



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, GENDER AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS (MSWGCA)

AND

ADVOCACY MOVEMENT NETWORK (AMNET)

THIS AGREEMENT is executed by and between the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "MSWGCA") represented by the **Honorable Minister Moijue Kaikai** and the Advocacy Movement Network (hereinafter referred to as "AMNet") and represented by **Hawa Samai, Chief Executive Officer** of 15 Main Road Brookfields, Freetown for the purpose of providing needed Child protection and Gender services to marginalized women and children in Sierra Leone (hereinafter referred to as the "Program").

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Parties to participate in the Program for the purpose of providing program beneficiaries with the needed services provided by MSWGCA in partnership with AMNet.

AMNet's Vision & Background to the Agreement: AMNet is a female-led NGO national non-governmental organization and aspires to be a strong national voice that will co-create an overall atmosphere, where a right-based approach to human dignity is accepted and a free Sierra Leone where individuals can claim their rights without endangering their own lives. AMNet advocates especially for women, children and youths to have increased access to assets or capabilities such as ownership of productive assets, bodily health, bodily integrity, emotional integrity, freedom from hunger and diseases, freedom from fear, violence and anxiety, informed and educated decision making, and particularly train the poor themselves to organize, mobilize and influence those in power so that every Sierra Leonean will live in dignity and respect. Following the meetings held in March 2013 between the Honorable Minister of MSWGCA and senior staff of AMNet, it was realized that MSWGCA planned flagship projects and AMNet's 2012-2016 strategic plans were quite identical and therefore a partnership agreement was deemed imperative and complementary.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter contained, the Parties hereto agree as follows:



I. Scope of Agreement

- A. This Agreement forms the basis of mutual understanding and respective responsibilities between the MSWGCA and the AMNet for providing needed services to the disadvantaged children and women, with MSWGCA taking lead roles and AMNet playing complementary roles.

The Agreement will be for a period of two years, with review for continuation of the Program at the time of expiration. Renewal of this Agreement and continuation of the Program will be subject to the partners signing a renewal agreement.

Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of the partnership is to outline the partnership between MSWGCA and AMNet that has been formed in order to collaboratively work towards the shared objectives in the area of gender and child protection as contained in the gender pillar of the 'Agenda for Prosperity', the Millennium Development Goals and the Child Rights Acts and especially the flagship projects postulated by MSWGCA, and the Strategic Plan of AMNet 2012-2016.

Specific Areas of Cooperation:

Gender: The primary purpose is to prevent and response to GBV perpetrated against especially the voiceless women who may be victims or at risk to suffer from GBV.

The partners agree to cooperate in the following areas:

- a. The enactment of the 'Gender Bill' to establish a 30% quota for the participation of women in politics. The bill shall include the establishment of a 'Women's Commission'. Political stakeholders and Members of Parliament shall be sensitized about the necessity of the bill and it shall be passed in Parliament at the earliest possible time.
- b. The development of a desk study on harmful traditional practices (HTP) in Sierra Leone followed by an encompassing national survey about this topic.
- c. The passing of a law to criminalize female genital mutilation on girls under the age of eighteen and the nationwide implementation of it.
- d. Updating of Civil Society Organizations and CBOs engaged in GBV activities nationwide
- e) The establishment of a toll-free line through a rapid response Center by application of technology to refer victims of GBV to the appropriate institutions of justice or mediation.
- f) The establishment or strengthening of support structures to assist victims of GBV in the judicial process starting with the filing of a case at a police station and including effective witness protection mechanisms.
- g) The collection and analysis of disaggregated data on GBV to inform policy makers and the public and to serve as a firm basis for future policy decisions.



3.2 Child Protection: The purpose here is to encourage retention of girls in education, promote a conducive learning environment free of threats and ratification, domestication and enforcement of child-friendly laws/policies and byelaws especially criminalization of Child FGM and anti-teenage pregnancy campaigns by ensuring:

- a) Higher rates of enrolment and retention of the girl child in formal and non-formal education
- b) Popularization of the Sexual Offence Act to forestall the rate of teenage pregnancy.
- c) The ratification and domestication of the Den Hague Convention on Adoption and the Palermo Protocol to fight child trafficking.
- d) Participatory monitoring and evaluation.
- e) Regular updates and information sharing to promote accountability and transparency
- f) Maintain the highest level of confidentiality in protecting the dignity of women and children
- g) Mentoring of Children through attachment/exposure to role models

Roles and Responsibilities of partners

The partners agree to carry out the following roles and responsibilities as designated:

A. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs:

- i. MSWGCA will take into consideration AMNet's input in the development of the above mentioned laws
- ii. MSWGCA will take lead in pushing for changes in policies, laws, identification of gaps within the existing statutes and its eventual enactment.
- iii. MSWGCA will invite AMNet to relevant meetings of political stakeholders, thereby providing opportunities for AMNet to advocate for these objectives
- iv. MSWGCA will help to build the capacity of parliamentary and government stakeholders through supporting sensitization and training of the political stakeholders.
- v. MSWGCA will encourage other institutions to collaborate with AMNet for these objectives

B. AMNet:

- i. AMNet will build the capacity of MSWGCA staff by sharing relevant quantitative and qualitative data as well as lines of argument with the MSWGCA also in order to strengthen them in convincing other stakeholders.
- ii. AMNet will contribute logistical support to both the Children's Affairs and Gender Directorates of the MSWGCA.



- iii. AMNet will use the opportunities provided by the MSWGCA to advocate for the joint causes-protection of women against violence and child protection activities
- iv. AMNet will make recommendations to MSWGCA for the enactment of laws, policies and strategies to protect and defend women and children.
- v. AMNet will act as a resource organization to lobby for the joint causes upon request by the Ministry.
- vi. Through its grass-roots projects AMNet will link the Ministry with issues, challenges and progress for women and children of Sierra Leone and will help to implement state policies and laws effectively.
- vii. AMNet to design and implement a mentoring project with the support of MSWGCA

II. Term of Agreement

- A. This Agreement may be terminated by MSWGCA or AMNet at any time by giving at least thirty days written notice.
- B. This Agreement shall be effective from 1st May 2013 (date) to 1/05/2015 (date).
- C. This Agreement may be modified at any time by written consent of both Parties.
- D. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties. There is no express or implied Agreement except as stated in this Agreement.
- E. All provisions of this Agreement are separate and divisible, and if any part is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect..

Authorization:

Signature 
Name Hon. Moijue Kaikai
Title Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs

Signature 
Name Hawa Samai
Title Chief Executive Officer
Advocacy Movement Network