



Youth in Action for Development

Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre

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a sustainable youth
development initiative
Vol. 4
2019/2020

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**Dear
Esteemed
Readers**

In Kenema, 31 December, 2020



On behalf of the staff and management of YAD, we would like to seize this moment to welcome our esteemed stakeholders, donors, patronisers and young citizens to another edition of our annual newsletter which brings you updates on YAD's development interventions with special focus on the **youth**, women and children in post conflict Sierra Leone. Those who read our last edition already have an overview of our activities up to December 2018. Considering the fact that some projects are implemented in more than 12 calendar months thereby allowing one project to overlap the other, this episode will exclusively focus on the years 2019/2020.

Regardless the prevailing global pandemic of Covid-19 which has thrown the world's economy into tatters, leaving countless business enterprises insolvent and many development initiatives in stalemate, YAD still maintain its high ground in community building and development in all its thematic areas of focus. Even during nationwide lockdowns YAD premises remained open to community services. Ongoing projects remained on track and future project proposals are being developed in order to keep the organization moving forward. While our projects are aimed to attain our initial institutional goal and vision, they are generally aligned with the United Nations global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), carefully taking into consideration the national strategic development framework of the government of Sierra Leone whose efforts we are primarily complementing. This allows synergy between our contribution and contribution of other development partners to eradicate poverty, promote peace and democracy and foster socioeconomic development in our beloved Sierra Leone.

During the period under review, YAD didn't only maintain its prestige and dignity as a **youth** focused nongovernmental organization, it also gained special recognition from key stakeholders including the government of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) who officially appointed YAD as one of the two NGO leads in the fight against Covid-19 in Kenema district. This didn't in anyway underestimate the contribution of other development partners or underrate the potential of other **youth** focused NGOs in the region, but rather underscored the government's recognition and appreciation of YAD's invaluable contribution to nation building. Thus, YAD has become the host of interagency forum of Kenema district as it houses all development partners on weekly bases to discuss their progress in diverse fronts in the fight against Covid-19 across the district. This forum also serves as a platform of idea-sharing and objective assessment of the impact of NGO interventions in the region.

This piece will, therefore, not only be a newsletter that keeps our prestigious partners, patronisers and stakeholders informed about the positive social changes we are impacting with our projects, it is also intended to advertise and popularize our unique facilities, including the newly established Youth Resource Academy (YRA), which is intended to provide every **youth** in the eastern region with productive skills. We will briefly present various projects implemented during the period under review, ranging from the famous Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre (MYRC) - phases I and II which encompasses the Youth Resource Academy; the Konjo Community Market and Social Mobilization Centre - also dubbed as the People's Project; Covid-19 Emergency Response Project; to Campaign against Open Defecation (COD) in Niawa and Langurama Chiefdoms; and more...

Once more, on behalf of the staff and management of YAD, we would like to thank you very much for your attention.

This edition was happily co-authored by the management team, YAD

THE MULTIPURPOSE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE (MYRC) SERIES

The overarching objective of MYRC is to create a permanent home for YAD from where it can design and implement its development activities safely at cheaper cost, while fostering sociocultural cohesion and friendly coexistence among the **youth** across the region. Co-funded by YAD, Fambul Tik and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project was primarily designed to be implemented in three phases. Phases I and II entails construction, furnishing and equipping the facility with all necessary gadgets. The two phases were designed to be implemented in three years. Phase III will be implemented forever! hence it is expected to provide the actual management structure and long term sustainability framework for phases I and II. While the latter is still in preparation for donor attention, the former have been successfully implemented as follows:



Front view of the Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre (MYRC) –Phase I which has eventually become YAD's national headquarters

MYRC – PHASE I

This phase entails a modern assembly hall, cafeteria, digital library, digital photo lab, conference rooms, administrative offices, temporal lodging, toilets and storage. The entire facility is powered by a 23KW solar system that makes it completely energy efficient.

OFFICE FACILITY

The office entails 7 standard rooms, conference room, staff toilets, and pray-ground for every religion. This component serves as national headquarters of YAD from where all projects are written, launched and implemented.

CONFERENCE ROOM

The conference room serves as our conflict and peace mediation centre where disputes are resolved among the **youth** without police involvement. Youths in domestic conflict situations are welcomed here to seek professional advice, mediation and peaceful settlement. This room is also used from time to time as an in-house capacity building training facility for YAD staff and affiliated **youth** organizations.



This room is also used as conflict mediation, reconciliation and resolution bureau

PEACE AND UNITY HALL

The hall complements our event management system. It is a multipurpose social mobilization facility that is well equipped with a robust musical system, sophisticated projector, air conditioners, ceiling fans, tables and chairs. This facility can conveniently accommodate up to 350 guest at a time. It is more ideal for development workshops, birthday parties, wedding receptions and institutional retreats. Added to the hall is our temporal kitchen which is equipped with refrigerators and all catering tools and utensils that can make a social event blissful.



Our Peace and Unity Hall can accommodate up to 350 guest and its equipped with a modern PA system, large format projector, ceiling fans and AC

DIGITAL LIBRARY

Our digital library is an advanced stand-alone server that contains more than 32 million documents, each of them fully indexed and searchable using a powerful, built-in search engine. YAD also has the option to modify the content by uploading our own information, pictures or videos using the built-in software. The digital library represents the collective efforts of hundreds of authors, publishers, programmers, librarians, instructors and students around the globe. The library contains more than 2000 renowned websites and it can be accessed offline without any internet connection.



Our digital library is an advanced stand-alone server that contains more than 32 million documents, each fully indexed and searchable, using a built-in search engine

The library content includes many essential online educative sites such as Wikipedia, Khan Academy, Project Gutenberg, MIT OpenCourseWare, MIT BLOSSOMSTED Talks, WorldBank, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 150+ academic and medical journals, 50,000+ books, 55+ educational software programs, 80+ computer software applications covering the following essential topics:

Basic to advanced mathematics

Civil, mechanical, electrical and environmental engineering

Medical, nursing and public health resources

Language dictionaries and tutorials

Computer science

Atlases, almanacs and other reference materials of all kinds

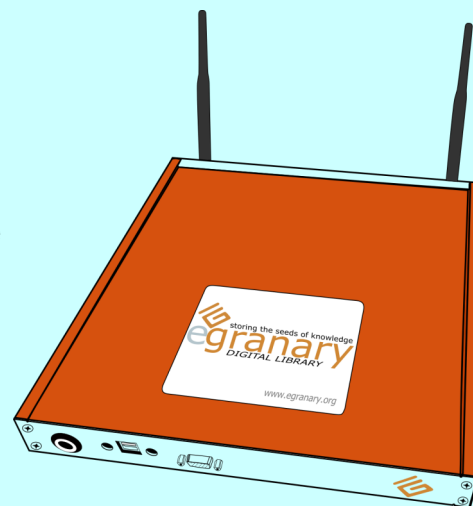
Education and teaching

History, sociology, psychology, economics, religion and other social sciences

Agriculture, horticulture and zoology

Biology, chemistry, geology and physics

Literature, art and music



DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Our young secretaries can scan, laminate, type and print documents of all types. They can design and print birthday cards, wedding souvenirs, academic desertions etc. in both black/white and coloured. When you contract them for your job, you will not be only contributing to YAD's success as a cahritable institution, you would be also helping to keep them employed.



MYRC – PHASE II



Front view of the Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre (MYRC) –Phase II which houses the Youth Resource Academy (YRA)

This phase is titled “Youth Resource Academy (YRA)”. It is a vocational institute designed to provide skills training in diverse fields. The main objective is to provide the most needed skills for underprivileged youths who are at the verge to miss the opportunity to fit into the country’s middle level manpower. This will enable them realize their own potentials as they become attractive and competitive in the Sierra Leonean job environment; earn their own living; become self-reliant and economically independent; live as law-abiding citizens; build their own families; gain dignity, respect and recognition in decision-making. YRA will offer courses in the following faculties:

BEAUTY THERAPY / COSMETOLOGY

This faculty will benefit both illiterate and literate youths who are ambitious to earn their own daily breads. Trainees will learn different types and methods of hairstyling and conditioning including the practical use of various styling chemicals and creams as well as manicuring and pedicuring. The training will last between 12 to 18 months after which candidates will be issued with officially recognized diploma certificates in beauty therapy and cosmetology. YAD believes that hairdressing is a very lucrative but far neglected profession in the Sierra Leonean society. Most Sierra Leonean women usually visit saloons at least twice a month and spend considerable amount of money on their hair. The men do the same. Wedding and birthday occasions require professional makeup artists and stylists, yet the profession is far neglected by many. YAD’s objective is to render the profession the recognition it deserves so that the candidates can be happy to live with it for good. With donor supports, YAD intends to underpin graduates from this faculty to establish their own saloons and become self-reliant.



FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

Training in this faculty will last from 16 to 24 months, walking the candidates through various modules after which they shall be encouraged to sit to the National Council for Technical, Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA) exams which shall grant them a nationally recognized qualification in catering and hospitality management. What makes this course extra ordinary is our modern kitchen which is well equipt with various cooking and baking tools and machinery which were carefully selected and imported from Europe for training purposes. The department has a separate classroom for theoretical lectures. With donor supports, YAD intends to help outstanding graduates from this faculty to establish catering clubs or get connected with existing hotels, guest houses and restaurants to enable them gain a permanent employment.

DRESSMAKING /TAILORING

This faculty is well equipped with modern industrial sewing machines. The practical and theoretical lectures are conducted in separate classrooms. Training lasts between 18 to 24 months after which the candidates shall sit to National Council for Technical Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA) exams for the award of diploma certificate in textile designing and dressmaking. With donor supports, YAD intends to support all graduates from this faculty with start-up kits, mainly sewing machines, to enable them establish their own sewing enterprises and become self-reliant.



Our tailoring classroom is equipped with electrical powered industrial sewing machines

SECRETARIAL AND OFFICE MANAGEMENT

This component will target **youth** who have had some degree of primary and secondary education but could not proceed to a tertiary level. The objective is to equip them with the necessary skills and qualifications to serve as secretaries or clerks in government offices, NGOs or other public institutions. The training will last for a period of 24 months and shall end with National Council for Technical Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA) exams which shall grant the candidates a nationally recognized certificates in secretariat and office management studies. Added to the normal training syllabus, the candidates in this faculty have the opportunity to acquire an intensive training in information and communication technology (ICT) encompassing all the necessary Microsoft office packages. The objective is to help the candidates to develop confidence in themselves to undertake further tertiary studies while working in a Sierra Leonean office environment.



Our secretarial and office management department is fully equipped with 25 desktop/laptop computers which makes it possible for each student to gain permanent access to a computer throughout the studies. Student can even use a computer to take notes and accomplish period assignments – a facility that is not even offered by our universities.

DESIGNING AND PRINTING TECHNOLOGY

This component will particularly benefit **youth** who have creative talents and are keen to make their talents visible. They will be trained how to initiate computer aided printing templates and motives using graphic designing software such as Photoshop, Corel draw etc., colour codes and combination, final printing on banners, signboards, T-shirts, caps, bags and any other printable materials. The training will last for a period of 24 months after which the participants will be awarded diploma certificates in designing and printing technology.

Considering the rarity of screen designing and printing profession in the country, the first few outstanding candidates in this faculty have the opportunity to solicit donor supports through YAD to establish their own enterprises or remain attached to YAD since the department is sharply understaffed!

FITNESS /SPORT

The fitness/sport component is an expansion of YAD's sporting activities. The objective is to diversify sporting and recreational activities for YAD affiliated **youth** groups including candidates who are enrolled in the Youth Resource Academy. The centre is equipt with countless modern fitness and recreational gadgets that were carefully selected to serve the intended purpose. They include motorised treadmills, electric bicycles, heavy weight lifters, jugging/cardio machines, billiards, table tennis etc. While the gadgets are intended to keep the **youth** physically and mentally healthy, some are also useful for physiotherapeutic treatment for everyone



The fitness and recreational centre is second to none in Kenema city. The center offers physical, psychological and pedagogical therapy for every youth.



KONJO COMMUNITY MARKET AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION CENTRE

This project was co-funded by Fambul Tik, YAD and BMZ. The main objectives were to trigger socioeconomic development for women, foster unity, cohesion and peaceful coexistence among the **youth**, hence to solidify peace, democracy and good governance in Malegohun Chieftdom in general and Konjo community in particular. The project constructed for the Ngiehun community a modern multipurpose complex with a market hall located on the ground floor, a community mobilization hall located on the top floor, temporal guest house, toilets, charge station, 15 KW solar system, robust musical set, solar powered water well, and series of capacity building training programmes. The project also created an organization called Kono Youth Development Association (KYDA) which assumed custodianship of the facility in order to ensure community ownership and future sustainability.



L-R: Kenema District Council Chairman - Mohamed O' Level Sesay, Ngiehun Konjo town chief - Morrie Alpha, Konjo Buima Section chief - Lahai Sombo, Paramount Chief of Malegohun Chieftdom - Mad. Salay Satta Gendemeh, Othman Sheriff -Programme Coordinator, Resident Minister of east, Hon. Andrew Ansu Fatorma turning the foundation



Project Director of Fambul Tik e.V. , Othman Sheriff , speaking at the launching ceremony



A current pictorial view of the Konjo Community Market and Social Mobilization Centre with the market situated downstairs and the social mobilization centre located upstairs.



THE EMERGENCY COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT

When the government of Sierra Leone declared a nationwide struggle against COVID-19 by imposing drastic precautions including lockdowns, road blocks, down to dusk curfews etc., residents of the rural areas became more vulnerable than ever before, especially when it all occurred at the pick of the raining season when many pots stopped boiling and pockets were virtually empty. That was the time YAD launched its all-out sensitization campaign against COVID-19 in its targeted communities. Titled “Sensitization Campaign against COVID-19 and Distribution of Resilient Support to Vulnerable Households, the project was funded by BMZ and Fambul Tik focusing mainly on distribution of basic hygiene and sanitary materials, masks and food items. More than 900 bags of rice, 4500 lumps of soap, 5985 cubes of jumbo maggi, 84 bags onions, 175 bags salt, 375 canisters of oil, 6450 masks, 10 giant wash hand stations and hand sanitizers were distributed to about 500 households with more than 8500 dependants in various communities across Kenema district with special focus on Kenema city, Konjo Buima community in Malegohun chiefdom and Mabondor in Niawa Chiefdom, Kenema district.



Emergency COVID-19 response support food and non-food items being distributed by YAD to vulnerable households in Konjo Buima, Malegohun Chiefdom, Kenema district

The main objective of this campaign was to foster resilience at household level to enable the beneficiaries resist and survive the socioeconomic and cultural shock of the novel virus, teach them how to prevent themselves from or live with it just as they did over the years with malaria and HIV/AIDS, since all efforts by global leaders to produce an effective vaccine or true cure for the virus had proved futile. YAD has also mainstreamed COVID-19 preventive measures in all its ongoing and future projects.



DONATION OF ULTRASOUND MACHINE TO KENEMA GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

As a continuation of YAD's support to the health sector in Kenema district, The organization donated an ultrasound machine to the Kenema Government Hospital on 21 April 2020. The machine was a philanthropic gesture received from friends in Germany.



Stakeholders converged at Kenema Government Hospital to receive the YAD donated ultrasound machine

This machine was received by Kenema Government hospital staff with a great jubilation and in a ground breaking ceremony attended by all stakeholders including the Resident Minister, east, Hon. Andrew A. Fatorma, Mayor of Kenema municipality, His Lordship Thomas Karimu Baio, Town Chief of Kenema city, Alhaji Kenei Momoh Ngombulango, Paramount Chief of Nongowa Chiefdom, Sadiq Mattoe Kapuwa IV, Deputy Mayor of Kenema Municipality, Madam Esther Nguanya Kaisamba, District Medical Officer, Dr. Donald Grant and many other stakeholders.

The machine is used to monitor development of new babies at earlier stage and to detect any problem that might affect them in the womb. It also helps to know gender identity of the baby before delivery. This machine can be also used to mirror human internal organs and take a snapshot of it without using an x-ray. The machine has an inbuilt printer, disc drive and USB ports which allows the user to download information gathered from the patient.

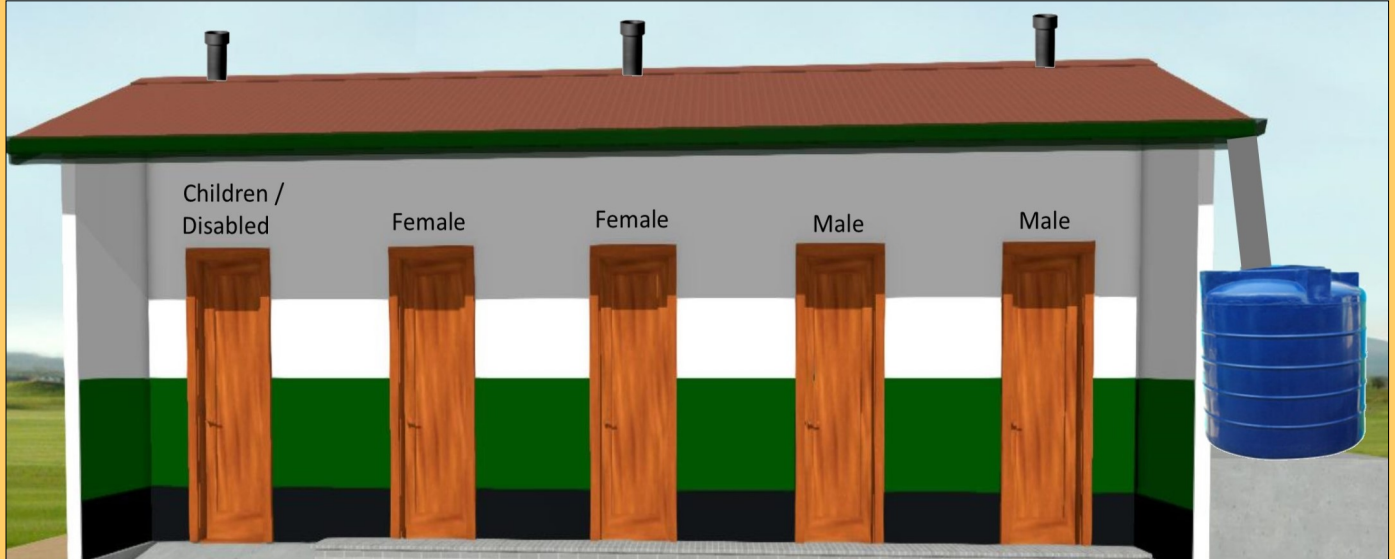


CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPEN DEFECATION IN NIAWA AND LANGURAMA CHIEFDOMS

This project was launched late 2020 with funds from BMZ and Fambul Tik. The project entails construction of community toilets in 20 villages across Niawa and Langurama chiefdoms, formation of a Community Hygiene Committee (CHC) in each village to serve as a supervisory body for project facility in order to ensure future sustainability. The project is also conducting effective sensitization against COVID-19 in the two chiefdoms. The project will be implemented throughout 2021.



Pictorial view of some of the existing sanitary facilities in Niawa and Langurama chiefdoms. Most people prefer going to the nearby bushes or streams...



A prototype of sanitation facility designed by YAD for youth and female headed households in Niawa and Langurama chiefdoms, Kenema district

After witnessing the rapid growth of YAD over the years, many people are now mistaking such a voluntary initiative for a donor agency. As a matter of fact, we are not a donor and we need every ounce of help from everyone!



You can help us financially, materially, emotionally, morally or physically. You can even help us spiritually by remembering us in your prayers in the church or mosque. If you have special expertise in some of our thematic areas, you can help us voluntarily. Or if your career occupation cannot allow you to do so, you could simply :

- ⇒ *Recommend YAD to potential donors;*
- ⇒ *Inform YAD about funding opportunities;*
- ⇒ *Simply sign our documents such as attestations or registration certificates, if you are in a high position*
- ⇒ *Book our event management system to generate income for the organization*
- ⇒ *Orally complement and acknowledge our efforts in order to motivate us*
- ⇒ *If you are a journalist, you can promote us in the media*

You may also want to know some of those who have supported us over the years. Well, the following list is not exhaustive:

- ⇒ *Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany*
- ⇒ *UNAOC, New York*
- ⇒ *Fambul Tik e.V., Berlin, Germany*
- ⇒ *Intermission e.V., Hannover, Germany*
- ⇒ *United Religious Initiative*
- ⇒ *National Youth Commission (NAYCOM),*
- ⇒ *Ministry of Planning and Development*
- ⇒ *Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs, GoSL*
- ⇒ *Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, GoSL*
- ⇒ *Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, GoSL*
- ⇒ *Ministry of Health and Sanitation, GoSL*
- ⇒ *Kenema City and District Councils*
- ⇒ *Kenema District Youth Council*
- ⇒ *North-South Bridge Foundation, Germany*
- ⇒ *International Association of Educators for World Peace*
- ⇒ *Affiliated youth groups*

GOOD NEWS
FOR EVERYONE

YAD Boosts Government's Free Education Program in Kenema

YAD wishes to inform the general public that its digital library service is now up and running.

School pupils, tertiary students and academic researchers are now invited to browse our internet in the box with more than 1 million electronic books, academic publications and research materials without paying any internet cost.

For further information regarding opening hours and beneficiary illegibility criteria, please visit our headquarters at 55a Maxwell Khobe Street in Kenema!!

Always work and no play can give our youth a freaky mind

Come party with YAD!!

YAD wishes to inform the general public that its newly constructed Peace and Unity Hall is now available for public hire .

Book the best
hall in town

For further information regarding the conditions of hire, please visit our headquarters at 55a Maxwell Khobe Street in Kenema city!!

Please note that YAD does not offer its facilities for any political, religious, clique, cult or court meetings...

OUR DEVELOPMENT VISION

**“WHEN EDUCATION SHALL
BECOME A HUMAN RIGHT
FOR EVERY CITIZEN;
NATIONAL POLITICS
BECOMES DETRIBALIZED
AND DE-REGIONALIZED;
YOUTH, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN ARE EQUALLY
RECOGNIZED IN DECISION-
MAKING; THERE SHALL BE
A DEVELOPED NATION
CALLED SIERRA LEONE””**



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