



## SIERRA LEONE: EVALUATION

After eleven years of civil war that finally ended in 2002, Sierra Leone is steadily moving from violent conflict to peace and democracy, evidenced by the ongoing withdrawal of the UN Peacekeeping Mission to Sierra Leone. In May 2004, the country held successful district and local council elections for the first time in over 20 years. The government is committed at the highest levels to decentralization, increasing government accountability, and reducing poverty.

In the course of the last decade, USAID/Sierra Leone has implemented activities which are designed to: further peace and security; consolidate reintegration; stimulate development; eliminate corruption; generate productive employment (particularly for youth and women); support decentralization; and promote the participation of local communities in democratic processes, including in decision-making about how Sierra Leone's diamond resources will be utilized.

Several issues are associated with the Sierra Leone diamond market. The ease of extraction has attracted a select group of sometimes unscrupulous traders who act as middlemen between the miners and the exporters. The markets created by these traders and the prices they offer from rough gems are such that the local miners are left with little of the true market value of the stone. In addition many are prone to smuggling the diamonds out of the country, thereby preventing local and national government bodies from collecting either the license fees or export tax revenues. USAID has been implementing activities to reform the mineral sector to ensure that diamond mining contributes to peace, security and development and that it generates revenues for national and local governments. The ultimate objective being that the proceeds from diamond resources benefit the diamond mining communities.

Beginning in 2001, USAID's diamond sector reform program has consisted of four principle projects, all of which have been implemented by Management Systems International.

Through a task order issued under the Instability, Crisis and Recovery Program IQC, AMEX carried out an evaluation, which analyzed the effectiveness of the USAID diamond sector interventions, focusing on those undertaken since 2004. The evaluation was specifically designed to gauge the extent to which USAID's Diamond Sector Programs had fulfilled the objectives stated in the original Cooperative Agreements and Project Descriptions and subsequent modifications. The evaluation explored the degree to which the Programs have been able to address issues pertaining to increases in legal exports of diamonds and the degree to which the benefits are returned to the communities. The evaluation analyzed the effectiveness and impact/outcomes of the Programs and presented lessons learned/best practices that have resulted from the Programs.



The evaluation was undertaken by a team of experts in the mining sector and democracy and governance fields. The evaluation team conducted extensive interviews both within Freetown and the diamondiferous districts of Kono and Kenema. These included government officials, donors and their implementing partners, private sector actors, traditional leaders, civil society representatives, miners, diggers and community members. Interviews were also conducted in Washington, DC and via telephone or email with programmatic actors abroad. The team also conducted an extensive review of existing documentation and site visits to artisanal mines, industrial kimberlite mines and small scale mining activities. It observed small stone training being conducted as well as the buying and selling of diamonds.

Upon completion of the evaluation the evaluation team prepared a report of their findings and recommendations and presented it to USAID/Sierra Leone. The report will be used by USAID /Sierra Leone to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of its Programs and to improve the designs of future diamond programs.

AMEX International, Inc.

1615 L St., NW \* Suite 340 \* Washington, DC 20036 \* Tel: 202-429-0222 \* Fax: 202-429-1867

[www.amexdc.com](http://www.amexdc.com)