

Shalom Rescue Foundation



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SRF Offers:

- Professional counselling
- Case Management
- In-house services
- Mentorship/Capacity Building

With **Professionalism**

And **Confidentiality**



Shalom Rescue
FOUNDATION

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CHAMPIONING HOPE AND INCLUSIVITY:



(Donation to children with disabilities)

International Day for Street Children

Shalom Rescue Foundation proudly joins hands with the global community in commemorating the International Day for Street Children. This important day serves as a poignant reminder of our shared responsibility to champion the rights and welfare of some of society's most vulnerable members – street children.

The Plight of Children in Sierra Leone

Countless children are unjustly denied the basic human rights they are entitled to. Alarming statistics reveal that hundreds of homeless children roam the streets of Freetown, facing daily struggles for survival. Among them, some are forced to eke out an existence on the unforgiving streets with their families, while others spend their days begging for a meager sustenance. Tragically, nights often find them without shelter, left to endure the elements in market stalls, unfinished buildings, or on the wayside.

Our mission is crystal clear – to be the unwavering voice for these children, ensuring that their fundamental human rights are not only recognized but passionately safeguarded as we are committed to shining a spotlight on their plight, making it impossible to turn a blind eye.

Our Impact

Spread Awareness: By raising awareness, we ensured that the challenges these children face are acknowledged on a broader scale.

Advocate for Change: We have used diverse platforms to spread our voice and influence to champion policies and initiatives that safeguard the rights of street children everywhere.

Distribution of food/non-food items: We distributed food and non-food items to children that are disabled or those whose parents are disabled.

We Make a Difference together

United in purpose, we can bring about profound change in the lives of street children in Sierra Leone. Let's ensure that every child, regardless of their circumstances, can experience the rights and opportunities they so rightfully deserve.

Join us in this noble cause.



Our Program Coordinator (Samuel Borbor) making the presentation of Food and non-food items to street-children with disabilities

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH SPORT:



(Procession to the Kroo-Bay Field in Support to Child Survivors of SGBV)

We are thrilled to share the latest chapter in our journey to make a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals in Sierra Leone. As part of our ongoing Awareness Raising Campaigns, Shalom Rescue Foundation (SRF) hosted a remarkable Inter-Community Football Gala on Thursday, April 13th, 2023, in the heart of Kroo Bay community.

RAISING VOICES, RAISING AWARENESS

The aim of this exciting event was clear - to raise awareness on issues of paramount importance. As we approach the upcoming general elections, it is crucial that we bring attention to critical matters such as sexual abuse, rape, and other forms of violence against women, children, and youths.



(Female Involvement – Wulamatu taking the winning strike against violence)

INTER-COMMUNITY FOOTBALL GALA (A Winning Strike against Violence)

Sports have the remarkable ability to bridge divides and bring people together. This event allowed us to foster unity and solidarity within the community while addressing critical issues head-on. Through friendly competition and shared goals, we are taking tangible steps toward a safer, more inclusive Sierra Leone.

This Gala provided a unique platform for the community to come together, have fun, and engage in vital conversations about these pressing issues.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS



(From left to right: Samuel, Wulamatu, Mr. Abass, Aminata, Leonard, and Ibrahim)

OUR COMMITMENT CONTINUES

As we look back on this memorable event, we are reminded of the incredible potential we hold to create lasting change. We are dedicated to continuing our efforts to raise awareness, support survivors, and advocate for the rights and dignity of women, children, and youths.

Together, we can bring about a brighter and safer future for all.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day

World Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed on May 28th annually since 2014, aims to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene, eliminate stigma, and promote access to menstrual products and facilities. It advocates for education and empowerment, ensuring that women and girls can manage menstruation with dignity and confidence.

Women and girls with disabilities face a multitude of challenges during menstruation that often go overlooked. It is imperative that we advocate on their behalf to ensure they have equal access to accessible water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in public places and affordable menstrual products.



Girls receiving their Dignity packages at the Milton Margai School for the Blind

Offering Dignity and Hope to Women and girls that are visually impaired at the Milton Margai School for the Blind Freetown:

On the 27th May, Shalom Rescue Foundation organized a workshop for students residing at the Milton Margai School for the Blind at Wilkinson Road, Freetown. With support from the Mental Health Coalition, SLUDI, and our patrons, we were able to have addressed the needs of those in attendance on issues relating to health, menstruation and hygiene.

Ms. Paulina Kargbo – a trained medical practitioner from the 34 Military facilitated an all-girls session. Some of the areas of discuss were centered on addressing issues that affects women and girls with disabilities during their menstrual cycle. Amongst such issues are: Inaccessible WASH Facilities in public places, Stigma and Discrimination, Limited Access to Information, and access to affordable menstrual products.



Restoring Dignity and Hope to women and girls with our Dignity Package

Girls were able to interact amongst themselves by sharing experiences and asking questions.

Our Dignity Package:

At the end of the program our Dignity Packages were distributed to all present. Each package contains: Sanitary Pads, soap, shaving sticks, sanitary towels, deodorants, and gift bag.

In attendance were representatives from: Mental Health Coalition Sierra Leone, Principal and Matron of Milton Margai School for the Blind - Freetown, Counselling and Psychosocial Unit Connaught Hospital, Patrons, volunteers, Redeemer Radio Network, and staff of Shalom Rescue Foundation.

Making Menstruation a Normal Fact of life by 2030



(SRF Staff and Volunteers on an Awareness Campaign tour during the week of Action)

Menstruation, a natural and essential aspect of a woman's reproductive health, has been historically stigmatized and often viewed as a taboo topic in many societies worldwide. However, the movement to normalize menstruation has gained momentum in recent years. Shalom Rescue Foundation is part of the Global campaign which aims at ensuring that by the year 2030, menstruation should be seen as a normal and natural fact of life, free from stigma, discrimination, and misinformation. Achieving this vision requires comprehensive efforts on multiple fronts, from education and awareness campaigns to policy changes and cultural shifts.

WEEK OF ACTION

We organized a week-long activity, which centers on the following areas:

Education and Awareness - Comprehensive Menstrual Education: Our staffs and volunteers visited eight schools and other communities during the week of action. Our main task was to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation by providing the right information. We encourage open and age-appropriate discussions about menstruation within the families and communities. Create safe spaces where individuals can ask questions and seek guidance without shame or embarrassment.



(Our Social workers engaging men and boys)

Engaging Men and Boys: We also promoted the active involvement of men and boys in conversations about menstruation. By breaking down barriers and stereotypes, we can foster more supportive and empathetic communities.

Community-led initiatives: We encourage local communities to take ownership of initiatives that destigmatize menstruation, ensuring they are culturally sensitive and inclusive.

Normalizing menstruation by 203: This is an ambitious but achievable goal. It requires a multi-dimensional approach involving education, policy changes, community engagement, and global cooperation.

By working together, we can ensure that menstruation is celebrated as a natural and essential part of life, free from stigma, discrimination, and misinformation. This shift will contribute to gender equality, improved health outcomes, and a more inclusive society for all.

Delighting Young Hearts at Connaught Hospital on African Child's Day

On June 16, 2023, the Shalom Rescue Foundation celebrated African Child's Day with a heartwarming gesture that brought joy and smiles to the faces of young patients. The foundation extended its care and support to children in need by generously donating gifts to those admitted at the pediatric ward of Connaught Hospital.



(Distribution of gifts on the day of the African child)

African Child's Day is an important occasion that highlights the rights and well-being of children across the continent. It serves as a reminder of the crucial role that organizations like the Shalom Rescue Foundation play in safeguarding the futures of these young souls.

The pediatric ward at Connaught Hospital is often filled with children who are battling various illnesses and medical conditions. Recognizing the significance of this day, the Shalom Rescue Foundation decided to make a difference in the lives of these children by spreading love, hope, and happiness.

The atmosphere at the pediatric ward was transformed into one of excitement and anticipation as the children eagerly awaited the arrival of the team. The joyous expressions on their faces when they received their gifts were truly heartwarming, and it was a testament to the foundation's commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of these children.

These gifts were carefully selected to cater to the diverse needs and interests of the young patients, ensuring that each child received something special and meaningful.

The CEO, staff and volunteers and supporters will continue to work tirelessly to collect a wide range of thoughtful gifts, including toys, books, clothing, and essential supplies to meet the needs of these young jewels.

Through these generosity and compassion, we did not only celebrate African Child's Day but also demonstrated the power of collective action in bringing comfort and solace to those facing adversity. The smiles and laughter that filled the pediatric ward on this special day will undoubtedly serve as a lasting memory for both the children and the dedicated individuals who made it all possible.

As we celebrate African Child's Day, let us all be inspired by such example and continue to work together to create a better future for the children of our continent.

COMING UP...

Community Awareness and Outreach Campaign

Raising awareness about the "Participation and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Local Community Development in Sierra Leone (PILCD-SL)" initiative.

International Youth Day

. Empowering Sierra Leonean Youth for Nation Building on Tuesday, 8th August. We will embark on an extensive Advocacy Campaign that will focus on Nation Building through Youth Empowerment in Sierra Leone.

Staff Capacity Building

Empower Tomorrow - Staff & Volunteers Development:

Our incredible staff and volunteers are the heart of Shalom Rescue Foundation. We're dedicated to their growth too - from comprehensive onboarding to job-specific training,

Back to School

Your annual donation of school supplies to vulnerable and marginalized children across different schools in Western Area.

Our Partners:



COP



Mental Health Coalition



Child Right Coalition



Human Right Commission



Legal Aid Board

We also work in close collaboration with:

- The Government of Sierra Leone through Min. of Social welfare, and Min. Of Gender and Children's' Affair
- Counselling and Psychosocial Unit Connaught Hospital
- Family Support Unit (SLP)
- SLUDI
- Local Community Stakeholders

Address:

41 Adelaide Street

Freetown

Sierra Leone

Phone Number:

+ 232 99 710 509

Website:

<https://shalomrescuefoundation.org>

Email Address:

info@shalomrescuefoundation.org