Sierra Leone is endowed with countless mineral and natural resources, and the Kono and Moyamba districts are no exception. However, the region’s substantial diamond deposits are still seen as a curse by the population rather than a blessing. Despite the government’s bold steps to regulate the mining sector, populations still fear the loss of productive agricultural land with little compensation, limited community development, and few alternative livelihood options. Meanwhile, small-scale miners are concerned about the disadvantage of competing with large companies.

Since January 2020, Search for Common Ground (Search), in partnership with Campaign for Good Governance and National Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), builds trust and accountability in the Kono and Moyamba districts' mining sector. Our 18-month GIZ-funded project strengthens civil society and community-based organizations’ capacity to mobilize communities, authorities, and mining companies for collaborative decision-making that meets citizens' needs. To build community trust, we also work with local media to increase access to information around mining policies and legislation.

Search for Common Ground (Search) is one of the largest conflict transformation organizations in the world. Our mission is to transform the way that the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative solutions. In Sierra Leone since 2000, our programs have opened a space for dialogue on critical and sensitive social and political issues, while promoting social cohesion and reconciliation throughout the post-war period.
Reinforce Collaboration in Rural Chiefdom

Our approach is to build trust, collaboration and bridge the gap between mining companies, authorities and communities. Each of our activities builds on the previous one. We strengthen the capacity of CSOs and CBOs to accompany us throughout the process, where we bring stakeholder groups together to discuss their problems, needs, and concerns in their respective groups before bringing them together to develop joint solutions.

4 TRAININGS FOR CSOs AND CBOs
Promoting local ownership and sustainability, we train our CSOs and CBOs partners in governance, financial management, non-confrontational advocacy, and monitoring processes to engage effectively, collaborate, and communicate with communities, authorities, and mining companies and monitor project results.

8 TOWN HALL MEETINGS
To review and consolidate the community action plans, we organize action-oriented Town Hall Meetings that bring together all key stakeholders: communities, authorities, mining companies, community-based organizations, and civil society organizations. These meetings enable them to create action plans collaboratively to address the common challenges reflected in the CAPs.

12 SCORECARD MEETINGS
Community Action Plans (CAPs) and Town Hall Meetings (THMs) translate into an accountability tool: scorecards that describe citizens’ expectations and their desire to improve service delivery and the commitment of local authorities mining companies to meet them. Thus, these scorecard meetings measure real improvements in the quality, efficiency, and transparency of service delivery on issues raised in the CAPs and THMs while sustaining constructive collaboration between citizens, local authorities, and mining companies.

4 COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS
Community Action Plans (CAPs) process involve stakeholder groups first discussing problems in their respective groups before discussing joint solutions. They are an essential advocacy tool to guide the implementation of district development plans and help authorities and mining companies better understand communities’ needs and concerns. This process is two-stage:

1. With our trained CBO partner, we lead the development of Community Action Plans (CAPs) in chiefdoms. This community-led process brings together community members, CSOs, CBOs, women, youth, traditional leaders, and people with disabilities to discuss and document their needs, concerns and recommendations related to mining governance, the environment, or service delivery.

2. Search facilitates discussions with local authorities and mining companies to address citizens' concerns documented in the CAPs. Our role is to enable them to respond to the issues raised by citizens and provide guidance on how the mining sector can meet the community's needs.

What is a scorecard? It is a process based on dialogue, accountability, and transparency that allows citizens and service providers to identify, evaluate, and improve performance criteria jointly. It enables providers to understand better the public's perceptions of the services offered and citizens to understand providers' challenges and respond to them.
60 RADIO DRAMA EPISODES
Since 2007, our "Bush Wahala" radio program, known locally as "Problem in the Bush," promotes popular education on fair land and mining rights and other mining policies. Our drama series, which reaches a national audience of approximately 2.1 million listeners per week, positively influences attitudes and behaviors towards citizen rights, participation in decision-making, transparency, governance, and accountability. This time, our 60 new episodes also draw on the Town Hall Meetings' discussions to create additional content that addresses current concerns.

16 PARTICIPATORY THEATRE
Our participatory theater activities enable communities to learn and express themselves on crucial issues, even in the most remote areas. By combining entertainment and education, our shows promote a better understanding of mining law, mining contracts, and local mining governance processes while emphasizing citizen participation and collaboration with mining stakeholders. After the play, community members, authorities, and mining companies discuss the problems and challenges presented, allowing for collective reflection to develop non-confrontational and collaborative solutions.