



SUSTAINABLE WATER TO RESTORE RIGHTS TO HEALTH AND LIFE AT OLA DURING, PCMH AND MACAULEY STREET HOSPITALS

Freetown- 21st April, 2021

Following recent concerns over acute water shortage at the Ola During and Princess Christian Maternity Hospitals (PCMH), the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) engaged the hospital authorities and Gums Valley Water Company as well as partners including World Vision Sierra Leone and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) who had plans to support water supply in the hospitals.

As those engagements yielded fruit, today Wednesday 21st April, the Chairperson Commissioner Patricia Narsu Ndanema and Commissioner Simitie Lavalay of HRCSL witnessed the handing over of projects by World Vision Sierra Leone to contractors and Guma Valley Water Company for Sustainable Water to Ola During and PCMH which costs about 400 Million Leones and another to Fackban Construction Company for internal installations of toilet seats, wash hand basins, storage tanks, pipe networks etc.

Similarly, World Vision also handed over another project to God's Gift Construction for rehabilitation of the old building at the Macauley Street Hospital which will also benefit from the Sustainable Water Project to improve health and hygiene in the hospital.

Saffa Koroma, National Health Advisor and National Covid-19 Response Coordinator for World Vision Sierra Leone during the handing over said, "pregnant women and children should always have access to clean water when they are in a hospital facility; "our vision for every child is life in all its fullness." The Deputy Managing Director of Guma Valley Water Company Francis Lahai said, during the recent water crisis at Ola During and PCMH, their team delivered 50 bowsers of water and also checked internal plumbing within the facility. He said the Sustainable Water Project will take water from Guma's main kissy road water line to the hospital which he said has commenced already and will be completed within three weeks. He said hospitals and schools will be prioritized by Guma as they ration water supply in the city because the population has outgrown the facilities available. Meanwhile, he applauded HRCSL for the swift



intervention while he encouraged other NGO's to support government's effort to "water for all by 2028."

While all the hospital authorities from Ola Doring, PCMH and Macauley Street hospitals expressed delight on the projects, the Medical Superintendent of Macauley Street Hopital, Amadu Unisa Juana said, they had never received support from any donor and had to bank on government's support which is not adequate to run the facility. He said currently the hospital pays for water supply from Fire Force from the hospital resources. And when such finance is not available they will have to use the hospital ambulance to bring water from Connaught Hospital.

Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Patricia Narsu Ndanema said, "Water is a human rights issue", and they were happy to see the engagements with the various stakeholders reached a fruitful end. She assured all that the Commission will fully monitor the implementation of the projects to ensure that it meets the standards of rights to health and life.