Sierra Leone Impact Report | 2023

Our National Impact Report 2022
This Annual Impact Report provides an overview of the work of World Vision in Sierra Leone, from October 2021 to September 2022.

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

Publication date: May 2023

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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 (WVISL)
- Women and Youth Strengthening (WAYS)
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
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Foreword

Dear reader

It is my honour and privilege to address you with these words as you open the World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Impact Report. I want to take this opportunity to thank God for His faithfulness to our ministry in Sierra Leone. Through the tremendous support of the Government of Sierra Leone, the partners and many other stakeholders, WVISL has been operating, without interruption, in this country over the last 25 years to contribute to the fullness of life of hundreds of thousands of children within their families and communities.

The celebration of this landmark through various activities, including the official launch by His Excellency Retired Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone on 12th May 2022, will remain one of the major milestones of the Fiscal Year 2022. We hope that the joy sparked by the celebrations of so many meaningful and impactful achievements will sustain the will of every heart to make our vision for every child a reality in Sierra Leone.

2022 has been the second year of our five years National Office Strategy (2021 – 2025) which has the goal to contribute to the sustained well-being of 1,737,570 most vulnerable children within families and communities by 2025. With the commitment of our staff, the support of our various donors (private, public, bilateral and multilateral) and the effective collaboration of our partners, 857,418 have been reached directly through programming in health and nutrition, education, child protection and participation, water, hygiene and sanitation, faith and development and livelihood. The programs of WVISL have been implemented in eight (8) out of the sixteen (16) districts of the country, covering 34 chiefdoms of these districts (see map and table on page 9). This geographical footprint confirms the strategic intent of World Vision to reach and serve the most vulnerable children wherever they are.

With the objective to ensure the sustainability of the gains made in changing the lives of the children through Area Programs that have a defined lifetime and, in a bid, to contribute to the operationalization of the localization agenda, WVISL has intentionally started working with and through local partners in the implementation of programs activities. Seven national NGOs and other Civil Society Organizations have voluntarily entered into an agreement with WVISL and worked alongside our frontline staff, the community structures and their leaders, the families and the children in health and nutrition, education, child protection and participation and spiritual nurture of children.

Revitalization of child sponsorship to increase acquisition of new sponsors has been on top of the agenda of the National Office during the fiscal year 2022. This has motivated the opt-in for the role of Chosen initiative which aims to put the opportunity of choosing a sponsor in the hands of the child. With nine Chosen events organized in FY22, more than 500 children choose freely and with joy their sponsors, which was a game changer in their lives and the one of their sponsors.

Fiscal Year 2023 will be the year of exploration of new geographies in the country in the attempt to perform assessment and design of new Area Programs that will serve more vulnerable children. It will be also a year of strategic investment in revenue increase and diversification.

While we look forward to serving more children alongside you, let me conclude by thanking sincerely the staff, volunteers, Advisory Council (AC) members of WVISL, the WVI WARO staff and the SST members for their contribution to WVISL ministry in Sierra Leone in 2022. My sincere appreciation goes to the Government of Sierra Leone and its MDAs for creating and maintaining an enabling environment of operations, to the responsive partners and to the various donors (individual child sponsors, private, cooperates, bilateral and multilateral) for the trust bestowed on our Office.

May the God of peace, joy and love bless abundantly the work at your hands.

Enjoy the read.

Sagane Thiaw
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 857,418 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 1,737,370 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**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**
- **WASH**

The above is achieved through;

- Collaboration and partnership for broader impact
- Advocacy and external engagement
- Improve governance processes
- Diverse Funding
- People Learning and Growth
2022 AT A GLANCE

857,418
CHILDREN REACHED DIRECTLY

1,298,469
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT BENEFITTED DIRECTLY FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS IN 8 DISTRICTS.

US$ 13,500,747.47
TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED

230
STAFF

441,051
ADULTS
209,045 MEN & 232,006 WOMEN

5,866,081
Advocacy
1,690,812 BOYS & 1,759,824 GIRLS
1,183,568 MEN & 1,231,877 WOMEN

World Vision Sierra Leone 2022 Annual Report
Chiefdoms covered by World Vision in 2022

World Vision Operational Districts

National Office
IMPACT TO CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES
At World Vision Sierra Leone, we champion interventions that are geared towards ensuring that all children – both girls and boys - are protected from all forms of violence. We continued to work with local child protection groups and government Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs to create awareness and strengthen child protection mechanisms within communities for children to thrive.

Significant Achievements

130 kid's clubs set up, functional and members (around 1,560 dynamic adolescent girls and boys) equipped with life skills, such as public speaking, self-control and communication skills.

100 children engaged listeners to end sexual violence against children through child-led weekly radio talk shows (Pikin Tok).

352,689 supporters pledged to support the campaign to end violence against children and contribute to ending sexual violence against children in Sierra Leone.

48 safeguarding incidences were reported to the appropriate authorities.

2 policy changes for It Takes a World Campaign with budgetary win.

The establishment of S4Ts in communities has significantly improved the financial status in homes and families thus supporting the provision of food, medication, education. thereby fostering peaceful co-existence in families.

Mariama participated as a panelist in the ECOWAS (Economic Commission of West Africa States) consultation with children.

Tenema contributed effectively to the European Week of Action for Girls (EWAG) held on February 8th 2022 by giving insights on issues affecting young girls in a country like Sierra Leone.

Tejan contributed to the discussion on ending violence against children during the African Children’s Parliament summit held in Lusaka, Zambia, in June 2022.
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 implemented the integration of broader maternal, and newborn child health outcomes with nutrition-specific interventions. These interventions include; the promotion of adequate nutrition during pregnancy; promotion of optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding practices; early initiation of breastfeeding; exclusive breastfeeding; complementary feeding; iron and folic acid supplementation; deworming; Vitamin A supplementation; and growth monitoring for children under 5 years of age. CHWs promoted nutrition-specific interventions during household visits to pregnant and lactating women in the ‘1,000 days’. With the support of CHWs, grandmothers and mother support groups, 20,361 of the targeted households were reached with health and nutrition promotion messages to improve nutrition practices including food diversification.

World Vision provided trained CHWs with smartphones equipped with a tailored version of Dimagi’s CommCare software to use during their home visits. The application supports CHWs who are using the Timed and Targeted Counselling (tTC) approach to promote positive health and nutrition behaviour change among pregnant women and mothers or caregivers of children under five years. The application provides reminders to help CHWs to visit homes at the ideal time during pregnancy, infancy and childhood. It also supports CHWs as they conduct counselling sessions, including enabling them to submit community health data in near real-time. This data is then used for planning and decision-making.

In addition, the grandmothers’ approach also served as a vehicle for conveying nutrition-sensitive messages. The role of grandmothers has extensively led to the adoption of positive nutrition behaviour in the communities because of the role grandmothers play during breastfeeding. Grandmothers are very influential in this process and played a critical role to ensure the outcome is achieved.

A total of 365 community health officers, community health assistants, maternal child health aides, state-enrolled community health nurses, and state-registered nurses and midwives were trained in Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (BEmONC). Similarly, clinical mentoring and supportive supervision training were provided for 92 technical health staff.

Through Mother-to-Mother (M2M) and Grandmother Approach, 150,222 households were reached with relevant information and support to trigger continued service utilization and improved family care practices. In addition, 74 health facilities were supported to conduct integrated outreaches through which they reached 15,586 children under-five with vaccination and 2,000 expectant mothers with antenatal services.

As part of disease burden reduction among mothers and newborns, the program focuses on the prevention and treatment of malaria. Different activities were accomplished during the reporting period, including awareness creation sessions involving 5,000 households, training of 100 school health club teachers and training of 250 community leaders. Similarly, 300 CHWs and peer supervisors were trained on the use of the rapid diagnosis test (RDT) for malaria. This training contributed to the number of confirmed malaria cases that received first-line antimalarial treatment in the communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Reach</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>102,225</td>
<td>85,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>102,225</td>
<td>81,847</td>
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</table>

People Reached: 371,485
Health and Nutrition

Significant Achievements

20,361 targeted households reached with health and nutrition promotion messages

150,222 households were reached with relevant information through tTC, Mother-to-Mother (M2M) and Grandmother approach.

2,000 expectant mothers reached with antenatal services through integrated outreaches.

365 community health officers, community health assistants, maternal child health aides, state enrolled community health nurse, and state registered nurses and midwives trained on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care

15,586 children under-five reached with vaccination through integrated outreach

100 school health club teachers and 250 community leaders trained on prevention and treatment of malaria.

5,000 households were reached with awareness creation sessions on malaria

92 technical health staff received clinical mentoring and supportive supervision trainings.

74 health facilities were supported to conduct integrated outreach

300 CHWs and peer supervisors were trained on the use of rapid diagnosis test (RTD) for malaria.
World Vision’s aspiration for all children is for them to be “educated for life,” from birth all the way through and beyond adolescence. In response to this aspiration, World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) Education programs support primary school children to read with comprehension, learn basic math and essential life skills. This life-cycle approach, at the heart of WVISL education strategy, enhances learning outcomes by integrating physical, cognitive, social, and emotional support across each phase of a child’s development, especially for the most vulnerable.

To do this we use evidence-based approaches to improve education quality and outcomes, including teacher training, community-reading activities and the provision of age-appropriate and locally relevant reading materials.

During this reporting period, World Vision International Sierra Leone Education programming achieved the following:

- **60,164** children in grade 1-3 in 382 primary schools participated in Unlock Literacy program (29,691 Boys & 30,473 Girls)
- **238** community based Reading Clubs established across the six World Vision operational districts (Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kono, Koinadugu & Falaba)
- **40** Schools introduced to Digital Technology in Education.

### People Reached: **67,274**

<table>
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<th>Adult</th>
<th>Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,471</td>
<td>3,639</td>
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</table>

**382** Primary Schools reached with Unlock Literacy education programme across 6 districts. (Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kono, Koinadugu & Falaba)
Education **Success Story:**

**Impact of Reading Club on Vulnerable Children in hard-to-reach communities.**

I am Sulaiman, ten (10) years of age. I live in a small village called Blama, miles away from the Highway to the district Headquarter town, Mattru Jong. My parents are farmers and never had the opportunity to go to school. Over the years, I never imagined to step my feet into a school facility, as I used to be with my parents on their farm.

My early childhood was a hard one, full of challenges ranging from lack of access to basic facilities, food clothing and safe drinking water to schooling. As a toddler, my parents introduced me to subsistence farming. Thus, I cultivated the idea that farming is the ultimate means of survival and finding of livelihood. Though I knew other children were attending school in my village, I thought they were not willing and obedient to support their parents on their farms. I viewed myself as an obedient child, as I accompanied my parents to their farm each day.

On a Monday, when my father was sick and the family decided to stay at home, a childhood friend of mine invited me to one of the Reading Club Sessions. Honestly, I wanted to reject his invitation, as I was full of fear and never thought of taking such an adventure. However, I decided to go with him to the Reading Club Session. Upon our arrival, the Reading Club Facilitators welcomed me with a special song. After song time, my name was for the very first time written in the Reading Club attendance list. I enjoyed every session of the Reading Club, as I interacted with my peers and learned the letters of the English alphabet with a lot of fun.

When I returned home that Monday evening, I shared my experience with my parents. To my surprise, my father acknowledge the fact that I should be enrolled for schooling as my experience at the Reading Club is impressive. The following day, my father took me to the Roman Catholic Primary School Blama for enrollment. From that day until now, I have been a regular pupil at school and at Reading Club Sessions. Identifying letters and reading was very difficult for me,” says Sulaiman.”I could not read until I finished grade 2. Because of this, It was a struggle for me to catch up with my colleagues; I used to answer exams by guessing.”

Now I practice reading with my friend at Blama Reading Club. Both of us read stories and support each other at the Reading Club to read fluently with comprehension. We are Using various books that are provided by World Vision, I am helping my siblings learn how to read and write. I ask them questions about the stories we read, and I encourage them to remember each and every letter and word.”

Today, my Reading Club experience has got me enrolled in my Primary School and I am now in class three. I am excited to see myself attending school and very comfortable among other younger children. “The name World Vision will forever remain on my mind, as they have enable underprivileged children, like me to access education and literacy at their door steps.
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Our Water Sanitation and Hygiene projects aim at ensuring that boys and girls, especially the most vulnerable, access clean and potable water and are protected from water-related diseases.

We drilled solar mechanized boreholes especially in hard to reach communities; constructed sex-separated and disability-friendly latrines with menstrual hygiene facilities for girls and women while the boys/men compartments have urinal facilities. We sensitized caregivers, children, and general public on the importance of hand washing especially in the context of COVID-19 and the mitigation of other diseases.

World Vision acquired more funding through partnering to reach out to more pregnant women, under-fives children, and lactating mothers through the Health Grid Project. More communities were reached with WASH facilities within the urban settings of Freetown through collaboration with Sierra Leone Brewery Limited and Heineken Africa Foundation. All this has contributed to the WASH Business Plan (2021–2025) which calls for strong collaboration between Government, donor agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, private partners, and general public to increase access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation in communities, health care, and education facilities in Kenema, Koinadugu, Falaba, Kono, Bo, Bonthe, Pujehun and Western Area districts.
Impact

Access to drinking water, sanitation and Hygiene

CHILDREN
37,730 Boys
39,271 Girls

ADULT
34,824 Women
33,459 Men

WASH Success Story:
Faith Leaders taking the lead in community sensitization

Abdul Kamara is a father of two and a chief Imam at Over Lungi Mosque in the Bafodia community Koinadugu District. He has always been thinking of how to improve the poor sanitation practice in his community. With the little resources, he managed to build a two-latrine stall room for his family. The use of this facility was under serious pressure as every stranger that comes to this community will be directed to use the facility. Mr. Kamara knew well that because there are little or no household latrines in the community, there is every possibility of a diarrhea outbreak. And if it does, the effect will be great. Bafodia was one of the communities selected in the period under review to benefit from World Vision’s WASH intervention. In the course of the activity, the team collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to organize training of trainers (TOT) in integrating Faith Leaders into hygiene, sanitation and behavioral change messaging using the Channel Of Hope (COH) approach. Mr. Kamara thanked World Vision and its partners for taking them through the training. He said, “We have been empowered to preach on best practices on pulpits to help spread personal and environmental health massage during sermons in mosques and churches”. He thanked World Vision for their intervention and assured them in mobilizing his community and beyond to embark on the construction of latrines and hygiene devices at the household level.

With this knowledge gain, Mr Kamara said “The whole household will be infected if drinking water is not properly taken care of from the source to consumption”. Therefore, “We will be going from house to house checking on water collection containers and their proper storage” he exclaims. Mr. Kamara and his colleague embarked on the sensitization of their communities through various sermons and conducting house-to-house visitation weekly.
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.

2022 saw among other things, the continued economic impact of COVID-19 on the people in Sierra Leone, especially those in hard-to-reach communities. WVISL’s work in such communities using faith models like Empowered Worldview (EWV) has helped to cushion livelihood-related issues. With the scaling up of the said model not only to Faith Leaders but to adolescents and adults, some community members are experiencing changes in their mindsets and can figure out possible ways of collectively addressing their challenges. Some as a collective effort to address hunger and poverty, have started forming farming groups to help them make large-scale farming that will be economically viable, and some have started businesses to tackle poverty.

2022 also saw the scaling up of Spiritual Landscape Assessment (SLA). This is evident in its integration in the assessment and designing of new APs, and findings also help to inform WVISL’s NO strategy review. This implies that FLs are strongly involved in the NO’s strategy development and thereby helping the NO address child vulnerability holistically with community members owning the process and hence paving the way for Transformational Development. The SLA findings also provide useful information for the field staff to address the underlying social norms, cultural and spiritual beliefs and practices that impact child well-being.

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 Channels of Hope (CoH), Celebrating Families (CF) and other faith model training, which has helped in transforming many community members’ mindsets, improved relationships among families, and contributed to the spiritual development of the children and communities where WVISL serves. In this 2022 financial year however, the F&D sector of WVISL has been deliberate in its partnering process by specifically focusing on Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and Organizational Capacity Building (OCB) of churches and Faith-based organizations (FBOs) for sustainable development. This saw a total of 9 churches and 2 Christian Organizations in the Imperi and Sherbro Island of Bonthe trained. Some of the church members trained serve in various community structures, support children’s camping activities, and some serve as facilitators for F&D activities in their communities. This helped increase the number of our implementing partners and our reach in faith and development initiatives including spiritual nurture for children from 70,989 in 2021 to 239,754 children in 2022.
Faith and Development **Success Story:** Rising above a meagre stipend

Life changed for Michael Musuabo, a Community Based Facilitator (CBF) in Kono, after attending the “Adult Community Members” training in Empowered Worldview states, “I realized I have the capacity to change the ugly situation I found myself in. I needed to save money and invest. I needed to break the dependency on my meagre stipend which is no longer enough for the family.”

As a result of the change of mindset through EWW engagement, Michael mobilized community youths and some members of the mother’s club he works with to help with the farm work. He loaned $500 and saved 50% ($50) each month from his stipend to support the cultivation of 10 acres of rice. “This was where I needed to get it, to rally around people to support my new idea and the women’s group were most supportive.

Together we agreed to share 10% of the proceeds and seedlings. Some are anticipating starting their farms the next planting season”.

Apart from the rice cultivation, Michael wasted no time in starting to invest for the future with the nursing of 200 palm trees. This gradual process will take time and money.

“The atmosphere in my household has changed, from dejection and hopelessness to anticipation and great dreams. This venture will support many households in this village when I start to harvest. Many of my peers who were like me have begun plans to do something to change their situation”.

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**Impacts**

239,754
Children were reached through Spiritual Nurturing Children activities and other faith-based engagements.

9 Churches & 2 Faith-base organizations
comprising 200 faith leaders were engaged in Organizational Capacity Assessment and Organizational Capacity Building as a partnering and sustainability strategy.

3,137
Faith leaders equipped to address child protection, health and nutrition, gender-based violence, poverty and other child vulnerabilities.

12,551
Parents, Community structures and members trained in faith and development models and approaches.

9 Churches & 2 Faith-base organizations comprising 200 faith leaders were engaged in Organizational Capacity Assessment and Organizational Capacity Building as a partnering and sustainability strategy.

203 Churches & 2 Faith-based organizations comprising 200 faith leaders were engaged in Organizational Capacity Assessment and Organizational Capacity Building as a partnering and sustainability strategy.
Child Sponsorship

World Vision’s child sponsorship programme creates a special relationship between sponsored children, their families, communities and sponsors that contribute to the transformation of all toward fullness of life, with dignity, justice, peace and hope.

Our child sponsorship projects are designed to meet the most pressing needs in a sponsored child’s community. For every one sponsored child, several others experience the benefits from World Vision’s programmes such as improving water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education, child protection, spiritual nurture, and economic development through savings for transformation which provides better income opportunities for their parents. This is because funds are pooled for their community rather than sent directly to the child’s family, leading to an even bigger impact.

In 2022 World Vision Sierra Leone continued to deepen her commitment to the most vulnerable, through the introduction of Chosen. With the Chosen™ initiative, World Vision believes that children getting to choose their sponsors doesn’t just change a child’s life—it can change their sponsors too. The simple statement “I choose you” can be a powerful reflection of God’s love that has far-reaching effects on both sides. The Chosen™ movement acknowledges that God chooses to love each of us ... and that we can all live into our purpose when children are empowered to create lasting change.

World Vision Sierra Leone’s Registered Children in 2022 was 64,330 children (32,050 girls and 32,280 boys).

1,322
sponsored Children, received direct benefited from gift notification. While over 60,000 sponsored received indirect benefit from Gift Notification as well through the 25% community Gift Notification

480
Community Child Monitors, trained on child sponsorship monitoring.

512
Registered Children participated in Chosen events.
Child Sponsorship Success Story: Children empowered with choices at first Chosen event in Sierra Leone.

Poverty steals choices from children. In Manjama, in the Soa Chiefdom of Kono District in Eastern Sierra Leone, children were given the power to choose at the inaugural World Vision (Sierra Leone and Netherlands offices) Chosen™ event.

As the sun rose on Wednesday 19th January 2022, from a distance you could see Mariama and other children with their parents under a thatch roof tent waiting patiently with smiles and high hopes. The notion that “some kids wait years to be chosen by a sponsor” resonates well with Mariam whose aspiration was dashed some four years ago when her friends were chosen by sponsors.

“Three to four years ago, World Vision took photos and details to find sponsors for us. Luck didn’t favour me at the time, unlike my friends” she recalls. “The news was distressing and I wept bitterly. I was told I have to wait another year or two as the organisation continues to scout for more sponsors.” Waiting and praying to receive favourable news from World Vision became a habit for Mariama. “I would be the first child rushing to every World Vision vehicle that enters our community, to ask, ‘Have you found me a sponsor?’. Today I am the happiest child at this Chosen™ event”, a smiling Mariama adds, as she hugs tightly to her chest the photo of her chosen sponsors. “I want to thank God for this opportunity. I was not chosen, but now, I have chosen this lovely girl and her mom with their cute puppy as my sponsors. You can see they have beautiful smiles and I know God will bless them because I have chosen them”.

For 12-year-old Mohamed, choosing a sponsor was more like choosing a new set of parents to share his life experience with. “I am more than excited because today I get to choose a new family, a very beautiful mum, and a handsome dad. I wish I can tell them everything about me right away”, he says, lifting the photos of his chosen sponsors and embracing them. “I want to be a building contractor when I grow up, that is why I drew a house for them. Many of my friends were chosen, but I have the opportunity to choose my sponsor; isn’t that wonderful? Can you see their lovely smiles in this photo?”

The days, months, and years of waiting and wondering for Mariama, Mohamed, and their 33 colleagues to see whether they will be chosen by a sponsor are over. As it turns out, they’re the ones who got to choose.

Manjama village witnessed the jubilation of a lifetime according to the Paramount Chief of Soa Chiefdom, Chief Foryoh. In his address, he thanked World Vision for the initiative and for allowing his people to be the first to participate in what he called a never-to-be-forgotten experience for the children of Soa Chiefdom in Kono District.

Sagane Thiaw, National Director for World Vision in Sierra Leone, considers the event to have been a dream come true for children in the area. He applauded the community people for supporting the event.

“History will record that the very first World Vision Chosen™ event in Sierra Leone, has been held here in the Manjama community in Soa Chiefdom”, he remarked at the event. “This is something that we are proud of. I believe that the paramount chief, the section chiefs, the parents, all the children, and colleagues are very proud. I pray that this event will create room for many more of such events in the future”.

With the smile of a fulfilled leader, Sagane also thanked the people and staff of World Vision’s Netherlands Office for making the event a reality for children who have waited for years to be chosen. He lavished praises as well on Henri Richard Coly and Michael Amegbe who came to support the World Vision team in Sierra Leone to put together the very colourful and successful event. Singing and dancing by grateful parents, children and staff climaxed the event.
Financial Summary

Thanks to the generous support and contributions from individuals, institutions, government agencies and corporations, World Vision International Sierra Leone's total budget for 2022 Financial Year was US $14,109,956.00 (cash funding). This funding allowed us to deepen our impact in rural communities bringing transformational development while reaching out and bringing hope to the most vulnerable children in Sierra Leone. Our intervention has been challenging on many fronts, as the global health pandemic brought unprecedented changes in people's lives while affecting much of our funding streams.

Total Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Budget</th>
<th>Actual Spent</th>
<th>% Spent to Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$14,109,956.00</td>
<td>$13,500,747.47</td>
<td>95.68%</td>
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</table>

Total expenditure by category

- Sponsorship: $10,913,624.55
- Government & Multilateral: $739,172.54
- Private Non-sponsorship: $1,847,950.38
Our Partners

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
- Hong Kong
- WV Ireland
- WV Netherlands
- WV South Korea
- WV Spain
- WV United Kingdom
- WV United States