

Project Leader: Ibrahim Kondeh

Country of project: Sierra Leone

Project title: Education fɔ Wi ɔl (*Education for Everyone*)

Project Description

The “Education fɔ Wi ɔl (*Education for Everyone*)” project will embark on creating a learning-friendly environment in Evangelical Model Primary School which happens to be the only school within the Bafinfeh section in Nimiyama chiefdom, Kono district, Eastern province of Sierra Leone. This school is located in Kangama Village and serves 4 other surrounding Villages. Within the past years, the school has lacked the needed infrastructure that would cater for the educational needs of children within the ages of 6-12. My project will focus on providing sitting accommodation (desks and chairs), black boards for each of the 6 classrooms, exercise and text books, pens, pencils, and cartoons of chalk and a one year scholarship to 2 outstanding pupils in the National Primary School Examination. (NPSE) to attend secondary school.

Issue and causes

Bafin-feh section, Nimiyama chiefdom, Kono district, in the Eastern province of Sierra Leone is a remote mining and farming area. This part of the country is considered as one of the most diverse areas as it has now become home to people from all of the nation's 16 tribes due to the fact that the area was once rich in diamonds before the civil war. This unique and diverse community has been faced with many challenges that threaten the meaning of peace after the end of a brutal civil war that lasted for 11 years. The division in political views, customs, religious beliefs and right to the land has created numerous disputes among residents and a strong reputation for violence. This I believe is as a result of poverty and the high illiteracy rate in this region with over 90% of the adult population that never acquired a primary education. In addition, the location of the area has made it inaccessible to NGO's. With all these challenges, one thing that still unites my people is a community primary school located in Kangama Village.

With approximately 60% of the total population being children within the ages of 6-15, only half have the chance to attain primary education. Many of these half hardly finish primary school due to financial circumstances, long distances they have to work every morning to school and on their arrival, they face the extra challenge of not having an education friendly environment. The school structure is in a very bad condition with a leaking roof and lacks teaching and learning materials. With no desks or tables, children are left with no other option but to sit on the floor during lessons. This increases their risk of contracting diseases. In addition to that, there is an insufficient supply of books (text and exercise), chalk and black/white boards for the six-classroom building.

These challenges have discouraged many children from attending school and have influenced a decline in the number of enrolling pupils and their performance in the National Primaryschool examination. (Out of 15 pupils who took the exam last year, only one passed)

Here is where the project wants to come in by providing these facilities to the school and the community as a whole. At the moment, there is no project or organization working on

that. Except for last year, I built a 5 room toilet and sanitation facility that cost \$2100 dollars. With \$1000 funding from the GoMAD project, I was able to raise the remaining \$1100 from friends and an online fundraiser.

Impact of the project:

This project will benefit over 200 pupils from Kangama and other surrounding villages. Renovating the 6 classroom structure and providing sufficient teaching and learning materials, will encourage children to stay in school and in return contribute in reducing the gap between children who start and finish primary school in the area. Especially girls who are faced with the risk of early marriage and teenage pregnancy.

This will also reduce their exposure to an unhealthy environment while in school and their risk of catching diseases.

Providing a full paid scholarship for 2 outstanding students to attend secondary school will motivate students to study hard and improve their performances in the National Primary school exam. Empowering the younger generation with the education they deserve will give peace a chance in our already divided community and promotes future development.

How will the impact be measured?

In the short term, the impact will be measured by how many children will be enrolled or continue school by the start of next school year in September after parents see the improvement in the school facilities. In the long run, the impact will be measured by the number of pupils who make it to secondary school, reduction in early marriages for girls and decrease in the number of child miners. An unsuccessful outcome will be the opposite.

About me and Motivation.

My name is Ibrahim Kondeh. I was born in Kangama village, Sierra Leone but moved to Italy 5 years ago as an unaccompanied minor and I lived in refugee camps until 2019 when I happened to get a scholarship to study at the United World College of the Adriatic and I am currently a freshman at the University of Oklahoma.

My main motivation for running this project is to be able to bring a change to the community I ran away from a few years ago. Secondly, being a child migrant and now a first generation college student has made me realize that the problems our communities are facing cannot be solved if we run away from them. A change can only come if we are willing to work for it and the foundation in achieving that is through education. This is the message I want to send through my project and in inspiring other youths from my community.

My future projects in Sierra Leone as a whole will be on human capital development through education and improved health facilities. This project will hopefully be my second and I look forward to many more.

Table 2: Estimated Budget Plan (Total = \$9800)

The running of the project is estimated to last for 1 month (10th June-10th July 2022) and below is the estimated budget plan:

ITEMS/MATERIALS	COST	TOTAL
2 way air fare (OKC - Freetown)	1700	1700
1 months salary for a project coordinator	250	250
1 months salary for a contractor	450	450
Procurement of building materials for renovating the school and sitting accommodation (Board, sand, cement, paint, zinc. Chairs, desks, black boards etc)	4500	4500
Procurement of Teaching and learning materials (Books, pens, Chalk, 1 computer)	1500	1500
1 months stipend for 5 community volunteers (labors)	100*5	500
2 Scholarships to secondary school (school fees, books, uniform, shoes and bags)	2*250	500
Transportation cost of the needed materials		400

NB: The estimations made in the budget plan are in current market prices and they are liable to changes depending on the economy's short term fluctuations. In case of any extra expenditures, I will reach out to the local council through the help of the village chief for further assistance. I can also reach out to friends and colleagues for donations.