

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

**Meeting with the First Lady**

Since its inception in April 2013, FOCUS 1000 as an Organization has made several efforts to meet with the First Lady- Madam Sia Nyama Koroma-Mother of the Nation, to intimate her on the Mission and Vision of the Organization.

Today 10 April 2014, FOCUS 1000 team and partners were received by the First Lady at Presidential Lodge –Hill Station. Many birds were killed with this one stone

The Team comprised of:

Chief Executive Director –FOCUS 1000 and Chair for SUN Civil Society Platform- Mahammad Bia Jalloh

Board Chairman –FOCUS 1000-Alhaji U.N.S Jah

Programme Adivser Immunization -FOCUS 1000- Sister Emma Sidikie

Director Food and Nutrition –Aminata Shamit Koroma

Deputy Country Director –Helen Keller International and for Co-Chair SUN Civil Society Platform –Sofia Goinhas

Programme Manager- Adolescent Health FOCUS 1000 - Mohamed Falilu Jalloh

Programme Manager- Health and Nutrition, FOCUS 1000 – Melrose Veronica Tucker

Programme Manager Health –Catholic Relief Services-Meredith Dyson – Representing Civil Society for Immunization.

The Team at Office of the First Lady comprised of:

**The Executive Officer**

**Adviser**

**Protocol Officer- To be verified**

- The Chief Executive Officer of FOCUS 1000 –Mr Mahammad B. Jalloh, formally informed the First Lady of the Mission and Vision of FOCUS 1000 as a National Non-Governmental Organization. He explained the meaning of **FOCUS** which is: **Facilitating and Organizing**

**Communities to Unite for Sustainable-development and the 1000 for the crucial first 1000 days in the child's life.**

- FOCUS 1000 is the first organization in Sierra Leone that focuses primarily on the crucial, first 1000 days in a child's life through an integrated approach thus partners are working together to strengthen Civil Society participation in child survival interventions particularly Nutrition and Immunization
- Brings together a diverse team of experts from a wide range of backgrounds in public health, nutrition, education, statistics, engineering, communication, religion and other social science disciplines.
- Emphasizes community ownership, participation, capacity building, and sustainability

The CEO further reiterated that when the Scaling up Nutrition Movement was launched in Sierra Leone in October 2012, FOCUS 1000 upon its inception took the opportunity to also initiate and facilitate the setting up of the Civil Society Platform for Scaling Up Nutrition in Sierra Leone ( SUN-CSP) which is one of the five pillars in the Global SUN Movement. Therefore today in her presence also is the executive of the SUN Civil Society Platform (SUN CSP) and members of the Civil Society Platform for Health system strengthening and immunization.

The Chair – CEO, FOCUS 1000,

CO-Chair - Deputy Country Director of Helen Keller International

The Director of Food and Nutrition Strongly supporting the SUN Civil Society Platform

Programme Manager, Health –Catholic Relief Services

Programme Adivser Immunization -FOCUS 1000- Sister Emma Sidikie

The First lady received the team warmly and promised to support the SUN movement which she sees as one of the many channels of reaching the women and children. She intimated us of having met the then USA Secretary of State Mrs. Helary Clinton who told her about the Global SUN Movement and had solicited her support for the movement.

She admonished Civil Society Platform members and the Director of Food and Nutrition to write strong proposals to donors to solicit funds for nutrition direct interventions knowing that scaling up any intervention needs high commitment and investment. She also mentioned the experience of Sierra Leone scaling up immunization to achieved Universal Child Immunization (UCI) which the country did achieve, and now benefits from the high investment in immunization up to now.

She also said she has been following the activities of FOCUS 1000, though she was not able to honor the invitation for the inception due to the many competing priorities in her schedule. She admonished the organization to continue the good work they have embarked on as the destiny of Sierra Leone is in the hands of Sierra Leoneans. She gave the team her blessing to be quoted as having her full support in the work for women and children particularly in Nutrition and and when soliciting funds from donors.

The meeting ended with a group Picture

Prepared and submitted by

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Health and Nutrition Programme Manager

FOCUS 1000



FOCUS 1000 & Civil Society Platform members with First Lady



CEO FOCUS 1000 and Chair for SUN CSP

Talks with First lady



First Lady receiving the SUN Tool Kit

from the Chair SUN CSP



First Lady Calling the Team for a Group Picture



SUN CSP and Partners with First Lady in their midst