Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

SLANGO

July, 2024

NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



Dear Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that I introduce the maiden edition of the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organization's (SLANGO) newsletter. This marks a significant milestone in our journey towards greater transparency, engagement, and collaboration within the NGO community and beyond.

SLANGO has long been at the forefront of fostering unity and cooperation among non-governmental organizations in Sierra Leone. Our mission to support and amplify the efforts of our member organizations in their quest to promote social justice, human rights, and sustainable development remains unwavering. This newsletter is a testament to our commitment to enhancing communication and sharing valuable insights, updates, and stories from the field.

In this inaugural edition, you will find a wealth of information on our recent activities, and the impactful work being carried out by our member organizations across the country. We aim to highlight the diverse and dynamic efforts that contribute to the socio-economic development of Sierra Leone, shining a light on both challenges and triumphs.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members, partners, and supporters who have made this publication possible. Your dedication and hard work are the driving forces behind our collective success. As we move forward, I encourage all members to actively participate in contributing to this newsletter, sharing your experiences, and learning from one another.

Together, we can strengthen the NGO sector, advocate for positive change, and build a brighter future for Sierra Leone. I am confident that this newsletter will serve as a valuable resource and a platform for inspiration and collaboration.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared goal.

Christian Martyn Kamara
Board Chairman

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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR



Dear Members,

Welcome to SLANGO's Maiden Newsletter!

For over 17 years, SLANGO has been collaborative platform for International and National NGOs to be visible, vibrant and strategically positioned to immensely contribute to national development arena in Sierra Leone. Over the years, SLANGO has evolved and grown in its capacity to support and represent NGOs across various sectors in Sierra Leone. It has played a vital role in advocating for the rights and interests of NGOs, fostering collaboration and networking among its members, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

With very high aspirations, we are launching this maiden edition specifically designed to enhance the visibility and relevance of our Membership. The design allows interactive space to contribute your stories, thought-provoking insights and expertise to foster learning. Subsequent editions we will be featuring experts from other agencies providing advice in development in today's dynamic, often volatile and ever-changing environment, change is the constant to endure and embrace.

We welcome your ideas and innovations that could be featured and shared through this platform.

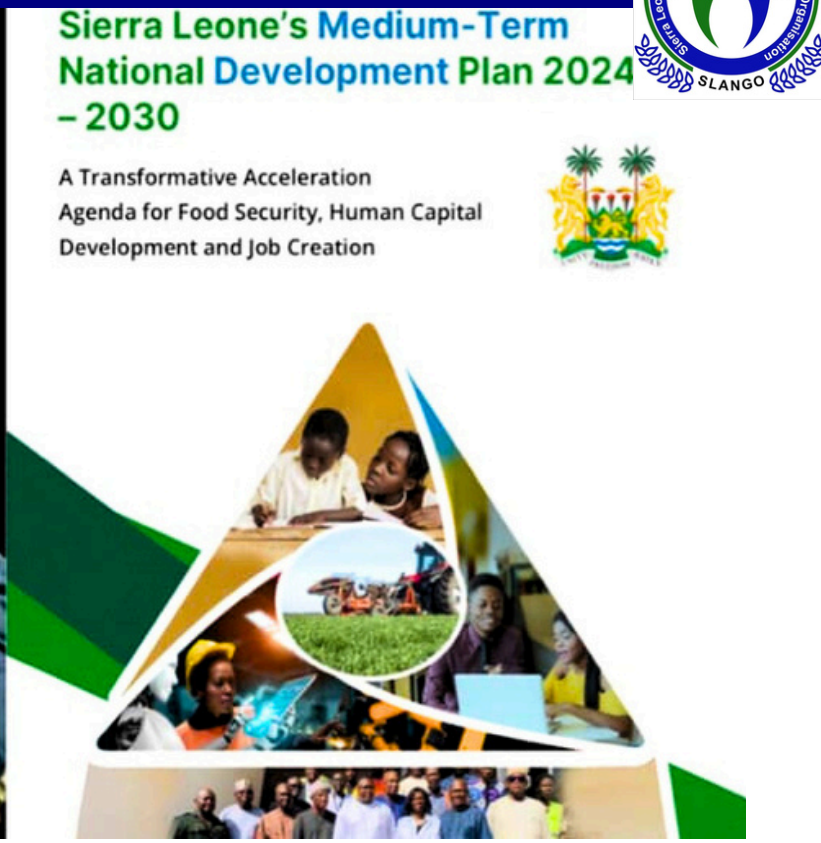
Happy reading!

Yours sincerely,

Alice Neneh James
National Coordinator

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Sierra Leone's New National Development Plan: what's in it?

The new medium term National Development Plan (2024-2030) was launched in January, laying out the country's development aspirations. The Plan is expected to inform and accelerate the planning and development the benefits Sierra Leoneans across sectors. SLANGO is committed to supporting the implementation of the Plan to improve the quality of life of citizens.

What are the highlights in the National Development Plan?

The National Development Plan entails the country's strategic priorities, dubbed the "Five Game Changers".

- FEED SALONE - to cultivate a nation that is food self sufficient
- HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – a country that is endowed with a skilled and healthy workforce characterized by inclusivity and gender sensitivity.
-
- YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME - To creates at least half a million new jobs for our youth by 2030, in both skilled and unskilled roles.

- TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUTURE - To foster a cashless economy marked by increased financial inclusion, vibrant E-government and a public administration system that thrives on efficiency and innovation.
- REVAMPING THE PUBLIC SERVIVE ARCHITECTURE - To expand energy production and develop an advanced transport system, seamlessly connecting production centres with markets.

This Development Plan was informed by regional and global frameworks, including the ECOWAS Vision 2050, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, embodying a realistic and comprehensive vision for our nation. The global challenges that impacted the implementation of our previous Medium-Term National Development Plan for 2019-2023 was also brought to the fore which are COVID-19 outbreak, the war in Ukraine which disrupted global supply chains for basic human needs, and the devastations of climate change.

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NGO Registration goes Digital

The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED), has officially launched the online portal for the registration of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country.

According to MOPED, the NGO online Registration Portal is a significant step towards streamlining the registration process and enhancing transparency and efficiency in the NGO sector. This digital platform empowers NGOs to register conveniently, enabling them to focus more on their mission-driven work while ensuring compliance with regulations. It also fosters greater accountability and accessibility, ultimately contributing to a more vibrant civil society and sustainable development.

SLANGO was particularly pleased to be a part of this process. NGOs no longer have to physically give their personal or financial information to anyone else, thereby reducing the risk of fraud or identity theft. It has also saved a considerable amount of time by reducing time spent on tedious, manual processes, countless documents and systems information in one place.

SLANGO membership has been assured that the system will be user-friendly with seamless payment processes. The system can register several organisations at the same time without having to fill in the same fields repeatedly. SLANGO members are assured of the protection of their personal and organizational data.





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Launching of the Global Human Development Report

The UNDP in collaboration with the government, civil society organisations, and international partners, launched the Global Human Development Report. The 2023 report is titled “Breaking the gridlock: Reimagining cooperation in a polarized world’. This marks a significant milestone in the country's commitment to advancing human development and sustainable progress.

The Global Human Development Report, is annually published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It gives us a very clear analysis of global trends in human development, and brings to prominence key challenges and opportunities confronting the world. In this report the following issues were:

- rising inequalities between rich and poor countries despite existing global interdependencies.
- The aftermath of the Covid pandemic
- The ongoing Russia and Ukraine war.

According to UNDP Sierra Leone Economic Adviser, Mabulara Tsuene presented the findings and highlighted that Sierra Leone is among the bottom ten countries in the low human development category, with the HDI of 0.458. and ranked 184 out of 193 countries and territories. This marks a decline from Sierra Leone’s 2021 ranking, where it stood at 181st out of 195 countries with a score of 0.477. The HDI serves as a amalgamated steps in accessing our achievements in the fundamentals of human development such as longevity, education, and standard of living. This comprehensive assessment offers insights into the overall well-being and quality of life experienced by Sierra Leoneans.

This report is a valuable resource for policymakers, development practitioners, and sierra Leoneans. at this point in our development work there is a strong commitment to promoting human development, fostering inclusive growth, and leaving no one behind on the path to sustainable development. SLANGO membership continues to affirm their commitment to human development. Our member will rise above the challenges and stay united. Through our cooperation we can build a future that is more inclusive, diverse and equal for all Sierra Leoneans.

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New Strategic Plan to Direct SLANGO's 2024-2027 Direction of Travel

SLANGO) has started implementing its new strategic plan which will guide the association's activities from 2024 to 2027. The plan lays out the association's vision, mission, and goals for the next four (4) years. It was developed through a collaborative process that engaged members, stakeholders, and partners and reflects SLANGO's commitment to advancing the collective interests of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Sierra Leone. As the voice of the NGO community, SLANGO continues to play a critical role in coordinating the activities of NGOs, advocating for policies and practices that support the development and growth of NGOs, and providing capacity-building and networking opportunities for our members.

This strategic plan has three main pillars:

- Strategic Pillar 1: Institutional Capacity Strengthening and Sustainability: Enhanced operational and administrative capacity of the SLANGO
- Strategic Pillar 2: Communication and Advocacy: a visible, vibrant and strategically positioned SLANGO.
- Strategic Pillar 3: monitoring, evaluation and learning. To enhance good governance, accountability and transparency of member organisations.

The plan equally provides information on SLANGO's partners and the direction each partner will take during the course of their partnership with SLANGO in the next strategic cycle as well as a new organogram.

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Two New Members Join the SLANGO Board

Action Aid's Foday Bassie Swaray and Michel M. Mondengele of CAFOD have joined the SLANGO board on the nomination of the INGO steering committee. The two come with extensive experience and expertise in development. They replace Sybil Baylor, formerly of CODE and World Hope's Saidu Kanu who are no longer country directors of their organisations. Here is a brief bio of the two new board members.





Foday Bassie Swaray – is the Executive Director of Action Aid. Foday is a top programme management specialist with proven leadership skills in people management, change management, financial management/sustainability, policy engagement, board governance and the ability to quickly respond to critical issues in a systemic manner. He also has a wealth of experience serving on other boards with similar nature.

Michel M. Mondengele - is the Executive Director for Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) Michel is a Development and Humanitarian practitioner. He has experience working in very hostile and complex environments and have been part of the management of extensive humanitarian responses. He has experience working and supporting local partners and can also work in direct programme implementation. He also has a wealth of experience serving on other boards with similar nature.

Please join us to welcome our colleagues to the board while we continue to extend our sincere gratitude to Sybil and Saidu for a job well done.

Relatedly, Patrick Analo of Save The Children was unanimously voted as the new Vice chair of the SLANGO Board. Also join us to give a hearty congratulations to Mr. Analo and best wishes.

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SLANGO Holds its 15th AGM

SLANGO held its 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January, 2024. The AGM symbolizes adherence to governance principles and commitment to the growth of SLANGO. Serving as a liaison between government and NGOs, SLANGO plays a key role, appreciated by development organisations and the government, through the Ministry of planning and Economic Development (MOPED). The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Titus Williams, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, who spoke about the need for unity in SLANGO; recognising the Association's rights and limits; and abiding by national policies and aligning with development priorities.

Members adopted a number of resolutions that see to address outstanding issues in the Association. Below are highlights of resolutions adopted at the AGM.

- that a disciplinary action be made against the 5 organizations and any others who are involved in the impasse.
- that the Memorandum of Association be amended.
- Discussion and adoption of the following documents:

i. 2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan
ii. 2024 - 2025 budget.
iii. 2022 Audited Report.
iv. Human Resource and Finance/Procurement Policies.
v. Moore Sierra Leone as external Auditors.
vi. Website and communications policy.

- that the Board investigates if there are any other organizations involved apart from the 5 who took SLANGO to court. Disciplinary action should be taken against them.
- .Also, one of these involved organizations were given monies to develop a website, which they never did, it was agreed that this should paid back the money.
- The legal representative was given the full mandate to proceed with this litigation.
- ·By show of hand majority gave their permission for this resolution to be adopted. On dissenting hands none was shown.

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SLANGO Signs Agreement with Local Councils to Harmonize NGO Registration

In February 2024, SLANGO entered into an agreement with all Mayors and Chairpersons of city and district councils on the harmonization of the NGO registration. The following were agreed upon:

- Registration of NGOs with local councils is for a period of two years
- All registration processes should be completed within three weeks.
- All NGOs must submit their annual work plans to their respective councils
- NGOs must be involved in the preparation of the district development plan
- The chief administrator is the point of call for all communication and information
- The development planning officer is the co-chair to NGO-NGO coordination forum
- The monitoring structure already in place at the various council should be responsible for the developing of all joint monitoring plan and joint monitoring template
- All joint monitoring should on a six-monthly basis interval
- All local councils on a sis monthly basis should publish the names of NGOs working in their district and their area of operation

This communique was signed by all chairpersons and Mayors of local council and witnessed by the SLANGO Board Chair and the National Coordinator, NNGO and INGO representatives and MoPED.

Registration fees should be harmonised as mentioned in the registration form.



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Reinvigorating Our Ties with Development Partners

There are many good reasons for SLANGO to reinvigorate the work with development partners so that together we can reach a common goal. There is growing recognition within the Sierra Leone context particularly from donor and development organizations, to government, to multilateral institutions that partnerships can be a way to accelerate impact and contribute to the development of Sierra Leone. At SLANGO we bring our own expertise and resources so program planning, implementation and design can be impacted and multiplied. Reinvigorating these partnerships is worth more than what each NGO can achieve on its own. Donors know this and often promote or require NGO partnerships.

Joint donor applications by a group of NGOs, also called a consortium, are becoming more common. In a consortium, one NGO typically takes on the lead role with the other NGOs acting as supporting partners. Typically, the lead partner signs the contract with the donor, receives the grant into its bank account, and takes responsibility for managing the partnership. It gives the lead partner significant control for which clear agreements are needed. SLANGO as the NGO can support our development partners to care select NGOs that are fit for purpose and can also benefit from this arrangement by accessing funds they may otherwise have been out of their reach, and minimize their own managerial and overhead costs. We do not want our membership to t wait for the donor to publish a funding announcement on Funds for NGOs before they ask potential NGO partners to join forces. SLANGO wants to make it a habit of planning programs with our members to actively fundraise from potential donors.

Working together with our membership is one of our organizational priority to maximize impact, even if it does not lead to funding in the short term. We also want to ensure that each member's role complements to other and all partners win. Program success will in turn generate additional donor interest in the program and sometimes more funding.SLANGO intends to be organizing regular meetings in person with development partners to discuss issues and progress, this can be on a monthly or quarterly basis. This will help resolve issues before they become big as well as strengthen the bond between partners.



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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



ACTIONAID SIERRA LEONE LAUNCHES A NEW COUNTRY STRATEGY

The New Country Strategy Paper titled "Transformative Action for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Communities" serves as a roadmap designed to usher in a new era of ActionAid Sierra Leone's contribution to national development. This strategy is aligned with the Big Five Game Changers of the Government of Sierra Leone Mid Term Development Plan (2024 to 2030), the Global Sustainable Development Goals, and the realities of our target communities. The strategy has three key priority areas including:

- Priority 1: Inclusive and Empowering Education to Foster Diverse Opportunities
- Priority 2: Inclusive and Participatory Governance for Sustainable Development.
- Priority 3: Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods. According to the Executive Director of ActionAid Sierra Leone, Foday-Bassie Swaray, "This strategic plan contains our collective aspirations and continuous commitment to the people of Sierra Leone for the next five years as we move towards building a more Inclusive, resilient and sustainable communities". The Sierra Leone Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Madam Kenyeh Barlay applauded AASL for all its development initiatives in the country and for supporting the Government of Sierra Leone's plans and schemes. She emphasized that Non-Governmental Organizations like ActionAid Sierra Leone are contributing immensely to community-centered development and their goals are seamlessly aligned with the government of Sierra Leone's vision for sustainable economic growth. "My Ministry recognizes the significant role played by NGOs as critical partners in achieving the development goals of the National Medium-Term Development Plan. Working hand in hand with the Government of Sierra Leone to create positive impacts and sustainable change, more so reaching the last mile with our development programs despite the challenges in various clusters are laudable and worth appreciating" she detailed. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL), Madam Simitie Lavaly Esq. emphasized that the Board was proud to hear all the pleasant statements from stakeholders about AASL, and the statements resonate well with their expectations., because it is their responsibility to ensure that the plans and budgets that are put forward are fully implemented and are transparent and accountable to all. The Representative of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Sierra Leone, Serena Bertaina revealed that EU and AASL have

Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



ACTIONAID SIERRA LEONE LAUNCHES A NEW COUNTRY STRATEGY. Contd.

·collaborated for over 10 years on the implementation of three projects. "We are pleased to maintain partnership with ActionAid Sierra Leone due to their robust systems and compliance mechanisms for program and project implementation". In his keynote address, the Chief Minister of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr. David Moinina Sengeh said "The key words in the strategy are aligned with our values and principles: Inclusive, Resilient, Sustainable. But the real value and where the impact would come from is in the word 'Action', not any action but 'Transformative Action". "In the spirit of being true partners in development, this strategy aligns with the Government of Sierra Leone's Big Five Game Changers of the National Development Plan, and it's reflected in the activities and actions as we have designed them", he continued. Through this strategic endeavor, ActionAid Sierra Leone aims to catalyze positive change, stimulate economic growth, and strengthen Sierra Leone's social fabric. The strategy leverages innovative approaches and collaboration to address current challenges while laying the foundation for a brighter future.



actionaid

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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



BRAC's Strategic Plan in Action: Executive Director's Courtesy Call on Sierra Leone's Leadership

In a recent and pivotal visit to the Sierra Leone's entities, the Executive Director (ED) of BRAC International, Shameran Abed, and his leadership team met with His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, indicating BRAC's unwavering commitment to supporting Sierra Leone's development agenda. During the courtesy call, the Chief Minister, Dr. David Moinina Sengeh, lauded BRAC as a supportive partner to the government and people of Sierra Leone, acknowledging the impactful visit conducted by BRAC's ED and team across operational areas in the country.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception, Abed extended BRAC's commitment to tailoring strategies that align with Sierra Leone's Medium Term National Development Plan. He highlighted BRAC's diverse engagements in Sierra Leone since 2008, encompassing education, youth empowerment, health, agriculture food security and livelihood, and the operation of the largest microfinance program in the country, serving over half of a million people, primarily women and girls.

Emphasizing the ongoing partnership, Abed discussed BRAC's efforts to scale up impacts nationwide, showcasing their extensive presence with 67 branch offices in all 16 districts. He also mentioned a strategic partnership with MasterCard Foundation aimed at supporting livelihood opportunities and social empowerment for over 100K adolescent girls and young women over the next five years. BRAC ED also stressed the need for raising additional funds to expand BRAC's interventions in agriculture, health, and play-based Early Childhood Education (ECD).

President Bio warmly welcomed BRAC's team, recognizing their consistent support for government initiatives. He affirmed the government's commitment to supporting BRAC's programs and acknowledged BRAC as a steadfast and reliable partner in Sierra Leone's development journey. BRAC's strategic plan in Sierra Leone aligns with pillars 1, 2, and 3 of the government's development goals. BRAC's Country Director, Adolphus B.W. Doe, highlighted the comprehensive educational interventions, including teacher training, curriculum enhancement, and community engagement, contributing to quality pre-primary education, increased enrollment, retention, and awareness among caregivers and parents.

BRAC Sierra Leone commenced its operations in Sierra Leone in 2008, focusing on five core programs: Youth Empowerment, Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood (AFSL), Education (Play Based ECD), Health, and the Mastercard Foundation Accelerating Impact for Young Women in Partnership with BRAC (AIM). Currently, BRAC NGO operates across 10 districts in Sierra Leone, maintaining six regional offices and 23 branch offices.

brac

www.bracinternational.org

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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



World Hope International (WHI) Annual Beach Outing - A Celebration of Children Living with Disabilities

In March of this year World Hope International hosted their annual beach outing for over 500 children and their families at Aberdeen Beach. With over 2000 people attending the event this year, it has grown incredibly since its inception in 2008. This is a very special day where children living with disabilities are celebrated and their families are shown that they are not alone. Despite recent efforts, children living with disabilities continue to be stigmatised within Sierra Leone and are rarely afforded the opportunity to go to the beach with their families.

During the event, children were able to share their talents through music performances and play games and football. Meanwhile, their families were encouraged through testimonies and connected with their peers. No matter how severe a child's disability, they were included. Those witnessing the day were able to truly understand the impact that physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychosocial support has had for these children. This year over 100 stakeholders attended the event, with speeches from the minister of health, minister of sport, minister of western area and the British high commissioner.

Through this one event, we can see a movement happening, and now is the time for us to work together. Let's raise our voices and champion the cause of inclusion in every corner of our society. Inclusion is possible and life changing!

https://worldhope.org/project/enable-the-children/



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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



CRS' 60 Years of Far-Reaching Impact in Sierra Leone

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS works to save, protect, and transform lives in need in more than one hundred countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS recently marked a significant milestone, 60 years of serving Sierra Leone communities! Since 1963, CRS has been a constant presence, assisting communities through emergencies like the civil war, the Ebola outbreak, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Their commitment goes beyond immediate relief efforts.

To mark its 60th anniversary, CRS Sierra Leone organized a special thanksgiving mass at the St Anthony's Parish at 11:00 am on the 28th of February 2024. The thanksgiving mass welcomed all 4 Catholic Bishops in Sierra Leone, alongside CRS Vice President Michele Gilfillan and CRS staff. To conclude the celebrations, an exceptional cocktail was held at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown that evening, which was graced by key stakeholders from governments, strategic partner organizations, donor, among others. The celebration was climaxed with awards to honor 30 of CRS Sierra Leone strategic partners that have been exceptional in actualizing the vision and mission of the organization. During the 60th anniversary celebration, in collaboration with the U.S Embassy Freetown and esteemed partners including the MBSSE, CRS unveiled a renovated school block in Kabala, Koinadugu district, a project brought to life through the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program, generously funded by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

CRS currently work with 15 partners and collaborates with the Government of Sierra Leone and the private sector in actively promoting long-term development in health, education, agriculture, peace building and urban resilience in Sierra Leone.

- One of CRS's signature programs is the USDA McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition (MGD FFE) project which seeks to increase the literacy of students and improve health and dietary in Koinadugu and Falaba districts. In collaboration with Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) this project has a significant reach, impacting over 73,000 students and teachers across 310 schools in Koinadugu and Falaba districts.
- The Global Fund plays a vital role in supporting...

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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



CRS' 60 Years of Far-Reaching Impact in Sierra Leone. Contd.

Sierra Leone's fight against malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and HIV/AIDS. CRS has worked together with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for over 10 years as Co-Principal Recipients for the Global Fund in Sierra Leone. In the Global Fund New Funding Model 2 which was implemented between (July 2018 to June 2021), CRS and our subrecipients established and trained over 9,600 school health club members from 960 schools across the 16 districts of Sierra Leone. Their New Funding Model (NFM3) grant supports interventions across all 16 districts of the country and was instrumental in the COVID-19 response.

- CRS' Urban Resilience program in Freetown contributes to protecting watersheds, to conserving land and ocean ecological systems and to addressing vulnerabilities of thousands of coastal slum communities that are susceptible to perennial flooding and mudslides. In partnership with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and The Nature Conservancy, and with support from the Sierra Leone Presidency, this project launched the Western Area Peninsula Water Fund to improve water security for Freetown into the future.

- CRS UN Peace Building Fund focusses on peace building and social cohesion activities in four districts and is implemented by local partners. In line with its Local Leadership strategy, CRS dedicates significant donor and its own resources towards developing the capacity of national organizations to acquire financial and manage resources to deliver quality programming.

The 60th anniversary of CRS Sierra Leone is a testament to the enduring relationship between the agency and the people it serves. As CRS Sierra Leone looks towards the future, as an agency it remains committed to its mission of serving humanity in Sierra Leone.



To learn more about the work that CRS is doing here in Sierra Leone, please visit:

https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/sierra-leone

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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



THE RAWLINGS FOUNDATION SIERRA LEONE: impacting youth worldwide by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

We aim to:

- To Preach the hope and Love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- To Capture Sierra Leone for Jesus and Impact West Africa
- To empower the youths of this nation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- To Change the Mind-set of the youths in Sierra Leone through the HIM message
- To counsel them to refrain from the use of harmful Drugs & Violence

The general mission of the Rawlings Foundation is not only limited to community soul winning, but to every Sierra Leonean both young and old the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and even beyond the shore of this nation. Hence our goal is to Capture Sierra Leone for Jesus and Impact West Africa.

Our interest lies in developing the mindset of our kids and youths of school going age. The decision to focus our attention on school going children is centered on our belief that these pupils are our future leaders. For us to achieve this milestone, we deem it necessary to start with the school going pupils who are academically prepared for this journey. Our target age group is 12-21 years of male and female, an age where a child can listen, take in information all by him or herself entirely and comprehend its contents.



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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



Centenary Reflect: CCSL's Legacy of Christian Unity, Advocacy, and Services

The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) stands as a pillar of unity and collaboration, tracing its roots back to its establishment in 1924 as the United Christian Council (UCC). Over the years, CCSL has evolved into a symbol of religious unity, fostering joint efforts among diverse Christian denominations for the betterment of society.

2024 marks a century of impactful service by the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone. Our journey to this centenary celebration has been nothing short of remarkable, marked by resilience, dedication, and commitment to our values to uphold human dignity.

This celebration gives members of Council an opportunity to reflect on its life and gladly say “Hitherto has the Lord helped us” (1st Samuel 7:12). Over the years, the CCSL has been at the forefront of Diakonia, Humanitarian efforts, Peace building, and Development, pioneering initiatives that have left an indelible mark on our nation's landscape.

Educational advocacy has been a cornerstone of CCSL's work since 1950, influencing significant reforms in the education sector, including the pivotal 2023 Education Act. By actively engaging in policy-making, CCSL has contributed to shaping the future of education in Sierra Leone. Our commitment shines brightly, with our member denominational churches managing numerous schools. Our collaboration with the government in ensuring the realization of free, quality education underscores our dedication to the nation's future.

CCSL's commitment to prophetic advocacy has seen it boldly championing social justice and human rights, challenging both governmental policies and societal norms to promote fairness and equity across the nation.

In addition to advocacy, CCSL has been actively involved in development initiatives, leveraging its commissions and committees to spearhead projects that engage churches in national development efforts, thereby addressing critical societal needs.

During periods of civil unrest, CCSL has played a vital role in mediation and conflict resolution, bridging divides between stakeholders and facilitating peaceful resolutions to labor disputes and student protests, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in the country.

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Centenary Reflecting: CCSL's Legacy of Christian Unity, Advocacy, and Services. Contd.

In times of crisis, such as the Revolutionary United Front civil war 1991 to 2020 and the Ebola outbreak in 2014, CCSL has demonstrated its commitment to national welfare through its involvement in peace negotiations, refugee assistance, and pandemic response efforts, providing crucial humanitarian aid and support to those in need.

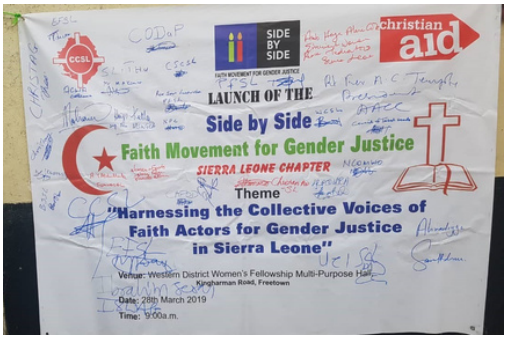
Since our nation's dawn of independence, we have stood as pillars of support, accompanying pivotal electoral processes and lending our prophetic voice to advocate for peace and justice, transparency and fairness in democratic processes, thus upholding the integrity of Sierra Leone's electoral system.

In addition to its core functions, the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) has also been actively involved in providing social services and addressing critical issues affecting vulnerable populations within the country.

Collaborating with organizations like UNICEF, CCSL has been instrumental in child protection efforts, working to safeguard the rights and well-being of children across Sierra Leone. Through various programs and initiatives, CCSL has advocated for policies and practices that promote child welfare and ensure their protection from exploitation, abuse, and neglect.

The "Mending Hearts" project stands as a testament to CCSL's commitment to rehabilitation and support for survivors and victims of war, particularly focusing on women who have endured immense suffering and trauma. By providing essential services such as counseling, medical care, vocational training, and community reintegration support, CCSL aims to help these individuals rebuild their lives and restore their dignity in the aftermath of conflict.





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Centenary Reflecting: CCSL's Legacy of Christian Unity, Advocacy, and Services. Contd.

Furthermore, CCSL has played a pivotal role in the founding of key organizations dedicated to advancing social justice and gender equality in Sierra Leone. CCSL has been instrumental in establishing networks such as the Women's Network, which focuses on empowering and advocating for the rights of women in Sierra Leone. Moreover, CCSL is also a founding member of the organization Legal Access for Women Yearning for Equality and Rights- LAWYERS which seek to address legal barriers and promote gender equality through legal aid services, advocacy, and awareness-raising campaigns.

As a founding member of the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRCSL), CCSL has contributed to fostering interfaith dialogue and collaboration for peace and reconciliation in the country.

Overall, CCSL's involvement in social services and advocacy reflects its holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges facing Sierra Leone, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to promoting human rights, social justice, and reconciliation in the country.

The council of Churches in Sierra Leone consist of twenty-four member churches denominational churches and nine affiliate bodies committed in promoting the prophetic ministry of Jesus Christ for the benefit of the communities.

The centennial celebration will run through the year 2024 and culminates in the Triennial Assembly of council in September 2024. With gratitude, we will together continue to foster compassion, justice, peace, and unity for a brighter tomorrow.

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TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE: WELTHUNGERHILFE (WHH) PRIORITISES CLIMATE-SMART FARMING IN SIERRA LEONE

Welthungerhilfe Sierra Leone (WHH) has on Wednesday 21st February 2024 launched the "Promoting Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security through Climate-Smart Livestock Farming" Project at the Galaxy Hall in Kamakwie Town, Karene District.

With funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the new project is implemented in Karene and Moyamba Districts by two WHH's local partners - Mankind's Activities for Development Accreditation Movement (MADAM) and the Sierra Leone Animal Welfare Society (SLAWS). With a duration of 36 months, the project targets 2,000 vulnerable smallholder households in Moyamba and Karene districts to benefit from development of climate-smart agriculture and small-scale livestock geared towards improved food and nutrition security.

Speaking at the official project launch in Kamakwie, Head of Programmes Gospell Matondi gave a brief background of WHH's intervention in Sierra Leone since 2002.

He stated that WHH's main goal is to ensure that "every Sierra Leonean does not go to bed hungry in line with our Vision of Zero Hunger by 2030", adding that launching this project complements the Government's "Feed Salone" Flagship development programme.

He noted that supporting 2,000 women in the two project districts manifests WHH's commitment to empowering vulnerable women households in food production and improved income generation. **"WHH is committed to establishing its presence in the North of Sierra Leone, which include Karene and, Falaba Districts. Through this project, we expect development of sustainable and resilient local food systems nutrition livestock for the two districts,"** Gospell further stated.

He appealed to the project participants to ensure the project is sustainable and stressed the need for close collaboration and synergy with relevant line Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS).

The WHH Head of Programmes further informed the community that a Complaint Response Mechanisms will be established, to enable participants to communicate their concerns to the Project Management team

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TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE: WELTHUNGERHILFE (WHH) PRIORITISES CLIMATE-SMART FARMING IN SIERRA LEONE. Contd.

during the implementation phase.

"Do not be afraid to reach out to WHH at any time to complain if things are not progressing according to what is contained in the project document," Gospell urged the participants.

The Director MADAM, Mohamed Sorie Conteh thanked WHH for the continued support over the years especially to undertake such a project that prioritizes women's empowerment at the local level, while noting that the project's objectives are in line with the Feed Salone Initiative of the Government of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Conteh stated that the people of Karene and Moyamba are fortunate to be benefiting from this project which he noted will support income generation, prevent malnutrition, and improve climate resilience because of climate change.

He urged the participants to support the project to ensure sustainability and assured his Team will work in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and other stakeholders for successful implementation.

The Chairman of Karene District Council, Kandeh Turay in his statement lauded the intervention of WHH in his District with the objective of increasing food and livestock production.

He appealed to the people to support the project as women are at the heart of it all.

"Let us ensure the Feed Salone Initiative of the Government succeeds by supporting this project which will benefit 1,000 of our women farmers," the Council Chairman stated, committing to knock on all doors to bring development projects that will benefit the people.

The District Agriculture Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security - Mohamed Sheriff acknowledged WHH-supported project has objectives that are in line with the Feed Salone Flagship Initiative of the Government of Sierra Leone.

He urged the project participants to enlist their support for the project even after completion to ensure all the gains are sustainable.

In his keynote address to officially launch the project in Karene District, the Deputy Minister Two of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security - Sahr Hemoh thanked WHH for the various interventions across the country to positively impact the lives of "our people."

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TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE: WELTHUNGERHILFE (WHH) PRIORITISES CLIMATE-SMART FARMING IN SIERRA LEONE. Contd.

He stated that with such a project that focuses on boosting food and livestock production, the country is in line to feed itself.

"We must be food sovereign... and the President has said that we must grow what we eat and eat what we grow," the MAFS Minister further stated, adding that all relevant development partners are needed to achieve this objective.

He lauded WHH for embedding solar irrigation technology in the project which has been a challenge for farmers in the rural areas and stressed the need for collaboration between the Ministry staff in the district and MADAM.

"Our staff have the required technical knowledge and experience to advise the implementing partner MADAM and WHH, so we hope this can be fully utilized for the successful roll out of this project for the benefit of our people,"

Deputy Minister Hemoh further stated.

Edward Conteh, the Head of Programmes of MADAM in explaining the purpose and overview of the project stated that 2,000 smallholder households in Karene and Moyamba districts will have access to the improved infrastructure, support services for small livestock, vegetables, and markets.

In general, he said, the project aims at improving food and nutrition security and strengthening resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in Moyamba and Karene districts of Sierra Leone.

Momoh Lawrence Turay, the Project Manager of MADAM delivered a PowerPoint Presentation of the project's components.

Welthungerhilfe has been involved in various sectors in Sierra Leone ranging from agriculture, food and nutrition security, cocoa value chain, water and sanitation, emergency response, waste management, clean energy, and skills development in the remote parts of the country.

The organisation has a Vision of a world in which everyone can lead a self-determined life in dignity and justice, free from hunger and poverty.

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Empowering Communities: AVSI Foundation – Sierra Leone's Impactful Journey

One of the notable initiatives involved providing technical and managerial training to 15 CSOs in 5 districts (Falaba, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Karene, and Western Area Rural), equipping them with adequate capacity to monitor Education Priorities and providing insight on how to improve Equity and Access to Quality Education.

AVSI Foundation Sierra Leone implementing a Distance Support Project which supports 801 pupils to actualize their career dreams through access to quality education in 2 districts (Bombali and Western Area).

Through the HOME project, Social Workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare, FSU staff, and Teachers were trained on Case Management and Early Childhood Development Respectively.

Upcoming Events for the Next Half Year:

AVSI Foundation Sierra Leone will be providing subgrants to the 15 CSOs to monitor Education priorities.

The EnDEV Clean Cooking project will enable AVSI to train and provide material support to stove producers.



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PRINCESS PROMISE – PROVIDING GREATER HOPE, HEALING, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES AND GIRLS IN SIERRA LEONE

In partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, Princess Promise identifies girls who have been displaced from their families due to heartbreaking cases of trafficking, abuse, and neglect. We provide a safe house for the girls, while our staff works to locate the girls' families through Family Tracing. Our goal is Family Reunification because we believe children and their families belong together.

Once reunified we provide the necessary resources to keep the family TOGETHER. Princess Promise covers the cost of school tuition, after-school tutoring, monthly food supplies for the family, counseling services, skills training, and medical care. We recently opened a New Transitional Home/Interim Care Center in Wellington added to our Bo ICC center to further our reach.

PRINCESS PROMISE

A young girl who has been part of our program for years is THRIVING due to the resources Princess Promise provides for her since she has been a part of the program for years. Unfortunately, she was unable to sit for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) due to several challenges she had to deal with. After receiving several counseling and encouragement, she was able to realize that she was capable of excelling in her studies and is now attending vocational school to become an event planner and decorator. She worked so hard to overcome the challenges she faced early in life and is now flourishing as she approaches adulthood. In addition, another girl, who had previously completed her Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), was able to finish with an average of 13 points, placing her in first place among her peers.

As of now, she is attending SOS in Bo with the hope of becoming a doctor in the near future.

As a way to empower our parents and tap into their skills, Princess Promise will implement a new Sustainability Program by the end of 2024 using our 2.5-acre property in Bo to raise chickens and grow vegetables. This program will promote sustainability and independence for the families within our Family Care Program. We aim to foster opportunities for these families to be self-sufficient and provide resources so they can be equipped to have a future with greater hope and opportunity.

CALL OF ACTION:

Protect vulnerable girls through family preservation.

Visit our social media handles:

https://princesspromise.org/

https://www.facebook.com/princesspromiseafrica/

https://www.instagram.com/princesspromiseafrica/

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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



Gola Rainforest: a forest to celebrate with pride

The International Day of Forests is celebrated on March 21st every year to raise public awareness on the importance of protecting forests and their link to human existence. On that Day, the relevance of conserving all types of forests, and trees outside forests is re-emphasized for the benefit of current and future generations. Each year, more than 13 million hectares (32 million acres) of forests are lost globally, an area roughly the size of England. The increased spate of deforestation and the attendant climate change effects has reinforced the need to redouble global efforts for more actions to protect the forests.

On March 21st, 2024, Sierra Leone joined the world in celebrating the Day in Joru, one of the forest edge communities of Gola Rainforest National Park in Kenema district, east of the country. The event was organised by Gola Rainforest Conservation LG (GRC-LG) and graced by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Giwoh Abdulai, and accompanied by the leaderships of Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and the National Protected Area Authority. Also present were the Paramount Chiefs of the seven Gola chiefdoms, representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), relevant ministries, departments and agencies and the Chairman – Parliamentary Oversight Committee on the Environment, among others.

During the event, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change revealed that the process of reviewing the forestry laws was ongoing, so as to enable government to protect the country's forests better. To do that, he said the Ministry would soon embark on consultative meetings across the country to gauge the views of communities on the best ways to manage the forests "in this era of climate change". The outcome of the consultations would be included into the climate legislation, he noted.

The Minister asserted that, "Gola Rainforest National Park is a success story in West Africa and the world. It is contributing hugely to the fight against climate change, and we will ensure that communities around Gola forest benefit from the services it is providing to the world." As GRC – LG currently supports forest edge communities in Gola with development projects, the Minister assured all that such support would continue even for future generations once the forest remains protected. He called on all Sierra Leoneans to plant at least one tree and protect it through to maturity for the benefit of all.

The Executive Director of CSSL, Dr. Sheku Kamara reminded all present about the efforts invested into the protection of Gola Rainforest by CSSL and partners. He said, CSSL and RSPB are the

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Gola Rainforest: a forest to celebrate with pride. Contd.

BirdLife partners in Sierra Leone and the UK respectively, and are very important partners of the government of Sierra Leone that ensured the protection and conservation of Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone. He encouraged all present to continue to work together to increase the gains so far achieved in the protection of the Park.

The celebration of the Day was preceded by community visits by the Minister and entourage around forest edge communities. The Minister informed communities (Belebu in Tunkia chiefdom and Lalehun in Gaura chiefdom) that, he was keen to have first-hand information about the benefits they are deriving from Gola.

He also said he wanted to know what the government could do better to improve the lives of communities around the forest. The visiting team also walked through the Park to see the highest viewpoint and one of the colonies of one of the highly treasured birds – the Picathartes.



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The Jamil and Nyanga Jaward Foundation Empowers Widows and Less Privileged Communities with Economic Development Opportunities

The Jamil and Nyanga Jaward Foundation's unwavering commitment to helping the less privileged in Sierra Leone, not only uplifts individuals and communities but also contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the past three months, the foundation has successfully implemented life changing projects in our various communities of intervention. These projects are designed to help widows and less privileged women gain sustainable economic development and improved livelihood, addressing many of the basic amenities challenges they are facing.

One of these notable accomplishments during this period is the expansion of the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) program. This initiative which commenced in the Moyamba District, has now extended to Crab Town, and Government wharf communities, effectively reaching more vulnerable women and widows. The VSLA program offers financial literacy training and access to microloans, empowering participants to start or expand their own businesses and achieve financial independence.

Furthermore, the foundation's dedication to community moral building exercises is commendable. By encouraging shared responsibility and values, the foundation is promoting social cohesion and unity among widows. These initiatives are strengthening the fabric of communities, fostering a sense of belonging and collective progress.

Below are bulletins of some of our projects and the links to our website for the full details:

- Jamil and Nyanga Jaward Foundation commission 11,000-litre water tank, empowering widows in Crab Town and Kolleh Town https://www.jnjf.org/post/jamil-and-nyanga-jaward-foundation-commission-11-000-liter-water-tank-empowering-widows-in-crab-town
- The Jamil and Nyanga Jaward Foundation expands its VSLA program to new participants in moyamba district. → https://www.jnjf.org/post/the-jamil-and-nyanga-jaward-foundation-expands-its-vsla-program-to-new-participants-in-moyamba-distr
- JNJF expands the VSLA initiative at government wharf community → https://www.jnjf.org/post/jnjf-expands-the-vsla-initaitive-at-government-wharf-community



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EUROPEAN UNION, SOLIDARIDAD, AND PARTNERS COMMISSION MODERN CASHEW PROCESSING FACTORY IN SIERRA LEONE

Cashews are a high-value crop that can provide for a sustainable livelihood, but the harvesting and processing can be dangerous. During the shelling process, the nuts produce a liquid that can cause skin burns. A new cashew processing factory is helping female processors improve safety and productivity.

The factory was commissioned on 26 March 2024, at a ceremony held in Newton in the Western Rural District of Sierra Leone.

Built by Solidaridad with funding from the European Union under the Boosting of Agriculture and Food Security (BAFS) programme, the factory, which is situated at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security compound, is equipped with modern equipment to process cashew nuts in a more efficient, hygienic and convenient way to meet both local and international standard.

Andrew Kojo Morrison, Country Representative for Solidaridad in Sierra Leone, said the factory will support over 300 processors and vendors in parts of the country where cashew is predominantly grown. Besides processing, the factory supports the packaging and selling of cashew products in local and global markets.

It is estimated that the facility can process over 600 kilograms of raw cashew kernels daily and about 300 metric tonnes annually. The increased production will lead to an increase in revenue for cashew farmers and processors, and improve the cashew value chain in the country. It will also create direct linkages for farmers to sell their raw kernels to processors.

"With the establishment of the cashew processing centre, women can now move away from the old processing method to a more hygienic environment, which is an important step towards a sustainable cashew value chain in Sierra Leone," Andrew said.

Manuel Müller, Head of the European Union Delegation to Sierra Leone, indicated that the cashew processing factory signifies a significant milestone in the development of the value chain production in Sierra Leone and aligns with the EU's commitment to support the country's efforts to foster sustainable agriculture and food security.

> The European Union acknowledges the pivotal role agriculture plays in Sierra Leone's economy, especially for rural communities. Through initiatives like the Boosting Agriculture and Food Security Program (BAFS), we endeavour to endorse sustainable agricultural practices, foster economic growth, and alleviate poverty and food insecurity.
>
> **Manuel Müller, Head of the European Union Delegation to Sierra Leone**

Solidaridad

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EUROPEAN UNION, SOLIDARIDAD, AND PARTNERS COMMISSION MODERN CASHEW PROCESSING FACTORY IN SIERRA LEONE. Contd.



Müller commended Solidaridad West Africa and the Cotton Tree Foundation for their expertise and efforts in implementing the project, which has achieved impactful results. He pledged the European Union's commitment to support initiatives aimed at strengthening agriculture and improving livelihoods.

PROVIDING DECENT WORK FOR WOMEN

Memuna Kamara, a 45-year-old cashew processor and leader of the Waterloo Cashew Women Processors Association, believes that the factory will end their many years of processing cashew kernels in unsafe conditions.



> **Even though the cashew trade provides a livelihood for us, the process is often tedious, unhygienic and exposes us to health dangers. The facility has transformed the way we process cashew. We are now able to add value without exposing ourselves to danger.**
>
> **Memuna Kamara**

Prior to the commissioning of the Waterloo Women's Cashew Factory, Solidaridad conducted capacity training for women processors and technicians to enhance their skills in processing and packaging techniques.

"With the facilities and new skills acquired, we can now process over 10 bags of cashew nuts in a day, which was impossible before. This is improving our livelihoods," Memuna said.

Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, said cashew is a key part of the Feed Salone Strategy aiming to boost farmers' income farmers' income and export earnings. The sector is rapidly expanding, with thousands of hectares currently under cultivation across the country.

"The factory serves as a vital link in the value chain for the Western Area Rural, offering local and nearby producers a processing facility. This will enable them to process their harvests more efficiently, leading to higher returns for their products and enhancing the economic impact of cashew cultivationin the regions" Dr Kpaka said.

Solidaridad

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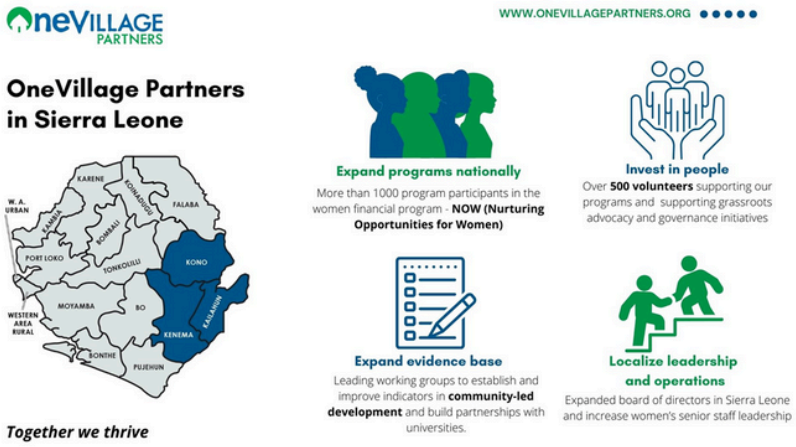
ONE VILLAGE PARTNER AMPLIFYING VOICES AND SHIFTING POWER

At One Village Partners, our mission is to enhance the collective wellbeing of Sierra Leoneans in rural communities by partnering with members to develop sustainable solutions to their most pressing self-identified challenges.
Within the first two years of our 5-year strategic plan (2022-2027) we have accomplished the following highlights:

In the last three years of the strategic plan, we will expand in the following areas:

- Expand programs nationally: complete 100 community projects, have sustainable offices in Kenema, Kailahun and Kono and 2000 graduated NOW participants.
- Invest in people: 2500 national volunteers and identify community based organizations (CBOs) to support.
- Expand evidence base: Complete research paper on OneVillage Partners community-led development methodology
- Localize leadership and operations: Recruit a Sierra Leonean Executive Director and be strengthen the Sierra Leonean chapter of the Movement for Community-Led Development (MCLD).

We invite you to get involved, by joining our OneVillage Partners mailing list and following us on socials at @onevillagepartners on Facebook, X, Instagram, Linkedin and YouTube. Read more about our Theory of Change and approach to decolonizing development on the Stanford Social Innovation Review



OneVILLAGE PARTNERS

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"Raising Children who Transform Nations"
Children of the Nations-Sierra Leone

(**COTN-SL)** is a local Christian non-governmental organization with a mission to change the plight of orphaned and destitute children in Sierra Leone. Their vision is to raise children who will become agents of transformation in their society. The organization provides holistic care for these vulnerable children, enabling them to create positive and lasting change in the nation.

COTN-SL's approach to caring for children focuses on four main areas:

1. Physical Health: Ensuring children's basic physical and health needs are met.
2. Social Welfare: Encouraging individual desires and passions.
3. Spiritual Care: Providing a Christ-centered environment.
4. Education: Promoting excellence in achievement.

Since its inception in 1995, Children of the Nations-Sierra Leone (COTN-SL) has been a beacon of hope and transformation. Founded by Chris and Debbie Clark during a mission trip from the US, at the height the Civil war in Sierra Leone, COTN-SL was established with a heart of compassion to care for orphaned and destitute children who were victims of the war. COTN-SL does not only provide homes for orphans but also sponsor destitute children, providing support to their families and communities for holistic care. We also establish schools for the children's education from early childhood to senior secondary school and support them though university and other tertiary education programs. Other services include school feeding, medical clinic, vocational skills training, and chapels of ease for worship and pastoral care.

In 2024, COTN-SL' further capacitated in its effort in empowering children and communities by the installation of solar power at our main operation site in Ngola, Upper Banta chiefdom in the Moyamba district, where we sit on a hundred-acre land with all the facilities for our operations of Sierra Leone. By providing education, healthcare, nutrition, and Christian discipleship, they aim to develop a generation of leaders who can secure a hopeful future for the nation.

The initiative by Children of the Nations (COTN) to involve local donors, partners, and government support is a strategic move that can greatly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of their programs. By doing so, COTN is not only providing full support to the children they are raising but also ensuring that the solutions developed are well-suited to the local

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CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS®
Raising Children Who Transform Nations®

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"Raising Children who Transform Nations" Children of the Nations - Sierra Leone. Contd.

context.

Local stakeholders often have a deeper understanding of the community's needs and can offer insights that lead to more impactful and culturally sensitive programs. This collaboration can also strengthen community ties and foster a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare of the children.



Ensuring the physical well-being of children involves several important aspects, including preventive measures and timely testing and treatment.

GOALS

- Children who are physically healthy with the ability to demonstrate and promote health in their lives, communities, and beyond.
- Children who reach their fullest potential through quality education enabling them to display life skills and independent, creative thinking.
- Emotionally healthy children, who can integrate their past experiences into their lives, maintain connections with their communities, achieve lasting and meaningful relationships, and thrive in school and the workplace.

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CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS
Raising Children Who Transform Nations

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INTER AIDE - Annual preventive maintenance: a solution for sustainably improving the functionality of water points in rural areas.

Inter Aide is supporting the implementation of a mandatory preventive maintenance service for water points in 4 districts of the country: Bombali, Karene, Port Loko and Tonkolili.

A network of private pump technicians distributed by chiefdom and contracted by the water directorates, who certify them annually, ensure compulsory maintenance of all pumps.

The communities bear the full direct cost of maintenance, i.e. just USD 10 per year/community.

The 2023/2024 maintenance campaign ended successfully, with 3,037 maintenance operations carried out in the area of intervention, representing 71% of functional pumps maintained. Thanks to this strategy, functionality rates in the intervention zones are now 89% for Port Loko, 78% for Karene, 75% for Bombali and 70% for Tonkolili, and even higher if only community water points are taken into account.

We call on all stakeholders involved in providing access to safe water not to neglect the issue of maintenance, and in particular to consider preventive maintenance as a solution for sustainably maintaining the investments made in providing access to drinking water in rural areas.

For more information you are welcome at https://interaide.org/en/our-intervention-areas/sierra-leone/



inter aide
Lancement et suivi de programmes concrets de développement

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Showcasing the Work of Our Membership



Since 2020, 1.5 million girls in Sierra Leone have been standing strong and creating a change

Plan International Sierra Leone has been working with girls, young people, communities, and the government since 1976 to raise awareness about the importance of children's rights. Through our programmes, we have witnessed transformative impacts on the lives of several children. Below are some of our highlighted programmes:

Integrated School Feeding Programme:
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, along with Plan International, is supporting over 1,300 pre and primary schools in 6 districts in Sierra Leone, providing school meals at lunchtime to over 300,000 children, including 152,500 girls.



Safer school for girls: Safer Schools for Girls (SS4G) is dedicated to making schools safe and creating supportive environments where girls can thrive and reach their full potential. This programme has helped to create a school environment free from all forms of violence by reaching 5,500 participants in Koinadugu district.







PLAN INTERNATIONAL
Until we are all equal

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Since 2020, 1.5 million girls in Sierra Leone have been standing strong and creating a change. Contd.

My Health My Rights - This Programme focuses on making sure young people, especially girls and young women have access to sexual reproductive health services. Through this programme Plan Sierra Leone has trained 24 young individuals, aged 17 to 24, to become mobile journalists (using smart phone to create content that cna be used to advocate on social media) across Port-Loko and Moyamba Districts.



Plan International Sierra Leone, through the FAST for Education project, has handed over a six-classroom school block to Mbaoma village, Moyamba District. This supports the government's efforts to provide inclusive education. The school will benefit over 1,000 children, especially girls, in nine nearby villages.

We will continue to rally with other determined optimists to transform the lives of all children across Sierra Leone. We won't stop until we are all equal.

Call to Action:

Website - plan-international.org/sierra-leone
Facebook – Plan International Sierra Leone
Twitter – @Plan_SLE

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

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YMCA Addresses Youth Unemployment and Strengthens Youth Advocacy in Drug (KUSH) Prevention

As a youth serving organization, YMCA continues to impact the lives of young people by creating avenues for employment and promote inclusivity by reaching marginalized groups, including young men and women, and differently abled individuals.

YMCA Sierra Leone currently embarks on the implementation of a Youth Livelihood and Employment Project aimed at improving the socio-economic status of 750 vulnerable and marginalized youth including 70% young women in Freetown, Lungi, Bo, and Kenema. The project's key approaches include entrepreneurship enhancement, access to small grant, youth led advocacy activities and vocational and technical skills development in emerging sectors including plastic recycling, waste management, bio coal production, catering, and hospitality services, tailoring and fashion design, metal works and construction among others.





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YMCA providing cash support to young women to establish small business ventures in Kenema.

Since the project inception in April 2022 with support from a German based partner Bread for the World (BFTW), YMCA has enrolled 250 vulnerable youth including 70% women into vocational and technical training programmes, provided start-up kits/tools for 200 out of 250 vulnerable youth who successfully completed vocational training courses, provided entrepreneurship skills for 500 vulnerable youth, and provided small grant to 250 youth including 70% women to embark on small business ventures. The cash support enabled young entrepreneurs to cover operational costs, invest in product development, and scale their ventures. Both vocational skills and entrepreneurship training empowered young people with relevant skills to create their own livelihoods. They have already started small business ventures or working independently, contributing to their local economies. For instance, young people who received startup equipment or small grants have established small businesses and addressing local needs in their communities by selling local food stuff. Those who received start-up kits have established small medium enterprises such as hair dressing saloons, barbing shops, tailoring shops, and metal works outlets. Overall, 35% of vocational skills beneficiaries have established small medium enterprises (SMEs), 55% are on the job training whilst 10% are still searching for employment opportunities after completing their training programmes.

Youth led advocacy activities on the rights of youth to decent work, youth employment and labour rights issues also constitute an integral part of the YMCCA's Youth Livelihood Project across all four project communities.



Youth led advocacy activities in Lungi and Kenema on drug (Kush) prevention among youth.

These youth-led advocacy campaigns for youth employment have played a crucial role in promoting opportunities and addressing barriers to local youth empowerment initiatives. In addition to addressing barriers to youth employment opportunities, recent youth led advocacy campaigns have focused on substance abuse and drug prevention among youth especially the use of Kush.

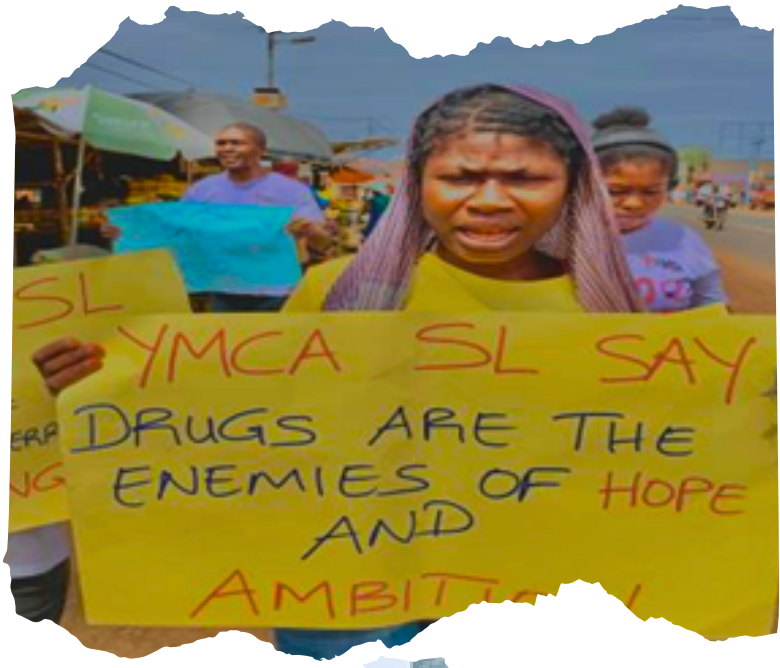
Kush is a cheap synthetic drug that is wreaking havoc among the youth in Sierra Leone. Kush users suffer serious health consequences, leading to educational dropouts and criminal activities. Despite the government declaring a state of emergency in April 2024 due to the Kush epidemic, the situation demands urgent attention and comprehensive intervention to safeguard Sierra Leone's youth.

The YMCA Youth Livelihood and Employment Project is a three project that seeks to empower 750 vulnerable and marginalized young people including 70% women and contribute to positive development outcomes in four project locations (Freetown, Lungi, Bo, and Kenema) through vocational skills development, entrepreneurship enhancement, and youth led advocacy activities on youth employability and drug (Kush) prevention.

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The project lasts for a period of three years- from April 2022 to March 2025, and also provides access to coaching and mentoring support, seed grant, and market linkages, The project activities are relevant and consistent with Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2024-2030, a transformative agenda that focuses on the "Big Five Changers" particularly "Youth Empowerment Scheme" and "Human Capital Development". These Big Five Game Changers align with Sierra Leone's commitment to sustainable development and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





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

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