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NaCSA COMMISSIONER AMB. NDOMAHINA LAUNCHES THE FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (FSRP) PAYMENT



NaCSA AND UNICEF COMMIT TO DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR CASH+ PROGRAMMING TO REDUCE EARLY PREGNANCY AND CHILD MARRIAGE



SLCDD II DELEGATION FROM HEAD QUARTERS EMBARKS ON FIELD MONITORING TOUR



NaCSA COMMISSIONER ENGAGES THE PRESS ON FEED SALONE



NaCSA AND UNICEF COMMIT TO DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR CASH+ PROGRAMMING TO REDUCE EARLY PREGNANCY AND CHILD MARRIAGE



NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ndomahina amidst partners and participants of the session

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and the United Nations International Children Emergency Funds (UNICEF) have on Tuesday November 7, 2023 commenced a two-day Consultative Workshop to develop a Cash Plus Program for the prevention of Child Marriage through Social Protection. The workshop which was held at the Occasions Enterprises, Lakka Beach Road brought together a diverse group of experts, including government and private sector officials to discuss and suggest a design of a Cash-plus Social Protection program that will seek to prevent child marriage, improve the lives of girls, and ensure a brighter future for our nation.

It could be recalled that the Productive Social Safety Nets and Youth Employment (PSSNYE) initiative has been put into action by the government of Sierra Leone and its development partners. The government's focus on providing integrated services for disadvantaged households is one of the project's main goals. Similarly, the PSSNYE project may also be used as a foundation for the addition of more cash-plus components aimed at addressing the causes of child marriage as well as services that support the safe transition of girls into adulthood.

The NaCSA Social Development Specialist for NaCSA, Md. Isata Blake called on participants to own the discussions primarily because the products of the engagements are for the betterment of Sierra Leoneans especially the most vulnerable. Mona Korsgard, Chief of Evidence, Policy and Social Protection for UNICEF Sierra Leone expressed her satisfaction over the turn-out by subject matters experts. ' We have gathered people to discuss how we can broaden Social Protection to reach the extremely poor and how it can be a tool to fight against early marriage and teenage pregnancy. As always, you are assured of the unrivalled commitment of UNICEF.' She ended.

NaCSA AND UNICEF COMMIT TO DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR CASH+ PROGRAMMING TO REDUCE EARLY PREGNANCY AND CHILD MARRIAGE

MsLiv ElinIndreiten, UNICEF Deputy Representative (programme) congratulated the government and people of Sierra Leone for the tremendous progress in social protection. She noted that ' Integrated inclusive social protection programmes can help these girls. International evidence demonstrates that cash transfers have a positive impact on children's and adolescents' school attendance and can support adolescents in making a safe transition to adulthood. There is also evidence from African countries that women beneficiaries of cash transfers became less exposed to intimate partner violence, and adolescent girls benefiting from cash-plus programmes - which link cash and services such as life-skills education - are less vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The workshop today is to discuss possible ways of leveraging the social protection system to achieve the objectives of preventing child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Our consultant Qimti will facilitate the discussion, and I encourage you all to participate actively." She continues.

The Commissioner of NaCSA, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina emphasized the importance of cash-plus programs in social protection especially in the form of cash assistance programs to extremely poor communities. " Most often, cash plus interventions are conditional transfers to help poor families comply with essential responsibilities such as school attendance and retention.

With this workshop, we intend to explore initiatives for cash plus support to extremely poor families to help them cope with some of the odds of social norms; early marriage and teenage pregnancy." He stated.

The Commissioner further expressed that the government team is hopeful to combine the Unconditional cash transfers of the ongoing PSSNYE project with Cash Plus.

' Much will be obtained in achieving key programme objectives. We will be able to get families to educate their children, especially the girl child and position them to meaningfully contribute to human capital development. With this in mind, I declared this workshop open.' He ended.



NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ndomahina and the UNICEF representatives

NaCSA COMMISSIONER LAUNCHES THE FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (FSRP) PAYMENT TO BENEFICIARIES IN BO DISTRICT

In response to the economic crises caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine, the government of Sierra Leone with support from the World Bank is implementing the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) through NaCSA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS).

Given that NaCSA has the systems to implement cash transfer programs, MAFS contacted the Commission to implement the CERC component of the Food System Resilience Program (FSRP).

The CERC of the FSRP is an Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) to 12,000 extremely poor populations residing in flood-prone areas in 12 districts including BO, Kenema, Bonthe, Kailahun, Pujehun, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Karene, Falaba, Koinagdu and Kambia.

Each beneficiary will receive a cash amount of NLe2600 to afford basic needs. Hopefully, the benefit will assist the poor to provide good food, afford transportation to access medical facilities when sick, and if possible use it as business start-ups to enhance livelihoods.



Amb. Ndomahina performing the symbolic payment to a beneficiary

Before proceeding to the symbolic launching of the FRSP, the NaCSA Commissioner, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Bo City His worship Musa Kobba and the Bo District Council Chairman Hindowa Korseh. Chief Ndomahina emphasized the importance of the local council in implementing community driven projects.

NaCSA COMMISSIONER LAUNCHES THE FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (FSRP) PAYMENT TO BENEFICIARIES IN BO DISTRICT



Amb. Ndomahina addressing beneficiaries ahead of the launching of payment at Telu-Bongor, Bo District

During the Launch in Telu-Bongor, the Bo District Council Chairman Hindowa thanked the World Bank for supporting vulnerable communities in the face of economic challenges and called on the beneficiaries to use the money for its intended purpose.

The NaCSA commissioner Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina on behalf of the President of Sierra Leone His Excellency Retired Brigadier Dr. Julius Maada Bio Launched the FRSP in Telu-Bongor village. The commissioner said this process is a testament to the fact that the World Bank is willing to support President Bio's Feed Salone agenda. The NaCSA Commissioner further pleaded with the people of Telu-Bongor to use these funds for agricultural activities that will enhance food security.



Amb. Ndomahina being welcomed by beneficiaries in Bo District

SLCDD II DELEGATION FROM HEAD QUATERS EMBARKS ON FIELD MONITORING TOUR



PM Momoh Juanah and team engaging RC Farama on the gains and challenges of the project in the region

The Programme Manager for the NaCSA Islamic Development Bank funded Sierra Leone Community Driven Development (SLCDD II) Project, Momoh Juana, Agric Business Officer, Jonathan Williams and the Master planning Consultant (MPC) Dr. Sullay Kamara have embarked on countrywide field monitoring visits.

On their first stop, they paid a courtesy call to Regional Coordinator, Northwest, Farama Joseph Bangura and team at the Regional Office in Port Loko. The motive of the mission is to ascertain the status of on-going projects: Model market, Industrial boreholes, Water conservation, Irrigation and the multi-renewable energy platforms.

PC Bai Inga Marray II heartily welcome NaCSA mission in the BKM Rural Growth Pole (RGP). He extended his appreciation to NaCSA it's good works and development programs established in the RGP and the district as a whole,

while assuring NaCSA of his fullest cooperations in the Implementation of subprojects in the district.

From Port Loko district, the delegation headed for the South, specifically at the Bagruwa hub in Moyamba district where they undertook similar activities.

All outstanding issues identified in the Implementation of SPs were harmonized and ready to provide support for His Excellency the President's Feed Salone project, which NaCSA is seeing taking the lead in.

NaCSA COMMISSIONER ENGAGES THE PRESS ON FEED SALONE



Amb. Ndomahina engaging the press on the Feed Salone initiative during a field visit in Kambia District

In his call to collaborate with state and non-state development partners in his drive to REBRAND NaCSA and to realign NaCSA's mandates with the Government of Sierra Leone's BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS, the Commissioner of NaCSA, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina has reaffirmed that effective communication and information dissemination on all NaCSA's work is the bedrock for the successful implementation of life changing and holistic transformation projects and programmes for poor, deprived and vulnerable communities across the country.

It is believed that effective communication and information sharing about the commission's works and achievements can enhance stronger collaboration and partnership among development players in and outside the country. The Commission leverages on the increasing opportunities offered by media and technological convergence to serve in the above context in clearly explaining the objectives,

addressing possible misconceptions and managing expectations as well as showcasing the successes, challenges and lessons learnt.

As the conduit in meeting this, the Commissioner of NaCSA, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina has continued to engage members of the press in popularizing the government's flagship "Feed Salone" initiative which he noted is the principal programme among Big Five Game Changers and encouraged them to embrace the "Feed Salone" initiative in every aspect of their engagements. This, he noted is possible, pointing at the media uniqueness and strength in setting agenda. He continues to make this plea wherever he goes, especially during his field visits.



NaCSA COMMISSIONER ENGAGES THE PRESS ON FEED SALONE



Amb. Ndomahina engaging the press on the Feed Salone initiative during a field visit in Moyamba District

It could be noted that Agriculture remains to be the back bone of the Sierra Leone's economic development. One time referred to as the socio-economic engine of the country, Agriculture employs over 70% of the total population in the country. However, there are several challenges and prospects facing the Sierra Leonean farmer in his strive to make living. Some of these challenges are deep rooted in the believe system while others include the lack of requisite inputs – equipment, quality seeds and technical knowhow.

Agriculture is a special field of social activity which is closely related to important issues like ensuring food security and nutrition of people, creating scope of income and poverty alleviation. These cross-cutting themes make the field more worthy to report on. It is therefore important for the media to give more attention

to agricultural reporting if this sector (which employs the bulk of the country's population) is to flourish.

For instance, in climate change reporting, weather forecast may help the farmers to prepare in several ways; information about the environment, preparation for planting or harvesting alertness in terms of farming and marketing, and adaptation to climate change, to name a few. This is so, as the media is part of social change process in terms of awareness RAISING, generating mass INTEREST and discussing change influence or impact on people.

Therefore a strong, honest, accountable and exclusive agricultural journalism/reporting can solve the problems of belief patterns and sufferings of the people originated from this sector. It is no doubt that, if this is realized, the vision of the current government to feed Salone could be achieved and sustained.

TRADITIONAL LEADERS ANSWER NaCSA COMMISSIONER S CALL TO OWN THE PRESIDENT S FEED SALONE INITIATIVE

Following NaCSA Commissioner, Amb. Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina’s call on traditional leaders to own the government’s flagship ‘Feed Salone’ initiative, many are now seeing answering the crusade to ensure that the country overcome food insecurity for the good of all the people.

On Thursday, November 9, 2023, a delegation of Paramount chiefs paid a courtesy call on the NaCSA Commissioner, Amb. Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina and pledged their support to the government’s flagship ‘Feed Salone’ initiative. They assured him of their willingness to work with NaCSA to see the initiative through to completion.

In a similar engagement, the Chief Electoral Commissioner of Sierra Leone, Mohamed K. Konneh on Thursday, November 9, 2023 paid a courtesy visit to the NaCSA Commissioner, Amb. Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina at his Charlotte Street, Office in Freetown.

During the visit, the two statesmen discussed issues of national importance.



Amb. Ndomahina and cross section of Paramount Chiefs



Amb. Ndomahina and the Chief Electoral Commissioner

NaCSA COMMISSIONER USHERS BMZ AND KfW MISSION IN THE FIELD

NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina has on Friday, November 10, 2023 led a delegation from BMZ, KfW, GIZ and staff of the German Embassy in Free-town on a day mission to Kambia District.

In Kambia, which is one of the five operational districts of the NaCSA implemented GPC III Project, the delegation was received by the Chief Administrator of the Kambia District Council, Dr. Edward Alpha, who thanked the Commissioner for the thought of paying the Council a courtesy call. Something he noted, is very rare among other partners.

Dr. Alpha commended the GPC III project and affirmed that they are greatly relieved by its operations and interventions in the district. Kambia District, he furthered, is a Rice predominant district. Despite its ecology, the district used to suffered hording which made the price of rice the highest in the entire country. Key factor for this, he noted was the deplorable conditions of the roads. As a result, he said made farmers to take their produce into neighbouring Guinea.

The coming of the GPC III project in the district, he confessed has change the narrative. Because of the GPC interventions, especially in the area of feeder road rehabilitations, which have inevitably opened access between the farms and the markets centres, there are significant benefits for both the council



Amb. Ndomahina presenting a bottle of water and kola nut as sign of respect to the Council



Amb. Ndomahina presenting a gift of water and kola nut from the Council to the Head of Delegation, Dr. Sabine Lindemann

NaCSA COMMISSIONER USHERS BMZ AND KfW MISSION IN THE FIELD

and the communities. These, he said cut across revenue generation for the council and increase production for the farmers. Based on its achievements, the Chief Administrator ended up pleading for the project to stay in Kam-bia.

For NaCSA, the Council is a key strategic partner. In his statement at the Council, the Commissioner of NaCSA, Ambassador Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina thanked Chief Administrator his warmth welcome and registered NaCSA's appreciation and commitment in working with the council. In demonstration of this, the Commissioner presented a bottle of water and kola nut, while requesting the Council's permission to embark on the mission at key project implementation sites in the district.

In her contribution, the Head of Delegation for the Mission, Dr. Sabine Lindemann, disclosed that Germany has been by the side of the Government and people of Sierra Leone since 2013, immediately after the civil war. The GPC project, she noted has been in operation in Sierra Leone for eighteen (18) years and has focused itself on peace consolidation. On the objective of the mission, she affirmed is to assess the implementation progress, while planning for another phase for the project. This time round, she noted, they will be linking the GPC with the Employment Promotion Programme (EPP) in order to add value to their interventions.

Forming part of the Mission were visits to key project implementation sites, including the GPC III Feeder Road rehabilitations, Grain stores at Gbonkomaria and Rokel villages and held meetings with members of the Facility Management Committees respectively.



Amb. Ndomahina doing a symbolic launching of the Gbonkomaria Grain Store



Amb. Ndomahina amidst pupils of the Church of God Primary School at Rokel village



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

Website: www.nacsa.gov.sl

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

John Fornah