

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK-SIERRA LEONE

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2023

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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Message from the Executive Secretary – HRDN-SL



As we reflect on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone in 2023, we are reminded of both the progress made and the challenges that still remain. This annual report serves as a vital tool for learning from the lessons learned and building a strategic approach to promoting and protecting human rights in our country.

Throughout 2023, Sierra Leone continued to navigate a complex array of socio-economic, political, and cultural dynamics, each of which has profound implications for the realization of human rights. From the pursuit of sustainable development goals to the promotion of gender equality, from the protection of minority rights to the advancement of socio-economic rights, our nation has confronted various opportunities and obstacles in its journey towards a more just, inclusive, and equitable society.

Nevertheless, challenges persist. Sierra Leone continues to grapple with issues such as political violence and intolerance, gender-based violence, discrimination against marginalized groups, limited access to justice, and economic disparities that hinder the full enjoyment of human rights for all. These challenges demand sustained and coordinated efforts from all sectors of society to address their root causes and foster a culture of respect for human dignity.

Together, let us strive to make Sierra Leone a shining example of human rights excellence, where the principles enshrined in our constitution and international treaties are not merely ideals but lived realities for every citizen. We hope that this report will serve as a catalyst for positive change and inspire all of us to redouble our efforts in promoting and protecting human rights in Sierra Leone. Together, we can build a more just, inclusive, and equitable society for all.

Signed

Alphonsus B.M. Gbanie- Executive Secretary

Human Rights Defenders Network – Sierra Leone.

ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK – SIERRA LEONE

The Human Rights Defenders Network – Sierra Leone (HRDN-SL) is a coalition of human rights civil society organizations and individuals working for the protection and promotion of human rights in Sierra Leone. HRDN-SL was established in July 2013 under the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in 1998 through technical support from the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) based in Geneva and is a member of the West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (WAHRDN) based in Togo and the Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network based in Uganda.

Since its establishment, HRDN-SL has experienced both achievements and challenges. The Network, with a functional secretariat based in Freetown, actively liaises with regional secretariats and District Human Rights Defenders Networks (DHRDNs) on activities aimed at promoting and protecting HRDs' rights and those of citizens in general. With a membership of 160 organizations and 17 individuals drawn from all five regions in the country, HRDN-SL continues to grow, with many more looking to join.

HRDN-SL, as a local Chapter, plays a unique role in Sierra Leone. It actively promotes the participation of human rights-based civil society organizations and individuals in research, analysis, and strategic interventions. HRDN-SL is dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights defenders and citizens in Sierra Leone through human rights education, advocacy, and campaigns.

MOTTO:

Defending the defenders

Mission Statement:

HRDN-SL works at the national, regional, and international levels to promote and protect human rights. We do this by enhancing Human Rights Defenders, strengthening human rights standards and systems, and leading member organizations for human rights change.

Vision Statement:

A just society in Sierra Leone where the rights of Human Rights Defenders are protected, human rights activities and initiatives are coordinated, and where all human rights are guaranteed, respected, and promoted;

Website: www.hrdnsls.org

Core Values:

Human Rights Defenders Network – Sierra Leone is a national community of human rights defenders with several characteristics that we consider core to our ongoing success and common to each of our achievements:

- A belief in high-quality monitoring research and ensuring that our principled advocacy has a credible evidence-base
- An initiative and flexibility to respond professionally, creatively, effectively, and quickly to defenders in need and at risk;
- Respect for the dignity, equality, tradition, culture, and development of all people with whom we engage;
- Ensure that our work to achieve normative and systemic change is informed by and responds to the concerns of human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations on the ground.
- Work with human rights defenders, governments, national and international organizations, business institutions, and the media to achieve change.
- A belief in promoting transparency and accountability in implementing our programs and activities;
- Take an evolving, strategic, and integrated approach and work collaboratively rather than competitively.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2023

The Human Rights Defenders Network—Sierra Leone received support from Irish Aid to implement a project titled: “Empowering Human Rights Defenders for Improved Human Rights Situation in Sierra Leone.” The network also received support from the German Embassy to implement a project titled: “Combatting corruption with a human rights-based approach in Sierra Leone,” The Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone also supported the network to organize voters’ education. These projects were successfully implemented, and below are the highlighted activities implemented during the reporting period.

Development of HRDN-SL Strategy Plan

To strengthen its impact and respond to evolving challenges in Sierra Leone's socio-political landscape, HRDN-SL embarked on the development of a new Strategic Plan for 2024-2028. The

secretariat outlines the key stages in the formulation of the strategy plan, the consultative process, and the strategic priorities that will guide HRDN-SL's work for the next five years. Several key factors prompted the strategic planning process for 2024-2028:

- There is a need to adapt to changing human rights dynamics in Sierra Leone, including emerging threats and opportunities in the post-pandemic context.
- An opportunity to reflect on HRDN-SL's previous achievements and challenges, thus allowing for realigning its mission and focus areas.
- The desire to ensure sustainable organizational growth, resource mobilization, and stronger partnerships with both national and international actors.
- The importance of creating a roadmap consolidating HRDN-SL's role in Sierra Leone as a critical player in human rights protection and advocacy.

To ensure that the strategic plan is comprehensive and reflective of diverse voices, HRDN-SL hired a local consultant who engaged in an inclusive consultative process. This include the following:

- HRDN-SL identified key stakeholders, including human rights defenders, civil society organizations, government bodies, international partners, donors, and communities at the grassroots level. A series of consultations were held, where these stakeholders provided input on the current human rights challenges, potential solutions, and the role of HRDN-SL in addressing them.
- A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis was conducted. This helped in assessing HRDN-SL's internal capacities, external opportunities, and risks in the environment in which it operates. Feedback from staff, board members, and external partners was essential to identifying both the organization's potential and limitations.
- Multiple workshops and focus group discussions were organized with district chapters of HRDN-SL to ensure that local contexts were integrated into the strategy. These sessions also provided a platform for human rights defenders to share their experiences, challenges, and expectations for the future of HRDN-SL.

- HRDN-SL reviewed its previous strategic plan (2018-2023) to identify key successes and areas for improvement. This historical perspective was instrumental in shaping the new strategic goals and ensuring that the lessons learned were incorporated into the next phase of the organization’s growth.

The HRDN-SL Strategy Plan positions the organization to respond proactively to the evolving human rights landscape in Sierra Leone. Through a comprehensive approach that includes advocacy, capacity building, partnerships, and protection. HRDN-SL will continue to play a pivotal role in defending and advancing human rights in the country. The consultative and inclusive process that shaped this strategy plan ensures that it is both relevant and responsive to the needs of human rights defenders and the communities they serve.

The HRDNSL Strategy Plan (2024-2028) provides strategic direction for the network and serves as the guiding document in program development and implementation.



Consultant presenting HRDN-SL strategy framework



Cross-section of participants during an internal review of HRDN-SL strategy

Conduct Human Rights and Elections Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting:

A One Day Training on Human Rights and Elections Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting Held at The Garden State Complex, Makeni City on Thursday 22nd June. 48 district-based HRDs and 4 HRDNSL staff were trained on elections monitoring and reporting. Monitoring tools were developed and distributed to trainees, logistical support for election observation was provided, and linkages with elections Management Bodies (EMBs) were created.

The Training attracted HRDs from different thematic sector such as religious, youths, women, environment, disability, land, governance, health, education and Human Right Defenders.

The training topics were centered on the following:

- What is Human Rights Monitoring and reporting
- What are Elections
- Why do we observe elections
- Elections and Human Rights
- Codes of Conduct of election observers
- Data analysis
- National, regional, and international instruments on election
- Security and elections



Training participants

Similarly, in preparation for Sierra Leone's June 2023 General Elections, the Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN), in collaboration with the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) and with support from ECOWAS, conducted a focus group discussion on the Proportional Representation (PR) system of voting across the country. This voting system came into existence after the ruling of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone established that the June 2023 General Elections should be conducted by the District Block System. This campaign was essential to ensure citizens understood the PR system, which had replaced the previous first-past-the-post electoral system in various constituencies. The shift to PR was implemented due to boundary delimitation challenges and was expected to enhance fairer representation, especially in areas with contested political boundaries.

This campaign aimed to ensure that Sierra Leoneans, particularly first-time voters, youths, bike riders and marginalized communities, were well informed about how the PR system works, its importance, and how it would affect their participation in the democratic process. The focused

group discussion on the PR system was organized in the Port Loko, Bombali and Koinadugu districts



Cross-section of Participants in the Focus Group Discussion

Launch of June 24, General Elections Report

The Network launched its Election Report on the 2023 June General Elections in Sierra Leone on the theme “Strengthening Democracy: An appraisal of Human Rights in the Sierra Leone 2023 General Elections” on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, at the Secretariat office, 23 Rasmusson Street, Brookfields/Freetown. Several stakeholders, including representatives from the media and governmental institutions, were invited.

Advocating for the right to vote is fundamental in ensuring that the "will of the people" is reflected during elections. The Human Rights, Advancement, Development, and Advocacy Centre (HURIDAC) and the Human Rights Defenders Network – SL (HRDN-SL) jointly prepared the 2023 General Elections Human Rights Assessment Report in Sierra Leone. This report plays a pivotal role in establishing a critical link between the right to vote and human rights, including freedoms such as association and expression, among others.

The report is organized into nine chapters, which analyze key issues surrounding the 2023 elections while using the 2018 elections as a benchmark for success. It also outlines the report's methodology, highlights its findings, and summarizes each chapter's content.

The report begins by providing a historical backdrop to Sierra Leone's political development. It specifically focuses on the impact of ethnic affiliations on elections in the country, which negatively impacts crucial decision-making, especially in choosing leaders. It further explores the intricate relationship between human rights and democracy.

Additionally, the report delves into elections management in Sierra Leone, offering a comparative analysis that identifies successes and challenges from previous elections. The 2018 elections were deemed successful due to indicators of good governance, while the 2023 election presented administrative and technical challenges along the way. The report also sheds light on legal frameworks and international standards crucial for a successful election, with particular attention to the role of the police in election security.

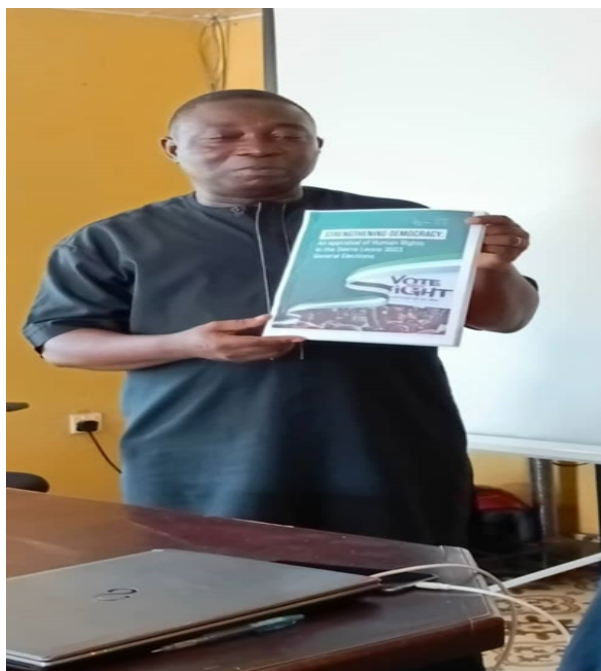
Furthermore, the report addresses pertinent issues surrounding the 2023 elections, including voter registration, the spread of misinformation via social media, and the handling of disallowed results, which led to numerous incidents, such as violence during the electoral process and the withdrawal of All People's Congress (APC) members of parliament from the governance system of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) regime led by President Julius Maada Bio.

Encompassing national and international legal frameworks and emphasizing their significance in upholding democratic standards, the report presents human rights perspectives in the chapters on human rights and elections. It outlines human rights obligations during elections and analyzes human rights violations during the 2023 election. This report documents incidents related to human rights violations, focusing on unlawful killings, injuries, and property damage.

The report also includes a section on data analysis, explaining the methodology used for data collection, analysis, and interpretation, and concludes by providing recommendations to strengthen the electoral process, institutions, and oversight roles. It underscores that this report is the result of the collaborative efforts of both organizations and expresses gratitude to the dedicated members of the report writing committee for their selfless service.

From previous elections up to the scrutiny of 2023, there has been a fluctuation between success and decline in upholding democratic principles and human rights, weakening these values. It is essential to consider recommendations when planning upcoming elections to

ensure a consistent track record of success and elevate the country's democratic aspirations to a higher level.



**Mr. Kanneh Momoh,
A representative from ECSL launched
the HRDN-SL Elections Report 2023**

**The media and other elections stakeholders
at the HRDN-SL elections report launch**

Organize internal democracy Meetings:

The secretariat organized four internal democracy meetings for its board members. These meetings gave the secretariat strategic directions and served as monitoring and evaluation platforms for the network's project implementation. The board also discussed and implemented the National General Assembly (NGA) decisions and developed strategies to improve national-level advocacy, increased visibility, and coordination. These internal democracy meetings guided the secretariat toward the successful implementation of project activities.

Organize Follow-up Engagements for the Adoption of HRD Policy and Enactment of Protection Law for HRDs in Sierra Leone:

During the reporting period, the network also hired a legal practitioner with drafting skills to translate the draft HRD Bill into a legal draft language, organize multi-stakeholder meetings, and engage parliament's legislative committee members. The network engaged the AGMJ office. HRCSL leading the process through the Vice Chairperson. Legal draft work is in progress but at a plodding pace as we await the review and possible amendment of the Human Rights Commission for Sierra Leone Act to be completed.

Development and Submission of Shadow Reports to the African and UN Human Rights Mechanisms

The Forum on the Participation of NGOs in ordinary sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Commission), also known as the 'NGO Forum' is an advocacy platform coordinated by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) to promote advocacy, lobbying, and networking among and between human rights NGOs, for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. The NGO Forum shares updates on the human rights situation in Africa, identify responses and adopt strategies for promoting and protecting human rights in the continent.

The NGO forum of the 77th Ordinary session of the ACHPR was hosted in person in Arusha at the International Conference Centre. It revolves around the African Union 2023 theme, 'The Year of AFCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation'. The network developed a draft shadow report to enhance regional and international advocacy on

HRDs in Sierra Leone and supported the GoSL in creating the State reports. The network also participated in the NGO forum and ACPHR ordinary session in Arusha, Tanzania. The network developed a mid-term UPR report and Shadow report to be submitted to the ACHPR. The contents of the reports were reviewed. However, owing to the GoSL deferment of its state report review, the network could not submit its shadow report and had to do a further review as the GoSL has made significant changes to the state's report.



Photo of the Executive Secretary of HRDN-SL and Regional Coordinator of WAHRDN

Awareness Education:

Four quarterly community meetings were organized. The network developed and produced 64 jingles on key thematic human rights issues (corruption, women's rights to land, constitutional review process, and safe abortion). The network organized 190 radio discussion programs in all 16 districts and 12 TV discussions on AYV television in Freetown.

These programs enhanced the visibility of HRDNSL and supported the peaceful outcome of the general elections. Human rights demands increased on DHRDN to do more human rights education (HRE), monitoring, and reporting, including strategic advocacy.

Election integrity, land governance and administration issues were highly debated during radio and TV programs. The discussions and feedback during the programs suggested that election integrity, land governance and administration potentially threaten national security and cohesion if not properly handled. Other emerging public human-rights interest issues were discussed such as youth and drug abuse, peaceful assembly and association. The radio and TV programs have enhanced the visibility of HRDNSL and increased the demand for HRD services from both state and non-state actors.



Campaign and Advocacy Officer-HRDN-SL

Research and Information Officer-HRDN-SL

On Air at African Young Voices (AYV) Media Empire

Two Day Training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Ministries, Departments and Agencies

During the period under review, the network organized a two-day training for civil society organizations (CSOs) and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on 31ST August 2023 at the Western District Women's Fellowship Hall, Kingharman Road. The training attracted 50 participants of CSOs, of which 28 participants were male and 22 female. The participants for the MDAs were 48 persons, of which 31 were male and 17 were female.

The Human Rights Defenders Network – Sierra Leone in partnership with Restitution Impact Limited (a non-profit and non-government organization under the laws of England and Wales), conducted the first leg of the training session on Wednesday 30th August, 2023 at the Western District Women's Fellowship Hall, Kingharman Road, Freetown. This training was specifically designed for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) selected across the country on the theme “Combatting Corruption with a Human Rights-based Approach in Sierra Leone – Developing a National Anti-Corruption Strategy led by Civil Society Organizations. The training was fully attended by participants (98 participants, 59 male and 39 Female) from both the media and CSOs. The main purpose of the training was to strengthen CSOs participation in the fight against corruption in the country.

Similarly, the second leg focuses on strategic training for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on the theme “combating corruption, focusing on asset recovery with a human rights-based approach” on Thursday, August 31st, 2023, at the Western District Women's Fellowship (Methodist Church Sierra Leone) Hall, King Harman Road, Freetown.

The training was designed to fulfill one of its objectives: strengthening the capacities of MDAs in the fight against corruption. Participants from MDAs made invaluable contributions, genuinely discussing the issue with the aim of addressing concerns about corruption.

HRDN-SL's strategic approach to training MDAs, civil society, and the Media is pivotal to the fight against corruption in the country and enhances the capacity of CSOs and MDAs to fight corruption using a human rights-based approach. One of the CSO representatives informed AYV

Media that the training was laudable—“Fighting corruption is not a political issue but a human rights issue,” and it will impact the fight against corruption.

Restitution Impact Limited brought two external trainers from London who worked in-kind and entirely ‘pro bono,’ which, based on billable hours equivalent, generously contributed over EUR 20,000 in labor (time). The only costs covered by the Human Rights Fund grant for Restitution Impact Limited and the trainers were travel to/from Freetown, accommodation, meals, airport transfers.

The external, pro bono trainers were:

- *Pallas Partners’ senior litigator and partner, Fiona Huntriss.* Pallas Partners is a leading litigation boutique law firm based in London and with offices in New York. Ms. Huntriss and Pallas are adverse to the international bank, Credit Suisse, which is alleged to have engaged in corrupt activity for commercial gain against the Government of Mozambique, specifically about the ‘tuna bonds’ matter. She shared firsthand knowledge and experience on building civil enforcement cases and mutual legal assistance requests (MLAs), which are brought before English Courts, usually in London, including those concerning ‘tuna bonds.’ She imparted knowledge in the ‘what and what not to do’ vis-à-vis corruption cases that Sierra Leone MLAs might experience firsthand. MLAs require an understanding of how they need to position themselves to effectively address sophisticated transnational fraud and illicit financial flows to combat and stem the loss of much-needed resources to grand corruption, which otherwise should enable countries, such as Sierra Leone, to cover entitlements spending and delivery of goods such as health, education, et al.
- Forward Global’s Director Matt Bell, who specializes in investigations and strategic communications, lent his insights to civil society organizations on organizing and conducting investigations into grand corruption, including how to use the media for purpose. Further, Mr. Bell supported the Human Rights Defenders Network – Sierra Leone and its constituent member civil society organizations on how to design a national-level anti-corruption campaign, including by facilitating the main ideas and

principles brought forth by these anti-corruption defenders, with the campaign plan being a concrete output of his engagement in-country. Only through effective public policy and heightened public awareness calling for an end to corruption can countries such as Sierra Leone roll back corruption.



HRDN-SL Staff and Members of Restitution Impact Limited, 2023



Human Rights Defenders Network-SL
in partnership with Restitution Impact Limited
Organizes A One Day Training for CSOs.

Theme:
"Combating Corruption with a Human Rights Based Approach
in Sierra Leone: Developing a National Anti-Corruption
Strategy led by civil society"

Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 **Time:** 09:00a.m. **Venue:** Methodist Church Hall, Kingharman Road, Freetown

Supported by: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Participants on the One Day Training of CSOs on Combatting Corruption with a Human Right Based Approach in Sierra Leone



Participants of the One Day Training for MDAs in Combatting Corruption, focusing on asset recovery with a Human Rights Based Approach



Human Rights Defenders Network-SL in partnership with Restitution Impact Limited

Organizes

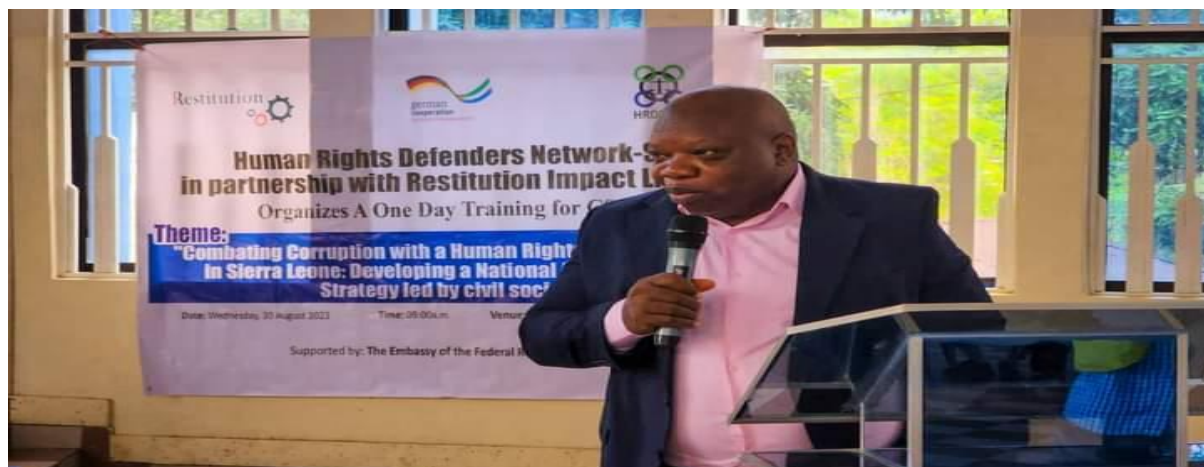
Strategic Training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Combating Corruption, focusing on asset recovery with a human rights-based approach

Date: Thursday, 31st August, 2023

Time: 09:00a.m.

Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Kingharman Road, Freetown

Supported by: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.



The Anti-Corruption Commission, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Augustine Foday Ngobie



Mr. Richard Baio, representing the HRCSL

Town hall Meeting in Moyamba District on Combatting Corruption with a Human Rights-based approach in Sierra Leone on December 19th 2023

The Town Hall Meetings were held on 19th December, 2023 at Moyamba District the Southern part of the country. The meeting brings together 50 participants, in which 31 were males and 19 were females from CSOs, Development Partners, Securities Councils, Council's Members, Chiefs and Teachers.

The main purpose for the meeting was to get participants well informed and to discuss the impact of corruption on peoples' enjoyments of their human rights on the theme "Combatting Corruption with a human rights-based approach in Sierra Leone". It all started by given the background and importance of the project by Miss Jane Williams. In her presentation she talks about the funding process, the relevance of the project and how the Network has collaborated with the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone (ACC-SL) and Restitution to deliver this project.

The program was participatory as participants expressed their opinions on the fight against corruption in the country and that the idea to use a human right-based approach towards the fight is necessary and mandatory as this will help to if not eradicate but minimize the corruption practices in the country.

The meeting was very educative as participants concluded by giving meaningful contributions on minimizing corruption practices in the country by making the following recommendations. They are as follows:

- Established anti-corruption school base clubs
- Inclusion of ward coordinators in meetings
- Civic education on corruption and human rights responsibilities
- Involvement of youths in the corruption fight
- Council to give access to documents concerning development
- Selfness between civil society organizations
- Community-level sensitization
- Continuation of the community-level sensitization



Participants in a Town Hall Meeting in Moyamba District in Combatting Corruption with a Human Rights Bases Approach in Sierra Leone

Production and Distribution of Posters:

The network designed, produced and distributed over 500 posters including hand bills and banners with different thematic messages on the fight against corruption in all 16 District. This activity was designed to increase awareness and reach out to those we could not reach during town hall meetings. It helps to make the fight against corruption more sustainable as the posters remains permanent reminders in every place, community and or institution they are pasted.



"Corruption tramples on the right to a fair and just society. It favors the powerful, while marginalizing the disadvantaged."

#Corruption Free Society #Equal Rights For All

**Corruption not only hampers
development but also violates
human rights.**

#End Corruption #Protect Human Rights.



Flyers with thematic messages on the fight against corruption

CAPACITY BUILDING OF DISTRICT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN PUJEHUN, KENEMA, AND KAILAHUN.

A one-day capacity-building training on the theme “Empowering Human Rights Defenders for Improved Human Rights Situation in Sierra Leone” was held from the 27th – to the 28th of September, 2023, in Pujehun, Kenema, and Kailahun. The Protection and Communication Officer, who also doubled as the trainer, Ms. Jane Williams, stated the need for and purpose of the event. She highlighted three (3) thematic areas where the participants should focus, and these are:

- Who are Human Rights Defenders, and what do they do?
- Reporting Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders
- Operating Google documents for report writing

District Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) play a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights at the local level. District HRDs are often the first line of defense in ensuring that local communities have access to their rights and that abuses are addressed promptly. Their work can be challenging, but it is critical to foster justice, peace, and equality in their region.



Pujehun DHRDN in capacity building training Kenema DHRDN in capacity building training



Kailahun DHRDN in One Day Capacity Building Training

HRDNSL AWARD



HRDN-SL Was Awarded For its Contributions in Promoting Human Rights Related Issues in Sierra Leone



HRDN-SL Staff Receiving the Award

Challenges:

Challenges during the 2023 include but are not limited to:

1. Putting on hold the HRDs Protection Bill by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice until HRCSL reviewed Act is completed,
2. Lack of coordination within MDAs, and
3. Negative cultural nuances- community (particularly local council members) perception about human rights.

Lessons Learnt:

Lessons learned during the 2023 program implementation highlight the importance of :

- The network's independence to design its intervention in a way that contributes to donors overall strategic objectives without restrictions.
- Partnerships and collaboration enhance the multisectoral approach to intervention and championing justice equity, particularly with the district's network.

- Flexible reporting schedules, and simple reporting templates from donor partners enhance project implementation and coordination.
- A community (district))-centered approach creates impactful, lasting change in promoting and protecting human rights, good governance, and the rule of law, justice, and accountability and,
- Regular and open communication with DHRDN and donors nurtures mutual understanding, builds trust, and creates space for technical advice and clarification

Opportunities:

- Ordinary sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and UN Human Rights Council sessions.
- GoSL participation and leadership role in Regional and International Bodies,
- On-going constitutional review;
- Accepted UPR recommendations on the protection of HRDs by GoSL,
- Human rights-based approach to corruption and the recovery of stolen assets and funds and partnership with Restitution Impact Limited;
- CSOs platform in Parliament, HRDNSL membership in the MSG, and Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) on UPR,
- Signed MOU with ECSL on Human Rights and Elections
- Existence and willingness of ACHPR and Diplomatic Missions to engage HRDs,
- Leading the formation of Working Group on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR).