



Sierra Leone Marching towards NQF



Session 3

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Ing. M.A. JALLOH



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COUNTRY PROFILE

Sierra Leone was founded by Pedro da Cintra in 1642. It is bounded on the west and southwest by the Atlantic Ocean, on the northwest, north, and northeast by Guinea, and on the east and southeast by Liberia.



Independence 1961

Land area is 72,180 Km²

**Official language
is English
Lingua franca - Krio
(Pidgin English).**



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

2 major religions are **Islam and Christianity** – Sierra Leone is one of the most **religiously tolerant nations** in the world. The main economic sectors of Sierra Leone - **Agriculture, mining, fishing, tourism, transport.**

- Current population : 7.8 m
- GDP per capita \$518 (WB)
- Unemployment: 4.3%
- Youth Unemployment: 8.9%
- Youth Population: 16%
- Life Expectancy : 54.81
- Literacy: 43.21%
- Inflation rate: 16.9%



EDUCATION

Freetown the capital was chosen as the new world for the freed slaves in 1787.

First set of Schools and Colleges (Freetown) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Fourah Bay College (FBC) - 1827

Grammar School for Boys – 1845

Annie Walsh Memorial School for Girls- 1849

Methodist Boys High School - 1874

Methodist Girls High school – 1880

Second set of Institutions in the Provinces:

Harford Secondary School for Girls – 1900

Bo school (Boys)- 1906

Bunumbu Teachers College - 1924

Magburaka Secondary Schools for Boys - 1946

Mathora Secondary School for Girls - 1959

Port Loko Teachers College exclusively for women - 1968



Despite being part of the first set of countries with educational institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, Sierra Leone is several years behind some African countries in the NQF development !

The general decline in education started in the 1970s due partly to poor Governance – disrespect for the rule of law, abuse of human rights, one party system, all of which contributed to the civil war in 1991-2001.



ATTEMPTS AT REFORMS IN EDUCATION

The Starting point was when FBC was delinked from Durham University (to which it was an affiliate from 1876) in the late 1960s and the establishment of the University of Sierra Leone which incorporated FBC and Njala University College and much later the Institute of Public Administration and Management and the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences.

➤ *1st Attempt 1974/75:*

The hosting of the first National Conference on Education with the theme **All Our Future**. Championed by the founding VC (Prof Arthur Porter) of the new University, This conference attempted to address issues of **access, equity, relevance, quality assurance, articulation and efficiency**. Due to lack of political will and resources, only a fraction of the reforms was implemented.

➤ *2nd Attempt 1990:*

Sierra Leone participated in the Jomtien conference on Education For All, partly contributed to the introduction of the **6-3-3-4 system in 1992**.



➤ **3rd Attempt 1996 - 2001:**

Consolidation of the 6-3-3-4 by the creation of the (a) Tertiary Education Commission, (b) Polytechnics (through mergers of Teacher Colleges and Technical Institutions) and (c) National Council for Technical, Vocational and Other Academic Awards (NCTVA)

➤ **4th Attempt 2008- 2010:**

The Prof. Gbamanja Commission of Inquiry into the poor performance of Pupils in the 2008 BECE and WASSCE (West African Senior School Certificate Exams). Of the many recommendations, only the one year addition to the 6-3-3-4 was implemented and for 2 years only.

➤ **5th Attempt 2018:**

The New Government with the flagship programme on the Human Capital Development Free Basic and Senior Secondary School Quality Education

Allocation of 20% of GDP to Education

The restructuring of the Ministry of Education into 2 Ministries:

The Ministry for Basic and Senior Secondary Education

The new Ministry of Technical and Higher Education



NQF DEVELOPMENT

1. ECOWAS

- Various initiatives including the 2002 Abuja meeting on Regional Certification
- CBET development by Nigeria in 2002-2003 and later adopted by ECOWAS countries.

2. UNESCO-ECOWAS

- Launching of a new initiative to reinforce recognition of Skills and Qualifications within and across ECOWAS.

2018

1st workshop – Adoption of a Ministerial Declaration to have:
Operational National Certification Framework.
Regional Certification Framework



2nd Workshop

Lay the foundation for a community of practice within ECOWAS.
Common language for dialogue and co-operation in recognition of Competencies and Qualifications and Quality Assurance.
Discuss the implication of AU work and agenda relating to Certification and Mobility of Competence.

NQF DEVELOPMENT

2019

WORKSHOPS

Development/definition of tools and common vocabulary and pooling of resources.

Elaboration of Self Assessment Reports and Action Plan for –Development – Strategy – Implementation of NQF.

Implication of AU work and agenda relating to Certification and Mobility of Competence.

Survey the NQF in the sub-region and understand the variability.

Understand the stages in NQF development process.

Understand whether the NQF in each country is all embracing. (How comprehensive?)

Understand how many levels are in each NQF.

Understand how the regulatory bodies for NQF governance operate.

Understand what Quality Assurance mechanisms are to be embedded in the NQF process.

Understand whether qualifications are registered.

Allocation of credits in NQF levels and process.

Support each country in the development of national action plans for setting up a functional CNC.



- ❖ Amidst the diversity in the stages of the NQF development process, work plan templates provided to each country.
- ❖ Plan to execute doable activities.

NQF – SIERRA LEONE

Government flagship programme on Human Capital Development and allocation of 20% budget to education.



The Creation of the new Ministry of Technical and Higher Education.



One of the main activities of the new Ministry is the development of an NQF, initially for TVET sub-sector

- Request to VET Tool box for Technical Assistance/Consultant to have arrived in March for NQF in respective of TVET only (Committee set up)
- Restructure NCTVA to respond to new realities.
- A Committee set-up, hosted by NCTVA.
- TEC was independently pursuing the development of NQF for Higher Education.
- The DFID Strategic Partnership for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) to revise selected curricular in 7 Higher Education systems towards an outcome based education, establish Quality Assurance practice for all. It is also in the process of developing NQF for Higher Education.



NQF – SIERRA LEONE CONT'D

Agreed to merge the 3 initiatives above to have a comprehensive NQF

Pull resources together

Support from:

Skills Development Fund (SDF) World Bank.

Vet Tool box

SPHEIR Project

Commitment by the MTHE to support the process. This includes

Funding and institutional reform



New Working Committee is being formed to move the process of the development of a comprehensive NQF.

Now you can understand my questions during the second webinar:

- 1. Are there short cuts to the development of NQF?**
- 2. Where can we get technical support and how ?**

COVID-19

- All Institutions were closed down
- Inter-district lockdown except for essential goods
- Curfews for few days
- For schools and other institutions **some** radio, television and online teaching was done.
- **New pedagogy approaches were experimented by lecturers using Zoom, Microsoft Team, Google Classroom and Google Meet, etc. with Whatsapp used as one of the communications tool with students.**
- The academic year was not lost
 - For schools the three public examinations were conducted and 2020/21 academic year has started
 - For colleges the 2019/20 academic year is being concluded and 2020/21 academic year will start January
 - Airport opened ,curfew lifted **on the 27th October**, etc
 - We continue with **the COVID-19 Health** protocols etc.

THANK YOU



Ing. M.A. JALLOH