This is the first of four editions of the BORDERLINES magazine published as part of the REGIONAL YOUTH INITIATIVE OF THE WORLD BANK CIVIL SOCIETY FUND (CSF). It is implemented by Pampana Communications with the support of the World Bank, the UNDP and the Mano River Union Secretariat.

The Magazine is among other activities of the REGIONAL YOUTH INITIATIVE intended to draw the attention of policy makers to the salient voices, views and concerns of vulnerable youth residing along the volatile post-conflict Mano River border communities which had served as intensive conflict zones and flashpoints during the war and peace keeping periods in the three Mano River Union countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The choice of the theme for this inaugural edition ‘YOUTH AND BORDER SECURITY’ is based on the strong consideration that youths in the three countries in general and those along the borders in particular, have been the largest single group who have been most associated with conflict and peace in the Mano River Union sub-region.

During the 14-year conflict period in the sub-region, the youth constituted over 90% of the fighting forces and were mostly recycled in cross-border battles across the three countries. Even before the war, the youth were faced with wide ranging problems that hindered their individual and collective participation in governance and development. Often lacking information and opportunities, the youth became easy targets for recruitment into the war during its inception. With the end of the war, there have been minimal efforts to approach the youth crisis in the three countries from a regional vantage point. Most youth support activities in the sub-region have been confined to the individual countries.

The BORDERLINES magazine is therefore published with the aim of addressing this gap by articulating the above mentioned youth issues within the framework of the Mano River Union.
The Yenga Dispute Hinders Border Economic Prospects

By Sheikh Bawoh (also see pages 18 to 20 for the French version of this article)

Five years after the guns went silent and disarmament completed in the Mano River Basin, there still remains a threat to sub-regional peace and stable economic progress, particularly within and around the tri-border communities where Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea meet.

The threat is caused by a dispute between Sierra Leone and Guinea over Yenga, a tiny Sierra Leonean border village by the Makona River which was occupied by Guinea during the war. The motive for this occupation is still being speculated.

Initially, it was thought that because of its strategic location, Guinean forces had to move in to the town ostensibly to stave off any attack by insurgents, allegedly sponsored by former President Charles Taylor of Liberia.

During the climax of media outrage in Sierra Leone in 2006, former Minister of Internal Affairs, Pascal Egberda, maintained that Guinean forces that collaborated with the government of Sierra Leone forces asked for permission to use the vantage point of Yenga to repel any rebel advance that would threaten both countries. Following the end of the war, Egberda said, Sierra Leone raised the matter with Guinea and all communiqués signed by both Heads of State since then clearly affirmed that Yenga belongs to Sierra Leone.

In spite of Egberda’s clarification coupled with a series of diplomatic efforts, culminating in a summit of Heads of State of the three Mano River Union countries and the intervention of the respective colonial rulers of the two countries, France and Britain, Guinean troops are still based in Yenga. And the Sierra Leonean press has continued to question why Yenga is still in Guinean hands, arguing that the reason for such an occupation no longer exists because there are no more armed rebel threats in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Guinea’s apparent intransigence is substantiated by its refusal to show up for the border demarcation exercise and to ratify the 1921 Franco-British Treaty. This has led to a growing suspicion that the occupation itself has a political rather than a security motive, with the regime in Conakry firmly behind the action of the military in Yenga. Francis Gabbidon, the former Ombudsman of Sierra Leone, in apparent frustration over the refusal of Guinea to take part in the border demarcation talks said: “Guinea’s continued occupation of Yenga despite diplomatic talks is a clear indication that the Guinea Government is not prepared to relinquish the territory to Sierra Leone. All signatories to the OAU charter agreed that however militarily strategic a border point is, the colonial boundaries must be respected as they are”.

Inhabitants of Yenga and its environs on the Sierra Leone side of the border have been at the receiving end of the hostility. They have been subjected to harassment, intimidation and humiliation. A youth leader in Koindu, Falla Gborie, was severely beaten up in 2006 and had to be flown to Freetown to receive medical treatment.

Scanty security manning Sierra Leone’s last checkpoint to Yenga

Continued on page 2
Claiming it forcefully. Mr. Mambu’s view was recently re-echoed by elders of Kissy Teng chiefdom, the area which Yenga is part of. Chief Fallah Jusu, the Regent Chief of Kissy Teng and himself a native of Yenga argues that there is no justification for the continued Guinean occupation of the town. “Yenga is undisputedly part of Sierra Leone. There is no question about that. I was born there”, he pointed out. The Chiefdom Speaker, Edward Foryoh, even more frustrated with the attitudes of the occupying forces is calling for international intervention for a peaceful resolution to the problem. “We are tired of reports of humiliation and harassment of our people almost on a daily basis by Guinean soldiers. This must stop as it does not augur well for peace in this region”. Besides the security threat it poses to the three Mano River Union countries, the Yenga dispute has also significantly hindered productive economic activities that once characterized the border communities. Koidu which is just two miles away was before the war the hottest business spot in the MRU sub-region. But the continued Guinean occupation of the town had scared away businessmen, many of whom fear the conflict might just spark off overnight. “As long as Guinea continues to occupy Yenga, the international market in Koidu will not flourish. The Guineans are depriving the three countries of much needed revenue generation”, says Mohamed Jalloh, Chairman of the Traders Union in Koidu.

Almost on a daily basis the occupying forces seize goods from Sierra Leoneans and other business people, mostly youths, a development that has strangulated the resuscitation of the once famous Koidu market. Osman Amara, a Sierra Leonean youth who operates a Video centre in Koidu put the Yenga crisis in perspective. “If Yenga was occupied for security reasons, the war is now over. We must be given chance to move freely as Sierra Leoneans and as citizens of the Mano River Union (MRU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)”. END.

“Yenga is undisputedly part of Sierra Leone. There is no question about that. I was born there”

delegation of MRU women movement, MARWOPNET were detained in Yenga for several hours. There are also reports that an American military Colonel was also detained. These developments point to the fact that contrary to initial reports, the Guineans may have taken Yenga for good, especially as the occupying forces are actively engaged in agriculture.

Charles Mambu, the Spokesman for Sierra Leone’s Coalition of Civil Society and Human rights Activists in 2002 added his voice to the stream of outcry and agitation over the Yenga situation. He said, “Everybody had disarmed and UN troops have deployed so there is no justification whatsoever to have Guinean troops again occupying parts of Sierra Leone’s territory and attention. Falla’s story is one in a series of physical violence which the Guineans are purported to have perpetrated against Sierra Leoneans and other visitors. A little over a year ago, a
Gaunging life and feelings in Yenga under occupation

By Mohamed Fofanah

The sun came out strongly, blazing angrily upon the disputed town of Yenga, as if reflecting the mood of Sierra Leoneans who are feeling the pain of occupation. Gun toting Guinean soldiers paraded through their rice swamps under cultivation, conversing in French and Gissi while plucking grass and inspecting the new grains on their rice stalks.

"They are here to stay", complained Fatorma Yaelia, the town chief of Weima village whom I had earlier interviewed on my way to Yenga. According to him as long as the Guineans have started cultivating the land especially when they have started planting palm fruits, it shows that they are not in a hurry to leave. All of this in addition to the fact that they have an armored tank hidden in a grove of mango trees on the little hill overlooking the town, with its barrel sticking out menacingly as if daring us to question their presence on our land.”

Residents of Yenga believed there was an ammunition dump also hidden under the canopy of those mango trees. But the place was out of bounds to any civilian. They claimed that any civilian who breached the prohibited area was mercilessly beaten by the soldiers.

"It is like the war has never ended for us in Yenga," said Sahr James, a cripple who was among the few residents still staying in Yenga.

The town was deserted save for a few old people and others who were doing farming in the outskirts.

Sahr said, "many people have left because they are still traumatized by the war and the behavior of the soldiers are reminding them painfully of the rebels." He continued, "they seize our farms, terrorize us and beat us mercilessly at the slightest provocation. They are also moving around with guns and heavy weapons. It feels like one day they will use their weapons on us."

One example of a report of such violations was the beating of a Gissi woman who begged that her name be not mentioned in this article. She related that she only mistakenly splashed water on the uniform of a Guinean soldier when she was disembarking from a boat which came into Yenga from Nongowa.

"Before I could say sorry to the soldier, he hit me with his fist and descended upon me with kicks and blows. When he was pacified I was taken home with a swollen face and sprains and pains all over my body. Nothing has come out of it - nobody to complain to, our own Police could do nothing."

Isha Fofanah is staying in Nongowa the border town in Guinea separated from Yenga by a five-minute canoe drive across the Makona River. She complained that her father’s rice farm in Yenga was taken over by the Guinean Soldiers and nobody could do anything about that, not even the Paramount Chief.

Continued on page 2
When confronted with these allegations, the Officer in Charge (OC) of Koindu, Inspector Augustine Nyama Tommy, said that they did not have any jurisdiction or control over Yenga at the moment and that the Guinean Soldiers were the ones wielding control over that territory.

"We could do nothing until our government resolves this dispute in the diplomatic way they have all chosen," said the OC.

"Guinean officials residing in Yenga have introduced a severe security measure that restricts the movements of Sierra Leone citizens even to bring in goods from Guinea," said Sergeant Sahr Bendu, one of the Police Officers manning the last Sierra Leone security post outside Yenga.

The Guineans have been in Yenga for about six years now. Diplomatic moves had been started by the then Sierra Leone’s People’s Party Government under Former President Tejan Kabbah to resolve the dispute. They have got the Guinean government to accept that Yenga belongs to Sierra Leone. Moves are underway by the present All people’s Congress government under President Ernest Koroma to continue with the resolution of the dispute diplomatically. The new Minister of Defense, Alfred Conteh, has pledged strongly that his government would do all that it takes to retrieve Yenga.

Colonial boundary maps have been used to demarcate Yenga but it is still not clear when the matter will finally be laid to rest.
First hand Experience of getting in and out of Yenga

Version 1 by Alpha Amadu Bah

The occupation of Yenga in Sierra Leone by Guinean military forces during Sierra Leone’s civil war in order to forestall rebel incursion into Guinea from that axis and also to help destabilize the rebels across Sierra Leone has now become a de facto annexation of the territory by the Guineans. Coupled with the often outrageous behavior of the occupiers, this has provoked some tense and negative reactions and sentiments on both sides of the border, especially from Sierra Leone. These range from suspicion, mistrust, fear, frustration and bitterness to sheer outrage, leading to hostility and tension between the two governments, between the occupying Guinean forces and the inhabitants of the village and its environs and even between inhabitants of the area and their Sierra Leonean state and local authorities.

An attempt to cross into Guinea from occupied Yenga in Sierra Leone is considered by residents in the village and its environs as a most daring adventure. Everybody in this area: the Okada motorbike taxi riders, traders, farmers, ordinary people, visiting pub-goers and even the police and military officers have the same impression. I first sensed this feeling from the Sierra Leonean police and military border guards stationed at the Sierra Leone-Liberia border when I was crossing in to Foya in Liberia. After furnishing them with details of my mission to Liberia and Guinea respectively, the guards expressed anxiety over my safety with regards to the Guinean part of my mission. Repeatedly, they inquired whether I had proper entry arrangements with the Guinean guards manning the occupied territory and the border because, otherwise, the Guineans would be hostile to me as they were to every Sierra Leonean entering their country through that axis. This situation appeared pretty alarming to me, particularly when the security officers, regarded as protectors and defenders of the land were among those who share this feeling of helpless fear of the Guinean troops. I was not surprised afterwards when everyone else that I informed of my pending trip to Nongowa in Guinea was worried and scared, with each of them strongly advising me that if I dared at all to make the trip I should exercise the strictest caution, even to the extent of being subservient.

When eventually I was about to depart for Nongowa, I decided to say goodbye to the Regent Chief, Sahr Folleh who is also the Section Chief of Konio to which Yenga belongs. I met him in a pub in the centre of Koindu, once Sierra Leone’s ‘Beautiful Jewel’. This goodbye was not only as a matter of due courtesy, but as a necessity in such a fragile atmosphere in order to be better forewarned. At the pub, the worry, tension and fear expressed there almost discouraged me from going. The chief, himself refrained from guaranteeing me safe passage, saying, “They (the occupying Guinean forces) don’t want to see Sierra Leoneans in Yenga.” He further disclosed that he had abandoned Yenga and that entire section to avoid the Guinean troops who were demanding his head because of his persistent call on the Guineans to relinquish the territory.

Meanwhile, my fellow journalists who had gone ahead of me, recounted the intimidating apparently, the youths are the most bitter, not just against the invaders, but also against their own authorities because, according to Kelfala, “most of them [the elders] have economic ties with the troops stationed in the occupied territory.”
interrogations they experienced from the Guinean forces which discouraged them from venturing into Nongowa through Yenga.

They advised that if I should go I should not go with my camera, recorder, notepads, ID cards and any journalistic paraphernalia.

By the time all this informal security-safety orientation was over fear had already gripped me entirely. Yet, I wanted to go to the last village to Yenga. On arrival at the post, the security officers again echoed another stern warning against any seeming irreverence from me towards the Guinean security personnel manning the occupied territory.

Beneath this feeling of fear, lies deep seated bitterness and anger against the invaders whom the inhabitants consider as insensitive usurpers of their land, source of wealth, pride and dignity.

Apparently, the youths are the most bitter, not just against the invaders, but also against their own authorities because, according to Kelfala, “most of them have economic ties with the troops stationed in the occupied territory.”

The illegal occupation of the village, the harassment of Sierra Leoneans in their own motherland, the seizure of commodities being brought to Sierra Leone and the denial of free movement in the territory, all done by foreign occupying forces, have embittered the inhabitants in that area to such an extent that they are calling for a confrontation with the Guineans at any cost.

In 2003, Toli Youths Organization chairman, Fellah Gborie, was mercilessly beaten by the security officers while in Yenga in the company of some U.N observers who were also harassed and molested.

The Guinean forces destroyed cameras, phones and all other suspected communication equipment found in their possession when Fellah and the UN officials attempted to take video and snapshots.

Because of the severity of Fellah’s condition resulting from the beating, he had to be immediately flown to Freetown for emergency medical attention. At the time that incident marked the peak of tensions between the

“Before crossing, Sallieu startled me by disclosing that no one is allowed to dig deeper than is done to a normal garden in Yenga because of the substantial mineral deposits there”

and complete my mission.

Finally, I left with nothing other than my back pack which contained a pair of trousers and shirt, two pieces of blank papers, a pen and a bottle of Grafton Natural Water.

Every one at the pub delivered their bit on how I could safely sail through. I boarded a bike whose rider literally ended the lecture with his own bit on the hazards of venturing in to Yenga.

As we went passing through the villages leading to Yenga up to Kpenkpando the villagers looked at us with bewilderment. Sierra Leone’s border security post is situated at Kpenkpando, which is the

A family in Yenga sitting in front of an election poster. “did they vote?”
inhabitants and the occupying forces, but it out to be just one in the string of tense conformations between the two. Tension has been flaring on and off between them as well as between the youths and the state and local authorities in Sierra Leone.

The youths alleged that the government of Sierra Leone and its agents has not been serious in taking a robust stance to stop the Guineans from unjustifiably harassing and embarrassing peaceful Sierra Leoneans in their own land with impunity.

I was witness to an angry reaction by the people over yet another alleged violation of their rights by the occupiers.

On a Thursday morning, several youths and a few elderly traders converged in Koindu town blasting that the Guineans had again seized meats from Sierra Leonean traders crossing the Makona River border into Sierra Leone.

Because of this some of the youths vowed to prevent any commodity to be taken across the river as well and to prevent any Guinean from selling in the coming market day at Koindu.

According to one resident, the Guinean border guards are used to stopping traders bringing goods to Koindu and if anyone insisted the guards would seize their goods and beat them up.

Eventually, the chiefdom youth spokes person scheduled an emergency meeting for the following Saturday to address the matter.

Given the mood of the people, the fear of what all this might lead to is even more worrying than the current state of affairs. Does the government have the might to support its people’s call for action to put an end to their suffering? Have those who are spoiling for a fight considered the foreseeable damages to lives and property should there be a war, especially when the marks of the civil war are boldly written on the entire face of that area? Or have the trumpeters of confrontation given due consideration to the economic benefit being yielded by the inhabitants due to their proximity to Gueckedou in Guinean and Foya in Liberia as it is presently?

While the Sierra Leoneans are bitter, the occupiers and their countrymen are apprehensive and suspicious of any Sierra Leonean as well as any cross-border activity on their soil. This is clearly discernible right from the occupied Yenga on to the neighboring town of Nongowa over the Makona River.

The guards at both edges of the river make no concealment of fortifying the occupied territory to ward off any possible attack. They mounted tanks on top of the Yenga hill in a vantage point to surveillance the entire territory.

As soon as I arrived at their post I was searched vigorously and asked to present my traveling
documents by all the officers around me. The same was repeated to the other few travelers around. The band of military officers appeared like vigilantes. They put on ill fitting military uniforms with different sizes of red, yellow and green ropes either around their necks or wrists and no boots on.

Their appearances gave the impression that they were just a group of armed men recruited for that particular occupation.

Virtually, nobody in Nongowa is willing to talk to a Sierra Leonean. Save for being a Fullah I would have been a strange dumb man in a strange land.

I first encountered a group of few youths at an “ataya base”- tea shop- with whom I had some chats. As usual, our chat was initially focused on acquaintance. Meanwhile, I had ordered the ataya seller to serve every one a cup on me.

I questioned one of the youths, Kelfala, about the geo-political setup of the town, but instead of answering my question he demanded, in English, “What is your situation in Guinea, Nongowa?” “To investigate and document the plight of the Makona River youths in the three countries”, I said to him.

But, he refused to understand and declined to talk to me. Suddenly I sensed the same feeling amongst most of the other youths.

This reinvigorated the simmering fear that had gripped me earlier. Two youths who seemed not to be bothered answered the question. One of them, Sallieu, enquired about life in Freetown saying that he has relatives there. After a while, I persuaded the two to accompany me on a stroll around the town, which they did.

We met a woman, Tigi, selling fried sweet potatoes at a junction, whom my friends introduced to me as one of their leading female activists in the town. She also asked me about my mission.

No sooner had I mentioned the name Makona River than she said, strenuously in broken Krio, “Guinea, Makona get, Yenga oil, up en don, ol tin.” The English translation of this is that “Guinea owns Makona River and the whole of Yenga”.

Time passed by and yet I was unable to source the needed information.

However, I managed to continue to befriend a few youths whom I judged to be more open and moderate. Encouraged by my acquaintance with Sallieu and his friend, Sillah, I arranged another visit for the following day.

That day Sallieu and Sillah crossed into Yenga and collected me. Before crossing, Sallieu startled me by disclosing that no one is allowed to dig deeper than a normal garden in Yenga because of the substantial mineral deposits there. My second visit was a bit less fearsome and tense.
First hand Experience of getting in and out of Yenga

Version 2 by Mohamed Fofanah

Much had been said about the occupation of Yenga in Sierra Leone by Guinean troops. There was only one way to ascertain the truth – go there and get the facts at first hand. So I between Kailahun and Yenga took over an hour. The pot holes dictated that we drive through the rugged roads very slowly and laboriously.

We stopped over in self - big smart looking tenement houses and public buildings that once gave the city a robust and modern outlook are left to the mercy of the weather to complete the demolition started by bullets and bombs during the war. Many buildings are still riddled with bullet holes. The once lively and promising town is now half dead with most of the inhabitants reduced to merely looking out for the day’s meal.

"Nothing is kicking out here" said Siddique Jah, 23, who lives in a Koindu town, a few kilometers from our destination. Koindu Town used to be one of the most prosperous trading towns before the eleven-year devastating civil war. Goods of every sort were going back and forth between Koindu, Guinea and Liberia.

Now Koindu Town is a shadow of its former rode out of Kailahun on a motorcycle taxi with my haversack strapped to my back.

A little over 15 miles away sits Yenga, a small settlement by the Makona River along the border between Sierra Leone and Guinea. Because of bad roads made worse by the eroding effect of the rains, the short distance A front view of Yenga Village
run down mud hut together with his friend and girlfriend.
"It is as if the war just ended, things are rough".

When I asked him about Yenga, he studied me closely with careful eyes, smiled and then said, "for them (Yenga) the war is not over yet."

We were soon to learn the true meaning of those few words by Siddique.

We went to the Police station and requested to see the Officer-in-Charge. A smallish man stepped forward and asked me what I wanted. From his tone I knew at once that he is the OC. He introduced himself as Mr. Tommy Morgan.

Mr. Morgan led us to his Office and asked me to sit on a dry squeaking chair that had not been polished for a long time. He sat behind his desk opposite me and pulled a note book from among a pile of dog-eared folders stacked with papers browned with dust. As if about to take a statement from me, he asked again in that authoritative tone, "yes, what do you want?"

The question jerked me back from my survey of his office. Wondering what might be the relationship between the OC and the smiling lady in a photograph on his desk, I told him I was a journalist visiting Yenga.

The OC became grim-faced and silent for a while. And then in a tone that thinly concealed his frustration he told me that he was supposed to in control of Koindu and its surrounding villages which include Yenga, but that he could not deploy his men there because the village was still in the solid grip of Guinean troops. He warned that if I intended to go to the village I would have to leave my camera, recorder and notebook behind and present myself not as a journalist because the Guineans there are very hostile. He told me a story of how one Sierra Leonean army officer visiting Yenga was arrested and manhandled by the Guineans troops because he was a military man. I needed no further conviction about the need for caution in entering Yenga.

Three Kilometers to Yenga stood the last checkpoint manned by Sierra Leonean troops. Further ahead, a stream borders the town itself. "Our Power stops here," said one of the officers who manned the checkpoint. "Over there, after you cross that stream, you are all on your own."

With pounding heart, but propelled by an adventurous journalistic spirit, I left my haversack with my recorder and notebook behind and concealing my camera, a
sheet of paper and my pen as best as I could I crossed the stream into Yenga.

The first people I saw were soldiers - Guinean soldiers, moving in and around a maze of rice plantation under the blazing sun. They were talking and laughing as they weeded grass from the rice farm. Their guns were conspicuously stuck on their backs. Other shabbily dressed gun-totting soldiers moved up and down the small border town, cigarettes sticking out of their lips.

"Ay where are you going" they shouted at me and my bike rider who quickly greeted them in Gissi and told them we were going into Guinea to buy spare parts for the motorcycle. They nodded.

I tried to engage them in conversation. No UN official would have their guns for any reason. They were in Yenga with their weapons to consolidate their hold on the town and protect their country from threat, one of the Guinean, soldiers speaking under anonymity, told us.

We moved on. The village was deserted save for some old people.

"Where have everyone gone to?" I ventured to ask a cripple, who agreed to answer my question after I bought him a bottle of palm wine.

"Who would want to stay here" he answered. "The youths have their life to live and they cannot stay here under this slavery." He told us that some had gone ahead to Guinea, while others receded to Koidu or Kailahun.

Towards the mouth of the Makona River that served as a barrier between Yenga (Sierra Leone) and Nongowa (Guinea), the Guineans had mounted a large tank on top of a little hill on the Sierra Leone side. The barrel of the gun was sticking out of a grove of trees amplifying the might of the Guineans and stressing the fact that they are in control of Yenga. The soldiers manning the tank laze around, smoking and chatting.

We boarded a little boat on a five-minute ride into Nongowa. The whole border area with Nongowa was a well fortified zone. The soldiers there were on the alert as if poised for a quick response to any attack on Yenga.

Crossing into Nongowa we could determine that we were in a completely different territory. It was clear that Nongowa is in Guinean territory. Even the films shown in their cinema centers are in French. We killed some time there before we returned, so our spare parts buying story will hold.

We returned to Yenga and sped through the town as if pursued by an unknown enemy. Back at the last Sierra Leone security post we breathed a sigh of relief. We were out of Yenga! And out of the uncertainty and insecurity. END
Youth Employment: A Panacea to Regional Peace

By Sheikh Bawoh

Among the challenges facing the youth who wish to promote development and be gainfully employed in both urban and rural areas in the Mano River Union (MRU) sub-region are the lack of access to funds, career motivation, organizational and vocational skills and experienced supervision of management of funds when available.

As one youth leader in Koindu, Eastern Sierra Leone, put it, the youth in member countries of the Mano River Union (Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia) share common problems and visions on development and how to make ends meet, but they are handicapped by their respective past governments’ inability or failure to prioritize job creation through a robust programme of skills training and facilitation of community and private sector development.

Present governments in MRU countries face an uphill task of addressing the plight of youths with regards to unemployment. This could be done by ensuring that the issue of youth employment be included in their national development plans as a matter of urgency.

Apart from Guinea, both Liberia and Sierra Leone have each gone through over a decade of civil conflicts. Now that peace has been attained in these countries and the disarmament and demobilization schemes have been implemented, emphasis should now be placed on securing jobs for the large population of ex-fighters along with other youth who form part of the unemployment statistics in both countries. In formulating a plan for all three MRU states, emphasis should be placed on categorizing the jobless population into skilled, semi-skilled, non-skilled as well as into literate and illiterate.

A pilot project that was under-taken in one of these two post conflicts MRU states involved training ex-combatants as drivers, carpenters, masons, security guards and house-servers after their disarmament exercise. The objective was to engage them in meaningful self-reliant revenue generating activities and low skilled wage jobs to make them fit for life after the war.

In spite of those efforts, it was realized soon afterwards that it was proving difficult for them to go back to their respective villages and reintegrate into their traditional settings. This was because they faced stigmatization and discrimination by their own people who regarded them as “killers”.

Scores of such youths are today gainfully employed as drivers, security guards, bike-riders, house-servers, and cleaners in both urban and semi-urban settings in big towns such as Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni in Sierra Leone; and Monrovia, Buchanan, Harper, Kakata, Gbarnga, Sanniquelie and Ganta in Liberia.

It has been observed in the MRU states that perhaps due to their respective colonial heritage self-employed skilled and semi-skilled occupations are much more developed in French-speaking Guinea to their advantage than among their English-speaking neighbors of Liberia and Sierra Leone. In most instances, Guineans have an edge over Sierra Leoneans and Liberians in self employed vocations at street corners, such as cooking and restaurant management, petty trading, jewellery, arts and craft, sculpture, weaving and gara tie-dying.

This is why emphasis should be put on vocational training and middle level manpower development in Anglophone MRU states so as to develop the capacity of youths; whereas in Guinea the focus should be on developing the capacity of existing structures to increase the accommodation of interested youths.

“Like their Sierra Leonean and Liberian counterparts, Marie Rose Bangura and Alphose Soro, Vice-president and President of the Guinean and Cote d’Ivoire youth federation respectively presented similar profile of unemployment, poverty and lack of participation of the youth in the process of socio-economic development of their respective countries”.

Like their Sierra Leonean and Liberian counterparts, Marie Rose Bangura and Alphose Soro, Vice-president and President of the Guinean and Cote d’Ivoire youth federation respectively presented similar profile of unemployment, poverty and lack of participation of the youth in the process of socio-economic development of their respective countries”. 
In June 2006, Sierra Leone hosted a Youth Conference of MRU countries and Cote d'Ivoire in Freetown. The meeting which brought together representatives of governments of the Mano River Union Countries, youth organizations, donor agencies as well as the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) of the four countries including Ivory Coast discussed common challenges facing youths in the sub region. They further deliberated on the institutional arrangement for the coordination of activities that address issues such as job creation strategies and cross-border cooperation.

In that meeting which was graced by the former Sierra Leone’s Vice President Solomon Berewa and the Secretary General of MRU Alieu Diallo as well as Sierra Leone’s Minister of Youth and Sport, Dr. Dennis Bright the need for job creation strategies and training of youths was underscored. While it is true that the initiative, if actualized will benefit a large proportion of youths in the sub-region, the point was made clear that border youths in the Mano River basin must be given priority in job creation initiatives in this region. This is because border areas were often the frontline of the two wars, making youth in these areas suffer the brunt of the war, taking a far more devastating toll on their lives.

In the three largest border towns of Koidu in Sierra Leone, Foya in Liberia and Nongowa in Guinea that are mostly inhabited by the Kissi ethnic group, the youth population have no access to any form of vocational training as their counterparts in the cities and other big town in the three countries, mainly because they are far removed from the capital cities of Freetown, Monrovia and Conakry.

Skills training in hairdressing and other vocation for the female and carpentry, masonry for male could well be ventures that would enhance the survival of youths and put them at par with their peers in big towns.

But whatever initiative that is geared towards economic development of the youth in the sub-region would require both political will and funding. If the politicians fail to address the concerns of youths, there is a likelihood that the conflict will emerge sooner or later, not least because of the old adage that an idle mind is the devil’s workshop.

In the July meeting, Solomon Berewa agreed that the uneducated youths are easily subjected to political manipulation but added that Sierra Leone has already manifested the political will in addressing youth crisis through the provision of free education for all primary school-going children, while subsidizing examination fees for all public examinations for secondary students.

“Further measures, which have been applied in Sierra Leone, are to establish technical and vocational institutions, prepare and adopt Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP), which has as one of its main pillars, youth training and job creation through the Ministry of Youth and Sports.”

Youth leaders in the sub region also highlighted the plights of youths in their respective countries. Al Sankoh of Sierra Leone emphasized the need for youth empowerment and urged that unemployment and illiteracy are issues of concern which if not addressed pose a threat to the survival of the three nations. Among other issues affecting the Liberian youths, George Wisner maintained, “Further measures, which have been applied in Sierra Leone, are to establish technical and vocational institutions, prepare and adopt Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP), which has as one of its main pillars, youth training and job creation through the Ministry of Youth and Sports.”

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Sierra Leone has made significant efforts to promote youth development. The country has put in place a Youth Policy and a National Action Plan for Youth to enhance opportunities for youth. By focusing on job creation and skills training, these programs also seek to address key challenges that youth in Sierra Leone face today. Despite considerable investments and efforts, however, they are not having the desired impact. In the context of the country’s difficult economic and human development situation, this study recommends a dual approach to improve opportunities for youth employment and skills development:

- **In the short term**, developing cost-effective programs to support sustainable youth employment
- **In the medium to long term**, boosting economic growth through shifts in investments and policies is a prerequisite. In addition, increased quality education opportunities for future young job seekers should be put in place. Policies and programs must also address other constraints to youth such as limited access to land and quality employment opportunities.

Creating job opportunities for the large and growing number of young people is a priority for the government of Sierra Leone. This study focuses on the context, options, and suggested actions for turning a serious political, social and economic challenge into an opportunity.¹

Today’s youth in Sierra Leone are ...

- 15-35 years old, representing 34 percent of the population.
- Transitioning from being ex-combatants and victims of civil conflict to becoming productive civilians in a peaceful society.

- Facing significant intergenerational tensions, where elders often hold power over land and labor and where adults have more promising opportunities.
- Overcoming very low levels of education and lack of professional skills.
- Trying to prevail over high rates of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infectious diseases.

Inactivity rates in the labor market are high, especially for urban youth.

- Many youth are not in school, not working, and not looking for employment.
- By age 20-24, one in three urban youth and one in six rural youth are inactive in the labor market. While inactivity rates for rural youth are similar to adult rates, those for urban youth (age 20-24) and young adults (age 25-35) are higher compared to urban adults.
- Inactivity rates for male and female youth are similar. However, while inactivity rates for female youth are similar to adult rates, those for male youth are almost twice as high as those for male adults.
- ‘Idle’ young men are a serious concern: nearly half of those aged 20-24 who are inactive in the labor market have no intention of finding work.

The absolute unemployment rate of less than 5 percent for all youth hides significant differences among urban and rural youth, and among young men and women.

- Urban youth are ten times more likely to be unemployed than rural youth. Unemployment rates in urban areas reach 17 percent for adolescents (age 15-19).
- Young men are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as young women.
Unemployment rates fail to capture discouraged workers, high inactivity rates, underemployment, and the quality of work.

**Employment opportunities are less promising for youth than for adults.**

- Youth are concentrated in agricultural activities, in the informal sector, and among the self-employed. Agricultural activities represent 70 percent of employment, with similar levels for youth and adults. The service sector is under-populated by youth, while the retail industry employs youth heavily. Formal sector employment increases with age but is very low across the life-cycle, at nine percent for the working age population.
- Self-employment represents more than half of employment. A majority of those who start their own business do so for lack of salaried or formal employment opportunities.

Even though youth are more educated than adults, less than half of young workers receive payment for their labor, compared to two thirds of adults.
- Public sector, salaried, and formal employment opportunities are mainly for adults.
- Additional constraints to gainful employment of youth include limited access to land, especially for tree-crop farming; less social capital and connections; and less access to micro-credit than adults.

**What does the labor market tell us?**

Successful and sustainable youth employment programs must respond to labor market demands. A survey of employers in firms and farms undertaken for this study found that:

- The limitations to job opportunities for youth are more linked to the overall economic situation than to specificities of youth. Domestic competition, limited demand for products and limited access to electricity and credit are the main constraints identified by employers. For rural employers (farms) an additional factor is the cost and availability of workers.
- Employers discriminate. Employers are partial against youth ages 18-24 and against young women. They also prefer to hire employees based on strong social connections; which youth typically lack.
- There is a widespread need for improving the skills of employees. A major factor limiting youth employment opportunities is the vicious circle of lack of resources to provide training, and consequent low-skilled labor that is available for hiring.
- Average education levels of self-employed and entrepreneurs are significantly higher than those of the average population, implying that not all youth will necessarily succeed as entrepreneurs or self-employed.
What makes youth employment programs effective? Lessons from other countries.
Training and skills development programs are successful when they are comprehensive and closely match the needs of the labor market.

- Although they are more expensive, youth programs that hold the most promise combine extensive training with counseling, job search assistance and other services such as access to credit. These programs involve the private sector both for providing on the job training and for identifying skills needs. Cost effective alternatives include apprenticeship programs.
- Investments in public works are a sound option for creating employment opportunities for youth, particularly in the short term. These programs should also provide skills development training.
- Improving chances for young entrepreneurs holds promise for job creation, but failure rates are high.
- Traditional vocational training programs without clear linkages to labor market demand tend to be ineffective.

- Programs should be demand-driven, involve the private sector, carefully select participants and focus on sustainable employment creation.
- Supporting current employers and farmers holds promise for sustainable employment creation.

What can be done, and where are the priorities?
Sierra Leone is making significant efforts to promote youth development, but for these efforts to be sustainable, the World Bank study recommends a series of short-term and medium-to-long term actions (see table on page 17) that can be supported and implemented by the government, local private sector and non-governmental organizations, donors, and international development agencies. Given the resource constraints in Sierra Leone, programs should be coordinated, prioritized and resources reallocated from unsuccessful programs to more promising approaches. Specific programs should be developed for disadvantaged youth such as the disabled and street children.

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- In the short term, developing cost-effective programs to support sustainable youth employment
- In the medium to long term, boosting economic growth through shifts in investments and policies is a prerequisite. In addition, increased quality education opportunities for future young job seekers should be put in place. Policies and programs must also address other constraints to youth such as limited access to land and quality employment opportunities.
### Objectives

<table>
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| Strengthen skills and increase productivity of current farmers and agro-businesses, with a focus on youth | Voucher and incentive programs for skills development  
- Develop management and export skills of formal private sector business owners  
- Develop productivity, marketing and business development skills of small entrepreneurs and self-employed.  
- Conditional cash transfers to increase literacy levels of unskilled workers in formal and informal sector  
- "Self-help" programs  
- Help small and large scale farmers identify training needs  
- Help "defund" large/medium businesses develop rehabilitation plans and access financing. |
| Strengthen skills and increase productivity of current farmers and agro-businesses, with a focus on youth | Voucher and incentive programs for skills development  
- Develop voucher programs and matching grant programs for skills development of small and large scale farmers with a focus on food processing, marketing, management, business opportunities and development, basic accounting, and veterinary skills.  
- "Self-help" programs  
- Help small and large scale farmers identify training needs  
- Help "defund" large farms develop rehabilitation plans and access financing. |
| Address labor market bottlenecks in rural areas | Getting labor to or market  
- Put in place privately run programs to transport urban youth to rural areas on a daily basis.  
- Skills development  
- Basic agricultural skill development for willing urban youth.  
- Support existing rural youth groups that focus on skill strengthening for current farmers and agro-businesses, such as youth labor gangs. |
| Increase employment opportunities for youth in public works (infrastructure, waste management, etc.) | Boost management and training abilities of SMEs  
- Help SMEs to manage public works projects, from identifying needs to training low-skilled youth, business planning and development, financial literacy, access to credit.  
- Ensure participation of low-skilled youth in infrastructure projects. |
| Improve skills profile for out-of-school youth through traditional apprenticeship programs | Training master and apprentice  
- Pair apprentices and master craftsmen with literacy and non-formal education programs.  
- Train master craftsmen in marketing, diversified production, capacity to provide quality training, and use of upgraded technology.  
- Professionalism  
- Develop formal standards (benchmarks), time limits and certification processes for apprentices to become master craftsmen.  
- Financial Incentives and management  
- Conditional cash transfers with incentives for master craftsmen to ensure that apprentices follow literacy training and reach a certifiable skill level within an agreed-upon time.  
- "Self-help" programs for apprentices to start their own business upon graduating from literacy, non-formal education, and training programs. |

### Short term interventions to serve today's youth: Cost-effective priority interventions with low risks

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| Improve access to credit and financial literacy of employers in urban and rural areas, with a focus on youth | Credit schemes  
- Promote youth participation in emerging credit schemes while ensuring their financial reliability.  
- Develop specific credit schemes for youth (e.g. Grameen Banks).  
- Develop youth financial literacy including saving schemes. |
| Develop carefully designed self-employment and entrepreneurship programs for youth | Match labor market needs and opportunities with available labor  
- Improve relevance and quality of available training.  
- Help entrants to the informal sector identify viable business opportunities; develop sustainable business plans, and access microcredit and mentoring; provide training in emerging areas (e.g. IT, auto-mechanics).  
- Support highly skilled youth in entering the high-growth potential formal sector through mentoring from the private sector, on-the-job training and manage skill development, and knowledge of national and international markets.  
- Provide training for low skilled youth in rural areas, focusing on access to basic tools and links to microcredit schemes. |
| Scale up second chance education programs | Increase program reach and scope  
- Link to on-the-job training, apprenticeship, self-employment, entrepreneurship. |

### Creating new opportunities; medium to long term interventions

<table>
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<th>Objectives</th>
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| Increase access to quality of primary and secondary education | Incentives to keep children in school  
- Conditional cash transfer programs. |
| Improve training and vocational education (TVE) | Improve TVE through a demand driven approach and an increased role for private and NGO providers  
- Increase in public spending on TVE with government priorities.  
- Develop a framework such as a National Training Authority to bring together government and employers in decision-making and allocation of public spending on TVE, integrating a diverse provider community and improving efficiency and market links.  
- Develop, with employers, a quality assurance framework that includes occupational standards for skill development, strengthening pre-service and in-service instructor training, curriculum reform including, minimum standards for training institutions, accreditation procedures, and mechanisms for monitoring public and private institutions.  
- Develop incentives for improved performance of training institutions such as performance-based budgeting, competitive procurement of training or voucher systems.  
- Pilot voucher programs for access to TVE. |
| Develop high skilled, specialized labor for emerging sectors in need of high skilled labor | Build a base of highly-skilled, specialized labor  
- Create specialized centers directed and funded by the private sector, for training and dissemination of best practices.  
- Develop specialized programs, in partnership with private sector agencies and local and regional universities. The programs should be in high skilled sectors and answer to private sector demands. |
| Increase access to public sector employment and land | Promote merit-based employment  
- Develop mechanisms to improve merit based public sector employment  
- Improve sustainable access to land  
- Analyze land ownership and land distribution systems in Sierra Leone  
- Increase distribution of government-owned land to carefully selected youth, combined with programs to improve their agricultural skills |
| Understand the impact of youth development programs | Develop monitoring and evaluation systems  
- To understand the impact of youth employment programs on sustainable employment and earning, and to assess the cost-effectiveness of programs. |
| Redefine concept of youth | Develop a more concise definition of youth for more focused youth programs. |
Cinq ans après le silence de fusils et désarmement accomplis dans le bassin du fleuve Mano, il existe toujours une menace à la paix sous-régionale et aux activités économiques stables, en particulier au sein et autour des communautés de tri frontière où la Sierra Leone, le Libéria et la Guinée se réunissent.

La menace est provoquée par un conflit entre la Sierra Leone et la Guinée sur Yenga, un petit village Sierra Léonais dans la frontière situé au bord du fleuve de Makona qui a été occupé par les forces guinéennes pendant la guerre. Le motif pour cette occupation est inconnu.

Au commencement, on l’a pensé qu’en raison de son endroit stratégique, les forces guinéennes ont dû se déplacer à la ville pour écarter n’importe quelle attaque par des insurgés, prétendument commandités par l’ancien Président Charles Taylor du Libéria.

Pendant l’apogée des médias outragez en Sierra Leone en 2006, ancien ministre des affaires internes, Pascal Egbenda, a maintenu que les forces guinéennes qui ont collaboré avec l’armée sierra léonais ont demandé la permission d’employer la position avantageuse de Yenga pour repousser n’importe quelle attaque des rebelles qui menacerait les deux pays. Après la fin de la guerre, Egbenda a dit, la Sierra Leone a soulevé la matière avec la Guinée et tous les communiqués signés par les deux chefs d’État ; depuis lors il a affirmé clairement que Yenga appartient en Sierra Leone.


Et la presse sierra léonais a continué à interroger pourquoi Yenga est toujours dans des mains guinéennes, arguant que la raison d’une telle
occupation n'existe plus parce qu'il n'y ont plus de menaces rebelles en Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone. L'intransigeance apparente de la Guinée est justifiée par son refus d'assister au programme de délimitation de frontière et pour ratifier le Traité franco-anglais de 1921. Ceci a mené à un soupçon grave que l'occupation a un motif politique plutôt que de sécurité, avec le régime à Conakry solide derrière l'action des militaires à Yenga. Francis Gabbidon, l'ancien Ombudsman de la Sierra Leone, dans une frustration apparente sur le refus de la Guinée à participer aux entretiens de délimitation de frontière a dit : « L'occupation permanente de la Guinée à Yenga en dépit des entretiens diplomatiques est une indication claire que le gouvernement de Guinée n'est pas préparé abandonner le territoire à Sierra Leone.

Tous les signataires à la charte d'OUA ont convenu que même si un point de frontière est militairement stratégique, les frontières coloniales doivent être respectés comme ils sont ».

Les habitants de Yenga et de ses environs du côté de la Sierra Leone de la frontière ont été à la fin de réception de l'hostilité. Ils ont été soumis au harcèlement, à l'intimidation et à l'humiliation. Un chef de la jeunesse à Koidu, Falla Gborie, a été sévèrement battu en 2006 et a dû être volé à Freetown pour susciter l'attention médicale. L'histoire de Falla est une dans une série de la violence physique que les guinéens sont prétendus d'avoir commis contre les sierra léonaises et d'autres visiteurs. Presque deux ans du passé, une délégation du mouvement de femmes de l'union du fleuve Mano, (MARWOPNET) a été détenue à Yenga pendant plusieurs heures. Il y a également des signaux qu'un colonel militaire américain a été également détenu. Ces développements indiquent que contraire aux rapports, les Guinéens a pu avoir pris Yenga pour de bon, particulièrement car les forces d'occupation sont activement engagées dans l'agriculture.

Charles Mambu, le porte-parole de coalition des activistes de société civile et de droits de l'homme, en 2002 a ajouté sa voix au jet du tollé et de l'agitation sur la situation de Yenga. Il a dit, « tout le monde avait désarmé et les troupes de l'ONU se sont déployées, donc il n'y a aucune justification quelconque pour avoir les troupes guinéennes encore occuper des territoires sierra léonais et les réclamer avec force ». La vue de M. Mambu a été récemment faite écho par des aînés de chefferie de Kissy Teng, la région dont Yenga fait partie. Le chef régent de Kissy Fallah Jusu et lui-même un indigène de Yenga, argue du fait qu'il n'y a aucune justification pour l'occupation guinéenne permanente à ne permanente à Yenga.

« Yenga sans querelle et sans question est une région de la Sierra Leone. Il n'y a aucune question à ce sujet. Je suis né là », il a précisé. L'orateur de la chefferie, Edouard Foryoh, bien plus frustré avec les attitudes des forces d'occupation réclame l'intervention internationale pour une résolution paisible au problème. « Nous sommes fatigués des rapports de l'humiliation et du harcèlement de nos personnes presque quotidiennement par des soldats guinéens. Ceci doit s'arrêter car il n'est pas bon pour la paix dans cette région ».

Sans compter que la menace de sécurité qu'elle constitue aux trois pays de l'union du fleuve Mano, le conflit de Yenga également a sensiblement géné les activités économiques productives qui caractérisent une fois les communautés de frontière.

«Tant que la Guinée continue à occuper Yenga, le marché international à Koidu ne s'épanouira pas. Les Guinéens privent les trois pays de la génération de revenu »
Koindu qui est juste deux milles loin était avant la guerre la tâche la plus chaude d'affaires dans la sous région de l'union du fleuve Mano. Mais l'occupation guinéenne qui continue dans la ville avait effrayé les hommes d'affaires, beaucoup de qui ont la crainte que le conflit pourrait étinceler durant la nuit.

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Les Guinéens privent les trois pays de la génération de revenu », dit Mohamed Jalloh, Président, l'union de commerçants à Koindu.

Presque sur la base quotidienne les forces de occupation saisissent des marchandises de sierra Léonais et d'autres choses, et la plupart du temps les victimes sont des jeunesse, un développement qui a étranglé la ressuscitation du marché à Koindu, une fois très connu et célèbre.

Osman Amara, une jeunesse Sierra Léonais qui actionne un centre visuel à Koindu a mis la crise de Yenga dans la perspective. « Si Yenga était occupé pour la raison de sécurité, maintenant il n'y a plus de guerre. C'est l'heure pour faire des affaires. Nous devons être donnés la chance de se bouger librement comme sierra Léonais et comme citoyens de l'union du fleuve Mano et Communauté économique des états africains occidentaux (CEDEAO) ». 

La menace est provoquée par un conflit entre la Sierra Leone et la Guinée Yenga fini, un village Sierra-Léonais minuscule de frontière par le fleuve de Makona qui a été occupé par Guinée.
Once upon a time, there lived Cat in a town ruled by a wealthy Kissy chief in Nongowa, Guinea. One day Cat was returning home from the outskirts of the town when he saw a trap by the path leading to the town’s playground.

Cat thought that that was a dangerous place to leave a trap, especially so when it was the playground of the chief’s only daughter. It was known to all and sundry that Musu, as the daughter was called, was the favourite child of the chief. For several years none of the chief’s many wives bore him a girl child. Although the chief was delighted that he had produced a successor from his children, he was unhappy that he had not a single girl child. He wanted one badly and he prayed everyday that God would give him a girl child.

Then after his thirty-fifth son, his youngest wife became pregnant. As if by divine revelation the chief announced confidently that the time for him to get a girl child had come. The pregnant wife was accorded all the comfort she desired. More slaves (men and women) were assigned at her quarters to assist with her domestic chores to avoid her suffering accidental abortion through strenuous work.

And indeed the chief was right. Martha his youngest wife was delivered of a beautiful baby girl. It was no wonder that she instantly became the chief’s favourite child. When news went out that the chief’s wife had given birth to a bouncing baby girl, everyone that mattered in the chiefdom came to pay homage with gifts. Musu grew up to become something of an idol to the chief and members of his family. The chief loved her so much that wherever he went, he took Musu with him. Musu for her part loved the playground so much that whenever she was not visiting with her father, she would be seen playing with other children in the playground.

It was on the path leading to this playground that someone decided to put the trap that was seen by Cat. Knowing that the trap was a threat not only to human lives but the lives of animals and other creatures as well, Cat quickly alerted the other animals in town about the danger.

First, he went to Cock. “Cock”, he said, “there is a trap near the playground please let’s go and destroy it. It is not good for all of us”. Cock did not think so, so he did not heed the warning and refused to help. Next Cat went to Goat, Sheep, and then Cow all of whom failed to heed the advice and do something about the trap. Cat went home disappointed, thinking very seriously of the calamity that might befall them as result of the trap.

The following day the trap caught a viper by its tail. Not long after, the chief’s daughter, unaware of the danger on the path, passed right by the trap and was bitten by the angry viper. She died a few hours later in spite of frantic efforts by herbalists to save her life.

As soon as the news went round that the chief’s daughter had died, sympathizers from the town and its surroundings started pouring into the chief’s compound. Cat knew that trouble had only just begun.

Even before the chief could order his wives to prepare food for the visitors, Cat knew what would be on the menu. He went Cock: “Cock you didn’t heed my warning; now, you’re in trouble”. “For what?” Cock asked. “Well”, said Cat, “the chief is expecting a lot of visitors. Food must be prepared for them and you’ll be part of that meal”. Even as they spoke two agile boys appeared, and chased Cock. He ran helter skelter for dear life, but to no avail. As they took him away, Cat who was standing by said, “now you know that the town trap is not for cat alone?”

On the Third, Seventh and Fortieth day ceremonies for Musu, Goat, Sheep and Cow were all slaughtered for food as sacrifice. Too late, they all remembered the advice of Cat. Cat who was present at the death of each felt very sad. If only they had listened to his advice.
The BORDERLINES initiative is seed sponsored by the World Bank and implemented by Pampana Communications with manpower support from the Mano River Union Secretariat and UNDP in Sierra Leone.