



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE (TI-SL)

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2014- JUNE 2015



**20 DUNDAS STREET
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE**

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FOREWORD

Although the government of Sierra Leone has continued to make significant studies to curb the prevalence of corruption especially in the public sector, the scourge has continued in virtually every sector including public, private and even within civil society.

TISL believes that major factor responsible for the apparent widespread corruption is the utter lack of integrity, ethics and moral values that have seen gradual decline in the society especially after the civil war. Consequently, laws processes and procedures are frequently flouted or circumvented as well. This trend continues to deepen and have led to the prevalence of state of lawlessness in the society.

Over the past years, TISL has revived its strategy and continued to reinforce existing efforts to promote the effectiveness of its intervention. This will continue in the coming years. TISL is firmly convinced that there is hope towards minimizing the state of corruption in the country, especially taking into consideration the proactive, firm and determined stance, taken by civil society and Anti corruption commission.

On this note, I crave the indulgence of all who really intend to see Sierra Leone become a prosperous nation to join the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone.

Lavina Banduah (Mrs.)

Executive Director

CHAPTER ONE

OVERVIEW OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE

Transparency International Sierra Leone, formerly the National Accountability Group is a local non-profit, non-governmental anti-corruption advocacy civil society organization established as a taskforce in 2001 under Campaign for Good Governance after 7 professional Sierra Leoneans participated in the Annual Members Meeting and International Anti Corruption Conference in Prague, Czech Republic organized by Transparency International. The trip was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Sierra Leone and the Open Society Institute (OSI) in New York and was organized and led by the then Coordinator of Campaign for Good Governance and former Executive Director of NAG, Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura.

In July 2004, TISL formerly NAG was reorganized as an independent organization with a mandate to achieve greater accountability, transparency and integrity in private and public affairs. Its work is dedicated to curb corruption by holding local and national governments and public duty bearers accountable to the people of Sierra Leone.

In September 2001, after duly serving as a local in the formation and completing a Self Assessment of TI for Full Chapter status, TISL was granted Full Accreditation by TI Secretariat as the Local Chapter in Sierra Leone. This has led to the change of name and logo in April 2011 at a ceremony held at the head quarters at 20 Dundas Street by the Vice Chairperson of the TI Movement, Barrister Akere Muna head panelist of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the Peer Review Mechanism process in Sierra Leone, and the former Executive Director, Hon. Haja Zainab Hawa Bangura, former Minister of Health and Sanitation

Vision Statement

TISL's vision is to have a country in which the Government, the business community, private sector, civil society and the daily lives of the people are free from corruption and its negative effects.

Mission Statement

To empower the citizenry of Sierra Leone through education, participation and opportunities to demand accountability, transparency and integrity from government, private sector and civil society, and inculcate these values themselves to curb corruption, promote good governance to improve living standards.

Core Values

**INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, COMMITMENT,
COMPORNTMENT, IMPARTIALITY, COURAGE.**

Objectives

- To educate and raise public awareness of key stakeholders in Sierra Leone to understand corruption issues and their negative impact on the society.
- To build/strengthen the capacity public officials, civil society, the media and general public to understand the dynamics of corruption issues to enable them take appropriate measures to curb it.
- To provide adequate and credible evidence on corruption issues within the public and private sector.
- To develop advocacy tools for the elimination of the factors that lead to corruption, impropriety and injustice.
- To facilitate opportunities for specific vulnerable groups/victims of corruption to ercome their predicament.
- To foster linkages and partnerships with national, sub regional and intergovernmental stakeholders whose aims and objectives are inconsonance with those of the Transparency International Sierra Leone and the Transparency International Movement.

TISL Staff

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1.	Lavina Banduah (Mrs.)	Executive Director
2.	Sahr Tobie Sokena	Finance/Admin Assistant
3.	Edward Koroma	Senior Program Officer
4.	Adenike Cole (Ms)	Program Officer
5.	Abdulai Taylor Kamara	Program Officer
6.	Memuna Monye (Mrs.)	Secretary/Admin Assistant
7.	Michael Bangura	IT Officer
8.	Amadu Bangura	Finance Assistant

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| 9. | Philip Laggawo | Dispatch Clerk |
| 10. | Osaio Marah | Messenger/Cleaner |

TISL Advisory Board Members

1. Mr. Emile Carr - Chairman
2. Dr. Donald A. Bash –Taqi
3. Mr. Victor E.A. Kabia
4. Sheik Imam Abu Bakarr Kamara
5. Christian R.B. Kweku Hagan
6. Mrs. Cassandra Garber

CHAPTER TWO
TISL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



TI-SL Programme Staff Demonstrating how to use the Portal to Access and Upload Information During the Launching in Bo District



The Deputy of the Tonkolili District Council Delivering the keynote Address and Launching of the Portal in Tonkolili District



The Procurement Officer Bo District Council Seeking Clarifications during the launching of the Procurement Portal in Bo District



TI-SL Field Officer Bo District Sorting out Posters and Flyers for onward distribution to Participants



Follow up Meeting with the Kenema District Council on the Procurement Portal



Follow up meeting Kenema City Council on the procurement Portal



Follow up meeting with the Bo City Council on the Procurement Portal



Follow up Meeting with the Bo District Council on the Procurement Portal



Ebola Sensitization at a Market Place in the Eastern Part of Freetown



A Military Personnel Displaying the Ebola Sensitization Poster



TI-SL Staff Educating the Public on the Ebola Virus Disease

CHAPTER THREE

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Using ICT to Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Public procurement Processes

Background

Using technology in governance and in advocacy campaigns has become a modern communication and information dissemination strategy, as it has the tendency to enhance accessibility to very vital information that has to do with governance in record time. The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and social media tools to relay information to the public increases transparency, accountability, citizens' knowledge and participation in governance processes. Access to government information has always been a major challenge for the public and a stumbling block in monitoring and advocacy activities undertaken by non-state actors. Deliberate bottlenecks are created by most government officials in order for them not to divulge information to the public. However, the availability of such information in the social media or information portal will give citizens easier access information. This will in turn increase citizens' interest and participation in governance processes in terms of voicing their concerns and making vital inputs in development issues.

In view of this, Partners for Democratic Change, a United States based NGO through the Access Sierra Leone project implemented by CGG was approached to support TI-SL in this direction. After series of negotiations, funding was provided through the Partnership Fund under the Access Sierra Leone Project to expand the Procurement Portal to cover two additional districts (Bo and Tonkolili). The link to the website is www.tislprocurement.org

Objectives

1. To increase public knowledge and awareness of public procurement laws and processes and enable citizens to express concerns on procurement processes
2. To record citizens' complaints on public procurement processes and challenges faced by Procurement Practitioners, to form the bases of advocacy campaigns.
3. To explore possibilities of expanding this initiative to Ministries, Department and Agencies
4. To make to process of uploading information to the website more effective and efficient

Activities

- Modification of the Website
- Consultative Meetings
- Launching of Website
- Printing of Flyers
- Development and Broadcasting of Jingle
- Radio Talk Shows
- Monthly Advocacy Visits to Relevant Institutions

Outcomes

- Uploading procurement information to the website became more easier and timely
- People from local communities have the opportunity to directly upload information regarding contract implementation and other procurement processes to the website
- Citizens can access adequate procurement information through the website
- Renewed commitment from the local councils to support the implementation of the project
- Increased public awareness of the existence of the website and how to access information on it
- Various stakeholder became of their roles and responsibility in ensuring fair and transparent public procurement processes
- Increased public awareness of procurement and its related processes
- Increased public awareness of the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in ensuring fair and transparent procurement processes
- Identification of areas where citizens and the local councils would collaborate to monitor contract implementation

Challenges

- Untimely disbursement of funds after the signing of the Project Contract
- Difficulty in accessing procurement information from the local councils
- Poor internet connectivity especially in the provinces
- High illiteracy rate especially in rural communities

Recommendations

- Partnership for Democratic Change should endeavor disburse funds in a timely manner so that activity timelines will be fully adhered to

- The government of Sierra Leone should speedily implement the Freedom of Access to Information Law that was recently ratified to ensure the easy access to public information
- The government of Sierra Leone should speedily conclude the installation of the Fiber Optic Cable that will greatly improve internet connectivity
- The National Public Procurement Authority should be more robust in monitoring procurement processes within local councils especially in the area of contract performance
- Local Councils/Procuring Entities should endeavor to inform bidders they reason(s) why they fail to win a contract. This will go a long way in addressing the issue of suspicion on corrupt practices.
- Apart from withholding the 5% retention fee in a situation where a contractor fail to complete a contract satisfactorily more stringent action like blacking listing that particular contractor should be taken
- Local Councils/Procuring Entities should be more pro-active in ensuring robust publicity of Bid Adverts to create a open and level playing field for all to compete

2. Raising Public on the Ebola Virus Disease to Reduce its Spread

Background

The Ebola Virus is one of most deadly virus, mostly resulting in death for most people who become infected with it. It is highly contagious especially when its victim is dead. To date, it has no known cure though several efforts are being made to develop and a cure.

In December 2013, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was breakout in South East of Guinea in West Africa in the village of Meliandou. By March 2014, the disease spread into Liberia. This caused a lot of apprehension for the government of Sierra Leone especially the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, as it is known that any ailment in a close neighboring country especially Guinea and Liberia has the tendency to spread into Sierra Leone.

Inspite of efforts made, the outbreak eventually spread in to Sierra Leone, specifically in the Kailahun District in Eastern Sierra Leone from where it spread to neighbouring Kenema District, followed by other districts in the Southern, Eastern and Northern Provinces and finally the Western Area Urban and Rural Districts, reaching the city Freetown and its environs where it increased at an appalling and horrifying rate.

At the height of the spread of the disease between the months of July to October 2014 it became obvious that the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were unable to contain its spread due to several key factors as follows:

- The Politicization of the epidemic by certain members of the opposition parties.
- Doubts and denial of the existence of the disease (the initial and persistent) especially in the opposition stronghold and by skeptics.
- Traditional and Cultural Practices pertaining to burial rites.
- Lack of state of the Art Health Facilities ambulances, health centers, laboratories, medical equipment and appropriate outfit.
- Lack of in depth knowledge of the Ebola Virus Disease by medical personnel and personnel of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.
- Lack of adequate funds for the Health sector, which had led to the under development of the sector of capacity to contain the spread of the spread of the disease.
- Lawlessness, and indiscipline of citizens

Objectives

- To ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of Ebola response funds
- To raise public awareness the symptoms and prevention of the Ebola Virus Disease
- To ensure proper coordination among stakeholders in the use of Ebola funds, materials and logistics
- To monitor the utilization of Ebola response funds, materials and logistics

Activities

- Development of Jingles and Posters
- Radio Discussion Programmes
- Advocacy Campaign Visits
- Community Outreach Meetings

Outcome

- Increased public awareness on the Ebola Virus Disease
- Improved coordination of response activities

CHAPTER FOUR

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Right to Know, Right to Information Awareness Raising Campaign

In order to continue to effectively and proactively advocate to curb corruption leading to improved living standards, TI-SL has continued the Right to Know, Right to Information Awareness Raising Campaign to ensure that there is the ardent need for effective flow of information especially from duty bearers elected, selected or appointed to serve the interest of citizens. This stems from the fact that duty bearers have persistently over the past years demonstrated a nonchalant attitude towards the plight and welfare of the people whom they are in office to serve. This has served as an eye opener for the public who are now actively expressing their discontent at inadequate and limited access and flow of information on key governance policies and programmes. Consequently, the government has launched a Transparency Sierra Leone Portal to provide salient information to the public on government activities and projects.

Advocacy and Public Education

TISL has continued to further promote its Advocacy and Public on the following mainly through radio discussion programmes and articles in its quarterly newsletter:

- The Domestication, Implementation and Monitoring of the United Nations and African Union Conventions on Corruption
- The Public Procurement Process
- Revenue Transparency
- Budget Transparency
- Corruption in Public Service delivery
- Promoting Aid Effectiveness
- The African Peer Review Mechanism Process (ongoing)
- The Local Government and Decentralization Process (ongoing)
- The Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy
- The Importance of Open Governance
- The Need for a legislature on Access to Information.

Commemoration of International Anti – Corruption Day

On 9th December 2014, Transparency International Sierra Leone Commemorated the International Anti-Corruption Day with the issuing of a Press Release that was broadcast on radio stations nationwide, drawing attention to the prevalence of corruption and its negative impact on the Sierra Leonean Society and calling on all citizens to join the Anti-Corruption Campaign.

A Radio Discussion Program was also organized in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC)

Due to the huge success of the Advocacy and Legal Advice Center, TISL has continued the operations of the center which has effectively served to redress grievances of some members of the public related to violations of rights through corrupt practices. To date 550 cases have been received of which 400 have been addressed. Most of these cases range from request for advantage/bribes paid to access basic services e.g Water Supply Connection, Securing the National Passport and Identity Cards. Others were based on unwarranted financial payments made to school authorities, members of the public to have documents endorsed at border checkpoints, commercial drivers to traffic police personnel. In most of these instances, the cases are documented and a letter of concern is sent to the respective authority, followed by visits to seek redress.

The matter is investigated and if found worthy refunds are made followed by an apology. TI-SL continues to follow up to advocate for effective mechanisms are put in place to prevent future happenings. In order to effectively ensure proper mechanisms are put in place to forestall persistence of these acts, where applicable TI-SL intends to conduct findings into the existence of related service charters if available these will be publicly circulated. If not in existence TI-SL will advocate for its formulation, and will monitor its implementation to ensure compliance.

Civil Society and Stakeholders Dialogue Fora

To further ensure Civil Society's engagement in emerging corruption issues, TI-SL has continued to host the Civil Society Dialogue For a and Stakeholder Dialogue For a to provide a space for civil society, local community residents and the media to discuss and take action on emerging issues of concern regarding alleged corrupt acts of public officials and further on constructively engage related stakeholders to air their views and chat a way forward to address the issues. The focus of the intervention is now being done from a rights based perspective and organizations working on Human Rights issues are being invited to participate in these meetings.

CHAPTER FIVE

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

External Meetings, Workshops and Seminars

As a Civil Society Organization, TISL attended various meetings, workshops and seminars organized by other partner organizations.

TI-SL's Membership

Specifically, TI-SL continues to be a member of the following:

- The National Anti-Corruption Strategy Steering Committee of the Anti Corruption Commission.
- The Steering Committee of the Anti Corruption Commission on Sierra Leone's Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- The Legal Review Committee of the Public Procurement Act and Procurement Regulations.
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption Civil Society Coalition
- The Freedom of Information Coalition
- Non State Actors Coalition on Public Financial Management
- Open Government Partnership Steering Committee
- Natural Resource Governance and Economic Justice
- Budget Advocacy Network

CONCLUSION

Throughout the year in perspective, Transparency International Sierra Leone has strived to make a meaningful impact in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone. However, the fight against corruption especially in Sierra Leone remains a daunting challenge. Notwithstanding, even with limited staff and inadequate resources, significant impact has been made and some degree of successes have been scored. TI-SL will continue unabated in its stance, and encourages all to join the campaign against corruption nationally and globally. It is our hope also that in the coming year with additional funding increased staff capacity and an unwavering and firm stance to curb corruption more impact will be made towards the significant reduction of corruption in our society.

Appendix – Statements of Audited Account

Income statement

For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

<i>In thousands of Leones</i>	Notes	Jun-15	Jun-14
Funds from Donors	2	218,375	978,202
Project Costs	3	(164,260)	(646,327)
Administrative Costs	4	(73,948)	(278,496)
Result from Operating activities		(19,833)	53,379
Results for the year		(19,833)	53,379

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30th June 2015	Notes	Jun-15	Jun-14
<i>In Thousands of Leones</i>			
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	64,852	78,035
Total Non- current assets		64,852	78,035
Current Assets			
Receivables	7	624,205	526,075
Cash and Bank balance	5	223,226	320,506
		847,431	846,581
Total assets		912,283	924,616
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	7,500	7,500
Total Current Liabilities		7,500	7,500
Reserves			
Accumulated Fund	14	904,783	917,116
Total accumulated fund		904,783	917,116
Total equity and liabilities		912,283	924,616

These Financial Statements were approved by:

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On.....2015

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30th June 2015

In thousands of Leones

Net Cash flows from operating activities	Notes	June 2015	June 2014
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Changes in:

Results before tax		(19,833)	53,379
Depreciation	9	20,333	18,868
Receivables	7	(98,130)	-
Trade and other payables	6	7,500	(3,575)
Increase /decrease accumulated fund		-	(1,611,372)
Cash used in operating activities		(90,130)	(1,542,700)
Net cash used in operating activities		(90,130)	(1,542,700)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(7,150)	(33,302)
Net cash used in investing activities		(7,150)	(33,302)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(97,280)	(1,576,002)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		320,506	1,896,508
Cash and cash equivalents at 30th June	5	223,226	320,506

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

1.1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Transparency International Sierra Leone's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and/or International Accounting Standards (IAS).

1.2 ACCOUNTING BASIS

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis.

1.3 FOREIGN CURRENCY

The financial statements are presented in Leones which is the organisation's functional and presentation currency.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency of the Organisation at exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

Exchange rates used

1 Euro = Le 5,600

1 US\$ = Le 5,000

2 FUNDS FROM DONORS

This represents income received from overseas donors to undertake projects

Income

	Jun-15	Jun-14
<i>In thousands of Leones</i>		
Transparency International Secretariat-Women	-	127,726
Transparency International Secretariat-ICT	-	87,200
Transparency International Secretariat-NIS	-	27,250
Transparency International Secretariat-Fund raising	-	27,250
National Endowment for Democracy	-	24,153
Fund for Global Human Rights	57,875	107,500
Newfield Foundation	129,000	426,300
MOFED/World Bank	-	150,823
CGG (PDC)	31,500	-
	218,375	978,202

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 Project Costs

<i>In thousands of Leones</i>	Jun-15	Jun-14
Public Education and Awareness Raising	26,200	45,463
Trainings	42,660	192,767
Research & Surveys	-	36,350
Fiscal Sponsors & Grant making	-	268,613
Website / Portal Development	5,000	14,400
Assessment & Evaluation	-	13,867
Monitoring	-	25,340
Development of IEC Materials	21,450	18,000
Consultancy costs	42,950	31,527
Proposal Writing	26,000	-
	164,260	646,327

4 Administrative expenses

<i>In thousands of Leones</i>	Jun-15	Jun-14
Staff Costs	25,055	175,320
Rent & Rates	7,300	8,000
Stationery & Office Supplies	5,000	12,300
Electricity Charges	1,288	3,000
Fuel & Lubricants	1,312	9,872
Telephone, Fax & Internet	6,000	6,000
Advisory Board Expenses	2,000	2,000

Repairs & Maintenance	0	3,000
Local Travelling	4,800	16,125
Bank charges	861	4,411
Other expenses	0	19,600
Depreciation	20,333	18,868
	73,948	278,496

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5 Cash and cash equivalents

	Jun-15	Jun-14
<i>in thousands of Leones</i>		
Bank	223,227	250,735
Total Bank	223,227	320,506

6 Trade and other payables

	Jun-15	Jun-14
<i>In thousands of Leones</i>		
Payables	7,500	7,500
	7,500	7,500

7. Trade and other Receivables	Jun-15	Jun-14
<i>In thousands of Leones</i>		
Receivables	624,205	526,075
	624,205	526,075

8. FIXED ASSETS & DEPRECIATION

Fixed assets acquired by Transparency International are capitalized and depreciated over their useful economic lives on a straight line basis. The following rates of depreciation have been adopted:

Furniture and fittings	10%
Computer & office equipment	10%
Plant & machinery	12%
Motor Vehicles	10%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Property, Plant and Equipment

<i>In thousands of Leones</i>	Furniture and Fittings	Computers and Office Equipment	Plant &Machinery	Motor Vehicles	Total
Assets					
Balance at 1 July 2013	33,395	90,789	19,380	52,950	196,514
Additions during the period	-	7,502		25,800	33,302
Balance at 31 June 2014	33,395	98,291	19,380	78,750	229,816
Balance at 1 July 2015	33,395	98,291	19,380	78,750	229,816
Additions during the period	150	7,000	-	-	7,150
Balance at 31 June 2015	33,545	105,291	19,380	78,750	236,966
Accumulated Depreciation					
Balance at 1 July 2013	18,575	42,008	19,380	52,950	132,913
Charge for the year	3,339	9,079	-	6,450	18,868
Balance at 31 June 2014	21,914	51,087	19,380	59,400	151,781
Balance at 1 July 2013	21,914	51,087	19,380	59,400	151,781
Charge for the year	3,354	10,529	0	6,450	20,333
Balance at 31 June 2014	25,268	61,616	19,380	65,850	172,114
Carrying amount:					
As at 1 July 2014	11,481	47,204	0	19,350	78,035

As at June 2015	8,277	43,675	0	12,900	64,852
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments as at 30th June 2015. (2014 nil)

11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30th June 2015. (2014 nil)

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND INTEREST OF DIRECTORS

There were no transactions with directors or director related entities during the year.

13. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Events subsequent to the balance sheet date are reflected only to the extent that they are material. There were no such events as at the date these financial statements were signed.

14. Accumulated Fund

	June 2015	June 2014
Balance as at 1 July	917,116	2,475,109
Adjustment	7,500	(1,611,372)
Results for the year	(19,833)	53,379
	<hr/> 904,783 <hr/>	917,116

