



## UNDP AND IRISH AID BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF HRCSL STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

Since the operationalisation of the HRCSL, UNDP and the Irish Aid have been the Commission's traditional partners even during challenging circumstances, to support capacity building of the to enable it deliver on its mandate of human rights protection and promotion. Today, the Commission is proud that it has been able to position itself as a credible national human rights institution (NHRI) with grade A status, like many in the Africa sub-region.

The year 2020 was a challenging period for the Commission due to the fact that new Commissioners have been appointed and needed capacity training both locally and internationally through south-south cooperation with other NHRI. There was urgent need for the review and amendment of the HRCSL Act 2004 and the end of the HRCSL third strategic plan (2016-2020) was getting close. It was also a period when the Commission was preparing for the Universal Periodic Review engagement with national partners for the preparation of its shadow report, and the need to build capacity of civil society organisations (CSO) to contribute to the process. As usual, the Commission found the perfect partnership with UNDP and the Irish Aid which expressed willingness to come to the aid of the institution to support a number of capacity building initiatives.

In addition to supporting the Commission's public education and outreach programmes, the UNDP-Irish Aid supported project on strengthening capacity of the HRCSL financed series of capacity building trainings for the Commission which in turn carried out capacity training for CSOs. In March 2020, the project supported training of 28 HRCSL staff including 21 male and 7 female on international, regional and national human rights

***Standing (Vice Chairperson - Commission Victor I. Lansana)***

frameworks and mechanisms, complaint handling, gender and resource mobilisation leading to increased knowledge transfer and improved quality of the HRCSL press releases and public reports. ***"Our public reports and press releases now make extensive reference to international,***



***regional and national human rights frameworks, and during the review of the HRCSL Act 2004, a human rights lens was applied in the process,”*** the Chairperson of the Commission noted.

***Standing (Chairperson of the Commission – Patricia Narsu Ndanema and Seated (Commissioner Simitie Lavalie) participating in small group discussion.***

The knowledge gained from the training was utilised to make the Commission more relevant as stakeholder in human rights protection and promotion. The Commission supported training for CSOs including the District Human rights Committees (DHRC) which have been the Commission’s ‘Foot Soldiers’ supporting the work of the HRCSL in the provinces. A total of 70 representatives of CSO and MDAs, with total beneficiaries of 50 male and 20 female received training on the UPR and reporting on the SDGs and African Vision and 42 DHRC members received similar training in which 33 male and 9 female benefitted. These engagements and support to CSOs have proved successful in the sense that three of our CSO partners, the CSO UPR Working Group (UWG), the National Center for Human Rights and Development ( NaCFoHRD) and Human Rights Defenders Networks were able submit shadow reports for the 2021 review. ***“We are more than grateful to UNDP and the Irish Aid for their unwavering commitment to supporting the work of the***



***Commission, from outreach to capacity training.***”, stated the Chairperson of the Commission, Madam Patricia Narsu Ndanema.