

BIO OF MS CECILIA CHRISTIANA MATTIA

Cecilia Mattia has worked in the international development sector for over 15 years. After her Teachers Certificate,(1984) being trained as a teacher, she taught for over 8 years as assistant teacher while also going through the five phases of the Development Education Leadership for Training (DELTA) and graduated with a Certificate. She moved from teaching to Community Animation in a Non-Governmental Organisation named Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD in the late 80's). She then moved to the Pan African Institute for Development (PAID-WA) in Cameroun to study Project Planning Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in 1997 and graduated with a Certificate. This was the period of war in Sierra Leone and so she came back to the West Coast of Conakry, Guinea to work with Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees in the various camps in Guinea.

While in Guinea, she trained other NGO staffs through NMJD capacity building programs on Project Monitoring and Evaluation in order to raise funds for the organisation in exile. While in exile, she went on a study tour in Durban South Africa to look at the Economic base of women after the Apartheid so that she brings to practice women's economic and empowerment role after the war in Sierra Leone. This helped her work with the refugees in Guinea. Based on these experiences, she worked with a consultant with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Guinea to work on the Gender Based Violence for West Africa Proposal in year 1998.

This proposal was tested in most of the refugee camps in Guinea and Sierra Leone. In 2004, she was one of the participants who benefited from the International Visitors Program organised by the US/American State Department in Washington DC, Seattle Washington, St. Louis Missouri, Rochester New York and New York in the US on Leadership Development for Women. This program was to help women of Sierra Leone rise to leadership positions. She later attended a 3 weeks short course in Pretoria, South Africa on Gender and Development.

She joined the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in 1999 as program Manager for the Gender Based Violence Program and helped established the Family Support Units (FSU) now established at all Police stations in the country. In 2005, she joined the International Human Rights Law Group (IHR LG) an American NGO which was later named Global Rights, Partners for Justice (GR) as Team Leader and later Program Manager. While at Global Rights, Partners for Justice, she joined others to establish the National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE) of which Global Rights was a member of the coalition. In 2006, when Global Rights, Partners for Justice closed office in Sierra Leone, she formerly became the Coordinator of NACE where she is presently serving.

She is currently a Board member of the Tax Justice Network –Africa and a member of the Multi Stakeholder Group of the Sierra Leone Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (SLEITI)