

EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM

- upholding equal rights and opportunities for all children

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WHY EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM

In Sierra Leone, many children particularly the most vulnerable in far-to-reach communities do not have access to pre-primary education and early childhood care services as a result of constraints to funds, unlimited supply of services and entrenched social norm practices relating to parenting. This is further compounded with the lack of the human attributes including good nutrition and consistent health care that do not only encourage children to learn in early years of life but also help them to do better at school, become healthier adolescents, have higher earnings throughout adulthood and increase their participation in society through improved and meaningful learning outcomes.

There are many children including orphans and those living with disability that could be seen roaming the streets either begging or engaged in laborious task for their livelihood. There are others in the mines working alongside with adults in mineral exploration; and most of whom have the potential to acquire knowledge and skills through formal or non-formal education but lack support, care and attention due to abject poverty encompassed with the lack of shelter, clothing and health care.

Evidently enough, children particularly in the rural communities face multiple barriers to enjoying their right to quality education. As many under five in most deprived communities go on foot to access elementary education, irregularity and non-punctuality remain a common phenomenon about their attendance. The situation becomes more challenging during the wet season when persistent rainfall often prevent them from attending normal school in distant communities around the villages in which they live and which unfortunate situation inevitably remain a barrier to outcomes for them.

The proposed programme specifically targets vulnerable children and women living in far-to-reach and perhaps most deprived communities where they have little or no access to basic education facilities. Health-care including shelter, water and sanitation is very poor beyond reproach and, therefore, the cases of water-borne diseases, infant-maternal-mortality and epidemics are a common phenomenon cutting across the chiefdoms.

As the link of this problem to national priorities and policies is clearly evident by the relentless efforts by Government and its international partners in addressing the problem through its flagship programme of “Free Quality School Education”, instituting/ introducing a child educational module called “Early Reading” (ER) in identified communities facing problem with access to quality early childhood care and education for children under five will serve a very good purpose in the context of solution and with specific/key (2) facilities including Learning facilities and Safe water & sanitary facilities. The ER model is an early childhood development initiative that introduces a child to education at an early stage (under-five) by postponing the alphabet until a child can read. It would start by teaching the written word in the same way the spoken word is taught. Point to a dog and say the word dog. Point to the written word “dog” and say the word “dog”.

The relevance of this proposed child education programme, nonetheless, is the enhancement of local and international efforts in supporting the nation’s educational priorities and policies to address the problem in question; and with which views in mind that the EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM is established.

THE EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM PROGRAMME

ABOUT US

The EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM (ECEF) is a non-political and not-for-profit organization of Sierra Leonean Volunteers, who work towards the seeking of opportunities and privileges that enhance the provision of basic education for the target-group – particularly the girl-child.

LEGAL STATUS

The Programme is registered with the Sierra Leone Government through line ministries, departments and agencies including the Ministry of Social Welfare, ministry of Gender and Children Affairs, ministry of Agriculture, the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organization (SLANGO), and the City & District Councils in the district of operation,

AIM

This programme aims at building the capacity of children disadvantaged, underprivileged and abandoned; and in acknowledgement of the statutes and standards of the Sustainable Development Goals.

MISSION

Promote initiatives with activities that enhance educational opportunities for the poorest children.

VISION

The EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM (ECEF) hopes to see societies around the global village in which all children share equal opportunities and enjoy equal rights to education.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

The programme's specific objective reflects the institution, developing and designing of meaningful projects around its interventions for feasible implementation and better outcome in fulfillment of mission or mandate. It is therefore the mandate of the EVERY CHILD EMPOWERMENT FORUM in its five-year programme implementation drive to:

- a. create a learning zone with schools in target communities that are deprived and underdeveloped;
- b. organize capacity-building sessions at community level with the view of sensitizing and raising awareness amongst residents on the importance of education and the need for sending their children- particularly the girl-child to school;
- c. design meaningful projects that can enhance the actualization of the educational initiative, soliciting logistical and financial support from donors;

- d. strengthen school /college leavers and other young educated people to give support to beneficiaries in the learning zone
- e. Establish and strengthen rapport with local and international groups and individuals that share similar views.

PROGRAMME THEMATIC PILLARS

- 1) Education for the children underprivileged
- 2) Empowerment of the vulnerable women (single parents/widows/aged)
- 3) Capacity-building of the socially marginalized youths or dropouts (including women)
- 4) Small scale agro-economic enterprise for home sustenance
- 5) Community health & sanitation

AREA OF GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

Designed to operate at a pilot phase for a three-year period (i.e., between 2020 – 2023), the ECEF Programme will have to specifically concentrate in communities within the various chiefdoms around the three Kenema, Kono and Kailahun Districts including in Northern Sierra Leone.

SPECIFIC TARGET GROUPS

The programme specifically targets vulnerable children and women living in far-to-reach and perhaps most deprived communities where they have little or no access to basic education facilities; health-care including shelter, water and sanitation is very poor beyond.

ORGANOGRAMME



