

# COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS - SIERRA LEONE

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## Addressed To:

Dr. Jim Young Kim  
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U S A

The General Manager –SOCFIN Agricultural Company LTD (SL)

The Chairman – Pujehun District Council

Hon. Paramount Chief – Sahn Malen

Dear Partners-In-Development

## **REF: Submission Of Reports**

I humbly write to submit to you the findings of visits made to Pujehun titled "ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPACTS OF EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE ON THE OPERATIONS OF SOCFIN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY EVD FIGHT AND DEVELOPMENTS"

The Coalition of Civil Society and Human Rights Activists is a Human Rights and Development Advocacy and Monitoring Organization that exist to promote and protect rights, responsibility and development issues in communities across the Country.

Our mission was geared toward the achievement of the under mentioned objectives:

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Conduct an assessment visit to Sahn Malen in the Pujehun District to discuss and document the impact of Ebola Virus Disease on the livelihood and operations of the Socfin Agricultural Company.
2. To identify any development advocacy issues.

In order to achieve our set objectives we agreed on the following as our strategic approaches:

- i. Physically travel to the district and the chiefdom of Sahn Malen.
- ii. Organize meetings with Key Stakeholders including the Paramount Chief, Youths, Women, land Owners, Employees, Section Chiefs, Security Sector, Education, Health and Social Services Sectors.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

Our team for the task comprises of four senior members which was led by the Executive Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Advocacy and Communication Manager and the Gender Officer.

## **FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS**

During the course of our visits, we found and observed the following:

1. Socfia Agricultural Company contributed immensely to the fight against the Ebola Virus by the provision of supports to the Security Sectors, materials like buckets, thermo meters, food and funds for support to social Mobilization.
2. Our team observed that the Management of Socfin never abandoned the community during the crisis as all of their Management Staff stayed in the community and participated fully in all development community development activities.
3. Our team saw a comprehensive post Ebola recovery support document that the Company has put in place to support the district and the community.
4. We were very impressed with the support by Socfin in areas like health, construction of fourteen (14) rooms health centre, provision of Ambulance, cultivation of over 1000 acres of inland valley swamp for their continuous supports to the food security of the community. Community road network has been constructed and are maintained.  
Socfin support to social services is also worthy of praise. The construction of the Community Canteen, Volley ball court and land to provide standard football fields for the youths are effort in the right direction.
5. Employment Members of our team saw large workforce employed by Socfin in all fields of livelihood supports – mechanics, drivers, security, clerks. It is further noted that more than 50% of the Employees of the Company are youth which include women.
6. Expansion of Businesses: As the Company continue to pay timely wages and salaries to their employees which include youths and women, we observed an extra expansion of petty and large scale business in the community including the opening of a notable commercial bank.

The act of commercial motor bike riding is now a major income generating source by most youth in Africa. For the first time in history youths at Sahn Malen and others outside the Chiefdom have all embarked on motor bike riding as a result of income received from Socfin. The life style of the people continues to increase for the better.

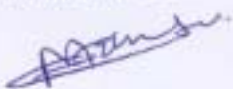
Furthermore, Our team was requested by non-natives of Sahn Malen to appeal to the Company to extend their operations to their own chiefdom and communities. We saw carton of letters written to Management of Scofia requesting for such expansion.

Also we were inform that a Governance Structure called the "Grievance and Complaint Committee" has been setup. This Committee which is very inclusive according to the membership list received. The members discuss all issues relating to grievances and complaint from any affected community member. The forum discussed openly the issues in the presence of the Socfin Management and decisions to address such matters are agreed upon. We saw evidences of many grievances in the past had been resolved amicably.

Additionally, we took quick notice of the concerns of some of our audiences which includes the redundancy of casual workers, call for increase of salaries and wages of workers.

In conclusion, we are respectfully submitting this of our findings to you all in good faith, Notwithstanding the fact that Socfin is an Agricultural Company whose activities are seasonal and that the current face of their operation does not bring income to their shareholders. We the members of Coalition of Civil Society And Human Rights Activist are impressed with Socfin ongoing community development programs for the Pujehun district and Sahn Malen Chiefdom.

Faithfully Submitted



Charles Mambu  
Executive Director  
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