



## SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION



# SLANGO NEWSLETTER 5<sup>th</sup> EDITION

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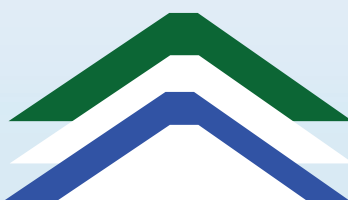


# SLANGO

NEWSLETTER MAY 2026



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**FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR**



Dear Members, Partners and Friends of SLANGO,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the SLANGO Newsletter. This publication represents far more than a record of our activities; it is a testament to the resilience, innovation, and collective commitment of Sierra Leone's non-governmental sector.

Over the past several years, we have witnessed remarkable growth and transformation within our sector. As we navigate the opportunities and challenges of 2026, it is increasingly clear that sustainable development requires stronger partnerships, greater accountability, and locally driven solutions. This edition highlights how SLANGO and its member organisations continue to respond to these demands through innovation, collaboration, and community-centred approaches.

This issue showcases inspiring examples of how our members are:

Strengthening organisational capacity through innovative funding models and sustainable programming. Advocating for policy reforms and ensuring that the voices of civil society organisations are represented in national decision-making processes.

Delivering measurable impact in communities across Sierra Leone through education, health, environmental protection, and social development initiatives.

The development landscape continues to evolve, presenting both opportunities and challenges. While funding constraints remain a reality, they also encourage us to become more innovative, transparent, and results-oriented. SLANGO remains committed to supporting its members through strengthened monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning systems that demonstrate the value and impact of our collective work.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our Secretariat, Board of Directors, member organisations, development partners, and supporters for their dedication and hard work. Your commitment continues to strengthen the NGO sector and improve the lives of communities throughout Sierra Leone.

I hope this edition informs, inspires, and encourages deeper collaboration among all stakeholders. Together, we can continue building a stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous Sierra Leone.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Nenneh James

National Director

SLANGO

## REFLECTIONS

### **Against the Odds: How Sierra Leone's NGOs Are Quietly Transforming Communities**

By Dr Columba Michael Joe Blango  
Founder and CEO, Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)

Working within Sierra Leone's non-governmental sector requires more than professional commitment; it demands resilience, determination, and a deep belief in the power of community-driven change. Every day, NGOs across the country confront significant challenges while striving to improve lives and strengthen communities.

Operating in Sierra Leone is rarely straightforward. Funding uncertainties, limited infrastructure, difficult terrain, and evolving policy environments often create obstacles that can test even the most experienced organisations. In many rural communities, delivering essential services remains a complex task, requiring persistence, creativity, and strong local partnerships.

Yet despite these challenges, NGOs continue to deliver meaningful impact.

Their strength lies not only in their programmes but also in the values that guide them. Across the country, NGO workers are driven by compassion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to serving vulnerable populations. For many, this work is not simply a profession—it is a calling.

As Nelson Mandela famously observed, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is the difference we have made to the lives of others." This principle continues to inspire the work of civil society organisations throughout Sierra Leone.

The impact of NGOs can be seen across every sector of national development:

**Education:** NGOs have built schools, trained teachers, provided scholarships, and expanded learning opportunities for thousands of children, particularly in underserved communities.

**Healthcare:** Through maternal health programmes, disease prevention initiatives, and emergency interventions, NGOs have strengthened healthcare delivery and helped address critical service gaps.

**Youth Empowerment:** Skills training, entrepreneurship programmes, mentorship initiatives, and employment support have enabled many young people to build productive and sustainable futures.

**Women's Empowerment:** Civil society organisations have expanded opportunities for women through education, leadership development, financial inclusion, and advocacy programmes.

**Community Development:** NGOs continue to improve access to water, sanitation, agriculture, environmental protection, and livelihood opportunities, strengthening resilience at the local level.

At the centre of this collective effort stands the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (SLANGO). Through coordination, advocacy, and leadership, SLANGO has played a critical role in strengthening the effectiveness and visibility of the sector. It serves as a bridge between civil society, government institutions, development partners, and communities.

A notable example of this leadership was the successful organisation of NGO Week 2026. The event demonstrated what can be achieved when collaboration, vision, and effective coordination come together in pursuit of a shared goal. From parliamentary engagement and public lectures to regional celebrations and recognition ceremonies, NGO Week highlighted the contribution of civil society to national development.

The future of Sierra Leone's NGO sector will continue to depend on strong partnerships, local ownership, innovation, and accountability. Challenges remain, but so too does the determination of thousands of individuals and organisations committed to creating positive change.

As Sierra Leone advances its development agenda, NGOs will remain indispensable partners in building stronger communities, promoting social justice, and expanding opportunities for all citizens.

Their work reminds us that meaningful development begins with people who care enough to act.

# IMPACT STORY

CENTRE OF DIALOGUE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (CODOHSAPA) & FEDERATION OF URBAN AND RURAL POOR (FEDURP)

**From Doubt to Growth: How Kolleh Town Defied Experts to Plant 200,000 Mangroves**

**[A Community-Led Success Story in Freetown: Experiences of Women Community Leader – Ms. Saibatu Nabie Sandy – Leader – Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP)]**



*When soil experts declared Kolleh Town unsuitable for mangrove restoration, the community refused to accept defeat. Armed with training in community ownership from CODOHSAPA and FEDURP, residents insisted: "As a community, we are both the problem and the solution."*

### The Challenge and Community Response

In 2023, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) funded a mangrove restoration project through Centre of Dialogue on Human Settlement and Poverty Alleviation (CODOHSAPA) and Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP) despite expert skepticism. Rather than abandon the effort, the community – guided by inclusive partner engagement – took ownership. They sourced 40,000 seedlings from Aberdeen Creek in 2023 and planted another 40,000 in 2024. Today, these mangroves thrive with strong roots, validating community knowledge over external pessimism



### Expansion and Environmental Impact

The Freetown City Council (FCC) partnered to scale the initiative, planting 100,000 additional mangroves across Kolleh Town and Congo Town. In total, over 200,000 mangroves now restore critical ecosystems—creating fish and oyster breeding grounds while providing natural flood barriers against coastal erosion and climate impacts.

### Integration of Digital Technology

Community-based growers use a Tree-Tracker app on locally available smartphones to create a unique geotagged record, or ID, for each new tree planted – including a photo. Growers who are mostly young people, revisit each seedling periodically, to care and maintain, verify and document the plant's survival – and receive mobile money micropayments for their efforts. The goal of this growing and monitoring model is to enhance community ownership over the entire tree-growing project chain – a measure to ensure that the targeted 80%+ tree-survival rate is achieved.



**Economic and Social Transformation**

The project generated substantial youth employment: 20 youth in phase one, 20 more in phase two, and 396 when FCC joined. Beyond environmental gains, communities received training in sustainability and savings schemes – enabling women and youth to fund micro-businesses, education, and household resilience during difficult seasons.

This holistic approach – combining ecological restoration with livelihood support – reflects a growing Sierra Leone trend where mangrove conservation addresses climate vulnerability while strengthening economic security for coastal communities.



## LAUNCH OF SLANGO'S DIGITAL REGISTRATION PORTAL

Modernising NGO Registration and Strengthening Accountability

SLANGO officially launched its Digital Registration Portal during the first quarter of 2026, marking a significant milestone in the modernisation of NGO administration and regulatory compliance in Sierra Leone.

The new platform was developed to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability across the NGO sector by replacing paper-based registration processes with a streamlined digital system.

Accessible through SLANGO's website, the portal enables organisations to register, renew memberships, submit documentation, and update institutional information electronically. This digital transformation significantly reduces administrative burdens while improving the accuracy and accessibility of organisational records.



The system also provides valuable opportunities for improved data management. Accurate and timely information will enable SLANGO to better understand sector trends, identify capacity-building needs, and advocate more effectively on behalf of member organisations.

Stakeholders attending the launch welcomed the initiative as a major step forward in strengthening institutional accountability and promoting best practices throughout the NGO community.

As the NGO sector continues to evolve, digital solutions such as the Registration Portal will play an increasingly important role in supporting transparency, efficiency, and sustainable growth.

SLANGO encourages all member organisations to utilise the platform and ensure that registration information remains current and compliant with established requirements.



The platform has been designed to support both national and international NGOs operating in Sierra Leone. Through secure online processes, organisations can manage compliance requirements more effectively and maintain up-to-date records with minimal delays.

The introduction of the portal reflects SLANGO's broader commitment to strengthening professionalism within the sector. By digitising registration and reporting procedures, the organisation aims to improve coordination, facilitate communication, and enhance the overall quality of NGO governance.



## SLANGO'S 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Reimagining NGOs: From Survival to Sustainability

SLANGO successfully convened its 18th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Makeni under the theme, "Reimagining NGOs: From Survival to Sustainability."

The AGM served as a critical platform for strategic reflection, sector-wide dialogue, and collective planning for the future of Sierra Leone's NGO community.



Delegates reviewed key organisational documents, including the Chairman's Report, the Secretariat Report, the 2024 Audited Financial Statements, and proposed budgets for 2026 and 2027. Discussions focused on strengthening institutional sustainability, improving accountability mechanisms, and enhancing the impact of development interventions.

The meeting attracted senior government officials, local authorities, development partners, and representatives from member organisations. Participants emphasised the importance of stronger collaboration between government institutions and civil society organisations in achieving national development objectives.

A major highlight of the AGM was the formal introduction of SLANGO's Digital Registration Portal, which is expected to streamline communication, reporting, and compliance processes across the sector.

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining high standards of accountability and transparency. Discussions also highlighted the importance of ensuring that programme resources remain focused on delivering measurable benefits to communities.

Government representatives used the occasion to reiterate their commitment to creating an enabling environment for NGOs and recognised the valuable contribution of civil society organisations to national development.

The AGM concluded with a renewed commitment from member organisations to strengthen collaboration, improve service delivery, and promote innovative approaches to sustainable development.

As the NGO sector continues to navigate changing funding environments and emerging development challenges, the meeting reinforced the importance of strategic planning, local ownership, and institutional resilience.

The 18th AGM ultimately served as both a reflection on past achievements and a roadmap for building a stronger, more sustainable future for civil society in Sierra Leone.



## NGO WEEK 2026

### Reimagining NGOs: From Survival to Sustainability

The Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (SLANGO) successfully organised NGO Week 2026 under the theme *“Reimagining NGOs: From Survival to Sustainability”*, bringing together civil society leaders, government representatives, development partners, academics, private sector actors, and community stakeholders in a nationwide celebration of the contribution of non-governmental organisations to national development.



More than a commemorative event, NGO Week served as a strategic platform for reflection, dialogue, learning, advocacy, and partnership-building. At a time when civil society organisations are navigating increasing demands for accountability, sustainability, and measurable impact, the week provided an opportunity to showcase achievements, address challenges, and collectively chart a path forward for the sector.

### Strengthening the Voice of Civil Society

The week commenced with high-level engagements designed to strengthen collaboration between civil society organisations and national decision-makers. Discussions focused on the evolving role of NGOs in supporting Sierra Leone's development priorities and the importance of creating an enabling environment in which civil society can thrive.

Participants highlighted the critical role NGOs play in complementing government efforts by delivering essential services, advocating for vulnerable populations, promoting transparency and accountability, and supporting community-driven development initiatives.

Stakeholders agreed that effective development requires strong partnerships built on trust, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. The dialogue reaffirmed the importance of maintaining open channels of communication between government institutions and civil society organisations to maximise impact and avoid duplication of efforts.



### Public Lecture Explores the Future of NGOs

One of the key highlights of NGO Week was the Public Lecture, which brought together experts, practitioners, researchers, students, and development professionals to examine the future of civil society in Sierra Leone.

Speakers explored the challenges facing NGOs in an increasingly complex global environment characterised by declining donor funding, climate-related emergencies, economic uncertainty, and growing expectations regarding accountability and results.



The discussion encouraged organisations to move beyond traditional models of dependency and embrace innovation, strategic partnerships, social enterprise approaches, and locally driven solutions. Particular emphasis was placed on sustainability, institutional resilience, and the importance of strengthening local leadership.

The lecture generated valuable recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of civil society organisations while ensuring that communities remain at the centre of development efforts.

### Showcasing Impact Across the Country

Throughout the week, member organisations participated in exhibitions, outreach activities, community engagements, and knowledge-sharing sessions that highlighted the diversity of NGO interventions across Sierra Leone.

Projects showcased during the celebrations demonstrated the breadth of civil society's contribution to national development, including:

- Education and skills development
- Healthcare and public health initiatives
- Women's empowerment and gender equality
- Youth employment and entrepreneurship
- Climate resilience and environmental protection
- Food security and agricultural development
- Child protection and social welfare
- Human rights and governance programmes

Visitors had the opportunity to learn directly from organisations about the impact of their work and the challenges they face in delivering services to communities.



The exhibitions also provided a valuable networking platform, enabling organisations to share experiences, identify opportunities for collaboration, and learn from successful interventions implemented by their peers.

### Celebrating Excellence and Innovation

A defining feature of NGO Week 2026 was the recognition of individuals and organisations whose work has made an exceptional contribution to Sierra Leone's development.

The Awards Night celebrated innovation, leadership, accountability, and community impact across the NGO sector. Award recipients represented a diverse range of organisations whose programmes have demonstrated measurable results and sustainable outcomes.



The ceremony highlighted stories of dedication and perseverance from development practitioners working in some of the country's most challenging environments. Their achievements served as a reminder that meaningful change often begins with individuals and organisations committed to serving communities despite limited resources and significant obstacles.

Beyond recognising achievement, the awards encouraged a culture of excellence and continuous improvement within the sector.

### Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development

A recurring theme throughout NGO Week was the importance of collaboration. Participants consistently emphasised that the complex challenges facing Sierra Leone cannot be addressed by any single organisation acting alone.

Government institutions, NGOs, development partners, private sector actors, traditional leaders, and communities all have an important role to play in achieving sustainable development outcomes.



The week provided numerous opportunities for stakeholders to strengthen existing partnerships and explore new avenues for cooperation. Discussions highlighted the need for coordinated approaches that maximise resources, reduce duplication, and increase collective impact.

### Looking to the Future

As NGO Week 2026 concluded, participants expressed optimism about the future of Sierra Leone's civil society sector. While challenges remain, the event demonstrated the resilience, adaptability, and commitment of NGOs working across the country.

The conversations, partnerships, and lessons emerging from the week reinforced the importance of moving beyond short-term survival towards long-term sustainability. Achieving this vision will require innovation, strong governance, local ownership, and continued collaboration among all stakeholders.



NGO Week 2026 was ultimately a celebration of achievement, a platform for reflection, and a call to action. It reaffirmed the essential role of civil society in promoting inclusive development, empowering communities, and contributing to a more prosperous and equitable Sierra Leone.

As the sector continues to evolve, the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose demonstrated throughout the week will remain a powerful foundation for future progress.



## NGO SYMPOSIUM

MoPED through its NGO Directorate and in collaboration with SLANGO, has been actively organizing, regulating, and reviewing the plans of NGOs to ensure alignment with national development goals. MoPED has institutionalized a platform where NGOs present their annual

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF),
- Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC),
- Catholic Relief Services,
- Action Against Hunger,
- CAFOD,
- AVSI,
- CHAI,
- BRAC
- CODOSAPA

They have recently presented their 2026 activity plans, focusing on sectors like health, agriculture, and gender empowerment.

The NGO plans are heavily scrutinized to ensure they complement, rather than duplicate, government efforts, particularly focusing on the "Big Five Game Changers".



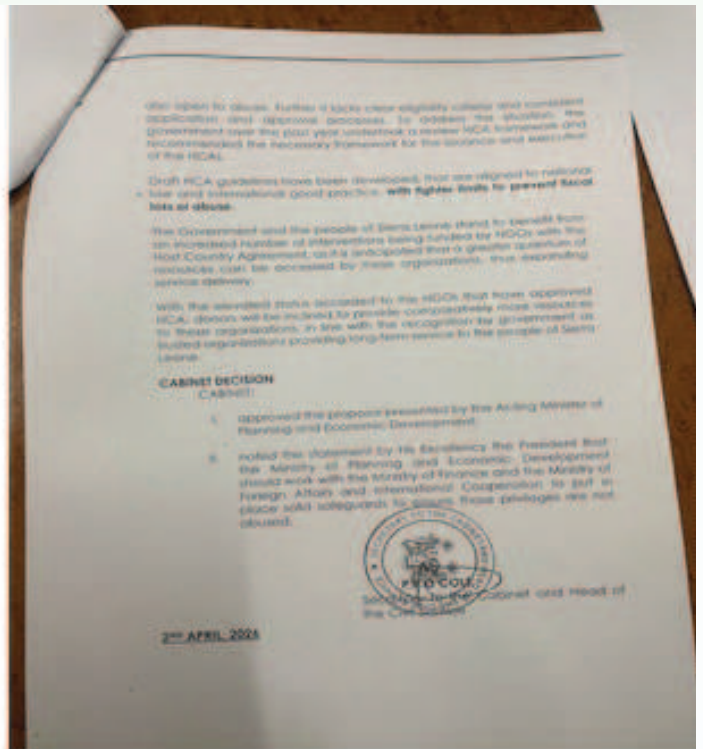
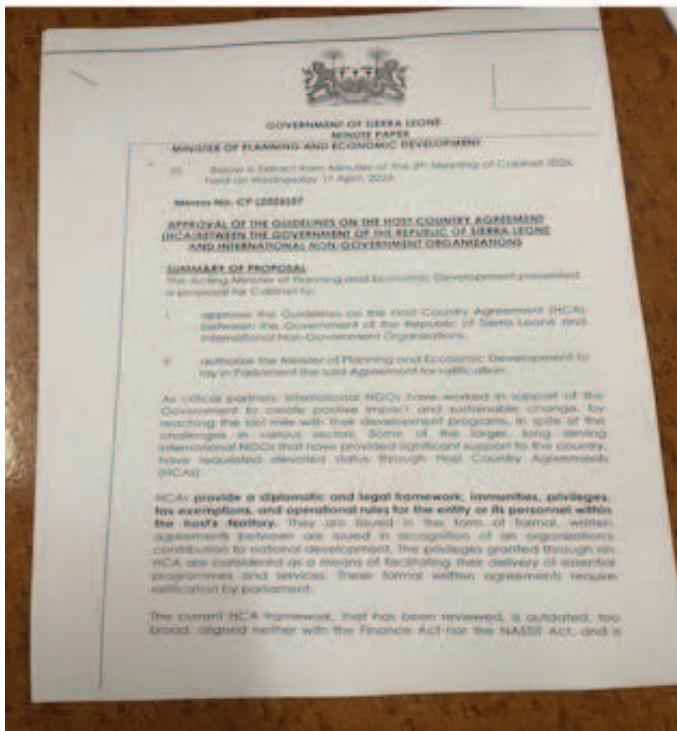
work plans, funding sources, and implementation strategies to promote transparency, accountability, and alignment with the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2024–2030).

Featured Organizations:



## SIERRA LEONE SIGNS THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), has recently taken steps to sign new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and strengthen partnership and cooperation with International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs). These agreements are part of a broader, ongoing effort to formalize partnerships, improve accountability, and align NGO activities with the government's Medium-Term National Development Plan and "Big Five" transformative agenda.





## SHOWCASING THE WORK OF OUR MEMBERSHIP

### CHILDREN OF THE NATION

#### COTN-Sierra Leone: 30 Years of Holistic Impact

**Celebrating 30 Years of Transforming Lives** Children of the Nations–Sierra Leone (COTN-SL) marks three decades of caring for vulnerable children, orphans, and the needy since 1995. Over 1,881 children have been empowered through holistic care, education, and opportunity.

#### Education Milestones

- 274 children graduated from secondary school
- 640 currently pursuing education
- 84 graduates completed University & Vocational Programme
- 146 enrolled in higher education
- 55 employed across Sierra Leone and abroad
- 28 actively seeking employment

**Gender Equity** Girls make up more than half of beneficiaries, affirming COTN's commitment to equal opportunity. **Community Impact** 93% of children are in Moyamba District, with outreach extending from Marjay Town to Banta. **Youth Empowerment** The launch of the **COTN-SL Brass Band** at last year's AGM brought joy and creativity, symbolizing empowerment and celebration.

**Global Partnerships** Guests from the USA visited villages in 2025, reinforcing the global support behind COTN's mission.

**Looking Ahead – 2026 and Beyond** COTN-SL remains committed to nurturing future leaders with courage, wisdom, and compassion to transform nations.

#### Mentorship and Advocacy Empowering Children



The **Spiritual Care Department** at COTN–Sierra Leone continues its mentorship initiative, engaging staff to guide and inspire children toward leadership and nation-building. Rooted in courage, faith, and guidance, the program encourages children to believe in themselves, face challenges with strength of character, and pursue their dreams with clarity and motivation.

Meanwhile, the **Social Care Department** has taken a creative approach to advocacy by involving pupils in a **drug abuse awareness campaign**. This initiative not only educates children about the dangers of substance abuse but also empowers them to become advocates for healthy living within their communities.



By combining mentorship with advocacy, COTN–Sierra Leone is nurturing a generation of responsible citizens equipped with both moral strength and social awareness.

#### School Feeding Program Boosts Education at Mallory Jansen School



The school feeding program at Mallory Jansen School, operated under Children of the Nations (COTN), is driving remarkable improvements in education by ensuring children receive daily nutritious meals. Supported by *Brighter Tomorrow for Africa (BTA)*, the initiative provides food and vegetables that have significantly increased school attendance, sharpened concentration, and enhanced overall academic performance.

Parents and teachers report that children are more motivated to attend classes, knowing they will be nourished and ready to learn. By combining nutrition with education, the program reflects COTN's holistic care approach, proving that strong learning outcomes depend not only on classrooms but also on the health and well-being of students.

School, operated under Children of the Nations (COTN), is providing continuous education from nursery through secondary school, giving children the opportunity to build strong academic foundations and grow into responsible young adults. COTN emphasizes holistic care, ensuring that education goes beyond classrooms by nurturing healthy, motivated students who are prepared to thrive at every stage of their schooling.

Since 1995, Children of the Nations Sierra Leone has remained steadfast in its mission to raise children who transform nations. From classrooms to community gatherings, from nourishing meals to spiritual growth, each program reflects our commitment to holistic impact.

The journey continues—every child educated, every meal shared, every life empowered is a step toward a brighter Sierra Leone. Together with our partners, staff, and supporters, we celebrate the progress made and embrace the future with faith, resilience, and hope.

COTN Sierra Leone: Building lives, shaping leaders, transforming nations.

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PEACE SALONE ENGAGES SCHOOL PUPILS ON THEIR RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS EDUCATION



Peoples Effort Advocating for Community Empowerment Sierra Leone (PEACE SALONE) has engaged pupils of the Methodist Girls High School in Bo on their rights and responsibilities towards education on this year's International Women's day, March 8, 2026.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of PEACE SALONE, Aruna Kamara, they engaged the female pupils in order for them to know their rights and responsibility as that will help them achieve quality education as they transition into womanhood to contribute to the development of the country.

Mr. Kamara said Gender and Social Protection is among the thematic areas enshrined in their five years strategic plan 2024-28, adding that as an organization, they received support from their board members to embark on this activity and that they are still seeking for support to enable them continue with the engagement of the school pupils to know about their rights and reasonability towards education.

PEACE SALONE CEO said that:" education is a fundamental human right recognized across the world, including by President Julius Maada Bio and that for pupils to benefit fully from education, they must understand both their rights and their responsibilities. These two aspects are closely connected because rights provide opportunities for learning, while responsibilities ensure that those opportunities are used properly.

The Gender and Child Protection Officer of PEACE SALONE, Madam Agness Kallon said that : "every pupil has the right to access education regardless of their background, gender, religion, or social status. No child should be denied the opportunity to attend school. In addition to access, pupils also have the right to quality education, which means they should be taught by trained teachers, provided with appropriate learning materials, and placed in an environment that supports effective learning."

Mrs. Kallon noted that "Pupils also have the right to safety and protection within the school environment. This includes freedom from bullying, abuse, and any form of discrimination. A school should be a place where learners feel secure and respected. Furthermore, pupils have the right to express themselves freely, as long as they do so respectfully. They should be able to ask questions, share ideas, and participate in classroom discussions without fear."

Another important right, she said "is equal treatment. All pupils should be treated fairly and given equal opportunities to succeed. In addition, pupils have the right to participate in school life, including joining clubs school health clubs, engaging in activities, and contributing to decisions that affect them."

According to her, "alongside these rights, pupils have important responsibilities and one of the main responsibilities is to attend school regularly and be punctual. Consistent attendance helps pupils keep up with their studies and perform well academically. Pupils are also expected to respect their teachers, school staff, and fellow students. Respect helps create a peaceful and productive learning environment."

She added that another key responsibility is completing academic work and that pupils are expected to do their homework, study for examinations, and actively participate in lessons. Maintaining discipline is also essential, as students must follow school rules and avoid behavior that disrupts learning.

Mr.Kallon said that " pupils also have a duty to care for school property. This means keeping classrooms clean and avoiding damage to books, furniture, and other facilities. In addition, they should promote a positive school environment by cooperating with others, avoiding bullying, and supporting their peers."

She said that rights and responsibilities are closely linked and cannot exist effectively without each other, pointing out that a pupil's right to learn can only be achieved when all students behave responsibly in class.

PEACE SALONE child protection officer said that similarly, a safe and supportive environment depends on everyone acting with respect and discipline, stressing that when responsibilities are ignored, the rights of others may be affected.

She concluded by saying that understanding both rights and responsibilities helps pupils develop good character and discipline and it also leads to better academic performance and a more organized school system, pupils act responsibly, conflicts are reduced, and the school becomes a more enjoyable place for everyone.

The administration of Methodist Girls High School landed the move taken by PEACE SALONE to engage the pupils on their rights and responsibility towards education as this is lacking because children are just concern about their rights, forgetting about their responsibility.

# FOCUS 1000

## BIG KOMBRA

### Empowering Local Leadership with Evidence-Based Knowledge for Life



*Safeguarding Lives Through Vaccination (SLTV) Project Supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*  
Across Bo, Pujehun, Moyamba, Bonthe, Kenema, and Western Area Rural, FOCUS1000 convened the BIG KOMBRA under the SLTV Project. The convening brought together Paramount Chiefs, Mayors, District Council officials, religious leaders, and civil society actors in a unified effort to strengthen community leadership for routine immunization.

#### What Made This Strategic?

- Paramount Chiefs formally integrated as the 7th component of the KOMBRA Network
- Strengthened coordination between traditional leadership and health systems
- District-level commitments to improve routine immunization coverage
- Reinforced accountability structures at the community level

*“Local leaders must champion child vaccination. When leaders speak, communities listen.”*  
— CEO, Mohamad Bailor Jalloh

#### Key Voices & Commitments

- Mr. Paul Sengeh emphasized evidence-based collaboration and local ownership
- Dr. Abu Pratt highlighted vaccination as a cost-effective investment in national development
- District leaders pledged to reach underserved and hard-to-reach communities
- Dr. James Jongopie (DMO, Pujehun) reaffirmed commitments to improving data quality and expanding outreach

#### Why It Matters

- Misinformation decreases
- Community trust increases
- More children are reached with life-saving vaccines
- The BIG KOMBRA model strengthens leadership, accountability, and sustainability—ensuring immunization becomes a community-owned movement, not just a health intervention.

#### Call to Action

- Local Leaders: Champion routine immunization in your communities
- Councils & Authorities: Integrate vaccination advocacy into district plans
- Community Members: Ensure every child completes their vaccination schedule
- FOCUS1000 [www.focus1000.org](http://www.focus1000.org) +232 790 60592 / +232 776 26453



Figure 1: Mohamad Bailor Jalloh Robes Stakeholders



## Empowering Dreams, Enriching Lives Scholarship Program Newsletter Report

Access to education remains a critical challenge in many underserved communities, where financial hardship often limits opportunity. The **Children In Need Organization (CINORG)**, a Sierra Leone-based NGO founded in 2018, is addressing this gap through its impactful **“Empowering Dreams, Enriching Lives” Scholarship Program**, implemented in Kroobay, Susans Bay, Mabella, Kolleh Town, and Crab Town Freetown, with support from **Global Giving**. The initiative is transforming the lives of vulnerable children by providing not just financial assistance, but also hope, direction, and a pathway to a better future.



CINORG has built a strong reputation for its grassroots approach, reaching thousands of beneficiaries across Sierra Leone by focusing on education and livelihoods. Its scholarship program, one of its flagship initiatives, is specifically designed to support disadvantaged students throughout their educational journey while fostering personal development, ambition, and resilience. By removing financial barriers, the program enables students to concentrate on their studies, build confidence, and develop a clear sense of purpose.

The program is guided by three core objectives: ensuring access to education through financial support, promoting academic excellence and personal growth, and fostering a culture of merit and achievement. These goals are reflected in the program's structure and results. Currently, the program supports **200 scholars**, including **80 at the primary level, 80 at the secondary level, and 40 at the**

**tertiary level**, ensuring a balanced and continuous support system across different stages of education.

The impact of the scholarship scheme is both measurable and meaningful. **90% of beneficiaries have shown improved academic performance**, demonstrating the direct effect of reduced financial stress and increased motivation. Additionally, **85% of scholars have developed clear career goals**, reflecting a shift from uncertainty to purpose. Beyond academics, students are also actively engaged in **community development initiatives**, reinforcing a strong sense of responsibility and civic engagement.

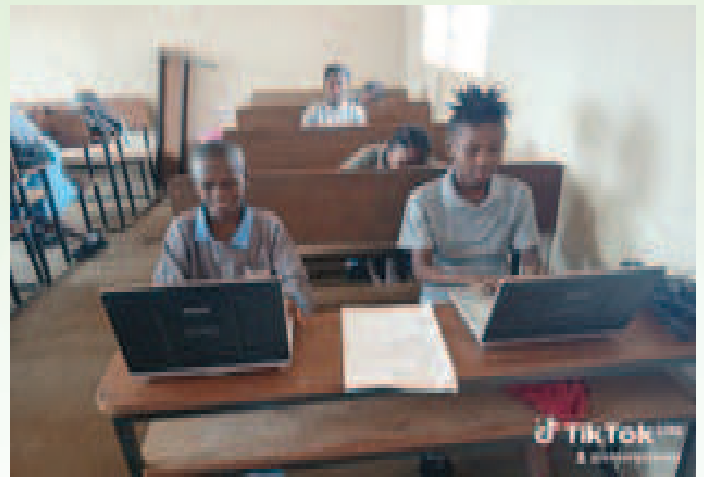
The voices of the scholars themselves highlight the program's transformative effect. Testimonials such as *“The scholarship has changed my life”* and *“I'm grateful for the support to pursue my dreams”* reveal the profound personal impact—extending beyond education into confidence, self-belief, and hope for the future.

To build on its success, CINORG has outlined key recommendations for growth. These include scaling up the scholarship program to reach more vulnerable students, introducing structured mentorship programs to guide and inspire scholars, and establishing partnerships with local businesses to provide internships and practical learning opportunities. These steps aim to strengthen both access and quality of education outcomes.



Looking ahead, CINORG remains committed to expanding the program's reach and deepening its impact. By continuing to invest in education, the organization is contributing to long-term community transformation. Each scholarship represents more than financial aid—it is an investment in potential, a tool for empowerment, and a step toward a more equitable future.

With the continued support of partners like Global Giving, CINORG is not only helping students succeed academically but also shaping responsible, driven individuals who will contribute meaningfully to their communities.



### GOAL SL Hands Over New Health Facilities and Solar-Powered Water System in Kenema and Moyamba

Sierra Leone continues to face gaps in maternal, child, and emergency healthcare. By improving infrastructure, WASH services, solar energy access, and staff conditions, GOAL works closely with government partners to enhance resilience and quality of care.

[GOAL Sierra Leone handed over two newly constructed health facilities](#) in Kenema District and a solar-powered water reticulation system at the Taiama Trauma Holding Centre in Moyamba. Delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Health and supported by Manverton, a Private Donor, and Bank of Ireland, these investments strengthen access to safe, reliable healthcare for rural communities.



Deputy Minister of Health, Prof. Charles Senessie, highlighted the urgent need for the improvements. He recalled a past incident where an accident victim died before reaching care due to the absence of a trauma centre. Although the Taiama Trauma Holding Centre was later built, it lacked water, a key requirement for hygiene and safe treatment. “I approached GOAL and urged that the facility needed water,” he said. “They not only provided water, but a full reticulation system.”

GOAL installed a solar-powered water system at the Taiama centre and handed over two fully equipped health facilities in Sandaru and Sembehun.

The facilities include labour and postnatal wards, EPI units, WASH systems, solar power, and in Sembehun, staff quarters to boost health worker retention.

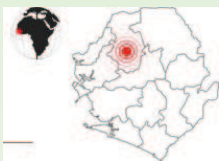
“These investments are designed to improve maternal and child health outcomes,” said James Riak, GOAL Sierra Leone's Country Director.

A mother, Jeneba Koroma, said: “I delivered two of my children in the old facility... sometimes women had to deliver on the floor. But my third child was born in the new clinic, and the experience was wonderful.”



Jeneba Koroma and her son in the new facility (1)  
Old Facility Labour room





## INTER AID SIERRA LEONE

### PLANTAIN ADOPTION IN RURAL KARENE: RESULTS AFTER THREE YEARS

In 2022, Inter Aide introduced plantain cultivation to around 900 families in rural Karene district. The initiative had a dual objective: to diversify food consumption and create a source of regular income, by distributing five adapted plantain banana suckers and supporting families in multiplying them.

The assessment conducted with 174 households shows that the vast majority of families have integrated plantain into their farming practices. After three years, 85% are still cultivating plantain and 75% have managed to maintain or increase their plantings: nearly half of the households now have at least 15 plants, a threshold that allows for regular production and significant sales.

Despite labor shortages, damage caused by animals, and theft, most families have managed to preserve and expand their initial plantings. Gradually, plantain starts to find its place in local production systems.

The benefits are tangible: 77% of families harvest enough plantain to both consume some of it and sell some bunches at the market, where demand is very high: *"I don't even have time to reach the luma [market] before my plantain is sold"*, says one of the early producers.

The income generated by families ranges from \$20 to \$40 USD per year. While seemingly modest, these earnings represent a valuable contribution toward school expenses, minor medical care, or urgent household needs. Several families emphasize the important role of these sales during the lean season, when income is scarce.

Another key point: the majority of plantain producers are women, which helps to strengthen their economic autonomy.

Masactaba - From the three plantain seedlings he received in 2019, Salman developed a **nearly one-hectare** field of plantain intercropped with yam and cucumber.

#### **The practices that make a difference**

The study conducted after three years shows that the most successful families were those who first focused on multiplying suckers before trying to maximize the production of bunches. This strategic choice allowed them to quickly increase the number of available plants.



These households have also adopted simple but effective practices to improve soil fertility: composting, mulching, adding organic fertilizer and, sometimes, association with legumes.

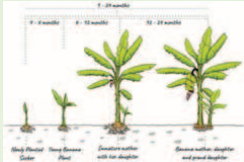
Regular exchanges with project technicians and those organized between farmers, play a key role in disseminating good practices and building confidence in this new crop.

Plantain is now proving to be a reliable crop, capable of providing both food and significant additional income for families.

#### **WE ARE GIVING YOU THE RECIPE!**

Each plant grows small shoots at its base. When these shoots have 3–4 leaves, carefully cut them off and replant them further away. With mulch and a little compost, the plants produce even more shoots.

In 3 years, you can go from 5 to 15 plants, **and** your bunches will be ready for harvest!



## GREENLIFE

### Communities Leading the Way: Restoring Mangroves and Building Climate Resilience in the Sherbro River Estuary

Mangroves are crucial for communities and nature, protecting shorelines, supporting fisheries, storing carbon, and providing livelihoods. Their loss causes flooding, a decline in fish species, and increases climate vulnerability.

GREENLIFE West Africa, with BirdLife International's support, is restoring mangroves and creating resilience in 12 communities in the Sherbro River Estuary, Bonthe District, Sierra Leone.

The project began with an inception meeting in September 2025, attended by community leaders, fishers, women, and youth. Since then, it has:

- Identified degraded sites for restoration
- Established nurseries in five communities
- Revived Mangrove Restoration Committees
- Restored five hectares of degraded areas

In January 2026, 240 residents from 12 communities were trained on mangrove ecology and management. GREENLIFE West Africa also conducted mangrove conservation awareness sessions across six coastal communities—Keiga, Yargoi, Momaya, Gbongboma, York Island, and Jayahun—employing visual posters and interactive discussions. A total of 99 community members (36 females and 63 males) participated in these outreach activities, which emphasized the importance of mangroves for coastal protection, fisheries, and climate resilience.

A Town Chief, Mamie Tamba, said, “Serving as a custodian of our mangroves is a proud moment. It means protecting our heritage today and securing a better future for the next generation.”

The project also trains Village Savings and Loan Associations in financial management and sustainability.

A participant, Mariama Tucker-Bendu added, “Managing and saving money helps us plan for our children's future and support each other.”

The project will also establish environmental clubs in 5 schools, construct embankments in 3 flood-prone communities, continue to promote conservation initiatives through radio broadcasts and community meetings, and enhance capacity in sustainable oyster harvesting.

Learn More: Visit GREENLIFE West Africa: <https://greenlifewa.org>

**Call to Action:** *Healthy mangroves mean safer coastlines, stronger livelihoods, and resilient communities. Support community-led conservation in Sierra Leone.*



A practical session for the planting of mangroves by community members in Momaya Community



A member of the Mangroves Restoration Committee watering the nursery in York Island Community



## BUILDING PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

MARCH TO APRIL

# HIGHLIGHT



The Association of Language and Literacy Educators-Reading Sierra Leone (TALLE-RSL) with its vision and mission please, read through our website [www.tallersl.org](http://www.tallersl.org) Are tailored with our core values, one of them is "Empowerment and wellbeing". We empower our staff with best organizational best practices that portrays accountability, resilience and sustainability. This is in response to one writer who said ..."If you create a great place to work, great work takes place". 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.



**PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONFERENCE BY MBSSE - MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2026**

TALLE-RSL, is excited to highlight the remarkable progress we have made in advancing literacy and teacher empowerment across Sierra Leone. Our recent certification of 160 pre-service teachers, the promotion of Reading Clubs in the four districts of the Teaching and Learning in Fragile contexts Projects and also Certifies teacher of the teaching matters research Project in Port Loko and Kenema District. This demonstrate our unwavering commitment to building a resilient and inclusive education system. Through strong partnerships, inclusive practices, and a focus on sustainability, we are transforming learning experiences and fostering a culture of reading that will benefit generations to come. We remain dedicated to scaling our initiatives and influencing national education policy to ensure every child has access to quality literacy education.

### **CERTIFIED 160 PRE-SERVICE STUDENTS IN 4 TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

In March, 2026, TALLE-RSL prioritizes empowering young women and men through inclusive teacher development. In partnership with CODENGO in Canada and with support from Global Affairs Canada, the Teaching and Learning in Fragile Contexts Project (TLFC) certified its third cohort of 160 pre-service teachers across four institutions:

EBKUST Port Loko (38),

Freetown

Polytechnic (29), Njala University Bo (53), and Eastern Technical University (40). These teachers successfully completed their Practicum under the supervision of trained teacher educators/ lecturers.

For more information, kindly check our website:

[www.tallersl.org](http://www.tallersl.org)

### **TALLE-READING SIERRA LEONE AT THE WEST AFRICA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

TALLE-RSL was honored to participate in the West Africa Youth Symposium, a strictly-by invitation high-level gathering convened by Future Perspectives in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone – Ministry of Information and Civic Education. For more information, kindly check our website: [www.tallersl.org](http://www.tallersl.org)



TALLE-RSL was honoured to be invited by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to participate in a two-day National Conference on the theme:

"English Language Performance - Addressing the Issues Impacting National Development."

The gathering was championed by the result-oriented Minister of MBSSE- Conrad Sacky and supported by Orange, UBA and Human Capital Development Plus. It brought together Education Stakeholders, NGOs, parliamentarians, pupils, paramount chiefs, University Leaders, academics, MBSSE, MTHE, TSC, WAEC, and civil society representatives-all united in constructive dialogue on strengthening English Language performance as a Driver for National Development.

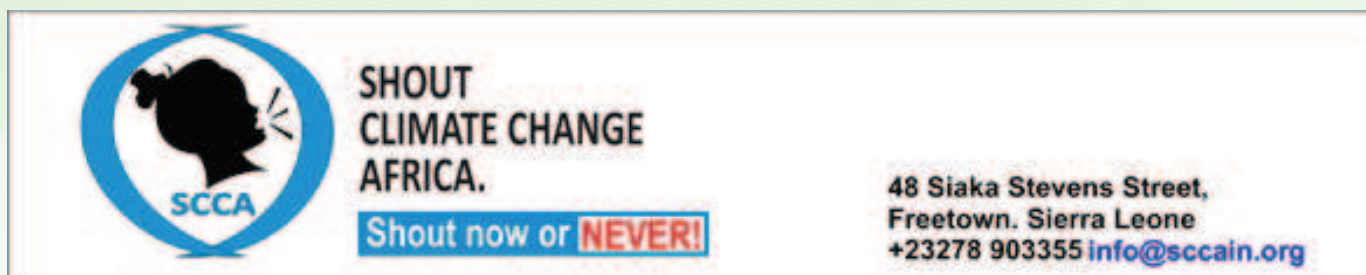
We are professionally proud to have contributed to this important conversation on English language proficiency education and development in Sierra Leone

#### EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS' VIRTUAL MEETING

In April 8<sup>th</sup> 2026, TALLE-Reading Sierra Leone, in partnership with [CODE NGO](#), has successfully concluded the Teaching and Learning in Fragile Contexts (TLFC) Education Stakeholders' Virtual Meeting with the [WE-CARE Foundation](#) in Liberia. For more information, kindly check our Facebook Page: The Association of Language and Literacy Educators-Reading Sierra Leone



## Pregnancy not Safe with Climate Change



### By: Shout Climate Change Africa

A terrifying new shadow has fallen over the delivery rooms of Sierra Leone, threatening to undo decades of blood, sweat, and tears shed in the name of maternal survival. Just as the nation began to celebrate a miraculous triumph in its war against maternal mortality, achieving a staggering drop from 1,682 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to a hard-won 354 in 2023; a silent, invisible killer has emerged from the sweltering horizon. In a chilling revelation that has sent shockwaves through the global healthcare community, the Mama Pikin Foundation has sounded the alarm; that climate crisis is no longer a distant environmental debate; it is a direct, life-threatening assault on the womb. The numbers tell a story of a nation under siege by the elements. While the country has fought a grueling battle to ensure that a pregnancy is no longer a death sentence, the mercury is rising to record-breaking highs that the human body was never meant to endure. Clinical experts are now drawing a direct, terrifying line between the scorching sun, suffocating urban emissions, and a sudden, violent surge in pregnancy-induced hypertension and pre-eclampsia. These are not merely statistics; they are the precursors to the heartbreak of increased stillbirths and the desperate struggle of newborns arriving far too early. Momodu Sesay, spokesperson from the Mama Pikin Foundation revealed the grim, sweat-soaked reality of the clinical frontlines, at the recently concluded commemorative NGO Week with the theme: **Collaboration, Sustainability and Local Empowerment**; held at the Miata Conference Centre. He warned that the excessive heat and environmental stress women face, both in their own homes and within the walls of stifling, uncooled medical facilities, are directly responsible for an exacerbation in preterm births and dangerously low birth weights.

What was once considered a localized weather concern has officially mutated into a national medical emergency. The very air that mothers breathe and the sun that shines on their backs have become active participants in a crisis that threatens the health of an entire generation. In a bold, desperate move to shield the nation's future from this environmental onslaught, the Mama Pikin Foundation has unveiled its pioneering Climate Resilience Toolkit. This survival strategy moves beyond the boundaries of traditional medicine, effectively turning routine Antenatal Care sessions into high-stakes survival briefings. Under this new initiative, pregnant women are being taught life-saving-heat-coping mechanisms, while healthcare workers are being trained to maintain a standard of compassionate care while operating under the punishing physical stresses of facilities that lack cooling systems. The Foundation is now issuing an urgent, high-decibel rallying cry to the government and international stakeholders to scale this toolkit nationwide before the heat claims more lives. As the climate shifts, the message from the frontlines is clear; according to Sesay, the fight for maternal health has moved from the sterile confines of the operating room to the very atmosphere itself. "To save the mothers of Sierra Leone, we can no longer just rely on medicine; we must now learn how to survive the sun."

**Gbondapi Community, Pujehun District, Southern Sierra Leone**

In Gbondapi community, Pujehun district, the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) project implemented by GrACESD-SL with support from UNICEF and funded by the Government of Iceland has transformed lives, providing clean water and sanitary facilities to two schools and a Peripheral Health Unit (PHU). This initiative is part of a broader effort to boost climate-resilient water supply in Sierra Leone, which has dramatically reduced waterborne diseases and improved health for thousands of people who use the facilities.

Key highlights of this successful intervention include:

- **Improved Health and Access:** Residents and business people from other coastal communities and big towns in Sierra Leone who previously relied on unsafe streams during periodic market days, now have access to clean, reliable water and Communal toilet in the community, significantly reducing cases of waterborne illnesses.
- **School and Health Center Transformation:** The project included the construction of sanitation facilities and two solar powered boreholes with 22 tap stands which supports the community, two primary schools and a PHU, ensuring children can learn and patients can be treated in a sanitary environment.
- **Sustainability and Community Ownership:** The project, targets water supply, sanitation and Hygiene services which aims to tackle the impacts of climate change on water access and provide sustainable solutions for rural communities. This project included the formation and training of local WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) committees, supporting the WASHCOM to register as a Community Based Organization and opening a

bank account where they will save User fees collected for the operation and maintenance of the water system. The training of school management committees, School Health Clubs in maintaining facilities which will ensure long-term functionality, and empowers women by involving them in the WASH committees.










Madam Baindu Kamara the Chairlady of Gbondapi WASHCOM stated in one of the community engagement meetings that the project has greatly helped them in providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in the community. The people who visits the community on market days now use the communal toilets which has reduced open defaecation in the community especially on periodic market days when a large number of business people converge to that community to buy and sell their goods. Also the installation of street solar lights helps the oncoming boats from other coastal villages to safely slam at the jetty especially at night, the solar street lights have also minimize the activities of thieves who are more active in dark places. Finally for her personally, in addition to the benefits she gets from the project interventions, she views her involvement in the WASHCOM as an opportunity that have exposed her to banking institutions since she is one of the signatories to the WASHCOM account. She has even opened a bank account where she saves money she gets from her fish business she does in the community. Before this time, she thought it was very difficult to open an operate a bank account. This has brought stability to her income as it now looks safe and secured.

*SLANGO Newsletter July 2026*

The project was implemented by a national NGO Grassroot Action for Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development (GrACESD-SL) in collaboration with Gbondapi WASHCOM, Pujehun District Council, District Offices of Ministry of Water

Resources and Sanitation, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. UNICEF was the Implementing Agency and Funding was provided by the Government of Iceland

**Photos**

		
<p>Maam Baidu Kamara</p>	<p>Communal latrine block</p>	<p>Tap stand constructed in the community</p>
		
<p>30m3 water tower</p>	<p>30m3 water tower</p>	<p>Pumping House protecting the bore Hole</p>
		
<p>Solar pumps and accessories are installed</p>		<p>Tap stand with running water</p>

## MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES:

### COMPLEMENTING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF MEDICAL STAFF IN SIERRA LEONE

Following the impact of the Ebola epidemic on Sierra Leone's healthcare workforce, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) established the MSF Academy for Healthcare in Kenema District to strengthen the skills and competencies of front line health workers. The Academy was designed to address critical gaps in clinical practice and to generate long-term improvements in the quality of care delivered across health facilities. Sierra Leone continues to face significant maternal health challenges and remains among the ten countries with the highest maternal mortality rates worldwide, recording 354 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023. In response, MSF built and opened a hospital in Hangha, Kenema District. The facility began providing healthcare services to children in 2019 and expanded in 2022 to include care for pregnant and lactating women. The MSF Academy supported this hospital and MSF-supported primary healthcare facilities across the district through targeted, work-based learning programmes that strengthened clinical skills and promoted patient safety. From 2018 to 2025, the Academy trained 345 national healthcare workers in nursing care and ethical practices, Infection Prevention and Control, patient assessment, support during labour and delivery, and surgical care. These trainings were delivered through structured programmes such as Basic Clinical Nursing Care, Outpatient Care, Midwifery Clinical Care, Opening Theatre Nursing Care, and Community Healthcare Officer programmes. The competency-based curricula combined theoretical learning with supervised workplace practice. Assessment results demonstrated improvements in participants' confidence, clinical decision-making, and the quality of care provided to patients. "Changing our gloves after every procedure was something the Academy reinforced," says Gbassa Josphine Jinnah, a nurse in the hospital's inpatient department. "It was my dream to become a competent nurse, and I am proud to have completed this training." A defining feature of the Academy was the use of peer clinical mentors who coached learners at patients' bedsides. "The mentors and learners brought passion and a desire to teach and learn," says Randi Movich, MSF Academy Pedagogical Manager in Sierra Leone.

As the MSF Academy concluded its support in May 2025, trained healthcare workers continue to uphold higher standards of care nationwide. By investing in and replicating this model, partners and stakeholders can help ensure safer deliveries, stronger infection control, and improved healthcare outcomes across Sierra Leone. A Caesarean section being conducted in the operating theatre (OT) of the MSF-supported Hangha hospital in Kenema District. The OT nurses and midwives participated in training programmes offered by the MSF Academy for Healthcare.

Médecins Sans Frontières: Complementing the Knowledge and Skills of Medical Staff in Sierra Leone Following the impact of the Ebola epidemic on Sierra Leone's healthcare workforce, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) established the MSF Academy for Healthcare in Kenema District to strengthen the skills and competencies of frontline health workers. The Academy was designed to address critical gaps in clinical practice and to generate long term improvements in the quality of care delivered across health facilities. Sierra Leone continues to face significant maternal health challenges and remains among the ten countries with the highest maternal mortality rates worldwide, recording 354 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023. In response, MSF built and opened a hospital in Hangha, Kenema District. The facility began providing healthcare services to children in 2019 and expanded in 2022 to include care for pregnant and lactating women. The MSF Academy supported this hospital and MSF-supported primary healthcare facilities across the district through targeted, work based learning programmes that strengthened clinical skills and promoted patient safety. From 2018 to 2025, the Academy trained 345 national healthcare workers in nursing care and ethical practices, Infection Prevention and Control, patient assessment, support during labour and delivery, and surgical care. These trainings were delivered through structured programmes such as Basic Clinical Nursing Care, Outpatient Care, Midwifery Clinical Care, Opening Theatre Nursing Care, and Community Healthcare Officer programmes.

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## IMAGINE SIERRA LEONE

### Pikin Tab: Putting Learning in Children's Hands Across Sierra Leone



Pikin Tab is a child-directed, adaptive learning program delivered to students on a solar-powered tablet with no internet connection required. Designed to reach children in even the most under-resourced schools, the program is government-led and implemented by Imagine Sierra Leone alongside Sierra Leone's Ministry of Basic and Secondary School Education, the office of the Mayor of Freetown and organisations within Sierra Leone.

**How does it work?** Children in Classes 1 to 4 use tablets for about 30 minutes a day, five days a week, learning at their own pace. The adaptive software from onebillion guides beginners through lessons and adjusts to each child's level. Teachers are central to this program as they facilitate sessions as children drive their own learning, making the model effective even in schools where qualified teachers are few.

### Early results are promising



In the 2024-25 school year, Imagine Worldwide's research across 72 schools showed that learners accumulated an average of 40 hours of tablet learning time. By year's end, children made statistically significant improvements in both literacy and numeracy. The share of learners reaching emergent or fluent status more than doubled; rising 2.7 times in literacy and 2.4 times in numeracy. A gender gap in maths that existed at the start of the year had fully closed by the end, with girls catching up entirely to their male peers.

### A government-owned future

In December 2024, Sierra Leone's Government committed to rolling out Pikin Tab nationwide. Imagine Worldwide has a formal agreement to reach 750 schools by the end of 2026, serving over 150,000 students annually.

**Learn more:** [imagineworldwide.org/our-work/sierra-leone](https://imagineworldwide.org/our-work/sierra-leone)

**Photo Credits:** SEND & Rising Academies

**PROJECT HOPE · SIERRA LEONE**

**Born Too Soon, But Not Alone: Project HOPE's Fight to Give Every Sierra Leonean Newborn a Chance at Life**

Sierra Leone's neonatal mortality rate stands at 31 deaths per 1,000 live births — 30% of all under-five deaths. Prematurity, birth asphyxia, and infection are the leading killers. Dedicated nurses, equipped with the right training, can change this.

<b>84</b> BSc students enrolled since 2020	<b>30</b> MSc scholarships awarded	<b>2</b> First KMC units in Sierra Leone
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**Building the first specialist neonatal nursing workforce**  
 In 2019, Project HOPE partnered with [COMAHS](#) and [Jefferson College of Nursing](#) to develop Sierra Leone's first [BSc in Paediatric and Neonatal Nursing](#) — built from scratch with faculty training, clinical mentorship, and international twinning.  
 The first cohort of **13 graduates** qualified in 2021 and are now working in KMC and Special Care Baby Units across the country. **84 students** have enrolled to date.  
 In 2022, the **MSc in Paediatric and Neonatal Nursing** was established — Sierra Leone's first postgraduate neonatal programme. **30 full scholarships** were awarded to students.

**Frontline training**

- **Essential Newborn Care (ENC) Levels 1 & 2** — resuscitation, infection control, thermoregulation
- **Neonatal Preceptorship Programme** — structured mentored clinical experience in SCBUs and KMC units
- **Jefferson College Fellowship** — COMAHS faculty paired with US neonatal nurse educators

**Kangaroo Mother Care**

Project HOPE established **Sierra Leone's first two KMC units** in 2017 at Ola During Children's Hospital and Bo Government Hospital. The Bo unit averages **50 admissions/month** — up 70% in 2022. UNICEF has since requested HOPE's technical support to expand KMC to additional districts.

**For SLANGO members:** Advocate for protected specialist nursing posts, scholarship funding, and neonatal clinical infrastructure to build on these gains.

Learn more [projecthope.org/country/sierra-leone](https://projecthope.org/country/sierra-leone)

Sources: Project HOPE Programme Report 2017–2022 · WHO 2016 · UNICEF 2021



A mother practising Kangaroo Mother Care, Sierra Leone





**Unlocking rural Sierra Leone's productive potential with inclusive access to solar energy**

**The Climate Solidarity in Action:**

**Founded in 1976**, Geres is a French development NGO:

- Working to **improve living conditions** and tackle **climate change and its impacts**;
- Seeing the **energy transition** as a key driver for sustainable change;
- Promotes **innovative, locally adapted solutions**;
- Supports **climate and energy policies**;
- And fosters **climate solidarity** to mobilize stakeholders and support the most vulnerable.

For more information:

<https://www.geres.eu/en/>



• Energy Business Area (EBA) model

In West Africa, Geres is active in **Mali, Benin, Togo, Senegal (via partnership)** and now in **Sierra Leone (from April 2025)**.

The Geres arrived in Sierra Leone with a **4-years project** (until end of Dec. 2028) **funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** and named - **Energy for Business (E4B)** -:

- Construction & establishment of **3 Energy Business Areas (EBA)**
- **Support of mini-grid private operators** to meet the productive users (PUEs) demand
- Installation of **25 solar kits for PUEs** (focus on agrobusinesses groups)
- **75 entrepreneurs** (with a priority given to women & youth entrepreneurs) connected to renewable energy and supported in their business according to their needs.

The main expected objectives and impacts of the E4B are to:

- **Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission;**
- **Boost productivity and strengthen economic resilience in rural areas;**
- **Improve rural access to goods and services;**
- **Test innovative access to energy models.**

It took several months for Geres Sierra Leone's initial team to establish its operations, including setting up a new office and recruiting staff. The organization is now based at **27b Old Signal Hill Road in Freetown** and has built a team of **16 employees so far**.



Part of the new Geres Team in Sierra Leone in their new office



Precious leads a Focus group with women in a potential targeted village.



*John interview a tailor in a potential targeted village on his entrepreneurial activity.*

Geres Sierra Leone is currently in the phase of identifying target villages for the establishment of **Energy Business Areas (EBAs)** and engaging with mini-grid operators. Based on preliminary survey results, the project is likely to focus on the districts of **Kambia, Moyamba, and Bo**.



*Precious leads a Focus group with women in a potential targeted village.*

Funded by:  

## DEVELOP AFRICA SIERRA LEONE MAJOR INTERVENTION FOR 2025

### INTRODUCTION

At DASL, we remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting sustainable development across Sierra Leone. Our approach is guided by three strategic pillars: capacity building, empowerment, and transformational education. Through these focus areas, we work to equip individuals and communities with the tools and opportunities needed to thrive. Our programs are implemented across four districts: Western Area, Bo, Bombali, and Karene, targeting key areas such as child education, malaria prevention, youth-friendly spaces, and interest-free microfinance support. These interventions are designed to address critical social challenges while fostering long-term community resilience.



### YEAR OF THE PENCIL-NOVEMBER 2025

A major highlight of DASL's 2025 programming is the **"Year of the Pencil"** initiative, a flagship project designed to bridge the gap in access to essential learning materials among school children. Recognizing that something as simple as a pencil can determine whether a child actively participates in learning, DASL implemented this large-scale intervention across Freetown.

The distribution exercise was successfully carried out on **20th November 2025**, during which **100,000 pencils were distributed in a single day** to 10,000 pupils across twenty schools, including: Pentecostal Primary School, FAWE Primary School for Girls, Stella Maris Primary, Rural Education Community Primary School (REC), Dantrimark Academy, Harvest Primary school, Hope academy for Girls, Emmett Primary School, Rural Education Community Primary School (REC), D. T. Akibo-Betts Municipal Infant Primary School, East End Municipal Infant Primary School, E. J. Robinson Municipal Infant Primary School, Islamia Municipal Infant Primary School, Juba Army Municipal Infant Primary School, Kingtom Police Infant Primary School,

Model Municipal infant Primary School, Murray Town Municipal Infant Primary School, Regent Square Municipal Infant Primary School, Tower Hill Municipal Infant Primary School Each beneficiary received a pencil kit containing 10 pencils and 2 sharpeners, addressing the widespread lack of basic writing materials among pupils. This intervention improved classroom participation, attentiveness, and students' ability to complete assignments. The **"Year of the Pencil"** initiative led to increased confidence, motivation, and a stronger sense of ownership over learning among pupils.

Additionally, the project promoted equity by ensuring all students had access to essential tools, reducing disparities and easing the burden on teachers. Overall, the initiative demonstrates DASL's commitment to delivering impactful, community driven programs that support education, improve livelihoods, and drive long-term development in Sierra Leone.



### Conclusion

In conclusion, the *“Year of the Pencil”* initiative highlights the powerful impact of simple interventions in education. By providing 100,000 pencils to 10,000 pupils, DASL helped remove a key barrier to learning, improving participation, confidence, and inclusion in the classroom. The project reflects DASL's continued commitment to ensuring that every child has the basic tools needed to succeed.

## CAUSE CANADA



**BANDO MARAH – CAUSE CANADA SIERRA LEONE PARTNERSHIP'S NEW COUNTRY DIRECTOR**

### Bando Marah

Bando Marah is a seasoned sustainable development and humanitarian professional with over a decade of experience advancing gender-responsive, inclusive, and community-driven programming across Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and supported programs in East Africa and Asia. He has held senior strategic roles including Senior Education Advisor, Programs Director, Advocacy Manager, Child Protection Specialist (Gender Focal Person), and Senior Program Officer, shaping integrated approaches to quality education, child protection, gender equality, disability inclusion, and youth development. His work centers on promoting the rights and wellbeing of children, particularly girls, women, and persons with disabilities through evidence-driven programming, safeguarding, community engagement, and social-norm change. Bando contributes to national and international platforms and technical working groups on child welfare, quality and inclusive education, social-emotional learning, and early childhood development. He holds a bachelor's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and M.A. in Sustainable Development. Notably, Bando and his family benefited from CAUSE's programs while he was a high-school student, shaping his lifelong commitment to community-led development.

### About CAUSE Canada

CAUSE Canada is a Christian, international development and relief organization working in West Africa and Central America to break the cycle of extreme poverty among the most vulnerable populations by partnering and building capacity with marginalized communities.

In 1988, CAUSE Canada began operations in Sierra Leone and then established CAUSE Canada Sierra Leone Partnership (CCSLP) that same year. CCSLP has directly supported the formal education sector since its beginning through construction, supplies, teacher trainings, and programs for preschool, primary and secondary schools, and university students. Throughout its history, CCLSP has strengthened Mothers' Clubs, community-based female groups that promote and support children's access, retention, and completion of school, as a mean of sustainably helping children, especially girls return to and stay in school.

The Wi Eat Waiting We Dea Plant (We Eat What We Plant) project aims to improve sustainable access to a healthy and balanced food basket for primary school students in vulnerable rural communities of the Koinadugu and Falaba Districts of Sierra Leone.

Seeking to create lasting solutions, the school feeding programs are established and owned by the community.

**Inclusion of Men in Mothers' Clubs and School Cooking Activities** Most recently, the project was established in the communities of Sarakoh and Bendukura.



In these communities, schools are piloting an innovative and promising shift in community engagement by deliberately including fathers and male guardians in activities traditionally led by Mothers' Clubs. Through this approach, several groups have begun redefining themselves as "Parent Support Groups," reflecting a more inclusive model of shared responsibility for children's wellbeing. This change is creating new spaces for men to actively contribute to school-based initiatives that support nutrition, care, and learning.

Male volunteers now participate alongside women in key tasks such as meal preparation, firewood collection, and the maintenance of school kitchens. Their involvement has helped to significantly reduce the labour burden historically carried by women, while also improving the efficiency and organization of daily cooking activities. . . Parents have also noted that working together has increased opportunities for shared learning around nutrition, food safety, and hygiene practices, strengthening overall program quality.

Ongoing community sensitization and dialogue are playing a critical role in these shifts, in challenging traditional gender norms, and normalizing men's involvement in caregiving and domestic roles. Both male and female participants have reported positive experiences, noting improved cooperation at home and a strengthened sense of collective ownership over the school feeding program. Many men have shared that their participation has deepened their understanding of children's nutritional needs and reinforced their role as caregivers, not only providers. Initiatives that promote inclusive participation across genders, contribute directly to building more equitable, resilient, and cohesive community structures. Ensuring that all community members have meaningful roles in school feeding programs enhances long-term sustainability and accountability. The experience in Sarakoh and Bendukura demonstrates that when caregiving responsibilities are shared, both families and schools' benefits create a stronger foundation for child wellbeing and community development.

*This initiative is implemented in partnership with CAUSE Canada, ECOWAS, and AECID under the ECOWAS PMAI-AO framework.*

## DON BOSCO

### FROM THE STREET TO STABILITY: TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES AT DON BOSCO FAMBUL

From January 2025 to date, Don Bosco Fambul has continued to make significant progress in protecting, rehabilitating, and empowering vulnerable children and young people across its two campuses in Freetown—Fort Street and the Therapy Centre at Daring Town/Baoma Village.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

##### Girls Shelter Plus Department

This department supports street-connected girls under 18 who are involved in prostitution. It provides safe shelter, care, rehabilitation, and skills training in tailoring, cosmetology, catering, auto mechanics, and formal education opportunities.

119 girls rehabilitated

69 reunified with families

13 reintegrated for independent living

37 currently undergoing rehabilitation and skills training

##### Girls Shelter Department (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

154 girls supported

117 successfully reunified following court processes

37 currently receiving psychological support while awaiting justice

##### Child Care Centre Department

This department provides care and protection for street-connected children, including those who have experienced physical violence, trafficking, or are lost or missing.

157 boys supported

119 reunified with families

38 currently undergoing rehabilitation

##### Group Home Department

This department shelters street-connected boys aged 16–19, including those who cannot be reunified after completing rehabilitation, as well as boys directly taken from the streets. They stay for one year and receive intensive skills training in welding, auto mechanics, tailoring, catering, and agriculture.

45 boys rehabilitated

26 reunified with families (several have gained admission into tertiary institutions)

19 currently in rehabilitation and acquiring skills

##### Therapy and Psychosocial Support

Over 1,000 therapy sessions conducted across four More than 28 caregivers trained in bonding and emotional attachment 10 beneficiaries received specialized drug abuse prevention counselling

##### Hospital Department

In addition to providing medical care to beneficiaries, the department has expanded its services to the wider community:

547 free cataract surgeries conducted since January 2025

At our Fort Street campus, the Pademba Prison Project has served as a beacon of hope for inmates within the correctional service, reaching over 1,400 beneficiaries.

The Mobile Project has engaged more than 500 street-connected children, both girls and boys, providing essential outreach and support services.

The Childline Project, a free toll service for reporting abuse and seeking help, receives over 200 calls daily from victims and concerned individuals.

Meanwhile, the Hope Plus Project continues to provide critical support to vulnerable girls, helping them rebuild their lives and secure a better future.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

These interventions are more than just numbers—they represent lives redirected, trauma healed, and futures rebuilt. Through integrated services that combine shelter, legal support, education, and therapy, Don Bosco Fambul continues to restore dignity and hope to children who once lived on the margins.

#### CALL TO ACTION

Join us in strengthening this impact:

-Partner with us to expand rehabilitation and reintegration programmes

-Support skills training initiatives that prepare young people for independence

-Advocate for child protection policies that safeguard vulnerable children

#### To learn more or collaborate, visit:

**Website:** <https://donboscofambul.org>

**Facebook:** Don Bosco Fambul – Freetown

Together, we can ensure that every child has a safe place to grow, heal, and thrive.





## PIKIN-TO-PIKIN MOVEMENT

### P2P Restores Hope for Children of KLDEC Primary School in Buedu



Pikin-To-Pikin Movement (P2P) has restored renewed hope for the children of Buedu community in Kissi Tongi Chiefdom, Kailahun District, having successfully completed the rehabilitation of the Kailahun District Education Committee (KLDEC) Primary School. The project was funded by Forum for Rural and Urban Transformation (FORUT) Norway, and All We Can UK.

In May 2025, a devastating windstorm struck and destroyed the KLDEC school roof, causing extensive damage to the six-classroom building including teaching and learning materials. The incident disrupted education for 403 pupils and 10 teachers, leaving them to cope with unsafe and inadequate learning conditions.

The rehabilitation process integrated key disaster risk reduction measures to ensure long-term safety and resilience. The building was reinforced with concrete tie beams, strengthened pillars and corners, and improved ceiling joints. Steel doors were installed, while proper drainage systems and pavement of classrooms were also done to enhance durability and comfort. The entire building has been freshly painted, making it more attractive.

To further improve the learning environment, new furniture was provided, including 150 desks, 17 chairs, 7 tables, 7 shelves, and 2 cupboards. In addition, three solar lantern lights were installed, enhancing security and allowing pupils to study even after sunset.

The building has been officially handed over and reopened, marking a new chapter for the community. Pupils have returned to classrooms filled with excitement and renewed ambition. Teachers report increased motivation, while parents and community members have expressed deep gratitude for the intervention.

This intervention compliments Government of Sierra Leone's Free Quality Education Program and stands as a powerful example of how collaborative efforts can restore hope, dignity, and opportunity for children.



## BREAKING GROUND FOR LEARNING IN KAILAHUN AND YAMS FARM

### Breaking Ground for Learning in Kailahun and Yams

#### Farm

Royal David City Development Foundation advances secondary, tertiary and skills education in Sierra Leone

Royal David City Development Foundation is building an education-focused vision in Levuma Mondu, Mandu Chiefdom, Kailahun District and Yams Farm Freetown. The organization has secured 12 acres at kailahun district and 1 acre and 6 town lot at Yams farm for development, and its education work is anchored in Royal David Academy, Royal Wisdom University, literacy programmes and practical skills training designed to expand opportunity for orphanage, young people and communities.

#### Key education initiatives include:

- **Royal David Academy:** JSS and SSS providing quality secondary education in Kailahun, guided by the motto “Study to Approve Yourself.”
- **Royal Wisdom University:** A proposed university intended to widen access to higher education for Sierra Leoneans and currently seeking academic partners.
- **Royal Industrial Center:** Technical and vocational training for youth and women in carpentry, tailoring, ICT, agriculture and related livelihood skills.
- **Literacy programmes:** The foundation summarises its education mission simply as “education for all.”

Recent groundbreaking activities at Levuma Mondu show the organisation moving from vision to implementation. The ceremony brought together community stakeholders around the wider Royal David City development and reflects a local commitment to education-led transformation in Kailahun District.

**Call to action:** SLANGO members, educators, academic institutions, donors and development partners are invited to support school infrastructure, teaching and learning materials, vocational equipment, scholarships and institutional partnerships that can help bring these programmes to life.

Learn more: <https://royaldavidcity.netlify.app/>

*Project banner highlighting the foundation's educational programmes and related initiatives.*



Groundbreaking ceremony at Levuma Mondu, signalling the start of development for the wider Royal David City vision.

Sources: [Royal David City website](https://royaldavidcity.netlify.app/); images provided by Royal David City Development Foundation.

## CARITAS FREETOWN BENEFICIARIES' SUCCESS STORIES

The REAR Project Presents

### From Shadows to Stitches: How Isatu Kamara Found Her "Right Conditions to Grow"

Nineteen-year-old Isatu Kamara arrived at the Kush Rehabilitation and Empowerment Project in Makomba Village feeling lost. Struggling with tramadol misuse and emotional withdrawal, she was quiet, isolated, and uncertain if a future even existed for her.

However, recovery isn't just about stopping; it's about starting again. Through a blend of counseling, music therapy, and hands-on agricultural work, Isatu began to transform. She discovered that, much like the crops she tended, she simply needed the right environment to flourish.

Isatu's breakthrough came through vocational training. She discovered a natural talent for **tailoring and garment making**, which gave her a renewed sense of purpose. Coupled with structured family reunification support, she rebuilt the bridges that addiction had weakened.

*"I am like the garden. I just needed the right conditions to grow."* — **Isatu Kamara**

Today, Isatu is back home in Freetown, pursuing a career in fashion. She hasn't forgotten where she came from; she regularly visits the facility to mentor other young women, proving that recovery is possible with the right support system.



Isatu's journey was made possible through compassionate care and empowerment. You can support similar success stories by:

- **Partnering** with our rehabilitation initiatives.
- **Donating** tailoring equipment or agricultural tools.

- **Advocating** for better psychosocial support services in Sierra Leone
- The project is implemented by Caritas Freetown with support from Visio Sense Fronteres
- Visit the Caritas Freetown Website (<https://caritasfreetown.org>) – [Learn more about our active projects.](#)
- Partner with Us – Join our mission to empower local livelihoods.

A clear, high-resolution photo of Isatu Kamara with her colleagues on an excursion at Bureh and Kent Village, smiling and dancing.



## THE DISASTER RESILIENT AND MITIGATION PROJECT PRESENTS

### From Flood Recovery to Green Growth: Chief Ya Posseh's Koroma Journey

**The Challenge: Farming Against the Odds**  
Chief Ya Posseh Koroma, a 64-year-old mother and community leader in Kolleh Town, spent years struggling with small-scale backyard farming. Without proper tools or quality seeds, she was often forced to plant near hazardous dumping sites. Her situation became dire when a devastating flood struck, causing severe erosion and destroying her remaining crops.

Through the Conservation and Livelihood Project, Caritas Freetown with support from CAFOD, stepped in with a dual recovery strategy:

- **Business Resilience:** Chief Ya Posseh received a small business grant and training in business management and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). This allowed her to start petty trading while the land recovered.
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture:** Once farming resumed, she was equipped with:
  - i. Assorted seeds and professional farming tools.
  - ii. Protective gear and financial aid for safe land rental.
  - iii. Training in Bukashi and Apichi organic fertilizers to boost soil health naturally.

Today, Chief Ya Posseh isn't just a successful farmer and trader; she is a champion for the environment. She now leads community clean-up exercises and mobilizes local youth to practice proper waste disposal.

*"The intervention has strengthened both my family's livelihood and my confidence to contribute positively to my community."* — Chief Ya Posseh Koroma  
We are committed to building resilient, green communities across Sierra Leone. You can support or learn more about our environmental initiatives by following the links below:

- Visit the Caritas Freetown Website (<https://caritasfreetown.org>) – Learn more about our active projects.

- Partner with Us – Join our mission to empower local livelihoods.
- The project is implemented by Caritas Freetown with support from CAFOD

**Image 1: Chief Ya Posseh Koroma smiling in her thriving, safe farm plot**



**Image 2: A community clean-up exercise in Kolleh Town led by local youth and Chief Ya Posseh**



## SAFE BLOOD SAVES LIVES

### Safe Blood Saves Lives: Strengthening Sierra Leone's National System

AISPO continues its long-term support to Sierra Leone's blood transfusion system through a third phase of collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Tertiary and Higher Education, building on previous AICS-funded initiatives. The project aims to improve access to safe and quality blood services nationwide.

A key achievement is the establishment of the third national Blood Transfusion Centre at Bo Regional Hospital, strengthening the network alongside Freetown and Makeni. At the same time, the project invests in human capital through targeted training for healthcare professionals and the development of a future national specialization in Haematology.

In this context, since early March 2026, a group of Sierra Leonean doctors has been undertaking a four-month specialized training programme in Italy at San Raffaele Hospital. Upon their return, they are expected to contribute to the creation of a national residency programme in haematology, helping to build sustainable in-country expertise.

Community engagement remains central to the project's success. A high-level inception meeting held in Bo in February 2026 brought together key institutional and community stakeholders, ensuring early ownership and coordinated support. This was followed by a series of engagement meetings across the chiefdoms, leading to the identification of community mobilizers who will support awareness-raising and voluntary blood donation activities.

Take action:

- \* Donate blood and encourage others to do the same
- \* Support local awareness initiatives in your community
- \* Advocate for stronger investment in Sierra Leone's blood services

By combining infrastructure development, capacity building, and strong community involvement, the project contributes to a safer, more sustainable blood transfusion system in Sierra Leone.



## TURNING WASTE INTO OPPORTUNITY

Turning Waste into Opportunity: How Youth Innovation is Driving Climate Solutions in Sierra Leone



Like many young graduates, Abubakarr had the drive to create change but lacked access to technical skills, start-up capital, and structured support systems. Waste management challenges in his community were evident, yet solutions remained largely informal and underdeveloped.

Through the Waste Management Project implemented by Welthungerhilfe with support from UKAID and BMZ, Abubakarr and other youths received targeted training in solid waste management and recycling. But the support went beyond training. Participants were equipped with start-up capital, tools, and business registration support, enabling them to establish small and medium enterprises. From this intervention, **Green Compost in Agriculture for Development** was born.

With additional investment from the project, including a modern hydraulic-powered shredder, the enterprise significantly reduced labour costs and increased production efficiency. The introduction of mechanization marked a turning point, transforming manual operations into a scalable business model.

Today, Green Compost stands as a thriving agribusiness, producing organic fertilizer from waste through composting. The company employs **12 permanent staff and 11 volunteers**, supports sustainable agriculture, and serves **over 700 recurring clients**, with many more one-time customers. Each production cycle yields **50–70 bags of compost**, contributing to both environmental protection and food system resilience.

Green Compost's has extended far beyond local impact. Green Compost's work was showcased at COP29 as a leading example of farmer-led climate adaptation in Africa. Abubakar's leadership and innovation have earned international recognition, including opportunities with the African Union and the World Resources Institute. He was selected for the prestigious Mandela Washington Fellowship in 2024.

***"I am happy I was among the youths trained and supported by WHH in Waste Management and Recycling. My business has grown more than I ever imagined. My dream now is to commercialize compost production and reduce environmental pollution in my country."***

Abubakarr Ibrahim Ndopaie, CEO, Green Compost Abubakarr's story demonstrates how targeted investment in youth skills, entrepreneurship, and green innovation can generate lasting impact creating jobs, improving environmental outcomes, and positioning local solutions on the global stage.

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

**Building Sustainable Partnerships for Greater Impact**

The success of Sierra Leone's development agenda depends not only on the dedication of local communities and civil society organisations but also on the strength of partnerships that bring together expertise, resources, and shared commitment.

Throughout the year, SLANGO and its member organisations have continued to collaborate with development partners, government institutions, private sector stakeholders, and community-based organisations to address some of the country's most pressing social and economic challenges.

These partnerships have supported interventions in education, healthcare, environmental protection, gender equality, youth empowerment, food security, and humanitarian response. Beyond financial support, they have facilitated knowledge exchange, technical assistance, and capacity-building opportunities that strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of development programmes.

One of the key lessons emerging from these collaborations is that sustainable development cannot be achieved through isolated efforts. The complex challenges facing communities require coordinated responses that draw upon the strengths of multiple stakeholders.

Development partners have increasingly recognised the value of locally led approaches. By investing in community ownership, strengthening local institutions, and supporting long-term capacity development, partnerships are producing more sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

SLANGO remains committed to fostering collaborative relationships that promote accountability, transparency, innovation, and shared learning. Through continued engagement with partners at national and international levels, the organisation seeks to strengthen the collective impact of civil society and contribute to Sierra Leone's long-term development goals.

As we look ahead, stronger partnerships will remain central to building resilient communities and creating opportunities for future generations.

**PROJECT UPDATE**

**Strengthening Community Resilience Through Integrated Development Programmes**

Across Sierra Leone, member organisations continue to implement projects that address immediate needs while laying the foundations for long-term community resilience.

Recent initiatives have focused on strengthening livelihoods, expanding access to education, improving healthcare services, promoting environmental sustainability, and supporting vulnerable populations affected by poverty and social exclusion.

In rural communities, agricultural development programmes have equipped farmers with improved farming techniques, climate-smart practices, and access to markets. These interventions have contributed to increased productivity, improved household incomes, and enhanced food security.

Education initiatives have expanded access to learning opportunities through school rehabilitation projects, teacher training, scholarship support, and community engagement activities. Particular emphasis has been placed on ensuring that girls and children from disadvantaged backgrounds have equal opportunities to succeed.

Health programmes have focused on maternal and child health, disease prevention, nutrition awareness, and strengthening community-based healthcare systems. These efforts have helped improve health outcomes and increase awareness of preventive healthcare practices.

Environmental initiatives have continued to address climate change and ecosystem degradation through tree planting, mangrove restoration, waste management campaigns, and environmental education programmes. Communities are increasingly recognising the importance of protecting natural resources while pursuing sustainable economic opportunities.

Youth development remains a key priority across many projects. Skills training, entrepreneurship support, digital literacy programmes, and mentorship opportunities are helping young people develop the

knowledge and confidence needed to participate actively in economic and civic life.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the vital role that civil society organisations play in strengthening resilience, promoting inclusion, and advancing sustainable development throughout Sierra Leone.

### **SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities**

Behind every development project are individuals whose lives have been transformed through opportunity, support, and community action. These stories remind us that development is ultimately about people and the positive changes they experience.

In communities across Sierra Leone, women have gained access to financial literacy training and income-generating opportunities that have enabled them to support their families and invest in their children's education. Young people have acquired vocational skills that have opened pathways to employment and entrepreneurship. Farmers have improved their agricultural productivity, increasing household incomes and strengthening food security.

Many beneficiaries describe a renewed sense of confidence and hope. Access to education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and social support has empowered individuals to overcome challenges and participate more actively in community development.

Community leaders have also reported improvements in local governance, citizen participation, and collective problem-solving. Through inclusive approaches that engage community members in decision-making processes, development initiatives are fostering greater ownership and long-term sustainability.

These success stories are a testament to the dedication of NGOs, development partners, volunteers, and community members who work together to create meaningful change. They demonstrate that even in the face of significant challenges, progress is possible when people are empowered with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed.

As we celebrate these achievements, we are reminded that every success story represents more than an individual accomplishment; it reflects the collective effort of communities working together to build a better future.

The journey continues, but these stories provide compelling evidence that positive transformation is taking place across Sierra Leone every day.

#### **Celebrating Collective Commitment and Partnership**

The achievements highlighted throughout this edition of the SLANGO Newsletter are the result of the dedication, expertise, and commitment of many individuals and organisations working tirelessly to improve the lives of communities across Sierra Leone.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our member organisations whose programmes continue to create positive and lasting impact in communities throughout the country. Your resilience, innovation, and commitment to service remain the foundation of a vibrant and effective civil society sector.

We are equally grateful to our development partners, donors, government institutions, local councils, traditional authorities, private sector partners, community-based organisations, volunteers, and beneficiaries who contribute to the success of development initiatives nationwide.

Special recognition is extended to the SLANGO Board of Directors, Secretariat staff, regional coordinators, and volunteers whose leadership and dedication ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of the organisation.

Together, we are building stronger institutions, empowering communities, and contributing to a more prosperous and inclusive Sierra Leone.

Thank you for your partnership, trust, and unwavering support.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **Priorities for 2027 and Beyond**

As Sierra Leone continues its development journey, the NGO sector must remain responsive to emerging challenges while building upon the progress achieved in recent years.

Looking ahead, SLANGO will continue to focus on strengthening institutional sustainability, improving governance and accountability systems, supporting capacity development, and promoting effective collaboration across the sector.

Priority areas for the coming year include:

Expanding digital transformation initiatives to improve efficiency and accountability.

Strengthening monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning systems across member organisations.

Enhancing advocacy efforts to ensure civil society voices contribute meaningfully to policy development and national decision-making processes.

Supporting innovative and sustainable financing models that reduce dependency on short-term donor funding.

Promoting youth participation, women's leadership, and community engagement in development processes.

Encouraging environmental sustainability and climate resilience within development programming.

Building stronger partnerships with government institutions, development partners, academia, and the private sector.

The future presents both challenges and opportunities. By working together, embracing innovation, and maintaining our commitment to transparency and service, the NGO sector can continue to play a transformative role in national development.

SLANGO remains committed to supporting its members as they navigate an evolving development landscape and work towards achieving sustainable and inclusive outcomes for all citizens.

## **EDITORIAL CLOSING MESSAGE**

### **A Shared Vision for Sustainable Development**

As we conclude this edition of the SLANGO Newsletter, we reflect on the remarkable stories, achievements, and lessons shared throughout these pages.

From environmental restoration projects and community empowerment initiatives to policy engagement, innovation, and sector-wide collaboration, the stories featured in this publication demonstrate the significant contribution of civil society organisations to Sierra Leone's development.

They also remind us that meaningful change is rarely achieved by individuals acting alone. Progress is made possible through partnerships, shared vision, and collective action.

The challenges facing our communities remain substantial. Poverty, inequality, climate change, youth unemployment, and limited access to essential services continue to affect many citizens. Yet the experiences highlighted in this newsletter demonstrate that solutions are emerging through the dedication and creativity of communities, NGOs, government institutions, and development partners working together.

As we move forward, let us remain committed to the principles that guide our work: integrity, accountability, inclusiveness, innovation, and service.

We hope this edition has informed, inspired, and encouraged you to continue supporting the important work being carried out across Sierra Leone.

On behalf of the Editorial Team and the SLANGO Secretariat, we thank all contributors, partners, and readers for their continued engagement and support.

Together, we can build stronger communities, stronger institutions, and a stronger Sierra Leone.

Yours sincerely,

The Editorial Team

Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (SLANGO)



Many thanks to our partners  
and membership for your  
invaluable support to the  
Secretariat



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