

A young boy with a bright smile is holding a report cover. The cover features a soccer ball and silhouettes of a crowd. The text on the cover includes 'IMPACT REPORT', '9 TODAY', and 'Our National Impact Report 2023'.

World Vision

Sierra Leone

IMPACT REPORT

Our National Impact Report 2023

This Annual Impact Report provides an overview of the work of World Vision in Sierra Leone, from **October 2022 to September 2023.**

All currency figures are expressed in US Dollars unless stated otherwise.

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List of Abbreviations

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Community Health Management Committee (COMM)

Community Health Workers (CHW)

Child Protection (CP)

Citizens Voice and Action (CVA)

Design Monitoring and Evaluation (DME)

Education Youth Empowerment (EYE)

Financial Year (FY)

International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO)

Intermittent-preventive treatment (IPTP)

Long Lasting Insecticide treated Nets (LLINs)

Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)

National Covid-19 Emergency Response Centre (NaCOVERC)

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

National Office (NO)

Registered Children (RC)

Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)

Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (SLANGO)

Strategic Support Teams (SST)

Time Targeted Counselling (ttc)

United State Agency for International Development (USAID)

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

United States Dollars (USD)

Unlock Literacy (UL)

World Vision (WV)

West Africa Regional Office (WARO)

World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVSL)

Women and Youth Strengthening (WAYS)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



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Foreword



Dear colleagues, partners and supporters,

We give thanks to God for the achievements of World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) in the fiscal year 2023. In difficult times like these, He has equipped and guided us to collaborate effectively and make an impact in the lives of vulnerable children, their families and communities.

In 2023, with you and through your support, 999,144 people have benefited directly from our development and humanitarian assistance in eight (08) districts of Sierra Leone, namely Bo, Bonthe, Pujehun, Kono, Koinadugu, Falaba, Western Area Rural and Western Area Urban. Among these people, we counted 699,400 vulnerable children. This is a great achievement and we are grateful to all of you.

Child Protection, Health & Nutrition and Education remain the priority sectors in the pursuit of the realization of our country office strategy 2021-2025. These priority sectors are supported by enabling interventions in Faith and Development, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Food Security and Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction.

World Vision International Sierra Leone has expanded its geographic footprint in the year 2023. Two new Area Programs have been designed and approved for the start of implementation on October 2023, bringing the total number of Area Programs - World Vision's flagship long-term community development model to 26 across the country. One covers Gbanti-Kamarakan and Magbainba-Ndorhahu Chiefdoms in Bombali District and the second one is in Falaba District covering Sulima Chiefdom. In these two new Area Programs, World Vision staff, volunteers and partners will work alongside communities, their leaders, the Government and other partners towards sustainable development and the well-being of children for the next 10 to 15 years.

The year 2023 has been a year of successful implementation of a good number of new innovative and impactful projects in health, financial inclusion, gender equality and social inclusion with various partners on which more details are in this report.

Among these projects, the United Nations Peace Building Fund (UNPBF) Project "Localization and Working-Together for Peace: Repositioning Women-Focused CSOs for Sustainable Peace in Sierra Leone" worked with women-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to prepare women aspirants for the June 2023 general elections in a bid to promote women political participation, gender equality and sustainable peace. The technical support, though training on messages development, public speaking, political participation and other relevant thematic areas, contributed to the election of 41 as parliamentarians, constituting 30.4% women representation compared to 11% in the 2018 elections.

The Advisory Council (AC), the Governance entity of World Vision International Sierra Leone, has passed with a Green rating the World Vision International (WVI) 2023 Peer Review, a global governance performance evaluation by peers. This is a result of five years (2018- 2023) of continuous improvement in providing strategic Advisory and risk insight to Management through qualitative governance processes and procedures.

The Office engaged in a project of revising its Structure and rearranging its operational sub-offices. In addition to Tikonko (in the Southern Region) and Nimikoro (in the Eastern Region), a third Support Services Centre has been created in Kabala (Northern Region) to have the Finances, Fleet Management, Supply Chain, IT, People and Culture services closer to programs and projects for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

As a country office, we look forward to going further in serving the most vulnerable children of Sierra Leone with our staff, volunteers, Advisory Council members, partners and supporters. We thank you all for your commitment to continue this collaboration. With God's guidance and support, we will all press on in 2024 for life in all its fullness for every child.

Respectfully,

Sagane Thiaw

National Director, World Vision International Sierra Leone.

We are **World Vision**

World Vision is a movement of people motivated by our desire to serve God and improve the lives of vulnerable children around the world. We believe that a country, and a world, where all children are protected and free from extreme poverty and able to reach their full potential is possible.

We are driven by our desire to ensure that every boy and girl has what they need to grow in mind, body and spirit. Our more than 37,000 staff work hard to empower children to live lives filled with joy, become all Jesus created them to be and to go further than they could ever have imagined.

Guided by more than 70 years of experience and expertise, our dedicated staff employ proven, effective development and relief practices to empower communities to become self-sufficient and bring real, lasting change.

As a leading global partner, we labour alongside supporters, stakeholders, families and communities to transform lives and bring hope and, as a result, all our lives are enriched. Together, with our partners we positively impacted the lives of more than 999,144 in Sierra Leone and 200 million vulnerable children around the world.

We are privileged to serve and work to see relationships restored and communities transformed, all as a reflection of God's unconditional love. And, we humbly acknowledge that without the goodness of God and the generosity of donors, we would not be able to do what we do.

VISION

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

MISSION

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians, whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the kingdom of God.

CORE VALUES

- We are Christian
- We value people
- We are partners
- We are committed to the poor
- We are stewards
- We are responsive

5-year Strategic Goal



Contributing to the sustained wellbeing of 1,737,570 Most Vulnerable Children in their families



and communities through, transformational development, humanitarian response and advocacy.

Strategic Objectives

Child Protection



Increase in the number of children who enjoy peaceful and positive relationships with their families and communities.



Health and Nutrition



Increase in the number of children Aged 0-5 years Who are protected from infection and diseases.



Education



Increase in the number of children who can read.



Cross cutting themes



Faith and Development



Livelihood and Food Security



WASH



Disaster Risk Reduction



Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

The above is achieved through;



Collaboration and partnership for broader impact



Advocacy and external engagement



Improve governance processes



Diverse Funding



People Learning and Growth

2023 AT A GLANCE

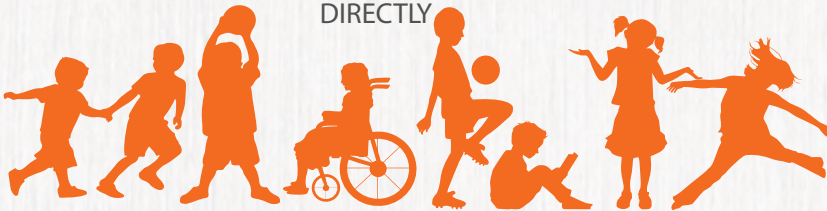
999,144

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT BENEFITTED DIRECTLY FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS IN 8 DISTRICTS.



699,400

CHILDREN REACHED DIRECTLY



299,744

ADULTS REACHED DIRECTLY



US\$ 14,261,068

TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED



220

STAFF



3,250,729





Advocacy

1,592,857 BOYS & 1,657,872 GIRLS



OUR-PRESENCE IN 2023



-  Chiefdoms covered by World Vision in 2023
-  World Vision Operational Districts
-  National Office
-  Former Grants Operational Districts

We implemented **24** long term community development programs in **38** chiefdoms and **312** sections spread across **6** districts.

IMPACT TO CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

Child Protection



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Child Protection

World Vision International Sierra Leone has made strides in ensuring that boys and girls especially the most vulnerable live in a caring and protective environment. In FY23, the office implemented child protection and safe guarding interventions in 24 area programs in Bonthe, Bo, Pujehun, Kono, Koinadugu and Falaba districts. At macro level the office partnered with the Ministry of Gender and Children Affairs and National Children Commission. At field level, the office partnered with People's Empowerment for Social Economic Transformation (PESET); C-SEED; Falaba District Women Network, and Kombeima Women and Girls Empowerment to implement child protection activities.

Significant Achievements

World Vision International Sierra Leone has formed **332 kids' clubs** with a membership of **7,731 (3,787 boys and 3,944 girls)**. These clubs have enhanced agency of the members and provided a platform to advocate for their rights and champion prevention and reporting of violence against children. Kids club members participate in 'Pikin Tok' (child led radio program) radio talk show to discuss topical issues that affect children.



In FY2023, **22 Pikin Tok radio programs** were held reaching **60,421** people. Furthermore, child advocates from World Vision programmes in Sierra Leone participated in the African Children's Summit and Female Genital Mutilation Conference in Kenya and Tanzania respectively. Abubakar and Mohamed who are active child advocates from World Vision International Sierra Leone were nominated to serve in the World Vision Partnership's Youth Advocacy Network while Mariama – young advocate from Pujehun is now a member of the Children Advocacy Advisory Group. In the same vain, Mesalie and Salamatu wrote an article on how they are contributing to reduction of teenage pregnancy in their communities. This article will feature in the Handbook on Gender and Adolescence: Voice and Agency.



FY2023, marked the end of the **It Takes A World Campaign** which began in 2019. The campaign has contributed to increased awareness on reporting and referral pathway and created a critical mass of supporters who can advocate for an end to sexual violence and exploitation in Sierra Leone. As a result of this campaign, **95** child abuse cases were reported in World Vision International programme areas and **92** were taken to court and prosecuted. In addition, **854** supporters pledged to support World Vision's campaign to end sexual violence against children. The Child Protection and Advocacy Technical Programme Manager participated in the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (IPSCAN) Conference held in September at Edinburg, Scotland and presented a paper on lessons learnt from the It Takes a World Campaign.



The annual Outcome Monitoring survey conducted in August 2023 revealed that the proportion of adolescents who report that their views are sought and incorporated into the decision-making of local government has improved from **5.4%** in 2020 to **22.0%** at the time of the survey. The proportion of adolescents with a strong connection with their parents/caregivers increased from **21.20%** to **30.10%** in the same period.



Lastly, the office partnered with the National Children's Commission to carry out a study on Children and Violence in Sierra Leone. The results indicated that on average, **87.5%** of in-school children in **Western Urban** and **37.5%** of **Western area Rural** have been associated with gangs and cliques, **25%** in Kono, **12.5%** in **Koinadugu**, **31.25%** in **Bo**, **12.5%** in **Pujehun**, **6.25%** in **Bonthe** and **0%** in **Falaba**. It is important to note that **89%** of children analysed in the study that are associated with gangs and cliques are boys, with a smaller total percentage of **11%** being girls. Factors that influence the involvement of children in gangs and cliques include a desire to be identified with such groups; attraction to artists that the groups are associated with; peer pressure; poor parenting and desire to be leaders of their peers which they must demonstrate through violence.



Health and Nutrition



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Health and Nutrition

Our health projects aim at improving the health status of children and their families in Sierra Leone, so that they can be well nourished and protected from infection, diseases and injury.

World Vision International Sierra Leone supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) to train **582** healthcare workers to conduct mass screening for malnutrition and growth Monitoring for children aged 6-59 months across operational areas. Screening of **17,653** under five children revealed that **638** had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) while **1,782** children had Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Malnourished children were referred to rehabilitation centres for comprehensive treatment. The office procured Pikin Mix (supplementary food) and distributed it to **196** healthcare facilities to be used in rehabilitating malnourished children.

Furthermore, we collaborated with the Ministry of Health to train **576** Community Health Care Workers, Grandmothers, and Mother Support Groups on Maternal Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF) practices. This initiative reached **28,435** caregivers of under-five children thus influencing them to adopt positive nutritional practices such as exclusive breastfeeding and optimal feeding practices for children aged under five years of age.

CHWs in the WV programme area used the CommCare application to provide timed and targeted counselling to pregnant women and caregivers of under-five children. By using CommCare, CHWs can collect basic data, send reminders and refer clients to healthcare centres for further management. Through this application, CHWs reached **15,120** women of reproductive age and **39,908** children under five children.

People Reached: 259,320

Adult		Children	
Male	Female	Boys	Girls
38,462	45,144	55,087	120,627

We received support from World Vision Germany to provide baby starter kits to **900** women who delivered in health facilities. This incentive encouraged vulnerable pregnant women to seek antenatal care services and deliver in health care facilities. to encourage consistent ANC and PNC services. Moreover, World Vision International Sierra Leone Health technical staff contributed to reviewing and updating Sierra Leone's Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Strategic Plan. We also participated in planning the National Mass Campaign for Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITN) under the National Malaria Control Program.

Over time, World Vision International Sierra Leone has contributed to the improvement of health and nutrition outcomes of pregnant women and under-five children. A survey carried out in August 2023 revealed that the proportion of children who are exclusively breastfed has increased from **40.2%** in 2020 to **54.8%** in 2023 while



the proportion of mothers of children aged 0-23 months whose births were attended by skilled birth attendant increased from **93.8%** to **98.5%** in the same period. The percentage of children aged 6-23 months who continue to receive breast milk has increased from **62.0%** at baseline in 2020 to **68.3%** in 2023.



Health and Nutrition Significant Achievements



People Reached
259,320

162,857



Reached with integrated outreach services and people reached through primary healthcare support

17,653



children under-five were screened, 638 had severe acute malnutrition, while -17,82 were moderately malnourished and -15,233 were free from Malnutrition

900



Newly born lactating mothers from 28 -Health Facilities received baby starter kits

28,435



primary caregivers benefited from IYCF promotion and action orientated sessions and counselling

196



Health Facilities with catchment Communities -2,463 rehabilitated 17,82 -MAM children.

582



Health Care Workers trained on Nutritional Mass screening.

539



CHWs reached (15,120) women of reproductive age and 39,908 children 0-59 Month with Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) services



Health and Nutrition **Success Story:** World Vision helped me give my baby the care she deserves

Aminata, 23 years living in the Torma community, Bum Chiefdom, she is single and lives with her mother and other relatives in a two-bedroom mud and thatch house.

Aminata said "When I got pregnant the man I was co-habiting with drove me and abandoned me with my pregnancy. My mother took me home to stay with her even though she was a blind widow and had nothing to support the home. When I was told by the midwife that I could give birth the next day I was so worried and stressed going around my community looking for loan opportunities so that I could buy some basic needs for my unborn baby but I could not find someone that could loan me. The only option I had was to cut into pieces some of my clothes and make nappies for my baby. With the support of one grandmother leader who was teaching me about good nutrition, ANC and PNC adoption, and positive health-

seeking behaviour, God helped me to deliver safely at the health facility. The grandmother leader that was teaching me supported me and my baby with some old clothing".

Amintata said, "One week later after I delivered, World Vision Bungo cluster invited me to Torma Health facilities where myself and my colleagues in similar situation received Baby starter kits for my child, I was so happy and my stress was relieved".

Aminata said, "I am so happy to receive the baby delivery packs because I have been worried about how I could have baby starter kits for my child because I have no man nor money to buy baby starter kits".

"Thank you to World Vision Bungo Cluster for the kind of support received I pray for continuous provision for my child and the World Vision Office".

Education



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Education



World Vision's global education strategy aims at ensuring that children acquire the necessary skills and abilities to lead a productive and fulfilling life. This aligns with the universal goal of Education-for-All which calls for all children to receive, at a minimum, recognised and measurable levels of reading, basic literacy and mathematics, and essential life skills.

In FY23, World Vision International Sierra Leone implemented the Unlock Literacy Program in 19 Area Programmes in Bonthe, Bo, Pujehun, Kono, Koinadugu and Falaba districts. The program targeted pupils in grades one to three in **282** primary schools. The main objective of this literacy programme is to increase the proportion of children who can read. To achieve this objective, the office partnered with Teach for Salone, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Street Child to carry out reading assessments, train teachers, establish reading clubs and equip schools with supplementary reading materials. Assessment done in August 2023, the proportion of children in grade 3 achieving minimum proficiency level in reading has increased from **37%** (2020) to **66%** (2023).

Furthermore, the office is leveraging digital technology to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes in **40** primary schools in Kono, Bo, Pujehun and Bonthe districts. A randomised controlled trial conducted by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovations (DSTI) and Statistics Sierra Leone revealed that treatment schools showed significant positive progress in moving students from recognising letters to reading words, while control schools showed a slight decline. Analysis of the numeracy data revealed that the digital technology had a positive impact on student's numeracy skills, particularly within the treatment school. The intervention led to a slight improvement in the ability to recognise three digits highlighting progress in basic mathematical abilities. Control schools, however, did not demonstrate substantial changes in numeracy levels from the baseline to the end line.

Significant Achievements



12,981

children enrolled in 263 established reading clubs (6,537 Boys & 6,444 Girls)



60,164

children in grade 1-3 in 382 primary schools participated in Unlock Literacy program (29,691 Boys & 30,473 Girls)



456

Reading Club Facilitators trained on Unlock Literacy Project model. (349 adult males & 107 adult females)



263

community based Reading Clubs established across the six World Vision operational districts (Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kono, Koinadugu & Falaba)



541

Primary School Teachers benefited from improving teaching methods for class room reading.



403

Primary School Teachers trained in 40 schools to facilitate lessons using the ProFuturo technology.



25

ECD caregivers were trained in the North-Eastern Province. (10 Adult Males & 15 Adult Females)



66

ECD caregivers were trained in the Southern Province. (43 Adult Males & 23 Adult Females)



Education **Success Story:** Reading Club brought Hawa back to school

"She was always too shy to speak in school. Hawa's academic performance was not encouraging." Says Albert - facilitator of the RC School in Baoma Kpengeh Reading Club in Bum AP.



Hawa who is eleven years old has always been shy. She repeated grade two twice. Her poor performance in school affected her interaction with her peers, especially in school. She was always quiet and reserved. Her class teacher confirmed how her poor performance affected her school attendance. Hawa could only go to school sometimes twice a week. She always complained that she does not like school. Her parents eventually gave up on her and let her join them at the farm.

The introduction of the Reading Club by World Vision was a turning point for Hawa and other children in her community. Reading Club children in three who meet under the supervision of a reading club facilitator. Hawa was encouraged to be part of the



reading club. At first, it was difficult to get her to attend, but with continuous follow-ups by the reading club facilitators, Hawa became interested. Hawa realized that the children at the club were mostly from her neighborhood and the facilitator was friendly. This made her comfortable and open up to her friends. She developed an interest and started asking her parents to excuse her from housework so that she could attend the reading club.

Within some months, Hawa's reading and writing skills dramatically improved. Hawa who was shy and could not speak, became one of the best in the reading club. She gladly returned to school where she continued to perform extremely well in her academics. She is among many reading club children in grade three that will be successfully transitioned to class four. Hawa will be certainly missed by the reading club where she rejuvenated her academic excellence.

World Vision has formed **269** Reading Clubs in 19 Area Programmes. On average, **12,269 (6,257 girls, 6,011 boys)** participate in Reading Club activities to improve their reading skills. World Vision has trained Reading Club facilitators and equipped the clubs with reading and print-rich materials.



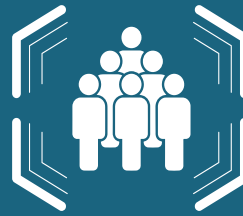
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



People Reached

128,419

World Vision International Sierra Leone has a five-year (2021 -2025) that aspires to enhance access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services and contribute to the Government of Sierra Leone and SDGs targets. In FY23, the office constructed **22** solar mechanised boreholes in schools, health care facilities and communities. We constructed **37** sex separated and disability-friendly latrines with menstrual hygiene facility for girls and urinal for boys. Additionally, the office constructed a hand dug well in Mosondo and rehabilitated a gravity water scheme in Gorama. We rehabilitated two solar mechanised borehole Jong AP through funding from Profuturo in Spain.

To enhance sustainability, the WASH team trained **37** facility management groups on operation, maintenance and resource mobilisation. Hands-on sessions were conducted during solar module installations to transfer skills to the youth in the community so that they can carry out basic maintenance of the facilities.



Our team collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to sensitise **14,737** households on proper water collection, transportation, and storage techniques. Innovative solutions, such as jerry cans with round necks were introduced to reduce contamination risks significantly. In a bid to improve water quality, we collaborated with the Ministry of Water Resources to chlorinate **207** protected wells in various locations.

We provided waste collections bins to **123** schools and 53 healthcare facilities after a comprehensive waste management sensitisation program. Similarly, after extensive education on proper handwashing, **58** schools and **27** healthcare facilities were provided with hand washing supplies to encourage and facilitate regular handwashing among students, teachers, and healthcare workers.

The office partnered with USAID, GAVI, RESOLVE, Dalan Consultants and Orange Sierra Leone to provide energy,

connectivity and WASH to **26** off-grid health care facilities spread across **11** districts in Sierra Leone. World Vision constructed solar mechanised boreholes in eight health care facilities and connected water to all critical points of care.

A survey conducted in August 2023 showed that the proportion of households with access to basic drinking water facility has increased from **36.2%** (2020) to **54.0%** (2023) and proportion of households with access to basic sanitation facility has increased from **16.7%** to **21.0%** in the same period. There is a drop in the proportion of households with access to basic hand washing facilities has reduced from **23.5%** to **19.0%**. This is partly contributed by the relapse of hand washing behaviour in the post COVID-19 period because communities no longer consider themselves susceptible to COVID-19. World Vision International Sierra Leone will work with other like-minded organisations to reverse this trend.



Achievement Highlights as per targets



Basic Drinking Water:
Target - 19,074
Achievement - 26,776



Sanitation Facilities:
Target - 6,250
Achievement - 6,489



Hand Washing & Basic Hygiene:
Target - 91,974
Achievement - 94,567

Water Systems and Sanitation Facilities:



Completed 22 water systems, surpassing our target of 21.

Constructed 24 blocks of VIP latrines in schools, exceeding our goal of 22.

Established 12 VIP blocks in Healthcare Facilities, surpassing the target of 9.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

Micro-Utilities Initiative: We have partnered with Orange Sierra Leone, Resolve, Gavi, and the Ministry of Health to provide micro-utilities such as Solar Power, WASH, and internet services to 26 health facilities that are off-grid. Furthermore, we have installed WASH facilities in 8 other sites to improve healthcare access in remote areas.

Global Recognition: The Health Grid project's WASH initiative was recognized as a best practice in the West Africa Region at the Global WASH Forum, gaining international acclaim. This recognition highlights our commitment to innovative and impactful solutions in the field of WASH.

Educational Initiatives: Sponsored four students to attend international courses on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) at Drexel and DRI universities. This investment supports future leaders in the WASH sector.

WASH Success Story: A Journey from Despair to Hope - Kola Tree Community Health Care Facility



I am Nurse Rugiatu Sankoh, and I am in charge of the Kola Tree Community Health Care Facility. Our facility has been struggling to serve more than **2,600** people due to inadequate WASH facilities, which has made it difficult to provide essential healthcare services in challenging conditions. The lack of space and standard sanitation facilities has been a major obstacle.

Thanks to the generous support of World Vision and the Heineken Africa Foundation, our health center has been rehabilitated. We now have running water, expanded washroom facilities, and a solar-powered borehole. These interventions have not only improved our facility but have also saved lives, especially those of pregnant women and children in our community. The support we received has empowered us to continue our mission to serve the children and women in our community with enhanced efficiency and compassion.



Faith and Development



Faith and Development

For World Vision, integrating faith in development initiatives is essential for not just addressing the root causes of poverty and vulnerability, but also for ensuring the sustainability of all the gains made in addressing child well-being objectives.

2023 saw the continued scale-up of Empowered Worldview (EWV) to faith leaders, adult community members and adolescents in all of our Area Programmes using the EWV Phase 2 Project funding and World Vision International Sierra Leone's (WVSL) Sponsorship fund. There was also the inclusion of children in the rollout of EWV training in communities to bring about positive mindsets and resourcefulness thereby cushioning the



hunger crisis in communities.

In addition to this, we were able to develop a very simple one-pager messaging from the EWV concept. This was shared with the hunger response lead who also cascaded it to the Cluster managers. Before each cash transfer, the managers and their respective teams share the messaging with beneficiaries and community members who come around before each cash transfer.



In 2023, we also continued the rollout of Spiritual Landscape Assessments as a key aspect of faith integration in WVSL's programming. We also carried out trainings in such a way that they directly speak to child well-being issues with community members themselves taking the lead in proffering solutions during the discussion sessions.

Furthermore, we were able to share learnings on faith integration and Celebrating Families during our F&D webinars and at the F&D Annual Forum held in Ghana

and also developed a proposal on faith integration in Sierra Leone for funding in the coming years.

Impacts

3,052



Faith leaders equipped to address child protection, health and nutrition, gender-based violence, poverty and other child vulnerabilities. (2,016 Male and 1,036 Female)

2,350



Children and adolescents trained in Empowered Worldview . (1,309 girls and 1,041 boys)

805



Adult community members trained in faith models. (520 Male and 285 Female)

Faith & Development **Success Story:** My Journey of Change

"I am Pastor Emmanuel S. Bockarie of Kangama, Gorama Chiefdom in Kono District, Sierra Leone. I am a Free Gospel Pentecostal Mission Pastor stationed in Kangama with over 60 adult members. had a very ugly experience becoming a Christian, and becoming a pastor made it worse", said Pastor Emmanuel.

Family members often form a life-long social support system, celebrating your triumphs and comforting you in times of need. However, Pastor Emmanuel's situation was different. When he became a Christian, his family members hated him and when he returned to his community as an ordained pastor, they chastised him. Despite their opposition, he chose to remain committed to his service for God.

He thought that having the support of his church members would be enough to ensure his success in life, until his perspective changed through Empowered Worldview. Pastor Emmanuel realized that his expectations were misguided when he found that despite his prayers and fasting, his personal needs kept increasing. He admitted that his theology was incorrect, as he believed that being a servant of God meant that everything would be provided without much effort. He used to think that pastors should not work outside of the church, but now he understands that he needs to put in the necessary work to achieve his goals.

motorcycle transportation business, which is a very lucrative form of business here. I have increased my cultivation to fifteen bushels with the same mix of farming (rice, cassava, and cucumber). My household income has dramatically increased, which has brought a lot of respect within and around my family. From \$10 and other donations and support from well-wishers, I have an investment in farm produce, foodstuff, and motorcycle business of over \$1,000."

His children now have enough food to eat, and their self-



"For me, God was enough to provide for me through my church members". So, he expected the membership to take care of his financial needs. "When it did not happen, I started to struggle with everything here in this village. I would spend the whole day in church and go home with nothing," Pastor Emmanuel explained. His wife and children suffered and he blamed the church members for failing God. "My family members scorned me and I became a laughing stock. My appeal for support fell on deaf ears as they always wished the worst for me. I became frustrated about ministry and life. I was angry with my church members and frustrated about my family's attitude towards me. I thought about running away from the ministry. It was during the confused state that World Vision invited me to an Empowered Worldview training. I attended the workshop for the transportation refund but left with Empowered Worldview. I learned that I had the power to change my situation, so I started a business with my family using my refund as seed money. I built strategic relationships that worked out well, and community elders and local authorities supported my venture."

Pastor Bockarie's family gave him land to farm and he received a lot of support from the youths. They started with seven bushels of mixed farming mostly rice with some cassava and cucumbers.

"Our food business has grown rapidly, with my wife's stall being the main market centre in the village. I am now running a

worth has returned. They are now happy with their peers. "We have a true meaning to life, which is defined in scripture," says Pastor Bockarie. "The gospel is now very real, and I can boldly tell people that God is loving and faithful. He blesses every good work. My membership has increased, and my church scope has increased. I talk to people about Jesus in the farms, markets, and while I am



riding passengers on my commercial motorbike around our town."

Pastor Emmanuel's story is a testament to how the Lord uses World Vision's Empowered World View to change and enrich lives.

Livelihood & Humanitarian Response



Livelihood & Humanitarian Response

The SLHER project has made significant progress in improving the nutritional status of malnourished children in WV operational areas. Regular monitoring and assessments have shown positive changes in weight, height, and overall health, indicating a notable improvement. WV has also increased access to nutrient-rich food for vulnerable children, ensuring a more balanced and diverse diet, and empowered caregivers with knowledge and skills to provide better nutrition through workshops, training sessions, and awareness campaigns. Additionally, our partnerships with local organizations, healthcare providers, and community leaders have enhanced the effectiveness of our efforts. Our collaborative initiatives have resulted in a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing malnutrition. Beyond nutritional improvements, we have observed positive impacts on the overall health and well-being of the children we serve, which has reduced illness rates and increased energy levels. This success has also contributed to building more resilient and sustainable livelihoods by supporting families in starting small businesses, agricultural ventures, or other income-generating activities. Addressing malnutrition and providing cash transfers have reduced the vulnerability of individuals and communities to economic shocks and health crises, increasing resilience and promoting long-term. Please find the total number of children screened at WV operational area.



10,083
children screened in the South
(4,875 Boys & 5,208 Girls)



5,255
children screened in the North/East
(5,247 Boys & 2,708 Girls)



15,338
Total children were screened in 20 Area
Program. (7,422 Boys & 7,916 Girls)



Out of the total number of children **15,338 (boys 7422 and 7916 girls)** screened in the 20 area programmes, these children **594 (boys 277/girls 317)** were discovered to be SAM while **1630 (735 boys/895girls)** children were MAM.

Livelihood & Humanitarian Response **Success Story: Mother of three expresses gratitude for WV's Hunger response.**

Children and families around the world are suffering unprecedented levels of hunger. The number of kids at risk for starvation is overwhelming. Some parents in Sierra Leone are already having to face the indescribable choice of going the extra mile for food.

National inflation is causing rapid price hikes for food items and a cost of living. Surging global food and fuel prices, compounded by localized supply chain interruptions, have worsened the food security situation in many villages including Nyaiga in Nimikoro chiefdom. A steadily declining macroeconomic situation and recurrent shocks including the COVID-19 outbreak and environmental disasters had already compromised the fragile resilience of most households, with the majority unable to cope with recent price hikes.

As part of World Vision's hunger response 96 households affected by the food insecurity crisis converge in Nyaiga and benefited from cash and food items. Each beneficiary household received a 50kg bag of rice, 1-gallon cooking oil, assorted cooking condiments and a sum of Le 450,000 as an intervention. A total of 386 households benefitted in the entire Nimikoro chiefdom.

Mbalu Turay, a beneficiary, disabled and a mother of three whose husband is critically sick expressed her gratitude to World Vision she said *"I am so happy for such and at this time. As you can see, I am young but vulnerable and disabled finding it very difficult to feed my children, with this support from World Vision, I will use the money to do business so it will increase and also use the food items to feed my children. I pray that the good Lord will continue to bless World Vision and those who provided the funds for this wonderful donation"*.

Other private and Institutional Funding

LOCALIZATION AND WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE: REPOSITIONING FEMALE-FOCUSED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE

The lack of women's political participation is a major obstacle to achieving gender equality and sustainable peace. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and female-focused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been working towards promoting women's participation in decision-making processes in Sierra Leone.

promoting peace and engaging the security sector. This preparation and equipping of women contributed to 41 women being elected as parliamentarians after the elections, constituting **30.4%** representation compared to 2018 when it was only 15 women, constituting **11%**.



A society where gender equality and equity thrive requires laws that pave the way for such a great task and achieving this can contribute to sustainable peace. Women's fair representation in governance and leadership positions is necessary for a country to boast of absolute peace.

The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act 2022 enacted in Sierra Leone provides the space for at least **30%** representation of women in all leadership positions in government and private institutions.

World Vision International Sierra Leone, with support from the United Nations Peace Building funds, is currently implementing a project titled, "Localization and Working Together for Peace: Repositioning Female-focused CSOs to Promote Sustainable Peace in Sierra Leone." The project aims to promote peace and security for women before, during, and after elections and equip them with the necessary skills for leadership.

The project provided leadership training, manifesto development, democratic principles, and awareness-raising in communities on women's participation,

The consortium members led by UN Women brought together 120 female-focused civil society organizations working on gender, peace, and security to form a coalition. The coalition will work to promote gender, peace, and security in the project locations and also aid in the implementation of activities. The coalition was launched by the Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs after statements from the head of UN Women, UNDP, and World Vision.

Empowering women to participate in and contest for leadership positions and ensuring their success is a significant step towards contributing to peace and development. Women form the bulk of the population of the country, hence their participation in decision-making can contribute to development as their voice will be part of all decisions.



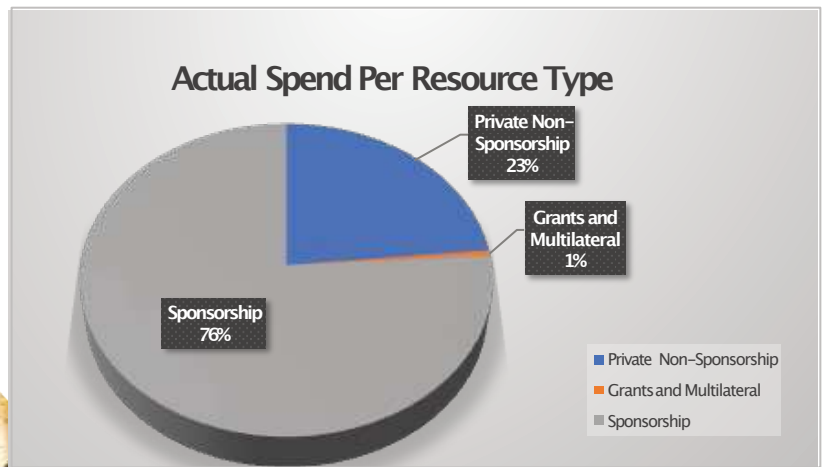
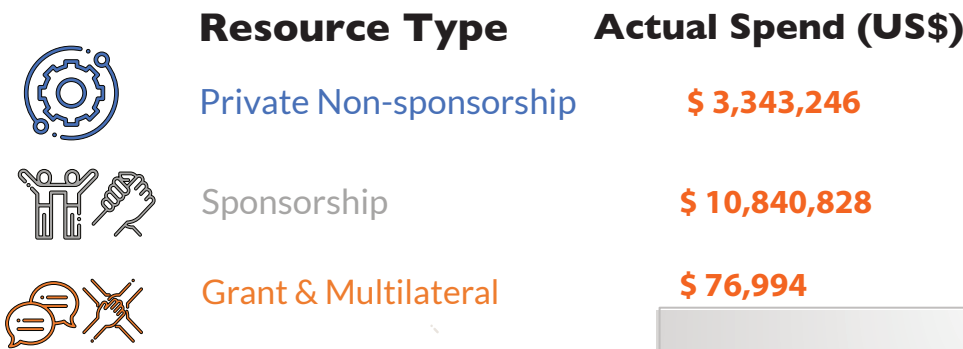


Financial Summary

World Vision International Sierra Leone remains indebted to the invaluable contribution by its funding partners, in the form of individual, institutional or governmental donors and sponsors. Through this partnership, World Vision International Sierra Leone was able to raise **\$15,225,330** in both cash and in-kind resources which bankrolled its commitment to the most vulnerable boys and girls, and their families, of Sierra Leone with an ultimate strategic goal to contribute to the sustained wellbeing of **1,737,570** children by 2025.

Spend Analysis by Resource Type

Resource Type	Actual Spend (US\$)	Approved Budget (US\$)	Spend to Budget (%)
Cash	12,798,007	13,762,269	93%
In-Kind	1,463,061	1,463,061	100%
Total	14,261,068	15,225,330	94%



Our Partners

Each year we are proud to say we are grateful to all our partners and donors for their continued support and collaboration. We appreciate the partnerships we enjoyed without which the achievements would not have been possible. In addition to our collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone, World Vision worked with like-minded individuals and organizations to achieve the well-being of children. This includes, but is not limited to the following partners:



Support Offices



WV Austria



WV Canada



WV Hong Kong



WV Ireland



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