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## Public Sector Champions Roundtable on Institutionalising Effective Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) in Sierra Leone

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## Public-Private Dialogue in Sierra Leone

Progress, Framework & Institutionalisation

10/07/2025

# Agenda

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## Section 1

PPD landscape

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## Section 2

Framework of PPD Institutionalisation and Toolkit

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## Section 3

Q&A

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# Section 1

## PPD Landscape

## Recent PPD progress in Sierra Leone

- Resurgence of PPD with renewed government and private sector commitment
- Notable reforms influenced by PPD (e.g. Medium-Term Revenue Strategy and public-private sector MoU and Customary Land Rights Act 2022)
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues: MoF and NRA (**MTRS**), MTI (**Intellectual Property Rights Law and Economic Growth**), NIB (**Business Registration**), MoCTI (**Start-Up Act**) and MoGCA (**BoSL Financial Inclusion and GEWE Regulations**)
- Regional PPDs: e.g. those linked to developing a Start-Up Act (MoCTI) and the One Stop Shop Center (NIB).

## Gaps, challenges and opportunities

### Gaps and Challenges

- Institutional discontinuity and dormant past platforms
- Fragmented engagement and under-representation
- Trust deficits and limited capacity.
- Funding gaps and political transitions affecting continuity
- Inadequate follow-up on agreed actionable issues.

### Opportunities

- Growing recognition of PPD's value within the public sector space
- Targeted and mobilised private sector advocacy in specific sectors
- Increasing efforts to strengthen Chamber/BMO (e.g. SLCCIA) and MDA capacity to improve the business environment
- Development partner support
- Alignment with national development goals.

## Section 2

### Framework of PPD Institutionalisation and Toolkit

# Framework of PPD institutionalisation and Toolkit

## Bridging business and government: a framework and public-private dialogue toolkit for Sierra Leone

### Framework and Toolkit purpose and audience

This guide is designed primarily for GoSL ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), along with business membership organisations (BMOs), private investors and development partners involved in economic policy. It provides a flexible framework – not a one-size-fits-all model – that stakeholders can adapt to their context. By using the toolkit, Sierra Leone’s PPD practitioners will avoid past pitfalls and apply proven strategies to facilitate more **inclusive, outcome-oriented dialogue**.

The framework and toolkit outlines the key principles, roles and processes needed for effective institutionalised PPDs. It emphasises coordination, facilitation, building stakeholder capacity and long-term sustainability. Its main goal is to make PPD a standard and valued part of Sierra Leone’s economic governance system.

# PPD Perspectives

**World Bank Group (Charter of Good Practice in Using PPD for Private Sector Development):**

*“PPD is a structured engagement between the public and private sectors, with the aim of improving the investment climate, economic policy, and governance.”*

**International Trade Centre (ITC):**

*“PPD is a mechanism to facilitate effective communication, build trust, and ensure that reforms and strategies reflect the needs of both government and business.”*

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA):**

*“PPD is a forum where public and private sector actors engage to share information, discuss challenges, and jointly agree on solutions that can contribute to inclusive economic development.”*

## What does public-private dialogue mean?

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):**

*“PPD is a process by which public and private stakeholders engage in dialogue with the objective of influencing and co-creating policies that support sustainable economic growth.”*

**International Finance Corporation (IFC):**

*“PPD provides a platform for government and business to work together to identify obstacles to investment and competitiveness and to design and implement policy reforms collaboratively.”*

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):**

*“PPD is both a tool and mechanism to promote inclusive economic reform.”*

# PPD Cycle

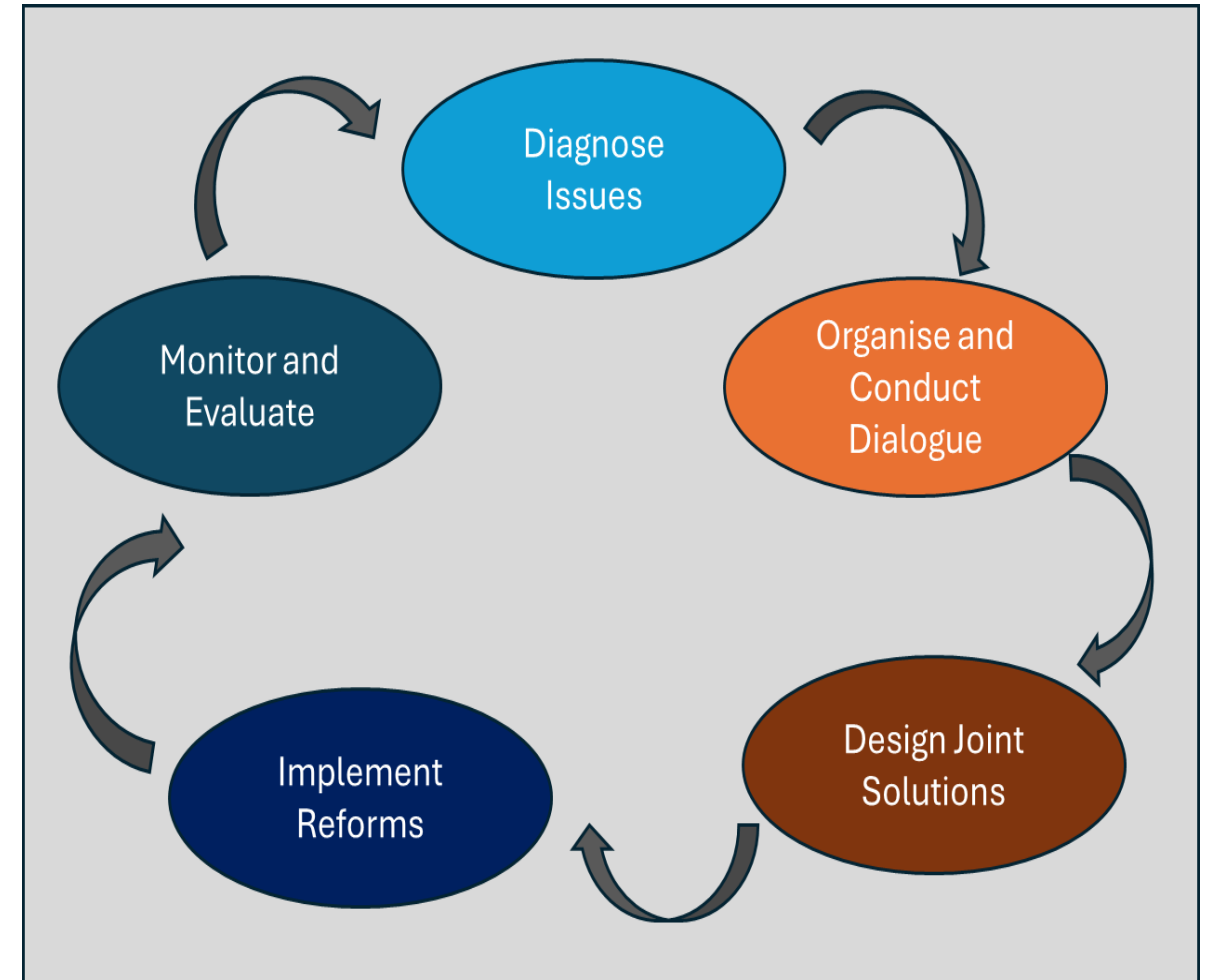
## Diagnostic: Stage 1

**Reactive approach:** A reactive approach addresses issues as they arise, typically in response to immediate crises, usually related to regulatory changes or market shocks. Quick fixes can be realised. The challenge though, is achieving long-term stability with the ongoing use of this method, as it often focuses on symptoms rather than tackling the underlying systemic issues.

*Situational Consultation:* Stakeholders are engaged only when specific obstacles emerge, such as infrastructure gaps or bureaucratic inefficiencies.

**Proactive approach:** A proactive approach anticipates challenges and encourages ongoing dialogue, even in the absence of immediate constraints.

*Research and political economy analysis:* Regular research identifies risks, opportunities, and emerging trends, enabling pre-emptive action rather than reactive responses. *Continuous Dialogue:* Setting up consistent communication channels for collective engagement between the government and private sector development stakeholders can uncover latent concerns and improve investor and business confidence.



# PPD Stakeholders

## Government: GoSL MDAs and officials

### Embedding Strategies:

- Integrate PPD into sector strategies and budgets, allocating resources (staff time, budget) to support the PPD structure as a sign of ownership
- Link to key performance indicators
- Build PPD capacity of MDAs
- Appoint PPD focal points.

## CSOs, Media and Academia

### Embedding Strategies:

- Serve on oversight committees
- Act as neutral observers and validators
- In an inclusive PPD, space can be provided for civil society or academia to contribute research and advocacy on cross-cutting issues (e.g. corruption, gender inclusion in business).

## Private Sector: BMOs, Chambers

### Embedding Strategies:

- Private sector should also organise itself inclusively, ensuring MSMEs, women/youth-led firms, and upcountry businesses have channels to input, not only big companies
- Serve as formal representatives in dialogue structures, they can also co-chair working groups or even the main platform to ensure joint ownership
- Elicit advocacy training.

## Private Sector: Individual Firms & Entrepreneurs

### Embedding Strategies:

- Encourage broad participation from SMEs and informal traders
- Use model firms as champions.

## Development Partners: (Donors/Projects)

### Embedding Strategies:

- Co-create with national actors
- Plan for sustainability and local ownership. Donors should focus on building local capacity and structures that can be sustained, for example, funding a secretariat only while gradually transitioning costs to local sources
- They may also offer comparative experience from other countries (bringing in experts or best-practice knowledge).

## MDAs and PPD: Key steps to improve the business climate and drive development

### **Institutionalise PPD within Policy-Making Processes**

- Leverage institutionalisation opportunity as a National PPD platform is being developed (EU Funded - BECS programme)
- Support efforts to embed PPD as a routine part of policy development, regulatory reform and decision-making cycles.

### **Ensure High-Level Commitment and Accountability**

- Demonstrate visible leadership support for PPD by participating in dialogue platforms and following through on agreed actions.
- Integrate PPD outcomes into performance management systems and accountability frameworks.

### **Promote Inclusivity and Representation**

- Proactively include diverse voices from across the private sector, including SMEs, women-led businesses, youth entrepreneurs, and informal sector actors.
- Avoid elite capture by ensuring broad-based and regional participation beyond Freetown actors.

### **Improve Communication and Transparency**

- Share information on policies, reforms, and implementation progress openly with private sector stakeholders.
- Regularly update dialogue participants on follow-up actions and feedback from senior government levels.

### **Build Capacity and Strengthen Coordination**

- Invest in internal capacity building to improve MDAs' ability to engage in technical dialogue, policy analysis and reform design.
- Promote stronger coordination across government institutions to present unified positions and streamline reform implementation.

# Q&A





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