

SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL

2021-22



Send A Child To School 2021-22

Reachout Salone is a registered youth-led local non-governmental organization that undertakes advocacy and charitable activities in the coastal communities of Sierra Leone.



Sustainably developing individuals and communities, protection of their human rights and ensuring their security, making them economically viable and hence breaking the vicious circle of poverty. Reaching out to the deprived and the needy in the communities with the the quest to provide them with better life opportunities.





Building concrete community structures that enhance the creation of **equal opportunities** for the underprivileged and vulnerable communities and hence upgrading their standards of living.

Stretching Hands

We encourage communities to embrace the concept of reform through education and understanding of the alternatives to tribal, social, economic, cultural and educational segregation actions. We enlighten healthy and economically viable Coastal Communities for Sustainable Development.

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United Bank for Africa (UBA) Account: Reachout Salone A/C No: 540110030014803

About Us

Six Pillars of Reachout Salone



Reachout Salone(ROSL) was established in 2020 with the profound objective of building sustainable living communities across the coastal communities of Sierra Leone.

Reachout Salone focuses on creating a conducive environment that enhances sustainable human development, promotion of employment opportunities, especially for women and girls, community protection and development, human rights promotion, protection of human dignity, and security.

We partner with the government, both local and international NGOs, charity and, other humanitarian bodies to provide sustainable living opportunities to the community people in the coastal areas and other deprived communities in the country.



From the CEO's Desk



" Let's remember that our children should be in school, not at work. "

- Edmond Margai I Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Reachout Salone



It is no doubt that youth participation and innovation is important for humanity and our planet, especially for addressing the growing needs of our society. The United Nations(UN) wants everyone to have access to **inclusive**, **equitable and quality education** (SDG 4). However, the meaningful participation of young people and the success of such global efforts cannot be achieved without a solid foundation for our children who will grow up into a youthful population tomorrow. While the government in Sierra Leone has declared the 'free quality education', thousands of vulnerable children around the coastal peninsula are still out of school.

Furthermore, one out of every four children in developing countries around the world are engaged in some form of child labor. According to UNICEF, 39% of children in Sierra Leone and routinely engaged in paid and unpaid forms of work that are harmful to them. Our society is failing to adequately prepare and transform these children into a vibrant youthful population to respond positively to the needs and challenges of tomorrow.

At Reachout Salone (Stretching Hands), this year's theme, "Every child should have access to quality education", aims to promote children's education along the Freetown Peninsular to address issues related to child labor, early school dropout, teenage pregnancy, and early child marriage. This initiative aims at sending vulnerable children living within the peninsula to school. These are children who have never had the opportunity to go to school. Initially, **12 underprivileged children from Banga Farm Community** benefited from the campaign that provided the children with an opportunity to go to a school for the first time.

Following the success of the campaign, Reachout Salone has partnered with the Diaspora for Children Foundation and numerous private organisations to scale the program into neighbouring coastal communities with similar needs. The target is to send **200 more vulnerable children** to school and support them with schooling materials within the six communities, namely **Mambo, Mile-13, Banga Farm, Sussex, BawBaw and NO: 2 River,** along the **Freetown Peninsular region**. Sending these children to school today will make a huge difference in creating a vibrant and youthful population that will be able to respond adequately to the future needs and challenges in communities they live.



Project Overview

Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development through Quality Education

The Send a Child to School aims Campaign. at sendina vulnerable underprivileged children to school within six operational communities in the Western Rural Area, mainly the Peninsular so as to promote quality education along the Freetown Peninsular in addressing issues related to child labor, early school dropout, teenage pregnancy, and early child marriage. The initiative shall maintain a flexibility to respond to government policies on sustainable development.

- Mile-13 Community
- Banga Farm Community
- Sussex Community
- BawBaw Community
- Number-2 River Community
- Mambo Community

The project works with a team of young people as volunteers to identify, register, and assess the challenges faced by underprivileged children who are abused through child labor, mainly in stone mining and other laborious works such as sand mining, deforestations and as petty tradings. **200 underprivileged children** from **6 coastal communities** benefited by going to schools for the first time.



This initiative aims at **sending vulnerable children to school**. These are children who have never had the opportunity to go to school.

It is an ongoing project that raises funds through individual, community and private stakeholders who are passionate about promoting **quality education** within and beyond Sierra Leone.

We shall extend our operations to other underdeveloped and vulnerable communities in the coastal areas in the long run as the financial strength of the organization grows.

Project Rationale

Quality education is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the **United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable **quality education** and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This goal ensures that all girls and boys **complete free primary and secondary schooling** by 2030. It also aims to provide **equal access** to affordable vocational training, **eliminate gender and wealth disparities** and achieve **universal access** to a quality higher education.





Working towards Quality Education

In Sierra Leone, more than half of 15 yearolds and above (57%) are illiterate and half of those leaving primary school are unable to read or write. Just 61% of primary school teachers are trained, which is compounded in rural areas where there are higher numbers of unqualified and volunteer teachers.

The Sustainable Development Goals clearly recognise that this gap must be closed, even as the international community more explicitly addresses the challenges of quality and equity in education.

The need for all people to have access to quality education is also regarded as an essential plank for poverty reduction: human capital – education, knowledge, skills, access to and understanding of information – as part of the livelihoods approach that recognises the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **"The blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030".**



2. Addressing Child Labour

Children in Sierra Leone are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in mining and commercial sexual exploitation, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in dangerous tasks in quarrying stone and fishing.

Sierra Leone is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for **forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.** Sierra Leone has a form of internal child trafficking called "*men pikin*," meaning foster care in Krio. Family members send children with promises of better educational opportunities to relatives in urban areas.

However, some children are instead subjected to forced labor, including street hawking, domestic work, mining, agriculture, scavenging for scrap metal, and motorbike taxi driving.



In addition, Sierra Leone lacks a national policy and social program to address all relevant worst forms of child labor.

Although the Government of Sierra Leone has adopted the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking, research found no evidence of a policy on other worst forms of child labor, including child labor in mining and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

It is in this context it is vital to acknowledge the need of meaningful participation of young people in eradicating child labour, which cannot be achieved without a **solid educational foundation for** our children that will allow them to grow into a knowledgeable population tomorrow.



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3. Understanding Barriers

Sierra Leone ranks 181 of 188 on the Human Development Index and scores consistently low on education and gender equality. In Sierra Leone, education is free and compulsory for six years of primary school and three years of junior secondary school.

However, from the given data, it can be inferred that **access to quality education**, **retention and completion of school** remain challenges for children in Sierra Leone.



Education in Sierra Leone

Poverty is ranked as the primary reason why children are out of school. Families find themselves unable to meet their own basic needs, so children must remain out or drop out of school to work and supplement the family income. Additionally, while schools are mandated to be free, costs associated with school materials, uniforms, and other indirect costs keep children out of school.

These factors are compounded by gender discrimination, long distances to schools, perceived low value placed on education, negative social norms practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and an unsafe learning environment.

To better understand the landscape and hidden challenges, it is essential to constantly work on **community engagement, educational and poverty surveys, and awareness campaigns.**

While these activities help stakeholders realise the potential in contributing meaningfully to nation building, this potential can only be met once the children are given the opportunities that could help them acquire functional literacy for sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment.

Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities

Outcome N 1: To eliminate child labor and mitigate the problem of early school dropout in the children of communities in the peninsular region of Sierra Leone.

Output N 1: Increase the enrolment of underprivileged and underage children who have never had the opportunity to go to a school and/or work in unsafe environments.

Activity N 1: Donation of school and learning supplies such as school bags, books, pencils, pens, shoes, and uniforms to the beneficiaries.

Activity N 2: Provision of financial support to the parents of the children for active participation in educational enrolment and development.

Output N 2: Increase the transition rate of enrolled children to higher classes and encourage them to pursue the necessary educational requirements for higher studies.

Activity N 1: Evaluation of attendance of enrolled children and subsequently following up on the issues pertaining to lack in the same.

Activity N 2: Monitoring and guided assistance for homework and academic progress in classrooms.

Outcome N 2: To provide a conducive learning environment and enhance the mental, intellectual, and physical capacities of beneficiary children.

Output N 1: Increase in attendance and participation of children in school and educational activities that highlight the learning outcomes.

Activity N 1: Provision of Lunch meals for the underprivileged children of designated communities during school hours.





Activity N 2: Development and completion of reading and writing proficiency assessments for pre-primary and primary levels in schools.

Output N 2: Increase the number of quality schools near the communities in the western rural region of Sierra Leone.

Activity N 1: Provision of classroom supplies such as chairs, tables, whiteboards, computers, teacher resources, and markers to school beneficiaries.

Activity N 2: Maintenance of school and classroom infrastructures and ensuring the availability of basic amenities such as toilets, internet, and water supply.

<u>Outcome N 3:</u> To increase Public and Private Partnership participation in promoting child education in Sierra Leone.

Output N 1: Increase the interest and perceived value of institutions and educative projects in children, parents, teachers, volunteers, and school leaders.

Activity N 1: Attendance and participation monitoring in community engagement programs, campaign awareness initiatives, and educational surveys.

Activity N 2: Completion of training workshops that aim to improve the educational curriculum and mitigate the economic, protection, and social barriers in education sector.

Output N 2: Strengthening and expanding the network of communities in the coastal western region of peninsular Sierra Leone.

Activity N 1: Extension of the major operations of Reachout Salone into other vulnerable and underprivileged communities of Sierra Leone by mobilizing funds from private and public partner organisations.

Activity N 2: Surveying and gauging the challenges and problems with each community that is associated with Reachout Salone.

Project Objectives

#1

To equip children with various levels of quality education for selfreliance and sustainable livelihoods. The project's primary objective is to send **250**+ vulnerable and underprivileged children, who are not benefiting from the government's Free Quality Education Initiative, to schools.



To alleviate the high rate of poverty within the six targeted communities.



To decrease the high rate of child labor, teenage pregnancy, early school dropout, and early marriage within the six targeted communities.





To improve the economic, social, and moral wellbeing of the children.

STRETCHING HANDS



Project Progress





Project Challenges



1. Community Engagement

The potential barriers to the conduct of future interventions include **gaining access to the community, overturning existing biases and beliefs**, and language barriers.

2. Resource Mobilisation

Resource mobilization is a valuable component for strengthening this project. Unfortunately, there is limited incentivization in the donor community to provide adequate support. There remains **uncertainty regarding the mobilization of financial and non-financial resources.**





3. Volunteer Recruitment

It is essential to recruit qualified volunteers for the success and sustainability of this project. However, circumstances pertaining to geographical availability, reliability to follow through (once recruited), and adequate teaching qualifications of the potential volunteers pose limitations to the flow of the project.



Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Reachout Salone's project and field officers will visit and examine these schools once per week. They will speak to the pupils, teachers, parents, and administrators and inspect documentation such as the school's attendance records to track the children's attendance and report cards to track the termly performance.





Reachout Salone monitoring officers are responsible for collecting quantitative and qualitative data from schools.

Post-Test Only Control Group and small-scale evaluation surveys are conducted to evaluate the program for both children's attendance and performance.





Reachout Salone and its partners will work jointly to monitor and evaluate this program.

Donor monitoring is effectiveness-based. This is done through a term-based report about the project to the donor.





Ten were promoted to the next class in the 2020-21 academic year, out of twelve enrolled children, while two children repeated the class.

The above statistics acknowledge the positive advancement that this project has made. Furthermore, the children have exhibited **active participation in class, proficiency in reading and writing, and willingness to submit homework regularly**.

Subsequently, most of the children in the campaign were involved in child labor activity. An internal survey revealed that the **rate of child labor within the targeted communities has dropped down to approximately 10%.**

Project Budget (2021 - 22)

The aggregate budget per student is \$40. The table indicates a more granular breakdown of the same for 200 students.



ITEMS	EXPENSE DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY		UNIT COST	TOTAL AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Furniture	Building tables and chairs for school	Pairs	60	130000	7,800,000.00	\$780.00
Uniforms and Accessories	Distribution of Uniform materials	Rolls	6	250,000	1,500,000.00	\$150.00
	School Badge	Pairs	400	10,000	4,000,000.00	\$400.00
	Felt for Girls' Uniforms	Pairs	50	100,000	5,000,000.00	\$500.00
	Belts	Pairs	50	50,000	2,500,000.00	\$250.00
	Tailoring Cost	Pairs	400	40,000	16,000,000.00	\$1600.00
Bagpacks	Distribution of school bags to each student	Bags	200	100,000	20,000,000.00	\$2000.00
Stationary Supplies	2500 sets of exercise books	Cartons	25	350,000	8,750,000.00	\$870.00
	80 pens	Cartons	5	50,000	250,000.00	\$25.00
	120 pencils	Cartons	5	30,000	150,000.00	\$15.00
	200 rulers	Cartons	10	40,000	400,000.00	\$40.00
Shoes	Pair of shoes for both male and female students	Cartons	200	100	20,000.00	\$2.00
Assessment books	Test books	Cartons	100	50,000	5,000,000.00	\$500.00
Administration	Administrative Cost				10,000,000.00	\$1000.00
Total					81,370,000.00	\$8132.00



Our Impact





People Surveyed for a Study





Households' received Donations



10 +**Events Conducted**







A glimpse of our Growing Family







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Acknowledgement

Sincere and cordial gratitude to the one and all who made our dreams come true and support the scaffolding of SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN.

For especially the members and team of CHEZUBA for such a timely commitment, support, and gesture to the needs of REACHOUT SALONE, by considering our requirements and contributing to our needs, without which the project wouldn't have been more successful. We are greatly indebted for the timely commitment, constant support, and warm cooperation from CHEZUBA.

We are looking forward to a greater collaboration ahead.

Send a Child to School 2021-22 was powered by:

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Local and Private Partners from Sierra Leone and the Diaspora.

Donate to send a child to school.

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To know more about us, reach out.





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