In a meeting on 26th February 2021 at his Ministry's conference room in New England Ville Freetown, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, formerly received a harmonized social work curriculum from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The Acting Professional Head of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Madam Mariatu Bangura, intimated members about the meeting being a follow-up action on the development of a social work curriculum to be integrated into the universities. She mentioned that a field-based approach was used to develop the curriculum, adding that a consultant was hired and a technical working group was constituted to ensure a comprehensive work on the curriculum. She said that members of the Technical Working Group comprized social work practitioners with local and international experience, university lecturers, a representative from the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education and Tertiary Education Commission, citing that a curriculum for Certificate and Diploma in Social Work, Bachelor of Science in Social Work and the Field-based Manual have been developed by the team.

A Representative from UNICEF, Mr. David Lamin, said that there has been a lot of emerging social issues as a result of the eleven years civil war, Ebola pandemic and the like. He said that over the years university students are only taught the theories of Social Work, rendering them unable to explore the practical, and it was in an attempt to fill such gap that UNICEF decided to support the Ministry of Social Welfare to harmonize and review the Social Work Curriculum. He informed members that copies of the harmonized curriculum have been shared to the various universities and polytechnics to be presented to the Senate/ Council for approval. He said that the Tertiary Education Commission is privy to the harmonized curriculum, citing plans to conduct in-service training for lecturers on the use of the curriculum. He however lamented on the limited number of lecturers in the Social Work Departments across the country.

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof Alpha Tejan Wurie, thanked the Minister of Social Welfare for updating him on such a progressive step made in the aspect of social work. He stressed the importance of social work, especially at this time when Sierra Leone is at its crossroads. He emphasized what he had previously said in a meeting with Vice Chancellors with regards the need to explore the possibility of harmonizing entry requirement as well as establishing a centralized agency to admit students into university. He further stated that the field-based approach should be prioritized among others. He expressed his satisfaction and commended the Ministry of Social Welfare for complementing the work of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education.

The Minister of Social Welfare, Baindu Dassama Kamara, formerly presented copies of the harmonized social work curriculum to the Minister.