



ABOUT THE DMSP

The District Multi-stakeholder Platforms are decentralised-level inclusive land governance structures existing in 8 of Sierra Leone's 14 rural districts. The groups are endeavouring to promote the culture of inclusive local-level people-centred tenure governance.

The structures of the DMSPs are organic. Membership is based on the political governance structure of each district. However, on the check of inclusivity, each DMSP should have, at least, the participation of the relevant decentralised level government MDAs whose mandates relate to natural resource governance

For instance, most of the DMSPs have representatives from the National Lands Commission or the Ministry of Lands, District Agriculture Office, Office of National Security, National Minerals Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, the District Offices of the Local Government, Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Legal Aid Board, etc,

Traditional Authorities under the umbrella of the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, local councils, resident CSOs in the districts, media, academia, persons with disability, women's groups, the District Youth Council, other pressure groups, women and men of note are all part of the structure of the DMS

For their effective governance, each DMSP has a five-member steering committee as the overall governing body, a coordinating secretariat organisation(s), sub committees of the general membership. Each DMSP meets monthly and do also organise follow-up actions and can call emergency meetings based on urgent needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Land for Life and DMSP engage paramount Chiefs
- DMSPs intensify public engagement through radio programs
- Tonkolili DMSP settles a long standing land disputes
- Land for Life and NLC trains DMSPs on Land Committee formation



"Together for people-centered land governance"

LAND FOR LIFE ENGAGES PARAMOUNT CHIEFS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL LAND GOVERNANCE

Land for Life engaged Paramount Chiefs and members of the District Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (DMSPs) across its operational districts, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Kenema, and Pujehun, with the first meeting held in Tonkolili District in the North-East Region. The engagement, which started in Tonkolili District, brought together all 19 Paramount Chiefs in the district alongside members of the District Multi-Stakeholder Platform for a strategic dialogue on strengthening land governance at the local level

OUTCOMES NOTED

- 1 Fostered closer working relationships between Paramount Chiefs and District Multi-Stakeholder Platform (DMSP) members, creating a stronger foundation for coordinated land governance efforts.
- 2 The engagement Provided a platform for Paramount Chiefs to openly discuss key land administration issues, including disputes, low public awareness of land laws, and coordination gaps among local actors.
- 3 Increased commitment for a more the coordinated outreach and awareness-raising on land rights, responsibilities, and governance processes at community level.
- 4 Advanced a more inclusive and community-responsive approach to land governance by ensuring local voices and traditional leadership remain central to decision-making.
- 5 Designed a common strategy for the formation of a Chiefdom and a village Area Land Committees as per law described.





DMSP TEAMS INTENSIFY PUBLIC AWARENESS ON LAND GOVERNANCE THROUGH RADIO ENGAGEMENTS

District Multi-Stakeholder Platform (DMSP) teams in Port Loko, Pujehun, Tonkolili, and Kenema have conducted a series of radio discussion programmes in their respective districts aimed at educating the public on the mandate and operations of the DMSP. The programmes also provided valuable information on relevant land laws and highlighted the processes involved in establishing Village Land Area Committees (VLACs) and Chiefdom Land Committees (CLCs).



IMPACT

- 1 Increased public awareness of the DMSP mandate in ensuring that Communities gained a clearer understanding of the role and responsibilities of District Multi-Stakeholder Platforms in supporting land governance and dispute resolution.
- 2 Radio discussions helped simplify and communicate key provisions of relevant land laws, making legal information more accessible to customary communities for whom the laws were framed.
- 3 Community members were better informed about the purpose, composition, and functions of Village Land Area Committees (VLACs) and Chiefdom Land Committees (CLCs) and the specific roles that each player was going to embark on
- 4 Increased awareness is likely to encourage stronger local involvement in land governance processes and support the effective functioning of newly established committees.



DMSP INTERVENES TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ROWALA LAND DISPUTE

On 24th February 2026, the District Multi-Stakeholders Platform (DMSP) in Tonkolili District conducted a follow-up engagement on the ongoing land dispute between the Fornah and Larkoh families in Rowala Community.

Following unsuccessful community-level mediation efforts, the matter has now been elevated to the district level for appropriate intervention. During the engagement, both families were encouraged to remain peaceful, cooperate with the review process, and continue dialogue toward a sustainable resolution, reflecting DMSP's commitment to peaceful conflict management and strengthened land governance.



IMPACT

1

The engagement helped ease tensions between the Fornah and Larkoh families by encouraging calm, restraint, and peaceful coexistence while the matter is being reviewed.

2

The call for cooperation, mutual respect, and calm created space for both families to continue living peacefully while awaiting resolution

3

The involvement of district-level authorities signaled a commitment to fair consideration of the matter, increasing confidence among stakeholders in the dispute resolution process.

4

Reinforced the role of DMSP in conflict mediation intervention, demonstrating DMSP's active role in facilitating dialogue, monitoring disputes, and supporting peaceful land conflict management.





PUJEHUN DISTRICT BEGINS ROLLOUT OF COMMUNITY LAND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

On 27th February 2026, the District Multi-Stakeholders Platform (DMSP), with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through Land for Life Sierra Leone under PICOT, conducted a day long Chiefdom Stakeholders Engagement in Kpanga Chiefdom. The engagement marked the pilot phase for the establishment of Chiefdom Land Committees (CLCs) and Village Area Land Committees (VALCs) in Kpanga and Kpanga Krim Chiefdoms, with plans to expand the initiative to all fourteen chiefdoms in the district.

The meeting formally introduced chiefdom authorities and key stakeholders to these new land governance structures under the National Land Commission Act, aimed at strengthening community-based land administration and reducing land-related conflicts. Opening remarks from Chief Sylvester Munda Kamara welcomed the initiative, while Festus Joseph Gbani emphasized DMSP's commitment to promoting inclusive, transparent, and peaceful land governance.

IMPACT

- 1 The engagement marked the pilot phase for establishing Chiefdom Land Committees (CLCs) and Village Area Land Committees (VALCs), setting the stage for more structured and community-based land administration.
- 2 Chiefdom authorities and local stakeholders gained a clearer understanding of the purpose, legal basis, and expected functions of the new land committees.
- 3 By aligning the process with the National Land Commission Act, the engagement reinforced compliance with legal frameworks guiding land governance in Sierra Leone.
- 4 Communities will have clearer, more accessible structures for handling land-related matters such as documentation, boundary concerns, consultations, and grievance handling.





NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION AND LAND FOR LIFE ROLL OUT COMMUNITY LAND COMMITTEE TRAINING IN KEY DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The enactment of the National Land Commission Act and the Customary Land Rights Act represents a major step in strengthening land governance in Sierra Leone. These laws provide for the establishment of Village Area Land Committees and Chiefdom Land Committees as key community-level structures to enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusive land administration.

To advance this mandate, a Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted in Makeni in collaboration with the National Land Commission (NLC), with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Welthungerhilfe. The training brought together members of District Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (DMSPs) from Port Loko, Tonkolili, Bombali, Kambia, and Kono, equipping them to support communities in the verification and establishment of land governance committees. The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen grassroots land administration and ensure effective implementation of land governance reforms across Sierra Leone.

IMPACT

1

Participants were equipped with practical knowledge and skills to support the formation, verification, and functioning of Village Area Land Committees (VALCs) and Chiefdom Land Committees (CLCs).

2

The engagement strengthened collaboration between the National Land Commission (NLC), DMSPs, and development partners in advancing land governance reforms.

3

Better-informed and properly established committees contribute to early dispute detection and more effective conflict resolution mechanisms.

4

Strengthened local structures are expected to enhance transparency, accountability, and participation in land administration at the grassroots level.

