

# EVERY HEART

Newsletter

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#1

World Vision  
Sierra Leone



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## National Director's Forward



SAGANE THIAUW - NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

I am excited that you have in front of you the first issue of the World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) Newsletter named "Every Heart". By the special grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we will make it a point to share with you an issue of this Newsletter every three months, from now onward.

Our vision for every child is life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart is the will to make it so. This Newsletter dubbed Every Heart is designed to offer an additional platform to tell and share widely hundreds of life-changing stories that every heart (every staff member, Advisory Council (AC) member, volunteer and partner) has experienced while working or collaborating in this ministry.

As World Vision International Sierra Leone, we kicked off the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) with our

Day of Prayer (DoP). Reflecting on the Theme of this Financial Year (FY), "remaining in Christ: faithful and fruitful in uncertain times", Reverend Israella Musa, chairperson of the Advisory Council Ministry and Strategy Committee, assured us that "Christ in us and us in Christ, no matter the uncertainty, we will overcome". The message reminded and keeps reminding us that we can bear fruits only when we are faithful to Christ. All staff members and Advisory Council members attending the FY23 DoP celebration in the beautiful town of Bo bonded together during a whole day of sports and games to know and appreciate each other more.

The start of FY23 was marked by the declaration, on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022, of a Category II Hunger Emergency Response to address the rapidly deteriorating food security situation affecting the country (1,579,319 people facing food crisis as of September 2022, according to the Cadre Harmonise). WVISL plans to assist, over the 12 months, 321,000 people (including 50% children) through unconditional cash and food vouchers, nutrition, livelihood and child protection interventions, aligned with the World Vision International (WVI) Global Hunger Response's objectives and activities.

Two members of the Advisory Council (the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson) and the National Director (ND) represented WVISL at the WVI 2022 Triennial Council in Accra (Ghana) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It was a great moment of worship and prayer, deep biblical reflections, and inspiring sharing on the mega trends affecting our industry and governance business activities. For our first participation in the WVI Triennial Council as AC members and ND, we left Accra with a greater sense of belonging to the WVI family and with an eagerness to serve Christ through vulnerable children.

Ushered into the calendar year 2023 after celebrating the joy of Christmas, dear friends, let me pray for a year full of blessings from our Lord for you and your loved ones. I will leave you with this order of Jesus to all of us: "remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me" (John 15:4).

Blessings in Him.

# THE BEAUTY OF COLLABORATION IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

By: Palmira Cummings - Supply Chain Manager



SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER AND CROSS SECTION OF HER TEAM

Over the years, the timely completion of WASH Construction projects before the rainy season commences in April has been a challenge for World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVVISL). This was made clear through constructive feedback provided by internal (WVVISL – Programmes, Finance & Supply Chain staff) and external stakeholders (contractors).

Taking into consideration the feedback received and having identified the recurrence of this challenge which often affects the National Office's execution rate, the Supply Chain Management team worked closely with the Programmes team to ensure that the WASH Projects are completed in record time, on budget and with maximum benefit for the communities we serve. Both teams intentionally developed an implementation plan using the procure-to-pay process, highlighting key areas that can be improved to increase the efficiency of the National Office WASH projects implementation. After the presentation of the implementation plan for FY23 WASH Projects to the WVVISL Extended Leadership Team, each stakeholder involved in different aspects of the procure-to-pay process took ownership of the different roles they had to play in the plan and agreed to be held accountable for any anomalies. The team's collective agreement to complete all sourcing activities within the first quarter of FY23 was a key achievement during the engagements which was successfully followed through.

It is pleasing to see that the entire WVVISL team worked assiduously together to meet the set and agreed deadlines. For the first time in WVVISL, purchase orders have generated in January and a few contractors completed and submitted their Geophysics report at the end of January 2023. Across the organization, this is considered a milestone achievement in which collaboration and agility of teams have played a key role. Going forward, WASH Construction will be completed in record time as will be evident in FY23. With this collaborative mindset, the national office is better equipped to solve future

challenges together and nurture a healthier and more resilient supply chain in terms of WASH and other activities.

One key lesson learnt is that the involvement of key stakeholders in a process or process modification/change will ensure concurrence, ownership, accountability and collective efforts to keep the ball rolling. Goals can also be achieved at the right pace and with the right impact. Our WASH/construction project execution is on schedule because of this collaborative approach. As we continue on the path towards sustainable timely execution of our WASH/construction projects, all key stakeholders have realised that the inclusion of collaborative approaches to procurement and project delivery in our strategy leads to success. Collaboration is and will remain essential to a strong procurement strategy.

On the flip side of the coin, contractors will have a better experience working with WVVISL in FY23 and be more effective in their contract execution because they will be able to complete all construction works before the rain starts in April. With this consideration, SCM is better positioned to effectively manage its Supplier Contract and Relationship Management - so that contractors work with and not for us. By adopting this principle, we can all benefit, and reach our goals faster and with greater impact and leaving a more worthwhile legacy to the most vulnerable children we serve in Sierra Leone.

To sum it all up - The Teams Planned Well Together, had Strong Leadership Support and Started The Process Early! Together We Shook The Bridge!

## CELEBRATING THE HIDDEN HEROES!

By: Mark Mutai - Senior Programme Effectiveness Manager

World Vision International Sierra Leone is blessed with dedicated staff who are giving their whole to ensure that every child experience life in all its fullness. I have interacted with many field-based staff during my routine field visits and am always amazed by the zeal, the passion, commitment and dedication that these colleagues have for the work. They really demonstrate World Vision's mission of witnessing the good news of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Few of these colleagues stand out because of their duty stations.

Anyone who has visited Kamukeh chiefdom in Koinadugu district will tell of how difficult the terrain in this location coupled with limited or no connectivity. You cannot say that you have reached if you have not passed the One Gallon hill. Working in Kamukeh chiefdom is not for the faint hearted. You have to be really committed to the Mission of World Vision to serve in this location. However, I was amazed by the Kamubafo team! I jokingly asked Nyakeh if he would like to be transferred to a 'better' location but he adamantly said NO. "Mark, there is something in Kamukeh that I cannot explain. Something that draws me to the children in this community. I feel more comfortable in Kamukeh than in Freetown". Then he jumped into his bike and off to the community.

I was tasked by my supervisor to inform Agnes in Kamubafo that she has been transferred to Southern Region. I was elated to be the bearer of this good news because I expected Agnes to jubilate. To my surprise she was a bit disappointed. She intimated to me that together with her colleagues, they have been providing tutorials to school girls after office workers. She has also adopted a girl from the community who had dropped out of school and is providing for her. "I will have to seek permission from her guardians to move with her to my new location". She later confided to me that she moved with her adopted girl and her friend. The two girls are going to school and are benefiting from Agnes' mentorship.

Other locations that have mesmerized me are Bendu Cha in Ngoyilla AP and the Sherbro Island. The AP driver and those using motorbikes from the AP office to Bendu Cha chiefdom have a story to tell. You are not supposed to break along the way because the vehicle will sink in the sand. I often imagine what if you feel like scratching your leg. Just what if? At the Sherbro Island, Christiana (AIM Health project staff) told me that she has to walk over



Agnes posing third from left, with girls she coaches after school hours in Kamukeh



Nyakeh Helping out with teaching Class Five (5) pupils of NBC Primary School in the Theillia community. Theillia is hard to reach community which lacks trained and qualified teachers.



Christiana on the Sherbro river traveling to Mania Community to meet with stakeholders.



David handed over vitamin angels to a nurse in a remote community. He uses his motorbike to transport items to remote health centers.

seven kilometers to reach most vulnerable children and their caregivers. Some of these communities are riverine hence cannot be accessed via a motorbike or a car. Her narration of the hard to reach communities at the Island reminded me of a speech by former World Vision President Stan Mooneyham called [Marching off the Map](#). In his speech, Mooneyham describes World Vision as an organization that has constantly "marched off the map" to find new things to dare, innovative things to experience and risky things to explore.

In the East, I was surprised to find David, a technical development facilitator (previously serving at Lei AP) in a hard to reach community very early in the morning. He told me that he is monitoring Unlock Literacy activities. Traveling back to Koedu, I kept wondering if it is just work that made David to wake up early and ride bike in that difficult terrain to the far to reach community. It has to be something more. Perhaps he was compelled by the love of Christ to witness the good news through his work. God must have called him to go deeper.

In our Transformational Development Journey, God calls us to go deeper. Moving from improved child wellbeing to sustained wellbeing and ultimately to addressing the root causes that keep children from thriving through deeper social and spiritual transformation.

I have noticed few things about these colleagues serving in the so-called hardship areas. They are very passionate and committed to World Vision ministry; they go an extra mile sometimes using their own resources to fulfill World Vision mission. Their faith in Christ is evident. They are the Hidden Heroes.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN TO BE AGENTS OF PEACE

World Vision International Sierra Leone through a consortium led by UN Women and UNDP has recently been awarded a United Nations Peace Building Fund (UNPBF) one of the first opportunities for WVVISL under the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) which will be implemented in six districts; (Bombali, Pujehun, Kono, Western Area Rural and Western Area Urban). This project will seek to strengthen the institutional capacity of Women-Focused Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to coordinate their effort in sustaining peace and enhancing the safety and security of women and girls in Sierra Leone. WVVISL and consortium partners will facilitate the establishment of a coalition of Women-Focused CSOs and networks to make them work together as a collective force to prevent conflict, carry out mitigation efforts as well as promote equal participation of women before, during and after the 2023 General elections.

Election related violence is a common phenomenon in Africa and the world and has a great impact on women and children and the most vulnerable. This opportunity is a laudable as it creates a relationship with UN Agencies And local civil society organisations. It is a manifestation of World Vision imperative of collaborating and advocating for broader impact.

## WORLD VISION'S EDUCATION INNOVATION CHALLENGE

By: David Mehmor Pyne - Education Technical Programme Manager

The introduction of digital technology in education has surged school enrolment, promote class retention, discouraged truancy and improved learner outcomes in the classroom.



This is according to Mrs Febian Brima Head Teacher Kono District Education Council (KDEC) Primary School Canaan Kono District. She said they have experienced an increase in school enrolment, because of the introduction of digital technology in their school through Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) and World Vision's Education Innovation Challenge (EIC) Project in partnership with Profuturo. "Children who usually escape from classrooms during school hours are now transformed and motivated to stay in school until the end of the school day. Those children who were notorious for absenteeism have been transformed to be punctual in school attendance, as recorded during the last academic year".

Speaking about challenges the school had faced over the years, Mrs Brima says, "the school has in recent past realised a steady decline in attendance and school enrolment. Some of the students who were enrolled in this school were in the habit of not attending school regularly. For those who attend daily, a considerable number will escape from school before the end of the school day". She further disclosed that students' truancy, grossly affected the teaching and learning process, which resulted in massive failure at the National Primary School Examination (NPSE) a public examination that determines pupils' transition from Primary to Junior Secondary School (JSS). "Another major challenge was the habit of some parents taking their children along to their farms to engage them in farming activities. Thus, some of these school-going children provide labour on their farms, more especially during the peak of the farming season" she adds. Mrs Brima who was speaking to a team of World Vision staff told the team that her school had a low admission rate and poor retention rate. With DSTI program implemented by World Vision's Education Innovation Challenge (EIC) she says the story has become positive with more children enrolling than ever before.



"Challenges of low enrolment, poor retention, truancy, and massive failure at NPSE are now a thing of the past. We do hope that World Vision can roll out this innovation across the country, as my current school enrolment is growing. This is amazing, a development I always described as a miracle".



On behalf of her school and the Canaan community, she expresses thanks to World Vision International and partner Profuturo for introducing digital technology in education for children at KDEC Primary School Canaan, Kono District. "It is my pleasure and privilege to thank and acknowledge the boldness of my pupils and teachers in the rapid use of the digital equipment (computers and android tablets). This type of achievement cannot happen overnight, as the wheels started moving about a year ago. It required planning, determination, dedication and hard work from the World Vision team, both at the National and Field levels. I have been fortunate to be supported by a team of very active and dedicated School-based Coaches and my students are now able to use the tablets to access and make use of learning resources in the digital platform called "WeClass". The effective use of these digital devices by my teachers in the classrooms has greatly improved class retention and pupils hardly miss any of their daily lessons" she concludes.

## PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*By: Rev. Kandeh Koroma - National Faith & Development Manager*

World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVSL) is a Christian organization. Its first strategic imperative “Living out our Christian faith and call with boldness and humility,” ensures that Faith and Development (F&D) continues to be a key sector in the organisations operations in Sierra Leone.



REV. PETER KAINWO AND ALHAJI SAFFA COKER GOING ON A COMMUNITY SENSITISATION TRIP

Over the years, the organization has been very passionate about working with Faith Leaders (FLs) to attain child well-being aspirations. This was evident in the fight against deadly outbreaks like Ebola and COVID-19 where faith leaders’ engagement contributed immensely to overcoming these outbreaks. World Vision mobilised over 2,000 faith Leaders both Christians and Muslims in the

fight against Ebola. They were trained in Ebola awareness and prevention through World Vision’s Channels of Hope (CoH) programme.

Hence, in over two decades of WVSL’s existence, there has been Collaboration among faith communities in protecting children and with faith leaders serving as facilitators for CoH, Celebrating Families (CF) and other faith model training, which helped, transform people’s mindset, improved relationships among families, and contributed to the spiritual development of the children and communities where WVISL serves.



EMPOWERING WORLD VIEW PARTICIPANTS

From the past financial year (FY) however, the F&D sector of WVISL has been deliberate in its partnering process by specifically focusing on Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and Organisational Capacity Building (OCB) of churches and Faith-based organisations (FBOs) for sustainable development. This saw a total of 9 churches and 2 Christian Organisations in the Imperi and Sherbro Island of Bonthe District engaged to do self-assessment and their capacities built. These engagements have started yielding dividends in that we now see that churches engaged can assess their strength and weaknesses as well drawing activity plans to build their capacities and increase church growth. In the same light, faith-based organisations are gradually becoming implementing partners of WVISL’s F&D activities. Towards the close of last FY leading to the first quarter of this FY, one of the FBOs (Mission 4 Salone) was able to carry out F&D activities in 3 clusters, during which a total of 250 faith leaders (114 Christians and 86 Muslims) were trained on Empowered Worldview in GalliKrim, PeSoMa and JIMT Clusters, and 50 faith leaders (28 Christians and 22 Muslims) trained on Channels of Hope Gender in JIMT Cluster.

### COMMUNITY GIFTS TRANSFORMING LIVES

*By: Augustine Belewa - Manager PESOMA Cluster*

Wanjei River IS one of the strategic rivers meandering across the Pujehun District. It links several chiefdoms thus enhancing the movement of people, goods and services including children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, artisans and businesswomen. Children cross this river to access education in the nearby communities while women and men cross it to access health care, markets and farms. In the Sowa, Peje and other neighboring chiefdoms, the Wanjei River serves as the shortest route to access Malen and Bum chiefdoms saving travel time, energy and costs of transportation.

Due to financial and technical constraints of government and partners, rural road networks generally offer poor access. At stream-crossing sections, access may be cut off during the rainy season because of flooding of rivers

including the Wanjei River. Before now, children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, businesswomen, and farmers in the catchment area found it difficult to cross the Wanjei River. They relied on hand-dug wooden boats which were prone to accidents including drowning. The boats would not carry much load, especially for market women and those going to the farm. The children had to wait for the boat and most time would be late for school. Crossing at night or during the rainy season was a nightmare if not impossible.

Community stakeholders approached World Vision for support. Their request coincided with a notification of a community gift from World Vision USA. World Vision Peje Sowa AP engaged community stakeholders including children and prioritized a boat to enhance easy access for children, pregnant women, business people and farmers across the Wanjei



COMMUNITY GIFT DONATED BY PEJE SOWA AREA PROGRAMME

River. According to the stakeholders, this will contribute to easing safe access of children to school, improved health service delivery for pregnant and lactating mothers, and

free flow of goods to the periodic markets and farmers to the fields. World Vision endorsed a community gift and procured a motorized Yamaha 15 Horse-power fabricated boat.

The movement of school children, parents and caregivers across the river wearing life jackets increased the confidence and number of people traveling across the river with little or no risk. A management committee was set up and trained on the Savings for Transformation (S4T) model, opened an account at the community Bank to manage and sustain the running of the boat. World Vision through routine monitoring check and review the management of the boat on agreed and planned quarterly meeting.

This magic boat has contributed to increasing safe access to quality health delivery services by pregnant and lactating mothers to 47% as of December 2022 compared to 22% in December 2020. It increased enrollment and punctuality of girls and boys in school by 89% compared to 48% in 2020. Vocational life skills for adolescent children increased by an almost similar proportion. Household income has improved for parents and caregivers supporting the well-being of children from the periodic market and savings. Farm sizes and yields have increased from subsistence farming making productivity of farmers have access to food almost for nine months in the year. The Community Gift intervention contributed not only to empowering parents and caregivers by opening accounts at the community bank to save and manage the running of the boat but enhanced the sustainability of the Community Gift.

## Education

**In 19 operational Areas**  
**60,164 Children reached** with  
 Education interventions (**30,473**  
**Girls & 29,691 Boys**)



**76 graduates** trained by Women and Youth Strengthening (WAYS) Institute provided with start-up kits.



Construction of a perimeter fence around the Education and Youth Empowerment (EYE) Project Interdepartmental Trade Outlet at Bandajuma Village, Bo/Kenema Highway, Southern Province.



**7 interdepartmental trade outlets** furnished and equipped with requisite furniture, gadgets and machinery in WAYS Institute (Tailoring, Catering, Hairdressing, Carpentry, Masonry, Electrical and Metal work/Welding).



Paid Tuition, Uniform and ID card fees to WAYS Institute for additional **100 Trainees** to pursue different skills training of their choice.

## HUMANITARIAN CASH TRANSFER

Partnered with Orange Money to implement phase one of conditional cash distribution to **1,784 Household** with **10,704 members** supported with cash as part of Sierra Leone Hunger Response in the North and Eastern Region.



**1,784 Households** reach and each household received **\$100 equivalent in New Leones**.



## Integrated Health for Child Survival Community Health Workers program

**7,190 Women of reproductive age** reached by trained Community Health Workers (CHW)



**26,272 Children < 5** reached by trained Community Health Workers (CHW)



**599 active** trained Community Health Workers (CHW)



# World Vision

Sierra Leone

**World Vision** is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

**Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.**

**Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.**

It takes a world to end violence against children.

**LEARN MORE :** [www.wvi.org/sierra-leone](http://www.wvi.org/sierra-leone)

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