

PART ONE (1)

Q1 Answers: *The following are a few of the country's mechanisms established in assessing the effectiveness of its legislation and institutional anti-corruption framework.*

- The establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with mandate to lead the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone. The ACC constantly engages Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Local Administrations, Non Governmental Organizations and the general citizenry to ensure effectiveness in the fight against corruption.
- The National Anti-corruption Strategy Secretariat [NACS] that develops establishment of the periodic approaches usually for a period of 1-5 years and monitors the implementation of same to ensure effectiveness in the fight against corruption.
- The establishment of the Audit service Sierra Leone (ASSL) with the mandate to audit (Examine the records) all public bodies which ensures regular and annual financial and performance check on the operations in the fight against corruption.

Q2 Answers: The Institutional setup for assessing the effectiveness of the anti-corruption framework Include:

- The ACC has a four-prong approach in ensuring the effectiveness of the Anti-corruption frame work. These approaches are Public Education, Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution. The Commission also has an Assets Declaration regime; public officers declare their assets to the Commission biennially.
- The National Anti-corruption secretariat develops a periodic national strategy in the fight against Corruption and Monitor the implementation of the strategy by MDAs, Local Councils and Sectors.
- Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL) examines records and operations of the MDAs including the ACC in order to ensure compliance with relevant standards, national laws and regulations and International best practices.

- **Yes:** there are mechanisms for the interagency cooperation between the ACC and ASSL to complement each other's efforts in ensuring the effectiveness of Anti - corruption framework.
- Also, yes; the ACC engages with academia, civil society organization and the private sector organizations through Public Education and Outreach Programs, Public Lectures by the Commissioner and other Senior members of the Commission and Systems and Processes Review and monitoring the implementation of ACC instructions. These engagements are done through consultative meetings, press briefings, radio and television programs, and the signing of MOUs with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Q3: Answers: Yes, the country uses indicators to assess the effectiveness of the anti-corruption framework. These indicators are consistent with the Mid-Term National Development plan obtained from the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Some of these Include:

- # of Anti-Corruption related Policies in MDAs for efficient service delivery;
- # of Integrity Management Committees (IMCs) established;
- # of functional Integrity Management Committees (IMCs);
- Amendment of Anti-corruption Act of 2008 to strengthen civil powers of the ACC;
- % change in funds recovered from corrupt public officers;
- Public Corruption Perception;
- Change in corruption prevention strategies in the fight against corruption;
- # of cases investigated by the Commission;
- % of corruption cases prosecuted.

Data source of these indicators: ACC Annual Reports 2021, 2022, Mid Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) - Voluntary National Report (VNR).

Q4: Answers: Summary of key findings from the effectiveness of several exercises conducted:

- The Corruption Prevention Department conducts Risk Assessments in MDAs, identify corruption risks (vulnerabilities), proffer recommendations and monitor the implementation of those recommendations. This has helped in improving the

systems and process of MDAs and has resulted in improved service delivery and corruption reduction.

- As part of corruption prevention mechanism, the Public Education and Outreach Department also sensitizes MDAs, local administration, university, colleges etc on the dangers of corruption. These engagements have resulted in increased public awareness and participation in the fight against corruption; this has the impact of reducing public officers' participation in corrupt practices.
- Public education and outreach mechanisms have also helped in establishing and strengthening partnership with both local and international bodies in ensuring the effectiveness in the fight against corruption.
- Moreover, over the years, there have been massive embezzlements of both donor and Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) funds in the implementation of national development priorities. With the intervention of the investigative mechanism of the ACC, huge recoveries (Monies and Properties) have been made. A total of NLe 52 million {equivalent to two million, two hundred and sixty thousand United States Dollars} has been recovered between 2018 to April 30th, 2024. These out of court (Recoveries) settlements have acted as deterrent for public officers involving in corrupt practices.
- The Establishment of a special Anti-corruption court to preside over all Corruption cases. This has increased the prosecution rate of anti- corruption cases.
- The online asset declaration regime and follow up sanctions has increased the declaration rate to mitigate the risk of unexplained wealth by public officers. In the last asset declaration period, there was over 95% compliance.

Q5: Answers: The Institution uses the results of the assessments in ways including the following:

- From the Preventions, Investigations, Prosecution and Assets Declarations the ACC has contributed greatly in informing policy formulation organically and in MDAs in ensuring effectiveness in the fight against corruption. For instance, from the prevention perspective it was realized that MDAs were not fully complying with systems review recommendations needed to reduce corruption and improve service delivery. On that note and with support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), the Commission Contracted a Consultant and developed a Compliance Management and Sanctions Enforcement Policy for Systems and Policy Review Recommendations. This resulted in increased compliance with ACC instructions by MDAs.
- Before 2019, there had been a drastic delay in the trial of anti-corruption cases. This debilitating momentum had emboldened public officials to continue to indulge in corrupt practices. To ensure a turnaround of this odd situation, the ACC developed concept note and lobbied the judiciary thus, establishing a special anti-corruption court with assigned judges that now Fastrack the trail of anti-corruption cases.
- Moreover, the Commission's diverse interventions have helped in the formulation/development of organic policies in various aspects. Such as, The Assets Declaration Policy, Guidelines on Investigation and Prosecutions.
- The Ethics and Policy Unit of the Prevention Arm of the ACC has over the years continuously engaged MDAs and local administration in assessing the effectiveness of policies. Outcomes of the assessments had acclaimed that most of those were not effectively implemented, while some reached the state of being obsolete. That had the maximum tendency to grossly undermine the operations of MDAs and local administrations. On that note, the intervention of ACC in that regard, has supported the formulation of policies by reviewing and mainstreaming existing policies with a view to ensuring effectiveness in the fight against corruption.

- **Yes**; Sierra Leone amended its Anti-Corruption Act in 2019. The said amendment strengthens the fight against corruption, inter alia, by introducing the none-conviction based asset recovery, criminalizing examinations malpractice, increasing corruption sanctions and penalties, thereby making corruption a low profit and risk venture in Sierra Leone.

Q6. Answers: the challenges include the following:

Yes, challenges are encountered by the ACC in assessing the effectiveness of its Anti-Corruption frameworks but ongoing steps are also taken to ameliorate the impact of these changes. Some of these challenges include but not limited to;

- The ACC encounters challenges in enforcing the recommendations of the country's Auditor General's report. The Auditor General is a partner in the fight against corruption in that, the Auditor General's report produced annually on the country's accountability is addressed to the Parliament of Sierra Leone; the legislative arm. As such, the ACC has signed MOU's with ASSL and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in Parliament and it has been continuously engaging with relevant stakeholders to resolve this challenge.
- The ACC is also constrained with budgetary and logistic support. This adversely impacts the country's ability to adequately assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption framework. To work around this challenge, the Commission prioritizes and aligns its activities based on value, risks and dependences with the available resources. Additionally, the ACC effectively collaborates with relevant stakeholders among which are the World Bank and Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA) in complementing the commission's efforts in the fight against corruption.

Q7. The country has and has shared many good practices in respect of the measurement of the effectiveness of anti-corruption frame-works which have hugely benefited other countries.

Below are six unique approaches the ACC has maintained and frequently shares with other countries in ensuring the effectiveness of their anti-corruption frame works:

- Firstly, the ACC has a corruption risk assessment mechanism that identifies corruption vulnerabilities in MDAs, proffered recommendations to prevent them or mitigate their likelihood or impact.
- Secondly, the country has introduced an electronic asset declaration regime. This mandates public officers to declare their assets thus, mitigating the risk of unexplained wealth.
- Thirdly, the Commission maintains a Report Center System that receives and addresses corruption related complaints directly from the public; through in-person, mobile and email.
- Fourthly, the ACC has been effectively collaborating with other national transparency and accountability institutions including, but not limited to, ASSL, CSO's, Sierra Leone Police (SLP), the House of Parliament, to support the fight against corruption.
- Fifthly, the ACC is also using a 'non-conviction' based asset recovery approach [out of court settlement]. This approach compels corrupt public officials to immediately pay back or return monies / properties misappropriated with a minimum of 10% interest. Culprits are also banned from occupying public office for a period of not less than years.
- In addition, the establishment of the special anti-corruption court with special judges assigned has resulted in the expedition of the prosecution of corruption related cases.

Q8: Answer

- **Yes:** the operations of the ACC is also being guided by many international efforts and approaches aimed at improving the effectiveness of anti- corruption frameworks. For instance, the country is being guided by the provisions of United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption (UNCAC) and by institutions including Transparency International (TI), Association of Anti-Corruption Authority (AACAA), Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA), Africa Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Common Wealth Africa (AACACA) and African Countries Against Corruption (ACAC).

Q9 Answer:

The ACC has a website: www.anticorruption.gov.sl which can direct you to sources of our reports.

PART TWO (2)

Q1a. Answers:

- YES, the country has independent mechanism in place to measure corruption. For instance, the country usually conducts corruption perception surveys, TI Afrobarometer to quantify and measure corruption. Internally, the ACC categorises corruption risks into **high, medium and low** through the corruption risk assessment intervention.
- To assess the trend of corruption within MDA's and local government institutions, the ACC measures MDAs compliance level with anti-corruption instructions through commission's Compliance Barometer. These measurement mechanisms are conducted annually.

Q2b Answers

- According to TI from 2018 to 2023, Sierra Leone has moved 22 places upward from 130 to 108. The country is ahead of 72 countries in the world and 31 in Africa. According to a Corruption Perceptions Survey conducted by Center for

Accountability and the Rule of Law (CARL) a civil society organization, 90% of the people have confidence in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone.

- The Corruption Risks Exposure Assessments in MDAs conducted by the ACC shows that corruption has reduced from high in 2018 to medium in 2023.
- Compliance trends of MDA's with anti-corruption measures show progress from No Compliance in 2018 to full compliance in 2023.

Q3: Answers

The institutions that are involved in the measurement efforts are as follows;

- ✦ Transparency international – afroborometer
- ✦ CSOs conduct corruption perception surveys locally.
- ✦ Anti-Corruption Commission conducts risks assessment in MDAs and guage their compliance with ACC instructions.
- ✦ Yes, however the Commission, except for its measurement of compliance in MDA's, is not involved with other measurement mechanisms.

Q4: Answers:

YES, the ACC engages with academia, civil society and private sector in measuring corruption. We reference the answer question 3 in Part One of this Questionnaire; it is obvious that the ACC is engaging with different stakeholders in measuring corruption.

Q5: Answers:

Logistic challenges, hence, prioritizes and collaborates with different stakeholders in measuring corruption. We reference the answer to question 6 in Part One of this Questionnaire.

Q6: Answer

We reference answer to question 3 in Part One.

PART TWO (2) B

Q1a.

Q1b. www.anticorruption.gov.sl.

Q2.

PART 2C

Q1. We ensure the validity and integrity on data collected on corruption through data quality assessment, which involves reviews and investigations of data sources.

Q2.

Q3. Management Information System (MIS)

Q4: Answers:

To inform the commission, data on the root causes of corruption are collected through surveys, focus groups, reviews and the same are analyzed and interpreted to inform areas of focus for the formulation of policies. Please refer to the submission in question 5 of Part 1 of this Questionnaire. These policies now complement the fight against corruption.

Q5 Answers

Yes, the country has participated in international efforts and collaborated with international entities with the focus of improving the measurement of corruption. For instance, Transparency International (TI) and Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Common Wealth Africa (AACACA).

Public reporting and access to information	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Protection of reporting persons	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please insert any information you would like to add, such as descriptions of indicators or links to sources or reports.

2. Which methods and data sources does your country use to measure corruption?

- Population surveys
- Business surveys
- Public official surveys
- Administrative records
- Procurement data
- Banking data
- Criminal justice records
- Other:

C. Data collection and use

1. How does your country ensure the validity and integrity of the data collected on corruption?

2. Are policies or mechanisms in place to

- Discuss and agree on data objectives, priorities and scope between relevant stakeholders
- Collect data to measure corruption systematically
- Collect data disaggregated by
 - sex
 - age
- Validate the accuracy and impartiality of the data collected to measure corruption
- Facilitate data sharing across institutions
- Integrate data from different sources
- Ensure easy access to data
- Release information on the measurement of corruption on regular basis (monthly, yearly)

3. Which technological tools or systems are employed by your country in the collection and analysis of relevant data?

4. How does your country utilize the data on corruption to inform policy-making and anti-corruption strategies?