

PROJECT SUMMARY



SIERRA LEONE

WOMEN EMPOWERED FOR LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT (WELD) PROJECT

Donor: USAID

Location: Port Loko, Bombali, Koinadugu, Tonkolili, Kono, Kailahun
and Kenema districts

Project time frame: September 2014 - February 2019

Partners: ActionAid, AMNet, NMJD

NUMBERS

Budget: \$5,280,318

Direct Beneficiaries:
1,999,596

Project Goal & Objectives

Through the WELD project, World Vision is working in seven districts in Sierra Leone where women are not well represented at Parliament or local council levels of government. The goal of the project is to increase women's social, political and economic rights in Sierra Leone through:

- » Increased women's participation and representation in decision-making processes
- » Gender-sensitive planning, monitoring and reporting adopted at council, community and national levels
- » Increased critical mass of organizations to influence gender policies at the national level

Approaches

- **Citizen Voice and Action**
 - » Local level advocacy/social accountability
- **Savings for Transformation (S4T):**
 - » Business management
 - » Linking savings to banks through mobile platforms
- **Training:**
 - » Gender Awareness
 - » Gender-sensitive planning and budgeting
 - » Male champions
 - » Gender based violence
 - » Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)



Key Interventions

- » Training of female aspirants on organizing effective campaigns, fundraising, developing a manifesto, public speaking, and networking
- » Community sensitization through radio programs and radio jingles
- » Design and dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials (posters, stickers, t-shirts)
- » Facilitating engagement between aspirants and election management bodies, political party executives, CSOs, traditional leaders, and constituents
- » Supporting the formation of female caucuses and safe centers
- » Mentorship program for female aspirants
- » Facilitating a national consultative meeting to advocate for the nomination of more women by political parties
- » Encouraging female aspirants to network through linkages to social groups, such as savings groups
- » Monitoring of violence against women in elections through the CSOs

Dr Tom Roberts
Chief of Party
e: Tom_Roberts@wvi.org

worldvision.org/ourimpact

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

Results

Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups

- » 361 savings groups have been formed and trained - over 9,000 women have saved over \$410,000.
- » Women's roles in household decision-making have increased, and the status of women at household and community levels, access to resources, and child well-being improved.

Behavior Change Communications

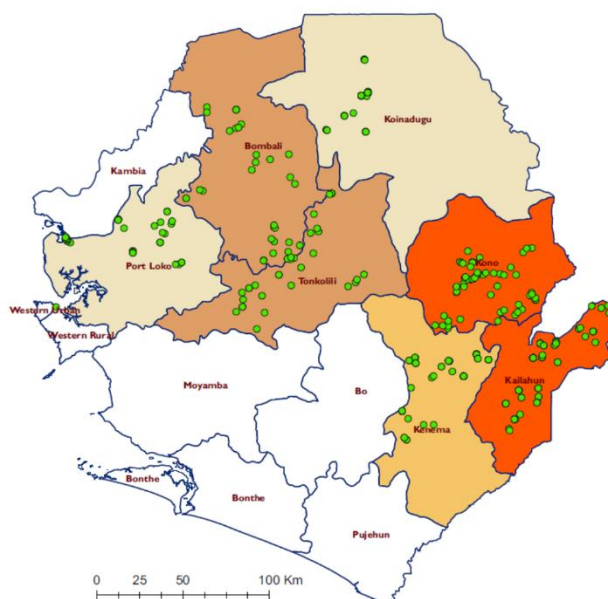
- » 15 community radio shows host programs on women's empowerment and 57 radio listener groups discuss gender issues weekly
- » 14 CSO coalitions engage ministries, departments and agencies on community-level service delivery
- » 210 local council planning, finance and gender desk officers have been trained on gender sensitive planning and reporting

- » 140 male champions (parliamentarians, councilors, civil society leaders) have been trained

Power to Challenge and Change Gender Relations

- » 289 female political aspirants at national and sub-national levels have been trained - 185 were nominated (20 for Parliament and 165 for local council)
- » 5 women were appointed section chiefs, 7 elected as members of Parliament, and 50 as councilors. One female mayor, deputy mayor, and district chairperson were also elected.
- » 1,637 women are in S4T leadership positions at the community level
- » 472 women participating in adult learning have acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills
- » 14 SGs are providing mobile money services in their communities

Savings groups formed by WELD



Lessons Learned

- » Cultural barriers to women's participation in politics can be broken through constant engagement with key stakeholders
- » Community radio is a powerful tool for social transformation
- » Economic empowerment of women will open doors of opportunities to greater participation in decision-making
- » Networking with other organizations to champion the enactment of gender equity, gender equality, and women's empowerment policies is a priority
- » The private sector has opportunities that can be tapped into by the rural women
- » SGs can serve as platforms for business, financial and marketing skills trainings to help members invest in their own IGAs or be eligible for other employment opportunities.