



The Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit has recently conducted a midterm evaluation of the Sierra Leone Threshold Program (THP) as a fulfilment of the requirement in the THP Grant agreement that was signed by the United States of America, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Government of Sierra Leone in November 2015. The midterm evaluation process assessed the performance and progress of the three projects that are currently being implemented under the THP which include: the Electricity Reform Project, Water Sector Reform Project and the Regulatory Strengthening Project following the completion of the second year of implementation after the program entered into force in February 2016.

A workshop was organized on Thursday 16 August 2018 to present the findings of the mid-term evaluation to stakeholders at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Freetown. The workshop attracted the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office, The Director of Threshold Program at MCC of the United States of America, representatives from implementing entities, development agencies, civil society and the media.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of MCCU, Madam Ndeye Fatu Koroma, the midterm evaluation exercise provided an opportunity for MCCU and the stakeholders involved in the THP implementation to understand whether the design and implementation of the Program is on track, to measure progress to-date in achieving objectives, outputs and expected impacts; and to identify lessons learned and make recommendations to the Government of Sierra Leone, MCCU, Implementing Entities and MCC on the design, management and implementation strategies for the remainder of the Program in order to maximize the impact of the Program both during the Threshold and post-Threshold.

Under the review period, MCCU provided management trainings and technical assistance to Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC), Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA), Electricity Generation and Transmission Company (EGTC) and the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC) through several consultancy services with the aim of enhancing their capacities to deliver quality water and electricity services to the public.

Some key findings from the midterm review indicate that respondents in each of the implementing entities believed that the trainings they received were either "Good" or "Very Good," with EWRC having the highest proportion of respondents (67%) indicating that the trainings they received was "Very good." With regards technical assistance provided to the

entities, all respondents from EGTC indicated that the technical assistance they have received was either “Good” or “Very good.” Respondents at EDSA had mixed views, with 50% reporting that the technical assistance they received was “Very good” and 50% reporting it was “Fair. 64% of respondents at EGTC stated that there has been some improvement in their skills and ability to do their job, while 67% of respondents from EWRC shared the same perception.

In his address, the Director of Threshold Program at MCC, James Gerald said the midterm evaluation is a significant step in the overall monitoring and evaluation of the Threshold Program which will continue during and after implementation of the program. He stated that with more than two years of implementation behind us, continued coordination among sector stakeholders will be key to advancing a shared objectives to improve electricity and water service delivery. He further elucidated that the Threshold Program is an opportunity for the Government of Sierra Leone and the MCC of the United States of America to work together on policy and institutional challenges that are critical to growth but more importantly for Sierra Leone to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to good governance, the rule of law and the fight against corruption. Mr. Gerald hoped that the Threshold program will create the foundation for additional investment by MCC and other public private development partners to take forward and put Sierra Leone on a path to sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

The Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President, Madam Frances Alghali formally launched the Mid-Term Evaluation report. In her keynote address, she disclosed that the objectives of the Sierra Leone Threshold Program is in line with the New Direction’s agenda and the Government of Sierra Leone under the leadership of His Excellency, President Julius Maada Bio will ensure that the program is implemented successfully in order to realize the priorities for the water and electricity sectors under the New Direction.

Madam Alghali also disclosed that the Government is taking measured steps to improve performance on the scorecard in a bid to secure the MCC Compact Grant. These steps will include assigning the responsibility of coordinating the providing data required for indicators in the scorecard to Deputy Ministers in addition to the implementation of a sectoral approach that will allow for broad based accountability across a multitude of stakeholders.