



Schools for  
**SALONE**

# 2023 MID-YEAR REPORT

Photo By Betty Press



## UNA KUSHE-O,

These first six months of 2023 have flown by, and we are honored by the amazing work of our partners in Sierra Leone. We cannot thank you enough for your incredible support and partnership to help make possible all we do in Sierra Leone! Thanks to an incredible gift from Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Fred Sievers and his wife, Susan, our team in the Kabala area constructed our 43rd school building and refurbished a second three-classroom building, benefiting 280 girls and women at the FAWE Technical and Vocational School.

The first six months of 2023 have seen an expansion of Uman Tok's reach to new students for reproductive health education programs, menstruation kit distribution for girls, and health kits for boys. Our partners at Programme for Children, The Learning Foundation, The Sierra Leone Book Trust, and Clinton Caulker have continued to focus on library training, teacher training, teacher sponsorships to become certified through distance learning programs, continuing sponsorships that help vulnerable students remain in school—and more!

With profound sadness, we said goodbye in March to one of our founding members, Mr. John M. Sesay, who died after a brief illness. John was my good friend and colleague during my Peace Corps days at Masanga Leprosy Hospital. If not for him, our amazing Sierra Leone partners, and YOU, we would not be embarking on our 44th school construction project this October and expanding teacher and student programs.

Thank you for being part of our community. Thank you for impacting the lives of our students, their families, and teachers of Sierra Leone.

**Warmest Regards to All,**



**Cindy Nofziger**  
**Founder & Executive Director**  
**Schools for Salone**







# REMEMBERING JOHN MORLAI SESAY

Schools for Salone lost one of its founding members, Mr. John Morlai Sesay, who passed away in Makeni on March 26, 2023. John and Cindy worked together in the “Physio” at Masanga Leprosy Hospital when Cindy was a committed, new healthcare provider in the Peace Corps, volunteering from 1985–1987. John took Cindy under his wing and taught her everything she knew about working with leprosy and polio patients while helping her navigate the culture of Sierra Leone.

Upon her return to Sierra Leone after the war in 2004, Cindy was reunited with John, who asked her to rebuild the school in his village, Maforeka, which had been destroyed during the war. She responded, successfully completing the first SfS school a year later in 2005 and leading an organization that has positively impacted thousands of children and families across Sierra Leone for nearly two decades. John helped open the doors of our Masanga and Masosingbi schools and has been an integral part of our team on the ground, quietly impacting and advocating for all those he met.

Without a doubt, John (known as “Pa Sesay” to the partners and SfS team) planted and watered the seed that grew into what Schools for Salone is today. He was a kind, gentle, proud, yet humble man who was a devoted advocate for his family and community. He turned 80 years old on March 15. His memory will live on in our hearts and the children’s lives that he has altered due to his unflagging dedication to helping those around him receive an education.



**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead**





## IMPROVED EDUCATION ACCESS

Accessible education begins with a safe, reliable learning environment that provides **clean water and sanitation facilities**.

Access also includes providing **student sponsorships** to children who might not be able to otherwise attend school and **providing bicycles** to facilitate faster, safer transportation for students.



### STATS

- Built 4 new classrooms; refurbished an older 3 classroom building; repaired the water system and constructed new latrines at the FAWE Technical and Vocational Institute—Junior Secondary School in Kabala
- Provided 40 bikes: 20 to Laoma Junior Secondary School; 20 to Kambawama Junior Secondary School
- Sponsored 114 students, otherwise without resources to attend school
- Refurbished 5 older schools: Mamboma Library, Robis Primary, Kalia Primary, Buma Primary, and Mile 38 Secondary





# STRENGTHENED EDUCATION QUALITY

We continue to focus on **funding teachers** to obtain their teaching certificates through the Ministry of Basic and Senior Education's Distance Learning Program. To supplement this certification program, our partners at **The Learning Foundation** are providing intensive early literacy training workshops that will **equip them to teach reading effectively**.

In addition, our partners at the **Sierra Leone Book Trust** have **distributed curriculum and reading books** to our libraries during their library management support visit and implementation of their Inspiring Readers Program.

## STATS

- Sponsored 130 teachers to participate in distance learning teaching certification programs
- Equipped all SfS partner schools with learning materials and other supports during term 2 and 3
- Partnered with The Learning Foundation, which held a Level 1 training in Kabala for the first time and introduced the basics of phonics. The training included 4 facilitators and 25 participants. TLF continued their literacy trainings in January with 6 primary and 6 secondary schools, reaching 427 students and 19 teachers
- Supported 12 remedial reading clubs in 6 primary schools and 6 in junior secondary schools
- Provided library training workshops in Mamboma, Makali, Jaiama Bongor and Koribondo benefiting 55 teacher trainees and over 4,000 of their students
- Offered Inspiring Readers Program in 3 primary schools in Buma, Bendu and Ngolehun, benefiting 20 teachers and 620 students



# EDUCATION EQUITY

The work of our partners at **Uman Tok** continues to expand. They have strengthened their connections with international organizations, leading to the **increased availability** of desperately needed reusable, sustainable **feminine hygiene products** for girls and women across Sierra Leone.

Uman Tok's small but mighty team continues to be a leader in Sierra Leone for **producing high-quality menstrual kits** and advocating strongly for **girls' empowerment**, ensuring that girls stay in school and avoid early pregnancy.



## STATS

- Distributed 915 kits to girls in SfS partner schools
- Provided 870 health kits for boys
- Educated 3,108 students in reproductive health



# UPCOMING GOALS



1. Construct a new primary school in the north in the village of Musaia, Falaba District
2. Launch e-reader pilot program in collaboration with The Learning Foundation and World Reader in Freetown area schools
3. Distribute 20 additional bikes to Laoma and Kamabenge Junior Secondary Schools in south
4. Deliver new books to Koribondo, Mamboma and Makali libraries
5. Implement library training for 30 teachers, with 10 from each library community
6. Continue to expand student sponsorships for underserved youth
7. Increase distance learning opportunities for teachers
8. Continue to provide necessary learning materials to all SfS partner schools
9. Distribute menstruation health kits and provide reproductive health education in partner schools



# THANK YOU

FROM ALL OF US AT SCHOOLS FOR SALONE!

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