



**Office of the President
Republic of Sierra Leone**

**Presidential Initiative on Climate Change,
Renewable Energy, and Food Security (PI-CREF)**

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028

For a Climate Resilient Economic Growth

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**Office of the President
Republic of Sierra Leone**

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Renewable, Energy and Food Security**

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President Bio's Big Five Game Changers

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio's Big Five Game Changers

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio's ambition and determination to deliver socio-economic development, accelerate inclusive, sustainable economic growth and build resilient economy are underpinned by the "Big Five Game Changers". These are summarized in Box 1 as follows: (i) Food Security and Investment in Agriculture; (ii) Human Capital Development; (iii) Youth Employment; (iv) Improved Public Service; and (v) Technology and Infrastructure. The Big Five Game Changers define the development priorities of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL).

In this regard, the GoSL has launched the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2024 – 2030: A Transformative Acceleration Agenda for Food Security, Human Capital Development and Job Creation.¹ The new plan is focused on the Government's Big Five Game Changers that constitute the country's overarching agenda for 2030 and give strategic direction to the plan.

Box 1: The Big Five Game Changers for an inclusive, accelerated Economic growth and resilience.

FEED SALONE: An Initiative to Boost Agricultural Productivity to Ensure Food Security and Inclusive Economic Growth. The objective is to attain food self-sufficiency, particularly for the staple – rice. Feed Salone will focus on boosting agricultural productivity by increasing investment, which will fuel inclusive economic growth, boost food production, reduce hunger and poverty, create jobs, boost export earnings and build resilience in the face of climate change.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT: Nurturing Skills for 21st Century Industry. This initiative envisions an inclusive economic growth that relies on skilled and educated human capital. In the next five years, the government will invest in developing the technical and vocational skills required to grow the economy focusing particularly on creating equal opportunity for women. It will invest in health systems to develop a healthy and capable workforce for a 21st century economy.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (YES!): A Presidential Initiative to create 500,000 jobs for the youth in five years. This initiative will harness the energy of Sierra Leone's youth population by creating 500,000 jobs in the next five years. These jobs will include skills and unskilled, long-term and seasonal jobs across all sectors. This will be done by providing incentives to the private sector to hire, train, and up skill especially young women and girls.

REVAMPING THE PUBLIC SERVICE ARCHITECTURE: Delivery, Efficiency and Professionalism. In the next five years, President Bio's government will continue its mission to fostering a professional and meritocratic public service that is fit for purpose and delivers on its mandate. Our goal is to attract, support and retain the best and the brightest to serve the people of Sierra Leone.

TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Pathways for Sustained Economic Growth (TIPEG). President Bio will accelerate its inclusive growth agenda by investing in infrastructure, technology and digitisation. This will be done by investing in energy generation and transmission, the construction of roads and bridges, expanding energy access across the country, and making it easier to link production centres and markets. We aim to digitise our financial sector to expand financial inclusion to increase economic participation.

¹ https://sldevelopmentencyclopaedia.org/5_mtndp/5_2/28.01.24.Abridged%20Version_MTNDP2024_2030.pdf

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AU	African Union
CAADP	Compressive Accelerated Agricultural Development Program
COP28	28th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC
ECOWAP	Economic Community of West Africa Agricultural Policy
FSN	Food Systems Network
FLLoCA	Financing Locally-Led Climate Action
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
NaMED	National Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MTNDP	Mid-Term National Development Plan
IAFP	Integrated Agro-food Parks
JET-P	Just-Energy Transition Plan
PI-CREF	Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SE4All	Sustainable Energy for All
SNF	Special Nutritious Food
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Preface by Chairman

(tbp)

Executive Summary

1. Background, Purpose, and Objectives: The Presidential Initiative (the initiative) on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security (PI-CREF) aligns with the Sierra Leone MTNDP 2024-2030. The MTNDP states that Government aims to transform the country to achieve a middle-income status by 2039. In this regard, the initiative addresses three interconnected priorities for the country - climate change, renewable energy, and food security, and focusing on ecosystem sustainability and macroeconomic stability.

2. Mandate, Roles, Responsibilities, and Scope: PI-CREF plays a pivotal role in coordinating efforts across Sierra Leone to address climate change, renewable energy, and food security. Its objectives include (i) policy development and coherence, (ii) task force establishment, (iii) mobilizing international partnerships and resources, (iv) influencing related agenda through advocacy, and (v) assessing potential risks and monitoring, evaluating and learning from processes and actions. The initiative spans all regions of Sierra Leone, with a focus on vulnerable areas. Key sectors to be addressed in strategic partnership with the responsible Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) include agriculture, water resources, energy, coastal management, and environment.

3. Framework of the Strategy: The PI-CREF Strategy (2024-2028) aligns with Sierra Leone's national strategies and global development goals. It focuses on collaboration, ambitious sustainable projects, inclusive approaches, private-sector participation, and capacity building.

4. Strategic Pillars and Key Intervention Areas: The strategy is built on three strategic pillars:

- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Focused on reducing climate-related risks, scaling-up nature-based solutions, and enhancing resilience.
- Renewable Energy and Energy Transition: Aiming to increase renewable energy sources and support energy transitions.
- Resilient Food Systems: Developing sustainable food production and efficient market systems.
- Green Agricultural Transformation: Promoting agri-food parks and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Coordination, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Communication: Ensuring effective implementation and stakeholder engagement.

5. Budget and Resource Mobilization: The strategy requires an estimated \$35 million over five years (i.e. 2024-2028). Funding sources include national budget allocations, international partnerships, philanthropic organizations, and private sector investments.

6. Institutional Arrangements for Delivery: PI-CREF embraces a whole-of-government approach to foster collaboration across various ministries and stakeholders for effective implementation. The delivery model emphasizes integration across vertical (from national to local) and horizontal (vulnerable communities and areas) dimensions to maximize potential for synergies and to avoid negative trade-offs. Key focuses include nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation, renewable energy, resilient food systems, green agricultural transformation, and private sector mobilization. In summary, the PI-CREF strategy is a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the critical issues of climate change, renewable energy, and food security in Sierra Leone, emphasizing sustainable development, collaborative efforts, and a balanced approach to environmental and economic challenges. Initiative focuses more on policy coherence, evidence-based advocacy, resource and investment mobilization, and strategic engagement with partners/stakeholders for impact.

Commented [KWL1]: Since these sector MDAs are mandated to deliver the same objectives, it is important to develop clear partnership strategies between PI-CREF and these sectors to mitigate the risks of duplication of efforts and ensure efficient utilisation of limited financial and human resources.

Commented [KWL2]: The executive summary could also highlight some quantitative outputs the strategy aims to achieve at the end of 5 years.

Commented [KWL3]: The strategy is for 5 years, i.e. 2024-2028.

1.0 Background, Purpose, and Objectives

1.1 Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security

The Sierra Leone MTNDP 2024-2030 states that Government aims to transform Sierra Leone to achieve a middle-income status by 2039. It is estimated that about 80% of the Sierra Leone's population is below the poverty line². The nation is striving to establish a sustainable green ecosystem that enhances food self-sufficiency, the well-being of its citizens, and ecological infrastructural development that generates renewable energy to ensure macroeconomic stability. Undoubtedly, Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security are major global challenges, and countries around the globe are developing policies and programmes to address these challenges, to create a just world and improve the lives of its citizens.

To improve service delivery, and to effectively and successfully deliver on the Presidential manifesto, a Presidential Initiative on Food Security, Renewable Energy and Climate Change (PI-CREF) has been launched by His Excellency the President Rtd. Brigadier Dr. Julius Maada Bio. A comprehensive approach to this Initiative is expected to propel massive development through leveraging on the office of the Chairman of PI-CREF.

Climate change is now recognized as the most serious global challenge of our time and its impacts on societies around the world are increasingly evident. Sierra Leone is considered as one of the least developed countries in the world with human development indexes pointing to one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The impact of climate change is already manifesting itself on the country's economic sectors and livelihoods, and according to scientific evidence of climate change reveals that these impacts are likely to continue to affect Sierra Leone in the future, despite the country's negligible contribution to global greenhouse gases emissions³ and therefore being amongst the least of the countries responsible for the problem. The initiative tends, therefore, to address the most critical effects of climate change that range from increase heat waves, extensive floods, prolonged droughts, property damage to population displacement.

Renewable sources of energy can potentially help countries mitigate climate change, build resilience to volatile fuel prices, lower energy costs and positively affect food and nutrition security. For decades, economic and scientific organizations have urged leaders to create policies to promote renewable energy as part of vital global efforts to fight climate change. This situation is especially critical now as spiking fossil fuel costs, triggered especially by the war in Ukraine, are debilitating countries that rely on importation of oil and gas. In addition to reducing carbon emissions, large-scale renewable power projects also provide demonstrable economic benefits for investors, governments, and especially consumers who need reliable and low-cost electricity.

A country that ensures its citizens' have access to sustainable food supply cultivates resilience, safeguards public health, and fosters social cohesion. This situation relies on the establishment of a sustainable, diversified, and commercial agricultural sector, which ensures food self-sufficiency, increases exports, and creates job opportunities for the youths of Sierra Leone.

Given the strong commitment of the Government to focus on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Food Security, the President has appointed a chairman, and established the PI-CREF Secretariat within the Office of the President. The principal objective of PI-CREF is to support and provide guidance for policy coherence, and coordination of efforts to address climate change, renewable energy, and food security issues throughout the country. The PI-CREF Secretariat will work closely with the MDAs and facilitate collaboration and partnership with international development agencies/organizations, and the private sector for the implementation of activities which shall be anchored by the MDAs.

² Poverty line is updated in September 2022 to US\$2.15 per person per day, by the World Bank.

³ <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/greenhouse-gas-emissions-factsheet-sierra-leone>

1.2 Challenges and weaknesses

Hash impacts of climate change and limited access to climate finance: Climate Risk Vulnerability projections for the country predict erratic weather patterns with changes in rainfall intensities characterised by increased frequency of high-intensity rains and rise in temperatures. These changes increase the likelihood of floods, mudslides, and droughts. These severe events have direct impacts on food security through changes in crop and livestock productivity. Higher temperatures and humidity are known to reduce yields of agricultural crops and tend to encourage weed and pest proliferation. The effects of climate change are manifested at local levels, thus the need to facilitate community efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effect of climate change on livelihoods. Although opportunities exist to access climate finance, Sierra Leone faces limited human and technical capacity to assess climate assets and investment opportunities arising from sustainable solutions that improve resilience to climate change. Also, there is limited capacity to effectively deal with the complexity of climate finance landscape including the requirements of multilateral climate funds and donors. This situation is exacerbated by data limitations for adaptation projects, high transaction costs, and small project sizes making it difficult for the country to attract investments and compete for access to climate resilient financing.

Unsustainable agriculture, food systems and malnutrition: The agriculture sector in Sierra Leone is fundamental to the livelihoods and food security of over 65 percent of the population particularly those living in rural and peri-urban areas. It is also an important foreign exchange income earning sector, accounting for about 50% of exports mainly in unprocessed products. Despite its importance, agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for 58.5% of total GHG in Sierra Leone. The second and third largest emitting sectors are land-use change and forestry, and waste. Over the years, rising temperatures and unpredictable seasonal rainfall patterns, floods and mudslides are jeopardising agricultural productivity, directly impacting the livelihoods of producers, retailers, and consumers. These changes are impacting crop yields by disrupting flowering, fruit set, and grain development, while also influencing disease and pest dynamics. Livestock are facing heat stress and reduced forage quality, impacting health, reproduction, and productivity. In addition to the crop-specific impacts, climate variability is also adversely impacting crop coverage and diversification in the country.

Sierra Leone is food insecure and depends on importation of its major staple foods especially rice. The Sierra Leone National Nutrition survey 2021 revealed poor nutrition amongst the population especially children 6 -59 months of age. At the national, prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children was 5.2%, while 4.2% were moderately acute malnourished, and 1% were severely acute malnourished. Overweight and obesity in adolescent girls and boys is prevalent, while stunting among children remain a concern, with 26.2% stunted children.

Limited access to sustainable and affordable energy: Although there has been some progress to increase the share of renewable energy sources for electricity generation, there is significant gap in leveraging the huge potential of renewable energy sources in Sierra Leone. Off-grid energy systems, primarily solar mini-grids and standalone systems play a vital role in providing electricity to rural areas in Sierra Leone that lack connection to the national grid. These off-grid energy systems are integral to the government's strategy to increase electricity access and promote productive use in sectors like agriculture, health and education. Presently there are approximately 100 mini-grids, benefiting nearly 500,000 people.

Among constraints to increased investment in the energy sector include the lack of a harmonised regulatory framework and fiscal policies. These create uncertainty for investors, thus the need for policy reforms and stakeholder coordination. Proper system planning and operational sustainability have been major issues to overcome in off-grid systems. Actions within this strategic pillar will

therefore include the development of and implementation of a resource mobilization strategy, facilitation of measures to increase investments in renewable energy generation, transmission, and distribution, cleaner cooking fuels and technology. Other specific actions will include access to international carbon credit, developing options for innovative financing for different categories of investors, and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder resource mobilization committee with focus on mobilizing development and investment financing for green investments.

Policy incoherence and effects on coordination: Despite government's efforts to promote progress across the three workstreams - climate change, energy and food security, policy incoherence does occur across sectors. Also, in the effort of government to seek policy coherency across certain objectives, incoherencies with other objectives, may be unintentionally created. In general, policy incoherencies may be caused by misaligned policy goals, divergent policy choices across policy areas (e.g. agriculture land tenure, and the social sector), inconsistencies within a policy area (e.g. agriculture policies), or incoherent approaches (e.g. direct support favouring a particular crop or farm practice). Policy incoherence might result from unintended information asymmetries across government bodies or from explicit competing government objectives or priorities. As such, it leads to duplication of efforts, uncoordinated and inefficient service delivery. Specific to the three work streams, policy incoherence is one of the causes for the slow and constraining progress towards improved climate actions and results, universal and affordable access to renewable energy and food and nutrition security.

1.2 Mandate, Roles, Responsibilities and Scope

The primary mandate of PI-CREF is to leverage support for related MDAs including existing climate finance and significant private sector investments in energy and food systems. PI-CREF will facilitate policy coherence, support the effective delivery of development objectives in the identified sectors as well as support efforts to build the capacity of relevant MDAs to better deliver on their mandates.

Role and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of PI-CREF include the following:

- **Facilitating Policy Coherence and Coordination:** The PI-CREF will work in close cooperation with relevant MDAs, to ensure policy coherence across the three areas – climate change, renewable energy, and food security. PI-CREF will provide support in formulating government policies, programs, and initiatives related to these three areas. This will involve aligning efforts with national development goals and ensuring effective policy implementation. Within this context PI-CREF will help to strengthen existing coordinating mechanisms related to the three workstreams.
- and resources towards achieving defined objectives.
- **Mobilization of International Partnerships and Resources:** Where necessary, PI-CREF shall proactively engage international partners, investors, and donors to secure support and resources for the successful implementation of programmes of related MDAs. It will also mobilize private sector investments and foster cooperation on a global scale. These will be undertaken in partnership with the relevant MDAs.
- **Representation and Advocacy:** In cooperation with relevant MDAs, PI-CREF shall participate in high-level meetings, negotiations, and public engagements and effectively advocate for the establishment effective policies, the use of climate-smart practices, and renewable energy solutions.
- **Technical support:** The PI-CREF shall leverage expertise and insights on complex issues related to the three workstreams, conduct risk assessments and identify global, regional, and local challenges and opportunities for consideration by the government of Sierra Leone.

Commented [KWL4]: It is important not to duplicate efforts since MDAs are also directly involved in mobilization of international partners and resources for their respective sectors in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.

- **Support relevant MDAs in the implementation of programmes and projects:** The PI-CREF shall, in collaboration with relevant MDAs support programme implementation by identifying barriers and common solutions for the efficient delivery of services and achievement of results in a timely manner. This will also include periodic assignment as requested by the President.

Scope and Approach

The PI-CREF is a national initiative that lays emphasis on communities that are vulnerable to climate change impacts, energy poverty, and food and nutrition insecure. The initiative will prioritize and incorporate sectors that are central to climate resilience, sustainable energy, and food security in Sierra Leone to deliver on its objectives. PI-CREF's interventions will be organized under three work streams, that will be implemented through a nexus approach. The three PI-CREF work streams as follows:

Climate actions – The PI-CRAF will:

- Support development of programmes, projects, investments, and activities consistent with the revised NDCs.
- Promote collaboration and integration of national and sub national climate actions.
- Support the establishment of climate finance and policy framework(s).
- Help to attract investments from climate finance institutions and other green investments.
- Mobilize partnerships that will facilitate the leveraging of global knowledge systems for appropriate programme designing and policy advice services.
- Support efforts geared towards enhancing the contribution of the blue economy and fisheries to the national food and nutrition security.

Energy: The PI-CREF will advocate for and facilitate the adoption of renewable energy solutions, and expanding access to clean and reliable energy across the country through:

- Supporting the rapid implementation of existing strategies, action plans and projects.
- Deepening energy sector reforms and facilitating investments in the sector.
- Removing barriers to and catalysing private sector investments.
- Integrating energy access and efficiency into agriculture and social infrastructure (health, education, and water).
- Supporting the establishment of a clean cooking delivery unit
- Accelerate the adoption of cleaner cooking fuels and technologies.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation: The PI-CREF will work towards promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices, resilience in food systems transformation, and improving food and nutrition security and livelihoods, by:

- Supporting the development and implementation of the Feed Salone strategy.
- Providing technical support to the Presidential Council and Technical Committees.
- Facilitating the development of a climate-smart agricultural transformation strategy.
- Assisting in resource and investment mobilization for the Feed Salone strategy implementation
- Support private sector investment and agri-business development activities.
- Mobilizing local ownership, participation in the implementation of the Feed Salone Strategy.
- Facilitating the development of agro-industrial infrastructures, e.g. agro-food industrial parks.
- Promoting agricultural mechanization, access to finance, and technologies for productivity enhancement, value addition and market efficiency.
- Support efforts to enhance the contribution of the blue economy and fisheries to the national food and nutrition security.

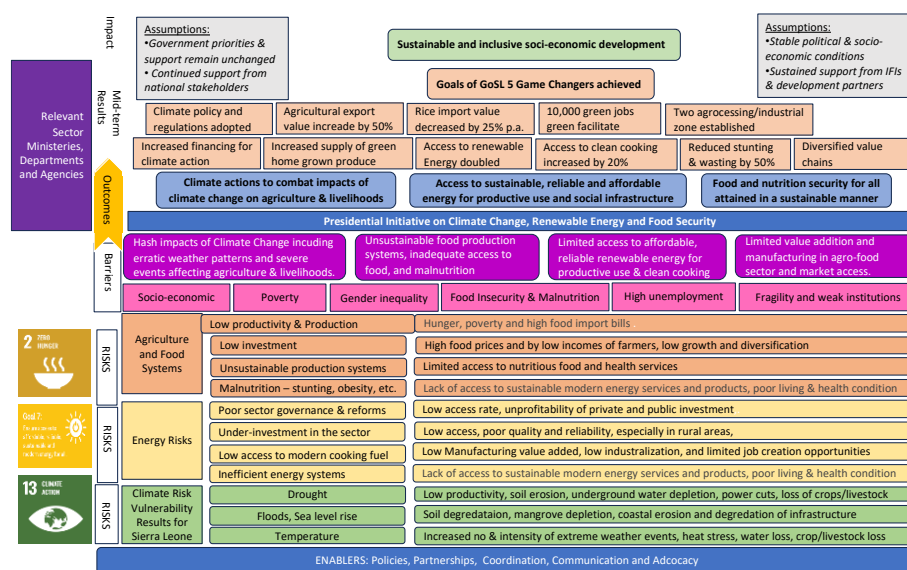
1.3 Theory of Change for the PI-CREF

The Theory of Change (ToC) for the PI-CREF Strategy 2024-2028 (Figure 1) illustrates how change will happen at different levels and how certain interventions will affect the changes. The theory of change

underpins PI-CREF's collaborative, partnership, and value addition capacity support to the relevant MDAs in the delivery of their mandates. It is premised on the main roles of PI-CREF as a facilitation, policy coherence and coordination initiative. In this respect, the development objectives of this strategy will be achieved, if the capacity of sector MDAs are well developed and properly coordinated to efficiently deliver programmes and budgets with accountability for climate change actions, renewable energy, food, and nutrition security interventions. Consequently, the GoSL will significantly reduce poverty, gender inequality, hunger and malnutrition, unemployment, poverty, and increase stability. In other words, the more climate change actions, renewable energy, food and nutrition security policies and interventions are better coordinated, and the related MDAs capacitated and resourced to deliver within the framework of joint visions, the greater the efficiency of the MDAs and the responsiveness of GoSL to the needs of climate change, renewable energy, food, and nutrition security.

The ToC also illustrates the three main SDGs in addition to others 4that this Strategy directly contributes to, the direct and indirect impacts of the barriers on poverty, gender inequality, hunger and malnutrition, unemployment, and instability, and consequently the socio-economic development of the country. The Figure also shows the interconnection between the three strategic outcomes and the mid-term results, and how the PI-CREF working closely with relevant MDAs, the private sector, development partners, international financial institutions and NGOs will contribute to the achieving the goals of the government's five game changers and ultimately the long-term development impact.

Figure 1: Theory of Change for PI-CREF Strategy



Commented [KW5]: Theory of change will be clearer if it highlights in arrows changes from inputs to activities to outputs to outcomes to impact.

Consider moving the theory of change to a new chapter, a final chapter on "Measuring results".

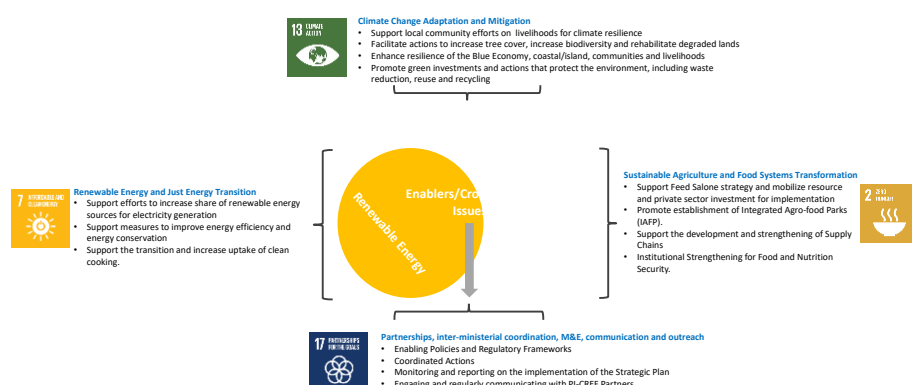
⁴ Especially eradicating poverty (SDG 1), achieving zero hunger (SDG 2), promoting good health and well-being (SDG 3), addressing gender inequality (SDG 5), fostering decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), encouraging industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), reducing inequality (SDG 10), and strengthening global partnerships (SDG 17).

1.4 Enablers and Nexus of the Strategy

In applying the theory of change, we postulate that the needed changes cannot happen only by direct programme interventions but will be catalysed by other drivers of change referred to as enablers. In this respect, enablers for achieving results includes policies, partnerships, coordination and policy coherence, communication, and advocacy. Conducive policies and institutions that will facilitate private sector investment, improved access to finance and technologies, and knowledge are required to facilitate results across the three strategic pillars. Strategic partnerships, internally and externally, are required to leverage knowledge, resources and technologies that will facilitate the implementation of actions and delivery of results, across the strategic pillars. Evidenced based communication and advocacy, underpinned by robust monitoring and evaluation of results, will enhance the confidence of stakeholders to continue working together to achieve greater results and impact across the strategic pillars.

Through working together with stakeholders, strategic opportunities for policy interventions, resources and capacity building and strengthening will be identified at local and national levels. Implementation of the strategy, within the assumptions made, will ultimately contribute to the achievement of the GoSL game changers and to the ultimate goals of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development of the country. The Strategic Pillars and Enablers are summarized in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Food and Nutrition Nexus



2.0 Framework of the PI-CREF Strategy

2.1 Scope and audience

The strategy covers the period 2024-2028 and is aligned in context with the new medium-Term National Strategic Plan of Sierra Leone and the SDGs. The formulation of this PI-CREF strategy has been informed by the outcomes of the National Dialogue on Energy Transition in the context of climate change and food security held in October 2023 and various consultations with key partners and stakeholders. It has benefited from various national documents, key amongst them are: - (a) Feed Salone Strategy; (b) the renewable energy strategy, and the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution. It is also a product of consultation with a wider range of stakeholders and written comments received from various institutions and professionals. The PI-CREF strategy is a living document and shall be reviewed periodically based on emerging priorities, experiences from implementation and mid-term review in 2026. Table 1 presents the PI-CREF strategy framework.

Commented [KWL6]: After the introductory chapter, consider including a chapter on key challenges and weaknesses in climate change, renewable energy and food security sectors that this strategy aims to address. This will serve as the diagnosis of the problem the strategy aims to address. With out the diagnosis of the problem, it will be difficult to monitor progress and achievement of results.

Table 1: PI-CREF Strategy Goal, objectives, and guiding principles

Goal: Contribute to the achievement of the “Big-Five Game Changers” of the Government of Sierra Leone by building climate resilient economy, promoting universal access access to and a transition to clean energy, transformation of agriculture, and attainment of inclusive and sustainable food and nutrition security.															
Objectives: - Promote coordination and partnerships for climate resilient economy and livelihoods - Increase access and facilitate transition to clean energy - Improve food and nutrition security - Catalyze green agricultural transformation - Facilitate public-private partnerships for green job creation															
Guiding Principles: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• Climate Resilience and Adaptation</td><td>Innovation and Technology</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Inclusivity and Equity</td><td>Transparency and Accountability</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Sustainable Development</td><td>Social Inclusion & Poverty Eradication</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Evidence-based Decision-making</td><td>Respect for Indigenous Knowledge</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Partnership and Collaboration</td><td>Responsible Resource Management</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Gender Mainstreaming</td><td>Resilient Infrastructure</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Policy Consistency and Coordination</td><td></td></tr> </table>		• Climate Resilience and Adaptation	Innovation and Technology	• Inclusivity and Equity	Transparency and Accountability	• Sustainable Development	Social Inclusion & Poverty Eradication	• Evidence-based Decision-making	Respect for Indigenous Knowledge	• Partnership and Collaboration	Responsible Resource Management	• Gender Mainstreaming	Resilient Infrastructure	• Policy Consistency and Coordination	
• Climate Resilience and Adaptation	Innovation and Technology														
• Inclusivity and Equity	Transparency and Accountability														
• Sustainable Development	Social Inclusion & Poverty Eradication														
• Evidence-based Decision-making	Respect for Indigenous Knowledge														
• Partnership and Collaboration	Responsible Resource Management														
• Gender Mainstreaming	Resilient Infrastructure														
• Policy Consistency and Coordination															

The PI-CREF Strategy is intended for the Office of the PI-CREF, the MDAs responsible for Climate Change, Energy and Food Security. It is also intended for the Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), development partners and Financial Institutions whose objectives and programmes are aligned with the overall objectives of the PI-CREF.

2.2 Guiding Principles

This strategy is guided by the following principles:

Evidence-based Decision Making: PI-CREF will rely on robust data, scientific research, and evidence-based analysis to inform policy choices, program design, and resource allocation, ensuring well-informed decisions for effective outcomes.

Partnership and Collaboration: PI-CREF will foster strategic partnerships and collaboration with MDAs (especially those dealing with climate change, energy, and food security), international organizations, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and academia. PI-CREF leveraging collective expertise and resources to enhance its impact.

Inclusivity and Gender Mainstreaming: PI-CREF will mainstream gender considerations throughout its activities, ensuring that women's empowerment, gender equality, and women's participation in climate, energy, and food security initiatives are prioritized. PI-CREF will adopt an inclusive approach, ensuring the participation and representation of all segments of society, including vulnerable communities, women, youth, and marginalized groups, in decision-making processes and benefits from the programs.

Transparency and Accountability: PI-CREF will uphold the highest standards of transparency and accountability in all its actions, promoting good governance, public access to information, and robust mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress.

Responsible Resource Management: PI-CREF will ensure responsible management of financial, human, and natural resources, maximizing their efficiency and impact while minimizing waste and negative environmental consequences.

Policy Coherence and Coordination: PI-CREF shall work in harmony with existing national policies and development frameworks, enhancing coordination across government ministries and agencies to avoid duplication and ensure a cohesive approach.

Commented [KWL7]: Consider aligning these guiding principles with sector (MDAs) strategy guiding principles.

2.3 Alignment with National, Regional and Global Development Goals

The PI-CREF Strategic Plan aligns with key national, regional, and global development objectives, ensuring coherence with significant strategies and commitments across multiple levels. The alignment of the PI-CREF Strategy with key national, regional, and global development goals and strategies are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

National Integration: The plan is intricately woven into the fabric of the Mid-Term National Development Plan spanning from 2024 to 2028, mirroring the objectives of the Feed Salone Strategy. Furthermore, it harmonizes with the renewable energy initiatives led by the Ministry of Energy and embraces the nation's climate resilience ambitions, as detailed in the enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of 2021.

Regional and Continental Synergy: At the regional level, the strategy resonates with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)⁵ and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPs) under the auspices of the African Union (AU), as outlined in the Malabo Declaration. It supports the vision of Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want," and aims to augment Sierra Leone's proactive and advantageous engagement with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) of the AU⁶.

Global Contributions: The strategy also serves as a pivotal force towards achieving numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (UN), as well as commitments under the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This strategy contributes to the national level plan for climate action under the UNFCCC, including nature-based solutions that also address commitments under the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and its recently endorsed Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Land Degradation Neutrality agenda under UNCCD.

Also, the strategy endeavors to advance progress towards the goals of eradicating poverty (SDG 1), achieving zero hunger (SDG 2), promoting good health and well-being (SDG 3), addressing gender inequality (SDG 5), ensuring access to affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), fostering decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), encouraging industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), reducing inequality (SDG 10), taking action on climate change (SDG 13), and strengthening global partnerships (SDG 17).

3.0 Strategic Pillars and Outputs

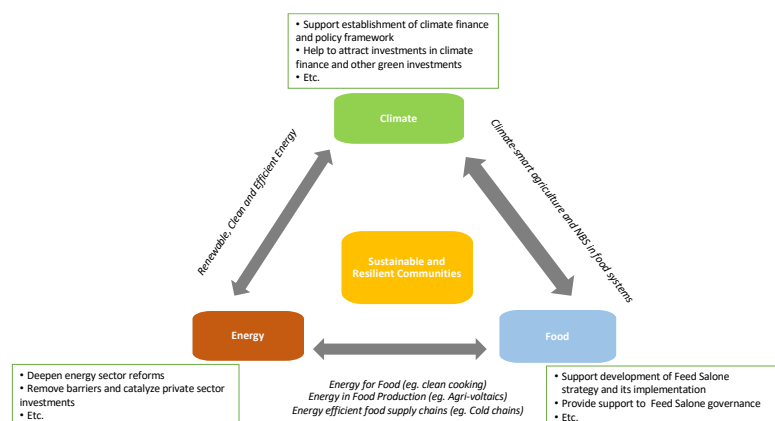
The PI-CREF workstreams will be underpinned by three Strategic Pillars and Enablers. Operationally, PI-CREF will support and strengthen coordination and coherence of existing sector strategic priorities of government. With the focus on vulnerable communities and areas, the workstreams embody a nexus approach to maximize potential for impactful outcomes on all three pillars (Figure 3). This approach emphasizes the need to harness synergies and minimize negative trade-offs by building on mandates of sector ministries to deliver integrated solutions for climate, energy, and food security. Description of each pillar, objective and the strategic results and key activities are shown in the next paragraphs. Description of the Enablers and their contributing results are also outlined following the Strategic Pillars.

Commented [KWL8]: How do these strategic pillars and enablers align with the strategic pillars and enablers of each sector, climate and environment, energy and agriculture sectors? Will PI support coordination and coherence of existing sector strategic priorities or focus on its own priorities?

⁵ <https://ecowap.ecowas.int>

⁶ <https://au-afcfta.org>

Figure 3: A Nexus Approach for Integrating Climate, Energy, and Food Security



3.1 SP-01: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

The effects of a changing climate and climate variability are already being seen across the country, through floods, coastal degradation, mud slides, soil erosion, etc. Many of the impacts are expected to continue or intensify in the future, thus deepening poverty and eroding livelihoods. Land use and vegetation in Sierra Leone are largely attributed to cropland expansion, slash-and-burn agriculture, logging, mining, and cattle grazing activities. Also, there is increasing demand (driven by population growth) for forest products and food production, and energy that is contributing to the lost forest and woodland habitats which are gradually converting to savannas. There is also increasing demand for forest products and food production, and energy, driven mainly by population growth, which is contributing to deforestation and the loss of woodland habitats that are being converted gradually to savannas.

As population grows, particularly in areas with limited economic opportunities, and restricted options for managing land, the vegetation, nature, and land come under extreme exploitation for survival. The UNCCD⁷ estimates that the annual cost of land degradation in Sierra Leone is US\$401 million. This is equal to 19% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Land degradation leads to reduction in the provision of ecosystem services that takes different forms - deterioration in food availability, soil fertility, carbon sequestration capacity, wood production, groundwater recharge, etc.- with significant social and economic costs to the country. In Sierra Leone, the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector is responsible for 72% of the total greenhouse gas emissions of the country. The removals of carbon emissions by forests are estimated at 2% of the total emissions of the country.

Thus, in the country's updated NDC, Sierra Leone defined a progressive path forward for cutting greenhouse gases emissions from 2005 levels: 5% by 2025, 10% by 2030, and 25% by 2050. In this regard, agriculture and food security are prioritized for adaptation because climate change is already having a toll on agricultural food systems in the country, including exporters and importers as well as those at subsistence level. The Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Pillar stands as a critical element of the PI-CREF strategy, aiming to tackle climate change repercussions while steering towards sustainable development.

⁷ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/Sierra%20Leone.pdf>

Objective of the Pillar

The Pillar seeks to bolster the nation's resilience against the harsh impacts of climate change, encompassing erratic weather patterns and severe climate events. This will involve fortifying infrastructure, adopting sustainable land practices, and crafting robust disaster risk reduction strategies. It is expected to address the vulnerabilities of communities, particularly in high-risk and marginalized areas, by building their capacity to withstand and recover from climate-related disturbances. Specifically, the objectives are as follows:

- Support local community efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effect of Climate Change on livelihoods.
- Support actions to increase forest and tree cover, restoration of degraded lands, including mining areas and increase biodiversity.
- Enhance the resilience of the Blue Economy coastal areas, communities, and livelihoods.
- Promote green investments and circular economy actions that enhance the environment and minimize waste.

3.1.1 Support communities to take climate actions at local levels.

Initiatives will be supported that increase the resilience of local communities to climate change impacts including the development of drought-resistant crops, improvements in water management and storage, irrigation, and the construction of flood defences. It will also include providing support to local communities to develop and implement projects that will facilitate their access to technologies, finance, and other resources to help them mitigate risks to livelihoods, and to infrastructure in areas prone to climate induced disasters such as droughts, and floods. Support could also include building capacity of communities to take ownership and participate in climate adaptation and mitigation interventions, that will encourage adoption of sustainable practices and climate resilient technologies.

Key Strategic Actions

- Support the identification of climate change adaptation priorities and co-design with communities locally led climate actions.
- Support the promulgation of a Climate Law/Act by Parliament of Sierra Leone
- Support the establishment of a Climate Regulatory Framework.

Key Policy Actions

- Identify policy gaps and regulations to improve the governance of environment and climate change programmes.
- Support the design of a suite of regulations to improve investment environment and its presentation to parliament.
- Facilitate capacity strengthening of MDAs and CSOs in Climate Finance
- Enhance inter-ministerial collaboration for policy design, coherence, and implementation.

3.1.2 Facilitate actions to increase forest cover and restoration of degraded lands.

Deforestation and land degradation in Sierra Leone is threatening the livelihoods, well-being, food, water, and energy security of a significant number of people. According to FAO⁸, forest and landscape restoration is a sustainable response to address these impacts and aims to recover the ecological functionality and enhance well-being in deforested and degraded landscapes. Forest and landscape restoration practices have also proven to have significant benefits for addressing the impacts of climate

⁸ Garrett, L., Lévite, H., Besacier, C., Alekseeva, N. and Duchelle, M. 2022. The key role of forest and landscape restoration in climate action. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2510en>

change. These include carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving the resilience of landscapes and reducing disaster risks. In this respect, PI-CREF will facilitate public and private sector investments in forest and landscape restoration, especially in the mining and other degraded lands. PI-CREF will facilitate and promote the sustainable management and conservation of forest landscapes. This will include policies to promote sustainable timber production by communities and on privately owned land. It will also support social investors in green growth projects with community participation.

Key Strategic Actions

- Support the design of sustainable forest management policies and strategies.
- Promote the adoption of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices that integrate biodiversity, climate change and land degradation
- Support the design of sustainable community forest management strategies

Key policy actions

- Advocate for the formulation of policies to reduce deforestation, land degradation and promote restoration of degraded lands.
- Support efforts to develop policies and standards in SFM.
- Facilitate capacity strengthening of relevant MDAs and CSOs in Sustainable Land and Forest Management.

3.1.4 Promote green investments to enhance environment

Government's green assets includes assets owned by government and institutions that have a positive environmental impact such as forests, open space, trees, etc. Also, significant supply of energy from renewable energy sources in the total energy mix contributes to greening the economy and provides potential green investment opportunity. The Government of Sierra Leone has developed an Upgraded Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) including adaption and mitigation plans to reduce GHG emission. However, to achieve the environmental goals and deliver a successful green growth, it is estimated that Sierra Leone require a substantial investment of US\$42,764 billion. While this provide many opportunities for the private sector to benefit from such green investments, there is a strong case for government action to drive change quickly and scale required to address the environmental challenges of the country. In this respect, the objective of this sub-pillar is facilitating private sector investments by leveraging existing/or improving policies and advocating for promulgation of new policies/legal and regulatory frameworks.

Strategic Actions

- Support the formulation of policies and strategies to promote green investments.
- Promote legal and regulatory transparency environment for green investments.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships to promote private sector confidence and investments.

Key Policy Actions

- Organize high-level technical/business events to promote green investments.
- Forster national and international partnerships to support green investments.
- Support capacity strengthening of MDAs to enhance ease of doing business to support green entrepreneurship and innovation.

3.2 SP-02: Renewable Energy and Energy Transition

The pillar operates against a backdrop of increasing global recognition of the imperative for a shift towards low-carbon energy sources to mitigate the impacts of climate change. It also recognizes the global goal to achieve universal access to energy by leaving no one behind while at the same time increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and improving the rate of

improvements in energy efficiency. For Sierra Leone, the context may include addressing energy poverty, ensuring energy security for lighting, productive use application and cooking, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and tapping into the country's renewable energy potential to foster sustainable development. The goal of this strategic pillar, therefore, is to significantly increase energy access, by increasing the share of renewable energy for electricity generation, increasing energy use efficiency, and facilitating the transition to cleaner cooking fuels and technologies to reduce dependency on biomass-based cooking fuels (charcoal and fuelwood).

Objectives

- Increase the share of renewable energy sources for electricity generation.
- Develop a Just-Energy Transition Plan (JET-P) for green industrialization and growth.
- Support policy reforms and regulations to facilitate investments in the energy sector.
- Support the transition and increase uptake of cleaner energy cooking fuels and technology.

3.2.1 Support efforts to increase share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix

The government of Sierra Leone has set a target of achieving universal access to electricity. To achieve this goal, Sierra Leone plans to install additional 200 mini-grids by 2025 and 650 mini-grids by 2035 to provide electricity to 170,000 households. By 2035, the country aims to provide off-grid energy to almost 33% of the population. However, implementation of off-grid energy systems in Sierra Leone faces challenges including high upfront costs, lack of local funding, and unclear regulations. Demand often exceeds supply, requiring additional investments or backup generators. The cost of electricity may be unaffordable for some, particularly those without productive activities or income sources, thus highlighting the need for financial solutions. A low maintenance culture leads to system inefficiencies and breakdowns, necessitating capacity building and training.

Strategic Key Actions

- Facilitate efforts to develop a Just-Energy Transition Plan (JET-P)
- Facilitate the conduct of feasibility studies to attract investment into the energy sector.
- Organize national dialogue to mobilize support for the design of a JET-P and road map.
- Support improvement of regulatory framework and fiscal policies for investors' confidence.

Key Policy Actions

- Identify specific policy and institutional gaps and advocate for reforms.
- Support capacity building training of women and youth in RE technology and innovation.
- Advocate for the establishment of presidential/inter-ministerial council on Energy.

3.2.3 Support the transition and increase uptake of clean cooking.

More than 95% of households in Sierra Leone lack access to cleaner cooking fuels and modern cooking technology/services. Thus, majority of households depends on polluting fuels largely from biomass (wood and charcoal) for cooking. A shift to improved access to clean cooking solutions has the potential to reduce smoke emission from many kitchens and deaths resulting from smoke related illnesses. A shift to cleaner cooking solutions also reduces the damage caused to the environment and climate change, induced by deforestation. The objective of this sub-strategic pillar is to promote the uptake of cleaner cooking fuels and technologies and facilitate private sector investments to improved access of households to cleaner cooking solutions.

Strategic key actions

- Establish a coordination mechanism /delivery unit for clean cooking and facilitate implementation of the Clean Cooking Strategy/Compact
- Facilitate the conduct of feasibility studies to attract investment into the energy sector.

Key Policy Actions

- Advocate for policies for improved uptake of cleaner cooking fuels and technology.
- Facilitate capacity strengthening of private sector/TVET institutions for the production improved cookstoves.
- Facilitate partnerships and financing opportunities to diffuse clean cooking solutions.

3.3 SP-03: Sustainable Agricultural Transformation and Resilient Food Systems

The goal of this strategic objective is to contribute to the development of sustainable agricultural transformation and build resilient food and nutrition systems that benefit people, nature and promote economic growth.

Objectives

- Support the implementation of Feed Salone Strategy and mobilize resources including private sector investments.
- Support the establishment of Integrated Agro-food Parks (IAFP), and supply chain development.
- Catalyse institutional Strengthening for agriculture and food systems for nutrition.

3.3.1 Support Feed Salone strategy and mobilize resource for implementation.

Feed Salone is the flagship agricultural development and food security program of the GoSL. PI-CREF will therefore play a catalytic and facilitating role in the implementation of the Feed Salone strategy. Specifically, PI-CREF will work closely with MAFS at policy and programme implementation levels. It will assist MAFS in the design and formulation of a Climate Resilient Agricultural Transformation Strategy. Special focus will be on rice value chain development. In this respect, PI-CREF will support MAFS to establish sustainable rice production clusters through coordination and policy coherence, promotion of synergies between projects, monitoring, and advocacy. The PI-CREF will advocate for and facilitate local ownership and actions that promote inclusive local actions that are aligned and consistent with the Feed Salone strategy. The PI-CREF will also identify, assess, and collaborate with appropriate existing platforms, as well as other service providers with national reach to achieve these objectives. The specific interventions are outlined as follows: -

Strategic Key Actions

- Promotion of climate resilient and sustainable agricultural practices
- Design and formulate strategies and projects to support implementation of Feed Salone.
- Facilitate the establishment of coordination/partnership platform for the Feed Salone Initiative
- Contribute to the mobilization of private sector investments in agribusiness.

Key Policy Actions

- Support sequencing and harmonization of actions by MDAs for effectiveness and results.
- Promote advocacy on the feed Salone strategy to facilitate stakeholder participation.
- Support capacity building/strengthening of key stakeholders for effective participation.

3.3.2 Promote establishment of Integrated Agro-food Parks (IAFP).

Establishment of IAFP is part of the strategy of government to promote food security reduce GHG emissions and enhance resilience of food systems. PI-CREF will work in partnership with MTI and private sector for the establishment of four (4) IAFP in the country. The IAFP will be supported by the necessary policies, investment codes, infrastructure, and support services to encourage private sector to establish integrated agro-processing/manufacturing companies. As a means of enhancing regional market integration, PI-CREF will facilitate efforts for the establishment of subnational grain reserves (including seeds) in strategic locations across the country and establish relevant national coordination.

Strategic Key Actions

- Facilitate establishment of Integrated Agro-food Parks (IAFP) and resource mobilization
- Promote innovative value chains and green agroindustry financing mechanisms.
- Facilitate Climate-Smart Productivity Enhancement of priority value chains.

Key Policy Actions

- Facilitate review of key value chain linkages to market and market infrastructures.
- Facilitate stakeholders' workshop for market improvement strategies, including establishment of strategic grain reserves.
- Support data collection and market information dissemination efforts.

3.3.3 Support the development and strengthening of Supply Chains

A robust and resilient food supply chain is not only vital for ensuring food security but also for bolstering economic stability, employment opportunities, and overall social well-being. As such, addressing food systems and supply chain challenges is integral to Sierra Leone's progress and prosperity. It would help Sierra Leone to maximize its participation in the ECOWAS regional food reserve system in which only 9 countries currently hold food reserves as part of their emergency response plans; and explore innovations that could combine physical stocks and other instruments such as cash (as part of the country's social protection system).

Strategic Key Actions

- Facilitate improvement in the functioning of domestic markets, especially for priority commodities of Feed Salone strategy.
- Facilitate regional market integration to leverage regional and continental trade agreements (e.g. ECOWAP, AfCFTA)
- Support efforts for the establishment of viable strategic grain reserves system:

Key Policy Actions

- Facilitate review of key value chain linkages to market and market infrastructures.
- Facilitate workshop of key stakeholders to review recommendations for the establishment of the strategic grain reserves.
- Support the review of policies and institutional arrangements for the establishment of the strategic grain reserves.
- Catalyse stakeholder mobilization to own and facilitate participation.

3.3.4 Institutional Strengthening for Food and Nutrition Security

Strengthening institutional and delivery capacity for improved governance of food system development program is critical. Also, public support for value addition, food safety standards, food trade, and private sector investment facilitation are crucial elements needed to transform food systems for better jobs, income, nutrition status, and climate-smart ecosystems. This requires building the capacity of the government to develop and implement food crisis response plans and effectively regulate and support the production and incentivize the consumption of safe, fortified, and nutritious foods, and ensure access to guaranteed market opportunities for these and other products.

Strategic Key Actions

- **Facilitate the production, processing, and marketing of nutritious, fortified foods:** Facilitate the prioritization and production of foods that offer higher nutritional values. Partner with organizations, and the private sector, to fortify the strategic staples of rice and cassava while facilitating access to high-nutrient sweet potatoes to ensure a nutritious diet for the population. This effort would investigate going beyond the production of Special Nutritious Food (SNF) to also support flour processing, blending, and fortification as well as other products for mass consumption.

- **Policy development:** Support the government to build the policy and regulatory framework for the food systems program, including nutritious foods safety standards and commercialization, a framework for food processing companies to efficiently produce and responsibly market safe and nutritious food at affordable prices, smallholder access to finance, technology, and markets, post-harvest loss management and diversification of food production, transformation, and fortification capacities.
- **Strengthening/Establishment of Food Systems Network:** Collaborate with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) programme, other similar programmes being implemented in Sierra Leone, as well as development partners to establish a Food Systems Network (FSN). This will serve as a platform for data, information, and knowledge sharing. It will also support the decentralization of data and information gathering and dissemination, and capacity building. The FSN will also support food and nutrition security data collection at the community levels and aggregation at district and national levels.

Key Policy Actions

- Facilitate review of key value chain linkages to market and market infrastructures.
- Facilitate stakeholders' workshop for market improvement strategies, including establishment of strategic grain reserves.
- Support data collection and market information dissemination efforts.

4.0 Implementing the Enablers of the Strategy

4.1 Enabling Policies and Regulatory Frameworks

Inadequate policies and enabling environment are barriers to accessing climate finance or private sector investments. To leverage existing climate finance and significant private sector investments, appropriate policies and the enabling environment are required to attract private sector. For example, institutional and regulatory constraints, weak governance, and operational inefficiencies are key issues that cut across climate actions, energy, food, and nutrition security. In this respect, a review of policies and frameworks on climate change, renewable energy, agriculture, food, and nutrition security will be facilitated. The aim would be to promote policy coherence and facilitate the creation of investment friendly frameworks and environment.

Commented [KW19]: Ideally, this should be the main function of the initiative.

Strategic Key Actions

- Review existing policies and frameworks to promote coherence in the implementation of programmes in the three PI-CREF workstreams.
- Facilitate initiatives that leverage climate action, renewable energy, and agriculture.
- Support studies and assessments for policy coherence in the PI-CREF areas of focus.

Key Policy Actions

- Organize workshops/dialogues on climate change, energy, and food security.
- Promote stakeholder dialogues to improve institutional and regulatory frameworks to address issues relating to climate change, renewable energy, and food security.

4.2 Coordinated Actions

Addressing issues relating to climate change, renewable energy, and food security, through a holistic approach, is a complex and huge task. This is because it involves several actors - MDAs and other stakeholders, operating in a complex environment. Solid coordination is thus required to respond in a cohesive and synergic manner to the related challenges. This would involve: (a) a coordinated approach to addressing climate change, renewable energy and food security established and functional; (b) establishment and implementation of a Framework for monitoring MDA and donor

funded projects, and (c) ensuring that stakeholders are well informed about the work of PI-CREF and are involved in the process of making informed decisions.

Strategic Key Actions

- Establishment and staffing the PI-CREF secretariat and regional offices.
- Support policy reviews and analysis to facilitate policy coherence.
- Organize periodic national and district consultative meetings, workshops.

Key Policy Actions

- Establish cooperative working arrangements with MDAs.
- Provide technical support to MDAs.
- Participate in programme monitoring missions and provide advice.

4.3 Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

A framework to monitor and report on the implementation of the strategic plan, including projects within the mandate of PI-CREF, will be developed in cooperation with the concerned MDAs. The PI-CREF will use the framework for periodic monitoring missions and reporting. Monitoring reports will be channelled to HE the President for action through the Presidential Delivering Council. Other actions include:

Strategic Key Actions

- Establish a database of government and/or private sector sponsored climate change, renewable energy, and food security projects.
- Develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework
- Provide Annual Report on the State of Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security in Sierra Leone.

Key Policy Actions

- Establishment of a database on climate actions, energy, and food security
- Develop data capture platform and train partners for data collection and upload.
- Publication of Annual PI-CREF Reports.

4.4 Engaging and regularly communicating with PI-CREF Partners

4.4.1 Communication

Communications play an integral role in raising awareness about the role of PI-CREF, its mandate and responsibilities as well as facilitating the engagement of stakeholders. Effective communication is key to fulfilling PI-CREF's mandate. In this respect, the PI-CREF's communication strategy will focus on stakeholder engagement and showcasing impact. This will aim at leveraging resources to address climate change, renewable energy, and food security issues throughout the country. It will set the overall objectives for PI-CREF communications, identify the main target audiences for outreach and specify the main channels and tools to execute the strategy. The PI-CREFs Communication Strategy will strive to achieve three overarching goals:

- Raise awareness, encourage support, and promote collaboration among MDAs and key stakeholders to support the formulation and coordination of policies and strategies to address critical issues related to climate change, renewable energy, and food security.
- Integrate communications into program operations by using it as a proactive tool to support PI-CREF's objectives and to mobilize resources.

- Create a common understanding of key messages to be communicated to various stakeholder groups.

Objectives

- Showcase PI-CREF as a key actor, with powerful convening authority on climate change, renewable energy, and food security.
- Leverage support to PI-CREF's mandate and objectives.

Strategic Key Actions

- Define and establish PI-CREF's visual identity.
- Communicate key opportunities to target audiences.
- Facilitate interactive cooperation and collaboration.
- Showcase the impact of PI-CREF's activities on national development.

The PI-CREF's Communication Strategy is ambitious and will require considerable resources, capacity, and time to implement it. Implementation of the strategy will focus on the below priorities:

1. Developing the PI-CREF's profile and visual identity including a dynamic website.
2. Building and pursuing media outreach, press engagements.
3. Developing promotional materials.
4. Developing audio-visual content, digital media including social media platforms.
5. Developing and publishing publications, press releases, op-eds, articles.
6. Convening high-level events and hosting webinars.

4.4.2 Partnerships and Outreach

Partnerships are central to and essential for delivering on the vision, objectives, and outcomes of PI-CREF's Strategic Plan. The PI-CREF seeks voluntary and collaborative commitment with other parties to work together to achieve common objectives in line with the initiative's goals. Strong and collaborative partnerships allow for transformational impact.

The PI-CREF will therefore seek partnerships that contribute to meeting its objectives, complement its capacity to deliver expertise, knowledge and experience, access or mobilize resources, jointly design, and implement programmes, monitor results, and ensure innovation and creativity.

To address climate change, renewable energy and food and nutrition security challenges, PI-CREF will build and maintain credible partnerships at national and international levels including financing and development institutions, training institutions, MDAs, private sector, civil society, UN agencies, philanthropic organization. These multistakeholder partnerships will be grouped into global, regional, local, and thematic partnerships to ensure effective coordination and governance.

Strategic Key Actions

Activities to be implemented to achieve this objective are as follows: -

- Develop and implement a framework for engaging and partnering with national and international partners.
- Develop and regularly update a database of key partners and stakeholders.
- Facilitate dialogues, workshops, and other mechanisms for stakeholder involvement and impact creation.
- Organise regular briefings to key stakeholders and the public.

Key Policy Actions

- Develop and share the Communication and stakeholders' engagement strategy for climate change, energy, and food security nexus with relevant MDAs.

- Organize partnership and public engagement meetings, roundtables, or workshops related to PI-CREF workstreams.
- Publish Annual PI-CREF Reports starting from 2024.
- Develop and facilitate the implementation of a partnership and outreach strategy.

5.0 Budget and Resource Mobilization Plan

5.1 Budget for implementing the strategy

The budget proposed is that for implementation of the PI-CREF strategy over the period of 2024 to 2028. The budget allocation to the Strategic Pillars is presented in table 3. The total amount required to implement the PI-CREF strategy over a five-year period, is estimated at US\$35 million. It is estimated, however, that investing US\$35 million into implementing this strategy will leverage about US\$ 100 million in private sector investments and grants.

The financial requirement for implementing this strategy contributes to the achievement of the targets set in the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Sierra Leone's goals to reduce GHG emissions by 5% by 2025, 10% by 2030, and 25% by 2050, requires US\$ 2.76 trillion in climate finance for mitigation and adaptation up to 2030. The NDC emphasises on renewable energy, aiming to increase its share from 1% in 2015 to 5% by 2025 and 10% by 2030, with focus on solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and biogas technologies. The country plans to expand grid access by 42% by 2025 and grow off-grid mini-grid and solar stand-alone systems by 27% and 10%, respectively, by 2030.

In addition, the GoSL has set a target to achieve food self-sufficiency, including rice self-sufficiency, by 2030, through the implementation of the Feed Salone Strategy, with a budget of US\$ 1.6 billion. As part of the GoSL commitment to expanding access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy to improve lives and livelihoods of Sierra Leoneans, and to deliver on its NDC under the Paris Agreement, increasing renewable energy in the energy mix energy is the aim of the government in climate change and development plans. In this regard, the GoSL has set a target to achieve 85 percent renewable energy capacity by 2030. The budget for implementing the PI-CREF strategy is therefore linked and to contributes to the achievement of the Country's NDCs, energy and food and security.

Table 3: Budget for the PI-CREF Strategy (in '000 US\$)

Strategic Pillar	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	0.98	1.19	1.05	0.91	0.77	4.90
Renewable Energy and Energy Transition	1.61	1.96	1.73	1.50	1.27	8.05
Resilient Food & Nutrition Systems	1.40	1.70	1.50	1.30	1.10	7.00
Enablers	1.61	1.96	1.73	1.50	1.27	8.05
Administrative Support and Office Management	1.40	1.70	1.50	1.30	1.10	7.00
Total	7.00	8.50	7.50	6.50	5.50	35.00

Main funding sources for implementation of the strategy have been identified as follows. (a) National budget allocation; (b) Partnership with IFIs and development partners, (c) Philanthropic Organizations and (d) Private Sector investor. It is expected that the Government of Sierra Leone will contribute US\$15 million to this amount. The remaining US\$20 million will be mobilized from other sources mentioned above. Annual budget allocation from the GoSL to the PI-CREF will support fixed and variable operational costs, including salaries, hosting costs, travels, consultancies, workshops, and meetings. The PI-CREF Secretariat will strengthen partnership with IFI and development partners for co-designing of programmes and projects consistent with the PI-CREF strategy. The PI-CREF Secretariat will approach Philanthropic Organizations to seek collaboration and partnerships to support the

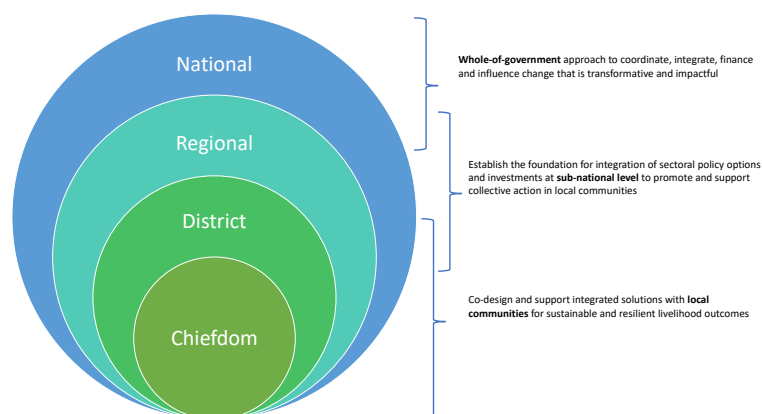
Commented [HH10]: 2024 and not 2014

achievement of the objectives of the strategy that are of common interest. The PI-CREF Secretariat will also catalyse investments, unblock impediments, and facilitate private sector investments in climate actions, renewable energy, agriculture, agro-food industry, and food and nutrition. Through such partnerships, private sector will support the implementation of some activities of the strategy that are consistent with their investment plans, such as investment forums, workshops, capacity building, etc.

5.0 Institutional Arrangement for Delivery

Achieving the objectives set out in this strategic plan will require concerted efforts and collaboration between PI-CREF and the respective MDAs. The PI-CREF will play a supportive, facilitating, convening and collaborative role to achieve the objectives of the strategy. The PI-CREF will work very closely with all stakeholders in a collaborative manner in delivering on its mandate at the national level, across the regions, districts, and chiefdom levels. The proposed Delivery Model for PI-CREF strategic plan is depicted in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Delivery model for the PI-CREF Strategy



In tandem with the nexus implementation approach for implementation, the key MDAs that the PI-CREF will collaborate with in the implementation of this strategy are described for each workstream in the following paragraphs.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation strategic objective: With respect to climate change, PI-CREF will collaborate with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change together with its Departments and Agencies as well as the Ministry of Marine Resources. The activities will include the development of priority projects and mobilization of development and investment resources to support locally led climate actions in the sectors of forestry, human development, health and infrastructure safety, and blue economy and preservation of coastal areas.

Renewable Energy and Energy Transition strategic objective: The PI-CREF will work closely with the Ministry of Energy (MoE). The focus of PI-CREF will be to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions as set out in the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Sierra Leone, through increased investment and access to renewable energy, focusing on solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and biogas technologies. The PI-CREF will also work very closely with the MoE to develop a Just Energy Transition Plan (JET-P) for Sierra Leone. The JET-P will also integrate households needs for clean cooking, energy use efficiency and mobilization of development and investment financing for renewable energy,

energy use efficiency and clean cooking projects. An Inter-Ministerial Committees for the Development of an Energy Transition Plan shall be established to guide the preparation and facilitate cabinet and parliamentary approval of the final plan.

Resilient Food and Nutrition Security strategic objective: The PI-CREF will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and its Departments and Agencies to complement the Feed Salone Initiative (Sierra Leone Food Security Initiative). The focus of PI-CREF will be to work with MAFS build resilient food and nutrition systems that benefit people, the planet, and promote economic growth, while delivering timely and effective responses to mitigate the negative effects of shocks and crises. The PI-CREF will work with MAFS to promote sustainable and climate-resilient food production; facilitate and promote green home-grown school feeding interventions; and develop and strengthen supply chains and enhance Food and Nutrition Security. The PI-CREF will collaborate with MAFS to develop project documents and mobilize resources for the implementation of the Feed Salone strategy. The PI-CREF, as a member of the Technical Committee of the Feed Salone Strategy, will provide inputs to the design of annual workplan of the Feed Salone Strategy and participate in project implementation monitoring and evaluation missions.

Green Agricultural Transformation Strategic Objective: The PI-CREF will work closely with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and MAFS to conceptualize the development of Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), conduct pre-feasibility studies and provide inputs for the feasibility studies, designs, and construction of the park. The PI-CREF will work with the two Ministries to mobilize domestic and development finance as well as private sector investment in the IAIPs.

Private sector mobilization strategic objective: The PI-CREF will identify investment opportunities in climate related actions, renewable energy, agriculture, food, and nutrition security. The PI-CREF will make available these opportunities to the organized private sector in Sierra Leone and engage foreign investors and partners for investment. It will work closely with MAFS and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to set up the Agriculture Value Chain Finance Mechanism proposed in the Feed Salone Strategy and facilitate the provision of value chain finance to private sector for key value chains.

The **Presidential Delivery Council for the Feed Salone** will play a key role in provide guidance for the implementation of activities under Pillars 3 and 4. Strategic projects and programmes under these Pillars will be discussed at the Technical Committee, and where needed, escalated to the Presidential Delivery Council through the Secretariate of the Feed Salone Strategy.

6. Measuring Results

The strategic objective of the PI-CREF SP implementation performance management is to promote effective support to the MDAs for enhanced delivery of development results. Thus, the PI-CREF Results Framework provides the basis to monitor, track and report progress on the implementation of interventions outlined under the strategic pillars and enabling actions. As various MDAs are directly responsible for implementation and coordination of sector development plans, this results framework will guide the collaboration and partnerships with the MDAs with the aim to facilitate synergies and avoid duplication.

6.1 Performance monitoring framework.

The results framework is therefore intended to ensure alignment of PI-CREF activities to sectoral plans, as well as to support the effective implementation and collaboration. Indicators of results of PI-CREF strategic plan will be reported through its annual report and in the reports of concerned MDAs.

Commented [KW111]: It is recommend that performance monitoring framework be developed and included in the strategy.

6.2 Key Assumptions

The main assumptions for achieving the results outlined in this strategy are as follows:

1. Government priorities and commitments remain unchanged throughout the implementation period of this strategic plan
2. Continued support from national and international stakeholders
3. Stable political and socio-economic conditions in the country
4. Unhindered collaboration and partnerships between the PI-CREF and responsible MDAs.

6.3 Result Areas, Outputs, Key Results and Indicators

6.3.1 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Output 3.1 Risks and impacts of climate-related disasters, such as greenhouse emissions, droughts and floods on communities and infrastructure are reduced.

Key Results and Indicators

1. Adaptation priorities in all districts identified and prioritised and Climate Action Committees (composed of men, women and youth) established, providing data and information for early warning systems by 2030
2. By 2030 at least 30% of households are better able to cope with climate change impacts due to implementation of locally led and focussed adaption projects
3. Improved climate information system for local communities leading to at least 30% of households using the information in their climate risk management decisions by 2030
4. By 2030 climate action and climate governance is devolved to all 395 wards through mobilization of resources to finance a Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Program.
5. By 2030 at least households in urban areas recycling waste, especially plastics, through viable private sector led green investments.

6.3.2 Renewable Energy

Key Output 3.2: Renewable energy production and access is significantly increased.

Key Results and Indicators

1. By 2024 a Just Energy Transition Plan (JET-P) developed and approved by parliament
2. By 2034 contribute to grow grid generation capacity from 200MW to 1GW
3. By 2030 contribute to add at least 200 mini grids to support energy access.
4. By 2030 at least 20 percent of households using LPG, ethanol, or other clean energy for cooking.

6.3.3 Agriculture, Food Systems and Nutrition

Key Output 3.3 Food systems and nutrition bolstered through enhanced productivity, resilience and green agricultural transformation.

Key Results and Indicators

1. A Climate-Smart Productivity Enhancement and Food Systems program developed by 2024
2. At least 30% of smallholder farmers receive incentives and are practising climate-smart and good agricultural (including livestock) practices by 2030
3. By 2030 50% of households practicing sustainable land management for food production
4. By 2030, four Green Integrated Agro-food Parks are established in partnership with private sector, propelled by Direct Foreign Investment as part of the strategy of government to promote food security, reduce GHG emissions & enhance resilience of food systems
5. At least two private sector firms are investing in the production, processing, and marketing of nutritious, fortified foods by 2030
6. By 2030 at least 50% of smallholder women in the horticulture value chains are supported to access technologies that ensures better quality produce, reduce wastage and increase their income and profit margins.
7. At least 50% of Green Home-Grown School Feeding interventions are using clean cooking solutions
8. A viable strategic grain reserves system established with relevant national coordination systems, ensuring food security and price stabilization by 2030