



STATS-SL & HRCSL PLAN PARTNERSHIP ON DATA USE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone on Friday February 7th, 2020 held a partnership meeting with Statistics Sierra Leone at the AJ Momoh Head Office in Freetown on the use of data in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Explaining the purpose of engagement, Commissioner Hassan Samba Yarjah of HRCSL acknowledged that statisticians play a critical role in supporting evidence-based policy and measuring civil, economic, political and social rights. He said because of the critical nature of the two institutions, it was necessary for close collaboration in their effective operations.

Commissioner Yarjah stated further that the realisation of human rights correlates with the availability of sound official statistics.

"Statisticians play a critical role in supporting evidence-based policy and measuring civil, economic, political and social rights. On the other hand, efforts to protect human rights facilitate the establishment of trustworthy statistics".

Commissioner Yarjah stressed that effective human rights advocacy and research require the use of statistics, carefully collected and objectively analyzed and presented, using the best techniques available.

The Deputy Statistician General, Andrew Bob Johnny emphasized the important role of data to the protection and promotion of human rights and also for other social justice governance. He said empirical evidence was a sure way to formulating policies and also addressing issues.

Andrew Bob Johnny disclosed that apart from the standard survey they undertake, they also conduct other survey that has human rights issue. He mentioned the demographic and health survey and the multiple indication survey as the other surveys undertaken.

The Director Census GIS Division, Abdulai Salia Brima echoed the importance of data stating it to be the backbone to any policy formulation. He made mention of a 3yrs Gender project they will be undertaken on sexual and gender based violence which he said are serious human rights issues.

Commissioner Gassan Abess of HRCSL expressed the willingness of HRCSL to be called upon on human rights issues and also to guide on questions relating to human rights surveys.

The two institutions welcomed the idea of a memorandum of understanding to create that synergy in their operations.

The increasing demand for statistics in the human rights field coincides with the extensive use of statistical indicators in the development field, as illustrated by the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs have demonstrated the power of statistical indicators in



monitoring the implementation of policy commitments. It has also revealed serious limitations and risks of traditional statistical approaches for human rights.