

## IEC REPORT ON SECOND AND THIRD TRANCHE PAYMENTS OF COVID-19 EP FET PO BENEFICIARIES

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#### 1.0 Introduction

Following the first payment of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN beneficiaries, NaCSA and partners did a lot of engagement including data cleaning and reconciliation. Within the waiting period from first tranche to the second and third tranche payment, there were considerable efforts to engage beneficiaries, beneficiary community and the public on payment processes and procedures and the rationale for the delay.

Upon consultation with stakeholders and implementing partners, NaCSA announced the commencement of the Second and Third Tranche Payment of Beneficiaries of The Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Nets Program in all Sixteen (16) Districts. Though the direct payment did not start on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 as earlier indicated in a Press Release dated 05th October, 2021; the unit responsible for Information, Education and Communication activated all communication and information dissemination methodologies as stated in the information dissemination concept note<sup>1</sup> and supported by the overall IEC strategy 2020<sup>2</sup>.

The payments took place on phases, the first phase started on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. the Commission started payment in Portloko, Kailahun, Falaba, Bombali and Pujehun districts. Payment in the five district was completed on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The second phase started on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 in Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba, Kono and Kenema districts. The final phase started on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

These payments concentrated on the following categories of beneficiary households:

- ➤ Households without Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) will receive payment for two (2) quarters at Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand (SLL436,000) per quarter. This sums up to Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Leones (SLL 872,000).
- ➤ Households with PwDs will receive payment for two (2) quarters at Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand (SLL436,000) per quarter plus an additional one-off transfer of SLL436,000 to support PwDs in the households. The total amount per household under this category will be One Million Three Hundred and Eight Thousand leones (1,308,000).
- ➤ Households with resolved missing data issues and without PwDs will receive Two Million One Hundred and Eighty-One (SLL 2,181,000) which includes first tranche payment of One Million, Three Hundred and Nine Thousand Leones (SLL1,309,000), second and third quarter payments of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Leones (SLL 872,000).
- ➤ Households with resolved missing data issues and with PwDs will receive Two Million Six hundred and Seventeen Thousand Leones (SLL 2,617,000) which comprises of first tranche payment of One Million, Three Hundred and Nine Thousand Leones (SLL1,309,000), second and third quarter payments of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Final IEC Strategy for Second Payment.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Final IEC STRATEGY FOR pdf 123.pdf

Thousand Leones (SLL872,000) and one-off transfer of Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Leones (SLL436,000).

In all these, the IEC unit led a robust beneficiaries/citizens engagement and media relations and other campaigns which enhanced the knowledge base of beneficiaries, increased public knowledge on the project and maintained a steady media coverage. Though with some huge challenges, efforts were made to reach PwDs with key messages.

#### 1.1 Communication and Information Concept Note for Second and Third Tranche Payment

The concept was developed to outlines plans, defines a deliberates IEC mechanisms<sup>3</sup> which target beneficiaries (especially Persons with Disabilities) of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po. The strategy went through the Pre, during and post payment activities by providing accurate and timely information to beneficiaries (including Persons with Disability) and the public (both national and international) about the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN project, uses of the top-up payment to enrolled beneficiary households with PwDs, classified behavioral change Communication through distribution of posters and latest health advice<sup>4</sup> for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This effort is complementary to the overarching IEC Strategy on SSN.

#### 1.2 Objectives

In addition to providing accurate, timely, comprehensive and approved messages within the appropriate format for information users and seekers, the IEC interventions achieved the following objectives:

In line with the project objectives, the IEC unit used an inclusive communication module to target beneficiaries. However, though the concept communicated mechanisms to engage PWDs, the resources to support such objective were absent. There were no specific communications platform (s) that target PWDs. Irrespective of the fact that the National Commission for Persons with Disability and the Sierra Leone Union on Disability were consulted and contributed to developing the concept. Based on the available and utilized resources, the following objectives were achieved:

- ➤ Stakeholders (except for PWDs) were engaged on key messages and information dissemination mechanics. This was done through an effective and robust information sharing development, dissemination, public and media engagement.
- ➤ Provided clarification on information while maintaining relationships with the media and other target audience and ensuring enhanced visibility for NaCSA and other implementing partners.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The strategy has been explained below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Precautionary measures to prevent Covid-19.

- > Delivered information products (posters and key messages) to target beneficiaries, NaCSA and ACC district staff and stakeholders using the most appropriate channels/mediums of communication and information dissemination.
- Educate beneficiaries on the appropriate use of the cash transfer including the (onetime) top-up transfer to households with PWDs and other positive behaviours that will safeguard the wellbeing of the family.

#### 1.3 Communication protocols

NaCSA through its IEC unit has always maintained a standard communication policy<sup>5</sup> which follows the dictate of the Independent Media Commission<sup>6</sup> code of practice for journalism, Public and media relations, the right to Access Information code and internal or managerial directives on information disclosure. Within the draft key messages, a communications courtesy was indicated. Key messages on Covid-19 precautionary measures were communicated<sup>7</sup>. In addition to this, there an effective collaboration between NaCSA, NCPD, SLUDi, Anti-Corruption Commission and Stats-SL. NCPD and SLUDi will led the process of reaching PwDs with key messages though there were no braille or sign language interpreters.

NaCSA provided ACC key messages and printed materials with specific information to ensure that these messages reach the final consumer. This enhanced ACC Community Monitors in maintaining a consistent flow of communication including engaging community stakeholders on payment processes and procedures.

#### 1.4 Principles to inform the communications response

#### During the payments across districts, the following principles were maintained:

- Equity: the human rights of people with disability and beneficiaries were upheld through an equitable, accessible and tailored messages.
- > Prevention: providing accurate information to PWDs and other beneficiaries on project objectives, processes and protocols.
- > Informed: PWDs, their families, careers, support workers and other beneficiaries of the project understand what to do before, during and after receiving their benefits.
- Targeted: clear, targeted information and advice is communicated in a diverse range of accessible formats and via different channels.
- > Support networks: supporters of PWDs (families, careers, support workers and others providing formal and informal supports) were central to the safety of people with disability, during the pandemic, and were a key target group for this plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> NaCSA has a draft communication policy which is currently under review, but the standard guilds as to how to communicate with PwDs and the public has been annexed.

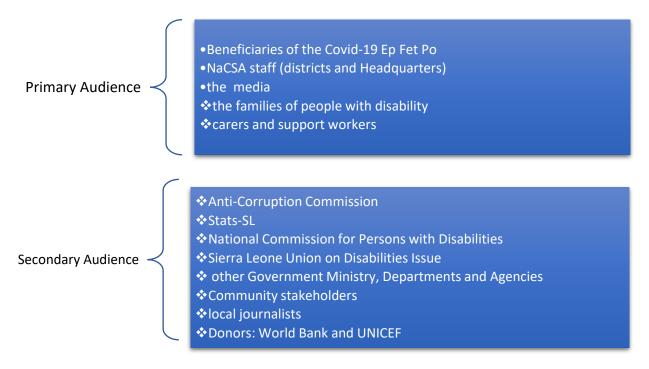
https://www.judiciary.gov.sl/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/IMC-Code-of-Practice.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Annex 3

Partnerships: there has always been an integrated partnership between the commission (NACSA), the disability sectors, implementing partners and donors to appropriately respond to the diverse needs of PwDs and their families, careers, support workers and other beneficiaries.

#### 1.5 Target audiences

This Communications plan was designed to reach a broad range of beneficiaries including PWDs and other vulnerable groups. The strategy's primary focus was beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN especially Persons with disability but further communication activities targeted the following:



#### 2.0 IEC Interventions

The IEC interventions were based on the media methodology highlighted in the approved concept note and the IEC overall strategy. However, these interventions were also tied to the payment phase.

#### 2.1 First Phase

#### 2.1.1 Press Releases

The following press releases were published:

- A generic Press Release that explains the payment processes and payment with a tentative date of payment
- The second press release was a joint release with ACC
- ➤ The third further explained beneficiary categories based on benefit size (See Annex 1)

#### 2.1.2 Article

The following article were published

- ➤ The Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN Cash transfer is Free and It Targets Extremely Poor Households in Sierra Leone.' Says Commissioner Max-Kyne\*
- ➤ \*As NaCSA Commences Payment of SSN Beneficiaries, GoSL Injects SLL 41.8billion into the Local Economy.
- ➤ Clarification on the Second and Third Tranche Payment of Beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Net Project (See Annex 2)

#### 2.1.3 Radio and TV Discussion

Before, during and after the commencement of the first phase of the second and third tranche payment of beneficiary in the first five districts,<sup>8</sup> the IEC unit held discussions on the following radio and television stations:

#### **Television Stations**

- 1. Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation<sup>9</sup> (SLBC TV) on the following programmes
  - i. Good morning Salone TV
  - ii. The Podium TV<sup>10</sup>
- 2. Freetown Television News on the following programmes<sup>11</sup>
  - i. FTN at 7am
  - ii. What's Up Salone

#### Radio stations<sup>12</sup>

- 3. Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC Radio) Freetown
- 4. Culture Radio Freetown
- 5. Radio Tempo Freetown
- 6. SLBC Makeni
- 7. Radio Njaluhun Segbema, Kailahun district
- 8. Njeh Radio
- 9. Radio Bankasoka
- 10. Karene Radio

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Portloko, Pujehun, Falaba, Kailahun and Bombali

<sup>9</sup> https://www.facebook.com/101277595288721/videos/4967716353257129/?app=fbl

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\_fbid=575963970284707&id=1509215026060830

<sup>11</sup> https://fb.watch/9bn2q75tTn/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The recordings of these programmes have been saved in the POIEC desktop and external drive

#### 2.1.4 social media

The article, commentaries and press releases were published on all social media outlets including

- 1. Facebook<sup>13</sup>
- 2. Twitter <sup>14</sup>
- 3. WhatsApp
- 4. LinkedIn 15

#### 2.1.5 Media Relations, Partnership and Coordination

In ensuring that there is a positive relationship between the media and the Commission<sup>16</sup>, the IEC unit works with various media outlets including radio, television and newspapers. In addition, the Ministry of Information and Communication through the Office of the President, has assigned information officer to the Commission, this officer serves as the direct link to all available government's media houses, online platforms and other information dissemination platforms.

Before payment commenced for the first phase, the IEC unit held an individual base meeting with representatives from the following institutions:

- Ministry of Information and Communication
- National Commission for Persons with Disability
- Sierra Leone Union on Disabilities issues
- Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation
- Africa Young Voice
- Epic Radio
- Freetown Television News
- Sierra Network (an Online Platform)

The essence of the meeting was for the unit to explain in details payment processes and procedure and to get contacts for media houses that may want to provide coverage of the payments.

#### 2.2.0 Second Phase

The second phase of the second and third tranche payment also targeted five districts<sup>17</sup> and the IEC unit was very critical in information dissemination. Before, during and after payment, the following activities were undertaken:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://www.facebook.com/National-Commission-for-Social-Action-108939287385602

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://mobile.twitter.com/NaCSA2020

<sup>15</sup> https://www.linkedin.com/company/68806094/admin/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Kenema, Kono, Bo, Bonthe and Moyamba

### 2.2.1 Radio Discussions<sup>18</sup>

At this level, the regional and district offices took lead in all radio discussions. The IEC unit, however, provided a facilitation role. Five radio discussions were held, one in each district a follow:

Radio	District	Panellists	Role/Inst.
		Umaru Samai	Project Officer IEC – NaCSA
Star Radio	Kenema	Moriba Foday	RC – East NaCSA
		Dennis G. Lansana	DC – Kenema
Sierra Leone	Во	Aminata Sheriff	RC- South
Broadcasting		Fatmata F. Babawo	DC Bo
Corporation		Martin Goba	Deputy Chairman BoDC
		Samuel Kamara	ACC Rep.
		Sheriff	SLUDi
Janjay Radion	Bonthe	Augustine Koroma	DC Bonthe
		David Gareth	ACC
		Momoh Massaquoi	CDS – NaCSA
Radio	Moyamba	Abdulai Kamara	CDS
MODCAR		Abass Conteh	CDS
		Jonathan Bassie	District Monitor ACC
SLBC	Kono	Allen A. Nabieu	DC NaCSA
		Makya A Charles	CDO
		Mohamed Koroma	CDS
		Umaru	
SLBC	Pujehun	Umaru Samai	POIEC
Kailahun <sup>19</sup>		Musa Thullah	CDS
SLBC	Kailahun	Charles Macarthy	DC
		Murray Sam	CDS
N/A	Bombali		
Radio	Portloko	To be hosted	
Bankasoka			
Radio Kolenteh	Kambia	Sintho Kargbo	DC
		Lansana Mye	CBS
		Kamara	Councillor ward 200
		Foday Mansaray	Producer, Radio Kolenteh
		Abraham Sowa	
SLBC	Falaba	Umaru Samai	PoIEC
Magbuaraka			CDS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Recordings are with regional and district offices

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Simu-cast

		Ibrahim Kalim	
		Bangura	
SLBC	Karene <sup>20</sup>	Umaru Samai	PoIEC
Magbauraka		Ibrahim Kalim	CDS
		Bangura	
SLBC	Tonkolili	Umaru Samai	PoIEC
Magbauraka		Brima O Kanu	DC
Radio Freetown	Western Area Rural	Umaru Samai	PoIEC
Radio Freetown	Western Area Urban	Umaru Samai	PoIEC

#### 2.2.2 Poster distributions

Three thousand, five hundred posters<sup>21</sup> were printed and distributed based on the following:

Poster 1	Distri	hution	List <sup>22</sup>
I USICI I		Dution	

		Total	Received By:	Designation	Delivered	Designation
		HH in			By:	
District	34,876	District				
		•	Fatmata F	DC Bo	Umaru	PO-IEC
Bo		2,276	Babawo		Samai	
			Santos Sesay	Admin	Emmanuel	Driver
Bombali		2,462		Assistant		
			Augustine	DC Bonthe	Isata	Senior
					Carew	Officer- M
Bonthe		969				and E
			Gladys Lansana	DC Bombali	Umaru	PO-IEC
Falaba		1,115			Samai	
			Charles	DC Kailahun	Umaru	PO-IEC
Kailahun		2,684	Macarthy		Samai	
			Sentho Kargbo	DC Kambia	Umaru	PO-IEC
Kambia		997			Samai	
			Kadie Jackson	DC Portloko	Umaru	PO-IEC
Karene		1,525			Samai	
			Dennis	DC	Umaru	PO-IEC
Kenema		4,870	N.Lansana		Samai	
			Gladys Lansana	DC Bombali	Umaru	PO-IEC
Koinadugu		840			Samai	
Kono		1,309	Lahai A Magao	CBF	Emmanuel	Driver

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 20}$  Radio discussion at Falaba and Karene were simu-cast with SLBC Magbauraka  $^{\rm 21}$  Wae ar get Mi Ep Fet Po Money

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> The signed distribution lists have been annexed

		Aminata Sheriff	RC East	Umaru	PO-IEC
Moyamba	1,803			Samai	
		Kadie B.	DC P/Loko	Umaru	PO-IEC
Port Loko	1,634	Jackson		Samai	
		Fatmata F.	DC BO	Umaru	PO-IEC
Pujehun	6,472	Babawo		Samai	
		Brima O Kanu	DC Ton.	Umaru	PO-IEC
Tonkolili	4,348			Samai	
Western		Rachael Okeke	Admin	Umaru	PO-IEC
Rural	855		Assistant	Samai	
Western		Rachael Okeke	Admin	Umaru	PO-IEC
Urban	717		Assistant	Samai	
	34,876				

#### 2.2.3 Press Release

Press release announcing the commencement of the second phase of the second and third tranche payment of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN were published via various newspaper and NaCSA social media platforms. The releases were on the following:

- Commencement of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN
- Press Release on Fraud Alert

#### 2.3.0 Third and Final Phase

This phase of the payment covers the following districts:

- Kambia District
- Western Area Urban
- Western Area Rural
- Tonkolili District
- Karene District

#### 2.3.1 Meeting with Market Chairladies and Chairmen, SLUDI and NCPD

It could be recalled that there are beneficiaries of the second phase of the Emergency Cash Transfer who have not received their benefits. Considering the possibility for them to go to the points of payment thinking that they are to be paid, the IEC unit, under the supervision of the Director – NSPS invited all market chairmen and chairladies. The essence of the meeting was to better engagement them on the differences between the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN and the Covid-19 ECT. It was also for them to be used as a relevant and easier communication and information dissemination route to reach the lager market women structures and members.

The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues remain pivotal in the implementation of the Covid-19 EP Fet Po/SSN. It is also worthy to

note that these partners are very important in coordinating and relating with their PWDs constituents. This makes information dissemination very easy. To ensure a proper coordination and consistent flow of information, NaCSA held a meeting with SLUdi and NCPD personnel.

#### 2.3.2 Press Release

Press release announcing the commencement of the third and final phase of the second and third tranche payment of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN were published via various newspaper and NaCSA social media platforms. The releases were on the following:

- Commencement of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN
- Press Release on Fraud Alert

#### 2.3.3 Media Coordination

The relationship between the Project and the media has been very cordial and interactive. It ranges from coordination to reporting. From the start of the second and third tranche payment to the end, the IEC unit engaged twelve journalists in the following meeting points.

	Name of Journalist	Means	<b>Media Outlets</b>	Contact
1.	Aruna Kargbo	In person	New Age	+232423839
2.	Samuel Bangura	In person	SLBC HQ	+232368517
3.	Augustine Kargbo	Phone In	SLBC Bombali district	+23288102798
4.	Hassan Kamara	In Person	FTN TV HQ	+23278425806
5.	Aminata Sesay	Phone	SLBC HQ	+23276288996
6.	Abdul Karim	In Person	SLBC Tonkolili	+23288223012
7.	Allieu Kargbo	Phone	AYV HQ	+23288608103
8.	Steven	Phone	AYV	+23278952713
9.	Jambawa	Phone	AYV South	+23288183070
10.	Bernard	Phone	FTN HQ	+23276131500
11.	Alhaji	In Person	Radio Bankasoka,	+23276799566
			Portloko	
12.	Jaward	Phone	Epic Radio	+23278247148



# Government of Sierra Leone National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) 14-16 Charlotte Street Freetown, Sierra Leone

Ref: IEC/PR/21/010 30th October, 2021

#### Second Phase of the Second and Third Tranche Payment of Beneficiaries of The Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Nets Project

From Monday, 18th to Wednesday, 27th October, 2021, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and its partners commenced and completed payments of beneficiaries of Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Nets (SSN) project in Port loko, Kailahun, Falaba, Bombali and Pujehun districts.

NaCSA wishes to inform beneficiaries and the public that on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021, payment of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN will commence in Bo. Bonthe, Moyamba, Kono and Kenema districts. This payment will concentrate on the following categories of beneficiary households:

- Households without Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) will receive payment for two (2) quarters at Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand (SLL436,000) per quarter. This sums up to Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Leones (SLL 872,000).
- Households with PwDs will receive payment for two (2) quarters at Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand (SLL436,000) per quarter plus an additional one-off transfer of SLL436,000 to support PwDs in the households. The total amount per household under this category will be One Million Three Hundred and Eight Thousand leones (1,308,000).
- Households with resolved missing data issues and without PwDs will receive Two Million One Hundred and Eighty-One (SLL 2,181,000) which includes first tranche payment of One Million, Three Hundred and Nine Thousand Leones (SLL1,309,000), second and third quarter payments of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Leones (SLL 872,000).
- Households with resolved missing data issues and with PwDs will receive Two Million Six hundred and Seventeen Thousand Leones (SLL 2,617,000) which comprises of first tranche payment of One Million, Three Hundred and Nine Thousand Leones (SLL1,309,000), second and third quarter payments of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Leones (SLL872,000) and one-off transfer of Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Leones (SLL436,000).

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Magburaka, Makeni, Mattru, Moyamba, Port Loko, Pujehun











The Commission further wishes to appeal to beneficiary households and the public that absentees during the first tranche payment will not receive the backlog payment during the second tranche payment exercise. However, corrective measures have been taken and the public is assured that during the next payment, the affected beneficiary households will receive the backlog amount due.

All beneficiaries will be paid 'in cash' by Rokel Commercial Bank (RCB) with oversight by Community Monitors of the ACC and NaCSA district staff. These payments have the potential to support beneficiaries' investments in health, education and productive business.

Kindly be cautioned that no one should offer or pay anything to anybody before, during and after receiving the payment. Any attempted extortion or corrupt practice must be reported to the ACC using the toll-free number 515, directly to ACC Community Monitors or other ACC officials and NaCSA district staff. We thank you for your understanding and continued interest and confidence in the work of the Commission.

For further information on this and other matters, please contact Umaru Samai, Project Officer-Information Education and Communication on +23277022709/+23276378993 umarusamai@naesa.gov.sl

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Magburaka, Makeni, Maltru, Moyamba, Port Loko, Pujehun















#### JOINT PRESS RELEASE

8TH October, 2021

#### SECOND TRANCHE PAYMENT OF COVID 19 EP FET PO/SSN TO BENEFICIARIES

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) in partnership with other stakeholders in the Social Safety Net (SSN) Project implementation-the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Statistics Sierra Leone and Rokel Commercial Bank wishes to inform the general public that, the second tranche payment of the COVID 19 Ep Fet po/SSN will commence on Monday 11th October, 2021 across the Sixteen (16) Districts of Sierra Leone.

In that regard, the public is further informed that this second tranche payment will be for two quarters, and will be in the total amount of Eight Hundred and Seventy+WoThousand Leones (872,000), unlike the first tranche payment which was for three quarters and amounted to One Million, Three Hundred and Eight Thousand Leones (1,308,000).

It should be also noted by the public that, payments are in quarters and that each quarterly payment is in the total sum of Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Leones (Le436,000).

The public is also informed that no one should offer or pay bribe to anybody before, during and after receiving the payment. Any of such corrupt practice must be reported to the ACC using the toll-free number 515, directly to ACC Community Monitors or other ACC officials and NaCSA district staff.

NaCSA, the ACC and other partners will continue to work collectively to ensure that payments to SSN beneficiaries are done transparently and without any incidences of fraud or corruption, in order to maintain the integrity of the project.

The Government of Sierra Leone introduced the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Net Project as Quick Action Economic Response Program (QAERP) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on people's livelihoods. The program is funded by the Government of Sierra Leone, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). NaCSA is the implementing agency with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Statistics Sierra Leone as partners.

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COMMISSIONER, NaCSA

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# National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) 14-16 Charlotte Street Freetown, Sierra Leone

Ref: IEC/PR/21/007 05% October, 2021

## Second and Third Tranche Payment of Beneficiaries of The Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Nets Program in all Sixteen (16) Districts

As part of the Government of Sierra Leone's Quick Action Economic Response Program (QAERP) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on people's livelihoods, the Government of Sierra Leone introduced the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Net Project. The program is funded by the Government of Sierra Leone, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). NaCSA is the implementing agency with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Statistics Sierra Leone as partners.

It could be recalled that in October 2020, the National Commission for Social (NaCSA) and its partners completed the targeting and enrollment of thirty-five thousand (35,000) beneficiary households across all 16 (sixteen) districts in Sierra Leone. In March, 2021, based on the generated files, a total of thirty-three thousand and ten (33,010) households received the first tranche of their benefits.

To ensure speed and accuracy in delivering the project objectives, NaCSA wishes to inform beneficiaries and the public that on Sunday 10th October, 2021, it will commence payment of second and third tranches (equivalent to the sum of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Leones -SLL 872,000) to enrolled beneficiary households in all sixteen (16) districts. During this payment, households with PWDs as listed in the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po project database of enrolled beneficiaries, will receive an additional one-off transfer in the amount of SLL 436,000 (Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Leones). The purpose of this will be to contribute to medical and healthcare for PWDs in the household.

The Commission further wishes to make it known to beneficiary households and the public that during the first payment, certain beneficiary households were left out due to data errors. However, the Commission has made frantic efforts to correct these errors. We regret to inform the affected beneficiary households and the public that these households will not receive payment during the second and third tranches payment exercise. However, corrective measures have been taken and the public is assured that the affected beneficiary households will receive a combined (first, second and third tranches) payment of SLL 2,181,000 (Two million, One Hundred and Eight One Thousand Leones). Payment will be done immediately after the second and third tranche payment.











All beneficiaries will be paid 'in cash' by Rokel Commercial Bank (RCB) with oversight by Community Monitors of the ACC and NaCSA district staff. These payments have the potential to support beneficiaries' investments in health, education and productive business.

Kindly be cautioned that no one should offer or pay anything to anybody before, during and after receiving the payment. Any attempted extortion or corrupt practice must be reported to the ACC using the toll-free number 515, directly to ACC Community Monitors or other ACC officials and NaCSA district staff. We thank you for your understanding and continued interest and confidence in the work of the Commission.

For further information on this and other matters, please contact Umaru Samai, Project Officer- Information Education and Communication on +23277022709/+23276378993 umarusamai@nacsa.gov.sl

Sao-Kpato Hannah Isatta Max-Kyne (PhD)

Commissioner -NaCSA











#### Annex 2 Article

1 "The Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN Cash transfer is Free and It Targets Extremely Poor Households in Sierra Leone." Says Commissioner Max-Kyne\*

\*NaCSA District Office\*

\*Bo, Southern Province. \*

Following the commencement of payment of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN project in Portloko, Bambali, Pujehun, Falaba and Kailahun districts, the Commissioner of the National Commission for Social Action; Dr. Sao-Kpato Hannah Isatta Max Kyne has visited the Paramount Chief of Kpejeh Chiefdom and the people of Njandeama and Konela communities, Pujehun district.

The essence of the visit is to ensure efficiency in payment processes and procedures whilst engaging beneficiaries and stakeholders on project information and the importance of accountability and transparency in the payment process. Fatmata Fataba Babawo is the Bo District Coordinator with huge experience in payment. In her statement, she calls on beneficiaries to make assiduous use of the benefit; \*'' invest and reinvest, support family members especially those with disability, use it for medication save some for the raining days and support the children's education.''\*

In her introductory statement, NaCSA's Regional Coordinator – Aminata Sheriff admonished attendees to give girls the opportunity to go school and make the best use of the Free Quality Education. \*''...The Commissioner of NaCSA is the first female Commissioner of the Commission since its establishment. One of the reasons for her appointment was not because she is a woman but also because has attained the highest level of academia which adds value to her passion and commitment to deliver. We want to produce more Hannah across the country.''\* She ended.

The Paramount Chief of Kpejeh Chiefdom, PC Koroma extended his sincere appreciation to His Excellency Dr, Julius Maada Bio, the donor partners and NaCSA for seeing reasons to provide cash to the extremely vulnerable in Sierra Leone. \*''this is laudable and I must commend the Bio led government for expanding the beneficiary coverage across the sixteen districts. However, there are eighteen communities in my chiefdom but the project covers only nine communities, I am pleading for an extension of these benefits to other communities because it is also needed. In subsequent meetings, we shall hold discussions around the construction of a multi-purpose hall and I am positive that will come to past because this government is living no one behind.''\*

Before symbolic payment of two beneficiaries, Commissioner Max-Kyne provided a succinct information of the project noting that the project is funded by the World Bank, UNICEF and the Government of Sierra Leone and it targets Seventy-two households nationwide. She further noted that all beneficiaries that are currently receiving money have been previously targeted and enrolled using inclusive and transparent targeting processes and procedures. \*'...the project was almost closing when the President, H.E Julius Maada Bio took office in 2018, when he visited Washington, the President pleaded with the World Bank for an additional financing which extended the project across the sixteen districts.''\* She informed beneficiaries and members of the beneficiary communities that NaCSA is working with relevant institutions like the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Statistics Sierra Leone to ensure transparency and prevent corruption. \*''This money is free, once you have started receiving the cash, nobody is supposed to take it from you. Before, during and after payment. You should not offer or pay anything to anybody in order to be enrolled or paid.''\* She ended.

## 2) As NaCSA Commences Payment of SSN Beneficiaries, GoSL Injects SLL 41.8billion into the Local Economy. \*

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has commenced payment of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Net Project. funded by the Government of Sierra Leone, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN is part of the Government of Sierra Leone's Quick Action Economic Response Program (QAERP) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on people's livelihoods.

The project covers seventy-two thousand (72,000) households (HH) across the country. In October 2020, NaCSA and its partners completed the targeting and enrollment of thirty-five thousand (35,000) beneficiary households across all 16 (sixteen) districts in Sierra Leone. Based on the generated files, a total of thirty-three thousand and ten (33,010) households received the first tranche of their benefits.

NaCSA, on Monday 18th October, 2021 started payment with four categories of beneficiaries receiving different benefits:

\*Households with no PwDs received payment for two (2) quarters at SLL436,000 per quarter. This sums up to (Eight Hundred and Seventy-two thousand Leones (SLL 872,000).\*

<sup>\*</sup>For more information on this and other matters,\*

<sup>\*</sup>Kindly contact IEC Unit;\*

<sup>\*+23277022709/+23278319419/+23230518539\*</sup> 

\*Households with Pwds received payment for two (2) quarters at SLL436,000 per quarter. They received an additional transfer of SLL436,000 to support PwDs in the households. The total amount per household under this category is One Million three hundred and eight thousand leones (1,308,000).\*

\*Households with resolved missing data issues and without PwDs received two million one hundred and eighty-one (SLL 2,181,000) which includes first tranche payment of SLL1,309,000, second and third tranche payment of Eight hundred and seventy-two Leones (SLL 872,000).\*

\*Households with resolved missing data issues and with one or more PwDs received Two million six hundred and seventeen thousand leones (SLL 2,617,000) which comprises of first tranche payment of SLL1,309,000 second and third trance payment of SLL872,000 and one-off transfer of SLL436,000 to support PwDs members of the beneficiary households. \*

Upon completion of payments across the sixteen districts, NaCSA will be injecting \*Forty-One Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand Leones (41,816,446,000.00) \* into Sierra Leoneans local economy. This gives beneficiaries the opportunity to purchase goods and services which allows cash flow. There are records of businesses being resuscitated, lives transformed, capital increased and access to finance. It is certain that the cash transfers will sustain businesses even after Corona.

# 3) Clarification on the Second and Third Tranche Payment of Beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/Social Safety Net Project. \*

With reference to the Press Release dated 05th October, 2021, announcing the date of commencement for the second and third tranche payment of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Ep Fet Po/SSN, NaCSA further wishes to inform beneficiary households and the public that;

It has completed the targeting and enrolment of thirty-five thousand (35,000) beneficiary households across all 16 (sixteen) districts in Sierra Leone. Based on the generated files, a total of thirty-three thousand and ten (33,010) households have received the first tranche of their benefits.

\*Payment of the second and third tranche will physically commence on Monday 18th October, 2021 in the following districts; Pujehun, Bombali, Kailahun, Falaba and Portloko. Each targeted and enrolled household without PWDs will receive the sum of Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Leones (SLL 872,000). \*

<sup>\*</sup>For more information on this and other matters,\*

<sup>\*</sup>Kindly contact IEC Unit; \*

<sup>\*+23277022709/+23278319419/+23230518539\*</sup> 

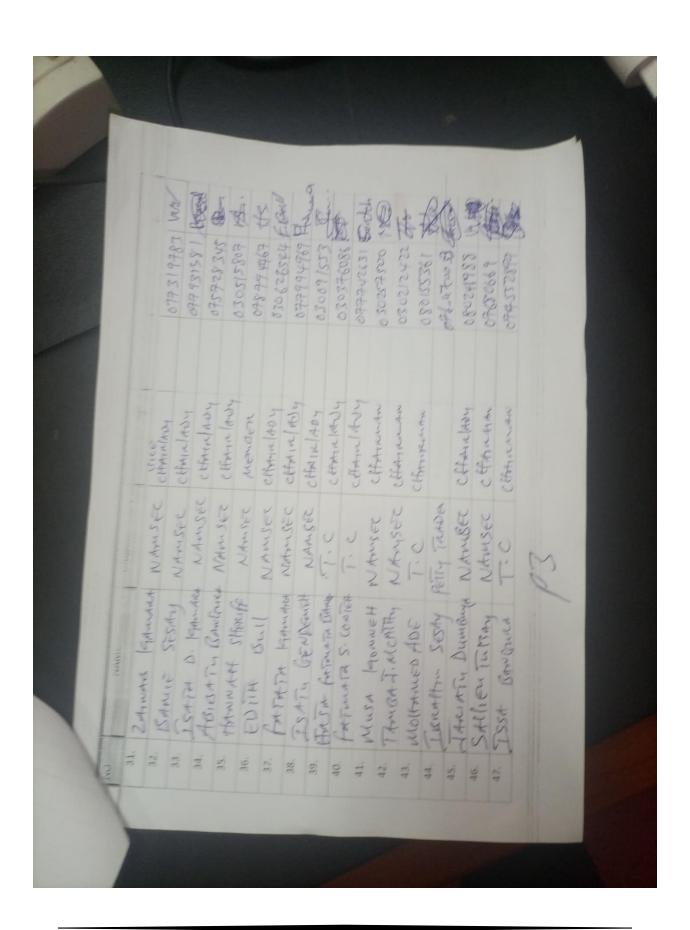
\*With the One-off transfer of Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Leones (436,000), households with PWDs will receive One Million, Three Hundred and Eight Thousand Leones (SLL 1, 308,000.) \*

\*This payment will also target beneficiary households who were left out during the first payment due to data errors. In this category, Households without PWDs will receive Two Million, One hundred and eighty-one thousand leones (2,181,000). Households with PWDs will receive Two Million, Six Hundred and seventeen thousand leones (2,617,000) \*

All beneficiaries will be paid 'in cash' by Rokel Commercial Bank (RCB) with oversight by Community Monitors of the ACC and NaCSA district staff. These payments have the potential to support beneficiaries' investments in health, education and productive business.

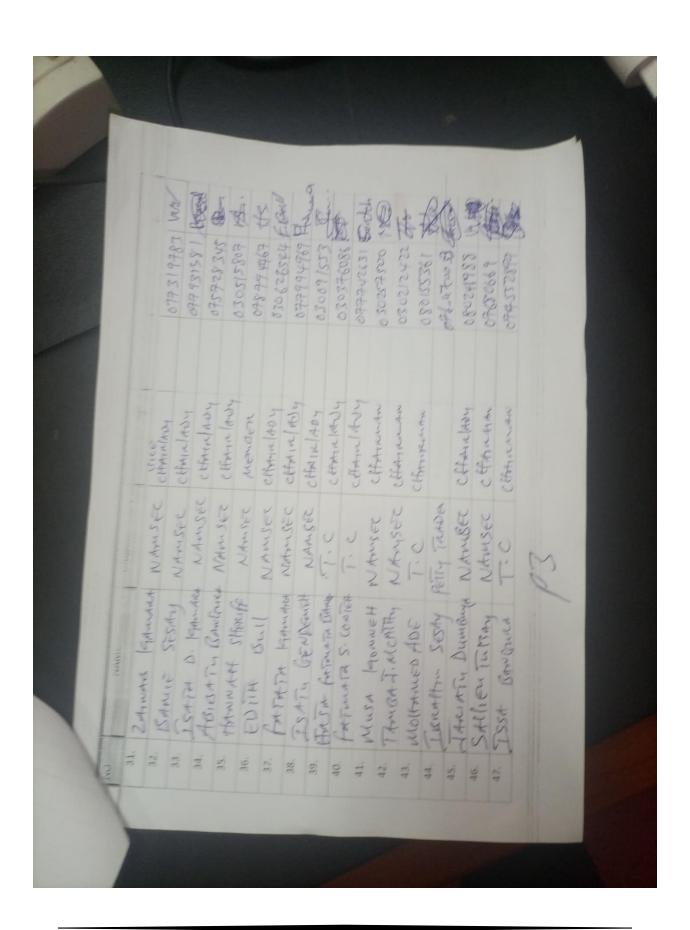
Kindly be cautioned that no one should offer or pay anything to anybody before, during and after receiving the payment. Any attempted extortion or corrupt practice must be reported to the ACC using the toll-free number 515, directly to ACC Community Monitors or other ACC officials and NaCSA district staff. We thank you for your understanding and continued interest and confidence in the work of the Commission.

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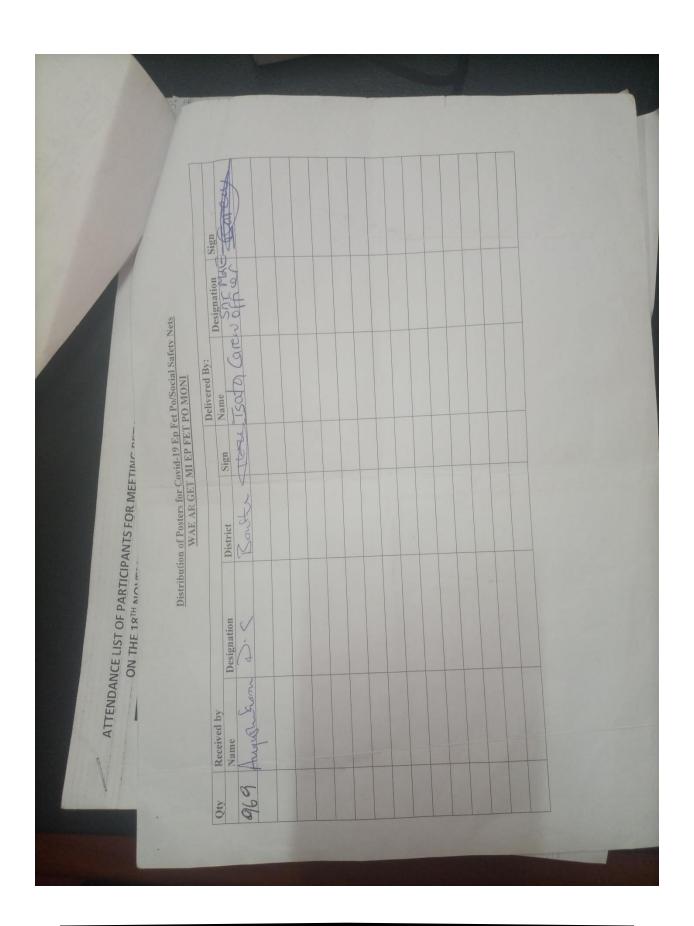


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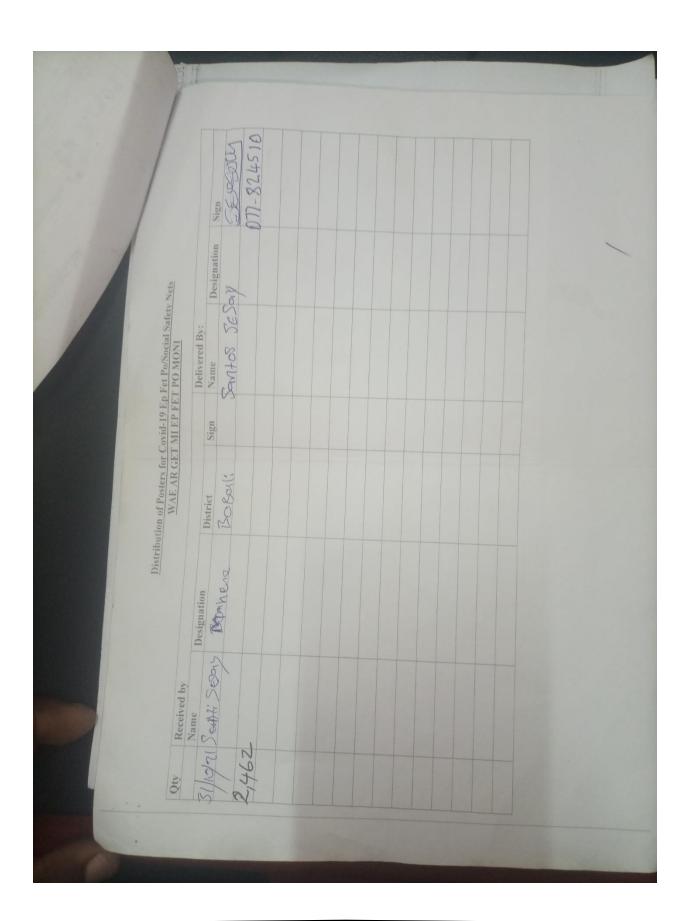
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