



# Data and Results Matter

## *The Official Newsletter of the National Monitoring & Evaluation Agency (NaMEA)*

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[WWW.namea.gov.sl](http://WWW.namea.gov.sl)

*Ensuring Value for Money, Transparency and Accountability for Development Results and Better Service Delivery*



# Welcome from the Director General's Desk

Dear Reader,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the first edition of Data and Results Matter! At



the National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency (NaMEA), we believe that what gets measured gets better and what gets better impacts lives. NaMEA is here to turn data into action and results into policy and management decision making for improved service delivery.

Our journey started with a simple question by H.E. President Rtd Brig Julius Maada Bio: How can we better track project impact and make data-informed decisions? That question led to the birth of NaMEA, your partner in result-based monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

At NaMEA, we will improve service delivery and measure project impact, one indicator at a time. We will continue to engage and work with Development Partners, Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Local Councils and Civil Society, to deliver as one.

We are therefore excited to share our data and results, intensify development interventions and advance Sierra Leone together.

Warmly,

Dr James Edwin

Director General



# ABOUT US

## WHO WE ARE

NaMEA is a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Agency dedicated to tracking and recording progress of implementation of all government and donor funded projects, programs and policies, as well as the National Development Plan (NDP), using modern and appropriate technology. We support ministries, departments and agencies as well as local councils in designing effective M&E systems, conducting independent evaluations, and building organizational capacity in data architecture and use.

We are heavily data driven in ensuring value for money, transparency and accountability for development results and better service delivery.

## What YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

Our quarterly newsletter, one summary report every six months and one detailed report each year will bring you:

- ✚ M&E best practices in project management.
- ✚ Project spotlights and success stories, but challenges in service delivery too.
- ✚ Human Impact stories from the field.
- ✚ Big data for additivity and synergy across projects, programs and policies.

## OUR CORE SERVICES

- Promoting efficiency and effectiveness in project implementation through improved accountability.
- Coordinating and creating synergies across project and policy outcomes and impacts.
- Expenditure tracking against targeted results- providing early warning signs of project mismanagement and/or delays in project implementation.
- Improving service delivery with a focus on performance and impactful results.
- Increasing knowledge and expertise in M&E as well.
- Improving M&E capacity of ministries, departments and agencies (MDA) and local councils (LC), knowledge sharing, and institutional memory.
- Providing a One-Stop-Shop for public sector policies, programs, and projects.

# Our Journey

**2018-2020**

- \*In the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

- \*Understanding the development landscape in line with M&E.

**2021-2023**

- \*In the Office of the President.

- \*Providing data, reports and advice.

**2024-**

- \* Chief Minister Dr David Sengeh presents the NaMEA Bill in parliament.

- \* Parliament pass it into the NaMEA Act 2024.

- \*H. E. Julius Maada Bio signs the NaMEA Act 2024 and appoints a Board.

## EDITION SPOTLIGHT: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

### 1. Paramount Chiefs as Champions of M&E

The National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency (NaMEA) has partnered with



Paramount Chiefs (PCs) through a nationwide engagement on their supportive role in monitoring and evaluation of development interventions in their respective chiefdoms. The overall objective of the engagement is to ensure that PCs support NaMEA in participatory monitoring of public sector projects implemented at the community level. **Download full report at [www.namea.gov.sl](http://www.namea.gov.sl)**

#### Here is how this is playing out

- ☞ Established strategic partnership (SP) with the Executive of the National Council of PCs to foster our joint development objective.

- ☞ As powerful local authorities, PCs will provide oversight functions in tracking community service delivery with an M&E lens to enhance national benefit.
- ☞ Annual mapping of community development projects for possible intervention overlaps by government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and development partners.
- ☞ Establishing an enabling environment for the long-term viability of development initiatives.

### 2. NaMED as NaMEA: a successful journey

*How can an institution carry out its functions without laws and regulations guiding it? This question was asked of*



NaMED over the years. Yes, now there is a strong response: the National Monitoring and Evaluation Department (NaMED) was

transformed into an Agency by an Act of parliament in 2024.

The bill was tabled by the **Chief Minister, Dr. David Moinina Sengeh**, stressing that Sierra Leone has no specific legislation that governs the monitoring and evaluation of its policies, programs and projects. With a new agency guided by an Act, he noted, government will intensify development impact on citizens of the country.

The Chief Minister assured Members of Parliament that **NaMEA under the Presidency** gives it the authority to operate faster, gives it clout and cover required to break into networks of corruption and put MDAs on the alert. He guaranteed that NaMEA will still be subjected to government administration and accountable institutions. **Download the NaMEA Act 2024 at [www.namea.gov.sl](http://www.namea.gov.sl)**

While debating the bill, **Members of Parliament** noted that the bill is transformative and that an Agency will end “chop chop” meaning- eating/misusing project funds.

## So, what will change with the NaMEA Act 2024

NaMEA now has the power to:

- ➡ request information/ data and documents (including receipt and expenditure of finances) on policies, programs and projects from MDAs, local councils and donors.



- ➡ require MDAs to provide contract and procurement documents in such form and manner and within such time as may be specified in the correspondence.
- ➡ interview a person and require that person to provide such particulars relating to a government or donor funded policy, program or project.
- ➡ require a person or organisation to complete a digital or hard template contained in a correspondence with particulars relating to policies, programs or projects.

A person or organisation who conceals or falsifies records or provides false, misleading, incomplete or inaccurate information in response to a request made by NaMEA or denies or obstructs access of NaMEA to information, interferes with the work of NaMEA, therefore commits an offence and is liable on conviction ***to a fine or imprisonment or both.***



### 3. Sierra Leone Evaluation Association

NaMEA coordinated and led the establishment of the **Sierra Leone Evaluation Association**



**Association (SLEA)**. SLEA will foster collaboration with individuals and institutions engaged in evaluation and those supporting evidence-based evaluations that inform decision-making in Sierra Leone. SLEA is currently managed by a six-man interim executive committee, representing Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), to operationalize and manage the association.

SLEA's **goal** is to nurture and sustain a culture of evaluation across all sectors of Sierra Leone.

#### Specifically, SLEA will:

- ☞ Promote best practices, ethics, and standards in evaluation.
- ☞ Provide fora for discussion of ideas including publications, participation in seminars, workshops, and conferences on evaluation and provide a platform for learning and sharing.
- ☞ Enhance network with individuals and organizations that have evaluation initiatives at national and international levels.

- ☞ Enhance the capacity of members, individuals, and institutions on evaluation in the country.



#### 4. Validation of the Results Framework for the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP\_2024\_2030)

The Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2024-2030) was launched in January 2024. The MTNDP is informed by Government's **Big Five Game Changers and enablers** that outline the strategic priorities of Sierra Leone and will therefore guide the development trajectory of the country. During development of the plan, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency (NaMEA) worked extensively with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) to develop a Results Framework that will serve as the M&E tool for the plan.



Dr. Emmanuel Gaima, Secretary to the President, Madam Kadiatu Alieu, Deputy Minister of Finance I, Madam Kenyeh Barlay, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, and Dr. James Edwin, Director General of the National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency, validating the Results Framework of the MTNDP\_2024-2030. [MTNDP 2024-2030 Result Framework Validated, Set to Transform Project Monitoring and Implementation.](#)

Ministries, departments and agencies, and representatives of local council, civil society and the media were involved in developing and validating the results framework, incorporation and aligning the targets of the big five game changers and associated enablers provided in the MTNDP. Cross



section of stakeholders who committed to leveraging the results framework as a key tool for national development, ensuring effective project execution and positive outcomes for Sierra Leone.



## OUR Next Edition

Look out for our next edition. We will ask questions and provide answers to issues in the **education and health sectors**.

- ☞ How is government investing in our tertiary education system
- ☞ Are drugs, equipment and medical supplies reaching beneficiaries at the last mile?
- ☞ Is accuracy of school census data important for school subsidies, school feeding, and general education planning?



## Join the Conversation

We want to hear from you! What M&E challenges are you facing? Which topics would you like us to cover? Which impact stories do you want to tell?

***Let us hear from you!!***

☞ Hit and tell us Email: [info@named.gov.sl](mailto:info@named.gov.sl). Website: <https://www.named.gov.sl>

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*Thank you for being part of our journey. Here is to building evidence, learning from impact, and driving change!*



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