

Oct - Dec 2024
Newsletter

World Vision



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FIRST QUARTER

Every Heart

Message from the National Director



SAGANE THIAW - NATIONAL DIRECTOR

from chronic malaria. Her life changed dramatically when the Savings for Transformation (S4T) group, a village savings and loan scheme, identified her urgent need. The group contributions provided her with medical treatment and school supplies to attend school. Now, she attends classes with a smile, excels in her studies, and is an active member of her community's children's club. This transformation highlights the significant impact of hope, compassion, and collective action.

Despite challenges, including limited resources and infrastructures, our team demonstrated resilience and innovation to ensure that essential services reached those who needed them the most. Our unwavering dedication to creating hope and opportunities for every child drives us forward.

As we embark into the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2025, I invite you to join us in the "ENOUGH Campaign" to end child malnutrition and hunger in Sierra Leone. Together, we can create a legacy of hope and opportunities for future generations.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our staff, partners, and supporters. Let this newsletter inspire us to continue our collective journey toward a brighter and more equitable future for every child.

I wish you all a very peaceful and joyful Christmas season and a Happy New Year 2025.

Blessings.

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the Quarter 1 Newsletter for FY25, a testament to the unwavering commitment and resilience of World Vision International Sierra Leone. This publication captures our remarkable achievements between October and December 2024 as we worked tirelessly to transform lives, empower communities, and uplift the most vulnerable.

During this period, extraordinary milestones were achieved across our strategic sectors of intervention: health and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene, education and child protection.

We remain inspired and motivated by countless stories of transformation like the one of Sallay, a nine-year-old from Thellia Community, Kamukeh Chiefdom. Orphaned and caring for her physically challenged mother, Sallay's childhood was marked by survival and working under the hot sun to support her family while suffering

World Vision Sierra Leone Observes Annual Day of Prayer in Global Solidarity



DAY OF PRAYER at the Radisson Blu Conference Center

On October 1st, 2024, World Vision International Sierra Leone joined our global World Vision family in observing our annual Day of Prayer, reaffirming our commitment to serving vulnerable children and communities. This year's theme, "Christ at the Center" (Colossians 1:17), invited us to reflect deeply on our mission and the role that faith plays in guiding our work. Throughout the day, our prayers focused on key areas vital to World Vision's impact:

Partners and Donors-We expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support and generosity that make our work possible.

Communities Served: We offered special prayers for the health, stability, and peace of communities across Sierra Leone.



Vulnerable Children: We emphasized the importance of safety, health, and access to educational opportunities for at-risk children. In his address, our National Director, Sagane Thiaw, spoke about our core values, highlighting the importance of prayer in fulfilling our purpose. He expressed gratitude to our partners and donors, reminding us of the crucial role they play in our mission, and encouraged our team to remain steadfast in uplifting the communities we serve.

Acknowledging the unique challenges faced by Sierra Leone, he reaffirmed our commitment to fostering a future filled with hope and opportunity, dedicating the new fiscal year 2025 to God's care. The evening included a special dinner and awards night, celebrating the dedication and achievements of our long-serving staff members while recognizing the best-performing staff and departments from the past year. This celebration underscored our appreciation for our team's commitment to service and excellence.

The two-day observance concluded with a town hall meeting, where we discussed ongoing projects and renewed our commitment to World Vision's mission, moving forward together with faith and unity.



World Vision International Sierra Leone Commemorates International Day of the Girl Child with a Call for Empowerment



Mr. Sagane Thiaw addressing the audience

The event saw representatives from partner organizations, government officials, and members of the community come together to reaffirm their commitment to girls' empowerment. The message of the day emphasized that every girl deserves a safe, educated, and empowered life. World Vision International Sierra Leone, through its programs and partnerships, is committed to advancing these goals by ensuring access to education, protection from violence, and opportunities for economic and social participation for girls across the country.



October 11, 2024 – World Vision International Sierra Leone, alongside Joining Forces Sierra Leone and other partners, commemorated the International Day of the Girl Child. This annual day celebrated worldwide on October 11th, is dedicated to championing the rights and empowerment of girls and highlighting the unique challenges they face. Speaking on behalf of Joining Forces Sierra Leone, National Director of World Vision International Sierra Leone, Sagane Thiaw, issued a powerful call to action to policymakers, community leaders, and the wider community to support and uplift girls. “Together, we can create a world where every girl not only dreams but has the opportunity to achieve those dreams,” he said. “Together, we can build a future filled with hope, equality, and endless possibilities for every girl.”



SLANGO Honors World Vision at the 1st Annual Dinner and Awards Night



The Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (SLANGO) hosted its annual Dinner and Dance, celebrating the outstanding contributions of NGOs across the country. The evening featured music, networking, and recognition of

For the Gender, Social Welfare, and Inclusion award, World Vision was recognized for its efforts to empower women and girls, promote gender equality, and support vulnerable populations.

Their projects address critical issues such as gender-based violence, child protection, and economic empowerment, contributing to more inclusive and equitable communities. World Vision Sierra Leone is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children and their communities overcome poverty and achieve their full potential.

This story is about World Vision International Sierra Leone receiving awards from the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (SLANGO) for its outstanding contributions in the areas of education and gender, social welfare, and inclusion.



exceptional achievements in various development sectors. World Vision Sierra Leone received prestigious awards in two key categories: Education and Gender, and social Welfare and Inclusion. The organization was honored for its steadfast commitment to improving educational opportunities for children and promoting gender equality and social inclusion throughout Sierra Leone. In the Education sector, World Vision's initiatives have greatly expanded access to quality education, especially in remote and underserved communities. Their programs focus on constructing schools, training teachers, and providing essential learning materials to create a supportive environment for children's education.

1st Anniversary of Feed Salone celebrated during the World Food Day



His Excellency the President Rtd. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio President of Sierra Leone

On World Food Day, President Julius Maada Bio launched the Feed Salone Initiative in Kailahun, marking a significant step in combating food insecurity and improving agricultural productivity in Sierra Leone.

World Vision Sierra Leone, represented by National Director Mr. Sagane Thiaw, Advocacy Manager Elizabeth Stevens, and

Communications Officer Patrick Martyn, attended to promote the ENOUGH Campaign, which aims to eradicate child hunger and malnutrition. They emphasized the need for sustainable solutions and systemic change to support the Feed Salone goals.

The ENOUGH Campaign advocates for policies that enhance food security and child welfare, focusing on community engagement and policy reform. By collaborating with the Feed Salone Initiative, they aim to address the root causes of hunger and ensure vulnerable populations, especially children, receive the necessary support.

Together, these initiatives promise a united approach to ending hunger and improving lives in Sierra Leone, striving for a future where every child has access to adequate nutrition.



Transforming lives through partnership - Willianne Van Slooten witnesses WASH impact in Freetown.



In an impactful visit to World Vision's WASH project sites in Freetown, Willianne Van Slooten, Program Manager for Africa and Latin America from World Vision Netherlands, observed firsthand the transformative changes brought to communities by the Heineken Africa Foundation's support. From 2021 to 2023, the foundation funded an urban WASH and COVID-19 response program in Freetown's Western Area Rural and Urban districts, significantly improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities for over 100,000 residents.

During the visit, Willianne toured the solar-powered health facility in Calabar town, as well as the solar mechanized borehole sites that now provide reliable access to clean water for surrounding communities. The project not only implemented essential water and sanitation facilities but also made improvements in public health and hygiene conditions, particularly through the construction of solar-powered boreholes and sanitation facilities at healthcare centers and market locations. Additionally, a local health facility was renovated to better serve the community.

Willianne's visit extended to a primary school in Jui, where she engaged with beneficiaries who will soon benefit from the new Freetown WASH and Milk Project. This initiative is designed to continue World Vision's commitment to providing safe water access and support the school's meal program with milk, ensuring that students have access to essential nutrition and clean water.

The visit underscored World Vision's commitment to sustainable development in Freetown and highlighted the invaluable role of partnerships, like the one with Heineken Africa Foundation, in creating lasting change in communities most in need.

World Vision International Sierra Leone and World Hope International Sierra Leone Sign MOU to Strengthen Partnership in Key Development Areas



World Vision International Sierra Leone and World Hope International Sierra Leone Sign MOU to Strengthen Partnership in Key Development Areas.

Today, at the World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVSL) head office in Freetown, an important step towards collaborative impact was achieved as WVSL signed a Memorandum of Understanding



(MOU) with World Hope International Sierra Leone (WHI-SL). This partnership marks a new chapter in the efforts of both organizations to bring impactful, sustainable change to vulnerable communities across Sierra Leone.

The MOU establishes a framework for cooperation and coordination between WVSL and WHI-SL across several key areas of mutual focus, including Child Protection and Advocacy, Education, Health and Nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Faith and Development, Livelihood, and Food Security. By joining forces, both organizations aim to maximize their resources and expand the reach of their initiatives, creating a significant positive impact on the lives of children and families in Sierra Leone.

The collaboration will focus on coordinated efforts that respond to the needs identified in the communities they serve and will be based on available resources and funding. Key areas of cooperation

under this MOU include:

Joint Programming and Fundraising: Both organizations will collaborate on program development and seek funding opportunities to sustain and expand their initiatives.

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building: Through knowledge transfer and collaborative training, both teams



will strengthen their ability to address community challenges effectively.

Learning Exchanges and Linkages: The partnership will encourage learning visits and establishing links with other organizations, both locally and internationally, to foster new ideas and best practices.

Program Planning and Delivery Support: Support for each



other's projects will ensure streamlined planning, execution, and success across various programs.

This strategic partnership aligns with both organizations' missions and vision to create a brighter future for children and families in Sierra Leone. With this MOU in place, WVSL and WHI-SL are well-positioned to deliver holistic and effective support in targeted communities with a collaborative approach that promises to create meaningful, lasting change.

Nutritional Dialogue Training for Stakeholders (Grandmothers)



World Vision Sierra Leone (WVSL), as part of its impactful ENOUGH campaign, is taking a proactive stand against child malnutrition by empowering communities through innovative and locally driven initiatives. A cornerstone of this effort is the Nutritional Dialogue Program, which focuses on equipping grandmothers—respected pillars in their families and communities—with essential knowledge and practical skills to combat malnutrition.

Through this program, grandmothers learn about the importance of balanced diets, proper infant and maternal nutrition, and effective ways

to foster healthy practices using readily available local resources. By combining their traditional caregiving roles with newfound insights into nutrition and health, these grandmothers are transforming into community champions. They are not only educating their families but also inspiring their neighbors to adopt sustainable practices that improve overall well-being.

One compelling example of the program's success is Mamawa's story. Mamawa, a grandmother in one of the participating communities, has become a beacon of hope and a role model. Her efforts in applying and sharing the lessons learned from the program have significantly improved her family's health and contributed to a measurable reduction in malnutrition within her community.

This initiative is a testament to the power of grassroots engagement and aligns closely with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focused on ending hunger, ensuring good health, and promoting well-being for all. By empowering grandmothers to lead the fight against malnutrition, World Vision Sierra Leone is ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy, strong, and ready to reach their full potential.

World Vision Sierra Leone: Driving Change Through Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion



A recent symposium on Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and peace building brought together in diverse group of stakeholders in Sierra Leone. Supported by UN Women, the Government of Sierra Leone, and local partners, the event aimed to address systemic inequalities and empower women, girls, and marginalised communities. This gathering highlighted the progress made since the 2022 Gender Empowerment and Equality Act (GEWE) and emphasised the need to translate policy into actionable steps. Delegates from various sectors stressed that laws should not be mere words but tools for transformation. Key advancements in gender equality discussed included: - Increased representation of women in governance after the GEWE Act. - Improved access to education and economic opportunities for women. - Initiatives addressing gender-

based violence (GBV), which disproportionately affects women and children. Despite these strides, participants noted challenges such as cultural barriers and insufficient enforcement mechanisms. The symposium also stressed the importance of including disability in gender equality and peace building strategies, aligning with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mark Mutai, Acting Strategy Programme Director for World Vision Sierra Leone, emphasized the organization's commitment to uplifting marginalised voices. "Our work is about ensuring that marginalized voices are heard and systems are reformed," he said. Madam Edna Koroma, Gender and Peace Building Manager, added, "This symposium reminds us that gender equality and social inclusion are fundamental prerequisites for sustainable peace and development."



IMPACT STORIES ON GIFT NOTIFICATIONS FOR GALINESS-PERRI AREA PROGRAM



Meet Hawa, a bright girl from Bumpeh-Perri, overcame financial struggles through World Vision's Gift Notification program. With sponsor support, she received school supplies, enrolled in school, and excelled academically.

The program also helped her family establish a grocery business, providing financial stability and covering Hawa's educational needs. Inspired by their transformation, Hawa's family began mentoring others in their community. Hawa's success highlights the power of generosity, creating a ripple effect of education, empowerment, and opportunity for future generations.

How An S4T Support Gave Me A Chance To Dream Again



leave the fields behind and step into a classroom, ready to learn and dream of a brighter future.

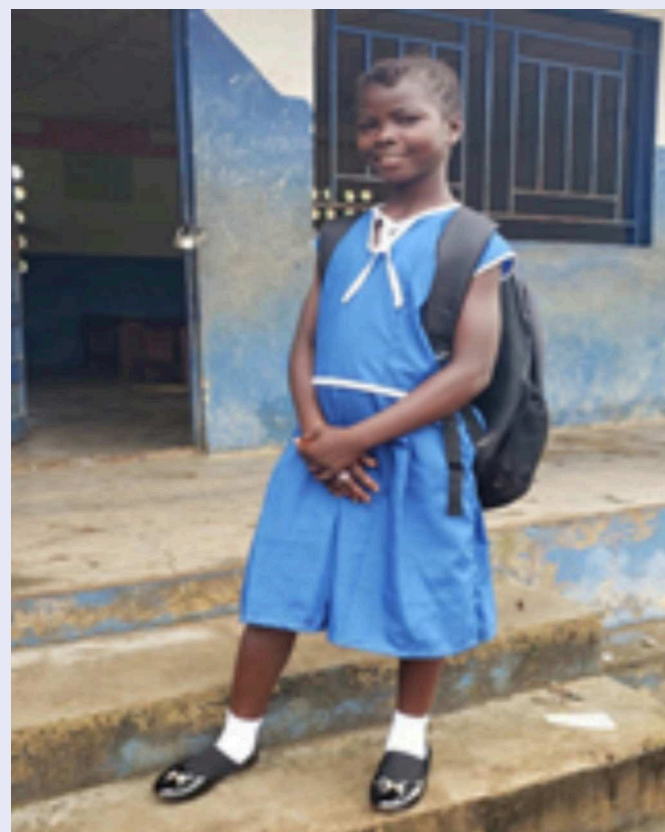
Today, I walk to school with a smile on my face, eager to learn and play with my friends. I've even joined the kids' club, where I actively participate in fun and meaningful activities. This opportunity has changed my life in ways I never thought possible. My mother now rests easier, knowing I'm getting the education we once thought was out of reach.

Thanks to the S4T initiative and the kindness of my community, I now have hope for a future filled with possibilities and success."

My name is Sallay, and I am 9 years old. I live in Thellia community, Kamukeh Chiefdom. In this chiefdom most families, including mine, depend on subsistence farming and raising cattle. Life has always been a struggle, but it became even harder after my father passed away. My mother, who has physical challenges, fell seriously ill and became bedridden. Suddenly, I found myself shouldering the responsibility of caring for both of us. While other children went to school, I spent my days working on the farm and helping neighbors just to ensure we had something to eat. The burden was overwhelming, and it took a toll on me. Long hours under the scorching sun left me battling chronic malaria and a severe cold. Deep down, I knew this was not how childhood should be, but I had no choice—it was a fight for survival.

Then, hope came in the form of a community initiative called Savings for Transformation (S4T). This program brought parents together to learn income-generating skills and contribute a small weekly amount to a communal fund aimed at helping vulnerable children like me. When the group heard about my situation, they identified me as someone in urgent need of support.

The transformation was nothing short of a miracle. With the savings from the S4T group, I received life-saving medical treatment and began to recover my health. But that wasn't all. I was given a school uniform, a bag, shoes, books, and most importantly a chance to go to school. For the first time, I could



A story from Kamubafo Area Program - From Struggle to Hope

Kaday, a 17-year-old physically challenged orphan from Maguluboe Community. She lives with a caregiver, including, 7-siblings, with 3-boys and 4- girls that are children to the caregiver. They live in a four-bedroom hut that is poorly constructed and barely provides adequate shelter. The caregiver is a subsistence farmer who supports his family through farming.

"Life has been unbearable for me and the family that I live with," she said. Financial constraints have been an ever-present reality, a painful anthem of our daily lives. As a physically challenged orphan unable to use my legs and hands, my situation has been particularly dire. "I find it hard to move from one location to another. Even using the restroom is a challenge, as I often need someone's help for such private matters. Hygiene and privacy have been difficult, as I cannot afford, as my dependence on others strips away my dignity."

One rainy morning, as I struggled to find shelter, I fell into the mud, my body covered in dirt and wounds from the fall. Just then, World Vision Sierra Leone's Mandokama Area Programme team arrived in my community. Their vehicle and motorbikes caught my attention, and I asked a neighbour what they were here for. I was told they were registering vulnerable children aged 8 to 10 as Registered Children (RCs) for their new AP. A staff member, who introduced himself as a project officer, noticed my condition and listened to my story. Realizing the severity of my challenges, he immediately reported my case to their higher authorities. Soon after, World Vision responded and provided a tricycle wheelchair.

"I thank God for World Vision International Sierra Leone for supporting me with a tricycle that aids me in moving around. Now, I can confidently help myself respond to nature's call whenever the need arises". Thanks to this intervention, I have regained a sense of independence and dignity. My life, once marked by hopelessness and unbearable challenges, now has hope and opportunity. Thank you, World Vision, for bringing light into my life.



ENOUGH

END CHILD HUNGER & MALNUTRITION

For more information and updates, visit our [website](#) and follow us on our social media handles

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