

GROUP 1

1. Roads & Bridges/Water & Sanitation
2. **Youth Employment**
3. **Housing**
4. **Electricity**
5. **Education**
6. **Agriculture**
7. **Health**

1. ROADS & BRIDGES/WATER SUPPLY

The following roads were identified:

- (i) Matotoka – Koidu Highway
- (ii) Koidu New Sembehun Township
- (iii) Trunk Roads (Rural roads connecting chiefdom headquarters)
- (iv) Feeder Roads

It was decided that the central Government should take care of Matotoka – Koidu Highway and the Koidu New Sembehun Township. It came out clearly that that the poor conditions of the trunk roads and feeder roads linking production communities and potential market centers need to be improved and therefore **the KONOS should help themselves to rehabilitate those roads.** It was stressed that the rehabilitation should include bad patches of the trunk roads which render them impassible, particularly in the rainy season, and deprive community resident in remote areas access to markets for farm products.

1.1 HOW CAN THE KONOS HELP TO CONSTRUCT/REHABILITATE THOSE ROADS?

1.1a SUGGESTIONS

- (i) Build the capacity of the District Council to have a work-yard with basic road construction equipment, like Caterpillar D6, Caterpillar Motor Grader, Dump trucks, And Front-end loader etc and Hand tools.
- (ii) Get Sierra Leone Road Authority (SLRA) or Reputable Engineering Firms to build the capacity of the District Council by teaching youths at Chiefdom level on labour-based feeder road construction/rehabilitation methods.
- (iii) Motivate Youths in chiefdoms to work on their roads by communal-labour
- (iv) Educate the community at chiefdom level the importance of building their own roads

1.2 FUNDING (HOW TO GET MONEY FOR THOSE ROADWORKS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE)

- (i) Ask all mining companies in the district to assist. They can give us their scrapped metals which could be sold and machinery bought
- (ii) Ask Kono groups/organizations overseas to help financially
- (iii) Ask all konos gainfully employed ,within Sierra leone, to contribute financially
- (iv) Ask Chiefdoms to contribute in terms of cash, food for work or labour.
- (v) Set up a very good transparent system of accountability which will make item 1.2 (i) to (iv) to work nicely

1.3 RANKING OF TRUNK ROADS FOR CRITICAL BAD SPOTS REHABILITATION

- (i) Koidu Town to Kaimienyandor
- (ii) Njegbwema Faiama to Saiama
- (iii) Kissi Town –to Kodaywakor
- (iv) Koidu to Gbenseh Kandoh
- (v) Tefeya to Kayiema to Wardu
- (vi) Koidu to Ngandorhun

In conclusion it was emphasized that the rehabilitation of trunk roads must be top priority for development of other areas like education, agriculture, housing, and health.

1.4 WATER SUPPLY

- (i) For the source of water the towns and villages of Kono depend on streams and rivers, followed by ordinary hand-dug wells
- (ii) Water is a vital input into the effective delivery of health services
- (iii) Water also backstops agricultural activities. Water for crop use is an essential resource for small-scale vegetable gardening.
- (iv) It is futile to promote health education in the absence of water because proper sanitation is impossible without it

In Kono District, the mountain terrain encourages the use of **Gravity water supply system** Gravity-water supply system has low operational and maintenance costs

By the topography of Kono District, Koidu Town, Yengema, Motema, Bumpeh and surrounding villages can have Gravity-water supply systems.

For Koidu Town, the gravity water supply can be taken from Gbenseh Kandoh, Lei or Soa chiefdoms – all within the radius of 20 miles or less.

For Yengema, Motema, and pumpeh, the gravity water supply can be taken from Nimi Hills Note Makeni Town has a gravity water supply system taken from the hill after Matotoka – a distance over 25 miles.

.5 WHAT MUST BE DONE

- (i) Both District and Town Councils, with the help of chiefdoms in mountainous areas, should identify water sources in those mountains.
- (ii) Councils should write gravity water supply projects and submit them to SALWACO for assistance
- (iii) Other external donors should be contacted and encourage to invest in gravity water supply system in Kono District’
- (iv) Find funds from NGOs, Overseas etc to supply the pipes.
- (v) Lobby with the Government of Sierra Leone to find investor/ like the Chinese to help built the water supply in Koidu New Sembehum Township

1. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Under this topic the problems were identified and recommendations given.

ITEM	PROBLEMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	Identification of youth ability	Assessment to define: illiterate, semi-literate, literate, unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled in order to determine appropriate intervention
2	High Illiteracy	Increases provision of accessible/affordable primary, secondary, and tertiary education places
3	Low Skill	Increase provision of technical, vocation centers
4	Low Agricultural productivity	Create Youth farms
5	Inadequate social provision	Provide more recreational facilities down to chiefdom level
6	Rural/Urban Migration	Increase education/skill training/social and employment opportunities at rural areas
7	General low level of awareness eg civic rights, Hiv/Aids	Increase sensitization at grassroots level through voluntary groups and print/electronic media level

8	Youth Marginalization, especially girls	Youth to be represented at all level of community decision making
9	High dropout rate from learning and training institutions especially the Girl child	Introduce positive discriminatory practices to Promote retention
10	Lack of Youth centers and youth networking facilities	Provide youth centers and places for youth networking even at chiefdom level
11	High Unemployment	Create viable channels for youth employment

1. HOUSING

The housing situation in Kono district is far from satisfactory. . Majority of households do not enjoy adequate services and facilities and more than three-fourth of the housing units in Kono District are structurally substandard. Therefore the quality and availability of housing is an indicator of the level of national development.. The type of housing which people inhabit impacts variously on their health and well-being.

.1 DISTRUCTION OF HOUSES AS A RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS

- (i) War
- (ii) Mining Activities
- (iii) Natural Disaster
- (iv) Abstract Poverty

3,2 SOLUTIONS

(A) WAR

- (i) Provide low-cost housing facilities by means of loan
- (ii) Support with building materials
- (iii) Local Councils support needed in the form of subsidies

(A) MINING

- (i) Stop all mining activities within the township
- (ii) Rehabilitate all mined-out areas for the construction of low cost houses and recreational facilities.

- (iii) If the terms of reference of a mining company is to build houses then they must be encouraged to build low-cost houses or affordable houses well planned

(C) NATURAL DISASTER

- (i) Put in place mechanism to control the erection of buildings such as Expect Supervision by housing division. For example no construction of dwelling houses without building permit

(D) POVERTY

- (i) Income generating activities to be supported by (a) Local Government and (b) Central Government
- (ii) Community must engaged in Self Help projects
- (iii) New areas to be properly planned before relocation

.1 FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Both District and Town Councils should create sustainable master plans for villages and towns within the district
- (ii) Both District and Town councils must support the manufacture of local building materials by training youths in different aspects of manufacturing and the use of these materials
- (iii) Promote public sensitization programmes against bush fire

1 **ELECTRICITY**

The electricity problem in Sierra Leone in general and Kono District in particularly continue to be beyond the financial capacity of both district and the Government of Sierra Leone. There was and is, therefore, an important role for foreign aid.

Electricity is the bases for development. Therefore following solutions were analyzed as follows:

- (i) Temporary measures should be thermal through foreign aids
- (ii) Long term measures should be the provision of hydro electric power

.1 **HOW CAN KONO TAP RESOURCES TO BRING BOTH THE THERMAL AND THE HYDRO POWER**

- (i) High level political connection to put Kono's case for electricity to Government
- (ii) Political Leaders in Kono to find investor to invest in power supply to Kono District
- (iii) Both District and Town councils should write projects on Mini hydro power – hydro power that can supply Kono 24 hours during the rainy season (six month)

.1 SENSITIZATION TO PAY ELECTRICTY BILLS

- (i) Educate up to village level the important of paying bills

.5 EDUCATION

Education is essential to human resources development and increased investment in education promotes economic growth by enhancing productivity and making labour employable. 5.1 SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

NPSE – 1st in Eastern Province 2008

WASSCE - Very very poor

5.2 EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS FACING KONO DISTRICT

- (i) In the schools there is no storage facilities for school materials
- (ii) Office space for heads of school are very inadequate
- (iii) No of school supervisors in the district very inadequate
- (iv) No girl child support for Junior Secondary Schools for three years
- (v) Devolve funds – not forthcoming
- (vi) Subsidy payment to schools is erratic
- (vii) School Laboratories are poorly equipped resulting to schools in Kono taking laboratory practical examination out of Kono District.
- (viii) Inadequate trained and qualified staffs
- (ix) Teenage pregnancy on the increase

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

In the immediate future, emphasis should be put on the development and strengthening of **Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Education, non-formal education and the Education of the disabled**

- (i) PRIMARY EDUCATION
 - (a) Rehabilitate dilapidated school structures

- (b) Encourage the local manufacture, distribution and use of local pedagogical materials
 - (c) Integrate into and support agriculture in the school curriculum
 - (d) Construct more schools in the needy areas
 - (e) Provide incentive for volunteers teachers – particularly those retired from Civil Servants
- (ii) SECONDARY EDUCATION
- (a) Support and strengthening the 6-3-3-4 system of education
 - (b) Improved the quality of education
 - (c) Provide libraries and Laboratories for all school
 - (d) Construct more schools in the needy areas like Kissi Town in the Lei Chiefdom, Manjama in the Soa Chiefdom, Wordu in Sandor Chiefdom
 - (e) Integrate into and support agriculture in the school curriculum
 - (f) Integrate sex education and drug abuse into the school curriculum
 - (g)
- (iii) TERTIARY EDUCATION
- (a) University needed in KONO
 - (b) Teachers Education Colleges to be established
- (iv) NON-FORMAL EDUCATION
- (i) Support functional adult literacy programmes
 - (ii) Integrate sex education and drug abuse into the school curriculum
 - (iii) Support the establishment of more youth training centres
 - (iv) Encourage traditional apprenticeships in the informal sector – bakery, tailoring, cookery, carpentry, masonry etc.
- (ii) EDUCATION FOR THE DISABLED
- (i) Encourage the integration of the disabled into normal school
 - (ii) Train more teachers for the exceptional children
 - (iii) Properly supply the institutions with its needed equipment
 - (iv) Provide skills development programmes for the beneficiaries
 - (v) Integrate sex education and drug abuse into the school curriculum for all disabled.
 - (vi) Encourage skill training and empowerment of all disabled

.1 AGRICULTURE

Despite its endowment with abundant fertile land, the agriculture production in Kono District is stifled by many factors some of which include traditional tools and method of farming, lack of credit, negative pricing policy, etc. There is therefore growing shortage of basic foodstuff and cash crops on which majority of the population of Kono District depends for income earnings. Besides the export-earning capacity from crops such as cocoa, coffee, etc has been greatly hampered, making the import-earning ability severely limited. The culminating effect of all these has been the growing poverty in the rural areas particularly among the farming population. The District, up to this moment, depend heavily, on imported food, especially rice, which is the staple food.. It came out clearly in the discussion that Kono District cannot develop in the absence of a better performing agricultural sector. In this regard, certain recommendations were made:

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Farming should be mechanized. Government should make available more tractors and combined harvesters.
- (i) Emphasize the development of agricultural infrastructure, including farm-market roads, grains banks, drying floors, rural markets, and food processing facilities in the efforts to assist farmers.
- (ii) Support and undertake relevant market studies in order to assist farmers in finding outlets for their produce. Note all the coffee and cocoa produced in the Chiefdoms that borders with Guinea sell their produce in Guinea because of the poor trunk road conditions to the market outlet at Koidu Town
- (iii) Training and strengthening of farmers associations is highly recommended. In that case recruit more staff for training. Do baseline survey at chiefdom levels.
- (iv) Appropriate technologies should be made available to farmers for faster and better production, irrigation systems, should be widely introduced so that farmers, especially rice producers, can have an all year round production instead of seasonal production.
- (v) Encourage the establishment of chiefdom farms

- (vi) Train proper mechanics for the maintenance of tractors and other farming equipment given to farmers groups
- (vii) Support livestock production and marketing intervention. Establish ranches for cattle so as to minimize the problems between the owners of cows that destroys farm crops and the farmers.
- (viii) Support the development of bolilands for intensive rice production. Provide boots for farm workers to minimize diseases like schitomiasis.
- (ix) Food processing and preservation should be supported to reduce spoilage
- (x) Support income-generating activities among women and other socio-economic groups
- (xi) Encourage all schools to have village school garden and wood lots. This would introduce students to income-generating activities and help them to improve their environment through re-vegetation.
- (xii) Work through an established rural radio system to disseminate agricultural information in efforts to educate the farmers.

.1 HEALTH

The health care delivery system in Kono District, especially a curative approach, is not quite satisfactory. As with facilities, the existing number of health personnel is grossly inadequate. This has been further compounded by a considerable loss of well experience and qualified staff, seeking fortune overseas. Others have confined themselves to the services of the lucrative and well-cared for private sector.

This year 2009 Health Service capacity for Kono District is as follows:

- **Three (3) Government Doctors**
- **Clinic in all 14 Chiefdoms (71 clinics in total)**
- **One (1) Referred hospital**

7.1 WEAKNESS /PROBLEMS

- (i) Only three (3) doctors. That is purely inadequate
 - (i) Inadequate staff
 - (ii) Inadequate drug supply
 - (iii) Inadequate equipment
 - (iv) Inadequate infrastructures
 - (v) Inadequate ambulances/vehicles

- (vi) Inadequate mobile clinic
- (vii) Not enough hospital beds – only 85 in the ward
- (viii) Non functioning mortuary

1 WAY FORWARD

- (i) Promote public education on the use of essential drugs and on drug abuse
- (ii) Bring more specialist doctors and qualified nurses
- (iii) Support the supply of essential drugs to the hospitals and health centres
- (iv) Provide a functioning mortuary at Koidu
- (v) Money allocated for hospital use should be used only for the hospital

RECOMMENDATIONS

A district in continuous poor health cannot effectively develop. Therefore the following recommendations must be applied if there should be any success of improvement in the health care delivery system:

- I. Encourage each community health centre to operate a regular family planning programme in conjunction with nutrition education.
 - II. Support the training of more MCH, Nurses Aides, dispensers, dieticians and health specialists involved with the delivery of health care services to women and children
 - III. Provide more cost-effective cost recovery centres in all health centres, with particular emphasis on the needy rural areas and also monitor the cost-effective system.
 - IV. All immunization programme should be expanded and encouraged to reach the poor areas of the district
 - V. Provide mobile health clinics in needy small towns and rural areas.
 - VI. Provide public education on drug abuse.
- Construct new health clinics in the poor and needy areas of the district.

Group 2

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Group 2

Oversight and Monitoring of Kono District

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
2. Decentralization Secretariat
3. District Oversight Committee
4. Civil Society
5. Ministry of Local Government

Recommendations

1. No external checks and balance in the monitoring of the entire system
2. To set up an independent monitoring team, which may be part of the Kono Strategic planning Team and reports directly to the Honourable Vice President
3. Source of own income from Local Councils
 - a) Licences
 - b) Market Dues
 - c) Property Rates
 - d) Local Tax Precepts
 - e) Fees and charges ie living of council properties
 - f) Mining benefits
 - g) Surface (Tenancy Lease, rents from mining companies)

Constraints and Challenges

1. No Clear cut policy in the flow of funds to chiefdoms and councils from central government and mining companies
2. Delay in the disbursement of funds from the central government to the local councils
3. Review of the mining policy

Recommendations

1. Councils representation in the mineral and advisory board of the Ministry of Mines
2. That both the city and district councils be represented in the board of directors of the mining companies
3. Mining companies improve their interactions with local councils
4. That local councils must be transparent and accountable to the local communities in which they operate
5. Stop all political interference in the operation of the local council

Change of Attitude for Development

1. Involvement of all stakeholders in all decision making process that affects them particularly in the award of contracts
2. Sensitization and teaching workshops to be organized for the local councils
3. Kono people must learn to appreciate one another rather than backbiting
4. Quality leadership and team building spirit is lacking in both councils

How do we minimize corruption?

1. Local councils should review the remunerations of their staff (councilors) to reduce corruption to be able to do this local councils should look at its revenue basis with a view to raising additional funds to meet additional expenditure
2. Out-reach workers collecting revenue for councils should be set target which they should meet daily
3. Community policing and partnership and must be extended at chiefdom and village levels.

Group 3

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15. Entua Yambasu
16. Augusta B. Saidu
17. Finda Mbayoh
18. J. P. Koroma
19. Tamba James
20. Pastor Tamba E Fomba

What an Irony?

As it has been said over and over what Kono has:

- Natural resources in abundance
- Mineral resources in abundance
- Human and capital resources in abundance

But we are getting nowhere. It is also a known fact that Kono is a major contributor to the mineral wealth of Sierra Leone. Kono diamonds have contributed to national development both as source of foreign exchange and reserve, but very little to the development of Kono land. Why?

Answer: Economics = management of economic resources. Economic resources have to be managed efficiently to generate economic growth and better living standards. Today's meeting to find a way to develop Kono is examined against the above backdrop. The third committee looks at mining to increase its contribution to the development of Kono. Given the time available, we looked at various aspects of mining and came up with the following recommendations:

Current Review of mining contracts 3ways

1. To beneficiation to local communities (custodians of the land). Communities should be included in all phases negotiation of agreements and actual implementation of the agreement.
2. Employment in mining companies. Unskilled labour 40% from the local communities, 30% from Kono district and 30% from Sierra Leone. Skilled

- Labour training of locals in various skills. First preference should be given to skilled labour available in the local communities. Senior management positions: Local communities should be fully reflected in senior management.
3. Exploration: There should be exploration licenses for only Kimberlite diamonds and not for alluvial mining.
 4. Land Reclamation aspects of mining agreements should be implemented. Land Reclamation fees already collected should be made available to local communities
 5. Exploration prospecting and mining: We do not know cut off point between prospecting exploration bull sampling and mining is difficult to differentiate. To beneficiation to local communities i.e Kono 13 years conflict. Rec: Local communities should be involved in all the phases referenced above.
 6. EITI law requires mining companies to declare their gross expenditure on their mining activities to determine what govt. receives at the end of the day. Local communities have no way to know what the mining companies are spending, have no access to figures let alone determine accuracy. Communities prefer simple shares in companies as opposed to shares of net, which could be negative.
 7. Diamond Dealer's Initiative- new ways to be found to empower local dealers by creating the enabling environment for dealers to access special stones especially conflict
 8. Mineral Advisory- We have advocated membership over the years but to no avail. Now we need to be i.e Kono Major Mining Community should be part of policy making body.
 9. Town mining should be stopped (Scholarships, infrastructure, DACDF formula? Formula for DACDF =vehicle for development)

Group 4

Issues affecting women

1. Health
2. Education
3. Agriculture
4. Governance

Health:

- Women and children's access to healthcare
- Education on health issues, family planning (HIV/AIDS, STDs)

Education:

- Education for the girl child
- Promotion of adult literacy and skills

Agriculture:

- Women's access to land
- Women's access to machinery and training to operate machines

Governance:

- Women's prevented from chieftaincy
- Sensitization on gender and children's laws
- Women's under representation in decision making at all levels
- Women's access to justice

Recommendations:

- That women be included in positions of decision making at all levels
- That mass sensitization be made to women to bring awareness to their rights, etc

Culture and Tourism

Tourism

Areas were identified in Kono district as tourist attraction sites so as to bring forth income to the district. Different places/areas were named in the different chiefdoms as tourist attraction sites, which need improvement.

1. Faow Town in Fiama: Waterfall
2. Kamara - - Ekuma beach
3. Sewafe ---- Binkongo falls
4. Kamadu-Yawondo in Gbense --- waterfall
5. Gbangdu in Gbense – waterfall and beach
6. Gbaneh – Tungbe da
7. Lei – Ting hills which comprises of wildlife and rich natural resources
8. Totor in Toli – Cave
9. Sumba in Sandor – Cave
10. Kawoh in Gbaneh – waterfall
11. Kordu in Gbaneh Kandor – beach

12. Miayo in Yorkor—Fiama- Tunama
13. Fanema in Sandor – cave
14. Gbikiyor (Gbaneh) – cave

Recommendations

- It is recommended that chieftom elders identify additional areas in their chiefdoms for tourist attractions and make suggestions on accessibility.
- The district council together with paramount chiefs should form a body to help in improving on tourist sites in the district.

Culture

These are things that identifies oneself with his tribe. Some of these are:

- Dance troupe (Cultural)
 - Traditional instruments
 - Traditional clothes
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Sculpture
 - Ornaments
 - Pots
 - Shebureh
 - Fishing nets
 - Baskets
-
- Kono language should be taught in schools
 - Cultural up bringing- respect elders, respect for law and order
 - Role of the disabled particularly the blind to be enhanced
 - Awareness to payment of bills, taxes

Recommendations;

- Recommended that we resuscitate and maintain all the cultural things identified in order to keep our Kono tradition and habits for the benefit of posterity.
- Destruction or reduction of “Pots” for reduction in drug abuse

Group 5

P.C. Alhaji Konobundor , Chief S.E.O. Gbekie, Hon. Kess Boyah

Peace building and conflict resolution among the people of kono district. For Kono to go forward, this subject has to be effectively addressed, since it is the most important issue for this retreat to be a success.

What is Conflict?

In Kono “Bembaiya”- disunity “baboamaya” – disrespect, “Noryawa” – meanness, etc.

What causes conflict in Kono?

Kosambaiya – ignorance

Tendorya – disrespect

Benfa – greed

Toomaya—envy, grudge

Too --- Jealousy – Wusukwe, Kaikwe

Yonfa – poverty

Tiaforwuja –injustice

Dimaya – apprehension

Mansakwe – Chieftaincy elections

Yanfaa – gossip

Bag governance, negative civil society factors, lack of transparency and accountability, political intolerance, lack of communication, Tribalism, encouragement of other ethnic groups to live and divide us up

Kainbuwe –mining

Quiboe—vengeance, victimization

Clash of culture and religion

How does this affect us as Konos?

- Disunity
- No development
- Our positions and wealth end up in the hands of other people
- Hatred among the people
- The extortion of Kono values- Konoleh kono for has died
- No sympathy among the people
- No respect for elders and authorities
- No common agenda to approach local/national issues
- Conflict between political parties and also within some political parties
- Interference of individuals and political parties in traditional affairs
- Lawlessness
- Fear instilled in the people and therefore cannot even defend their rights

Resolution

- We need to promote unity and respect among the people
- Improve communication between authorities and subjects

- Be your brother's keeper bring back the concept of 'Kono eh Kono taa'
- Let Kono interest transcend personal affairs
- We must work through the established structures that already exist in the district
- Acknowledge and respect each others roles in the community.
- Form a body to meet quarterly to monitor the peace building and resolution in kono
- We should avoid sycophancy
- We must involve women in decision making positions in the community

Peace- Kwedondoya
Health, unity, fairness

How do we bring back peace?

- We should realize that we are a minority tribe therefore we should be our brother's keeper.
- All elites should turn around and help another Kono man- not necessarily his brother/sister or political crony. Scholarships should be advocated for the less fortunate ones
- Establishment of a Kono peace building and conflict resolution committee
- To discourage political interference in important district matters
- A peace building calendar to bring people together for peace building activities
- Effective use of the community radio to talk about peace and Kono affairs
- District council and chiefdom councils should have bye-laws to bind us together
- Involve women and youths in all decision making concerning the district

Recommendations:

- Form a National forum to do Monitoring and Evaluation of the peace building and conflict resolution in the country and Kono
- Transparency and Accountability
- Every Kono man to come in December