



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO: SRF-03    VOLUME 03    July – September 2023

*"Building Hope... Changing Lives..."*

## Inside the Issue

- *News highlights*
- *Celebrating our CEO*
- *Story from a survivors' heart*
- *Update on the Child Right Bill of 2022*
- *Operation Back to School*
- *Coming Up*



## Awareness Raising & Community Outreach



*(Staff and Volunteers engaging bike-riders at the Western Rural/Waterloo 5/5 & Tombo Junction)*

### **Challenging Societal Norms:**

Ending violence against women and children requires a shift in societal attitudes especially to those with disability.

Our Awareness Raising Team does not shy away from confronting the harmful norms and behaviors that perpetuate violence. By engaging in conversations, awareness raising campaigns, and education, we encourage individuals to challenge the status quo.

With support from the Mental Health Coalition Sierra Leone, Shalom Rescue Foundation was able to extend our scope of operation to cover both the Western Rural and Rural Communities in July. Our staff and volunteers together with members organization in the Coalition covers significant parts of those communities making stops at strategic locations.

We also emphasize the need for total participation and Inclusion of persons with disabilities in Local development in Sierra Leone.

### **Uniting Communities:**

One of the most inspiring aspects of our efforts this quarter is the diversity of the communities we have touched. We believe in the power of unity and solidarity, knowing that ending violence against women and children requires the collective effort of everyone.



*(Ensuring that no child is left behind regardless of the age or gender)*

Our awareness-raising team has been diligently working to protect and safeguard those at risk, including individuals with disabilities.



*(Our Social Worker during the Awareness-Raising at Funkia - Goderich)*

### **Educating women at community level:**

A critical component of our efforts is empowering women at their local communities

Our vibrant Awareness-Raising Team remains committed to creating brighter, safer future for everyone. The fight to end sexual and domestic violence is ongoing. Together we can make the difference. Contact us at our Office or call our official line at the final page of this Newsletter.

Let's win together!

## Empowering Children and Youths for Nation Building:



*(Wulamatu and Emmanuel at the Morning Tea Show at the RRN/TV)*

### *Media engagements in commemoration of the International Youth Day 2023*

#### *THEME:*

*“Green skills for youth: Towards a sustainable World”*

The International Youth Day is an annual celebration that shines a spotlight on the world’s younger generation, recognizing their potential and role in creating a better future. This year’s theme underscores the critical importance of equipping young people with the knowledge and abilities necessary to address both global and national challenges.

In an era marked by pressing ecological concerns such as climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, empowering youth with green skills has never been more imperative.

In the week of the International Youth day was used for extensive radio discussions at various radio/TV stations on children and youth issues.

During our Media engagements, The Advocacy team emphasizes the need for the following:

- Youth Engagement - National Collaboration
- Education and Training – Job Opportunities
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Young people have a pivotal role to play in building a sustainable future.

The theme underscores the need for investment in Education and also calls for action for all stakeholders to support and empower the youths in their quest for a greener and more sustainable world.

## Launching the Children’s Manifesto:



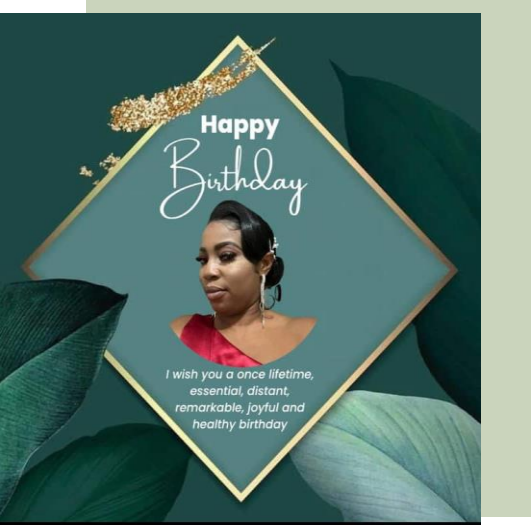
*(SRF at the launching of the Children’s Manifesto)*

*As a member of the Child Right Coalition, SRF and other partner organization launched the Children’s Manifesto.*

In an event held at the Family Kingdom – Freetown, SRF was part of members of the Child Right Coalition, Civil Society Organizations, and government representatives in support of the Children’s Forum Network of Sierra Leone to launch a five year Children’s manifesto.

There must be a political will to protect and safeguard children in Sierra Leone. We are therefore calling on all stakeholders to ensure that children have a voice and their issues prioritized at all levels.





***Birthday  
Message to Mrs.  
Eustacia  
Anderson - CEO  
and Founder of  
Shalom Rescue  
Foundation,  
Sierra Leone***

*(Happy Birthday CEO/Founder - SRF-SL)*

The entire SRF Team wishes you, our dear leader and mentor a happy birthday. You are an inspiration to us (the staff) and all other survivors of SGBV out there who needs healing and Justice.

When you first started Shalom Rescue Foundation about three years ago, you had a big dream and a small but vibrant team to work with. Since that time, you have dedicated your life to serving children and adolescents, ensuring they live a fulfilled life in a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment. You kept the faith and never gave up in spite of the numerous challenges, bottlenecks, and bureaucracies.

As of this moment, SRF has established itself as one of the leading child-advocacy organizations in Sierra Leone. Through our operations, partnerships, and networks, we have activated our presence in all Districts in Sierra Leone.

As you celebrate this day, may you live long to enjoy the fruit of your labor. May you continue to grow in Grace and favor, because you are a force for good to the Nation and beyond.



*(Mrs. Eustacia Anderson CEO/Founder - SRF-SL)*

We will continue to grow under your leadership and impacting the lives of more children and adolescents. We will continue to uphold the high morals, code of ethics and professionalism of this organization.

You are always a great source of motivation, and we join the whole world in celebrating you. Thank God for the gift of you to us and to humanity.

*Happy Birthday to you today!*



*(Our V4J Facilitator having a general meeting session with the upper primary school pupils at FAWE)*

Aminata was a bright and ambitious young girl, full of dreams and aspirations. Her father, once kind and caring man, had changed dramatically after marrying Dora, who brought turmoil into their lives. Aminata's peaceful childhood home turns into a house filled with anger and fear.

In school, Aminata was part of the Voice for Justice (V4J) Peer School Club that aimed to support pupils facing adversity.

It was there that her plight first came to light. She was a quiet member who rarely spoke about her troubles. Her disheveled appearance and the visible bruises on her arms and neck raised concern amongst her club mates. One day, our V4J facilitator, Mrs. Yarjah, decided to talk to Aminata.

As they sat together in a One-on-one session, tears flow freely as she finally found someone who was willing to listen. She reveals the harrowing truth about her life at home, the relentless physical and emotional abuse inflicted upon her by her stepmother, and her father's indifference. Mrs. Yarjah knew she needed to help Aminata escape this nightmare.

SRF team of compassionate counsellors and social workers sprang into action. Together with the school and local authorities, the parents were engaged and they promised not to abuse Aminata again. Aminata was then provided with the psychosocial support she desperately needed, with a safe space where she could share her fears, dreams and aspirations.

With our help, Aminata has now developed a remarkable resilience and support system that allows her to pursue her dreams with unwavering determination. She has then flourished academically and emotionally.

With love and determination, even the deepest wounds could heal, and the most fragile souls could find their way back to light and that's JUSTICT just by itself.



## Calling on members of parliament to support the Child Right Bill of 2022 **NOW!**



Shalom Rescue Foundation uses all our platforms to help pressure Members of Parliament to keep to their promises and pass in the Child Right Bill of 2022.

We also took advantage of the space provided to educate children and adults at different schools and communities on the importance of the Child Right Bill of 2022 how it can help transform the lives of children – protecting them from all forms of abuse. They were also informed about their shared responsibilities, because every “Right” goes with certain “Responsibilities”.

We have now succeeded in creating an awareness of the bill within our scope of operation as we now wain on other key stakeholders to do their part.

## Presentation of the Report by the Legislative Committee:



(SRF in attendance as Parliament was called in Session)

Shalom Rescue Foundation being a member of the Child Right Coalition joined other CSOs to witness the presentation of the Report by the Legislative Committee to the House of Parliament.

The Child Right Bill of 2022 when enacted can be a spring board that will champion and prioritize children’s issues in Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately, the report was not presented, and we will have to wait until the next parliament is formalized.

Notwithstanding, our presences was greatly welcomed and appreciated by committee members and promised to prioritize all future issues regard children.

## Distribution of school supplies to pupils:



*(SRF in attendance as Parliament was called in Session)*

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September, we had the privilege of hosting our annual Back-to-School program right here at our Freetown office, and it was nothing short of amazing.

The program began with a touching moment as one of the pupils opened with a heartfelt prayer, setting the tone for a day filled with hope and unity.

Other partner organizations, represented by esteemed members, shared their inspiring statements, emphasizing their commitment to our shared mission in empowering young minds through education.

A significant highlight was the review of the Shalom Rescue Foundation Child Safeguarding Policy. We were proud to witness all our associates signing their commitment to ensure the safety and protection of every child.



*(The programs Coordinator distributing School supplies)*

Empowering our future leaders, today means:

**“Ensuring that each child had the tools to succeed”**

The heartwarming distribution of school supplies followed, where pupils of diverse backgrounds, including those, vulnerable, marginalized, and disabled, received much-needed materials. The supplies included books, bags, geometry sets, foot rules, crayons, and much more, ensuring that each child had the tools to succeed.

The event was made even special by the presence of distinguished Organizations, including: Mental Health Coalition S/L, The Counselling and Psychosocial Unit Connaught Hospital, Sheku-Tepe Foundation, and representatives from the teaching community and the media.

The feedback from pupils and their parents were overwhelming. These school supplies brought immense joy and relief to those who are often vulnerable and marginalized – making significant difference in their lives.

## COMING UP...

### International Day of the Girl Child Celebration

We will be celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child with series of Awareness Raising, Advocacy, and livelihood programs based on the global theme.

### Mental Health Day

. Sham Rescue Foundation will be collaborating with the Mental Health Coalition and the Counseling and Psychosocial Unit Connaught Hospital together with the Government of Sierra Leone through the ministry of Health to commemorate such occasion

### 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,

### Fundraising Breakfast

We will be having our annual fundraising Breakfast on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the St. Anthony Hall - Syke Street at 9:00am

## 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](mailto:info@shalomrescuefoundation.org)