupational Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short-term	Very Likely	Moderate		
Community Health and Safety Issues	Humans	Local	Short-term	Likely	Moderate		
Ambient Air Quality Deterioration	Humans	Local	Short-term	Likely	Minor		
Noise nuisance	Humans	Local	Short-term	Likely	Minor		
Water Contamination	Humans/Biodi versity	Local	Long-term	Likely	Moderate		
Waste Generation and Management Issues	Humans/Biodi versity	Local	Long -term	Very Likely	Moderate		

Project Alternative

- The "No Project Alternative" is deemed illogical given Sierra Leone's electricity demand and the project's role in enhancing energy access.
- Renewable energy sources, particularly solar PV and BESS, were **chosen** over conventional methods for their sustainability.
- The solar PV design at Newton focuses on meeting demand with a 30 MW output using modular components for efficiency.

Cont... Project Alternative

- Mono-facial crystalline silicon solar panels with a fixed tilt were chosen for cost efficiency and reliability.
- String inverters were preferred for their scalability and ease of maintenance, while the 10° tilt angle optimizes irradiation.
- Concrete poles were recommended for power transmission due to durability and environmental suitability.

Cont... Project Alternative

- Transmission routes were evaluated, with the proposed line minimizing environmental impacts and resettlement issues.
- Grid integration includes 161kV switch bays, step-up transformers, and 11kV connections with no adverse impact on energy systems.

Cont... Project Alternative

- The BESS design supports energy storage, offsets generator reliance, and ensures safety through advanced cooling and fire protection systems.
- Overall, the project design focuses on balancing cost, sustainability, and operational efficiency while addressing environmental and social considerations.

Cont... Project Alternative

- Wood poles present EHS risks like decay and chemical leaching.
- The MV substation and BESS (15 MWh/15 MVA)
 enhance efficiency and reliability, storing excess solar
 energy and reducing generator reliance during peaks.
- Safety measures, including fire protection and hazardous gas controls, ensure operational security.

Community Development Action Plan (CDAP)

CDAP Implementation Arrangement

Proposed Membership of the Community Development

Management Committee include:

- The Western Area Rural District Council
- Community Headmen
- Councillors
- Religious leaders (Christian/Muslim)
- Leaders of the youth groups
- · Women's leader
- A representative of the tribal groups

Community Development Action Plan (CDAP)

CD	A	Р	Bu	da	et

PROJECT	RESOURCES/DESCRIPTION			BUDGET (USD)	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELIN E
Support to Community electrification	Provision of transformers	Provision of Poles accessories	Provision of Conductor s	(Estimated cost for supply of Poles, Transformers, and accessories)		Estimate d timeline
Kattu Town	2 X 250 KVA Transformer	50 X 11kV Poles 125 X 11kV Poles	3km 5km	\$112,294.56	EDSA/MoE	5-8 months
Kpoubu	2 X 250 KVA Transformer	50 X 11kV Poles 125 X 11kV Poles	3km 5km	\$112,294.56	EDSA/MoE	5-8 months
Magbafti	2 X 250 KVA Transformer	50 X 11kV Poles 125 X 11kV Poles	3km 5km	\$112,294.56	EDSA/MoE	5-8 months
Subtotal Cost				\$336,883.68		

Community Development Action Plan (CDAP)

CDAP Budget

PROJECT	RESOURCES/DESCRIPTION			BUDGET (USD)	RESPONSIB ILITY	TIMELI NE
Access Road Rehabilitati on			Provision of Fuel for the Road upgrade	\$20,543.24	EDSA/MoE	1-3 Month
Sub total				\$20,543.24		
Support for Newton Magbafti Health Center	GBV (SEA/SH) response support will be given to survivors/victim s in the Project communities			\$20,000.00	EDSA/MoH	1-2 Months
Subtotal Cost				\$20,000.00		

Community Development Action Plan (CDAP)

CDAP Budget

PROJECT	RESOURCES/DESCRIPTION	BUDGET (USD)	RESPONSIBILIT Y	TIMELIN E
Support to GBV Response in project communities in Newton (Kattu Town, Magbafti and Kpoubu)	awareness	Detailed budget to be worked out in the GBV/SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan.		Through out the Project Life Cycle.
Subtotal cost (USD)				
GRAND TOTAL		\$377,426.92		

Thank You!

Public Disclosure of ESIA for the Construction of a 39 MWp (30 MWac) Solar PV Facility in Newton, Western Area Rural District of Sierra Leone

ESIA Solar PV Facility in Lungi, Port Loko District

Presented by

John Moanah

Social Baseline

- The socio-economic baseline study highlights the existing social and economic conditions in the project area, forming the basis for evaluating the proposed project's potential impacts.
- Key findings focus on demographic, economic, and community insights essential for impact assessment.

Cont... Social Baseline

The project area comprises three communities:

- Kattu Town (population 3,100),
- Kpoubu (2,200), and
- Magbafti (800).

Homes are constructed with **cement** blocks or **burnt** bricks, corrugated **metal** or **aluminium** roofs, and **mud** or **concrete** floors, with each unit housing a **single** household.

Cont... Social Baseline

Livelihood

- Agriculture plays a vital role in Newton's economy, involving a large segment of the population and supporting diverse crop cultivation through traditional methods.
- Additionally, small-scale businesses, microenterprises, and trading activities provide employment and contribute to the local economy

Cont... Social Baseline

Healthcare

- Newton faces healthcare challenges, particularly with the CHP struggling to meet the community's needs due to limited resources.
- While serving as a primary healthcare facility, the CHP lacks essential medical equipment, supplies, and adequate bed capacity.
- This leads those who can afford it to rely on more costly
 private clinics, creating accessibility challenges for most of the
 population.

Cont... Social Baseline

Drinking water

- Access to safe drinking water primarily comes from improved sources like hand pump wells.
- significant number of households still rely on unimproved sources like streams and rivers, which pose a higher risk of contamination and waterborne diseases

Cont... Social Baseline

<u>Waste</u>

- Household-generated waste is primarily disposed of through burning and composting.
- However, burning, while common, is not environmentally friendly.
- The ESMP outlines a proper waste disposal method for the project.

Cont... Social Baseline

Archaeological or cultural sites

- No significant archaeological or cultural sites were found at the proposed project site,.
- ESMP includes measures to appropriately handle any chance discoveries during the construction phase.

Cont... Social Baseline

Vulnerability

- Special attention and support are crucial for vulnerable groups in the project area, including women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities.
- Gender-related disparities impact women, making empowerment and equal opportunities vital for socio-economic development.
- Addressing disparities, ensuring access to education and healthcare, promoting social inclusion for those with disabilities, and empowering marginalized communities are essential considerations in project planning and implementation.

Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- Stakeholders for the project were notified through letters, SMS, or calls, with brief project details and consultant contact information for further inquiries.
- Consultations occurred between November 2022 and May 2023, with stakeholders coordinating meeting venues.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

 Meetings followed a structured agenda, introducing the project, discussing environmental and social impacts, presenting mitigation measures, and explaining the grievance mechanism while allowing stakeholders to provide feedback and raise concerns.

These are a summary of the general concerns and actions points from the consultations:

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

 Local community residents in the proposed project area are excited about the project and committed to support it while expressing the urgent need for electricity from the existing 6MW solar plant. They lamented that while the RESPITE project is significant and timely, the existing 6MW plant should be commissioned and start distributing electricity to their homes. They expressed a dire need for electricity in their communities.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

Women are happy about the proposed project. They
are resolute to be part of the project, express their
views in decision-making. They expressed firm desire
to be given employment opportunities by the project.
They strongly opposed to gender discrimination in
terms of employment and other forms of abuse.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- Local community leaders committed to popularizing the project to residents in their respective communities for better understanding of same.
- All aimed at raising awareness, increase acceptance, and promote peace and stability.

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- Youth representatives requested for employment opportunities for local community residents especially for youth. They committed to ensuring a safe space for the project and its migrant workers and to channel future grievances using the right channels.
- That community residents should be trained and employed

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- That the laws, customs, and traditions of the area should be respected by the project team and workers.
- The Newton Health Post faces challenges including limited electricity, inadequate beds, and supplies, appealing for project support and free electricity

Cont.. Stakeholders' Participation and Consultation

- The Motor Bike Riders Union urged road rehabilitation before construction, praised previous safety efforts, and committed to road safety adherence.
- Local schools highlighted road safety importance, praised police traffic control, and noted zero child accidents during the previous 6MW project.

Thank You!

Annex iii: Attendance List: Lungi

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Annex iv: Attendance List – Newton

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25	Jusy Lebba	3	Teacher		Katu Town 031065778
B	ARWAR A. James	3	Business	45	Katu Town 08995
8	Brima Kamara	Z	17 - M	1	15 day 70 wn 032820
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Annex v: Photo Gallary





