SORIE SULAIMAN SESAY — POLICY SUMMARY

AFFORDABLE

Building Financial Security for Every Household

Household finance & social protection — Affordable Sierra Leone, Part 3

> *A family manages, most months, to make ends meet — until an illness, a funeral, or a failed harvest arrives, and a single bad month undoes years of careful effort, because there was nothing saved, no insurance, and no cushion to fall back on.*

WHY THIS MATTERS

For most Sierra Leonean families, that isn't a hypothetical — it's the constant condition they live in. Only around one adult in six holds a bank account; even counting savings, credit and insurance together, only about one in seven is genuinely included in the financial system. Most people keep what little money they have as cash at home, where inflation, theft and simple bad luck slowly eat it away.

WHAT WE'RE PROMISING

Help every family move from surviving to progressing — to save, to weather misfortune, and to build a future, rather than living from one shock to the next.

FLAGSHIP — Include, Save, Protect, Prepare, Build, Catch

This is the ladder a family climbs, one rung at a time, toward real financial security. It starts with inclusion: mobile money has already reached villages no bank branch ever will, and we'll make that bridge carry more by pushing down the transaction fees that currently eat into the small, frequent transfers a poor household actually makes, through competition between providers and shared digital-payment infrastructure rather than price controls. From there, families need somewhere safe to save (through mobile accounts and the savings groups Sierra Leoneans already trust), a fair way to borrow without turning a crisis into permanent debt, protection against catastrophe, security in old age, and a real asset — a home — to build and pass on. And beneath all of it, a floor: strengthening Ep Fet Po, the country's existing social safety net, from a fund that depends almost entirely on donor goodwill into a permanent, progressively nationally financed system that reliably reaches the extreme poor, the elderly without a pension, and people thrown into crisis by a flood or an epidemic.

HOW WE'LL MAKE IT REAL

- We're honest about the danger of credit: a family borrowing for a medical bill or a funeral isn't building security, it's converting today's crisis into tomorrow's debt. Credit has its place, but saving comes first, and insurance and the social floor below are meant to catch what saving alone can't.
- We'll defend the goal that actually matters — not accounts opened, but families genuinely able to save, borrow, insure and plan — and build on the country's existing National Strategy for Financial Inclusion rather than starting over with something new.
- And we make the social-protection floor an honest commitment, not a free one: a rising national share of its funding over time, paid for within the same disciplined public finances set out in Sound Money, Sound Finances, because a nation that won't underwrite a floor beneath its most vulnerable hasn't yet accepted the first duty of a state to its people.

> *“People should have the chance to build their own security; but one illness, disability, disaster, or old age should never erase a lifetime of effort.”*

Full policy chapter available at sorielsulaiman.sl/publications/financial-security