

# SGP-SL-IN-FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (SGP) IN SIERRA LEONE, VOL. 3. SEPTEMBER, 2019



PHOTO: NC SGP-Sierra Leone



Innovative trash bins developed by eWomen.

Photo by: Desmond Lusen PA SGP SL

## Appreciation from National Coordinator SGP Sierra Leone

I am privileged to work with many people and I wish to thank everyone for sharing their expertise, skills and relentless support to The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Sierra Leone throughout our grant making processes during the sixth Operational Phase (OP6). We deeply appreciate their studious contributions towards attaining SGP successes. To SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT), UNDP Sierra Leone and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), you have not only celebrated our wins, you turned every mistake into learning opportunity for us. You have been influential in shaping our work at all levels. The SGP National Steering Committee members have tirelessly dedicated their time in supporting SGP Sierra Leone. You have provided the necessary back stopping to allow us stay focused in achieving these tremendous results. We appreciate everything you've done and we solicit your continuous support. To our grantees, you have worked hard and you were always willing to put in extra time when the situation demanded. I am confident that you have become great assets to your local communities and beneficiaries after acquiring knowledge through our trainings. You can now network and tap from external resources around the world. To our project beneficiaries, thank you for bring your needs to our grantees and for helping them to design appropriate and quality project proposals. To all media outlets (print and audio visual), we appreciate you very much for improving the visibility of our work to the wider world. We are proud to have you as our partners and we hope to uphold our good relationship.

Thanks to the government and all government agencies especially Environment Protection Agency for your supports and creating the enabling environment for SGP to strive in Sierra Leone. We shall continue to work together on promoting sustainable environment and development agenda to reach out to vulnerable people and communities.

***Thank you all and remain blessed.***

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# UPDATES ON SOME PROJECTS

## Fifth Operational Phase year 5 (OP5 Y5) Projects

**Organization Name:** Gondama Community Development Foundation (GCDF) Sierra Leone.



**BENEFICIARIES' CONSULTATIVE MEETING**

*Photo by Abdul Sannoh-NC SGP*

**Name of Project:** Conservation of Biodiversity through Alternative Livelihood Support.

**Location:** 10 communities in two chiefdoms (Tunkai and Barri) in the Gola forest buffer zone in Pujehun District, Southern Sierra Leone.

**Cost:** \$12,955.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 150 women.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** More than 8,000.

**Impact:**

\* 150 women from ten communities increased income and access to food

through their engagement in alternative livelihood opportunities in food production and forest management.

\* More than 90 community stakeholders have acquired the capacity and are engaged in sustainable biodiversity conservation and forest management in ten communities around the Gola forest.

**Organization Name:** Mabohanday Development Organization.



**CASHEW NUT FARM IN KASUNKO**

*Photo by Field Officer MDO*

**Name of Project:** Up-scaling of Promotion of the Sustainable Management of Kasunko Community Forest for Carbon Sink to Reduce the Greenhouse Gas Emission and Improve Crop Production.

**Location:** Katinbo Fudugu and Kasunko communities in Koinadugu District Northern Sierra Leone.

**Cost:** \$12,954.

**Direct Beneficiaries:**

\* 250 household farming families

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** 80,000 people.

**Impact:**

\* 250 Farming families increased their household food security and income potential through the establishment of 100 hectares of cash crops (cashew and Maringa) and 50 acres of inland valley swamps improved rice varieties.

\* More than 100 hectares of degraded forest restored using tress to reduce carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration.



**SOLAR FOR AGRICULTURE IN KAMABONBO VILLAGE**

## Sixth Operational Phase year 3 (OP6 Y3) Projects

**Organization Name:** Partners In Rural Integration and Development.



**NC VISIT TO NURSERIES.**

*Photo by Field Officer PRIDO*

**Name of Project:** Economic Tree Crop Planting and Bee keeping for Sustainable Environmental Protection and Management through Climate Smart Agricultural Practices for the Increase of

Carbon Sink and Control Land Degradation.

**Location:** Sanda Loko Chiefdom, Bombali District, Northern Sierra Leone. **Cost:** \$13,600.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 650 youth Farmers.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** 1,500 community people.

**Impact:**

\* Over 650 farming families diversified their food production through establishment of more than 15 hectares of fruit trees and cash crops, medium scale fish farming, improved vegetable cultivation and value added rice farming on 2 hectares of reclaimed degraded inland valley swamps.

\* 250 local women serving as mentors transferred smart agricultural skills and knowledge to other women using local innovative enhancing sustainable resource management.



**COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING IN MORIA, MAFORKI CHIEFDOM, PORT LOKO DISTRICT.**

**Organization Name:** Youth Build Sierra Leone.



**YOUTH BUILD TRICYCLE FOR WASTE COLLECTION**

*Photo by Abdul Sannoh-NC SGP*

**Name of Project:** Sustainable Management of Municipality Waste through Appropriate Waste Management Practices such as Reduction, Reuse and Recycling.

**Location:** Makeni, Bombali District Northern Sierra Leone.

**Cost:** \$13,600.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** Over 1000 household families.



**Indirect Beneficiaries:** More than 5,000 individuals.

**Impact:**

- \* The project created sustainable jobs for over 400 vulnerable youths and women in waste management.

- \* The project reduced approximately 1,209,600 tons of domestic waste including plastics collected from 1,800 clients converting into 48,000 e Stones.

It generated income which supported 400 youths with an average of \$10.5 per week.

**Organization Name:** Tawalen Women Farmers Association.

**Name of Project:** Sustainable management of community forest through appropriate Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management such as tree planting for the increase of carbon sink, control the erosion and extension of the desert in line with climate smart innovative agro-ecology and community landscape.

**Location:** Petifu Mamanso, Konta Section, Bombali Shebora Bombali District Northern Sierra Leone.

**Cost:** \$13,600.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 500 household families.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** 12,000 individuals

**Impact:**

Over 10,000 trees (cash crops) planted covering 70 acres of degraded community forest thereby restoring huge quantities of carbon sink. 10 acres of inland valley swamp reclaimed and developed in two chiefdoms and this contributed to increasing rice and vegetable production.

## Sixth Operational Phase year 4 (OP6 Y4) Projects

**Organization Name:** Volunteers for Community Development Organization.



Photo by Abdul Sannoh-NC SGP

**Name of Project:** Achieving a Low-carbon Rural Society through Solar Charging Kiosk and Micro Enterprise Development in Gaura Chiefdom, Kenema and Luawa Chiefdom Kailahun.

**Location:** Baoma in Luawa Chiefdom Kailahun District and Mendekelema and Peri in Guara Chiefdom, Kenema District.

**Cost:** \$30,000.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 200 community volunteers.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** 60,000 people.

**Impact:**

- \* 200 youths from 10 communities in (2) two chiefdoms have improved capacity and established enterprises in charging of phones and cooling of water and this has contributed to securing sustainable livelihoods for these youths and other local people.

- \* By-laws formulated and adopted by two chiefdoms which led to effective forest management and biodiversity conservation around the Gola forest and the community forest reserves.

**Organization Name:** Start-N-Light Sierra Leone Limited.



NC TESTING SOLAR INSTALLATIONS IN KAMABONBO

Photo by Desmond Lusen-Pa SGP

**Name of Project:** Electrification of Two Villages through the Use of Solar Generated Power.

**Location:** Kamabonbo and Kamalainka Villages, Sella Limba Chiefdom, Kerene District Northern Sierra Leone.

**Cost:** \$30,000.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 200 Household families.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** over 1,000 families.

**Impact:**

- \* 200 households enjoying 24 hours solar powered electrification, 300 and more children increased their school performance with reliable access to solar lights for studying and over 4,000 community members have access to 22 high powered outlet sockets charging 50 mobile phones at any given one time.
- \* 200 local women capacitated and are using solar powered irrigation for vegetable and other crop cultivation which has increased food sufficiency at household level by more than 5%.

**Organization Name:** Tinkifirah Descendants Association (TDA).



HARVESTED ONION DISPLAYED BY WOMEN FARMERS IN TINKIFIRAH

Photo by Abdul Sannoh-NC SGP

**Name of Project:** Agro-ecology Farming for Sustainable Community Land Use Management.

**Location:** Tinkifirah Dainebelifeh, Badela, and Kasunya communities in Kamadu Chiefdom Falaba District Northern Sierra Leone.

**Cost:** \$30,000.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 145 farming families from 3 villages

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** over 1,184 people.

**Impact:**

- \* 145 farming families reclaimed more than 15,000 hectares of degraded community land by planting 18,032 forest trees as a climate change mitigation measure.
- \* 152 project beneficiaries increased their nutritional levels and income by diversifying food production in animal husbandry and vegetable production at household level.

**Organization Name:** eWomen Sierra Leone.



BEAD SLIPPERS PRODUCED BY EWOMEN.

*Photo by Desmond Luseni-PA SGP*

**Name of Project:** Addressing the NEET (Not in Education, Not in Employment, Not in Training) Situation through Sustainable Social Enterprising Activities such as Waste Management, Bakery, Tie-dye and Female Driven “Keke-taxis”.  
**Location:** Makeni Municipality, Bombali District.

**Cost:** \$5,000.

**Direct Beneficiaries:** Over 50 women mostly people with disability.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:** 15,000 people in Makeni municipality and its environ.

**Impact:**

\* 5 groups of 10 project beneficiaries each mainly persons with disability have gradually improved their livelihood status through their engagement in entrepreneurship activities in gara tie-dyeing, food processing, shoe making and converting waste into economically valuable products.

\* The project has contributed to reducing poverty amongst 50 persons with disabilities by at least 25%.

### TWO SET OF TRAININGS CARRIED OUT FOR OP6 Y4 GRANTEES IN 2019



OP6 Y4 GRANTEES TRAINING IN FREETOWN

*Photo by Desmond Luseni-PA SGP*

Following the award of 24 projects by the National Steering Committee for OP6 year 4 in August 2018, two sets of trainings were conducted in Freetown Urban and Peri-urban, for 48 representatives from 24 organizations across the country by the SGP Sierra Leone On 30th and 31st of January, 2019 a training was conducted for grantees on processes and procedures for GEF-SGP

Sierra Leone with the undermentioned topics.

- ⇒ Processes and procedures for financial and narrative reporting
- ⇒ GEF project indicators for thematic areas
- ⇒ Monitoring processes
- ⇒ Developing stories of change
- ⇒ Communication and visibility
- ⇒ Practical sessions on filling

On the 1st and 2nd of May 2019, another training was conducted on effective communication, Monitoring and Evaluation with the undermentioned topics.

- ⇒ Difficulties faced during reporting and agreeing on solutions
- ⇒ Draft of the communication strategy for SGP Sierra Leone
- ⇒ Monitoring and Evaluation plan and annexes
- ⇒ Discussions on making GEF OP7 better

### GEF NATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUM FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN SIERRA LEONE 2019



NATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUM AT RADISSON BLU FREETOWN

*Photo by Desmond Luseni-PA SGP*

The National Dialogue held on 17th January 2019 was a platform for a broad range of stakeholders within Sierra Leone Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, non governmental/civil society organizations, communities, academic and research institutions and the private sector, as well as partners and donors to come together to learn, discuss and agree, or take steps toward agreeing upon perilous environmental issues for GEF financing. This included information and validation of national objectives, policies, strategies and the means to achieve them; how to mainstream environment in national decision-making; national positions in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and coordination; incorporating the capital value of environment to national accounting and other issues of interest.

GEF issues are normally a component of National Dialogue insofar as the GEF Partnership is one of the sources of finance and support available to the country. Small Grant Programme for Sierra Leone as part of GEF funding initiative which aims at providing small grants to local communities, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and others, collaborated with the GEF Operational Focal Point at the Environmental Protection Agency to organize the dialogue forum in Freetown. Some of the main objectives of the forum were to bring together partners to plan for GEF operational phase 7, allowing key implementing partners and other stakeholders to agree on the thematic areas to be adopted for GEF 7 financing and show case some of the key projects already supported by GEF in the past operational phase 6.

### AMCYP-SL EMPOWER RURAL WOMEN WITH SUPPORT FROM SGP TO ENGAGE IN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS IN TAMBAKA NORTHERN SIERRA LEONE



SUCCESS STORY ON VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

*Photo and Storie by Denis Shebureh AMCYP-SL*

Aminata explains that “I once used to grow large plots of vegetables which earned me lots of money that took care of my family. When the timber business started in our community, all of us were attracted to it because we saw it as a fast lucrative way of earning money. I invested all my savings into buying and selling timber to customers coming to buy from us. But when many people started engaging in the business, everything became expensive and things turned out to be what we didn’t really expected. Most of us the women at the later stage benefited very little. It became very expensive and required huge capital which most of us couldn’t afford. It also requires intensive labour. Life became hard for me because business went bad. I used all my money to support my family.



Food became very expensive and cost of living became high too. Our forest was largely destroyed and most of the bush animals we used to kill for food moved further into the forest where we can no longer access them anymore. In 2018, with support from GEF Small Grants Programme, Advocacy for Marginalized Children and Youth Programme (AMCYPST), a CBO supported up to 50 of us to establish vegetable gardens to help increase our income levels and food sufficiency. I was really motivated by their approach as they provided us with improved seeds and farming tools, conducted trainings in agronomic practices with the support of the extension officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, provided basic financial management and savings trainings. This has helped boost my vegetable production and I am grateful and proud to say that am gradually increasing my savings and have enough to feed my household”.

#### STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP TO REVIEW OP6 COUNTRY STRATEGY IN FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE



SGP STAKEHOLDERS AT CPS REVIEW IN FREETOWN

Photo by Desmond Lusen-Pa SGP

#### Keynote address from the Gender Focal Person for NSC (Dr. Nana Pratt)

In her statement she said that “one thing grantees should understand is that we come to the steering committee to award grants that are allocated for the development of Sierra Leone, mindful of a number of elements including:

1. It should benefit everybody (inclusive of men, women, children, urban and rural as well).
2. Gender should not be limited to being men or women, but we are looking also at location because we are dealing with the environment. She explained that under environment, NSC is not only looking at people but also where they are (location) that is very important. She emphasized that these are some of the processes that NSC goes through to make sure that they live up to the standard that is expected for

Sierra Leone for which EPA is taking the front line because they have the GEF Operational Focal Point for Sierra Leone who endorses the STAR allocation for SGP to utilize. She explained that to make use of GEF resources, grantees must prove themselves worthy, through proper utilization of funds for what it was been given for in an efficient and effective manner. She stated that “efficiency and effectiveness demand collective work and coordination. This means grantees should not work in silos”. She further explained that when NSC develop the criteria for grant award, the prevailing environmental issues in the country and the GEF Focal areas are considered. Dr. Pratt enthused the National Coordinator to give more details about finding from project monitoring both negative and positive aspects. She stated that some SGP projects are very good and would attract funding for replication under OP7. These projects will show that GEF Small Grants wants to sustain the use of these funds to benefit the environment, to prevent disaster arising from the damage that human activities are causing to the environment. She stated that “NSC wants to see benefits of applying the adaptation and mitigation techniques that grantees always indicate in their proposals when we go on monitoring visits.” She specifically cited a case where some of the grantees are not even resident in the districts where they work. She informed participants that, grantees give glorious information in their proposals to enable them get funding as NSC rely on the information to award grants. In her concluding statement, she stated projects must be inclusive of women, children and the climate smart approaches as these are the indicators that NSC evaluate during their monitoring. Finally, she said in OP7, NSC really want to be very smart in monitoring and warned grantees to strictly keep to what they put in the proposal because this time round NSC will take the decision to cancel projects if it comes to that and grantees must know that they will not get the next tranche without adequately satisfying the minimum reporting requirements.

#### SGP SUPPORT AGRO-ECOLOGY FARMING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LAND USE MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN SIERRA LEONE



COMMUNITY TREE NURSERIES IN DAINEBELLIFEH

Photo by Abdul Sannoh-NC SGP

The project “**Agro- ecology Farming for Sustainable Community Land use Management**” is an Example that Demonstrates Livelihood Diversity, Farm Practices Synergy and Resource Use Efficiency” Implemented in a woodland savannah plateau in four communities (Tinkifirah, Dainebellifeh, Kasunya, and Badela) in the Kamadu-Yiraia Chiefdom, Falaba District in Northern Sierra Leone.

The inhabitants of this area are faced with the problems of rapid land degradation due to the harmful traditional slash-and-burn farming method, open livestock grazing, and more recently the ravage harvest and export of rare and threatened species of tropical hardwood spurred by swarms of foreign companies. This situation has induced deforestation, fluctuating rainfall and reduced soil fertility such that the populations face a steady decline in agricultural productivity causing hunger and malnutrition. In response to addressing the situation, a pilot project that constitutes components of Agro-pastoral ranching, organic vegetable farming and reforestation of strategic degraded areas, was initiated by Tinkifirah Descendants Association with SGP funding of USD \$30,000 in October 2018.

The project selected four self-help groups, one in each community with 25 to 45 members totalling 152 direct beneficiary farmers of which sixty percent are women. Each beneficiary group is made up of the most vulnerable members of the communities. The vulnerability is a measure of limitation to household income, good shelter and adequate balanced food. In each community a Project Steering Committee was formed to oversee project implementation. Within the four communities, the project



established a community ranch cattle grazing area of about 160 hectares (400 acres), community vegetable farms, and planted 18,000 forest trees in strategic degraded areas amounting to 60 hectares (150 acres). Training was provided for 152 farmers on forestry and sustainable organic farming technologies. The cattle ranch caretakers were trained on improved animal husbandry techniques. Basic vegetable farming tools were supplied to each community. Vegetable seeds, tree seedlings, and fodder trees were also given to farmers for planting. Farmers were encouraged to buy cattle with savings from sales of their vegetable and place the cattle in the community ranch. A total of 22 cattle are in the community ranch as at present.

This project demonstrates many of the core principles of agro-ecology farming. Introduction of vegetable production, livestock rearing and tree planting enhanced diversification of farmers' income activities, food production, and nutrition requirement to build reliance against induced income poverty and hunger faced by households. Also, the planting of vegetables, fodder crops, forest trees and rearing of livestock ensured synergy and allowed for improved land use management to build resilience against climate change. The leaf droppings from trees, livestock droppings, and crop plant residues are recycled and composted into organic fertilizer to improve resource use efficiency in agricultural production.

**Outcomes:** Overall the project resulted in 160 hectares community forest regeneration, livelihood empowerment, poverty reduction, and improved food security and nutrition for over 5,000 inhabitants in the project communities.

**WITH SUPPORT FROM GEF SMALL GRANTS, PRORAMME SIERRA ENVIRON HOPE INTERVENED TO STOP INDISCRIMINATE USE OF CHEMICALS FOR FARMING IN KYCHOM AND BABARA WALLAH IN PORT LOKO AND KAMBIA DISTRICTS IN SIERRA LEONE**



**HANDING OVER OF ISO APPROVED PESTICIDES**

Photo by Abdul Sannoh NC SGP SL

The use of pesticides in Sierra Leone is misconstrued to be very low by various stakeholders but research has shown that it is not the case. Investigations show that majority of rice and vegetable farmers use huge amount of pesticides during their farm cultivation. Kychom and Babara Wallah are predominant rice farming communities in Kambia and Port Loko Districts respectively. They cultivate rice on bolilands riverine flood plains and mangrove swamps. Babara Wallah is along the Little Scarcies river and Kychom is along the Great Scarcies river although it also has some connection with the Little Scarcies serving as a trade link with Guinea. Pesticides are smuggled into the country in an uncontrolled manner. They are easily obtained in small quantities which even the poorest farmer can afford. The storage, handling, preparation and application methods are inappropriate resulting in unacceptable human exposure through food and other materials. Majority of farmers handle pesticides without any personal protective equipment and hence exposure is likely to be considerable. Some inhale the pesticides resulting to respiratory problems.

With support of \$30,000 from GEF-SGP, Sierra Environ Hope, a local organization has assiduously worked with local farmers in these two communities towards reducing the uncontrolled influx of harmful pesticides through providing farmers with alternative stock of internationally acceptable pesticides. These are made available at cost recovery and proceeds utilized to replenish the stock ensuring the sustainability.

The project intervention has discouraged the illegal importation, sale of harmful unlabeled and unknown pesticides by farmers and vendors within these communities through the development and enforcement of bye laws with local leaders. Farmers have been trained on how to effectively handle, store and apply pesticides and these trainings are cascaded down to other farmers. Demonstration farms have been established and training carried out by experts from Njala University, Sierra Leone.

**Outcome:** Hundreds of farmers now have adequate knowledge on preventing risk of contamination in their environment.

Over 2,000 hectares of land have reduced loads of residual pesticides.

The risk of farmers accidentally dying from pesticide poisoning is gradually coming to an end.

**LET'S CELEBRATE EWOMEN SIERRA LEONE, THE WORLD CHAMPIONS OF IMPACTION + BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL INNOVATION COMPETITION 2019**



**INNOVATIVE TRASH BINS BY eWOMEN**

Photo by: Desmond Luseni PA SGP SL

UNDP GEF-SGP Sierra Leone supported eWomen SL with a planning grants of \$5,000 in 2018. eWomen SL utilized this fund to develop an innovative trash bin made from waste tyres which earned them a global award in the **Impaction + Because International Social Innovation Competition 2019**. The product is cheap, durable, anti-rust, no installation cost, and is environmental friendly because it is used to collect waste for further recycling. Follow the link below to read more on the winner of the competition 2019.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zdLtRFHDDNsDGkv8QcMV69doQNVGU6Q3/view>

122 innovators around the world applied to win USD \$1,000 and a spot in the Pursuit Incubator. Out of that number, 20 semi-finalists proceeded to the next round and eWomen SL made it. After a grueling evaluation of the 20 semi-finalists innovators, ONLY 5 made it to the finals including eWomen SL.

In the end, eWomen SL emerged as the winner. With that, let me take you through what this organization is currently doing in changing lives of young people in Bombali District.

According to **Kisimi Kayleemasa Kamara, the Chief Innovation Officer of the organization, "the world sends us garbage, but we send back innovations."**

Waste management is a big problem across Sierra Leone and the situation is far worse in marginalized areas. Makeni City in Northern Sierra Leone, is a city which contains hundreds of illegal dumping sites



just as many other cities and towns in the country. Although recycling is still not considered as a lucrative business, it is however evident that there are emerging young recycling innovators working on a small scale in Makeni, where more than 60 tons of waste is generated and deposited in open areas on a daily basis. A good number of vulnerable youths get their livelihoods through trash picking from which they earn very little. This sparked the launch of the project “Recycled Champions of Sierra Leone” in 2019 by eWomen SL.

The Chief Innovation Officer Kisimi Kayleemasa Kamara designed the project with young passionate garbage collectors and recyclers under the leadership of CEO Beatrice Edwina Koroma. The project aim to provide a better future for young people, women and persons with disability in the district with funding from GEF Small Grants Programme Sierra Leone.

The project ‘Recycled Champions of Sierra Leone,’ relies on innovative ideas that transform waste into new products. The group consists of marginalized people living in communities, constantly creating ideas that are friendly to the environment.

***“People should not strive for material things, they should strive for knowledge and the use of waste transmits this philosophy and has had a huge impact on the communities.”– Kisimi Kayleemasa Kamara-Chief Innovation Officer .***

This demonstrates the much needed escape, which an innovation can provide to young people. ***“I think a lot of young people in my country haven’t found the true meaning to life. They get into drugs, alcohol and stealing because they don’t know what to do with their lives. Innovation is something that will help them avoid most of these vices” - Yusif Koroma, a youth volunteer.***

The eWomen Innovation hub engages in developing products from wastes and craft making by vulnerable youths, and it has drawn a huge media attention especially when it lately manufactured an innovative trash bin that won them an award in the **Global Impaction + Because International Social Innovation Competition 2019**. This project has sparked change, creating livelihoods for many and promoting ambition and pride for young people riddled with poverty, This project is a testament to the power of innovation, and the hopes it bring to communities. Furthermore, it teaches young people in general about the importance of recycling in the fight against climate change, a key issue in modern day society. Even though bottom up projects like these are often unable to solve the wider issues, each innovative idea is a step forward in changing the lives of young people and solving environmental problems within a locality. It has great potential to completely renovate our communities and create job opportunities for many young people.



## Upcoming Events

1. Call for proposal for Innovative Projects for Persons with disabilities.
2. Development of the Country Programme Strategy for Seventh Operational Phase (OP7).
3. National Steering Committee Handbook on GEF Small Grants Programme Sierra Leone.
4. Stories of change told by beneficiaries, communities and Grantees.

## Editorial Team

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