



**TOOLS FOR
SELF RELIANCE**
Practical help for practical people

IMPACT & LEARNING REPORT



**Enhancing Job Opportunities for Vulnerable Young
People in Kenema, Sierra Leone.
Future Focus Foundation (FFF)**

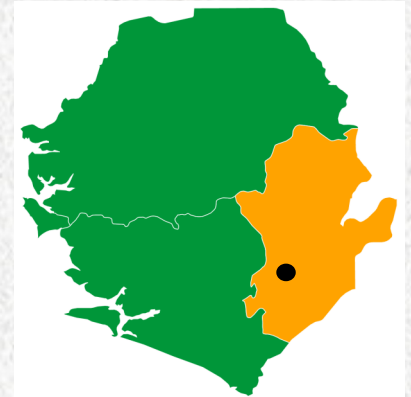
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Enhancing Job Opportunities for Vulnerable Young People in Kenema, Sierra Leone.

Future Focus Foundation (FFF)

This project responded to the socio-economic situation among young girls and boys who have dropped out of school in the Kenema, Burma II community by providing job creation opportunities for **20 young people** (15 girls and 5 boys) in marketable vocational skills, and provision of start-up kits in Kenema city.

21% of the cohort of participants didn't attend school and the 79% who did, were early school leavers, largely due to the lack of affordability of their families to send them to school. 74% of participants come from poor households, that currently reside in mud/thatched houses, and 79% have no access to electricity or running water.



The project was located in the city Kenema, Eastern District.

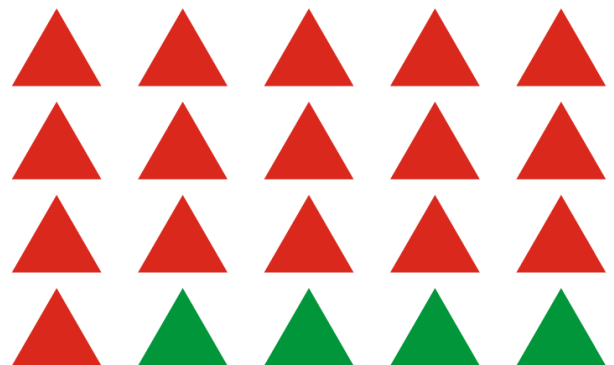
Project duration July 2017 – July 2018 • Project evaluation - November 2018

PARTICIPATION

Beneficiaries received training in tailoring and embroidery, literacy and numeracy, life skills and basic business management thus improving their socio-economic status.

Prior to the training 79% of participants were unemployed, and those 21% that were earning, were either petty trading or selling vegetables at their local market, with an average income of 40,000 Leones per week (£3.45).

Trainees employment status before training



79% trainees were unemployed before training

21% were petty trading or selling vegetables at their local market, average income 40,000 Leones (£3.45/per week)

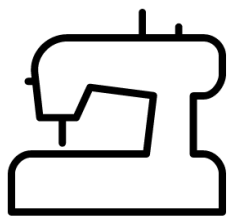
95% of trainees felt that the training was very good, and 5% good



18 OF THE 20 trainees used their skills that they were learning to earn an income, on average 55,000 Leones (£4.75) per week **DURING THEIR TRAINING.**

OUTCOMES

One of the key softer outcomes of the project was that graduates, who didn't know each other before starting the training, explained how working as a team has made them more confident and they have made more friends who are now trusted business partners.



Just 4 months after graduating
ALL GRADUATES are
EMPLOYED



and earning 92,500
Leones per week (£7.71)
4 TIMES MORE
than before the training

7 OUT OF 10 graduates
are now **SAVING**.
None of them did
before training.



HALF graduates are
saving just for their
enterprise

HALF graduates are
saving for their families
and enterprise

Spending their new
income on school fees
and more and
better food for their
families.



STORIES OF CHANGE



***"If you don't plan your life you won't
reach your vision"***

Matilda Sannoh

***"Now I have a skill and I know
how to do business which
makes me happy and changes
the way that I am."***

Hawa Yambusy



LEARNING

Savings groups embedded in training

Future Focus Foundation embedded a savings component in to their training programme, where individual participants would save what they could afford throughout the training to build up capital for their businesses upon graduation. It appeared that many graduates used

this capital to pay for personal items, rather than investing in the business.

Although beneficial to the individuals, it was thought by Future Focus Foundation and Tools for Self Reliance that by introducing a pilot business savings scheme throughout the next training, graduates will be more equipped to invest in materials and rent for their workshops when they finish.



Childcare support

Given the feedback from Future Focus Foundation and the graduates during evaluation field trips, Tools for Self Reliance and Future Focus Foundation are seeking to embed this additional support, ensuring they are supporting those with the most complex of challenges so that they *don't get left behind*.



**“WE WON’T
GO BACK TO
WHERE WE
WERE.”**

Liloma workshop

CHALLENGES

Complex challenges

Over 40% of the participants were young mothers, identified as some of the most vulnerable within the Burma II community. With this, many participants would bring their young children to the centre throughout the training day. Many graduates, including the mothers of children, suggested that this did cause disruption to learning and additional support of childcare within the programme would enable lesser distractions, and increased concentration levels.



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