



MBSSE AND PROMAN DEVELOP A CONCEPT PAPER TO DRAFT A PARTNER COORDINATION STRATEGY FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Key members of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) have collaborated with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE), the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) and PROMAN to work on a concept paper aimed at building a more effective coordination strategy with the ministry's development partners in the implementation of Free Quality Education in Sierra Leone. At a workshop held on the 28th of May 2019, PROMAN Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant Dr. Joachim Pfaffe guided representatives from the aforementioned institutions in structuring the Concept Paper. Speaking at the event, the Development Partners Coordination Desk Officer of the Programmes Coordination and Compliance Unit (PCCU) Emmanuel Daewood, observed that "Coordination for the ministry is highly necessary. Notwithstanding the fact that we have policy regulations and other critical documents that direct our affairs, there is yet no clear strategy that leads us as a ministry and our partners."



The formulation of a concept paper is expected to inform the development of a strategy document. Using an early draft of a concept paper titled *Concept Paper for Development of Government-led Donor Coordination Strategy with Ministries of Education in Sierra Leone* as a template, participants were required to offer recommendations for a redraft.

The Background and the Justification paragraphs of the template document were mostly subjected to terminological and grammatical adjustments as well as the readjustment and removal of certain portions in an effort to make it specifically relevant to improved partner coordination.

Participants identified an overall objective, that would make greater use of available resources by enhancing stronger policy dialogue and Development Partner coordination functions. This, participants believed, would ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness of programme implementation of activities across the sector.

Some of the key Specific Objectives identified for the Strategy will now include:

- MBSSE/MTHE taking ownership of Development Partners activities
- Improving bi-monthly Coordination meetings at Central and District level for MBSSE/MTHE and Development Partners
- Clearly mapping out Partner activities in the Education sector.
- Consistently monitoring activities in the field.
- Establishing both a smooth flow of information between ministries and partners, and maintaining an online database among others and lastly,
- Implementing the Annual Joint Education Sector Review

The two education ministries will now work with several targeted and critical institutions to improve coordination and strengthen actions aimed at ensuring Free Quality School Education.