



ACTIONAID AND PARTNERS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY IN SIERRA LEONE AT AN ANNUAL PEOPLES' CONFERENCE

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The EU Consortium Partners (*ActionAid Sierra Leone - AASL, the Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities - CCYA and the Campaign for Good Governance - CGG*) in collaboration with a host of other civil society organisations and their Networks in Bo, Bombali, Western Area and Kono working on local governance, citizens' participation, inclusiveness and gender responsive public services with support from the European Union has today launched a Campaign for increased funding for Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) at the Annual Peoples' Conference held at Golden Tulip, formally Kimbima Hotel, Aberdeen.

The Conference and the Campaign launch brought together about 100 participants comprising Civil Society Organisations, right holders including women and young people and duty bearers from across the 4 project locations of Bo, Western Area, Kono and Bombali districts.

The event forms part of the core activities of the consortium which is aimed at Building an Active Civil Society for Improved Gender Responsive Public Services especially for Women and girls to attain Sustainable Development in Sierra Leone. The overall goal of the project is to increase the capacity of civil society organisations and their networks and Local authorities (LAs) to reinforce local democratic governance, improve transparency, inclusiveness and accountability in decision Making.

The Consortium holds the strong conviction that Gender Responsive Public Services such as health, education, social protection, agriculture water and sanitation are publicly funded services and must not be privatised. They should have a fair share and size of the National Budget. This will ensure that the services are publicly delivered and universal across all the districts. Responsive Public services are gender equitable and inclusive – free from discrimination and are safe for the users.

The Campaign on GRPS calls on:

- Government should fund public services with a **fair share and size of the National Budget** to Ministries that provide public services particularly Health, Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture and Water Resources for the **provision of Gender Responsive Services** that meet the needs of women, girls and people with disability especially in rural communities.
- Government should avoid any form of privatization of Responsive Public services in the country and to ensure that these services reach the farther most part of the country – equitably distributed.
- Civil society should sustain engagements on the gains made on GRPS delivery in their communities under the project and
- Local authorities should support and maintain the participatory decision making and inclusive processes for provision of gender responsive services to enhance sustainable development.

The demands of the Campaign is based on evidences gathered by the Consortium through the scorecard process undertaken by CSOs and their Networks from 2019 and 2020 that there has being **somewhat**



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progress in terms of provision of gender responsive services, women in decision making and equality, participatory local government approaches, extend to consultation and responsive service provision while the Local Authorities (LAs) (Councils, Ministries and Traditional Authorities) rated themselves **high** in both years for the same indicators.

The Executive Director of ActionAid Sierra Leone, Foday Swaray reflecting on the project and the scorecard report on the delivery of GRPS and the need for launching a National Campaign to sustain demands for increased funding for improved GRPS in Sierra Leone had this to say:

“Women, girls, youth and people with disability can only contribute meaningfully to the development in Sierra Leone if they are given voices in democratic processes. GRPS decisions are best made by those who need them most.” He furthered that the Campaign is meant to mobilize critical masses of citizens across the country that will sustain the demands for funding with fair share and size of the national budget and to desist from any form of public service privatization as we approach the 2023 electoral period.

The Building an Active Civil Society for Improved Gender Responsive Public Service Delivery especially for women and girls to attain sustainable development project is implemented by ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL), the Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA) and the Campaign for Good Governance in collaboration with 20 civil society organisations and their Networks in Bo, Bombali, Western Area and Kono, with support from the European Union.

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