



VVF West African Regional Director meets with MAPO



On Saturday 16th November, NMJD, in collaboration with its partner, Vibrant Village Foundation, visited Kono to engage with the Marginalized Affected Property Owners (MAPO) of the district. During the meeting, MAPO members shared their grievances, highlighting the injustices they have faced at the hands of mining companies and the government.

The MAPO Coordinator expressed the group's resilience despite the challenges posed by powerful mining entities. He revealed their financial struggles and described the hardship of travelling to Kenema over poor road networks for court hearings, only to find the sessions postponed. He interpreted these delays as deliberate attempts to demoralize the group, but he affirmed their unwavering determination.



The MAPO members expressed profound gratitude to NMJD for its support and capacity-building efforts, commending the organization and recommending it to other partners.

Mohamed Osman, the West Africa Regional Director of VVF, shared his satisfaction with the opportunity for direct dialogue with MAPO members. He noted that the insights gained would enhance his report and strengthen the case for extending support to NMJD for another two years or more.

During the discussion, the Regional Director inquired whether MAPO members had been consulted before being relocated to new settlements. The members confirmed that they had not been involved in the decision-making process. They also highlighted a clause in the resettlement agreement allowing landowners to receive funds to choose their own relocation sites—a provision that was overlooked by the authorities.

Acknowledging the recommendations and concerns raised, the Regional Director assured the community that he would further discuss these matters with NMJD's leadership.

