

Sierra Leone Closeout \$44.4 Million Threshold Program



President Bio and VP Juldeh Jalloh takes photo with the MCCU team and joined by the MCC Threshold Director, Matthew Langhenry (L) and the new US Ambassador (R)

Sierra Leone has successfully wrapped-up the implementation of the \$44.4 Million Threshold Program which was supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States of America. The goal of the program was to assist Sierra Leone become eligible for a Millennium Challenge Compact by supporting the implementation of critical institutional and policy reforms that address binding constraints to economic growth in Sierra Leone.

On 30th March 2021, the President of Sierra Leone, H.E Julius Maada Bio presided over the closure of the Threshold Program that included implementing entities and other key partners.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit (MCCU), Ndeye Koroma said the successful completion of the Threshold Program was as a result of a dedicated and hardworking team that was tasked with pursuing aggressive reforms in the water and electricity sectors. The Chief Executive said the program influenced policies, built capacities and shifted entrenched business cultures to ensure that the people of Sierra Leone have access to basic water and electricity services that are integral to human

capital development and the economic transformation that Sierra Leone is yearning to achieve.



CEO, MCCU, Ndeye Fatu Koroma making a statement at the Closure Event

The new United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone, David Reimer who was performing his first official function since his arrival in Sierra Leone, assured the President that the United States will remain a firm and steadfast friend of Sierra Leone and are deeply committed to Sierra Leone's success as a democratic nation and to the wellbeing of its people. He congratulated the Government of Sierra Leone and the MCCU team for a successful completion of the Threshold Program.

“What you have done not only benefits the people of Sierra Leone today, but has also built a firm foundation as you develop a MCC Compact Program for further economic growth and progress” The Ambassador stated.



The new United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone, David Reimer making a statement at the Closure event

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of MCC, Mamoud Bah in his virtual video message congratulated the people of Sierra Leone for the successful completion of the Threshold Program. He underscored that the \$44.4 Million grant from MCC was built on a foundation of policy reform, sector coordination and operational management in both the electricity and the water sectors. He conveyed his excitement about the selection of Sierra Leone by the MCC Board of Directors to develop a compact and hoped for a wonderful partnership between Sierra Leone and the MCC in the years to come.

In his keynote Address, His Excellency, President Julius Maada Bio, thanked the Millennium Challenge Corporation for their persistent support throughout the Threshold Program Implementation.



H.E President Julius Maada Bio delivering the Keynote address

The President said he was proud that the Threshold Program has laid the building blocks and established a strong foundation for the electricity and water sectors in Sierra Leone. It has created an enabling environment for future investment in these sectors by supporting the robust regulatory architecture as well as building skills and capacities to sustain those architecture”

He further stated that:

“Investment strives where there are strong management and accountability structures and the strong data and accountability culture left by the impact of Threshold Program will support forward looking planning and encourages predictability and transparency in the two sectors”

President Bio emphasized his Government’s commitment to the compact development process and assured that he will provide all necessary support to ensure that the process is completed in record time.



