

## **“The Threshold Program Represents a Brighter Future for the Partnership Between Sierra Leone and MCC”- CEO, MCC, Sean Cairncross**



The Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Sean Cairncross while giving his remarks at the official launch of the Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC) District Metering Area (DMA) Pipe Rehabilitation and Kiosks Demonstration in Aberdeen said that the Sierra Leone Threshold Program which is a grant from the government of the United States of America represents a brighter future for the partnership between

the two countries.

The CEO described the water kiosk as the result of a great collaboration between the United States' Millennium Challenge Corporation, or MCC, and the government of Sierra Leone and looks forward to a continued partnership as they aim to finalize construction and open the remaining water kiosks, improving clean water access throughout Freetown.

Mr. Cairncross said “Together, through this investment, we are changing the lives of Sierra Leoneans and by making clean water easier to access, we can put the time spent collecting water back into the community, allowing children to attend school or allowing parents to participate in the economy”

In his statement the Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh on behalf of the president and people of Sierra Leone thanked the United States Government and the MCC for not only providing the funds for the Threshold program, but for the collaborative partnership in the implementation of the program. He emphasized that the New Direction government of President Bio considers the provision of safe affordable water and sanitation services as a major pillar in the government's medium-term national development plan. The Vice President said as Sierra Leone joins the world to commemorate the global hand washing day, the launch of a functional pipe borne water project for the Aberdeen and Kingtom communities reaffirms government's commitment to ensure hand hygiene for all, which is essential in the fight against COVID 19 and other diseases.

He emphasized his government's commitment to the successful implementation of the Threshold Program which he described as a testament to the partnership with MCC and more importantly, it

will strengthen the long-standing relationship between Sierra Leone and the United States of America”

Councilor Abdul Karim Bangura of the Aberdeen community expressed appreciation to MCC for supporting the provision of water supply to the Aberdeen Community. He said this intervention will help to alleviate the suffering of his people and pave way for sustainable water supply to the community.

The DMA project aims to improve GVWC 's operations by reducing Non-Revenue Water (NRW) in the Aberdeen and Kingtom communities. This intervention is essential to laying the foundation for the financially viable provision of water services. If this pilot project is successful, it can be incrementally scaled to cover the rest of greater Freetown.

Funds for the DMA project is estimated at \$4.12 Million and it’s expected to benefit over 38,000 people in the Aberdeen and Kingtom communities.

The project is expected to achieve the following:

- Installation of 3.1-kilometer pipeline
- Installation of 1,246 customer meters to private homes
- Removal of 15.6-kilometer spaghetti pipes
- Safe disposal of 380 meters Asbestos pipes
- Installation of 71 Manifolds
- Construction of 11 water kiosks
- Establishment of a digital control room for remote monitoring of the system
- 42 Project Affected Persons fully compensated

