

# Peace, Security and Development Update

# Youth and Security

June 2008 Issue 4



# Introduction

The title of this issue 'Youth and Security' is very apt to Sierra Leone's post-war situation where the word youth is often spoken in the same sentence as security concern. The need to address the issues of the large number of economically and politically marginalised youths has been stated by Government, civil society and international agencies as one of the key factors to ensuring Sierra Leone remains at peace.

Offering education and jobs for youths is a priority for this nation, without which internal security remains a concern. As one young woman in Kenema responded when asked if she thought there was true peace in Sierra Leone *"No! War is over but what caused the war still remains, which makes peace shaky"*.

This issue illustrates some of the challenges faced by the young people of Sierra Leone with examples of how the Strengthening Citizens' Security project has worked to help youths better understand national security structures and be part of the decision-making process.

*Rosalind Hanson-Alp*

West Africa Programme Coordinator  
Conciliation Resources

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Front cover photo: As part of the Strengthening Citizen's Security project, Conciliation Resources worked with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) to organise civilian-military activities. Young military officers and Bike Riders Association members sit together to watch their teams play football in Kailahun © R.Hanson-Alp

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# Students Participate in Security Analysis School

## *Understanding and Analysing Issues in Security*

Conciliation Resources



Young people played a central role in Sierra Leone's conflict both as fighters and civilian victims of atrocities. After the war ended in 2002, around 70,000 young ex-combatants went through a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme (DDR). While DDR in Sierra Leone was officially considered

Engaging and reintegrating war-affected youths in a meaningful way is a challenging but crucial task. Firstly, young Sierra Leoneans represent an enormous untapped potential that can significantly contribute to the country's economic development. Secondly, addressing youth marginalization is a key element to the country's long-term security and stability that cannot be underestimated.

This has been recognized at the national and international levels. The country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission identified youth marginalization as one of the root causes of the conflict. More recently, in December 2007 the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone adopted the 'Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework', a joint commitment to address the challenges

as having greatly increased the country's security, it has not adequately addressed the plight of marginalized young Sierra Leoneans. Six years on, many have not been successfully reintegrated into their communities and remain deprived of education, access to basic services and economic opportunities.

and threats most critical to consolidating peace. The framework identifies youth marginalization and unemployment as a major challenge to Sierra Leone's stability, and youth economic and political empowerment as one of the key priorities for peace consolidation in the country.

Partners in the Strengthening Citizen's Security project believe that young people can and should play a crucial role in rebuilding safer communities and contributing to the political, social and economic development of Sierra Leone. One key step in this process is that young Sierra Leoneans and the country's security sector forces see each other as partners, able to share experiences and articulate common goals as part of ongoing security sector reform.



The good news is that this interaction has already started to happen. In December 2007, as part of the project, Conciliation Resources brought together 29 students from Fourah Bay College, Njala University and Milton Margai College as well as civil society organizations to take part in an innovative academic course that studied the concepts and dimensions of security. Students compared theoretical and practical issues related to national and international security through lectures from security practitioners, University academics, Paramount Chiefs, Members of Parliament, civil society organisations, the media, and international donors.

Presentations from the Office of National Security (ONS), Police and the Armed Forces helped students analyse Sierra Leone's security sector reform process, started in 1999, that has developed from the 'traditional military security' to a new 'human security' structure. As Mr Raymond Sharkah from the ONS stated *"citizen's security is an issue that is taking centre stage in the process of governance in present-day politics...what happened before, during and after the war. Citizens took the brunt of the atrocities that were committed and therefore, we must remember that citizen's security is a constitutional right."* Directly engaging with security personnel and asking questions about the security architecture and its growing links with civil society helped students better understand the practical challenges of reform.

Students were taken on a field trip to Kenema, in the east of Sierra Leone, to see for themselves how security offices and divisions are working in the provinces and how they link to the public through new initiatives like

Local Policing Partnership Boards (LPPB) and Provincial and District Security Committees (PROSECs and DISECs).

Following lectures, rigorous debates and role plays, students were given the assignment to produce three short presentations based on what they had learned during the course and recommendations they wanted to direct to policy makers.

A panel made up of personnel from the ONS, military, University and DFID listened to students' presentations on the topics: *Security and the Role of Youths*, *Early Warning Signs and Security Threats* and *Civil Society's Role in Security Sector Reform*. The panel were impressed by the students' depth of knowledge of security and their professionalism in presenting.

In discussing the students' presentation on the role of youths in security a number of challenges were highlighted and recommendations made by the students.

As key drivers of change, young Sierra Leoneans are expected to be willing to serve their nation, to understand the country's security architecture, cooperate with local security structures and be involved in setting up early warning systems to prevent crime and violence. However, a number of challenges to the development of Sierra Leone's youths were identified, such as: the merging of education, youth and sports in one ministry; massive youth unemployment; the 'politization' of youths and youth-related issues; the collapse of important social structures such as the family unit; youth migration; dwindling donor support and the region's instability.



Photo: DFID's advisor to the Office of National Security, Garry Horlacher discusses external support to Security Sector Reform with students from the Security Analysis School ©R.Hanson-Alp



## Recommendations from the students of the Security Analysis School

- *The Ministry of Youth be separated from the Ministry of Education and Sport so that the issues of youths will be given more attention.*
- *The market be expanded through private sector development in the forms of the creation of skills training centres and effective decentralisation through rapid but structured devolution.*
- *Foster homes be encouraged to operate with limited mandates as a way of facilitating transitions.*
- *Donors like Conciliation Resources be encouraged to educate their beneficiaries about short, medium and long term funding priorities in relation to youth issues.*
- *Civic education programmes on rights and responsibilities of citizens be organized.*
- *Encourage and attract investment to rural areas by embarking on agriculture, providing of intermediate technology, enhancing public constructions and providing effective sanitation mechanisms.*
- *Deepen and popularise the culture of volunteerism amongst young people.*
- *Operationalisation of mechanisms contained in the TRC Report and National Youth Policy Documents.*

### **Fourah Bay College**

Alifata Alhadi, Samuel Allen, Moisia Bockarie, Fatmata Conteh, Mohamed Dabo, Lynton Dennis-Jones, Alimamy Jalloh, Victor Jamiru, Vashti Johnson, Hindolo Kebbie, Sahr Kendema, Reuben Lewis, Abdul Mansaray, Alhaji Mansaray, Mako Mansaray, Richard Pearce, Ahmed Raschid, Karifa Tarawalie, Simeon Vibbi

### **Milton Margai College**

Dennis Dove, Princess Gibson, Hawa Kalokoh

### **West Africa Network for Peacebuilding**

Yusuf Rogers, Brima Turay

### **Mano River Women's Peace Network**

Fatmata Bangura

### **Njala University College**

Abu Bakkarr Kondeh

### **Centre for Development and Security Analysis**

Abdulai Jalloh

# War of Colours<sup>1</sup>

## 'Blackman' and 'Whiteman' student club conflict

Mano River Women's Peace Network

In late May, a disturbance erupted between the two main student clubs, the 'Whiteman' and 'Blackman' at Fourah Bay College (FBC) campus, University of Sierra Leone, when student politics turned into violence during the Student Union presidential elections. Having organised a successful Security Analysis School at FBC as well as a number of conferences, debates and roundtable discussions, partners in the 'Strengthening Citizens Security' project were shocked and concerned about the growing violence related to student club rivalry. As a result, project partners, the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET), in collaboration with the Centre for Development & Security Analysis (CEDSA) organised a forum on 13th June 2008 to encourage discussion around the issue.

MARWOPNET invited project partners, FBC Student Union members, students from the Security Analysis School, and University Administration representatives to come together to better understand the background of the club violence and make recommendations on how further eruptions could be avoided. The issues raised by participants do not bode well for the oldest university in West Africa, and its almost 3,500 student population, many of whom have become prominent members of Sierra Leone society.

While the leaders of the Blackman and Whiteman clubs did not attend, members of these clubs were able to share what happened during the riot. All the participants denounced the violence that has been encouraged by the clubs, questioned the legitimacy of the goals of students' politics and discussed the alleged ramifications of these politics within sections of the University. Participants also showed concern about the apparent inability to conduct peaceful student union elections and the need for a police presence during the process. Some participants felt that the University's authorities appeared slow to investigate the cause of the disturbances, failed to address the conflict between the student clubs and had limited interest in facilitating discussions around security issues. However, a Senior FBC representative announced at the forum that an enquiry was to be set up by the college administration to apprehend the culprits.

<sup>1</sup> Some students suggest that there are geographical and class divides between the student clubs and state that the 'Blackman' club tends to comprise of students from the Southern and Eastern Provinces and the 'Whiteman' club members tend to come from the Northern Province and Western Area.

Participants made a few recommendations on how to address the student club conflict and help avoid further violence:

- Limit outside interference in student's affairs and encourage University authorities to organise programs on non violence for students during their orientation
- Introduce a Youth Scheme in the University where all clubs are given equal powers and other stakeholder organisations encouraged to monitor students' activities
- Peace and Conflict Department to invite the leaders of 'Blackman' and 'Whiteman' clubs for a reconciliation meeting
- Graduates be required to participate in a National Youth Service Scheme in parts of the country, remote from their origins, to share cultures and promote tolerance towards all classes and ethnic groups
- The creation of a Non-Violence Club, which could bring together members from all camps to find a middle ground to accommodate all clubs
- University Administration to act robustly by banning students' politics and mechanisms be put in place to guard against a recurrence of violence

As a concluding remark, it is worth noting that University students are more than likely to be the next generation of policy-makers in Sierra Leone. The example they set now will no doubt shape their future leadership. A decade-long brutal war should make the choice very easy.

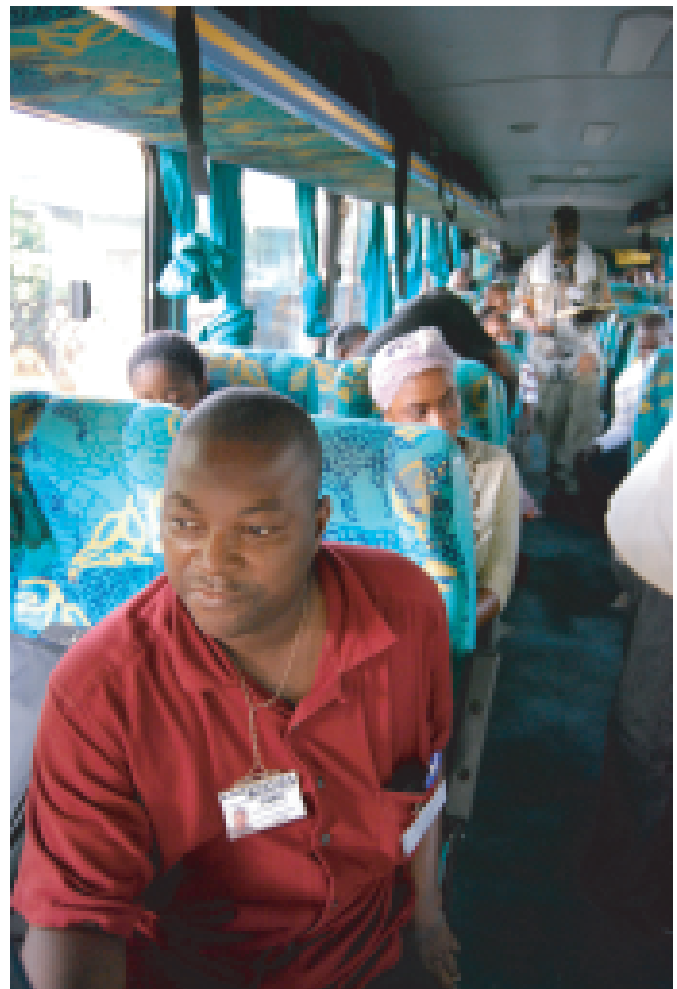


Photo: Strengthening Citizens' Security Project Officer, Silladee Turay leads the Security Analysis School students on a field trip to Kenema, to learn first hand how the security sector and civil society engage in the provinces © R.Hanson-Alp



# Student Debate Series

Centre for Development and Security Analysis

As part of the Strengthening Citizens' Security project, the Centre for Development and Security Analysis (CEDSA) facilitated a series of Student Debates at Fourah Bay College (FBC).

The debates have provided the opportunity for students to analyse how crucial the contribution of youths has been in previous elections, as the next generation of leaders and as willing victims of political manipulation. In general, as young people have been judged at national level as being instigators of conflict and problematic within society, such discussions have helped rekindle students' sense of purpose and direction by way of initiating discussions among themselves and offering a forum to be heard. The debates challenged students to consider their roles and responsibilities in Sierra Leone's development and look at the underlying tendencies that undermine their peaceful coexistence on the one hand and their opportunity to engage in policy issues on the other.

In one of the debates, the Student Union Attorney General, Umuru Koroma, talked of the responsibility of students to advocate for the rule of law. He went on to say that *"students of the 1970s, 80s and 90s exhibited a high sense of responsibility in fighting against authoritarian rule, yet it seems implausible for students these days to play similar roles"*. He appealed to students and Sierra Leoneans in general *"to work towards behavioural and attitudinal change"*, as they had lost their enviable role in society.

Throughout the debate series, students have called for positive action in redefining their role as members of a bastion of learning and role models for youths outside the University. However, both students and academics

openly acknowledged their failings and the need for soul searching among youths and understanding from society. Much of the discussions echoed the general feeling that the divide within the University campus must be addressed urgently.

## Comments from the debates

*"I personally appreciate this meeting very much. We are so divided and at war with each other that as a student body we have no moral justification to call our duty bearers to account...in any case this is far from our thinking"*

Law student

*"In some respect we have failed the youths down town. I believe we still have a role to play. It is a matter for us to stop our fighting, mend fences with each other and join the call for development in our country. Students at FBC should be seen to grow above little pettiness"*

Female student

*"I will want to implore the organisers of this event to organise a similar activity that looks at our racial divide on campus. Please help us. This is the only way out if students' contribution is to be given any meaning"*

Representative of the Political Science Society

*"I must say I have been touched by the sentiments expressed here. This is a good sign that students feel some guilt about how bad their interactions and ideological divide continue to challenge the virtues of students' actions at this stage. My doors are open if you need my help on this particular issue"*

Lecturer at Fourah Bay College



# Young People Campaign together with Security Forces for NO VIOLENCE in Elections

Adam Platt & Silladee Turay



Campaigning for non violent elections is not new to Sierra Leone. During the Presidential elections of 2007, many campaigned for a peaceful process. What is not so common is for young people, some of whom are ex-combatants from the war years, to decide to do something to avoid violent acts at election times. As part of the Strengthening Citizen's Security project, Conciliation Resources worked with security sector personnel and civil society organisations and individuals in Kailahun and Kenema to support their plan to organize a non-violent election campaign.

In May this year, before the local authority elections scheduled for early July, a group of some 30 young women and men from both civilian life and the uniformed services, police and military, met at Kailahun town's new community centre to discuss how they might contribute to ensuring a peaceful election. They unanimously agreed that a high profile campaign taken to several locations around the district urging people to eschew violence when voting would be a useful way to promote their concern for peace at election times.

The group nominated a team to plan and manage the campaign, which was readily supported with a small budget from the project. The team comprised of civil society youth coalition members working together with young soldiers and police officers. In addition, a young journalist joined the team so that she could give wide

publicity to the campaign. Following this lead, youth in Kenema also planned a similar week-long campaign.

The campaign started with training in non-violent means of responding to tensions for participants from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and civil society groups in Kenema and Kailahun districts. Kailahun's RSLAF 1st Infantry Battalion commander felt that the military could benefit from this type of learning and said 'this training is very new and useful to our work and I want to request that Conciliation Resources consider incorporating this in our training curriculum'. At the end of the training, the Kailahun campaign team led peace marches through the streets of Kailahun town, Koindu, Buedu, Pendembu and Daru communities. In Kenema the campaigners reached Blama, Buajibu, Tongo and Panguma as well as Kenema.

## Boajibu Town, Simbaru Chiefdom Kenema District

Many people assembled at the local Court Barri, where the Paramount Chief and Police Commander welcomed the campaign team to their Chiefdom. The gathering was an opportunity for the campaign team and leaders to talk to the community about some of the key issues that has led to violence in the community in the past. The Paramount Chief, one of the few women Chiefs in Sierra Leone, was highly impressed with the team's work and said "Most NGO's are only concerned about developing the infrastructures of communities, leaving out relationship building and psychosocial healing. However, it is good that Conciliation Resources is supporting this all important venture in our communities".

Each peace march started with a gathering of senior and influential members of the community: Paramount Chiefs, Local Councillors, police and military officers and civil society leaders including Associations of Women, Bike Riders, Photographers and Trade Unions. At each gathering, community leaders endorsed the march in their area and encouraged young people to work hand in hand with the security personnel to ensure there were no violent eruptions in the lead up to the elections.

The march was led by bike riders and other youths from the communities, soldiers and police, all riding motorbikes or walking together with placards, t-shirts and banners calling for a peaceful election. Campaigners encouraged people to use their vote to bring good governance to their communities, rather than using violence to intimidate voters. The military played a role in showing the public they were a force for good, marching with banners that read "RSLAF against violence in elections". Young people walked together with elders with banners that read "Let us use discussion to settle disputes – not violence" and "No stone throwing during Council Elections". The public cheered on the marchers and joined in calling for an end to violence, not only at election time, but in all aspects of community life. It was clear that seeing the military and police demonstrating sincerely and peacefully together with civil society members, including ex-combatants from the war, made a strong impression on participants and spectators.

This initiative by Kenema and Kailahun security sector and civil society members helped to illustrate how working hand in hand with the security forces can be in the interest of everyone to reach the mutual goal of sustained peace.



Left: Representatives from the Tailors Union show their support to the campaign © Adam Platt. Above: Officers from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces battalion in Kailahun join students and civil society groups to show their solidarity in working against the use of violence in the run up to Local Council elections in Sierra Leone © Adam Platt.



# Re-building trust between the military and civilians



*"I would like to take this opportunity to invite civil society to the brigade command at any time they agree to have discussions with us regarding activities that will possibly cement our relationships"*

## Conciliation Resources

Breakdown of public faith in the security sector came to its climax when, during the war, the army turned on its people and fought with the rebels. When the war ended it was clear that the army needed to change its image.

Recognising that building relationships with the population is crucial to healing some of the suffering endured at the hands of the army, the military created opportunities to engage with communities through structures like the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC). Several years later, people openly acknowledge the visible changes in the professional performance of the renamed Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).

In April 2008, Conciliation Resources collaborated with the Kailahun District Battalion to organise a football tournament between army officers and neighbouring communities in support of the armed forces' CIMIC activities. Among the various visiting teams was the Bike Renters Association (BRA), a self-organised commercial motorbike rental service formed in Bo district in 2003 as a response to the high level of unemployed ex-combatants. The BRA is made up of mainly young men of which a majority are ex-combatants from the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) who fought on opposing sides during the decade-long war.

During the football tournament, bike riders parked their motorbikes in the barracks and sat side by side with military officers drinking soft drinks and talking football tactics. Symbolically, competing on the football field in Kailahun was a representation of reformed ex-combatants from the three former warring factions.

The tournament was open to the public and mostly neighbouring communities came to cheer their teams or simply enjoy a good football match. The military lost the game to the BRA team, who went on to win the tournament. The military took their defeat in good faith and did not detract from focussing on the value of the event which was to build civil society-security sector trust. At the end of each game, teams shook hands, shared refreshments and enjoyed the social event, putting aside historical divides.

While this activity appeared basic in approach, the fact that there were no signs of aggressive dispute, particularly in a potentially conflicting game like football, between former warring sides or former victims and perpetrators, is an indication that such social events positively impact civil-military relations and help to heal broken relationships.

Photo: Kailahun Battalion and the Bike Riders Association football teams prepare for the match ©R.Hanson-Alp



What would you say to the President of Sierra Leone?

*"I would advise the President to force a reconciliation process between political party supporters, provide job facilities for young people at all levels, maintain good roads and electricity, empower the youths and women and not to turn a blind eye to price rises of essential goods".*

Sheik A.T.Sesay  
Member of the Youth Coordinating  
Committee, Kenema

# A case of Civil society working together to protect young women in Kenema

Boima Kpuagor  
Programme Officer-East, Conciliation Resources



There is no doubt that Security Sector Reform in Sierra Leone has come a long way. In fact, it is now being hailed as a best-practice example around the world. However, the incident below reminds us of the serious challenges that still lie ahead. It also emphasises the importance of civil society's role and responsibility in addressing these challenges in collaboration with the security sector, as was the case in Kenema.

In 2007, a young commercial sex worker, who had been part of the group of young people Conciliation Resources (CR) worked with in Kenema, told CR that she had been assaulted and wrongly accused of stealing by a Police Officer, who had her locked up in a cell for two days.

It is possible that this abuse would have remained unaddressed, had it not been for the intervention of civil society organizations in Kenema. Along with the victim and her relatives, Conciliation Resources, the Kenema Youth Coordinating Committee (YCC), the Women's Forum, Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), Humanist Watch and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone (WANEP/SL) worked together with the police to ensure a thorough investigation was conducted. Led by the Women's Forum, the case was brought to the attention of the Police Family Support Unit (FSU) in Kenema and an investigation was made by a team that included the Social Welfare desk officer, the Officer-in-Charge of FSU and the Commissioner East of the Sierra Leone Police, all of whom are women.

The case was taken to the Magistrates Court and as a result of the investigation, it was established that there was no arrest warrant legitimising the detention of the victim and that the money collected from the victim's mother before she was released, as compensation for the alleged theft and bail bond did not follow the right process. The perpetrator and the police officer in charge of the case were brought to justice. The perpetrator was asked to refund the money taken from the victim's relative, dismissed from his job and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. The officer in charge of the case was dismissed for not following the course of justice.

It is not possible to say whether the outcome would have been any different, had this not been an all-woman team. What is important here is that a strong female presence in key security-related positions generates a sense of confidence among women in the communities. This was clearly stated by the leader of the Women's Forum, *"Our dreams have come true, now we have female bosses heading the FSU, Police Division, Magistrate court and high court...women are now protected"*.

This incident shows that security sector reform in Sierra Leone depends, among other things, on civil society and communities' ability to intervene and report abuses. Regardless of the progress made so far, the onus is also on us, civil society, to insist on an accountable and reliable security sector in Sierra Leone.





What would you say to the President of Sierra Leone?

*“Make provision to educate we the girls, who suffered most in this war. Manage the natural resources very appropriately to upgrade the economic status of our Mama Salone”.*

Twenty year old  
commercial sex worker, Kenema

# Sierra Leone's Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

## What next for youths?

### Conciliation Resources

The government, the donor community and civil society agree that, notwithstanding the progress made, peace and stability in Sierra Leone remain fragile and that the root causes of the conflict remain largely unaddressed.

In December last year, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. The document represents a joint effort to address the challenges and threats to consolidating peace in the country.

Ambassador Frank Majoor, Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission's Country-Specific Meeting on Sierra Leone described the commitment as *"another major milestone"* in Sierra Leone's journey from conflict to peace, stability and prosperity and added that *"with the Framework in hand we now have the opportunity to provide focused support to a country that has emerged from conflict but that is still struggling to address those factors that could trigger a relapse into conflict, in spite of the good progress that has been made in many areas. In other words, we now have the opportunity to do what the Peacebuilding Commission was created for."*<sup>1</sup>

The Framework identifies youth marginalisation and unemployment as a major challenge to Sierra Leone's stability. It reminds us that the marginalization and political exclusion of youth were identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as one of the root causes of the civil war and that today around two thirds of Sierra Leone's youth is unemployed or underemployed. It also recognizes that young people tend to have lower paid employment, fewer opportunities in the public and formal sectors and face a number of employment constraints, *"such as low levels of education, limited access to land, social capital and credit."* It goes on to describe that *"ex-combatants, urban slum youth, poor and socially excluded youth in rural areas and youth in squatter settlements in border areas of Sierra Leone comprise key sections of marginalized young men and women requiring special measures to address their needs."*<sup>2</sup> Finally, the Framework emphasizes that addressing youth marginalisation also requires the full participation of young men and women in the political process and protection of their rights.

In order to respond to these challenges and needs, the Government of Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission made the following commitments to youth employment and empowerment.

### The Government's commitments

- Develop and implement targeted programmes for youth employment and empowerment, including through literacy, vocational training programmes, and civic education programmes
- Promote efforts to strengthen youth organisations and increase the participation of youth in decision-making, paying particular attention to the needs of young women and girls
- Revise and implement the National Youth Policy
- Review and revise the Youth Employment Scheme in order to benefit from the most effective programmes for youth employment generation and empowerment
- Support the participation of young men and women as candidates and voters in the 2008 local council elections

### The Peacebuilding Commission's commitments

- Support capacity-building of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to ensure mainstreaming of youth concerns
- Support the Government's efforts for the generation of youth employment
- Support the upscaling of existing vocational, literacy training and civic education programmes

In line with the Peacebuilding Commission's mandate, Sierra Leone's engagement with the commission is aimed at securing sustained attention of the international community in providing additional political, financial and technical support to the country's peace consolidation efforts. It was therefore a significant step that the adoption of the Framework was followed by a high level Stakeholders Consultation on the Implementation of the Sierra Leone Peace Building Cooperation Framework, at the United Nations in New York, on May 19 this year.

It is crucial that such momentum is not lost and that sustained and coordinated attention continues to be given to Sierra Leone's peacebuilding efforts by the international community. As Ambassador Majoor says, this is after all, what the PBC was created for. For the youth in Sierra Leone, this means supporting the Government in putting in place a national youth policy that delivers meaningful youth employment and empowerment opportunities for the long-term. For the country's journey to peace and stability, this could be the difference between peace and a relapse into violence.

1. Adoption of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework called major milestone in journey to peace and stability, SC/9202, Security Council, 5804th Meeting (PM).

2. Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, PBC/2/SLE/1, 3 December 2007

## Conciliation Resources

Conciliation Resources is an independent charity with over a decade of experience working internationally to prevent and resolve violent conflict, promote justice and build lasting peace. Our practical work is guided by the needs of people living in countries affected or threatened by war. Conciliation Resources have been working in the West Africa region since 1997, supporting community-based organisations in their efforts to transform conflict, bringing together traditional and modern methods of peacebuilding.

### Our Goals:

- Support people
- Provide opportunities for dialogue
- Influence Governments
- Improve peacemaking practice
- Challenge stereotypes

## Centre for Development and Security Analysis

Centre for Development and Security Analysis (CEDSA) is a strategic research institution established in 2000 with a view to consolidating peace and contributing to long-term socio-economic and political stability in post war Sierra Leone. The Centre's approach seeks to ensure a more critical and informed intervention in contributing towards a stable, peaceful and thriving socio-economic and political environment in Africa.

### Our Vision:

An African continent developed in a secure, stable, democratic and peaceful environment.

### Our Mission:

To contribute to the realisation of sustainable development, peace and stability in Africa through informed research, capacity building and advocacy work.

The Peace, Security and Development Updates are part of a pioneering *Strengthening Citizen's Security* project that aims to bridge some of the gaps that have historically discouraged civil society's involvement in security. This project brings together the diverse experience of partners; Conciliation Resources (CR), Centre for Development and Security Analysis (CEDSA), Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET) and Search for Common Ground's-Talking Drums Studios (SFCG-TDS). The Strengthening Citizen's Security project is funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).