

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

IPAS TRAINING REPORT

ON TARGET SETTING AND EVALUATION FOR
CIVIL SERVANTS IN GRADES 1 – 10

AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN THE SOUTHERN REGION



16ST - 27TH NOVEMBER
2020



MINISTERIAL BUILDING, GEORGETOWN

SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNANCE SECTOR IN SIERRA LEONE



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INTRODUCTION

A two- day training/coaching programme on Individual Performance Appraisal System (IPAS) for Civil Servants in the Eastern Region was held in each of the district headquarter towns of Pujehun, Bonthe and Matru Jong, Bo and Moyamba from 16th - 27th November, 2020.

The training which was organized by the Performance Management Directorate, Human Resource Management Office through support from the Government of Sierra Leone and the European Union brought together a total of 84 participants that comprises senior, intermediate and junior level Civil Servants (Grades 1-10) at district level across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) in the Eastern Region.

As you are aware, Target setting and conducting performance appraisal are key activities in the Individual Performance Appraisal System (IPAS) that require continuous training/coaching with the focus of improving the performance of civil servants for better results.

TRAINING/COACHING OBJECTIVES

The objective of the training was to bring together senior, middle and junior level civil servants in MDAs across the three districts to acquire knowledge and skills in setting performance targets, monitoring implementation and conducting Individual Performance Appraisal System (IPAS) and to further examine in detail the implications of IPAS in promoting accountability system in the Civil Service.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WERE:

- To train senior, intermediate and junior level Civil Servants on how individual performance targets are derived from the Ministerial /departmental targets.
- To acquire knowledge on how individual Civil Servants' performance indicators are established
- To gain information on how achievements of performance target(s) are monitored
- To understand how to conduct appraisals
- To understand the implications of IPAS on the accountability system within MDAs and roles and responsibilities of different actors.

EXPECTED TRAINING OUTCOMES

At the end of the training, participants were expected to:

- have a good understanding of how individual performance targets or key result area are set; how they are monitored and evaluated,
- Understand the implications of IPAS on the accountability system within MDAs and the role and responsibilities of different actors.
- effects of good performance and bad performance

At the end of the training, the evaluation indicated that the training objectives were realized and participants' expectations were fully achieved.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES

The official opening ceremonies were held at the district head quarter towns of Pujehun, Mattru Jong, Bo and Moyamba respectively. The ceremonies were called to order at 9:30 am, by the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Human Resource Management Office, Mr. Moses Kabia and followed by Muslim and Christian prayers across the three districts. The Senior M&E Officer welcomed participants and key stakeholders present at the opening ceremonies. This was followed by introduction of the chairmen across the three districts. The ceremony at Pujehun was chaired by the District Officer, Mr. Charles Kailie, Bonthe-Mattru Jong was chaired by the District Officer, Mr. Ishaga M. Turay, Bo by the Deputy Secretary, Feremusu Samba and Moyamba by the District Officer, Mr. Haroun Keh Turay

OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMEN



The Chairmen of Pujehun, Bonthe-Mattru Jong, Bo and Moyamba Districts respectively making statements

The Chairmen in the respective districts welcomed members and participants to the two- day training programme on the Individual Performance Appraisal System (IPAS). The Chairmen thanked the European Union, Director General, Human Resource Management Office, Mr. Ansu S. Tucker and his team for the opportunity given to them to meet with him despite his busy schedule. The Chairmen admonished their colleague Civil Servants to make good use of the opportunity and ask as many questions as possible for the attention of the Chief Environmental Manager of the Sierra Leone Civil Service.

They also told the Director General and team that the training was timely and a historic event for the districts. They further lauded the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone and the European Union in ensuring that Civil Servants at district level benefit from IPAS training with a view to providing effective and efficient services for the citizens of the country since this is the first training in the history of the Civil Service that such training is been conducted at district level.

They encouraged participants to take full advantage of the two-day training workshop for their individual advancement as well as their MDAs.

STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT



The Director of Performance Management Directorate –Mr Usman Conteh Making Statement

The Director of Performance Management thanked the Director General for leaving his busy official schedule to witness the training at district level. He also welcomed participants to the two-day training session. He said he was hearten to address participants to the training on IPAS for the next two days. He said one of the reform areas in the civil service was Performance Management which has been introduced to replace the Annual Confidential Report for the past eight years. The Director to

participants that Performance Management is a modern management tool that has been introduced in the Sierra Leone Civil Service.

Giving the background to Performance Management, he reported that in October 2011, the Performance Management Directorate was established at HRMO to lead on Performance Management System in the civil service. Since that time, Performance Management Directorate has among many others developed the tools, validated and approved by the Civil Service Steering Committee. These tools have replaced the Annual Confidential Report which is no longer responsive to modern day management as it reported more of the individual behaviour and traits rather than results achieved.

He noted that over the years, IPAS focused on Civil Servants in Grades 7 to 10, because they are at supervisory level who should understand the process better. In 2019, HRMO cascaded IPAS to Civil Servants in Grades 1 to 6 with a view to developing their knowledge and skills on IPAS. He said the training was just one among many that will be conducted in order to build the capacity of Civil Servants on IPAS. He admonished participants to take the training seriously for their own betterment in the civil service. He thanked participants who braved the difficult roads to witness the training.

STATEMENT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT COORDINATOR



The EU Project Coordinator, Mr Kelvin Kelie Making Statement

The EU Project Coordinator started by thanking the Chairlady of the programme. He said he was so impressed to see participants so enthusiastic to participate in the training process. He thanked the Director General-HRMO and his Team for putting their hands on their shoulders under rain or shine to see that there is improvement in public service delivery in the wider Civil Service. He said there is a lot of work behind the scenes to see that the training become a success and civil servants are able to improve on service delivery. He further stated that the EU is fully committed to the Civil Service reform process and as a result had contributed about two million euro to the process.

STATEMENT FROM THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY –SOUTHERN REGION



The Provincial Secretary Southern Region, Mr Simion Fatoma Making Statement

STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE



The Director General, HRMO-Mr Ansu S. Tucker Making Statement

The Director General in his statements expressed gratitude for being part of the training of Civil Servants on IPAS. He said IPAS has come to replace the Annual Confidential Report which for all intents and purposes is so obsolete and was not responsive to modern management techniques so as part of the reform of the Civil Services it was replaced by the IPAS which he said was more responsive, objective and more attuned to modern day management. He furthered that introducing Performance Management System into the Civil Service as a management tool that looks at the performance of individual Civil Servants based on the overall organizational set goals, the national strategy agenda or agreed targets has been another major reform in the Civil Service as personnel were going to be accountable for what they do.

The Director General also told participants that EU is a very key development partner to the government of Sierra Leone. He said EU has supported the Government in a lot of areas such as agriculture, governance etc. And of course the particular activity participants were gathered for is part of the governance sector. The governance sector has the following: support Parliamentary reform, the electoral process, national registration and Civil Service Reform and under the Civil Service Reform we have the Human Resource Management Office and the Public Service Commission to implement key reforms that are going to change the face of the Civil Service

He said there are a lot of reforms that are taking root currently and that these reforms can only be produced the desired result when Civil Servants are involved and understand the process.

He told them that as Civil Servants, the Civil Service Code, Regulations and Rules should be their reference document as everything pertaining to rules and regulations of civil servants were contained in it. He said based on the dynamics of the service the Civil Service Code, Regulations and Rules was going to be reviewed under the EU support to HRMO.

Speaking on conducting of IPAS across MDAs, DG told participants that since 2012 to date HRMO through Performance Management Directorate had done a lot in ensuring that we institutionalize Performance Management culture. HRMO/PMD had prepared the tools, set up the structures across MDAs, conducted several trainings, facilitated performance target setting and conducting appraisals for officers in Grades 7 to 10 across MDAs, developed Performance Management Policy, conducted quarterly monitoring of IPAS across MDAs among many others. Moreover, Civil Servants in Grades 1 to 6 were put on appraisal in 2019; the need for training/capacity building on the IPAS document was paramount for the institutionalization of IPAS in the Civil Service.

He admonished them to make good use of the opportunity given to them and serve as training of trainers for their colleagues who have not benefitted from the IPAS training. After making those statements, he formally declared the two- day training session open.

CLOSING REMARKS

The chairmen again admonished participants to make good use of the opportunity given to them because of the presence of the Director General and also take the training with all seriousness as they stand to benefit from the reforms that are going on in the civil service. The Chairmen wished the participants and the Director General and team fruitful two- day training. Finally, they expressed hope that the meetings and trainings of such nature would continue.

CONDUCT OF THE TRAINING

Duration: The training lasted for two days each in the district headquarter towns of Pujehun District from 16th to 17th November, 2020, Bonthe District from 19th to 20th November, 2020, Bo District from 23rd to 24th November, 2020 and Moyamba District from 26th to 27th November, 2020.

Attendance: Excellent as all the participants attended and stayed for all the sessions although most of them came late in the first day of the training.

A total of 106 participants were trained at district level. Participants were drawn from all MDAs present within the respective district across the Eastern region. A total of Civil Servants that benefited per MDA across the Southern Region are as follows: Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) – 21, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)-22 and Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development(MLGRD)-17, Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education (MBSSE)-10, Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW)-9, Ministry of Youth Affairs- , Ministry of Water Resources (MWR)-3 and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MOL)-5, Ministry of Public and Political Affairs (MPPA) –2 and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)-3, Immigration Department-6, National Fire Force (NFF)-3 and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)-3, Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE)-1.

- **Gender:** In terms of gender representation out of a total of 106 participants, 76 participants were male which represents 72% and 30 participants were female which represents 28%.
- **Grade:** Out of a total of 106 participants, 57 participants were Grades 1 to 6 which represents 54% and 49 participants were Grades 7 to 10 which represents 46 %
- **Participation:** Very active and generated lively contributions ending with consensus and recommendations.
- **Interest:** Participants showed keen interest in all of the sessions including practical exercises. The participants were curious to know critical issues that affected them in the service and the response received from the facilitators.

COVERAGE:

The two-day training presented and discussed in details on the following subject matters as listed below:

- Key principles, rationale and progress made in performance management in Sierra Leone
- Meaning of Performance Management System (PMS) and what it seeks to achieve
- Institutional framework for PMS implementation including clarity of roles and responsibilities of actors
- Setting of individual performance targets

- Filling of the IPAS Forms A and B
- How to conduct an appraisal interview
- Group/ individual exercises and presentations

MAJOR ISSUES/CONCERNS ACROSS THE THREE DISTRICTS:

Several issues/concerns were raised by the participants during the two- day IPAS training which are but not limited to the following: -

- The absent of Human Resource Officers at district level
- Staff do not go to work on time
- Most correspondents between HRMO and MDAs concerning staff do not reach the target staff on time
- Political interference in staff transfers at district level
- The unavailability of accommodation/quarters for staff at district level
- Late procurement of office materials for staff operations
- Staff not accessing relocation allowances
- The problem of staff who are due retirement not be notified earlier enough
- Staff not accessing fuel for official movement
- The training to target Directors and Permanent Secretaries
- The timely availability of resources for programme implementation;

- Shortage of required manpower to do the job across key MDAs in the districts
- Absence of reward to deserving Civil Servants
- Absence of equity- fairness, transparency and accountability
- More training/practical exercise in goals /targets setting
- Lack of promotion for good number of staff that have stayed in one position for more than 10 years. This is more prevalent among the professional staff
- Frequent and unplanned transfers of staff for some MDAs without recourse to the Civil Service Codes, Regulations and Rules
- Process to get end-of-service benefit too long that some retirees die without getting it
- Lack of training in IPAS
- Some staff that have capacitated themselves over the years have not being upgraded
- Lack of mobility across MDAs in the regions

However, the Director General HRMO responded to all of the concerns and issues raised and promised them that those that require his immediate intervention will be addressed as soon as he gets back to Freetown and those that are systemic he promised to engage the relevant stakeholders and see how it can be addressed.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the training in the three districts, participants made the following recommendations:

- HRMO to carryout refresher trainings on IPAS
- HRMO to carryout routine monitoring of MDAs staff at district level to ensure staff are in the duty posts
- Duration of the training was short and should be increased in future

- HRMO to deploy HROs at district level
- HRMO to also make follow-ups on this training to make sure those who have benefited implement it in their respective MDAs
- Adequate and timely provision of funding to MDAs for implementation of programmes so as to enable them achieve their set targets;
- That targets should be set on available resources;
- That the reward issue should be treated with the seriousness it deserves;
- Leadership of the Civil Service to make periodic visits to the Provinces to have first-hand experience of working conditions
- HRMO to source funding for training of this nature so that the momentum will not die down like previous trainings conducted by other institutions.
- Condition of service for Civil Servants to be improved in order for IPAS to succeed

CLOSING CEREMONIES

At the end of the two days training in each of the districts, a closing ceremony was done where by a participant was nominated to give the vote of thanks after Director, Performance Management's closing statements. The Director of Performance Management thanked the participants for attending the training and encouraged them to share the knowledge and skills gained with their colleagues in their respective MDAs. He further advised them to take performance management as an important management tool that will transform their status in the civil service.

In their vote of thanks speeches, participants commended HRMO with special reference to the Director General for such an opportunity given to them. They said IPAS was and is still a new concept and observed that the two- day training was not enough for participants to grasp the full concept. On

that note, all pleaded with HRMO to make sure that the training was replicated to the rest of the staffs in their respective districts. They therefore cautioned colleague civil servants to be agents of change in their respective institutions as it was no more going to be business as usual. They commended their colleagues for their full cooperation during the training and encouraged them to cascade the training to their staff when they return. They finally thanked DG/HRMO and team for their efforts in pushing forward the Civil Service reforms.

NEXT STEPS

1. Training in the remaining 2 regions and Western Area
2. Nationwide Monitoring of IPAS implementation
3. Facilitation of 2020 Annual IPAS review across MDAs

Submitted by:

Usman C. Conteh

Performance Management Directorate

1st December, 2020

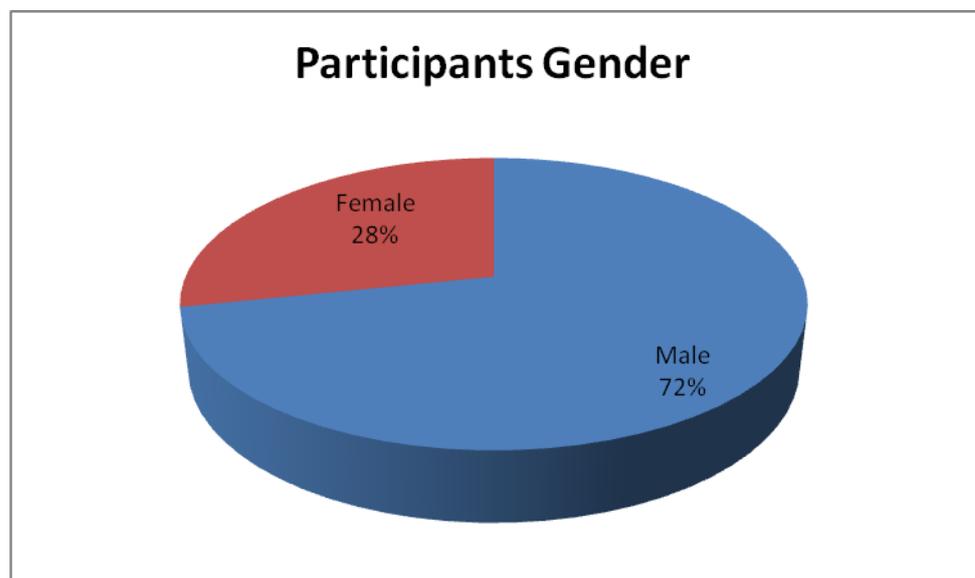
ANNEXES

A. TABLE SHOWING REPRESENTATION BY MDA

MDA	TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICPANTS
MOHS	21
MAFF	22
MSW	9
MLGRD	17
NFF	3

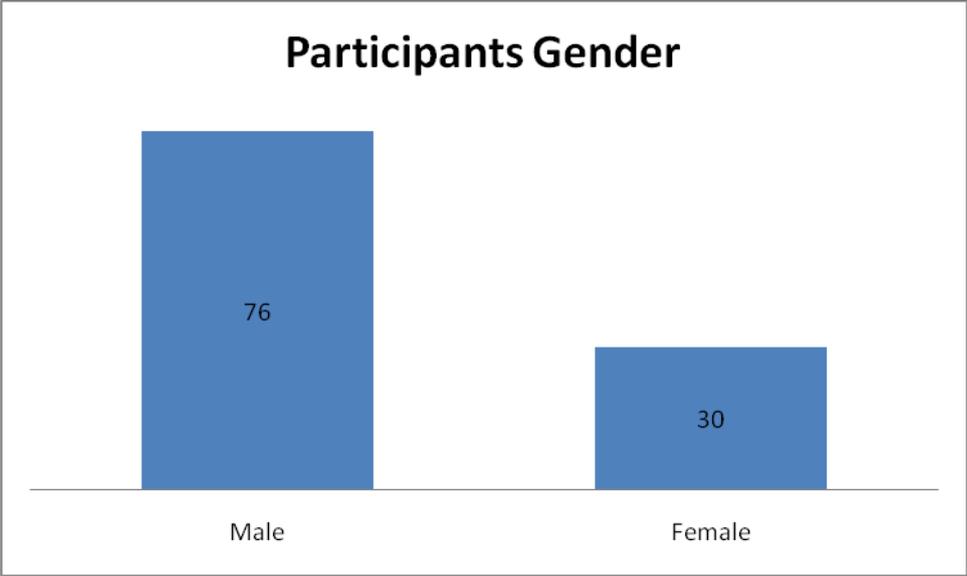
MOL	5
MBSSE	10
MWR	3
MPPA	2
MTI	3
IMMG	6
MTHE	1
MFMR	3
MYA	1
GRAND TOTAL	106

B. PIE CHART SHOWING REPRESENTATION BY GENDER



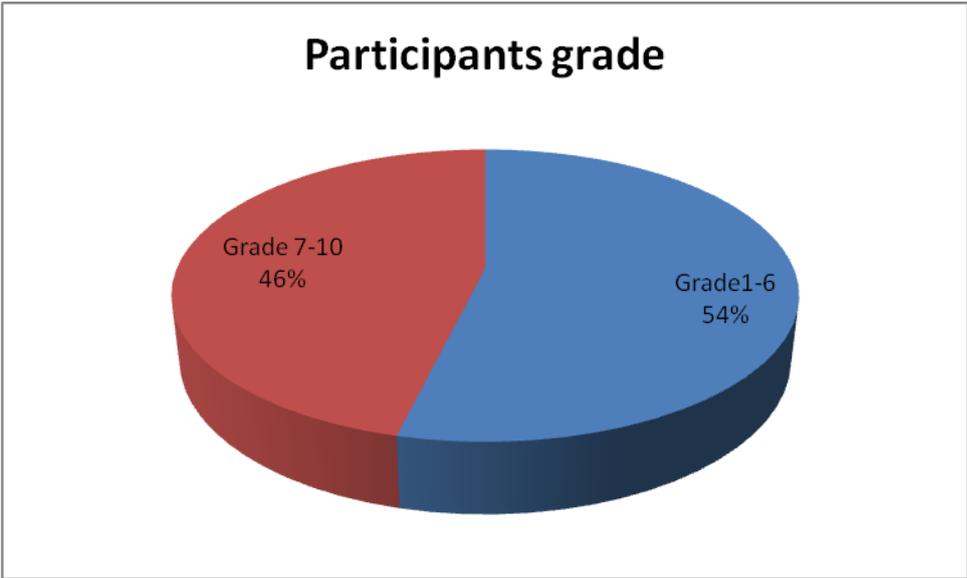
From the pie chart above, it is aboved that majority of the participants (76%) were male and female participants form only 24% of the total participants.

C. BAR CHART SHOWING PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



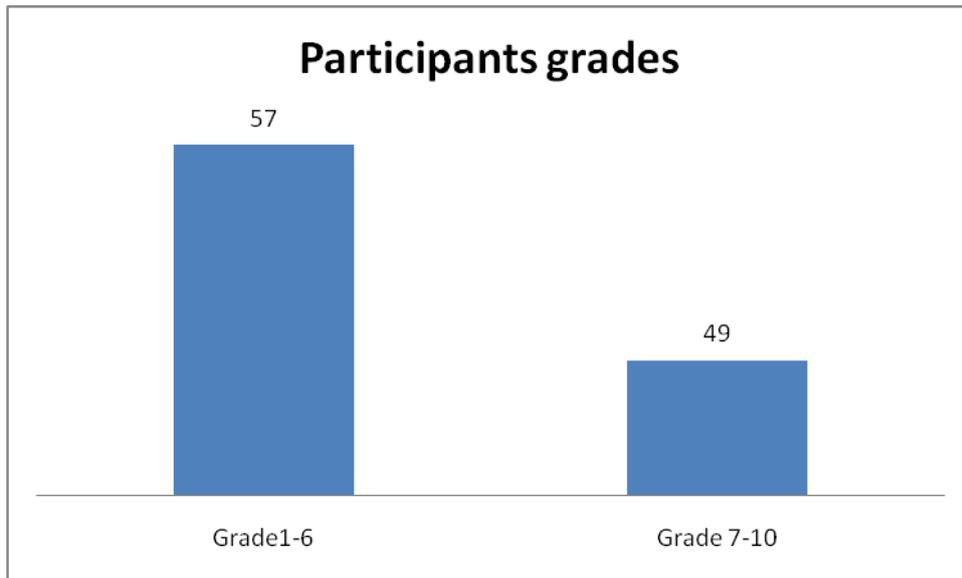
From the bar chart, it is clear that majority of the participants were males

D. PIE CHART SHOWING REPRESENTATION BY GRADE



From the pie chart above, it is observe that majority (54%) of the participants are from grades 1-6 and those in grades 7-10 made up 46% of the total participants.

E. BAR CHART SHOWING PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



From the chart above, it is clear that majority of the participants are in grades 1-6

F. PICTORIAL EVIDENCES



Group photo after the Opening ceremony in Pujehun District



The Director –Performance Management presenting on the Justification for IPAS in the Civil Service



The Deputy Secretary – Mr Swaray Junisa Presenting on what is performance management



The Deputy Secretary – Mr Swaray Junisa Presenting on target setting



The Director – Performance Management presenting on the Institutional Arrangement for IPAS



Participants receiving certificates after two days training



Participants group photo with their certificates after two days intensive training on IPAS in Pujehun District



The opening ceremony on IPAS Training at Bonthe District Council



Group photo after the Opening Ceremony the Bonthe District Council in Mattru Jong



Participants receiving training on IPAS in Bonthe District



Participants receiving certificates after the two days intensive training



Participants group photo after receiving certificates from the two days training on IPAS at Bonthe District Council



Members of the high table at the opening ceremony on IPAS Training at the Bo District Council



Group photo after the Opening ceremony at the Bo District Council



The Director – Performance Management presenting on the Justification for IPAS in the Sierra Leone Civil Service

The Director General – Human Resource Management Office responding



Participants group photo after receiving certificates from two days intensive training



Participants taking group photo after the opening ceremony at the District Office in Moyamba Town



Participants train on IPAS in Moyamba District



The Deputy Secretary – Mr Swaray Junisa Presenting on what is performance Management



Group photo after participants received certificates from the two days intensive training