



NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY FOR SIERRA LEONE

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	8
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	9
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	11
1. RATIONALE, GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND ASSUMPTIONS	14-16
1.1 Rationale for National Migration Policy	
1.2 Policy Goal	
1.3 Policy Objectives	
1.4 Principles	
1.5 Assumptions	
2 MIGRATION PROFILE IN SIERRA LEONE	17-26
2.1 Internal migration	
2.2 Emigration	
2.3 Immigration	
2.4 Irregular migration and smuggling	
2.5 Regional Frameworks of cooperation	
2.6 Legislative and institutional framework in Sierra Leone	
3 IMMIGRATION SYSTEM	27-35
3.1 Immigration to Sierra Leone	
3.2 Legal frameworks for immigration	
3.3 ECOWAS framework	
3.4 Non-Citizen (Registration, Immigration & Expulsion) Act 1965	
3.5 Categories of immigration	
3.6 Visitors	
3.7 Investors	
3.8 Workers	
3.9 Students	

4	BORDER MANAGEMENT	36-41
4.1	Current status of the border regions	
4.2	Previous study of the border regions	
4.3	Policy proposals to improve monitoring of the border regions	
5	NATIONALITY	42-47
5.1	Citizenship Law	
5.2	Dual citizenship and transnationalism	
5.3	Naturalisation	
5.4	Statelessness	
5.5	Renunciation of Citizenship	
6	MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	48-64
6.1	Internal Migration	
6.2	Emigration	
6.3	Return and reintegration of Sierra Leonean emigrants	
6.4	Migration and natural resources	
6.5	Migration and gender	
6.6	Migration and health	
6.7	Migration and trade	
6.8	Migration and Natural Disasters	
6.9	Labour Migration and Conflict Handling Mechanisms	
6.10	Migration, Tourism and Cultural Heritage	
6.11	Migration and the Diaspora	
7	PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE	65-71
7.1	Human rights	
7.2	Forced migration	
7.3	Refugees, asylum seekers and Stateless Persons	
7.4	Trafficking in Persons and migrant smuggling	
8	PASSPORT ISSUANCE	72-75
8.1	Background	
8.2	Passport application system	
8.3	Passport application process	
8.4	Security of the passport issuing process	

8.5 Centralisation of the passport issuance

9 REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION 76-77

9.1 Financial resources

9.2 Autonomy

9.3 Monitoring and evaluation procedures

9.4 Action plan

10 INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION 78-83

10.1. Government Institutions

10.2. Non-State Institutions

10.3. International and Regional Institutions

FOREWORD

The history of Migration is as old as humanity itself as humans have always migrated from place to place for variety of reasons including seeking greener pastures, running away from civil wars or persecution as well as the scourge of man-made or natural disasters. It is no different today but, in a world where governments are seeking to protect first and foremost the interest of its citizens and where immigration has become a huge political issue, there are barriers being erected everywhere to prevent the mass movement of people across borders. However, opportunities for regular migration are important and state policies and legal frameworks are required to respond to global governance policies for control and management of both regular and irregular migration across nations

The history of migration in Sierra Leone dates back to the 1940s and 1950s, following the discoveries of precious minerals in the country. There was massive inflow of foreign nationals both Africans and Non Africans seeking to get their hands on these precious minerals. The Colonial authorities then established the immigration department with the mandate to control the movement of people and prevent the smuggling of the diamonds and gold. This explains why the Immigration Department was initially under the strict supervision of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP).

This police supervision became a core mandate of the police and so laws were made with the police function in mind. This state of affairs continued until October 2000 when then government was advised to make immigration a standalone institution under civilian administration. The government agreed and implemented the advice in October 2002, bringing the department under full civilian control.

The department in its various guises over the years has focused mainly on managing immigration into the country with very little attention paid to emigration apart from the issuance of passports and other travelling documents to citizens wanting to leave the country. This lack of focus on emigration is not limited to Sierra Leone alone. What most countries have, therefore, are immigration policies that control and monitor the inflow of people from across their borders. This policy document is a first attempt to have a coherent National Migration policy which encompasses all

aspects of migration to tackle both emigration and immigration issues as well as issues relating to internal migration.

On the issue of emigration, an institutional policy framework is needed to organise diaspora engagement back home in the context of investment in trade, management and facilitation of remittance and consular assistance abroad. Furthermore, there is the need to develop mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits for our citizens abroad. However, these initiatives can only be realized through the strengthening of international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration. Therefore, this National Migration Policy has set out a number of policy prescriptions on how to address some of these issues towards the governance of migration in Sierra Leone.

There is also the question of vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, victims of people trafficking/smuggling, irregular and those that are stateless. Although these issues mentioned above attracts a lot of international attention due to the migrant crisis in Europe and North America, such migration challenges forms part of the internal migration dynamics in Sierra Leone with Sierra Leoneans as victims and perpetrators across the West Africa sub region and beyond. However, there have been no coherent policies in place to address the issues. For example, there have been many cases where Sierra Leoneans who have gone to the Middle East as domestic workers are abused, exploited and cheated and left starving without jobs. The government has had to step-in on a number of occasions to rescue them. This document is the first attempt at setting out comprehensive policies on how to tackle the issue as well as those who go to Europe through the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean without the proper travelling documents.

It is important to note that the policy prescriptions in this document do not provide answers to all the migration challenges. However, it is expected that the document will provide a framework which the government can use to tackle the modern challenges of migration and manage migration in the interest of national development.

The content of this document is a result of collaborative work with number of stakeholders within government and outside of it. These include the

Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Social Welfare, Children and Gender Affairs, development partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their contributions and diligent work on this document, most especially the International Organisation on Migration (IOM) for their technical and financial support which included sponsoring the policy 'Away Day' in which the draft National Migration Policy was finalized.

I would also to thank my staff particularly the Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Director of Administration and Finance, Director of Strategy, Policy and Planning, Director of Operations and other staff members who made meaningful contribution to this comprehensive document.

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The National Migration Policy (NMP) of the Republic of Sierra Leone has been developed on the initiative of the Sierra Leone Immigration Department and the Ministry of Internal Affairs with support from key stakeholders in government like the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Social Welfare through the National Commission for Social Action, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, the Office of National Security and Sierra Leone Statistics. The original drafting process was largely done in-house with support from these key stakeholders in government as well as those from non-governmental organisations. The final drafting process was led by International Organisation on Migration (IOM) and their expert consultant, Dr Ruben Lewis.

The department would like to take this opportunity to express its profound gratitude to IOM for their financial support and technical expertise, without which this report may not have seen the light of the day. They provided the funds for the stakeholder consultation workshops in Makeni and Freetown and their expertise collated the comments and views received at the workshop to revise and edit the original draft into a comprehensive final and verified NMP document.

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Finally, we want to thank our colleagues in government and nongovernmental organisations who participated in the consultation workshops held in Makeni and Freetown. Their views, comments and overall contributions to the process helped to enrich this policy document.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU – African Union

BCP - Border Crossing Point

CCTA – Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa South of the Sahara

CTD - Conventional Travelling Document

ECOWAS - Economic Community of the West African States

ETC - Emergency Travelling Certificate

EU - European Union

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

GoSL - Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone

HRCSL – Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone

IBM - Integrated Border Management

ICAO – International Civil Aviation Department

ICMPD - International Centre for Migration Policy Development

IDPs - Internally Displaced Persons

IMO - International Maritime Organisation

IOM - International Organization for Migration

JMC - Joint Maritime Committee

MDAs – Ministries, Department and Agencies

MFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

MFMR - Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

MIA - Ministry of Internal Affairs, Local Government and Rural Affairs

MIEUX - Migration EU Expertise

MMO – Mines Monitoring Office

MoD - Ministry of Defence

MoE - Ministry of Employment and Social Security

MoF - Ministry of Finance
MoH - Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MoJ - Ministry of Justice
MoMR - Ministry of Mineral Resources
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
MRU - Mano River Union
MSW - Ministry of Social Welfare
NaCSA - National Commission for Social Action
NMP- National Migration Policy
NRA – National Revenue Authority
OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONS - Office of National Security
PHC - Primary Health Care
PTSD – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
RSLAF - Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone
SALPOST – Sierra Leone Postal Services SL
- Sierra Leone
SLID – Sierra Leone Immigration Department
SLMA - Sierra Leone Maritime Authority
SLP - Sierra Leone Police
SLPA - Sierra Leone Ports Authority
Stats SL - Statistics of Sierra Leone
TFR - Total Fertility Rate
TIP- Trafficking in Persons
UNHCR – United Nations High Commission for Refugees
WHO – World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Considering the broader implication that Migration has towards security, social cohesion, development, as well as transformation of any given society, its governance and management is paramount and must be anchored on solid governance framework and institutional mechanisms. For Sierra Leone, the governance of migration has been quite challenging as the country continues to grapple with responding to the consequences and impact of both regular and irregular migration with people immigrating into the country or emigrating out of the country or migrating internally. This is compounded by the fact that Sierra Leone has not had a comprehensive policy framework within which migration processes are properly govern and regulated. This is the rationale for the development of the National Migration Policy (NMP). In fact, it is the first attempt by the government of Sierra Leone to develop a comprehensive and structured policy framework that respond to the inherent needs of the various sectors of migration governance and management in the country.

The overarching goal of the policy is to improve and enforce administrative and legislative procedures towards management of migration and to strengthen the capabilities of the institutions involved. It is guided by existing rules and domestic legislation, sub-regional and continental regulations, standards and procedures as well as international treaties, protocols and conventions.

In order to provide depth and clarity on policy issues, and to present concrete, applicable and implementable proposals, the NMP, covers ten (10) sectors with comprehensive analysis of migration issues, providing policy proposals, clear objectives and strategies of implementation. The policy provides a profile of migration in Sierra Leone since her independence and the various trajectories it has taken in the decades past. With statistical numbers, it analyses internal and international migration, the problem of irregular migration in the country, national, regional and international policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms towards the governance of migration, and the various framework for cooperation across all these levels.

The NMP assesses the immigration system in Sierra Leone and the legislative framework governing various sectors of immigration in the country. It maintained that the government of Sierra Leone seek to adopt measures through this policy to implement national legislations, regional and international frameworks in order to attract and facilitate all forms of migration in Sierra Leone. It makes provision for various categories of immigration including visitors, investors, workers and students and established policy strategies for improving the immigration process in the country.

Furthermore, the NMP describes systemic issues with regards the management of the country's borders. It assesses all the border crossing points (BCP) and prescribe policy proposals and strategies for implementation towards the operationalization of an effective border management regime. Also, the NMP defined and clarify issues of citizenship and nationality including clarifications on dual citizenship and transnationalism. It maintains that the dual citizenship laws of Sierra Leone can enable people in the diaspora to access basic rights accorded by both countries and encourage emigrants to contribute to socioeconomic development of the country. It clarifies policy issues on naturalisation, statelessness and renunciation of citizenship and proposed policy and strategies to respond to existing challenges to manage the process of nationality and citizenship in Sierra Leone.

In addition, the NMP establishes a nexus between migration and development in Sierra Leone. It provides an assessment of the impact of internal migration and emigration and provides policy proposal and strategies for effective management of internal migration and emigration out of Sierra Leone. It clarifies issues on return and reintegration of Sierra Leonean emigrants, migration and Natural resources, migration and gender, migration and health, migration and trade, migration and natural disaster or environmental emergencies, migration and the diaspora, labour migration and conflict handling mechanisms, and migration and organized crime. On each of these issues, the policy presents policy proposals with set objectives and strategies of implementation.

The NMP made provision for protection of the vulnerable, including forced migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, and proposed policy to tackle trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. The policy prescribes operating procedures for the Inter-Ministerial Committee on

Human Trafficking and the National Task Force on Human Trafficking and propose policies and strategies for effective protection of vulnerable migrant groups.

Also, the policy explains the issuance of passports, the application process to get a passport by ordinary citizens and the recent regulations and methods that have been implemented by the Immigration Department to secure and provide traveling documents to Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad.

The NMP provides conditions and requirement for its implementation including financial resources, monitoring and evaluations procedures and action plan. Also, it identifies institutional structure including government and non-governmental institutions as well as regional and international organisations that can provide effective leadership through interinstitutional cooperation for the overall implementation of the policy.

1. RATIONALE, GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND ASSUMPTIONS

1.1 RATIONALE

1.1.1 This is a time of unprecedented mobility of people across the globe, ranging from those moving from rural areas to urban/industrial cities within the same country to those moving overseas (other countries) in search of better opportunities. This has brought challenges and opportunities to both the source and recipient countries/regions. Sierra Leone has not been immune to this phenomenon as it has experienced large-scale internal migration as well as out-migration of its population to other countries in West Africa particularly during the war years.

- 1.1.2 Today, Sierra Leone has a significant proportion of its population living outside of the country, mainly in neighbouring West African countries, as well as in North America and Europe. In addition, Sierra Leone has had its fair share of inward movement of people from other countries, but this has mainly been people fleeing conflicts/persecution (refugees and asylum seekers) from neighbouring countries. Furthermore, there has been the recent phenomenon of mainly young Sierra Leoneans emigrating to Middle Eastern countries or to Europe through what is locally known as the 'temple run' (travelling by road and sea through the Sahara Desert and Mediterranean Sea) in search of opportunities.
- 1.1.3 This has presented the government with a new challenge as a number of these young people end up in very difficult situations in their destination countries and ask the government for assistance to repatriate them back to Sierra Leone. However, there is no comprehensive policy on how to deal with this issue and the other issues relating to both internal and international migration. There is also the challenge of the lack of adequate and reliable data on migration.
- 1.1.4 This National Migration Policy is the first attempt at formulating such a comprehensive policy so as to facilitate an orderly, safe, and regular migration of Sierra Leoneans to the cities, towns, and districts or internationally to other countries. This document will set out policy proposals on how to confront the challenges that this movement of people bring as well as how to maximise its benefits in the interest of the country.

1.2 Policy Goal

- 1.2.1 The National Migration Policy contains a comprehensive and future-oriented framework for migration management in Sierra Leone with the overarching objective to enforce and improve the legislation and administrative procedures and to strengthen the capabilities of the institutions involved. This will be done in line with the treaties ratified by Sierra Leone and other international instruments. Therefore, National Migration Policy is a strategic policy framework, to support the socio-economic development and national security of Sierra Leone.

1.3 Policy Objectives

1.3.1 The specific objectives of the National Migration Policy are:

1. to install clear policy guidelines for a controlled admission of foreign nationals taking into account the needs of the labour market;
2. to prevent and combat security related risks like organized cross border crime that threatens the peaceful coexistence of different groups residing within Sierra Leone;
3. to prevent and combat irregular migration including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; and negotiate with countries to make regular routes available to people
4. to protect the rights of migrants with special attention to vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking, asylum seekers, children, women, sick, elderly, youth and persons with disabilities;
5. to provide for the citizens of Sierra Leone valid travelling documents in the form of passports, seamen's books, Emergency Travelling Certificates (ETCs) and for refugees, Conventional Travelling Documents (CTDs);
6. To encourage the Immigration Department in carrying out its mandate in delivering public services as stipulated by the laws of Sierra Leone;
7. to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between the immigration department and other stake holders involved in the field of migration management.

1.4 Principles

1.4.1 The development of the national migration policy is guided by the principle of respecting and protecting individual rights of migrants and their family members. Also, the policy is guided by the constitution of Sierra Leone which enshrines the right to free movement as well as domestic legislation on immigration and the protection of migrants. It further takes into account sub-regional (Mano River Union), regional (Economic Community of West African States, African Union) and

international conventions on the right and protection of migrants to which Sierra Leone is a signatory.

1.5 Assumption

15.1 The National Migration Policy has been developed on the assumption that the government will make a full commitment to implement the policy proposals within the document so as to maximise the benefits of migration as well as deal with its challenges. It has also been assumed that there would be an effective management of migration issues as well as collaboration between government and stakeholders (domestic and international) including non-governmental organisations.

2. MIGRATION PROFILE IN SIERRA LEONE

2.1. Internal migration

2.1.1 Internal migration is more dominant, characterized by rural-urban migration resulting from perceived differences in job opportunities. The internal migration rate was at 21.6 percent at the time of the 2004 census. However, in the 2015 population census, the resident population born outside their districts of residence has risen to 24.8 percent more recent with the Western area Accounting for 54.5 percent of lifetime in-migration.¹

2.1.2 Before the war the distribution of the population was determined by regional imbalances in economic endowment; with high concentrations in places like Kono, Kenema and Port Loko Districts as well as Freetown. During the war forced migration contributed to the distortion of both spatial distribution and population movement patterns. For instance, Kono District which used to have high population next to Freetown had a decline in population from 389,657 in 1985 to 335,401 in 2004. This was certainly as a result of movement of people from the district at the time of the conflict.²

¹ Statistics Sierra Leone (2015). 'Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census'. Sierra Leone

² Statistics Sierra Leone (2004). 'Sierra Leone Population and Housing Census 2004'. Sierra Leone

However, since the end of the war the Western region has become the most migrant attractive region in Sierra Leone. In the 2015 census, it was reported that the 'Western region received the most migrants from all other regions, with 57.9 percent of the total immigrant population.

2.1.3 The Northern Province, traditionally a net sender of persons to other districts and regions, became a net receiver of migrants. For example, Bombali District has more than proportionate increase in population from 317,729 in 1985 to 408,390 in 2004. However, the Northern Region has contributed most to emigration with 51.7 percent of all recorded out-migration originating from this region in the 2015 national census; and the districts that recorded the highest proportion of all out-migration in the country were Bombali and Port Loko with 16.4 percent and 13.1 percent (total of 474,426) respectively. (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015). However, as more investments in agriculture and mining which are rural based serve as pull factors in the coming years, it was projected that by 2018 urbanization would decline to 32% compared to 36.7% in 2004.

2.2 Emigration

2.2.1 The Migration of Sierra Leoneans abroad can be seen in three distinct waves. First wave, in the period preceding Sierra Leone Independence in 1961, a small number of Sierra Leoneans were able to migrate abroad in search of better education and training opportunities. They end up forming part of the Diaspora constituents that struggled for independence. The Second wave occurred after independence where young Sierra Leoneans migrated to China, Libya, Russia, United Kingdom, etc. to acquire education in order to come back and fill up positions in Government created by the new Independent Nation. The third wave that constitutes approximately 30% of the educated nationals migrated for security and economic opportunities in the face of falling living standards and civil war (1991-2002).

2.2.2 The numbers of Sierra Leoneans in the Diaspora is estimated to be 336,000 which is 5.4 percent of the population. (World Bank, 2016). However, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) 2019 estimated the country's diaspora population to be

187,100. The major destination being neighbouring African countries (Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Nigeria), Europe (the UK, Germany and the Netherlands), North America (the USA and Canada) and Australia. 33.7% of Sierra Leoneans living in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries are tertiary educated and tertiary educated women account for 31.9% (World Bank, 2016).

2.2.3 During the armed conflict, around two million people were internally displaced, while others took refuge in neighbouring countries, such as Guinea and Liberia, but also further away (Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, the USA, the UK and the Netherlands). Skilled emigration accounts for 41% of total emigration, comprising medical doctors, nurses, accountants, engineers and teachers. This resulted in a growing influx of remittances. Inward remittance flows amounted to \$68 million in 2014.

2.3 Immigration

2.3.1 All the recent census results show that the proportion of the Sierra Leonean population which is made up of immigrants is quite low. In 2015, only 0.6 percent of the 7, 092,113 persons who spent Census night in Sierra Leone are non-Sierra Leoneans (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015). However, in 2019, DESA estimated that number to be 54,300 people which is 0.7% of the population. This is lower than the figure recorded in 2004 where foreign born nationals was 1.81% of the population. Compared with 2.90% in 1974 and 2.81% in 1985. These recent results show a steady reduction in the proportion of other nationals in the country. Declining economic prospects and insecurity of life and property during the war years may have been responsible for this decline in foreign-born population.

2.3.2 In Sierra Leone, vast majority (97%) of immigrants are of West African descent, mainly from Guinea, Liberia, Gambia, Nigeria and Ghana. Apart from West African nationals, British, American, Indian and Lebanese nationals are significant minorities of foreign descent. Most of these immigrants are found in areas considered as the economic nerve centres of the nation. This includes Western Area and Eastern Province that accounted for about 80% of all immigrant in the country. Specifically, Kailahun District alone had a third of the

immigrant population and together with Freetown and Kenema District, account for 67% of all persons born outside of the country. This suggests that the motive for immigration might be economic (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015).

2.4 Irregular migration/smuggling

2.4.1 Sierra Leone is also a transit and source country of irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. The main threats at Sierra Leone borders are the following:

- I. Smuggling “in transit” drugs towards the European Union (EU).
- II. Trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants to Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, as well as to North Africa, the Middle East, and Western Europe. Sierra Leone is also a destination country for persons trafficked from other countries (West African and Asian countries) subjected to trafficking for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation.
- III. Smuggling of country’s minerals and other goods.

2.5. Sub-regional and regional frameworks of Cooperation

2.5.1 Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are part of the Mano River Union (MRU), which sets the rules and conditions on migratory movement among these four countries’ international borders. Member States of the Mano River Union meet monthly within the framework of the Joint Confidence and Peace Building Meetings.

2.5.2 Sierra Leone is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional group with mandate of promoting economic integration in all fields of activity of its 15 Member States. It signed the Protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence and Establishment in 1979 which seeks to ensure the free movement, residence and work for its citizens in all member states. In the ECOWAS framework, provision was made for the Multipartite Agreement for the Local Integration of Liberian and Sierra Leonean Refugees in Nigeria in 2007.

2.5.3 Finally, Sierra Leone is one of the members of the African Union whose protocols set the standard for migration in Africa as a whole.

2.6 Legislative frameworks

2.6.1 National level

- I. The Refugees Protection Act (2007) provides for recognition and protection of refugees, and enables implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.
- II. The General Law (Business Start-Up) Act, amended in 2007, regulates the application and issuance of work permits to foreign workers.
- III. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2005) criminalises all forms of trafficking and facilitates the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims and prevention of trafficking.
- IV. The Sierra Leone Citizenship Act 1973 as amended in 2006.
- V. The Extradition Act 1974.
- VI. The Non-Citizens (Registration, Immigration and Expulsion) Act of 1965.

2.6.2 Continental/Sub-regional level

1. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted in Addis Ababa on 11 July 1990 (ratified).
2. African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, October 2009
3. Agreement for the establishment of the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa south of the Sahara (C.C.T.A.), 18 January 1954 (accession).
4. ECOWAS Convention on Extradition, 6 August 1994.
5. ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment of 1979 (signature).

2.6.3 International Level

1. Final Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 21 March 1950 (signature).
2. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000 (ratified).
3. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000 (ratified).
4. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 18 December 1990 (signature).
5. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000 (ratified).
6. Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951 (accession).
7. Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 31 January 1967 (accession).
8. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 7 March 1966 (ratified).
9. Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989 (ratified).
10. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000 (signature).
11. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 18 December 2002 (signature).
12. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105).
13. Geneva Convention for the Protection of War Victims, 12 August 1949.

14. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977 (accession).
15. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 31 May 2001 (ratified).
16. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 20 December 1988 (ratified).
17. International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, 30 September 1921 (succession).
18. Convention on Nationality of Married Women, 20 February 1957 (succession).
19. Convention on the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 6 March 1948 (acceptance).
20. Slavery Convention, signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926 and amended by the Protocol, 7 December 1953 (Succession to the Convention as amended).
21. Revised African Maritime Transport Charter, 26 July 2010 (signature).
22. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966 (accession).
23. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16 December 1966 (accession).
24. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 18 December 1979 (signature).
25. International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions (Sierra Leone has ratified 35 such conventions and recently ratified 11 including ILO conventions on migrant workers, C 97 (1949) and C 143 (1975)).

2.6.4 Institutional Governance Structures

1. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is the authority responsible for the protection and maintenance of internal peace and security. It performs an oversight role in the management of migration.
2. Under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Immigration Department is in charge of immigration management, and in particular issuing all types of Sierra Leonean travel documents/passports, visa and residence permits for other nationals (non-citizens); border management and security; combatting irregular migration by intelligence and information sharing with other stakeholders; data collection on inflow and outflow of citizens and noncitizens; removal and expulsion of other nationals (noncitizens); readmission of Sierra Leonean citizens.
3. The Sierra Leone Police is combating trafficking in human beings and provides assistance to the Immigration Department on removal procedures.
4. National Civil Registration Authority which is responsible for the registration of citizens and non-citizens including those who are stateless.
5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is responsible for the management of all external relations and international cooperation matters by the State, as well as visa issuance and the review and coordination of applications for the issuance of passports to Sierra Leone citizens abroad. It assists with the application for foreign visas on behalf of government officials travelling on official assignments. It provides protection of nationals abroad.
6. The Ministry of Social Welfare is principally responsible for the social well-being of all those living in Sierra Leone, irrespective of their nationality. The Ministry assists the immigration Department in the issuance of passports to children. Having responsibility for the coordination of all gender issues in Sierra Leone, the Ministry also chairs the Task Force on Anti-Trafficking in Persons in Sierra Leone.
7. The Ministry of Finance is in charge of remittances-related issues.

8. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is the main legal adviser to the government of Sierra Leone on all issues. The MoJ examines and advises on all international conventions, treaties and agreements entered into by the government, and also prepares draft legislation for consideration by the Parliament. The MoJ drafts laws, together with other relevant bodies responsible for any given area of intervention.
9. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security plans manpower and human resource development by maintaining a database on vacancies and available manpower resources within Sierra Leone, and issues work permits to foreigners in Sierra Leone. It has developed a National Labour Migration Policy
10. Under the President, the Office of National Security (ONS) coordinates the roles and responsibilities of all security sector institutions, and is responsible for collating and assessing intelligence with respect to activities that may constitute internal and external threats to national security, and instituting protective security measures within governmental ministries, departments and agencies to ensure uniform high standards.
11. The Statistics of Sierra Leone (Stats SL) is responsible for population census and collects, analyses and disseminates official migration statistics, amongst others. The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) is a ministerial level Government Commission responsible for all the operational aspects related to forced migration in Sierra Leone (refugees, asylum seekers) and plays the role of advocacy and resource mobilisation to effectively harness the link between migration and legislation.
12. Ministry of Health is responsible for managing health issues at the country's borders.
13. Ministry of Tourism and Culture is responsible for movements and activities associated with tourism in Sierra Leone.
14. Under the Ministry of Economic Development, the ECOWAS Desk coordinates ECOWAS activities and issues in Sierra Leone.

15. The office of Diaspora at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation supports the engagement of the diaspora for development

2.6.4 Working Groups

- The Work Permit Committee: This is a committee that provides advice on work permit related issues.
- The National Platform for Migration: This is an inter-ministerial working group. It is in charge of providing policy guidance of migration-related issues.
- The National Task Force on Human Trafficking: This is in charge of coordinating the implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2005), especially concerning the enforcement of the law against trafficking, including the prosecution of corrupt public officials who facilitate trafficking, the rendering of assistance to victims of trafficking, the prevention of trafficking through the adoption and encouragement of local initiatives to improve the economic well-being and opportunity for potential victims and increased public awareness of the causes and consequences of trafficking. It consists of the Ministries that forms the InterMinisterial Committee on Human Trafficking; the Chief Immigration Officer; the Director of Crime Services; the office of the Ombudsman; and the Women's Forum and Human Rights Commission.

3. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

3.1. Immigration to Sierra Leone

- 3.1.1 Although the Eleven years (1991-2002) civil war, Ebola epidemic (2014), mudslide (2017), endemic poverty and the recent COVID 19 pandemic have resulted in massive emigration from Sierra Leone, the country also received migrants from various parts of the World. Most of the immigrants are in Sierra Leone to engage in economic activities, especially in the mining and trading sectors. However, the immigrant population has been declining in recent years partly as a result of declining economic prospects and insecurity during the war.

3.1.2 The last three census results show that in absolute terms, the foreign-born population has declined from 98,860 in 1985 to 89,876 in 2004 and further declined to 58,053 in 2015. As the economy of Sierra Leone is gradually recovering, the number of international migrants is expected to rise, but the Ebola crisis in 2014 and other disasters put a dent to that recovery and made Sierra Leone unattractive to foreign nationals, including investors and highly skilled workers needed to promote economic development.

3.1.3 Against this background, the government of Sierra Leone seeks to adopt measures to attract and facilitate immigration of foreign investors and highly skilled labour. As majority of immigrants are from the ECOWAS sub-region, the government seeks to adopt strategies to fully implement the ECOWAS Protocol on Free movement, Right of Residence and Establishment to facilitate regular migration of ECOWAS citizens. Also given that many of the migrants in Sierra Leone are engaged in economic activities, policy should be adopted to prevent tensions between the host population and immigrants, as these tensions can lead to xenophobia and human rights abuses. The government also seeks to establish effective mechanisms to manage migrant flows as well as modernizing and regulating the labour market for national and international workers. It also aims to create the institutional structures to protect migrants' rights in line with the ECOWAS Protocol on Free movement and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions on migrant workers.

3.2 Legal framework governing immigration to Sierra Leone

3.2.1 Although there are a number of legal frameworks at both national and international levels that govern immigration of foreign nationals to Sierra Leone as stated above, the key ones are the regional framework of the ECOWAS which regulates the free movement and settlement of the citizens of the member states, and the Non-citizens (Registration, Immigration and Expulsion) Act 1965.

3.3 ECOWAS Framework

3.3.1 Sierra Leone is a member of ECOWAS which is the regional grouping of the 15 West African countries with the aim of promoting economic integration and cooperation in other fields including immigration. The ECOWAS framework is captured in the Protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence and Establishment. Under this framework, citizens of members states have right to enter, reside and establish themselves in another member state without the need to obtain permission to do so. However, they are required to register with the immigration department if they want to stay longer than 90 days.

3.3.2 The ECOWAS framework will continue to apply as Sierra Leone remains part of the ECOWAS grouping but there are plans to strengthen the residential permit/ resident registration process for ECOWAS nationals so that those wishing to stay longer than 90 days can register with the Immigration Department as required under the framework. Government will ensure that the mobile capability of immigration officers will be improved to conduct regular checks and screening of areas of the country where

ECOWAS nationals are likely to be found. This process will enhance compliance with the registration requirement of the framework. The creation of holding centres to house those who do not comply or flout the immigration rules will be required. This would be applied not only to

ECOWAS nationals but also to nonECOWAS citizens.

3.4 Non-citizens (Registration, Immigration and Expulsion) Act 1965

3.4.1 For non-ECOWAS citizens, immigration is governed mainly by the Non-citizens (Registration, Immigration and Expulsion) Act 1965 which means that they are generally subjected to Sierra Leone Immigration law and therefore need permission to enter and remain in the country under the Act. Although this Act has been supplemented over the years by the following Acts of Parliaments, Ordinances and international Conventions, it remains the bedrock of immigration law in Sierra Leone:

- Refugees Protection Act 2007
- 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

- Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2005
- General Law [Business Start-up] Act as amended in 2007
- Sierra Leone Citizenship Act 1973 as amended in 2006
- Extradition Act 1974
- Passport (Amendment) Act 1974
- Hotel and Restaurant Act 1979

3.4.2 This fragmentation of the legal framework into many Acts and Instruments makes it difficult for new officers to comprehend the legal requirements within which they are supposed to carry out their functional responsibilities. Ordinary citizens and visitors find it twice as hard to determine which of the laws apply to them, and which are the most current or relevant.

3.4.3 Government will take responsibility to review all statutory instruments dealing with immigration, with the intention of updating and consolidating them into a concise law. It plans to develop a comprehensive policy along with guideline for staff and customers on all immigration matters.

Policy objectives and strategies on the existing immigration laws

<i>Policy Objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate all statutory instruments relating to immigration into a single Act 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review all existing statutory instruments on immigration with the intention of consolidating them into a single Immigration Act. 2. Develop a comprehensive policy guideline on immigration for staff and customers. 3. Provide capacity building training for immigration personnel as a good number of them are not familiar with legal migration framework

3.5 Categories of Immigration

3.5.1 Sierra Leone experiences mixed migration flows, which involves complex population movements including economic migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The country also experiences both voluntary and forced migration flows. This section looks at the

various categories under which immigrants come to Sierra Leone, what are the current issues and sets out policy proposals on how to tackle them.

3.6 Visitors (including tourists)

3.6.1 Under the current immigration framework, whilst visitors from ECOWAS have the right to enter, reside and establish themselves in the country without the need to obtain permission, those from non-ECOWAS countries are required, until September 2019 when visa on arrival was introduced, to obtain a visitor's visa (either from a Sierra Leone Consulate overseas or from the Sierra Leone Immigration Department in the form of a landing visa) in advance of their travel. Also, both ECOWAS and non-ECOWAS nationals (including those requiring visas in advance of travel) are granted only one-month permission to stay upon entry into the country.

3.6.2 The existing framework for visitors including those coming into the country as tourists will continue to be enforced. However, the process will be made simple for visitors particularly those visiting the country as tourists or on business by strengthening the visa on arrival system. This will be supplemented by an online visa (e-visa) application system. This system once in operation will enable visitors to complete their application, pay the required fee and travel to the country without the need for them to obtain a visa from a Sierra Leone Consulate/Embassy or for that matter from the Immigration Department in Freetown. We intend for this to be a light touch system that will enable the Immigration Department in Sierra Leone to conduct the necessary checks on applicants and make informed decisions as to whether or not to allow them to travel to the country. This will provide the necessary assurance at an earlier stage to those intending to visit about their ability to travel to the country.

3.6.3 The government also intend to review the practice of granting only one month permission on entry into the country. Although this policy generates much needed revenue by requiring those wishing to stay longer to apply for an extension, it also places additional costs and bureaucratic burden on those intending to stay longer than a month in the country. This is particularly true for those individuals who

would have obtained 90 days entry clearance from one of the overseas posts before travelling to the country. The review would be carried out with the aim of increasing the initial period granted to visitors coming to the country. This initial period of stay could be increased either to three or six months.

Policy objectives and strategies on visitors

<i>Policy Objective</i>	<i>Policy Strategies</i>
1. Make Sierra Leone an attractive destination for visitors including tourists.	Simplify the visa application process by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthening the visa on arrival system b. Introducing visa online c. Creating awareness of the existence of landing visas and remove the unnecessary bottlenecks in obtaining them. d. Review the policy which grants only one-month permission of stay on entry into the country.

3.7 Investors

3.7.1 Sierra Leone’s current socio-economic landscape was shaped by the civil war (1991–2002), which paralyzed the economy, caused the collapse of public services, destroyed the country’s infrastructure and incapacitated government institutions. With support from the international community, good progress has been made towards rebuilding state institutions.

3.7.2 Against this background, the government will enforce smooth and seamless process to register business and start-up in order to attract foreign investors and highly skilled workers to the country. As majority of immigrants are from the ECOWAS subregion, government should establish institutional mechanisms to manage the flow of migrants, protect their rights, and regulate the labour market for national and international workers in line with the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement and the ILO Conventions on migrant workers.

Policy objectives and strategies on investors

<i>Policy Objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create smooth and seamless process to register business and start-up in order to attract foreign investors and highly skilled workers to the country. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up a one-stop shop to make it simpler for investors to register their businesses. 2. Fully implement the ECOWAS protocol on Free Movement, Right of Residence, and Establishment. 3. Raise awareness on the benefits of immigration to reduce tension between the immigrants and the host population. 4. Decentralized mechanisms for registration of businesses by foreigner/investors

3.8 Workers

- 3.8.1 The history of the work permit date back to the 1967 Immigration Act, which stated that foreign nationals who want to reside and undertake any establishment, whether as an individual or an employer/employee, should register with the Immigration Department, which was then under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Even after the Department was placed under the control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Department continued to have responsibility for issuing work permits. This changed in 1992 when the then government decided to move the responsibility for issuing work permit to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.
- 3.8.2 However, responsibility and authority for issuing resident permit and work permit in most countries sit with the same department rather than divided between two departments. Also, the majority of countries do not necessarily make a distinction between work and resident permits.
- 3.8.3 The government will review the current arrangements with the aim of merging the resident permit with that of the work permit to make its simpler for foreign workers to navigate the system as well as to attract skilled migrants into the country.

Policy objectives and strategies on workers

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the developmental impacts and minimise the negative effects of the flow of workers into Sierra Leone. 2. Attract and facilitate the immigration of foreign-born highly skilled labour to help promote socio-economic development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out an in-depth study on how migration management can contribute to investments, trade and employment in Sierra Leone. 2. Merge the application process for resident and work permit application in order to create a one-stop shop for migrant workers. 3. Review the current law on entry, stay and departure of foreign nationals (excluding ECOWAS citizens) in line with international standards. 4. Enforce comprehensive legislation governing the labour migration
	<p>process and protection of migrant workers (e.g. Memorandum of Agreement between the Government and recruitment agencies).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Improve the coordination over the implementation of the ECOWAS protocol. 6. Collaborate with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to develop an action plan to prevent and detect the exploitation, abuse and discrimination of national and migrant workers.

3.9 Students

3.9.1 Migration for higher education is a common phenomenon in many West African countries, including Sierra Leone. Within the country, many young people migrate from rural areas to larger towns for secondary and tertiary education, as rural areas tend to be deprived in terms of higher educational institutions. Some Sierra Leonean students also apply for international fellowships to further their education in other countries. Majority of the students who travel for higher education migrate to the United States of America, United Kingdom, other European countries and some Anglophone countries in West Africa, notably Guinea, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria. While migration for higher education potentially has a positive impact, it has been linked to brain drain as majority of Sierra Leoneans who travel to developed countries for higher education do not return home. In some cases, Sierra Leoneans who have benefited from state scholarships to study abroad have not returned home, thereby causing financial loss to the state. Therefore, policies

are required not only to facilitate students' mobility from Sierra Leone but also to turn brain drain into brain gain.

- 3.9.2 While Sierra Leonean students migrate to other countries, a few students from other countries, especially in the West African subregion, also migrate to Sierra Leone for education. However, the number of students moving into Sierra Leone for education has declined significantly in the last three decades, as a result of the civil war and more recently Ebola epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to have international students in higher educational institutions as they enhance those institutions both financially and culturally.
- 3.9.3 The government will develop strategies to attract international students to Sierra Leone. This will involve strengthening the capacity of higher educational institutions to develop programmes that will attract international students into Sierra Leone. Also, this will involve developing bi-lateral agreements with other countries particularly those in the sub-region, to enhance the mobility of international students.
- 3.9.4 Apart from migration for studies, a few Sierra Leoneans also migrate for sports. In some cases, sports men/women who migrate change their nationality just to represent their host countries in international competitions. However, there is no comprehensive policy to ensure that such migration for sports benefit the state and the persons involved. In this regard, national migration policy provides a framework for managing migration for sports. Also, the government will develop strategies and incentives to encourage Sierra Leoneans who migrate for higher education abroad to return home to serve the nation.

Policy objectives and strategies on students and sportsmen/women

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide incentives to encourage Sierra Leoneans who migrate for higher education abroad to return home. 2. Facilitate immigration of foreign students into Sierra Leone. 3. Increase inter-State cooperation on the mobility of students and sports men and women. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement policies that will encourage persons who travel abroad for higher education to come back. 2. Strengthen the capacity of higher educational institutions to develop programmes that will attract international students into Sierra Leone. 3. Develop bi-lateral agreements on the mobility of students and sports men/women. 4. Formulate and implement policies to ensure that migration for sports benefits Sierra Leone.

4 BORDER MANAGEMENT

4.1 Current status of the Border Regions

4.1.1 In today's globalised and interdependent world, effective management of national borders is important for the enhancement and maintenance of national security and management of migration flows. It is critical to the safety and security of the people as well as in promoting regional stability, facilitating trade and development.

4.1.2 Sierra Leone borders are mostly porous and so they have long been conduit for illegal trade and irregular migration. Cross-border informal trade is the main activity along Sierra Leone's borders which is mostly conducted through foot paths along illegal border crossing points. The complexity of these informal trade along the borders coupled with the absence of border patrol officers in the vast majority of the crossing points pose a serious challenge to national security. Also, the poor management of these borders allows for trafficking in persons and migrants smuggling into the country which have been a major cause of concern for the security agencies.

4.1.3 A number of factors including the geography of the borders and logistical constraints have been responsible for the poor management of the borders. The borders of Sierra Leone have a total length of 1,360 km. There are four different classes of Border Crossing Points (BCPs). These are defined as follows:

1. Class A – all the security agencies are present³ at the BCP;
2. Class B – only parts of the security agencies are present at the BCP;
3. Class C and D – limited security presence.

4.1.4 There are about 800 BCPs of which 3 are class A (Freetown International Airport, Gbalamuya border North-West, Jendema Border South), 30 are class B and the rest are class C and D. In addition to these, there are three sea ports (Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown, Niti Port at Gbangbatoke and Pepel in Port Loko district).

4.2 Previous study of the Border regions

4.2.1 In 2010, Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) executed a short term technical assistance in Sierra Leone to, among others, identify the needs in the area of border management and border security. MIEUX conducted two technical trainings on border management and document security as well as on leadership and human resource management towards governance migration in Sierra Leone. This project was funded by the EU and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

4.2.2 The MIEUX report (May 2010) concluded that overall cooperation and coordination on border management should be improved in terms of established cooperation and coordination procedures, data and information exchange, implementation of joint plans, procedures in emergency situations, coordination of activities in cross-border cooperation, as well as activities in relation to establishing structures for the collection, processing and distribution of criminal intelligence information. In this regard, there is a need to raise awareness and provide training of staff with regard to international standards, and experience and

³ Immigration and Border Patrol Officers, Sierra Leone Police, Customs, Military, and Health officers, Office of National Security, Mines Monitoring Officers (MMO), PhytoSanitry.

practices in the field of border management. As a long-term objective, the MIEUX action made the suggestion to establish a law enforcement institution (border guard or border police), covering all dimensions of Integrated Border Management. This would also ensure a common approach to border control, a unified planning system and fast data flow at all levels of the organization. Despite these efforts, Sierra Leone's borders still remain prone to irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling.

4.2.2 The geography of the borders, the state of the infrastructure and the limited financial, human and technical resources presents a significant challenge to install an integrated border management approach that spans all agencies with border security, customs and immigration responsibilities. And thereby achieving the dual goals of facilitating the movement of people and cargo across the borders of Sierra Leone and enhancing the security of citizens and visitors.

4.3 Policy Proposals

4.3.1 The government will establish national entry/exit database in the three Class A crossing points. The Freetown International Airport at Lungi currently has such a database which records all entries to and exists from the country. However, it is unavailable in the other two Class A crossing points of Jendema and Gbalamuya. In light of this situation, the government will extend this database to these regions, as well as to other more important Class B crossing points. It also hopes to equip the first and second lines of control at BCPs with basic passport check and examination devices.

4.3.2 The government also intends to enhance the capacity of state institutions to manage the borders effectively by deploying more technology in managing people and goods through the border. This will include accessing Interpol's global database on lost or stolen/fraud travel documents, stolen vehicles, wanted criminals and unwanted foreign persons/irregular immigrants.

4.3.3 As part of this work, the government will develop a National Integrated Border Management (IBM) Strategy and Action Plan by involving all stakeholders in border management and national

security. This will strengthen the capacity of the coordinating body of stakeholders involved in border management and security. This will enable more interagency cooperation, regular exchanges of information, streamlining border procedures, joint measures, joint investigations, joint/mixed patrols, common crime intelligence, joint training, common threat assessment, contact points and common radio communication.

4.3.4 This would involve developing a joint training curriculum for the main border agencies on the following concepts: document security, profiling of travellers, examination and security features of documents, land border surveillance methods, tactics, equipment, technical solutions/technologies, risk analysis, crime intelligence and how to apply human rights standards within the daily work of law enforcement officers.

4.3.5 Furthermore, the government intends to strengthen border security in order to combat irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, smuggling, and other illicit activities through improve international cooperation. This will involve signing and enforcing cooperation protocols with competent border agencies of neighbouring countries on information exchange, joint investigations, joint training and operations, common threat assessment, contact points, joint/mixed coordinated patrol, early warning systems, joint use of equipment, and joint control and organizing cooperation at all levels.

4.3.6 As a long term objective, the government will look at the possibility of creating a web portal of several border management agencies in order to constantly inform the public on travel related situations in Sierra Leone (types of border control posts, working hours and waiting time, tasks and responsibilities of all border agencies present at border control posts, required insurance policies for persons and goods, vaccinations, visa regulations, and other relevant information). In parallel, all border management officials will be supported with training on the implementation of all border regulations as stipulated in this policy.

4.3.7 There is also the additional long term objective of looking into the added value of creating a single public law enforcement institution (border guard or border police), which will cover all

aspects of border management (immigration, customs, revenue, health, policing and mineral agency) with its own budget and direct chain of command between the units at national, regional and local level, ensuring a common approach to border control, a unified planning system and fast data flow at all levels of the organization.

4.3.8 Sierra Leone is considered to be relatively stable with increased level of safety and security across the country. Therefore, the government will initiate programmes and policies to enhance regular migration, ensure that appropriate laws are enacted, and tougher actions are taken against criminals and their networks. Also, it will ensure proper documentation of migrants and conduct background checks for identification of migrants with ties to criminal enterprises in the sub-region and beyond.

Policy objectives and strategies on border management

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the free movement of persons and goods within the ECOWAS region. 2. Prevent irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, smuggling, and other illicit activities through effective border management. 3. Establish and maintain a reliable national entry/exit database. 4. Enhance the capacity of state institutions to manage the borders effectively using improved technology and in line with international standards. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish reliable database on cross border migration stock and flows. 2. Develop a National Integrated Border Management (IBM) Strategy and Action Plan by involving all stakeholders involved in border management and national security. 3. Establishment of border guard command (border police as a law enforcement agency) 4. Provide operational presence of INTERPOL at the BCP 5. Strengthen interagency cooperation through regular exchanges of information, streamlining border procedures, joint measures, joint investigations, joint/mixed patrols, common crime intelligence, joint training, common threat assessment, contact points and common radio communication. 6. Develop and improve

	<p>international cooperation by signing and enforcing cooperation protocols with competent border agencies of neighbouring countries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Develop a joint training curriculum for the main border agencies. 8. Develop information database on lost or stolen/fraud travel documents, stolen vehicles, wanted criminals and unwanted foreign persons/irregular immigrants. 9. Creating a web portal to inform the public on travel related situations in SL. 10. Equip first and second lines of control at BCPs with basic passport check and examination devices. <p>Give autonomy to the department with its own budget and direct chain of command between the units at national, regional and local level, ensuring a common approach to border control.</p>
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5 NATIONALITY

5.1 Citizenship law

5.1.1 The law governing citizenship in Sierra Leone is the Citizenship Act 1973. This Act states that every person who, having been born in Sierra Leone before the nineteenth day of April, 1971, or who was resident in Sierra Leone on the eighteenth day of April, 1971, and not the subject of any other State shall, on the nineteenth day of April, 1971, be deemed to be a citizen of Sierra Leone by birth provided:

- (a) his/her father or his grandfather was born in Sierra Leone; and
- (b) s/he is a person of negro African descent;

5.1.2 Section (a) above was amended in 2006 to remove the gender discrimination for those born in Sierra Leone and extended to children born outside the country in 2017. However, Section (b) remains in place and so the law continues to discriminate on the

basis of race, providing that the individual establishes their citizenship through a person who “is or was of Negro descent.”

5.2 Dual Citizenship and Transnationalism

- 5.2.1 A dual citizenship legislative instrument extends citizenship rights to emigrants who have gone through naturalization processes in other countries. In recent years, many African governments have passed the dual citizenship law to enable people in the diaspora to ‘belong’ to both their host countries and their countries of origin. Given that a large number of Sierra Leoneans have migrated to other countries in the last three decades, the number of persons who seek dual citizenship in other countries and become transnationals is also increasing. Transnationalism refers to the process whereby people (usually migrants) maintain socio-cultural networks across different countries (usually country of origin and host country).
- 5.2.2 The dual citizenship law of Sierra Leone can enable members of the diaspora to access basic rights accorded by both the countries of origin and the host countries. Dual citizenship and transnationalism may also encourage emigrants to contribute to socio-economic development in Sierra Leone because they still maintain strong ties with the country. However, there are also challenges associated with dual citizenship and these include: divided loyalty, conflicting legal regimes, and limited awareness of civic responsibilities. The Government of Sierra Leone seeks to promote the benefits and mitigate the negative outcomes associated with dual citizenship and transnationalism, through effective migration governance and public education.
- 5.2.3 The government will enhance the positive effects and reduce the negative outcomes of dual citizenship by promoting cooperation and dialogue with dual citizens so that they can contribute to socioeconomic development in Sierra Leone. As part of that work, the government will liaise closely with the Diplomatic missions to establish a database profiling dual citizens and transnationals as well as organise periodic home-coming events and conferences for people in the diaspora (including dual citizens) to visit home and contribute to national development.

5.3 Naturalisation in Sierra Leone

5.3.1 One objective of a comprehensive migration policy is to avoid situations in which migrants are deprived of nationality arbitrarily or accidentally, in order to protect their rights and to facilitate their identification. It is in the national interest to allow migrants to become full members of the state, in order that they play their full economic role. An efficient naturalisation system will also help attract foreignborn investors and highly skilled immigrants to remain in Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leone Citizens Act 1973 details the procedure by which foreign nationals are granted citizenship. However, the process should be streamlined to facilitate the process of naturalisation for immigrants who want to be granted citizenship.

5.3.2 As part of that work, the government will review the existing legislation (Citizenship Act 1973) on nationality with the objective of making the process of naturalisation more transparent, simple and straight forward. The review would also look into the issue of statelessness and consider what policies could be adopted to prevent it. For those who have already naturalised to become Sierra Leoneans, the government should develop programmes (e.g. language and cultural education) to help them integrate into society.

Policy objectives and strategies on nationality, dual citizenship and naturalisation

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy Strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove any discriminatory clause still remaining in the citizenship laws 2. Promote the benefits of dual citizenship and streamline the application process for naturalisation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the existing citizenship law with the aim of amending any discriminatory laws against people of non-negro descent. 2. Promote civic education on the benefits and negative consequences of dual citizenship. 3. Work closely with the diplomatic missions to establish a database profiling of Sierra Leonean dual citizens and transnationals. 4. Promote cooperation and dialogue with dual citizens so that they can contribute to socioeconomic development in Sierra Leone. 5. Organise periodic home-coming events and conferences for people in the diaspora (including dual citizens) to visit home and contribute to development.

5.4 Statelessness

5.4.1 According to the United Nations 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, a stateless person is someone who is not considered a national of any state in the world. A number of factors may render certain persons stateless. These factors include displacement across borders by natural disaster, political crisis, and ethnic conflicts. Stateless persons may also include abandoned children in countries where nationality of children is based on that of their parents. Some divorced women may be at risk of becoming stateless if their residential status is tied to their marital status. Stateless persons are often marginalized in society and tend to face challenges in accessing public services and freedom of movement. Stateless persons also lack protection accorded by citizenship or permanent residence, resulting in the deprivation of their basic rights. The UN Conventions of 1954 and 1961 on Stateless Persons seeks to protect stateless persons but national legislation is often needed to implement these conventions on the ground.

5.4.2 Statelessness is a growing problem in the West African sub region. In February 2015, the Heads of ECOWAS came together to develop

the Abidjan Declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States on the eradication of statelessness. In Sierra Leone, there is enough evidence that some categories of refugees and their children are at risk of being stateless but there is little data on these people and the challenges they face in accessing basic services. Government seeks to collaborate with the UNHCR and other key partners including countries in the sub region to curb statelessness in Sierra Leone.

5.4.3 Consequently, the government ratified the UN Conventions of 1954 and 1961 on statelessness in April 2016 and is making plans to implement these conventions by developing a national Action Plan on statelessness. The National Action Plan would look at measures on how to identify stateless persons in Sierra Leone as well as how to protect, rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. It would also include developing a national legislative instrument which will make provisions for the government to grant residency or citizenship to stateless persons in Sierra Leone.

5.4.4 As part of this plan, the government will conduct research on the level of statelessness in Sierra Leone as well as educate the public on situations that lead to statelessness and the rights of stateless persons.

5.5. Renunciation of Citizenship

5.5.1. Renunciation of citizenship is the voluntary act of relinquishing one's citizenship or nationality. It is the opposite of naturalization whereby a person voluntarily acquires a citizenship, and is distinct from denaturalization, where the loss of citizenship is forced by a state. Many Sierra Leoneans have been facing challenges on how to deal with the renunciation procedures. Giving up your citizenship or status only affect you and not any other members of your family although it could affect the status of any children you have in the future. Government has formally put in place appropriate procedures for the smooth renunciation of citizenship.

5.5.2. In Sierra Leone, the Citizenship Act 1973, Part VII makes provision for renunciation and deprivation of citizenship. Section 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of Part VII provides clear

rules and guidelines on how to process all cases of renunciation of citizenship from any Sierra Leone of full age and capacity who desire to do so.

Policy objectives and strategies on Statelessness and Renunciation of Citizenship

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy Strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce statelessness by identifying persons at risk of becoming stateless in Sierra Leone. 2. Protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate stateless persons. 3. Formulate national legislation on stateless persons. 4. Popularise rules and procedures for renunciation of citizenship 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop national legislative instruments to counter statelessness in Sierra Leone. 2. Provide residency or citizenship to stateless persons in Sierra Leone. 3. Conduct research on statelessness in Sierra Leone. 4. Implement the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on stateless persons through state policies and national legislations. 5. Educate the public on situations that lead to statelessness as well as the rights of stateless persons. 6. Collaborate with other countries in the sub-region to eradicate
	<p style="text-align: center;">statelessness.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Provide clear guidelines on rules and procedures on how Sierra Leoneans, especially those living abroad can renounce their citizenship

6 MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Internal migration

6.1.1 While the media tend to focus on the mass exodus of mainly young West Africans to Europe through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean, internal migration is more prevalent in Sierra Leone than emigration. Although rural-rural migration occurs in search of fertile agricultural lands for farming, exploitation of minerals, and other forms of rural livelihoods, the dominant form of internal migration is rural-urban, resulting from differences in job opportunities. The agriculture and mining sectors offer employment in rural areas, while urban areas provide limited opportunities for formal work in the public and private sectors. Urban areas also

provide better opportunities for trading and other economic activities in the informal sector. As the agriculture sector is largely not modernized, young people generally consider farming as tedious and unprofitable. As a result, many young and educated people continue to migrate to urban areas in search of better professional opportunities. Although recent investments in the agriculture and mining sectors in provincial areas are helping to slow down the rate of urbanisation, the 2015 census put the proportion of the population living in urban areas at 40 percent. This result explains the 'unequal distribution of the urban population, with the Western Region, home to the capital Freetown, representing half of the urban population' (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015).

6.1.2 The movement of rural people to poorly planned urban centres has also increased pressure on public services in urban centres. The national migration policy therefore seeks to provide strategies for managing rural-urban migration and associated urbanisation. As part of that strategy, the government will be looking to allocate more resources to implement local economic development policy and reduce inequalities between rural and urban areas. This will include working with the private sector to modernise agriculture and make it more profitable and appealing to the rural youth. It will also encourage the private sector to provide affordable housing and social services in informal migrant settlements.

6.1.3 In addition, the policy document aims to provide a framework for managing migration into resource-rich rural areas to ensure that host-communities and migrants coexist peacefully by educating both sides on their rights and responsibilities. Rural youths and their parents will form part of this education to ensure that they make informed migration decision about the potential benefits and risks associated with rural urban migration. Furthermore, the government will enhance the capacity of state agencies to manage the challenges associated with urbanisation by implementing social protection policies for vulnerable rural-urban migrants.

6.1.4 Apart from dealing with challenges emanating from voluntary internal migration, the national migration policy provides strategies to deal with internal displaced people and the dislocation of human settlements caused by conflicts and environmental hazards, such as

floods, wildfire, landslides and mudslides. In Freetown, flood and landslide led to the displacements of 11,800 people in 2017 (IDMC, 2017). The Office of National Security (ONS) has designed a policy on internal displacement. Therefore, the government will enhance the capacity of state agencies and institutions to implement this policy including the enforcement of environmental laws needed to prevent disasters that cause internal displacement.

Policy objectives and strategies on internal migration

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal with the causes and consequences of rural-urban migration. 2. Promote equitable spatial development and reduce rural-urban inequalities in development. 3. Ensure peaceful coexistence of host communities and internal migrants. 4. Mitigate the situation and condition of internally displaced persons (IDPs). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enforce stringent legislation and political will to enhance internal migration 2. Work with the private sector to modernise agriculture and make it more profitable and appealing to the rural youth. 3. Allocate resources to implement local economic development policy and reduce inequalities between rural and urban areas. 4. Provide psycho-social services and programmes to address

	<p>traumatic related needs such as Post-Traumatic stress Disorder (PTSD)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Provide information regarding decisions on migration policies to rural youth and their parents about the potential benefits and risks associated with rural/urban migration. 6. Design social protection policies for vulnerable ruralurban migrants. 7. Enhance the capacity of state agencies as institutions to manage the challenges associated with urbanisation. 8. Educate resource-rich host communities and migrants on their rights and responsibilities to ensure peaceful coexistence. 9. Develop and implement programmes for preventing violent conflicts that create internal displacement. 10. Strengthen the capacity of state institutions to enforce environmental laws needed to prevent disasters that cause internal displacement. 11. Enhance the capacity of state agencies to mitigate the effects of internal displacement.
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6.2 Emigration

6.2.1 Although international migration has, historically, been an important livelihood strategy in Sierra Leone, the civil war and endemic poverty have contributed to massive emigration, especially in the 1990s. Majority of the emigrants are the highly skilled citizens who now live in the developed world and other parts of Africa. It is estimated that approximately 30% of educated nationals left the country during the civil war. The major destination countries are USA, UK, Germany, Liberia, Nigeria, Spain, the Netherlands, Gambia, Canada and Italy. Skilled emigration accounts for 41% of total emigration, comprising medical doctors, nurses, accountants, engineers and teachers. More than 500,000 Sierra Leoneans live in the US and UK alone, and thousands more live in other West African countries.

6.2.2 The high level of emigration has both negative and positive effects on socio-economic development of the country. A major positive

outcome of emigration is the transfer of remittances to Sierra Leone. One of the negative effects is brain drain. Sierra Leone has lost a large number of its most skilled, educated and experienced nationals as a result of emigration; depriving the country of professionals (e.g. doctors, nurses and engineers) needed to break the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

6.2.3 The Government has acknowledged that although emigration creates brain drain, it can also contribute to overall economic development, if properly managed. Consequently, the office of Diaspora Affairs has been charged to promote the developmental impacts of international migration. Leveraging remittances for development is an important aspect of the migration-development nexus.

6.2.4 However, there is lack of effective mechanisms for Government to leverage directly into these foreign inflows from the Diaspora as an asset for investment and national development. A higher proportion of remittances are transferred through informal channels, due to the high cost of transmitting remittances through formal financial institutions. Also, bureaucratic procedures deter people from using the formal financial institutions.

6.2.5 The government should promote skills transfer from Sierra Leonean professionals living abroad to their counterparts in Sierra Leone by creating a database to determine the extent and magnitude of existing diaspora communities, including global spread and skills matrices. Also, the government will turn brain drain into brain gain by developing programmes like short-term working visits to attract highly skilled Sierra-Leoneans back home.

6.2.6 Furthermore, the government will engage the diaspora through its diplomatic missions abroad to help increase remittance flow and promote investment in Sierra Leone. The government will do this by adopting policies with institutional structures to reduce barriers for transferring remittances. In addition, it will formalize the operations of informal agencies transferring remittances and link them to the Central Bank of Sierra Leone for effective monitoring. Also, it will provide incentives to migrant workers such as tailormade retirement

benefits and create a special commitment at the Bank of Sierra Leone to enable them remit and invest in the country.

Policy objectives and strategies on emigration

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn brain drain into brain gain. 2. Promote skills transfer from the Sierra Leonean diaspora to their counterparts in Sierra Leone. 3. Enhance the developmental impacts of remittances. 4. Reduce barriers to remittances. 5. Promote diaspora investment for national development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create database to determine the extent and magnitude of existing diaspora communities, including global spread and skills matrices. 2. Promote skills transfer from Sierra Leonean professionals living abroad to their counterparts back home through short-term working visits. 3. Provide incentives to migrant workers such as tailor-made retirement benefits and create a special commitment at the Bank of Sierra Leone to enable them remit and invest in the country. 4. Develop institutional structures to address the high cost of transmitting remittances. 5. Adopt policies to formalize the operations of informal agencies transferring remittances and link them to the Central Bank of Sierra Leone for effective monitoring. 6. Engage the diaspora through diplomatic missions abroad to help increase remittances flow and promote investment. 7. Develop rules and procedures to protect diaspora investment

6.3 Return and Reintegration of Sierra Leonean Emigrants

6.3.1 Given the large number of Sierra Leoneans that left the country during the civil war and its associated brain drain, the management of return migration and reintegration of returned migrants including vulnerable migrants is a key policy goal for the Sierra Leone government. Yet, there is no comprehensive policy for managing return and reintegration which are some of the gaps this policy aims to address.

6.3.2 In many cases, people who returned to Sierra Leone after the war emigrated again because of the lack of a comprehensive policy on the management of return migration. People who are deported to

Sierra Leone or returned during periods of crises in their host countries also face several challenges with reintegration. The situation is compounded by inadequate data on return migrants. In some cases, people who want to return to Sierra Leone also face challenges of where to get information needed to plan their return; and with lack of information, a number of Sierra Leonean emigrants who wants to come back home are anxious about their return plans for fear of being unemployed. However, there has been a willingness to attract Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora to return home. The Office for Diaspora Affairs was created to work with government to address critical capacity gaps in the public sector and find ways of encouraging Sierra Leonean professionals to return.

6.3.3 Therefore, this policy provides a framework for management of return migration and reintegration of Sierra Leonean emigrants. As part of this work, government will design programmes to attract highly skilled Sierra Leonean emigrants back home as well as provide incentives for them to be re-engaged in their sector of expertise.

6.3.4 The government will also continue to engage with all state institutions and non-state actors to strengthen their capacity to manage return migration and reintegration; raise awareness among Sierra Leoneans about the positive contribution of returnees and the need to help them reintegrate. This will be done by promoting sociocultural acceptance of returned migrants and the protection of returnee's rights.

6.3.5 The government will work with other countries through formal treaties and readmission agreements to allow Sierra Leoneans who find themselves in irregular migration situations to be returned through established channels, with education and reintegration opportunities. This will include a commitment to the guidelines for the evacuation of Sierra Leonean nationals abroad, during situations of natural disasters, political crisis, and deportation.

Policy objectives and strategies on returns and reintegration of Sierra Leonean emigrants

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate the return, readmission, and reintegration of Sierra Leonean emigrants. 2. Strengthen state institutions capacity to manage return migration and reintegration. 3. Provide assistance to returning migrants with re-engagement in their sectors of work. 4. Create awareness among Sierra Leoneans about the positive contribution of returnees and the need to help them reintegrate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Sierra Leonean missions abroad including Office of Diaspora Affairs to raise awareness among Sierra Leonean emigrants about job opportunities in Sierra Leone. 2. Create formal treaties and readmission agreements with other countries which will allow Sierra Leoneans who find themselves in irregular migration situations to be returned through established channels, with education and reintegration opportunities. 3. Provide psycho-social services to address traumatic related needs such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) 4. Draft guidelines for the evacuation of Sierra Leonean nationals abroad, during situations of natural disasters, political crisis, and deportation. 5. Educate current emigrants on the need to invest back home so as to prepare for any unplanned return migration. 6. Promote socio-cultural acceptance of returned migrants and the protection of returnees' rights. 7. Develop a government framework for the reintegration of returned migrants. 8. Empower relevant state institutions to offer rehabilitation services to involuntary returned migrants. 9. Design programmes to attract highly skilled Sierra Leonean
	<p style="text-align: center;">emigrants back home.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Provide incentives for returning professionals to be re-engaged in their sector of work.

6.4 Migration for Natural Resources

6.4.1 Sierra Leone is endowed with various natural resources that can promote socio-economic development. However, these resources are unequally distributed within the various regions of the country. This means that many people move to other regions to exploit

natural resources. In this regard, the government recognises the link between natural resource distribution and internal migration. Internal migration for natural resource exploitation can sometimes create tensions between host communities and internal migrants.

6.4.2 Similarly, the movement into Sierra Leone by international migrants and companies seeking to exploit the country’s natural resources can also cause inherent tensions between migrants and host populations. At the same time, the environmental effects of exploitation of natural resources can create forced displacement, if not properly managed. The Mines and Minerals Act of 2009 provides both legal and institutional framework for the governance and management of the mining sector. It also provides regulations for foreign investors migrating into Sierra Leone to explore its natural resource sector.

6.4.3 The government continues to promote peaceful coexistence between migrants and resource-rich host communities. This is to ensure that resource extraction by foreign investors who immigrated into the country benefit host communities and the larger Sierra Leone society. The government will achieve this by improving living conditions and providing adequate security and social amenities in resource rich communities.

Policy objectives and strategies on migration and natural resources

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the positive outcomes and mitigate the negative effects of the migration-natural resource nexus. 2. Ensure peaceful coexistence of migrants and resource-rich host communities. 3. Ensure that resource extraction by international migrants benefit host communities and the larger Sierra Leonean society. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote conflict prevention and non-violent dispute settlement in resource-rich communities. 2. Improve living conditions in resource-rich host communities. 3. Provide adequate security and social amenities in resource rich communities. 4. Implement environmental protection laws in mining communities.

	5. Enforce the protection of migrants' rights in their host communities.
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6.5 Migration and Gender

6.5.1 The relationship between migration and gender is complex and an understanding of gendered differentials of migration is important for effective migration management. In the past, men tend to migrate more than women as they are required to stay home and take care of children. However, in recent years, many women are moving as independent migrants. Commercial migrants (migrating for trading) are dominated by women. However, irregular migration flows across the desert to Europe is still largely dominated by men.

6.5.2 Apart from the fact that migration patterns are gendered, migration policies have engendered outcomes, costs and benefits. In Sierra Leone, it is perceived that female migrants face more dangers including trafficking, harassment at the border and sexual exploitation during internal and international migration and are likely to end up in low income jobs. However, female migrants sometimes find jobs more easily in the informal sector of many countries, as domestic workers and traders, while unskilled men are unemployed. As migration affects men and women differently, gender needs to be mainstreamed as part of an effective migration management policy.

6.5.3 In this regard, the government will prioritize the special needs and concerns of female migrants and their children as well as training immigration officials on gender related migration issues.

Policy objectives and strategies on migration and gender

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mainstream gender into migration management.2. Ensure that migration policy benefits both men and women.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mainstream gender into migration and development planning.2. Address the special needs and concerns of female migrants and their children.3. Train immigration officials on gender and migration issues.4. Improve nation-wide social protection and equitable development programmes for positive economic growth.

6.6 Migration and Health

6.6.1 While the relationship between migration and health has long been recognised as an important policy issue, the recent outbreak of diseases such as Ebola, Zika and COVID 19 has led to an intensification of public debate on migration and disease control; as there is a risk that migrants are exposed to health hazards before or during their travel. Sierra Leone requires people entering its borders to receive immunizations against various infectious diseases, such as yellow fever. Irregular migrants are particularly vulnerable to health risks as they usually do not have access to health care due to the illicit nature of their movement.

6.6.2 Therefore, government will initiate activities to mitigate potential public health risks from migration, by mainstreaming migration into national health policy planning. As part of this work, the government will enhance the capacity of relevant institutions to deal with migration and health problems. It will enhance the capacity of health officials working at the country's entry and exit points to deal with health-related issues, and organise public campaigns to sensitise people on migration and health issues.

6.6.3 Also, the government will promote regional and international cooperation on migration and health related matters particularly among the ECOWAS Member States. It will further seek to harmonise the national health policy with the World Health Organization (WHO) and ILO protocols on managing migration in the context of health.

Policy objectives and strategies on migration and health

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt guidelines and frameworks on migration and health. 2. Enhance the capacity of relevant institutions to deal with migration and health problems. 3. Promote regional and international cooperation on the migration and health issues. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise public campaigns to sensitise people on migration and health issues. 2. Mainstream migration into national health policy planning. 3. Promote cooperation on migration-health challenges among the ECOWAS Member States and international actors. 4. Ensure effective and standardized border health surveillance. 5. Enhance the capacity of health officials working at the country's entry and exit points to deal with health issues.

6.7 Migration for Trade

6.7.1 Although data on migrant traders is unavailable, there is enough evidence to suggest that the number of Sierra Leoneans undertaking cross-border, regional and international migration for trading purposes is quite high. Cross-border trade, in particular, is quite common within the ECOWAS region, and is dominated by women. Just as Sierra Leoneans have been moving across national borders to trade in other countries, nationals of other countries also move to Sierra Leone to trade in various items.

6.7.2 In this regard, the government will enhance the training of border management officials on ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement and the rights of cross-border traders. Also, it will educate crossborder traders on their rights and responsibilities as well as promote regional dialogue on the issues of migration and trade.

Policy objectives and strategies on migration for trade

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide legal framework for managing migration for trading within Sierra Leone and across international borders.2. Promote fair competition among traders and ensure that the Sierra Leonean government derives maximum benefits from intra-regional trade.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Enhance the capacity of government to eliminate barriers to trade.2. Train border management officials on ECOWAS free movement protocol and the rights of cross-border traders.3. Deal with the challenges to crossborder trade within ECOWAS.4. Educate cross-border traders on their rights and responsibilities.5. Promote regional dialogue on migration for trade.

6.8. Migration and Natural Disaster/Environmental Emergencies

6.8.1 Communities across Sierra Leone experience major incidences of natural disasters and environmental emergencies every year as a result of torrential rain falls during the tropical wet season. A good case in point is the August 2017 mudslide incident which took place across various locations in Freetown as a result of a massive monsoon that killed over one thousand people and leaving over three thousand more homeless across the city. These sorts of natural disasters have led to migration of the local population living in disaster prone areas into other areas across Freetown including rural communities.

6.8.2 This form of migration occurs every year as people relocate from slummy and hillside areas into other communities to avoid the risk of an environmental emergencies during the rainy season. However, there are other environmental emergencies such as wild fire and coastal erosion as a result of rise in sea levels in peri urban coastal communities including Laka village and other areas. Sierra Leone was ranked in 2017 as the third most vulnerable nation to the adverse effect of climate change. Through the Disaster Management Department at the Office of National Security, the government of Sierra Leone has developed a Disaster Management Policy to ensure the integration of disaster risk management into development programmes and policies.⁴ However, existing policies does

⁴ Office of National Security (2006). 'Sierra Leone Disaster Management Policy of 2006'. Sierra Leone

not provide information on movement as a result of natural disaster or that respond to the needs of people migrating or relocating as a result of natural disaster.

6.8.3 Therefore, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Disaster Management Unit at the ONS, the government will initiate programmes to support victims of natural disasters with keen attention to victims of natural disaster who relocated. Also, government will conduct risk assessments studies on disaster prone areas and provide social and economic support to people migrating as a result of risk to natural disasters or environmental emergencies.

Policy objectives and strategies on Migration as a result of natural disasters

Policy Objectives	Policy Strategies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop response mechanisms to handle the welfare of victims of natural disaster with keen attention to migrant victims 2. Provide systems for risk assessment on natural disasters and environmental emergencies 3. Provide proper coordination between ONS, Ministry of Social welfare, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Internal Affairs in managing relocation of victims of natural disasters 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the quality of information and data on disaster risk 2. Increase public awareness on disaster risk reduction and conduct risk assessment with feedback to local population on possible environmental emergencies during the rainy season 3. Advocate the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in development strategies and emergency response management at national and local levels 4. Collaborate with Non-state actors in responding to natural
	<p>disasters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Establish an emergency fund for disaster management

6.9. Labour Migration and Conflict Handling Mechanism

6.9.1 Sierra Leone already has a National Labour Migration Policy developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The objective of the policy is to mainstream labour migration in the

development agenda of the country, to strengthen good governance of labour migration, promote the protection of migrants' rights and harness the contribution of Sierra Leone's emigrants and immigrants for national development.⁵ With regards to governance of labour migration, the policy proposes the development and implementation of legislative instruments that provides rules and procedures to state institutions to manage labour migration in Sierra Leone.

6.9.2 The Sierra Leone had ratified 35 ILO Conventions including the eight core conventions in the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at work; Conventions 29 and 105 on forced Labour, 138 and 182 on Child Labour, 100 and 111 on Equality and nondiscrimination in Employment and 87 and 98 on Freedom of Association, right to organize and collective bargaining. To further improve legislative frameworks, the Government in 2019 ratified 11 more ILO Conventions including Migration Conventions; Migration for Employment Convention, 1949 (No.97) and Migrant Workers Convention, 1975 (No.143), Convention No181 on Private Employment Agencies, 189 on Domestic Workers and 102 on Social Security. These ratifications are currently in the process of being registered at the ILO.

6.9.3 Therefore, this labour migration policy makes provision for the protection and empowerment of immigrant workers and their families such as regular labour inspection in workplaces where immigrants are employed and ensure they are being treated in line with international standards. However, for better protection of migrants' labourers in times of tensions and conflict between them and the local population, the government should strengthen existing laws and policies to ensure mutual understanding between migrant workers and host communities. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security should develop conflict response mechanism to mitigate potential social tension and conflict faced by migrant workers.

⁵ Ministry of Labour and Social Security (2018). 'Sierra Leone National Labour Migration Policy of 2018'. Sierra Leone

Policy Objectives and strategies on Labour Migration and conflict Prevention

Policy Objectives	Policy Strategies
<p>1. To provide protection and empowerment for Labour migrants and their families</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening existing laws and policies to ensure mutual understanding between migrants and host communities 2. Monitor local organisations handling migrants labour affairs in Sierra Leone to make sure they are credible, registered and well recognised 3. Streamline organisations handling migrants labour as a sort of control mechanism to avoid conflict 4. Embassies should be supported by government to repatriate stranded migrants back to their home countries

6. 10. Migration, Tourism and Cultural Heritage

6.10. 1. Sierra Leone has enormous potential in Tourism. Where tourism is effectively harnessed it has the propensity to attract both domestic and as well as international visitors. These dynamics in the tourism sector can support national development goals through increased job creation opportunities, injection of foreign currency in to the economy, and trade. With domestic tourism, Sierra Leoneans can be attracted to different parts of the country for holidays, retreats and other outdoor activities. Through tourism the country's breathtaking scenery, cultural diversity and endowed natural resources are advertised.

6.10. 2. Growth in the tourism industry also brings attendant challenges such as the risk of negatively affecting socio-cultural values of the country. The creation of laws and promulgation of appropriate policies preserving the cultural heritage of the country, national heritage sites, and tourist destinations, would not only protect the social fabric, but it will also support the country's development initiatives.

6.10.3. The Government of Sierra Leone shall through this policy promote regular migration into Sierra Leone to support tourism and cultural heritage.

6.11 Migration and the Diaspora

Realising the role that Sierra Leone diaspora community can play towards governance and national development, the state government has established the Office of Diaspora Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. This shows that the government will build stronger cooperation with Sierra Leoneans living abroad and provide opportunities for them to return home and use their skills and potential to take part in nation building. In this regard, the government will collaborate with the Immigration Department to set rules and procedures to ensure the smooth return of Sierra Leonean diasporas who wants to come home to work or invest in the country’s development agenda.

Policy objectives and strategies on Migration and Diaspora and Migration and Tourism

Policy Objectives	Policy Strategies
<p>To maximize the benefits and minimize the consequences of migration for Tourism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote and protect national heritage sites and destination for tourists and migrants in Sierra Leone 2. Create easy opportunity for Sierra Leone diaspora community to return home 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide support to local tourism programmes as well as encourage international partnership that promote local tourism. 2. Provide capacity to institutions that deal with tourism in Sierra Leone. 3. Provide apolitical opportunities that encourage skilled professional Sierra Leoneans living abroad to come back home to work.

7 PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

7.1 Human Rights

7.1.1 Sierra Leone is signatory to several UN Human Rights Conventions, including the International Convention on the protection of the right of all migrant workers and their families. However, the inflow of migrant workers, asylum seekers, stateless persons, deportees and refugees has brought new challenges related to protection of rights of migrants. In Sierra Leone, these challenges can be seen in the following areas:

7.2 Forced Migration

7.2.1 Although forced migration occurs in many parts of the world, it finds more expression in developing countries, including Africa. The causes of forced migration in Africa include natural disasters, environmental degradation, ethnic discrimination, and political conflicts that tend to force people to move spontaneously across national borders in search of safety and assistance. Forced migrants such as refugees and asylum seekers who have moved across borders, differ from internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are confined within their own countries. Although international instruments require host countries to work with international organizations to respond to the needs of forced migrants, inadequate funds tend to make it difficult for host countries and the UNHCR to provide the needs of refugees, especially in the developing world. The national migration policy is a framework that provides policy directives on various categories of forced migrants, especially asylum seekers, refugees, deportees and stateless persons.

7.3 Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Stateless Persons

7.3.1 Refugee protection is an important aspect of international and national efforts to provide assistance to persons fleeing natural disasters and persecution. After the civil war, the government made strong efforts to reaffirm its commitment towards peace building, reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of forced migrants. It also made strong commitment to work in accordance with the legal

instruments relating to international protection of refugees (1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 OAU Convention governing specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa) and the enactment of the 2007 Refugee Protection Act demonstrates this commitment. The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone is responsible for all the operational aspects relating to forced migration in Sierra Leone (refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons), and plays the role of advocacy and resource mobilisation to effectively provide needed assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.

7.3.2 Sierra Leone still hosts former refugees from Liberia following the application of the Cessation Clause on 30th June 2012. This includes refugees who opted for local integration and have therefore benefited from several protections in various settlements around the country. There are also a few other nationals who are being protected as refugees because of fears of persecution in their countries of origin. Most of these are Senegalese, Malians and Ivoirians. As a signatory to international and national refugee conventions, Sierra Leone is committed to providing protection and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in line with international obligations and conventions.

7.3.3 Government is committed to strengthen the capacity of state institutions to protect refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons by enhancing inter-agency cooperation and dialogue in dealing with refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons as well as forced immigrants. This will include setting aside a yearly budget to ensure financial sustainability of the institutions mandated to protect these persons of concern.

7.3.4 The government of Sierra Leone and relevant partners will develop a framework for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in the country and carry out further research on refugees and asylum seekers in Sierra Leone.

Policy objectives and strategies on forced migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide needed assistance to forced migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and stateless persons in line with international obligations and conventions. 2. Strengthen the capacity of the state to protect refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons. 3. Enhance inter-agency cooperation and dialogue on dealing with refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the capacity of institutions of Sierra Leone to provide assistance to forced immigrants. 2. Develop a framework for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless person in the country. 3. Set aside a yearly budget to ensure financial sustainability of the institutions mandated to protect refugees. 4. Grant naturalisation to locally integrated refugees in the country. 5. Advocate in collaboration with MDAs, UN agencies, CSOs, NGOs for the inclusion of locally integrated refugees as the most feasible durable solution option for the residual caseload of refugees into national development programmes 6. Promote UNHCR comprehensive refugee framework 7. Lobby relevant international bodies to support repatriation programmes of refugees affected by cessation clause. 8. Increase research on refugees and asylum seekers in Sierra Leone.

7.4 Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling

7.4.1 Trafficking in Persons and migrant smuggling are forms of irregular migration that are prevalent in Sierra Leone and other parts of West Africa. Some Sierra Leoneans are trafficked to other West African countries, the Middle East, Western Europe and North America, where they may be subsequently subjected to forced labour, sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation. Sierra Leone is also a destination and transit country for persons trafficked from neighbouring countries and Asia.

- 7.4.2 Victims of internal trafficking within Sierra Leone originate predominantly from rural areas and are recruited to urban and mining centres for the purposes of exploitation such as sexual exploitation domestic servitude, children trafficked for illegal adoptions, labour exploitation in mining areas etc. Poverty-stricken families are often deceived into giving away their children in return for false promises of education, a better life, or sometimes on the basis of an informal fostering system (Men Pikin) that may lead to child exploitation.
- 7.4.3 An Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Trafficking was established by the government of Sierra Leone in 2005 and a National Task Force on Human Trafficking was established in 2004 and launched in 2006. The Inter-Ministerial Committee, which is managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, provides advice and policy guidance to the National Task Force. This task force has been decentralized through the establishment of district level task force. The main objective of the Task Force is to coordinate the implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2005. This includes enforcement of the law against trafficking, and prosecution of corrupt public officials who facilitate trafficking. Also, it renders assistance to victims of trafficking, prevent trafficking through adoption and support local initiatives to improve the economic wellbeing and opportunity of victims and provide public awareness of the causes and consequences of trafficking. Sierra Leone is committed to implementing the current ECOWAS plan of action against trafficking in persons (2017 -2020). The Coordinator of the National Task Force on Trafficking in Person (TIPs) is the ECOWAS Anti-trafficking Focal Point.
- 7.4.4 A National Action Plan on trafficking in persons (2015-2020) was adopted by the National Task force on Human Trafficking in August 2015. As part of this plan, a national referral mechanism for protecting and assisting victims of Human Trafficking was adopted by the National Task force on Human Trafficking. Furthermore, a new plan of action has been developed and validated for the period 2020 to 2023.

7.4.5 Migrant smuggling is another form of irregular migration that is linked to other forms of international organized crime. Unlike trafficking in persons, the smuggled persons normally request assistance from, or conspire with, smugglers to cross into another country where they have no right of residence. Sierra Leoneans are among the people usually smuggled through the desert to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea. Most of these smuggled migrants often find themselves in situations of extreme vulnerability.

7.4.6 Therefore, the National Migration Policy seeks to combat trafficking and smuggling through public awareness creation and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to increase their capabilities to detect and prevent trafficking and smuggling and protect vulnerable groups, especially children and women. This includes increasing their capabilities to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of trafficking; and where perpetrators are caught, they are able to prosecute them for their action. As part of this work, the Government of Sierra Leone plans to further enact legislations on migrant smuggling to complement the 2005 AntiHuman Trafficking Act. The government will collaborate with the countries of origin, transit and destination to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking. Also, the government will establish a system for data collection regarding trafficking and migrants smuggling as well as conduct research and gather data on the activities of traffickers, their routes, and profile of victims of trafficking.

7.4.7 On the issue of informal fostering, the government will strengthen the consent requirement for children's applications as well as for applications from other vulnerable groups.

Policy objectives and strategies on trafficking in persons and migrants smuggling

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling as well as those who take the risk on their own to travel to Europe through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. 2. Protect vulnerable groups, especially children and women. 3. Rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of trafficking. 4. Prosecute perpetrators of trafficking in human beings and smuggling. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising awareness through public education on the risk of irregular migration. 2. Develop policy guidelines to regulate the practice of transfer of children from one family to another 3. Strengthen the capacities of law enforcement officers and other key stakeholders to detect trafficking and smuggling cases and to protect victims of trafficking. 4. Enhance the capacity of lawenforcement agencies to prevent, curtail and prosecute migrant smugglers and traffickers. 5. Establish a system for data collection regarding trafficking and migrants smuggling. 6. Implement the national referral strategy for victims of trafficking. 7. Develop legislation on migrant smuggling to complement the 2005 Anti-Human Trafficking Act through joint Action of the National Task Force on Human Trafficking. 8. Collaborate with countries of origin, transit and destination to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking 9. Conduct research and gather data on the activities of traffickers, their routes, and profile of victims of trafficking. 10. Provide equipment such as electronic data systems to border officials to carry registration, documentation, tracking of movements of all migrants. 11. Develop standard operating procedures for security officials, community leaders and CSOs to enhance their collaboration for the prevention and response to cross border trafficking

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">12. Support Programmes to popularize the newly enacted trafficking in person law13. Support local government to include anti trafficking practices into their bilaws14. Establish an account for confiscated goods and properties from perpetrators of trafficking to support restitution and compensation for victims/survivors15. Provide adequate recovery centres for intermediate support to victims needing specialized care for all
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8 PASSPORT ISSUANCE

8.1 Background

8.1.1 Issuance of Passport and other traveling documents is one of the core functions of the Immigration Department. The Department issues nearly 50,000 passports a year including diplomatic and service passports. Ordinary passport which makes up the majority of documents issued by the department can be issued to any Sierra Leonean that applies for it and provides required documents such as a birth certificate and national ID card. Service passports are issued to government officials going on official assignments. Diplomatic passports are issued to persons in the diplomatic service, while Seaman book is issued to seafarers.

8.1.2 The Department also issues Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC) to citizens who need to travel urgently and cannot secure a passport in time for their travel. Over the years, the Sierra Leone passport has gone through a series of transitions, from handwritten to ECOWAS machine readable and recently to the biometric system in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

8.2 Passport application system

8.2.1 The government is ambitious to develop a passport application system to move from the current paper-based system to an electronic and modern passport application system. Although there is a modern e-passport system in place today, this is largely confined to the capture of certain biometric features and production of the passport and not to the other areas of the passport application process.

8.3 Passport application process

8.3.1 The government is reviewing the passport application process with the aim of streamlining it and bringing some consistency to the process. As part of this work, some of the front-end service has been relocated to the Sierra Leone Postal Service (SALPOST); thereby reducing the number of interactions with applicants and the number

of visitors to the Department. The proposed change involves the transfer of the sale of passport application forms to SALPOST as well as the submission of completed application forms. However, there are no planned changes in respect of who will be selling the forms as they will still be sold by the National Revenue Authority (NRA) but this will be done from a SALPOST counter rather than from the Immigration Department.

8.3.2 In addition, the Government will review and document the policies and procedures that governs the application process and issuance of travel documents (passports, ETC and seaman's book). These guidelines will ensure security of traveling document. As part of this work, the Immigration Department plans to introduce service standards which will set out rules of conduct that will shape the relationship between the Department and its customers. This will include introducing a turnaround time of how long it will take for a standard passport application to be processed. It will also look at the reintroduction of an express service (at extra cost) for customers who require a passport in emergency/urgent situations.

8.4 Security of the passport issuing process

8.4.1 Effective passport issuance mechanism, which adheres to international standards, is necessary for effective migration control. In many West African countries, including Sierra Leone, there have been cases of fake passports, identity theft, and use of passports belonging to other persons. However, as a result of the recent development and the biometric passport system which is now in use, these problems have been reduced but not entirely eliminated. The e-passport technology, which is in use today, delivers a significantly higher level of trust, improves border security and enhances the protection of citizens' identities. The introduction of the e-passport technology is a key stepping stone in Sierra Leone's digital pathway to delivering enhanced services to citizens.

8.4.2 Also, the government proposes to strengthen the fight against identity fraud and forgery through enhanced collaboration between the Immigration Department and other state agencies responsible for providing supporting documents for passport applications. This includes strengthening the collection, storage and control of data for

intelligence and information sharing by key stakeholders. The government will provide public education on the risks of travelling with fake passports.

8.5 Centralisation of the passport issuance

8.5.1. The e-passport issuance is still centred in Freetown and this centralisation causes delays in the processing of passports for those in the provinces as well as those residents overseas. Therefore, government will develop an online platform to enable those in the provinces and overseas to apply for passport without the need for them to travel to Freetown by working with the postal services both in Sierra Leone and overseas.

Policy objectives and strategies on the issuance of passport and other travelling documents

<i>Policy objectives</i>	<i>Policy strategies</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the application process for passports and other travelling document with the aim of streamlining it and bringing some consistency to the process. 2. Develop internal standards and best practices in the issuance of travelling documents/passports. 3. Create a trusted verification system for document issuance thereby increasing the certainty of the travellers' identity. 4. Combat identify theft. 5. Speed up document checking at border control points. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move from the current paper-based system to an electronic system for issuing passport and other travelling documents. 2. Review and document policies, processes, procedures which governs the application and issuance of passports and other forms of applications 3. Introduce service standards which will set out the expectation including rules of conduct that will shape the relationship between the department and its customers. 4. Enhance the resource and technical capacity of the Immigration Department to be able to process passport applications within a
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Improve services for passport holders. 7. Facilitate effective collection, storage and control of data for intelligence and information sharing by stakeholders. 8. Station immigration officers in the foreign mission for issuance of visas and verifying of passport applications. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. relatively short time. Provide more training to immigration officials on effective passport verification procedures at border 6' control points. Enhance collaboration between the Immigration department and other state agencies responsible for providing supporting documents for passport applications. 7. Educate the public on the risks of travelling with fake passports.

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Reintroduce express service (at extra cost) for customers who require a passport in emergency/urgent situations.9. Develop an online platform to enable those in the provinces and overseas to apply for passport without the need for them to travel to Freetown by working with the postal services both in Sierra Leone and overseas. |
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9. CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The government of Sierra Leone recognizes the fact that effective implementation of this policy will depend on a number of factors including but not limited to, availability of financial resources, putting in place effective monitoring and reporting procedures, and adopting a robust action plan.

9.1 Financial resources

9.1.1 Financial resources for the implementation of this policy should be sought from internal and international sources. Internally, the Ministry of Internal Affairs should set funds, in its annual budget, for the implementation of some aspects of the National Migration Policy. Also, there is a proposal for the Ministry of Finance to permit the Immigration Department to retain a small percentage of the revenue it generates through its operations. The Immigration Department is also encouraged to continue to source funds from international donor organisations and countries.

9.2 Autonomy

9.2.1 Furthermore, independence in the form of a semi-autonomous agency has been proposed as another way forward for the Immigration Department to tackle the challenges it faces, particularly in the area of its finances. As the department is an income generating organisation, there is the view that it will be able to generate enough resources to support all of its activities. This is important as the financial constraints of the department has left it struggling to deliver its core functions particularly in the areas of border management which have had to bear the brunt of the financial difficulties. This is, however, a long-term ambition as the department is currently saddled with a number of unfavourable contracts with private sector partners which means that the department accrues little or no benefit from the passport application fee.

9.3 Monitoring and Evaluation procedures

9.3.1 There is enough evidence to suggest that lack of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework has been one of the factors that contributed to the poor outcomes of previous Governments' policies and programmes in Sierra Leone. To achieve the objectives set out in this Policy, an effective reporting and monitoring framework should be designed to address existing failures and challenges of the Immigration Department. There is a proposal for the Immigration Department to establish an efficient monitoring and evaluation unit to take the leading role in monitoring and evaluating

the implementation of the policy. This unit will collaborate with other key stakeholders, especially the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, NaCSA, relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), CSOs to regularly evaluate the project outcomes.

9.4 Action Plan

9.4.1 The Strategy shall materialise into a National Action Plans which shall contain concrete and specific activities to be carried out by all parties involved in managing migration. The National Action Plan shall be and steered by the Immigration Department with participation of a wide range of stakeholders. In order to better guide the activities of various national institutions and help them to attain their institutional goals. It will be necessary to elaborate institutional action plans which would establish a precise framework of activity. The growing role of local authorities in managing migration could dictate the need of designing specific action plans related to their activities.

10. Institutional Structures for Implementation of the Policy

Effective implementation of the National Migration Policy will require partnership and cooperation between and amongst key institutions of governance. This will foster inter-institutional engagement and coordination of programmes for efficient implementation of all the policy proposal highlighted in this document. There are both state and non-state actors currently active in the area of migration governance in Sierra Leone. This section identifies these institutions and stipulate roles and responsibility in the implementation of this policy.

10. 1 Government Institutions

10.1.1. The Immigration Department

The Immigration Department is the foremost institution responsible for the implementation of various components of this policy document. Therefore, it will provide various administrative, operational and coordination roles in the implementation of the entire policy. Beyond its traditional role of issuing passports and other traveling documents, and managing movement at the border, the Immigration Department will work with all relevant government MDAs, international and sub-regional organisations and Nongovernmental institutions for full implementation of this policy

10.1.2. Ministry of Internal Affairs

Together with the Immigration Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs provides leadership and coordination amongst line ministries and agencies on border security and migration issues. Therefore, the ministry will continue to take this leadership and provide political commitment needed for the implementation of this policy. It will work to develop stronger legislations for border security and protection and cooperate with the country's security infrastructures to deal with transnational organised crimes.

10.1.3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is charged with the responsibility to protect and represent all Sierra Leonean citizens living and working abroad. Within the Ministry there is a Directorate for Diaspora Affairs thereby providing a structure for engagement between Sierra Leone diaspora community and the government. Therefore, the Ministry will work to implement policy strategies for profiling and documentation of Sierra Leoneans living abroad and coordinate with relevant MDAs on apolitical job opportunities that will encourage diaspora communities to return home and invest in nation building.

10.1.4. Ministry of Social Welfare

The Ministry of Social Welfare provides support and protection for the social wellbeing and development of all Citizens as well as noncitizens including marginalized, vulnerable and disable people. It also takes on roles of social protection of migrant worker and

returning migrants. Within this policy, the Ministry will work with the Immigration Department, other line ministries and agencies to implement various social protection components in this National Migration Policy.

10.1.5. Ministry of Labour and Social Security

The Ministry of Labour will focus on implementation of policies to support and protect migrant labourers and their families. There is already an existing National Labour Migration Policy that provides guidelines to handle issues emanating from labour migration. However, the ministry will work closely with the Immigration Department and the Ministry of Social Welfare to implement rules and policy proposals dealing with migrant workers and support action to manage tension and conflict between migrant workers, their families and host communities.

10.1.6. National Commission for Social Action

The National Commission for Social Action has responsibility for issues relating to forced migration and trafficking in persons. In this regard, NaCSA will work with various MDAs and local NGOs to implement policy proposals to tackle force migration and trafficking in persons. It will provide guidelines through this policy to prevent incidences of forced migration and provide social and psychological support for migrants in vulnerable situations living and working in Sierra Leone. It will also cooperate with the Immigration Department to document and maintain social support system for migrants and their families.

10.1.7. Office of National Security

The Office of National security is an institutional structure within the National Security Architecture (NSA) of Sierra Leone. It provides intelligence and security cooperation within the NSA and together with SLID manage security affairs in all the country's port of entry and border crossing point. Therefore, ONS work to strengthen rules and procedures for protection of the country's border and provide intelligence on irregular migration into the country as well

as movement of foreign migrants undertaking organised criminal activities in and out of the borders of Sierra Leone.

10.1.8. Disaster Management Department at the ONS

The Disaster Management Department at the ONS is a structure set up to respond to all forms of local and national disaster be it man made or natural when they occur as well as take steps to prevent such incidence from happening. Therefore, this policy requires the Disaster Management Department to develop collaborative mechanisms with relevant MDAs that address the problem of relocation of victims in the aftermath of natural or manmade disaster.

10.1.9. Sierra Leone Police (SLP)

As an institution that provide safety and security of its citizens, the Sierra Leone Police will support the SLID, relevant MDAs, Interpol, regional organisations and local NGOs in implementation of various components of this policy. The SLP will work in line with this policy to protect all border cross point, tackle incidence of armed criminality and organised crime at the border as well as protect migrant workers and their families in time of social tension and localized conflict.

10.1.10. Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF)

The Armed forces of Sierra Leone provides territorial protection of her citizens from all aggression foreign and domestic and through its engagement with the police provide military aid to civil power. The RSLAF should continue its traditional security roles at all the border crossing point and work with all MDAs in the implementation of all the security components of this policy

10.1.11. Task Force and Special Committees

For the purpose of implementation of this policy, various Task Force and Special Committees may be set up to enhance interinstitutional coordination and cooperation towards

operationalization of the various components of this policy amongst all relevant state and non-state actors concern.

10.1.12. Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL)

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone is an institutional platform that pioneers the protection and promotion of every individual in Sierra Leone whether you are citizens or noncitizens. It also has the responsibility to protect the rights of migrants fleeing violence and persecution or threats to their lives. Therefore, the Human Right Commission should work with SLID, and all relevant MDAs to identify migrants facing persecutions, provide protection for them and advocates for their right and welfare.

10.2. Non-State Institutions

10.2.1. Non-Governmental Organisations and Local Community Based Organisations

There are many non-governmental organisations, Civil Society Organisations and community-based structures that undertake activities or actions towards migration governance in the country. They include NGO support networks, migrant workers associations, diaspora organisations etc. These institutions should be encouraged to collaborate with SLID, MDAs and the security Architecture in implementation of various component of this policy.

10.3. International and Regional Institutions

The Current migration trends and flows from and into Sierra Leone impose a regular and multi-dimensional, multilateral and bilateral dialogue, partnership, exchange of information and cooperation among countries of destination, transit and origin, international governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to better address the various dimensions of migration.

10.3.1. Cooperation with Regional organisation

The government of Sierra Leone has ratified the ECOWAS protocol on free movement within the sub-region. However, there are problems associated with intra-regional mobility and these include harassment at the border, porous border which make border management difficult, security threats, smuggling and trafficking in persons. Therefore, this policy requires regular dialogue, cooperation and partnership to effectively address the challenges related to intra-regional mobility in the ECOWAS sub-region.

Also, this policy requires increase level of political and operational dialogue and cooperation with ECOWAS countries on the further implementation of the free movement of its citizens in all member states. Furthermore, the policy requires government of Sierra Leone to promote dialogue cooperation with Liberia and Guinea within the context of the Mano River Union on information exchange, consultation, joint investigation, joint training and operations, common threat assessment, joint coordinated patrols and early warning systems.

10.3.2. Cooperation with international institutions

The government should increase the level of political and operational dialogue and cooperation with various international organisations for effective implementation of this policy. Currently, various MDAs cooperate with IOM in implementation and support to UN migration standards as well as in managing issues of irregular migration of Sierra Leoneans abroad. The government should cooperate with other sub-regional organisations in Africa and European Union countries through, formal treaties, memorandum of understanding for the protection and promotion of rights and privileges of those Sierra Leoneans who reside irregularly abroad

THE END