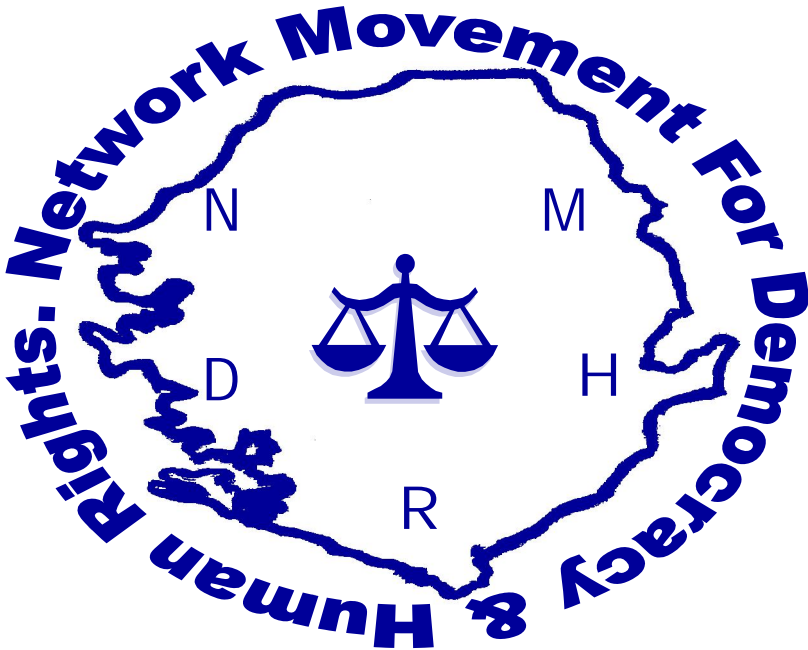


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NETWORK MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND
HUMAN RIGHTS (NMDHR)



Mar ch 2007-mar ch 2008

FORWARD

I am delighted to write the forward of this report of the activities of the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) 2007- 2008.

The six years of existence of the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights have justified the foresight of the founding member that in a progressive world, there is to be devaluation of democratic values, bad government and violation of human rights to those that desire them especially in post conflict Sierra Leone. It is in the manner of fighting for a better democratic society and good human rights values that will add premium to the life of the individual that the strength of any organization connected therewith can be measured. Even the period of one year covered by this report have spelt out, as the introduction by the Programme Manager affirm great human rights violations and bad governance corruption, political intolerance, gender disparity and denial of justice in Sierra Leone. This report will show the part played by the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) in resolution these threat.

The strength of our network partners across the country (Sierra Leone) and the administration setup of NMDHR shows how proper division of labour could yield great efficiency. The people and the organizations that NMDHR serves, have found it maximum benefits from our organization.

Now to great news, it is most heartening to note that an office space have been secured with assets from our network partners for the day to day running of the activities of the organization which stands to the credit of NMDHR, the advisory board, staff and our volunteers. Also, it is great news to all our development partners that five years strategic have been developed with consultations with our network partners and support from our Voluntary Service from Oversea (VSOSL) Sierra Leone. Office materials supports (computers) from Computer Aid

International-UK with help from the office of the Department for International Development Sierra Leone via the British High Commission in Sierra Leone have further enhanced the capacity of the organization. This indicate the devotedness of all those connected with effectively working with NMDHR. On this score, I must thank our founder and partners for the confidence they have placed in us.



Let me congratulate all our network partners within and outside Sierra Leone and the Advisory board but more especially our staff and volunteers led by the indefatigable program Manager in piloting the activities of NMDHR this far.

We would like to assure our funders that though like Oliver Twist, we always ask for more, will never let then Down

James Matthew-BBA (Hons), AIPFM.

National Coordinator

NMDHR

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ANNUAL REPORT March 2007-March 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) has come a long way since its inception in 2002. It has developed from small beginning into a very big organization that enjoys the status of being one of the leading human rights organizations in Sierra Leone.

The period covered by this report March 2007 to March 2008 witnessed gross violations of human rights, political intolerance in varying degrees in several parts of the country (Sierra Leone). The notable were in Freetown, Kailahun, Pujehun, Kambia district, Bo and Kono District. In almost all of them, the rights of ordinary citizens were flagrantly violated with impunity while democratic principle and the rule of law gave way to bad governance and jungle justice. These were carefully recorded by the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights which started on. Political intolerance was given greater attention by holding meetings with political parties representative both national and regional level to discuss on how to create a level playing field and an enabling environment for all political parties to carry out their activities without fear of intimidation or reprisal.

Efforts were made in calling the attention of the concern groups and fraction to the provisions of the international and regional human rights members and urged them to abide by accepted human rights standards and procedures.

Within Network Movement for Democracy and Human Right itself, several positive achievements were charted in its growth and service to the people of Sierra Leone.

Two components are established are:

The Gender desk, which is headed by a VSO volunteer from Uganda and the child protection units

The organization continues to maintain a vibrant network of human rights NGOs throughout Sierra Leone

As NMDHR enters 2008, with confidence and hope for continued growth, the objective is continue the pursuit of its mandate with renewed vigor and to build the capacity of it network in its avowed mission of promoting and protecting human rights in post conflict Sierra Leone.



Abdul Karim Habib – Programme manager

Brief history of NMDHR

Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) is a Development and Human Rights oriented Civil Society Organization that came into existence in June 2002, due to the indiscriminate violations and bad governance before and after the rebel war in Sierra Leone in 2002. This coalition of 28 community based human rights organizations is registered with the Ministry of social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affaires and Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental organization (SLANGO) with a registration No. MSWGCA/VO/2890

VISION:

NMDHR is committed to positioning itself, as unquestionably pre-eminent national NGO for the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic values for sustainable development. This shall entail information dissemination and community education on human rights, good governance and democracy throughout Sierra Leone.

MISSION:

To include the role of civil society and our network partners, government and traditional leaders for effective and participatory leadership, which will help transform the democratic, human rights, peace building and conflict resolution for sustainable development in Sierra Leone.

PHILOSOPHY:

Develop and maintain a dedicated and participatory workspace that will accomplish our mission. Involve Network partners and our donor partners at all levels in matters that relate to their needs, the needs of NMDHR and NMDHR staff. Promote cooperation and teamwork among network partners. Recognize and respect the dignity of the individual in accordance with Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (**UDHR**).

Organogram of NMDHR

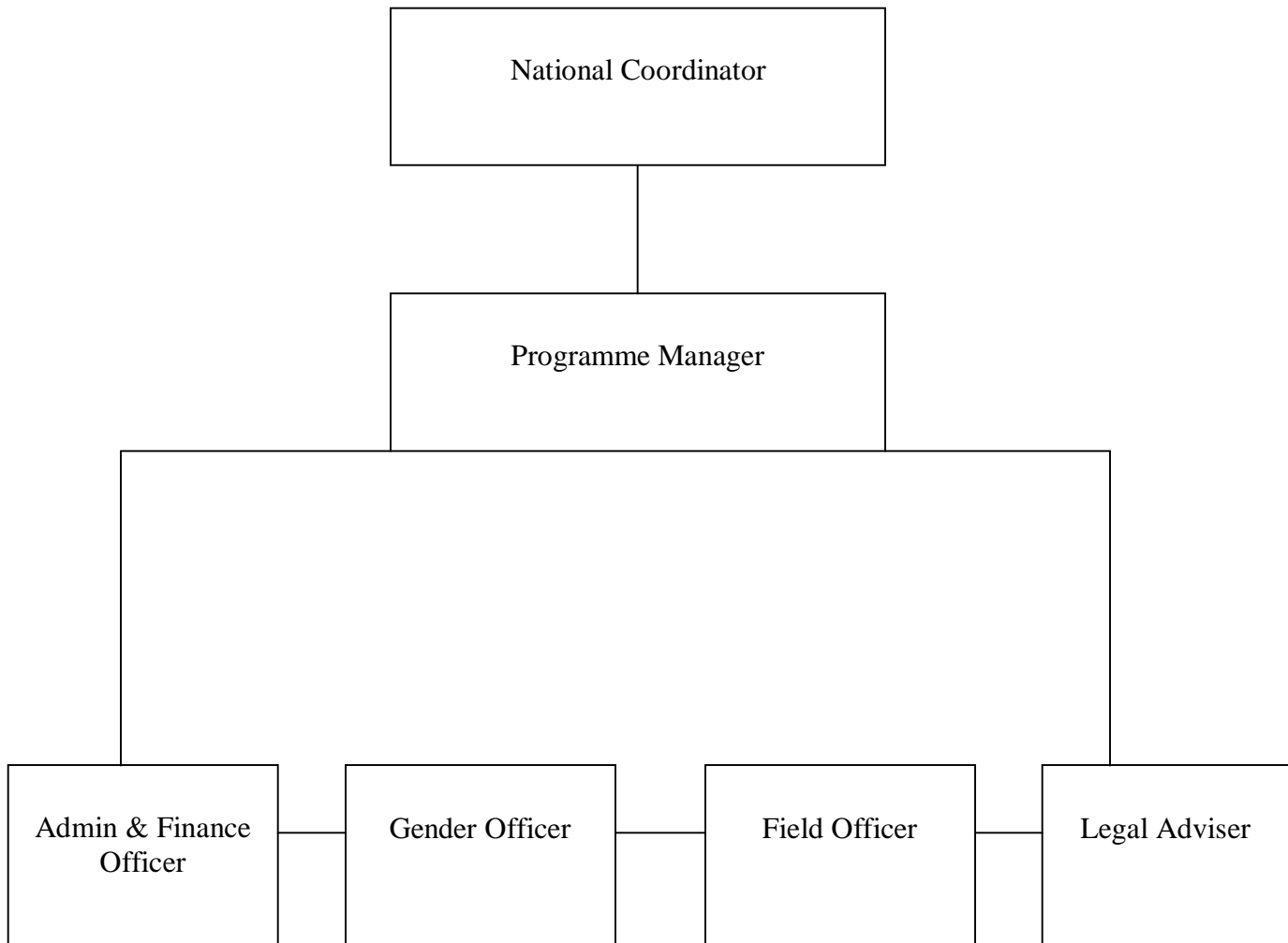
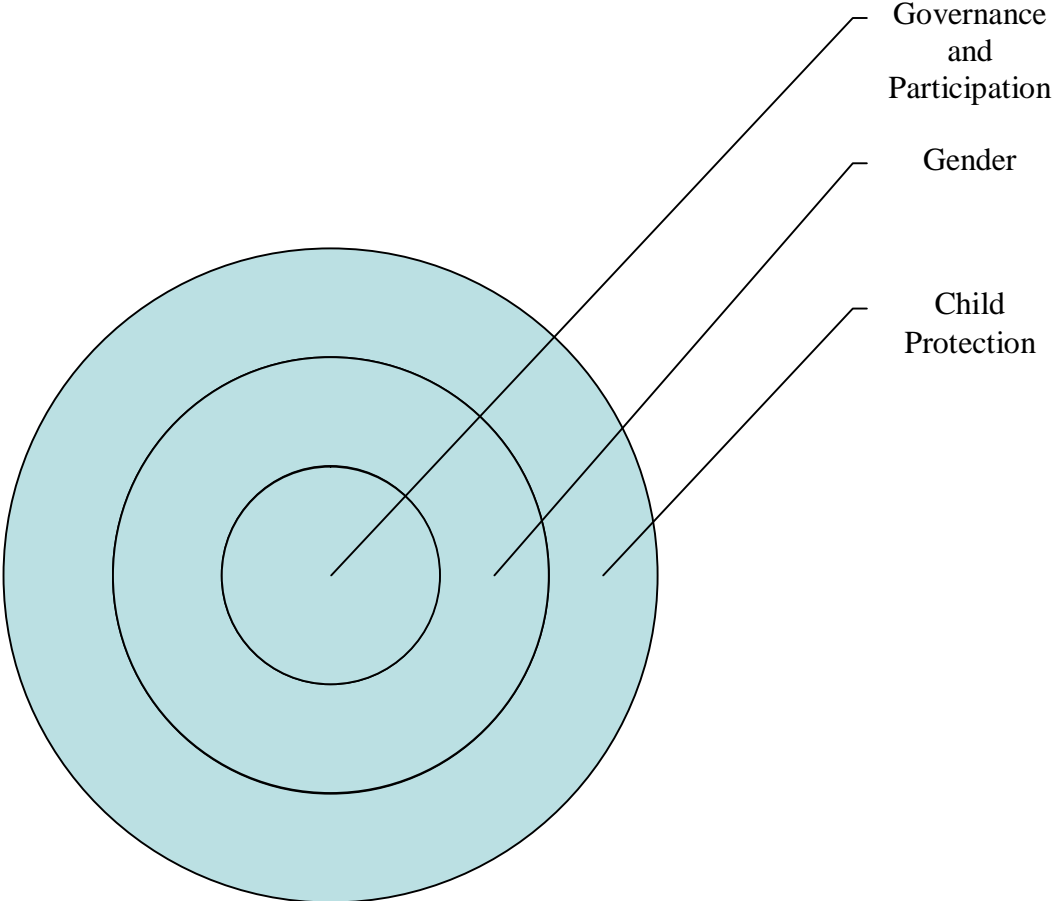


Diagram showing the three (3) thematic issues that NMDHR address



ACHIEVEMENT FOR NMDHR SINCE 2002 – 2007

- In 2004, NMDHR monitored and observed the Local Council Election. It was funded by UNDP
- In April 2005, NMDHR researched and produced a report document in context of Sierra Leonean on human trafficking, There after, in July 2005, NMDHR was able to do assessment survey on human trafficking of which was found to be true and the information was disseminated to the public and government for precautionary measures. The project was supported by Human Right and Development Centre – HURIDEC (EU funded project) for Care International Sierra Leone.
- In 2005 – 2006, NMDHR participated in the National Child Protection Campaign in collaboration with Search for Common Ground (SFCG), supported by UNICEF
- In 2005, NMDHR participated in a Forum for African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in Banjul the Gambia. It was supported by Care International Sierra Leone.
- In 2007, NMDHR participated in developing the Code of Conduct for Political Parties 2007 - 2012. It was funded by UNDP
- in 2006, NMDHR accessed 3 computers from Computer Aid International, with support from DFID and British High Commission
- In 2006 NMDHR participated in reviewing the Ant Corruption Strategic Document. It was funded by Government of Sierra Leone
- In 2006 – 2007, NMDHR achieved in bringing political parties together in various regions on the theme: Promoting political tolerance and gender participation in governance. The project was supported by ENCISS
- In 2007, NMDHR conducted Ethical Campaign and Tolerance workshops to all political parties in Sierra Leone in four Provinces. The process would go on to organize post elections forums for engagement between civil society and Government up to April 2008. It was funded by West Minister Foundation for Democracy (WFD).

- In April 2007, NMDHR pilot tested a project on Legal representation on female prisoners. It was funded by Canadian Fund for Democracy and Human Rights
- In 2007, NMDHR participated in the Presidential and Parliamentary Electoral Processes observation organized by NEW. It was funded by DFID and VSO. The process was free and fair.
- In 2007, NMDHR had a VSO Volunteer and a Strategic plan preparation and documentation process, funded by VSO

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN FROM MARCH 2007-APRIL 2008 BY
NMDHR

- Organized consultative meetings on political tolerance and gender participation in governance in the Western area, north and southern province of Sierra Leone with Support from ENCISS (CARE International DFID funded project)
- Organized meetings for members of political parties, civil society organizations, NGOs, National Electoral Commission and Political parties Registration Commission (PPRC) in the Bo, Southern province and Kenema –Eastern Province with support from Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) on political campaign ethics.
- Participated in the national boundary delimitation
- Trained national observers and supervisors to observe the 2007/2008 presidential and parliamentary elections.
- Observe the 2008 local government elections
- Participated in the planning and commemoration of the 2007 international volunteers Day with support from UNDP.
- Provided legal aid and illiteracy class for female prisoners at the Pademba road prisons with support from Canada fund for Human Rights.
- Developed a five years strategic plan (2007-2012) with support from Voluntary Service Overseas Sierra Leone office (VSOSL)
- Organized a two days national consultative conference on the ratification and implementation of the Rome status of the ICC.
- Conducted wide nation sensitization on the Rome status of the ICC.
- Monitors remand home and approve school in Freetown.

1. Political Tolerance and gender participation in governance.

Starting March to July 2007, the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) received support from ENCISS to conduct consultative meetings on political tolerance and gender participation in governance in Freetown for the Western area, Makeni for the Northern Province and Bo for the Southern Province.

In Freetown, the consultative meeting attracted more than sixty participants from legally registered political parties, government representative and human rights organizations. Among those that participated in the Consultative meeting in Freetown were Mrs. Jeannette Eno Programmer Manager for ENCISS, Mr. Saidu Contor Sesay governance adviser for ENCISS, Mr. Festus Minah-Chairman Sierra Leone Civil Society Movement (CSM), Mr. Hindolo Batilo Executive Secretary for NEC Mrs. George C. Taylor –National Chairman for the National Commission for Democracy and Mr. I.B. Kargo President SLAJ. There were heavyweight political parties representative from the legally registered political parties in Sierra Leone

From the side of the government, there were representative from the office of National Security (ONS) and the Sierra Police. This meeting was chaired by Mrs. Jeannette Eno. Similar meetings were conducted in Makeni and Bo which attracted representatives from all political parties, members from the civil Society, women organizations and International non-governmental organizations.

Presentations were made by various political parties representatives on them “creating and enabling environment and a level playing field for all political parties to carry out their activities without fear of intimidation or reprisal” This one day consultative meeting ended with recommendations and suggestion from the participants on the way forward in promoting political tolerance and gender participation in governance (see annex 1 for suggestions and recommendations)

In Makeni the provincial headquarter town of the Northern Province, and Bo the provincial head quarter town of the Northern Province similar meetings were conducted through the help ENCISS. Participants were drawn from the various political parties, national NGOs civil society organization and government institutions. Discussions in both meeting were surrounded around political tolerances and gender participations in governance. In these meetings political parties made firm commitments in ensuring that the 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections are conducted peaceful and that women will be encourage to participants fully in the elections. The meeting in Makeni was chaired by ENCISS and the one in Bo was chaired by the a senior member of the Njala University College Bo campus

Outcomes of meetings on political tolerance:

In our bid to foster good democratic values, NMDHR engaged all political parties in Sierra Leone on political tolerance and gender participation in governance. Some of the outcomes of the meetings held with the various political parties are as follows:

- ✓ A level playing field was created for all political parties legally registered with the Political parties registration commission (PPRC) during the 2007 presidential to carry their activities without fear of intimidation or reprisal. This was demonstrated during the elections in 2007.
- ✓ It was as the result of the meeting held with political parties in Freetown that the issue of the formation of a regulatory and coordinating body for all political parties emanated from which gave birth to the PPRC.
- ✓ Increase in gender participation in elections as it was demonstrated during the 2007 elections.
- ✓ Increase knowledge of choosing the right political party by the citizenry throughout the country.

- ✓ Police and paramount were able to realize their role in governance through our consultative meetings in Freetown, Makeni and Bo.

Conclusions and recommendations of meeting:

- ✓ Political parties to give space and support to women in their various political parties to contest for parliamentary positions
- ✓ Government to ensure that a specific quota is stipulated for women in parliament. That is, specific number of seats should be spelt out in the constitution for women.
- ✓ Paramount chiefs to remain neutral in politics
- ✓ Equitable use of the media by all political parties.
- ✓ NEC to remain impartial and neutral in the conduct of election
- ✓ Freedom of expression and access to information to be given priority for government.

2. Ethical Campaign

The Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) in partnership with ACTION PLUS received funding from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) to carry out consultations and sensitizations among the various political parties on ethical campaigning throughout the Sierra Leone. Consultations were held with political parties' representative in Bo and Kenema on formulating a strategy on campaign ethics in the conduct of elections. Both meeting attracted a Substantial number of participants from the civil society, government and International INGOs operating in the provinces.

In both meetings in Bo and Kenema respectively, political parties representatives from the Sierra Leone Peoples (SLPP), All People Congress (APC) to just name a few presented their political manifestos to the participants.

3. Boundary delimitation monitoring.

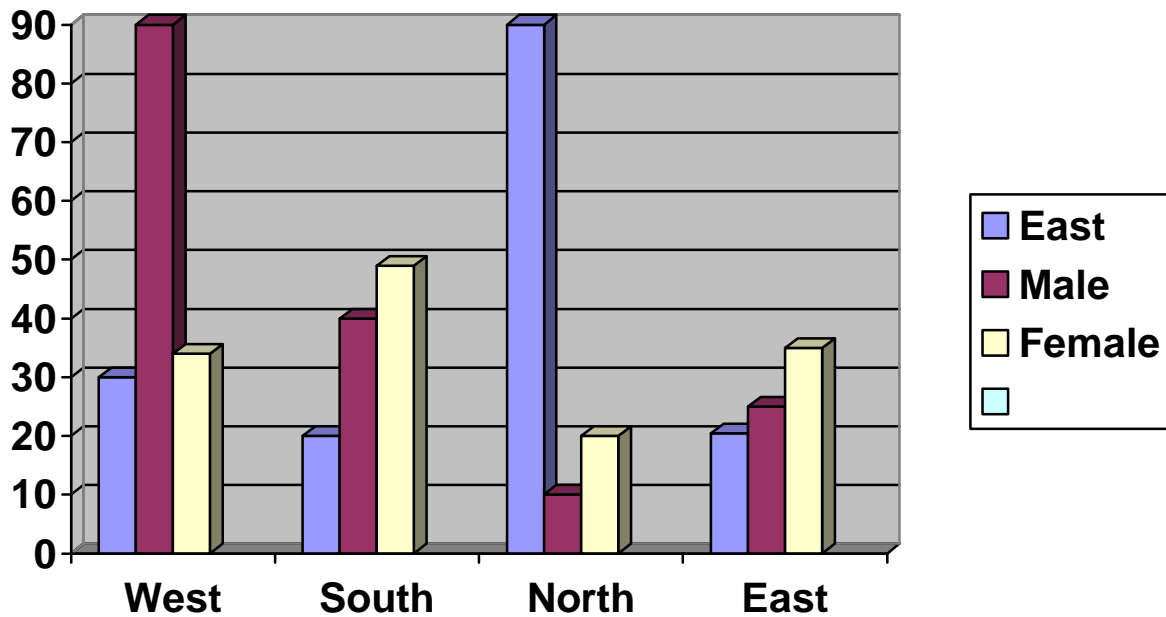
NMDHR participated in monitoring the boundary delimitation exercise conducted by the National Electoral Commission throughout the country.

4. Observation of the presidential and parliamentary election registration.

NMDHR took part in observing the 2007 election registration in the western area that was conducted by the National Electoral Commission.

5. A substantial number of male and female observers were trained by NMDHR for observation of the 2007 presidential and parliamentary election in the western, south, east and Northern Province of Sierra Leone. Area and Kenema in the eastern

Table showing number of observers trained by NMDHR to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007.



6. Participated in the planning and commemoration of the International Day for Volunteers.

The Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights participated in collaboration with local, national, international and UN bodies on planning the 2007 celebration of the UN Volunteer day. We participated in series on consultative and planning meeting organized by PADCO (NaCSA projects) on how to promote volunteerism in Sierra Leone. As a core-planning member of Volunteer organization in Sierra Leone, NMDHR contributed immensely in making sure that the IVD day was successful

7. Female prisoners' education at Pademba road prison

Background

NMDHR linking into voluntary initiative, which involves visiting, the Pademba road Prisons female section every Saturday at 10:00am – 11:30 am was a project that NMDHR jointly implemented with AdvoAid funded by the Canadian Fund for Human Rights.

The main purpose of this project was to pay frequent visit at the fame section at the Pademba Road Prison to educate them on how to read and write English and how to spell words. To also empower these female inmates through education. We are also involved in observing their welfare status while teaching them. During the period when the said project was implemented at the Pademba road Prisons at the there were about forty five (45) female prisoners at the female sections. This number sometimes number increase or decrease due to the fact that every week, almost women found wanting for certain crimes at the law court are send to the Pademba road Prisons .The statistic of the female inmates fluctuate at the Pademba Prison was not static. It keeps changing throughout the implementing stage of our projects. This project also provided legal aid for female inmates at the Pademba road prisons.

EDUCATION

Every Saturday a group of females Lawyers from the Special Court for Sierra Leone and one female representative from the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) visits inmates at the female section of the Pademba road prison. During the first week visit it was discovered that one of the inmates Juliet Ruth was convicted for fraudulent conversion and was serving a two (2) years sentence at the prison.

A female Prison Officer Madam Mary Mansaray and Mr. Tommy Bull were attached to the female prison section.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

The second component of the project was providing legal aid for some of the inmates who cannot afford paying the high legal price for lawyers to represent them in court.

Case as of that time in magistrate court(s)

Magistrate court – court #1, Justice Margai (law clerks are Seray and Mark)

- o Musu Sesay (got mad at her child and stuck hands in fire/ poured hot oil, the kids now in care of state) – the clerk said that as she's got no legal representation the case is advancing very slowly and keeps being adjourned. It seems that one witness has testified so far, who was the police officer that took her statement at the time of her arrest.

- o Fatmata Koroma (got in fight with her husband caught fire and suffered burns, which he late died from) – her case came up but it was adjourned, as the witness was not present. No one applied for bail fire her, she is without representation. The case is still in preliminary investigation stages so she has not pleaded to the charges yet.

- o Cecilia Koroma (don't have her statement but in Pademba Road Prison, her first appearance in court was 6th October, charged with conspiracy – house breaking and larceny) – she does not have any legal representation but the clerks though that a counsel called Mr. Edwards approached her after the hearing but not sure if he's taken on the case or not.

Magistrate court #4

- o Musu Bah (accused of stealing someone's mobile phone) – Musu was granted bail but did not have any one to act as surety for her and so remains in Pademba road Prison. The surety must be able to pay 2 million Leones, if Musu disappears while on bail and must be a resident from the Western Area

not associated with the court system. Her case is in the preliminary investigation phase (if it is found that there is a case to answer the case will be moved into the high courts and evidence has not yet started. She is not legally represented and the case is adjourned to the 18th.

Our observations:

- We observed that is very difficult for NGOs/ Human Rights Organizations to have access to enter the Pademba Road Prisons.
- We observed that most of the female prisoners do not have lawyers to defend them.
- We observed that the food is inadequate for the female prisoners.
- Medical facilities are inadequate.
- We observed that some of the inmates are suckling mothers and their children are exposed to malaria and other killer diseases.
- We observed also that there are some pregnant women.
- We observed that the shelter is adequate.
- We also observed that the relatives of these inmates are not aware that it is there rights to visit them.

Recommendation

NMDHR want to recommend the following:

- That HIV/Aids education/sensitization be given to these inmates monthly at the Pademba Road Prisons throughout the country, and malaria preventive programs.
- That legal support should be given to inmates.

- That support is given to NMDHR to make follow-up on these cases.
- That training workshops should be organized on HIV/Aids and prevention of malaria diseases

8. Organize a three days strategic planning meeting with partners for 5 years (2007-2012)

NMDHR was able to conduct a strategic plan for five years with support from VSO. The outcome of the strategic plan that lasted for three days are as follows:

Outcome of the meeting:

The government strategy

The government currently has a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) (2005 – 2007) in place, which outlines the plans and processes that it intends to carry out in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. (In addition to this, in 2003 the government developed a “Vision 2025” that articulates the overall vision of Sierra Leone’s longer-term development agenda, within which the poverty strategy is set.) The three ‘pillars’, or core focuses, of the PRSP are

Pillar One – Promoting good governance, security and peace;

Pillar Two – Pro-poor sustainable growth for food security and job creation; and

Pillar Three – Human development, which includes education, health and nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, vulnerable, youth development and cross-cutting issues of child first, HIV/AIDS, gender equality and (women’s) empowerment and the environment.

Since the interim PRSP was adopted (2001), the government has set about decentralizing the authority and decision-making powers of central government to the provinces. There has been some progress on this since, with local councils being set up and a degree of authority for health, education and agriculture being devolved in 2005. However, to date the decentralization process has been considerably hampered by capacity concerns within government bodies and at

times the setting up of parallel systems. Progress has been slow as a result; we hope that the new government remains vocal in its commitment to the process.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Looking at the country situation and the many factors that have aggravated political, social and economic crisis, NMDHR and Network Partners is set to join the government, in close collaboration with its development partners in working towards the government Poverty Reduction strategy and Millennium Goals in an effort to fight poverty crisis in Sierra Leone.

Strategic Frame Work

NMDHR and Network Partners are set to work in three strategic areas:

As we enter in a new dispensation in politics in Sierra Leone 2007 – 2012, NMDHR and Partners will assume three roles based on Participation and Governance, Gender and Governance, Child Protection and Organizational development. These four roles are explained in the following strategic goals that correspond to the results that NMDR wish to achieve in the future.)

Strategic Goals:

Participation and Governance

NMDHR will work in the area of Participation Governance, working closely with political parties, with the goal of promoting political tolerance and accountability amongst political parties. Sierra Leone has experienced long history of bad governance. Long before the decade, rebel war bad governance has taken centre stage in democratic governance.

Prior to the rebel war, Sierra Leone had one party system of government, which lasted for about two decades. This period was characterized by political intolerance,

Regionalism, tribalism, nepotism and sectionalism. The rule of law was completely watered down and a status quo was established by the government then in power, which forced most all Sierra Leone to belong to that regime. The people were denied the right to exercise their franchise. Those who opposed the government were treated as enemies of the state.

The 1996 presidential and parliamentary elections ushered in a new democratic dispensation with the introduction of multi-party democracy. Even with the introduction of multiparty system democracy, little has been done to change the political landscape in Sierra Leone.

Evidence of this was seen during the past election, which was characterized, by violence, political intolerance, intimidation, harassment and lack of a level playing field for all political parties to carry out their activities without fear of intimidation or reprisal.

NMDHR and Network Partners together with the development partners and government seek to work to the following:

1. Creating a level playing field and an enabling environment for all political parties to carry out their political activities throughout the country without fear of intimidation or reprisal through the following means:

- Dialogue forums with political parties and relevant government stakeholders at national, regional and district levels.
- Consultative forums with political parties' representatives, national and international NGOs on promoting tolerance among political parties.
- Multi media education and conscientization of the civil populace.
- Community theatre performance, public forum discussions with traditional leaders.
- Training seminars for cabinet and members of the legislative body on good governance.
- Community sensitization on the code of conduct for Political Parties.¹

2. Enhancing the capacity of CBOs and CBOs for effective policy analysis and monitoring at all level.

3. Engaging policy makers and service providers to influence policy change, review and implementation.

VSO Volunteer making a presentation at the Strategic Planning meeting

Gender and Governance

NMDHR will work in the area of gender and governance with the goal of promoting women participation in politics and in leadership roles.

Since independence, the participation of women in politics and in leadership arenas, their number has been too low due a number of issues of which includes cultural socialization and low levels of education among others.

When you look at the Sierra Leone cultural system, it is governed by traditional rulers within respective chiefdoms, and chiefs as the heads. It is only recent 2002 that Sierra Leone started getting female as heads of chiefdoms, though in some chiefdoms there is still a long way to go as for as their mid set culturally is concerned. We hope that with more women in education, sensitization and empowerment more so in policymaking arenas, more will be achieved.

The following is the brief history of women participation in politics and more so in highest leadership positions up to date since independence.

- 1960 a woman was elected as deputy Mayor of Freetown, and one as a Mende "Headman" in Freetown
- In 1960 Two women were delegates to the constitutional talks that resulted into Sierra Leone's independence
- 1961 the Sierra Leone women's Movement was established with the goal of improving the status of women and seeking female representation on government bodies concerned with education, social welfare and the economy

- 1975, five women gained office in Freetown City Council
- 1977 a woman was elected as Mayor of Freetown
- 1968 – 1985, During the APC Rule , Siaka Stevens no woman held ministerial position
- 1987 – 1992, during president J S Momoh's rule/tenure 3 women held ministerial posts as deputies
- 2004 Council Elections out of 425 there was 53 female councilors (11.2%)
- 2007 out of 19 councils , one (1) councils is headed by a woman
- 2002 – 2006 out of 124 Members of Parliament 18 were female and 3 were Cabinet Ministers
- 2007 – 2012 out of 112 Parliamentarians 16 are female and there are 3 full ministers and 2 deputies
- 2007 – 2012 out of 149 Paramount Chiefs, only 11 are women (In North women are barred by the exclusion from customary rites that go with inauguration whereas in Kailahun District they are excluded by stereotypical roles for traditional leadership that preclude women)
- Presently, out of the 23 appointed judges three are 7 female while 2 of the existing 19 magistrates are females
- We have a lady as a head of Electoral Commission as the Chairperson

NMDHR and Partners will work towards empowering women so that they can actively participate in politics and in decision-making arenas. NMDHR will work towards achieving the following objectives:

1. Build the confidence and capacity of NMDHR staff and Network Partners for effective work on gender issues
2. Engage stake holders, and partners in promoting and strengthening women's affairs

3. Advocate for an increase women for participation in politics by advocating for an affirmative action for women representation in parliament by 2012.
4. Raise awareness, promote and enforcement of laws and policies that protect the rights and dignity of women to realize their full potential through existing Domestic Bills.

NMDHR will use all possible strategies to achieve the above objectives of which among others will include: trainings and workshops, consultative forums/debates, advocacy and lobbying with relevant stakeholders at relevant levels of influence.

Child Protection

NMHR will also work in the area of child protection looking closely at the child in contact and conflict with the law with the goal of promoting swift and fair trials of juvenile offenders' cases.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Child Affairs designed the child protection program in 2003, just after the end of the rebel war in 2002. It supports the rebuilding of a social welfare system with special focus on reintegration of separated children and children associated with the fighting forces, children in the criminal justice system, street children, child victims of sexual abuse with reformation and lately, trafficking in persons. The child protection network is operational in all districts. The Child Protection Committee (CPC) is a network of national and international NGOS involved in child protection work. The network is chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Children Affairs at National and regional levels.

The Child protection program has not been completely tackled especially the issues of children in the justice system. The child justice situation in Sierra Leone has been undoubtedly confused by the decade long brutal civil conflict, coupled with difficult and poor living conditions of children in the country. These challenging, critical socio economic conditions in the country have contributed adversely in

meeting the improvements and mechanisms that generally protect and promote child rights and welfare issues. Not only has the conflict created disturbances but also has caused many children to be in the streets for example, not only as offenders but the risk of offending.

The child justice system in Sierra Leone is inadequate and it requires radical overhauling that includes staff development/professional training, legal reformation and service delivery, to suit the juveniles.

The approved school and remand home also started after the war, have been rehabilitated by the justice sector development program, but there is still room for improvement. They lack furniture and equipment for vocational training, The absence of paralegals and legal assistance have created bleak situation in trials of juvenile offenders. The trials are poorly administered if at all it is done. According to Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs in 2006 the Approved school Wellington had 215 children (boys only) of 11 to 17 ages and 249 in Remand Home, Western Area – Freetown of 11 – 17 ages of which includes boys and girls.

The Child Protection desk works in line with the legal instrument in place to create impact and these are:

1. The Convention on the Rights of child (CRC)
2. the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child (The African Children' Chartered)
3. The United Nations Standard minimum rules for the administration of juvenile justice (1985) The Beijing Rules)
4. The United Nations Guidelines for the prevention of juvenile delinquency (1990)
5. the united nations rules for the protection of juveniles deprived of their liberty, 1990 (The Havana Rules)

NMDHR Child Protection Desk is set to work hand in hand with Ministry of Welfare Gender and Children Affairs, NGOs working on children's issues and development

partners interested in children issues to advocate for swift and fair trials of juvenile offenders cases by ensuring swift and fair trial and efficient and effective service delivery to juveniles

Organizational Development

Lastly, NMDHR will work on developing the organization by putting all the structures in place, with the goal of capacity building by promoting an effective and efficient program design in service delivery.

NMDHR SWOT ANALYSIS

Strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis (SWOT)

In our strategic plan, we have read the signs of the times and reflected on what the real environment looks like first in our organization and in our society so that NMDHR addresses the real issues, which affect our people's lives from clear and definite understanding and perception right away from the grass root level. The following factors have to be taken into consideration in all our program activities:

Strength:

- Network partners in three regions of the country, namely: Eastern Region, Southern and Western Area
- Well trained and qualified staff and volunteers both National and International
- Strong interpersonal link with registered parties and government institutions working on governance
- Well established organizational structure
- Knowledge, skills, and proficiency in project development and implementation
- Gender sensitive
- Good communication skills
- Posses strong community mobilization skills
- Lobbying skills

Weaknesses:

- High competition with other human rights organizations
- Poor logistics
- Poor coordination among network partners
- Few staff
- Not always adhering to policies
- Internal administrative and management processes needs to be improved
- Poor communication facilities

Opportunities:

- Good working relationship with Network Partners in three regions
- More room for building the capacity of NMDHR staff and Net – worker partners
- Placement of International volunteers (VSO)
- Good donor working relationship
- Efficient Internal structures
- Effective and efficient service delivery
- Well articulated program implementation strategy
- The prevailing of peace in the country
- The level of understanding of development issues/trends of the people in the Sierra Leone

Threats:

- Events which have a bearing in future, like the Aids pandemic, insurgencies and drought etc
- Low donor support to meet our target objectives
- The Focus of Donors trend in channeling funds through the government
- Absence of sustained funding
- Natural and man made disasters
- Staff turnover due to little remuneration
- Cultural and religious beliefs are so strong and make it so difficult to foster development

- Lack of political will to endorse an affirmative action for women representation in parliament
- High competition with other human rights organizations
- National weakness like tribalism, corruption, regional, political instability, gender imbalance inequalities and cultural tendencies, Political intolerances, poor communication network
- Threats to our national development
- Continuing and unchallenged FGM and Secret Societies undesirable body harmful practices

8. Organize a two days national consultative meeting on the ratification and domestication of the Rome status of the ICC.

Background: NMDHR receive from the Coalition for the international Criminal Court (CCICC) to conduct a two days national consultative meeting on the ratification and implementation of the Rome status of the ICC.

The project cost was \$ 4000 United States dollars (\$ 4000). This project aim at bring national, International NGOs, diplomatic missions in Sierra Leone to develop a national strategy on how to engage the government of Sierra Leone on ratifying and implementing the Rome status of the ICC. Participants were draw from all the three regions of the country (i.e. north, south and east).

Membership

NMDHR is a member of various Local and International coalitions including:

- The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) Africa
- National Elections Watch (NEW)
- The Child Protection Committee of the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs.
- Freetown Human Rights Committee

Partnerships/Collaboration

NMDHR has effective partnership/collaboration with the following Organizations/agencies:

- Voluntary Service overseas(VSO)
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs
- Political Parties Registration Commission(PPRC)
- National Electoral Commission(NEC)
- National Commission for Democracy(NCD)
- My Brother Keeper
- The Sierra Leone Police
- Women Forum
- Young Women Initiative Network Sierra Leone(Y-WIN-SL)
- Social Engagement for Economic and Education Development (SEED)
- Campaign for Child and Youth Empowerment (CCYE)
- Parents Without Partners and War Victims

Funding Agencies

NMDHR has received funding from the following agencies:

- Human Rights and Development Centre-CARE International in Sierra Leone(EU Funded project)
- ENCISS
- Computer Aid International
- British High Commission in Sierra Leone through DFID
- Canada Fund for Local Initiative
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy-WFD
- Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
- The coalition for the International Criminal Court-CICC
- United Nations Women Fund(UNIFEM)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation and monitoring will be on going just as to aid the organization direction. The goals and objectives will be reviewed regularly to address the real issues at stake anytime it is due, but we will mainly have mid reviews and yearly reviews. Both the NMDHR and the stakeholders implementing the plan will do evaluation.

The NMDHR and Network Partners that contains strategic area, goal and objectives, then activities as well as evaluation criteria have now formed the strategic plan into a plan of action. The budgets will be worked out for each different activity in a concrete situation.

The plan of action and strategies will be regularly reviewed and updated by NMDHR and Network Partners through consultations of the relevant stake holders to ensure that its contents are known and owned by the entire membership, and for the purposes of learning from the experiences and tackling issues at hand by taking informed decisions

