



# NaCSA WEEKLY

MAGAZINE

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## AMB. NDOMAHINA ATTENDS 74TH SESSION OF THE UNHCR EXCOM MEETING



**NaCSA PRESENTS A BIG FIVE GAME CHANGER BUDGET FOR 2024**



**POLICE WIVES ASSOCIATION PAYS A COURTESY VISIT ON NaCSA**



**NaCSA DISBURSES MORE THAN NLE 1.8BILLION TO 711 BENEFICIARIES**





## AMBASSADOR NDOMAHINA PINPOINTS REFORMS IN PROTECTING REFUGEES & DISPLACED PERSONS AT THE 74TH SESSION OF THE EXCOM MEETING



*NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ndomahina and HE Amb. Dr. Lans Gberie at the session*

*The Commissioner of National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina, has on Monday October 10, 2023, presented that Sierra Leone under the leadership of His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, has initiated and rolled out several policy reforms with the view to safeguarding the fundamental human rights of all refugees and internally displaced persons within its territory, and has made tremendous strides in the promotion and protection of the rights of citizens.*

While speaking at the 74th Session of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Executive Council in

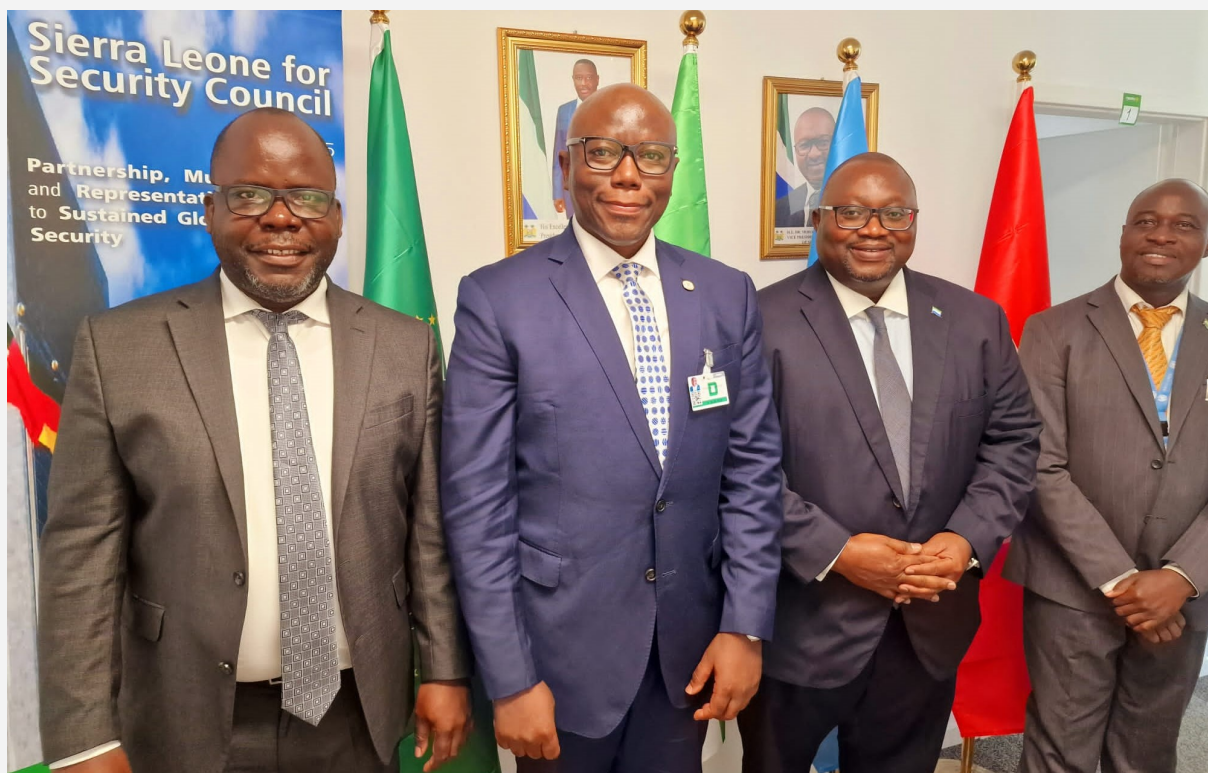
Geneva, Switzerland, Commissioner Ndomahina informed delegates that Sierra Leone created the National Commission for Social Action shortly after the end of the civil war in 2002 to provide essential services to displaced Sierra Leoneans and refugees from neighboring countries. This demonstrates her avowed commitment to protecting refugees and displaced persons in global solidarity for strengthening partnership.



*Amb. Ndomahina and RC Farama Bangura at the session*



## AMBASSADOR NDOMAHINA PINPOINTS REFORMS IN PROTECTING REFUGEES & DISPLACED PERSONS AT THE 74TH SESSION OF THE EXCOM MEETING



*Amb. Ndomahina with Amb. Dr. Lans Gberie and team at the session*

Ambassador Ndomahina further noted that Sierra Leone has enacted several legislative and legal instruments to enable NaCSA to effectively deliver essential social services to displaced Sierra Leoneans, Refugees, and stateless persons. “The enactment of the Refugee Protection Act of 2007, being an Act to provide for the recognition and protection of refugees in Sierra Leone domesticated the following international and regional normative frameworks: (i) Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva, 1951), (ii) Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967) and (iii) OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, signed in (Addis Ababa (1969),” Commissioner Ndomahina said.

He assured the committee that Sierra Leone would continue to support the normalization of lives of refugees and vulnerable persons, thus enhancing development of a road map for UNHCR disengagement with established structures, systems, processes, and procedures for a successor project, the “Tenki Salone” Project. The “Tenki Salone” Project is NaCSA’s mechanism of compensating host communities through the implementation of socio-economic infrastructure projects for concrete solutions and opportunities for the remaining caseload of 385 refugees in their respective host communities.



*NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ndomahina the session*

## AMBASSADOR NDOMAHINA PINPOINTS REFORMS IN PROTECTING REFUGEES & DISPLACED PERSONS AT THE 74TH SESSION OF THE EXCOM MEETING

Commissioner Ndomahina said that: “Sierra Leone has developed a Statelessness policy, provided birth certificates for persons of concern (POCs) and remain committed to reducing statelessness by 2024. The Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with UNHCR jointly developed an assistance framework for registered asylum seekers in Sierra Leone through which the asylum seekers benefitted from a one-off cash grant support.”

In concluding, Commissioner Ndomahina called on the Executive Committee to support

processes that would strengthen international, regional and national human rights regimes and mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in a bid to mitigate the root causes that trigger wars and stemming the global refugee and IDP problems.

“In line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the Global Compact on Refugees, the Government of Sierra Leone remains committed to providing protection and assistance to refugees, opening its doors for asylum seekers and stateless persons and helping them achieve durable solutions”, Commissioner Ndomahina stated.

In his response, the High Commissioner of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, commended the Government of Sierra Leone for its tremendous drive in making lives better for refugees, internally displaced Persons and Asylum-Seekers and enhancing development of a road map for UNHCR.

“In West Africa I hope you will allow me to take together the statements of Sierra Leone and Liberia, these two countries that in the past, I think I have said it before, went through very big challenges of conflict, there were many here which exodus of people from Sierra Leone and from Liberia, it was a central point of discussion and now I’m so happy that you are both talking about technical issues related to residual refugee caseloads that you host, also improvement in the way that you manage the refugee case loads. Thank you for that. It is encouraging to hear that countries can move on from crisis to solutions. And in particular also, the role that Sierra Leone, has played in the solutions for the refugees, it is significant”, High Commissioner Grandi said.



*Amb. Ndomahina and Amb. Dr. Lans Gberie*



## AMB. NDOMAHINA PAYS COURTESY CALL ON IOM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL



*Amb. Ndomahina having a handshake with Madam Irena Vojackova-Sollorano*

***The Commissioner of National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina, has on Wednesday October 11, 2023 paid a courtesy call on the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva. He met with the Deputy Director General, Madam Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, where they briefly discussed critical issues around displacement, the effects of climate change, and support to NaCSA, including President Bio's Big Five Agenda Manifesto commitments.***

While introducing Ambassador Ndomahina to the Deputy Director General, the Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations, Dr. Lans Gberie, reiterated the importance of displacement, climate change, and collaboration with the Mission.

Ambassador Gberie, who is chair of the governing bureau of IOM, informed the Deputy Director General of President Bio's government's commitment to attend United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties popularly known as COP28.

In his statement, the Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina, thanked IOM Deputy Director General and its leadership for their financial and technical support to NaCSA over the years.

On behalf of the President and people of Sierra Leone, "I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the recent three hundred thousand dollars (\$ 300,000) IOM Development Funding Support for the implementation of the "Combatting Irregular Migration through Youth Empowerment and Community Engagement Project in Sierra Leone", which aligns with the Medium-Term National Development Framework (MT-NDF 2019-2023) for a period of 24 months," he disclosed.

## AMB. NDOMAHINA PAYS COURTESY CALL ON IOM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

In her response, the International Organization for Migration Deputy Director General, Madam Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, assured Commissioner Ndomahina of IOM's support to the Government of Sierra Leone on displacement, climate and other issues on migration in the sub-region.

"Cooperation is very important and Sierra Leone is an important partner to IOM on displacement, climate change, and other issues, and we would like to support and as much as we can. I am looking forward to working with you," IOM Deputy Director General said.

Furthermore, on the margin of 74<sup>th</sup> ExCom Meeting, NaCSA Commissioner, Amb Ernest Ndomahina, on Thursday October 12, 2023 paid a courtesy call on UNHCR Director, Regional Bureau for West & Central Africa, Abdourakuf Gnon-Konde. They discussed the need to collaborate and advocate to other UN agencies to finance NaCSA 'Tenki Salone' project.



*Amb. Ndomahina and Amb. Dr. Lans Gberie with Madam Irena Vojackova-Sollorano*





## NaCSA TRAINS CONTRACTORS' ENGINEERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER HARVESTING & IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

*The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) through the Sierra Leone Community Driven Development Project (SLCDDP II) on Thursday 5th October, 2023 trained engineers of successful contractors for the Water Harvesting and Irrigation Systems sub-project at the Commission's conference room at Charlotte Street, Freetown.*



*Cross section of participants at the training*

The sub-project will support Boliland and IVs farmers to be able to cultivate their crops year round.

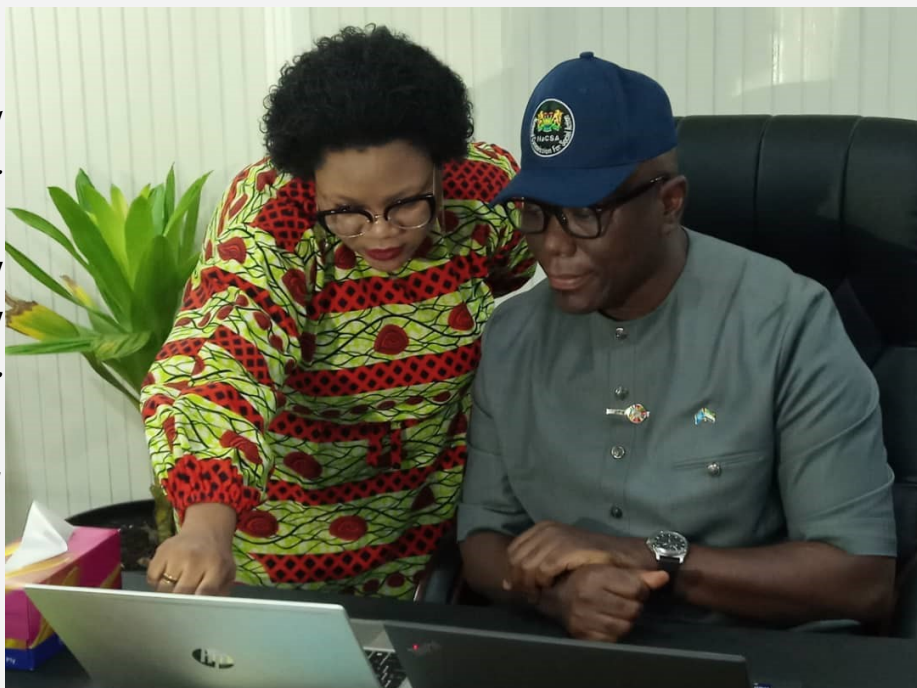
Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training, NaCSA Deputy Commissioner, Jimmy Batilo Songa, congratulated the contractors for being the successful bidders for the sub-project. The Deputy Commissioner however admonished the contractors to work in the interest of the citizens and actualize one of His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio's Five Big Changers - Feed Salone - through agriculture.

SLCDDP II Project Manager, Momoh Juanah, underscored the importance of the training of contractors' engineers, pointing out that the project is highly technical and the engineers are required to ask all the pertinent questions relating to the dam system construction. He said SLCDDP II is a project funded by Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) with counterpart funding from the Government of Sierra Leone. He informed the audience that the project is a five-year project aimed at reducing poverty through economic and social infrastructure development in rural communities. Momoh Juanah furthered that the project is very important for enhancing food security and developing the livelihood of the communities.

The Programme Manager explained that there was time constraint and that contractors should endeavor to complete the project on schedule.

## NaCSA COMMENCES THIRD PHASE EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFER PAYMENT IN MATRU JONG

*The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and its implementing partners have on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 piloted payment of targeted and enrolled beneficiaries of the third phase of the Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT III). The exercise took place in Matru Jong, where 711 beneficiaries have received their benefits through orange money.*



*Amb. Ndomahina and Orange Money Rep performing the official launch of the third phase payment of the emergency cash transfer*

This is a one-off cash transfer of Two Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty New Leones (SLE 2,660)/Two Million, Six Hundred and Sixty Thousand Old Leones (SLE 2,660,000) for each beneficiary household. This benefit includes an amount of Sixty New Leones (SLE 60)/Sixty Thousand Old Leones (SLE 60,000) for cash-out fees up to five times.

As the public may be aware, in continuation of the Government of Sierra Leone's commitment to addressing economic shocks affecting our vulnerable people and communities and with funding from the World Bank and UNICEF, NaCSA and its implementing partners have targeted and enrolled Thirty-Five Thousand and five (35,005) beneficiary households.

The targeted beneficiaries included female-headed households, elderly-headed households, and persons with disability-headed households in 11 districts headquarters of Kailahun (Kailahun Town), Kono (Koidu), Falaba (Mongo Bendugu), Koinadugu (Kabala), Tonkolili (Magburaka), Kambia (Kambia Town), Karene (Karene Town), Bonthe (Bonthe Island and Matru Jong), Moyamba (Moyamba Town), Western Area Rural (Waterloo) and Pujehun (Pujehun Town).

Speaking during an end of operation meeting, the Bonthe District Coordinator for NaCSA – Mr. Musa Dauda indicated that the payment of beneficiaries and the speed of cash-out have been effective with intensive team work, passion and robust beneficiary mobilization. " we are closely monitoring the process as we continue to implement the payment strategy."

Musa Thullah is one of the Community Development Specialists whose roles in managing the information systems remain integral. He noted that the swift response to grievances contributed greatly to reducing crowds at the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) table. " the beneficiaries have expressed total satisfaction with the way and manner their complaints have been resolved. This payment and all other interventions have used people-centric approach." He noted.

With optimism and promise of adhering to established protocols, the Head - Strategy, Marketing & Partnership for Orange Money; Abibatu Baxter noted that the Company is ready to ensure that payment is delivered.



## NaCSA ENDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP ON TREE PLANTING

*The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has on Monday October 9, 2023 concluded a day's community engagement workshop on tree planting at the Freetown City Council Hall. The primary objective of the engagement was to mobilize community stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, local businesses, educational institutions, and concerned citizens, to actively participate in a comprehensive tree-planting initiative*



*NaCSA Director of Programme, Regina Saffa making a point*

It could be recalled that the Productive Social Safety Net and Youth Employment (PSSNYE) project was launched with the objective of improving access to social safety nets and income-generating opportunities for targeted beneficiaries. The project covers all sixteen districts, targeting 100,000 beneficiary households. The provision of Green Public Works (GPW) in Urban Areas is one of the PSSNYE's subcomponents with activities that improve sanitary infrastructure and environmental restoration to improve climate resilience; and activities that support mitigation and adaptation from climate change.

Speaking to the community representatives and on behalf of the Commissioner, the Senior Director of Programme Development and Quality Assurance – Dr Susan Robert extended special greetings from the Commissioner, Deputy and Senior Management of NaCSA. She noted that the Commissioner and deputy would have loved to be in attendance but they have to respond to issues that are germane to national development. "... at this point, we have to accept that deforestation is the product of our activities and as such we have to take collective and deliberate actions to rebuild our greening environment." She ended.

The Director of Programmes – Md. Regina Saffa noted that human actions have greatly affected the environment and called on every Sierra Leonean to take environmental safety as a priority. "There is a need to ensure that we protect our environment in a conscious way that generations beyond will be grateful. Therefore, environmental safety is everyone's concern regardless of position or educational status, there is an urgent call for action." she concluded

NaCSA's Director of Field Operations, Maada Ngombu reiterated the importance of tree planting noting that concrete and collective actions will be taken. "We have seen the expressed commitment from the community representatives and certainly, it will be demonstrated when they return to their community." He noted.

The various representatives committed their unrivalled support to ensure that the tree-planting endeavor led by the Freetown City Council and NaCSA will be a success.

## NaCSA PRESENTS A BIG FIVE GAME CHANGER BUDGET FOR 2024

*NaCSA has on Wednesday October 11, 2023 presented its FY2024 MTEF Budget to the Ministry of Finance and other stakeholders at the Ministry of Finance Conference Room.*



Giving an overview of the institution's deliverables over the years, the Team Lead, NaCSA Deputy Commissioner Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa echoed NaCSA's determination to collaborate with state and non-state development partners to REBRAND and to realign NaCSA's mandate with the Government of Sierra Leone's BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS aimed at accelerating economic growth and building resilience. He described the NaCSA 2024 submission as a 'BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS BUDGET' taking into consideration the cross-cutting nature of its implementations.

The NaCSA Deputy Commissioner further commended the Government of Sierra Leone for its continuing support to the commission, as demonstrated in the sole funding of the Community Demand Driven Programme (CDDP). He however pointed out delayed disbursement of funds as one of the bottlenecks the Commission is facing.

In her contribution, the Deputy Minister of Finance I, Md. Jeneba J. Bangura expressed delight on the 2022/2023 deliverables of the Commission and urged the institution to continue in that path.

NaCSA Senior Director of Programmes Development and Quality Assurance, Dr. Susan Robert and the Senior Director of Support Services, Kofi Addai steered the discussion.

Contributions from key management staff including the Director of Finance, Md. Regina Saffa, and the Programme Managers for the German funded GPC II Project, the Islamic Development Bank funded SLCDD and the Government of Sierra Leone sole-funded CDDP added value to the event.

Stakeholders including the District Budget Oversight Committees and Non-State Actors commended NaCSA for its hard work and urged the commission to collaborate with line MDAs in executing its activities.



## POLICE WIVES ASSOCIATION PAYS A COURTESY VISIT ON NaCSA

*The Sierra Leone Police Wives Association lead by its president, Matilda Doris Selleu, the wife of the current Police Inspector General has on Friday October 6, 2023 paid a courtesy visit on the Commissioner and senior Management staff of the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA).*

Receiving the delegation, the NaCSA Commissioner, Amb. Ernest Mbaima Ndomahina expressed his delight in having members of this unique set of citizen at his office. He assured them of his support and that of the commission wherever it could. "It is our hope to see you happy. Whenever, you are happy, your husbands would also be happy and that happiness will reflect on their output in ensuring security of the state," he affirmed.

Giving an overview of the Association, the president of organization, Matilda Doris Selleu noted that the Police Wives Association was established ten (10) years ago with the key objective to work for the welfare of police families. She expressed the desire for partnership between her association and NaCSA. "We have been following the work of NaCSA. As an organization, we want to leverage on your good work and to see how we can collaborate, especially in the area of capacity building for Police wives, children and other youths", she stated. She further pleaded for the inclusion of Police wives in the NaCSA's cash transfer programme, which she noted would help improve their livelihood.

The NaCSA Senior Director of Programmes Development and Quality Assurance, Dr. Susan Robert commended the Police wives

and spoke on NaCSA's long standing relationship with the association, dating far back to SLCDD I implementation, where in they were provided with infrastructure like multipurpose hall to mention but a few.

Statements were made by other members including the Coordinator of the association, Samuel Yemeh Koroma, while the taking of a group photograph formed highpoint.



*Amb. Ndomahina and Mrs. Matilda Doris Selleu*



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