



NaCSA WEEKLY

MAGAZINE

ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 20, 2023

NaCSA COMMISSIONER ASSURES THE WORLD BANK MISSION OF NaCSA'S READINESS



NaCSA'S DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONITORS ECT III PAYMENT



GOOD NEWS FOR NaCSA, AS THE GERMAN HEAD OF COOPERATION MEETS WITH AMB. NDOMAHINA



NaCSA GPC III PROJECT HOLDS ANNUAL EVALUATION MEETING



NaCSA COMMISSIONER ASSURES THE WORLD BANK MISSION OF NaCSA'S READINESS



NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ndomahina speaking at the opening session of the World Bank Mission

Commissioner of NaCSA Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina has assured the World Bank and other implementing partners of the Commission's readiness to speedily and accurately implement the Productive Social Safety Net and Youth Employment (PSSNYE) Project. He made this statement during the opening session of the ongoing World Bank Implementation Support Mission workshop on the PSSNYE project, at the Freetown City Council, on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

Amb. Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina extended his appreciation to His Excellency the President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio for appointing him to serve as Commissioner of NaCSA. NaCSA, he noted is responsible for the coordination of the Project but could not have achieved all the successes without the support of other stakeholders. Commissioner Ndomahina further commended the partners and called for their continuing support.



Amb. Ndomahina discussing with the World Bank Mission members

NaCSA COMMISSIONER ASSURES THE WORLD BANK MISSION OF NaCSA'S READINESS



Amb. Ndomahina and Senior NaCSA staff with the World Bank Mission and other key implementation partners

The World Bank Practice Manager - Camila Holmemo indicated that she remains appreciative and honored for meeting with various social protection implementers, stakeholders and key decision makers including government Ministers, Commissioners and other strategic personnel. "I would like to thank you for the enormous progress that Sierra Leone has made on social protection in the past several years; prominent among these is the completion of the Social Safety Net (SSN) programme. I further congratulate the respective social protection stakeholders and implementers for commencing the Productive Social Safety Nets and Youth Employment (PSSNYE) project; which really takes lessons from the SSN Programme and other social protection interventions in the country. I hope this project will be transformational for the people of Sierra Leone." She ended.

The Minister of Youth Affairs - Mohamed Orman Bangura promised the team that the PSSNYE Project would be a "jet project"; particularly because of its youth sensitivity. He informed the team that the government's Big Five Game Changers are very youth-focused. "The PSSNYE is a jet project and as a government, we are more ready to ensure all bottlenecks are adequately addressed."

The Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs Dr. Isata Mahoi gave an overview of the government's demonstrated effort to ensure the inclusion of women and girls in project implementation. The Minister reaffirmed her dedication to working in tandem with other ministries, especially the Ministry of Youth, to make sure that gender problems are adequately incorporated into youth empowerment initiatives and other government interventions.



World Bank Practice Manager - Camila Holmemo speaking at the opening session

NaCSA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD BANK AND UNICEF KICKSTART

Amidst the global economic meltdown, it is becoming increasingly difficult for our vulnerable population to take care of their basic needs. To ameliorate the sufferings of our people during these perilous times, the World Bank and UNICEF through NaCSA have launched the Productive Social Safety Nets and Youth Empowerment (PSSNYE) targeting more than 35,000 beneficiaries' households.



Amb. Ndomahina and the World Bank Mission in Kambia

The Emergency component of the PSSNYE involves cash transfers to the targeted vulnerable population ranging from the Female-headed households, the elderly headed households, and the persons with disability headed Households. On Thursday October 19, 2023, the World Bank Group headed by Camilla Holmemo, the Practice Manager for Social Protection and Jobs, African Region, and the World Bank Social Protection Specialist, Dr. Abu Kargbo and NaCSA led by the Commissioner, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina and team of Senior Management staff including Dr. Susan Robert, Senior Director PDQA, Mr. Kofi Adai, Senior Director Support Service paid a working visit to Kambia, where they monitored the payment of the ongoing Emergency Cash Transfer(ECT) to beneficiaries.

The NaCSA District Coordinator Kambia; Sahr Kellie explained the processes involved in the payment of the Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) to beneficiaries. It can be recalled that few months ago registration of the vulnerable population was done.



Amb. Ndomahina and the NaCSA Kambia District staff

NaCSA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD BANK AND UNICEF KICKSTART EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFER IN KAMBIA

One of the beneficiaries, a 52-year-old mother of seven children, burst into tears of joy after receiving NLe, 2600 via Orange Money. She thanked the Government of President Bio for partnering with the World Bank in providing them with this financial assistance. “I do subsistence farming as a source of income to feed and take care of my children, this money is timely and I will use it for its intended purpose,” the widow ended. The payment is done in the presence of the Anti-Corruption Commission to ensure transparency.

The World Bank Practice Manager for Social Protection and Jobs described the process as smooth. While speaking to Radio Kolenten in Kambia, the Commissioner of NaCSA, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina said these monies provided are to help our people achieve President Bio’s Feed Salone initiative, which he noted can serve as seed money for the plantation of potatoes, bananas, and rice, etc.

Payment will continue in Kambia and other targeted districts headquarter towns.

GPC OPENS BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A GRAIN STORE AND WATER SUPPLY DAM

NaCSA through its GPC project has undertaken bid opening for prospective bidders for the construction of a grain stores and water supply dams in Kambia and Kono districts. This is in line with the Government of Sierra Leone’s BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS, especially the flagship ‘Feed Salone’ initiative for ensuring the eradication of hunger in Sierra Leone.

In his statement, the NaCSA Board Chairman, PC Foday Musa emphasized the expectations of a good job from successful bid winners, noting that the project is important to both the Commission and the government of Sierra Leone.

NaCSA Deputy Commissioner, Jimmy Batilo Songa, while welcoming the Team Lead of Eco G-Tech Consult, Peter Mostent noted that Eco G Tech is a professional independent consulting firm. Their presence, he noted guarantees a free, fair and transparent process.



Team Lead of Eco G-Tech Consult, Peter Mostent and staff at the bidding process

NaCSA COMMISSIONER TRADITIONALLY RECEIVES THE WORLD BANK

TECHNICAL SUPPORT MISSION TEAM



The World Bank Camila Holmemo breaking the kolanut

The Commissioner of NaCSA Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina has on Monday October 16, 2023 traditionally received the World Bank Technical Support Mission Team members at his Charlotte Street office in Freetown. The mission objectives, according to the team lead were to review, identify, and address bottlenecks to accelerate the closure of the Social Safety Nets (SSN) Project and the Implementation progress of the Productive Social Safety Net and Youth Employment (PSSNYE) Project and support the finalization and submission of relevant documents including the Project Implementation Manual and Emergency Response Manual to reach effectiveness.

As tradition dictates, the Commissioner presented a 'kolanut' to his guests as a sign of welcome and peaceful stay; and the NaCSA 'we care' caps as souvenir in demonstration of the rebranding process the commission is undergoing. He further assured the World Bank team of the government's continued commitment to strengthen social protection systems and ensure the steady implementation of the Project. "...on



Amb. Ndomahina and the World Bank Mission members

behalf of His Excellency, Dr. Julius Maada Bio, I welcome you to Sierra Leone – the land of Unity, freedom, and justice. As a Commissioner and Chief, I would like to offer you a kola nut and a bottle of water. This signifies peace and hospitality," he told them.

NaCSA COMMISSIONER TRADITIONALLY RECEIVES THE WORLD BANK TECHNICAL SUPPORT MISSION TEAM



Amb. Ndomahina and cross section of NaCSA Management staff with the World Bank Mission members

The Mission included the World Bank Practice Manager - Camila Holmemo, the Senior Social Protection Specialist and Co-task

Team Lead -Dr. Abu Kargbo, the Senior Economist and Co-Task Leader - Samik Adhikari, the Social Protection Specialists – Hannah Buya Kamara and Mpumelelo Nxumalo, the Senior Procurement Specialist – Innocent Kamugisha, the Environmental Consultants – Ralph Augustine Bona and Osman Chris Brima, the World Bank Consultants - Peter Pojariski and the team Assistant -Sallu Jalloh.



Amb. Ndomahina and the World Bank Mission Lead, Camila Holmemo

NaCSA'S DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MONITORS ECT III PAYMENT



NaCSA Deputy Commissioner, Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa performing the symbolic payment to beneficiaries

The Deputy Commissioner of the National Commissioner for Social Action (NaCSA), Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa has on Tuesday October 17, 2023 commenced monitoring of the third phase of the Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT III) in Pujehun District.

Pujehun town is one of the district's headquarter towns where beneficiaries were targeted and enrolled. These beneficiaries were selected from female-headed households, persons with disability-headed households, and elderly-headed households. Four Thousand and Forty-Seven (4,047) beneficiaries were to receive two thousand six hundred and sixty Leones (2,660) each. The Payment was delivered through the orange Money number provided during the targeting and enrolment of beneficiaries.

Commissioning the payment after the launch of the electronic cash into the SIMs of beneficiaries in the Female-Headed Cohort, Deputy Commissioner Jimmy Batilo Songa, on behalf of the commission promised to ensure that all bottlenecks are resolved before payment commences. He assured beneficiaries of His Excellency Retired Brigadier Julius Madda Bio's commitment to all his promises, among them being social safety and reiterated that this "Tok and Do" government will remain committed to this slogan. "I and my boss, the commissioner who is also engaged in another important official issue, will always work with staff to ensure the aspiration of the President for the people, which includes alleviating poverty to the barest minimum in vulnerable communities." He concluded.

The ACC representative, Samuel Kamara advised beneficiaries to use the benefit in the household as it is meant for the household. He strictly admonished them not to adhere to any person or group of persons that may claim to have aided them in securing this status of beneficiary for the programme, so that they may not exploit them.

The Orange team lead assured the beneficiaries of the availability of fund for cash-out purposes.

Mr. Saffa Fawundu, the Chiefdom Clerk of Kpanga, expressed gratitude to the Government for extending this project to Pujehun, particularly for picking up the hung quota making Pujehun the third highest beneficiary figure for the ECTIII in the country. The ceremony was climaxed with the symbolic payment of a beneficiary in the Female Household Cohort by the Deputy Commissioner.

GERMAN HEAD OF COOPERATION MEETS WITH AMB. NDOMAHINA



Amb. Ndomahina and the BMZ Head of Cooperation

The Commissioner of NaCSA Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina has on Friday, October 20, 2023 received the First Secretary Head of Cooperation of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Johannes Behrens at his Charlotte Office in Freetown.

In his welcome remarks, Amb. Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina registered his appreciation to his Excellency the President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio for the confidence reposed on him to serve as Commissioner of NaCSA and acknowledged the contribution of the government and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany to the government and people of Sierra Leone. Key among these, being the Pro-Poor Growth for Peace Consolidation (GPC) Programme, which is funded through a German Financial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW). The need to discuss key issues on the implementation of the existing Programme as well as to prepare for the successor project, he noted necessitated the visit.

According to the Programme Manager GPC III, Salifu Mansaray, the Head of Cooperation is a staff of the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and he is here to negotiate for more German funding. NaCSA being the major partner, Salifu Mansaray noted, that the visit is to set the pace for the incoming German Mission that will be in the country in November this year as well as to pay a courtesy call on the new NaCSA Commissioner.

NaCSA GPC III PROJECT HOLDS ANNUAL EVALUATION MEETING



Amb. Ndomahina at the GPC III Evaluation Meeting

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) through its Pro-Poor Growth for Peace Consolidation (GPCIII) has on Thursday October 19, 2023 organized a day long evaluation meeting for field staff from five districts - Kambia, Koinadugu, Falaba, Kono and Kailahun Districts.

The workshop was meant to assess the 2023 Annual Workplan of the project, create a platform for all core programme staff and other cross cutting staff and the implementation consultants (ECO-GITEC) to critically examine and evaluate programme performance as against targets.

Declaring the training workshop open the commissioner of NaCSA, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina conveyed his appreciation to the staff and consultants of the GPC Project, with

special reference to those from the provinces whom he recognized as frontline soldiers of NaCSA. He further explained the essence of the meeting. “We are gathered in this evaluation meeting to recognize the GPC III and to assess the 2023 annual workplan. It is important to note that this activity creates a platform for all programme staffs and other cross cutting staff together with the implementation consultant, which is the (ECO-GITEC). I want to thank his Excellency President Rtd. Dr. Julius Maada Bio for having stand in the gap for the masses. The GPC III started in 2019 with a financial agreement of 20 million Euro. The GPC Programme has always supported His Excellency’s Game Changer plans in providing the basic amenities for the citizens. The grain store, feeder road and water dam supply are key activities going to be underscored by this project,” Amb. Ndomahina re-affirmed.



Cross section of participants at the GPC III Evaluation Meeting

NaCSA GPC III PROJECT HOLDS ANNUAL EVALUATION MEETING



The deliberations in the meeting, he said, will critically examine the annual work plan and evaluate programme performance as against targets. He further noted that the session can help reflect and inform how well the Programme is performing. Amb. Ndomahina therefore pleaded for an honest and authentic conversation. Commissioner Mbaimba Ndomahina concluded his address with a Chinese adage to **"never forget where you started so that your mission can be accomplished."**

NaCSA Director Support Service Division, Koffi Addai expressed that the skills acquired in this training would be cascaded to the beneficiaries and their communities. He also expressed delight to be part at the workshop.

The Programme Manager GPC III, Salifu Mansaray while giving the project overview noted that, the GPC Programme is a pro-poor programme that gears at helping rural communities to expand on their already existing local opportunities for local economic development that in turn contribute to national development. The goal of the programme, Mr. Mansaray stated, is to "contribute to Peace Consolidation." Additionally, the Programme Manager GPC III advanced that the two main objectives of the programme are employment promotion and income generation for youths in rural communities; as well as to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders in operating and maintaining the infrastructures provided by the programme.

The Programme Manager highlighted the four components of the Programme, which he stated are: Infrastructure Investment; Support to District Councils in feeder roads Maintenance; Operation and Maintenance Trainings for Relevant Stakeholders in the Communities and Capacity Building Measures for NaCSA.



Amb. Ndomahina recognizing corporate dressed NaCSA staff at the GPC III Evaluation Meeting



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION
(NaCSA)

HEAD OFFICE

14 Charlotte Street, Freetown

Tel. +232 78 232 788

+232 78 319 419

DISTRICT OFFICES

**Waterloo, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Port
Loko, Koidu, Kailahun, Mattru,
Moyamba, Pujehun, Magburuka,
Kabala and Kambia**

Editorial Team

Directors of Publication

Amb. Chief Ernest M. Ndomahina

Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa

Editor in Chief

George Nyambe Williams

Proof Readers

Dr. Susan Robert

Momoh Juanah

Contributors

Umaru Samai

N'mah Sillah

Jonathan Quee

Jonathan Amara

Photographs

John Fornah