

RUSLP Support to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning

Component 1: Institutional & Capacity Development in Urban Management

Subcomponent 1a: Strengthening Integrated Urban Planning & MSDI

This subcomponent will focus on all cities in the development of integrated urban development planning to mitigate land degradation and promote climate-resilient development while ensuring the protection of biodiversity and natural resources. It supports activities that are aimed at institutionalizing and strengthening capacity in areas related to integrated planning in city councils, participatory urban planning, enhancing collaboration between the councils and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP) in monitoring and regulating the built environment in the cities. The subcomponent will leverage the ICT backbone infrastructure to be developed in the secondary cities under subcomponent 1b (for Municipal Property Tax System) to store data, spatial plans and other digital tools. It will provide structured training in spatial planning (including GIS, land use planning, development control, surveying etc) for relevant local and national officials.

1. Review or preparation of Town Planning legislation

The Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) Cap 81, and all related legislations, will be reviewed and capacity building (both training and equipment) provided to the MLHCP to support the councils in improving the policy environment and strengthening collaboration in enforcement of building codes. The MLHCP, in collaboration with the Law Reform Commission, has established a broad-based multi-disciplinary Technical Working Group to undertake a comprehensive review of the TCPA with the view of developing drafting instructions for a new Town and Country Planning Act that is inclusive, evidence-based, forward-thinking and institutionalized participatory land use planning; and the accompanying zoning regulations for its effective implementation and enforcement. The new Act will, among other things, provide human rights safeguards within the Town and Country Planning legal framework, including right to human dignity, non-discrimination, right to information, safety, education, clean water and sanitation, amongst other basic services, are secured and well-integrated into the legal framework.

2. Western Area Regional Development Plan

This support is for updating of the Freetown Structure Plan and integrating it into a spatial plan for the entire Western Area (including WARDC) that will inform the MLHCP and the two local councils areas to prioritise in order to ensure a sustainable urban growth, including: providing a strategic spatial framework for guiding forward development planning and settlement growth in the Western Area; integrate the region's transportation systems (roads, airport, harbor, telecommunication, etc.) and land uses (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) to facilitate linkages across the regional territory (e.g. urban-rural linkages) and mobility of people, goods, services, and access to markets and resources; provide a comprehensive framework for Western Area's economic growth, essential infrastructure (water, electricity, education, health, etc.),

housing development, industrial, trade and port development and the provision of social services that are inclusive, resilient and sustainable; link spatial development to the region's and country's economic development; mainstream climate-resilient adaptation and mitigation solutions/mechanisms for inclusive thriving communities, towns and cities within the region; Environmental protection of the Western Area National Park and the biodiversity of the area.

3. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

This is a direct support to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning. The support is flexible in that the ministry can decide its specific needs within the available resources.