

January - March 2025

World Vision 

# EVERY HEART

## Newsletter

In this **SECOND QUARTER** edition are stories of transformation and personal testimonies of change.

Happy Reading!

World Vision International Sierra Leone



# MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Staff, Board Members, Volunteers, Partners, and Supporters,

I bring you greetings from the World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) Head Office, with the hope that this message finds you all well.

I am privileged and honoured to present to you the Financial Year 2025 Quarter 2 Newsletter, Every Heart.

Undoubtedly, this second quarter has been marked by significant changes in the global foreign aid landscape. As a development and humanitarian aid organization, this calls us to be more agile, innovative, and responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

While navigating this new reality, our teams, partners, and communities have remained focused on addressing the key issues affecting children—with their active participation.

From the provision of interactive teaching and learning materials for teachers and students through the ProFuturo Project, to the support for survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and the drive to increase access to clean drinking water through strategic planning and effective implementation—these are all concerted efforts to promote the sustained well-being of children.

The ENOUGH advocacy and programmatic campaign to end child malnutrition and hunger continues to gain momentum in our communities. The Mongo Women Farmers' Group now benefits from a brand-new rice thresher and tricycle motorbike, making rice processing and transportation easier. Meanwhile, the women of the Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups in Lansanabalia, and the Mothers' Club of Mongo in Falaba District, recently celebrated successful groundnut and onion harvests—valuable contributions to household food security and economic empowerment.

We remain deeply grateful to our partners who have joined us in implementing innovative and impactful projects. Notable highlights this quarter include the visit of Mrs. Shelby Benson, Vice President of Program and Quality Impact at World Vision USA, to the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 project, as well as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Public Health Agency (NPHA)—a significant milestone in our continued collaboration.

William, a young advocate from Bo District, is one of the hidden heroes we celebrate this quarter. With the support of World Vision International (WVI), he represented his peers from Sierra Leone at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit held in Paris, France, from 27th to 28th March 2025. Alongside fellow WVI-supported youth advocates Salome (Colombia) and Sunischita (Nepal), he made the voices of young people heard by world leaders in the global fight against malnutrition. Kudos to all three young advocates!

I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you—staff, Board members, volunteers, partners, and supporters—for your unwavering dedication to the work of WVISL.

It is my prayer that we will remain inspired, motivated, and committed as we continue to uphold our promise of a brighter future for vulnerable children.

**Blessings.**



**SAGANE THIAW - NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

# World Vision Showcases Digital Innovation at Annual Celebration of Education

World Vision International Sierra Leone from 20th to 24th January 2025 participated in the Annual Celebration of Education hosted at the University of Makeni (UniMak) in Northern Sierra Leone by the Ministry of Education. This year's theme, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation," brought together educators, policymakers, and innovators to reflect on how technology is shaping the future of learning.

At the event, education leaders and students engaged in rich discussions on the intersection of AI and education. World Vision joined these conversations, sharing insights on how to balance technological advancements with human-centered learning. Our presence underscored our commitment to leveraging digital solutions to improve learning outcomes for children across Sierra Leone.

A key highlight of our participation was the exhibition of ProFuturo, a program that bridges the digital divide by providing interactive learning tools for teachers and students. Visitors to our booth experienced live demonstrations of the platform in action, showcasing how technology is transforming classrooms—even in the most remote communities.

As the event came to a close, World Vision reaffirmed its dedication to promoting quality education for all children. We remain committed to collaborating with partners and policymakers to create a brighter, more inclusive future through education technology.

Stay tuned for more updates on how we're transforming education across Sierra Leone.



# World Vision Signs MoU with National Public Health Agency to Strengthen Health Security in Sierra Leone



On January 22nd, 2025, World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Public Health Agency (NPHA), marking a significant step in enhancing health security in Sierra Leone.

This MoU establishes a strategic partnership aimed at improving the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats. WVISL and NPHA aim to create a more resilient public health system that is data-driven, inclusive, and compliant with global standards. Key focuses of the collaboration include:

Enhancing public health infrastructure. Supporting evidence-based policymaking. Promoting compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Beyond the formal agreement, WVISL and NPHA will work on: Increasing fundraising opportunities for health security. Developing targeted programs for regional health issues. Promoting cooperative efforts that prioritize the health of vulnerable communities. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to protecting lives and strengthening health systems. World Vision proudly stands with NPHA in this journey to create a healthier, safer Sierra Leone for all.



# Welcoming Shelby Benson to World Vision International Sierra Leone



WVUS's invaluable support.

Shelby commended the team's dedication and highlighted the grant's importance for Sierra Leone and World Vision's mission. After an engaging Q&A session, she shared,

**"I'm honoured to be here with all of you making a profound difference. Let's continue working together for lasting change."**

On January 27, 2025, Shelby Benson, World Vision USA (WVUS) Vice President, Program Quality and Impact, was warmly received at the World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVISL) Head Office by the National Director Mr. Sagne Thiaw and Chief of the Party Global Fund Dr. Ginika Egesimba.

Her visit underscored the strong partnership between WVUS and WVISL, strengthening efforts to create sustainable and impactful development in Sierra Leone.

As WV Sierra Leone and WV USA are jointly implementing the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners, Shelby's visit aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the grant's launch, the team, and the partners involved.



During a security briefing, Juliet Sannoh assured Shelby of Sierra Leone's stable security situation. She noted minor risks while emphasizing the team's detailed planning to ensure her safety and productivity. Shelby expressed her gratitude for the thoughtful preparations.

Mr. Thiaw provided an inspiring overview of WVISL's achievements in health, education, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), and child advocacy. He also addressed challenges such as limited access to remote areas and resource constraints. He thanked Shelby for



# World Vision Strengthens Support for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Survivors in Sierra Leone

From February 12th to 14th, 2025, WANEP Sierra Leone, in partnership with the Women Peace and Security CSOs Coalition, conducted a transformative training program in Makeni, Sierra Leone. This initiative, led by World Vision International Sierra Leone and funded by the United Nations Peace-Building Fund (UNPBF), aimed to enhance the capacity of staff at the One Stop Center (OSC) and RAINBO Center to better serve survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

The program, with World Vision's leadership and support, equipped OSC and RAINBO Center staff with essential skills to provide:

- **Counseling:** Delivering emotional support to survivors in a compassionate and secure environment.
- **Psychosocial Support:** Addressing the emotional and psychological impacts of SGBV to foster healing and resilience.

- **Medical Services:** Enhancing care delivery, including forensic and clinical support for survivors.

World Vision is deeply committed to addressing SGBV and ensuring that survivors in Sierra Leone have access to high-quality, survivor-centered care. This training reflects our dedication to strengthening critical services and empowering local actors to create a safer and more equitable society.

This activity is part of the Localisation Project, which World Vision, UNDP, and UN Women are implementing. The project is funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF).

The Localisation Project focuses on empowering local actors, strengthening grassroots initiatives, and building the capacity of civil society organizations. By prioritizing community-driven solutions and collaboration, the project amplifies local voices and ensures sustainable peacebuilding efforts.



# Mapping Out the Blue Thread for Vision 2030

From February 24th - 26th, 2025, the WASH sector under World Vision International Sierra Leone gathered at Family Kingdom for a pivotal workshop to shape the next phase of our WASH Business Plan (2026-2030). Reflecting on our journey since 2020, we have achieved significant milestones, including securing PNS and grants, training 17 staff at institutions like the University of Nevada, and installing solar-powered boreholes to improve water access.

We also built gender-segregated sanitation facilities, introduced VIP latrines for girls' education, and established school health clubs to promote hygiene practices while emphasizing gender sensitivity and disability inclusivity.

During the workshop, we evaluated our 2021-2025 plan, aligned priorities with local needs, set ambitious targets for improving access to water and sanitation, and explored sustainable technical solutions. The upcoming WASH Business Plan will serve as a roadmap for achieving Vision 2030,

ensuring every child, family, and community has access to clean water, safe sanitation, and better hygiene.



## World Vision Launches Menstrual Hygiene Project to Empower Girls in Pujehun District

On February 25, 2025, World Vision Korea, in partnership with World Vision Sierra Leone, launched a Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) project in Sorogbema and Malen Chiefdoms, Pujehun District. The initiative aims to empower girls to manage their menstrual health with dignity—reducing stigma, preventing teenage pregnancy, and supporting girls to stay in school.

Speaking at the launch, Elizabeth M. Steven, Advocacy Campaign Manager, emphasized the importance of breaking taboos around menstruation and creating safe, supportive environments. The project will benefit communities including Fairo, Malema 1, Gohn, Surmu, Jendema, Njao Malen, and Gboyama through the distribution of reusable pads, construction of boreholes, and establishment of safe hygiene spaces in schools.

Community members and leaders expressed heartfelt appreciation for the initiative, highlighting its positive impact on education and health. "We are committed to ending stigma and keeping our girls in



school," said Chiefdom Speaker Augustine Jah Zoker.

This timely intervention by World Vision Korea marks a powerful step toward gender equality and better futures for girls in rural Sierra Leone.

# World Vision Receives Generous Donation to Support Public Health Efforts



As part of World Vision Sierra Leone's ongoing external engagement efforts, we are pleased to acknowledge a generous contribution from CRY from the Slums, a charitable organization



committed to supporting underprivileged and marginalized communities. In a significant gesture of solidarity, CRY from the Slums donated 100 cartons of hand sanitizer, valued at approximately \$3,057, to bolster World Vision Sierra Leone's response to the ongoing fight against MPOX—a viral disease that requires strict hygiene practices to prevent its spread.

This donation will be shared with the Ministry of Health and distributed across our Area Programs (APs), contributing directly to public health and hygiene efforts in vulnerable communities. It represents a vital step in strengthening our

capacity to respond effectively during health crises.

Looking ahead, World Vision Sierra Leone plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CRY from the Slums to formalize this partnership and explore further areas of collaboration.

We are deeply grateful for this meaningful support and look forward to continuing this impactful relationship.

## World Vision Joins National Launch Of NGO Week In Sierra Leone

On February 27th, 2025, World Vision International Sierra Leone proudly joined partners, government officials, and fellow NGOs to commemorate World NGO Day at the official launch of NGO Week in Sierra Leone.

of Planning and Economic Development, Madam Kenyeh Barlay, also in attendance. Both reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening partnerships with the NGO sector.



In his keynote address, Dr. Jalloh emphasized the urgent need for NGOs to adapt to evolving global challenges—particularly the decline in development aid financing. He called on organizations to refine their strategies, embrace innovation, and focus on sustainable, community-owned solutions that deliver long-term impact.

For World Vision, this aligns with our ongoing commitment to empowering communities, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring lasting change. In collaboration with the government, development partners, and the private sector, our work continues to make a difference in health, education, WASH, child protection, and livelihoods.

The event, organized by the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (SLANGO), was held at the Miatta Conference Center in Freetown. It served as a powerful reminder of the vital role NGOs play in transforming lives and communities.

As NGO Week continues, we recognize the tireless efforts of SLANGO, NGO workers, partners, and frontline staff who dedicate themselves to serving the most vulnerable. This event was both a moment of reflection and a renewed call to action—working together for a future where every child and community can thrive.

The occasion was officiated by the Hon. Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Juldeh Jalloh, with the Hon. Minister

A heartfelt thank you to SLANGO for leading this important initiative!

# Young Advocates Take Center Stage at the N4G Summit

The Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, held in Paris on March 27th and 28th, brought together world leaders, organizations, and advocates to tackle the pressing issue of global malnutrition. French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized that nutrition is a fundamental right, urging collective action to combat food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide.

Among the major highlights of the summit was the Rockefeller Foundation's \$100 million pledge to support school meal programs globally, a step toward ensuring children receive proper nutrition at school. However, even as commitments were made, challenges remain.

A stark warning from UNICEF revealed that 14 million children could lose access

to essential nutritional services by 2025 due to budget cuts. This potential crisis underscores the urgent need for governments and donors to prioritize investments in maternal and child nutrition to safeguard future generations.

The World Food Programme (WFP) reinforced the importance of prevention, advocating for increased investment in nutrition programs, especially for vulnerable mothers and children. WFP urged governments to take immediate action to prevent child malnutrition and protect those most at risk.

Amid these discussions, World Vision's young advocates made a powerful impact, ensuring that the voices of young people were heard. Salomé (Colombia), Sunischita (Nepal), and Williams (Sierra Leone) took center stage to advocate for education, nutrition, and food security. Their message was clear: young people must be included in decision-making processes that shape policies affecting their future.

Their passionate speeches called for nutrition to be recognized as a fundamental right, reinforcing the urgency of tackling malnutrition at its roots. Their advocacy serves as a reminder that investing in youth engagement is key to creating lasting solutions for global nutrition challenges.

The N4G Summit reinforced the critical need for governments, organizations, and individuals to take action against malnutrition. The contributions of Williams, Salomé, and Sunischita proved that young voices are essential in shaping a healthier, nourished future for all.



# Hope in Action: Announcing Projects for the Most Vulnerable

Over the past six months, WVISL teams have been collaborating with various stakeholders to design and acquire resources that will advance World Vision's work in Sierra Leone. Our recently secured private non-sponsorship funding from different private donors and support offices worldwide, alongside World Vision's partnership, will significantly impact the lives of the most vulnerable communities in Sierra Leone. We would like to highlight these recent awards and share how they will benefit the communities we serve.

We begin with the WASH in Mandonkama AP project, which has a budget of \$450,000. This project is being implemented in the Bombali district and aims to improve access to sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services in education and health facilities, enhancing child well-being. This initiative is made possible by the invaluable support of our WV Taiwan Support Office.

The second project is the ENOUGH for Kalini Pikin initiative, which has a budget of \$300,000. It will enhance food security and promote better hygiene practices, ensuring long-term resilience for vulnerable communities in the Koinadugu district. This project aligns with our ENOUGH Campaign, our flagship global campaign focusing on child malnutrition and food security.

It is supported by our WV Hong Kong Support Office.

The Intel Virtual Lab pilot has an in-country budget of \$42,056. This pilot project aims to increase access to modern educational methods and enhance computer literacy for school-going pupils in Bo district while improving teachers' skills, methodologies, and competencies through digital technology. This project receives funding from Intel and support from our WVUS office.

The Dignity in Every Cycle: Enhancing Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) project has a budget of \$200,000. It will improve the reproductive health of adolescent girls by creating MHM-friendly and sexual reproductive gender-based violence (SRGBV)-responsive environments in the Malen and Sorogbema Area Programs in the Pujehun district. This initiative is funded by our WV Korea Support Office.

The Freetown Milk and WASH project, with a budget of \$242,411, seeks to strengthen WASH infrastructure and promote better nutritional and hygiene practices among vulnerable communities in the Freetown municipality. This project is supported by various donors, including

MadBlue, We Are Water, and One Hundred Restroom, through our WV Netherlands office.

Another project from our WV Netherlands office is the Improving Maternal and Child Health in Soa AP Project, which aims to provide access to sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services. This project has a budget of \$270,000 and is being implemented in the Kono district.

We are also pleased to announce new additions to our grant portfolio. We have been commissioned by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to support the construction of a water irrigation system for a female farmers group. This project, titled "Strengthening Agricultural Value-Chain by Constructing Solar Mechanized Boreholes Fitted with



Irrigation Systems," will contribute to our ENOUGH Campaign efforts and demonstrates our continued global partnership with WFP.

In January 2025, in response to an increase in Mpox cases in the country, World Vision, in collaboration with the WVUK support office, was selected to implement a Startfund Network grant titled "Reducing Mpox Transmission Response" in Sierra Leone. World Vision is coordinating this consortium with partners such as GOAL and CARE, working alongside the National Public Health Agency (NPHA) of Sierra Leone. Our efforts with the NPHA reflect our commitment to strengthening relationships with them; we recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

These successes are a testament to our Resource Development team's dedication, expertise, and relentless pursuit of excellence, in collaboration with our programs, finance, and ACEEP colleagues. We give glory to God for securing these grants. The team is more motivated than ever to continue supporting the Ministry's mission and reinforcing the NO's commitment to community development and sustainability for our most vulnerable populations.



# Harvesting Hope: Empowering Farmers in Mongo AP with Modern Equipment

In the heart of Falaba District, Farmers in Mongo Area Programme (AP) are stepping into a new season of empowerment and productivity, thanks to a timely and transformative donation from World Vision International Sierra Leone.

In a ceremony filled with optimism, Mongo AP Management, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, handed over a brand-new rice thresher machine and a tricycle to local farming groups. This game-changing support is set to ease the burden of labor-intensive rice farming, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost food security in the region.

For years, farmers in Mongo and surrounding communities have relied heavily on thresher machines from neighboring Guinea, an arrangement that often left them at a disadvantage due to high costs and limited availability. The arrival of their very own equipment signals a turning point.

“We, as elders, are very glad with the management and staff of World Vision for their interventions in our communities that empower children, women, and vulnerable elders,” said Sheku K.



Jawara, former Regent Chief of Mongo Chiefdom and now chairman of the farmers’ group. “As the assigned chairman of the group that has received the rice thresher machine and a new tricycle for our farming purposes, we are ready to take great care of the machines.”

The donation is more than just equipment, it’s a symbol of dignity, ownership, and hope. By equipping farmers with the tools they need, World Vision is helping communities build resilience and self-reliance, ensuring that families can feed their children, send them to school, and dream of a better tomorrow. This act of support aligns with World Vision’s ongoing mission to uplift vulnerable communities through sustainable development. As the harvest season approaches, Mongo’s farmers are now better prepared, not just to reap their crops, but to reap the benefits of empowerment and renewed possibility.



## S4T Members In Lansanabalia Celebrate Their Groundnut Harvest

Members of the Saving for Transformation (S4T) Group in the Lansanabalia community, Delman-Yedu Area Programme (AP), are proudly showcasing their successful groundnut harvest. This group was among several farming collectives that received groundnut seed support from World Vision Delman-Yedu AP for cultivation during FY24.



According to Farah, secretary of the S4T group:

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to World Vision Delman-Yedu AP for their invaluable support. This assistance has not only enabled us to achieve a bountiful harvest but has also inspired us to dream bigger. We believe in our potential to expand groundnut farming on a larger scale, and we are committed to making this vision a reality.”

Looking to the future, the group has set an ambitious goal: to produce peanut butter from their groundnut harvest. They see this nutritious product as a vital step toward improving child nutrition in their community.

“Our ultimate goal is to produce peanut butter from our groundnuts,” Farah added. “This nutritious product will play a crucial role in improving the health and well-being of children in our communities. With continued support, we can make a significant impact on child nutrition and contribute to a healthier future for all.”

To achieve this vision, the S4T group is calling on World Vision Delman-Yedu AP and other potential partners for further support. Their passion, combined with sustained investment, has the potential to scale up farming operations and bring locally made, health-enriching peanut butter to families across the region.

“Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families in our communities.”

# A Typical Story from Kagbere Village, Bombali District – as narrated by Amie Kanu, a mother of four

"In Kagbere Village, life used to revolve around the struggle for water. We depended solely on hand-dug wells, and during the dry season, it was even harder. Women and girls like us had to stand in long queues, hoping to fetch water when it was finally our turn. Many times, the water level would drop before we got our chance, and we'd return home empty-handed. In those days, neither our children nor we adults could bathe.



But everything changed when World Vision International Sierra Leone constructed a solar mechanized water system in our village. Now, clean water flows throughout the day. The long queues and sleepless nights

worrying about water are behind us. It has lifted a heavy burden off women like me, and we've seen a big improvement in our children's hygiene and health. This water system has truly transformed our lives."



## Mongo Town Mothers Clubs Celebrating Onion Harvest

The Mothers Club in Mongo is delighted to announce the successful harvest of their onions! This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the members. They extend their heartfelt gratitude to World Vision for their invaluable support and capacity-building initiatives.

Through the Savings for Transformation (S4T) program, they have been able to raise funds to cultivate onions and engage in petty trading, significantly improving their livelihoods.

Namaseray, the chairlady of the Mothers Clubs, proudly shared, "The income generated from our activities has enabled us to provide for our children's education. We are particularly passionate about supporting the education of the girl child.



In the past, extreme poverty forced some parents to marry off their daughters at a young age. However, we are determined to ensure that our daughters are not victims of socio-cultural and religious norms. In addition to our focus on education, we are committed to supporting vulnerable children in our communities. We provide school and learning materials to those in need and contribute to school feeding programs by supplying condiments. We believe that with continued support, we have the potential to expand our onion cultivation on a larger scale. We kindly request further assistance to help us achieve this goal and continue making a positive impact in our community."



# ENOUGH

END CHILD HUNGER NOW

For more information and updates, visit our [website](#) and follow us on our social media handles

CONTACT: World Vision International Sierra Leone | 35 Wilkinson Road | PMB 59 | Freetown, Sierra Leone



+232 76 862 391



[wv\\_sierra-leone@wvi.org](mailto:wv_sierra-leone@wvi.org)



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