



International
Growth Centre



The IGC Sierra Leone programme started in 2010 and focuses on the issues of trade, governance, health and agriculture. Current projects are addressing the government's requests to help evaluate the national health insurance scheme, monetary policy, managing natural resources, urban planning and agricultural production.

Herbert M'cLeod

Country Director, IGC Sierra Leone



The International Growth Centre's (IGC) underlying rationale of bringing the results of empirical research to bear on the formulation and refinement of development policy is opportune, as Sierra Leone returns to normalcy after the failure of its past development experience that led to a ten-year conflict. Since then the country has revisited many of its policies and institutions with a view to charting a path to an economy that is structurally transformed to meet the human development needs of its people.

Operating closely with the office of the President, the IGC organised a Technical Meeting that provided the basis for a National Conference on Development and Transformation in 2012. The Conference adopted a common vision for the country that would take it to a middle-income status in 2035. The current development plan draws heavily on the outcome of the Conference.

As part of the Government's measures to deal with the Ebola epidemic, the IGC is collaborating with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in the preparation of the Government's position on the economic impact of the epidemic by generating and analysing data from monitoring systems set up for assessing the impact on availability and access to food.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

In Phase I, the IGC Sierra Leone Country Programme was one of the smaller IGC country programs. Following intensive consultation in 2011, the country program decided to cover three broad strategies: (a) conduct literature reviews in a subject area; (b) cater to policy research requests from government; (c) workshops – to disseminate the literature and recommendations from research papers, exchange views on potential lessons, and discuss of the implications for future policy making in Sierra Leone.

In 2014, the programme moved to its current location at the Centre of Policy Studies at the University of

Sierra Leone. Through this partnership, the IGC team has responded to research demands by engaging international experts and researchers to produce a series of cutting edge policy research projects both in terms of rigorous evaluation projects and rapid response notes encompassing all the thematic area of focus in Sierra Leone i.e. state capabilities, agriculture and governance. Going forward, the Sierra Leone programme aims to forge deep partnership with the Sierra Leone Agriculture Research Institute (SLARI), Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Freetown City Council, and the Central Bank to address the many pressing challenges and informing policymakers with best tools.



IGC Sierra Leone is currently engaged in a number of projects with leading academics from around the world.



Evaluation Health insurance and provider accountability in Sierra Leone

Rachel Glennerster (*MIT*), Pankaj Verma (*LSE*) and Anne Karing (*UC Berkeley*)

This project is a full-fledged randomised control trial project to evaluate the proposed national health insurance scheme. IGC's engagement started off with a request from the government in helping them understand the contours of health service delivery in Sierra Leone. The main question was to understand the feasibility of an insurance scheme drawing largely on the success of the free healthcare initiative. IGC took the lead in devising the evaluation project with active guidance of the country Lead Academic. The outcome of such an evaluation will feed directly into governments planning to expand the scheme to the whole country. Being the first rigorous evaluation of a health insurance scheme in an African context, results from Sierra Leone will serve as a public good for the African countries willing to implement insurance schemes. Recent IGC funding will facilitate a study group of MoHS officials to learn from

best practices in Rwanda. This will go an extra mile in helping policymakers in Sierra Leone learn from other country experiences that will assist them in not only designing the scheme but also to ensure diligence implementation.



Decentralisation

Rachel Glennerster (*MIT*) and Katherine Casey (*Stanford*)

An ongoing project by Katherine Casey (Stanford GSB), Rachel Glennerster (J-PAL), Gianmarco Leon (UPF) and Ambrose James aims to study when and how decentralised decision-making is preferential to centralised decision-making for the allocation of governmental resources. The intervention being explored is to evaluate how a marginal dollar given to local educational councils affects educational standards compared to the marginal dollar given to the Ministry of Education. The objective, therefore, is to assess how outcomes differ, how different types of local decision-makers use information when allocating resources, and to evaluate the managerial skills of those who achieve better outcomes.

The IGC operates 15 programmes in 14 partner countries throughout Africa and South Asia. Country offices allow the IGC to be distinctive among international research initiatives in sustaining long-term policy engagement, and helping to ensure our work can be demand-led; they facilitate our work with partners, and deepen sensitivity to the political economy of policymaking.



01 Bangladesh, 02 Ethiopia, 03 Ghana, 04 India (Bihar), 05 India (Central), 06 Liberia, 07 Mozambique, 08 Myanmar, 09 Pakistan, 10 Rwanda, 11 Sierra Leone, 12 South Sudan, 13 Tanzania, 14 Uganda, 15 Zambia

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The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

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