



# Youth in Action for Development

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Covid -19 and the Russian/Ukraine war have adversely affected the world economies. Wealthy nations have instituted austerity and preventative measures to protect their own citizens. Consequently, many corporate and bilateral donors have drastically reduced funding to deserving projects in the global south. Even the mightiest nations now prefer to fund charities that internally serve their own people. The falling crumbs from the donor tables now reach the starving NGOs and CBOs in Africa mostly with many strings such as "innovative solutions to poverty, climate change, gender equality etc." attached, which turns every applicant into a mere gambler since the chances of getting such funds are much lower than winning a lottery. Some of them come with co-funding preconditions knowing fully well that most charitable initiatives in the global south do not have money.

Sadly, the Sierra Leonean economy is among those walloped, forcing business enterprises to either shut down or exponentially increase the prices of essential commodities to catch up with the spirally depreciating rate of Leones to USD. The years 2021 and 2022 have recorded more increments in prices of basic commodities such as rice and petroleum products than any other year in the country's history. The central government is sandwiched between delivering on its electoral promises, such as infrastructural development, combating corruption in high places, improving the quality of education for its citizens, on the one hand, and resisting the adverse socioeconomic effects of Covid-19 and the Russian/Ukraine war, on another. Some ill-motivated citizens have even used the situation to trigger fracas in peaceful communities. We have witnessed a purported peaceful protest against the hike of prices culminate into a bloody theatre that saw many compatriots dead, including uniformed men, and billions worth of properties torched to ashes, including police stations.

The harsh and unpredictable natural weather leading to frequent environmental disasters is another challenge our country faces. Even though global warming is a general blame that every nation can share, aggressive deforestation, selfish and reckless constructions and haphazard country planning are significant causes of the frequent environmental disasters threatening us today. While the subsistence farmer cannot predict when and where to cultivate anymore, most city dwellers go to bed praying to Allah for protection from the potential debris of precarious neighbourhood homes. The lack of sincere patriotism and genuine love for our nation has led many compatriots to erect dwelling homes where only wild birds should be nesting. Most city dwellers comfortably dispose of home garbage and debris in shallow drainages that directly end at our beautiful beaches where western tourists should be walking euphorically to witness our country's peaceful tropical flora and fauna.

Perhaps the attitudinal and behavioural change campaign launched by the erstwhile government of President Koroma would have been one of the most beautiful policies to be witnessed in this country if only the concept was able to change anything beyond the pages on which it was written. As everyone struggles to resist the harsh reality of life, the three ominous signs of ungodliness are now evident in the behavioral patterns of many people: they do not fulfil promises; they lie with impunity; they deceive those who trust them. The police tampers with exhibits amidst investigations; the nurse sneaks away with drugs meant for dying patients; fuel dealer pumps into black-marketer's canister leaving a desperate car owner in the long queue; you have to get used to tipping the bank cashiers, or else you languish queueing for your own money; your friend snatches your partner the moment you leave them unwatched; the petty traders charge triple the normal cost the moment they know that you are a new arrival (JC); the taxi driver and Okada rider exploit every passenger the sooner they sense fuel scarcity; the fruit seller applies chemicals to get it ripe artificially and deceive the buyer who falls in love with the colour; the coal burner stuffs the bag with unwanted chaffs and ceils it with palm fibre; the masanke oil dealer mixes it with red chemicals to look natural, attractive and therefore expensive; natural palm wine was usually called "*from-god-to-man*" but has now become "*from-man-to-man*" because the tapper mixes it before arriving at the *pooyo baffa*; the list is endless...

Most of our girls don't believe in their natural beauty anymore as they relentlessly struggle to become Europeans. To prove our love, we must import for them expensive artificial hairs, toxic bleaching creams and plastic fingernails. The only truths they tell us are names and phone numbers because they need to keep sending us unsolicited messages and flattering emojis followed by intermittent requests for airtimes and orange money. Those preparing for exams don't search anymore for reading materials or extra classes; they simply request smartphones which they can use to cheat exams in the morning, photoshoot for Facebook in the afternoon and duet via TikTok in the evening.

We have become a nation that takes credit for disseminating embarrassing images of our country and suppresses positive ones. If you want to attract likes to your Facebook post, the message must come with a disgraceful headline or nude images. When our fellows struggle to climb the ladder of success, we grab their legs to pull them down instead of propping and pushing them up to climb fast. When we meet our compatriots in ghastly accidents, instead of rushing to their rescue, we either rob away their valuables or turn into camera crews to video the bloody scene and send it viral to spoil thousands of happy moods. Oh yes, it's high time we accepted the truth that something terrible is wrong with our sociocultural landscape which no amount of prayers can change soon. For prayer without action is a senseless vigil: "*verily, Allah will not change the condition of a nation until they change themselves*" (Holy Quran, 13:11); "*As in water, face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man*" (Holy Bible, Proverbs 27:19). We need to save ourselves with a robust attitudinal and behavioural change policy enforced by an honest, patriotic and god-fearing judiciary system.

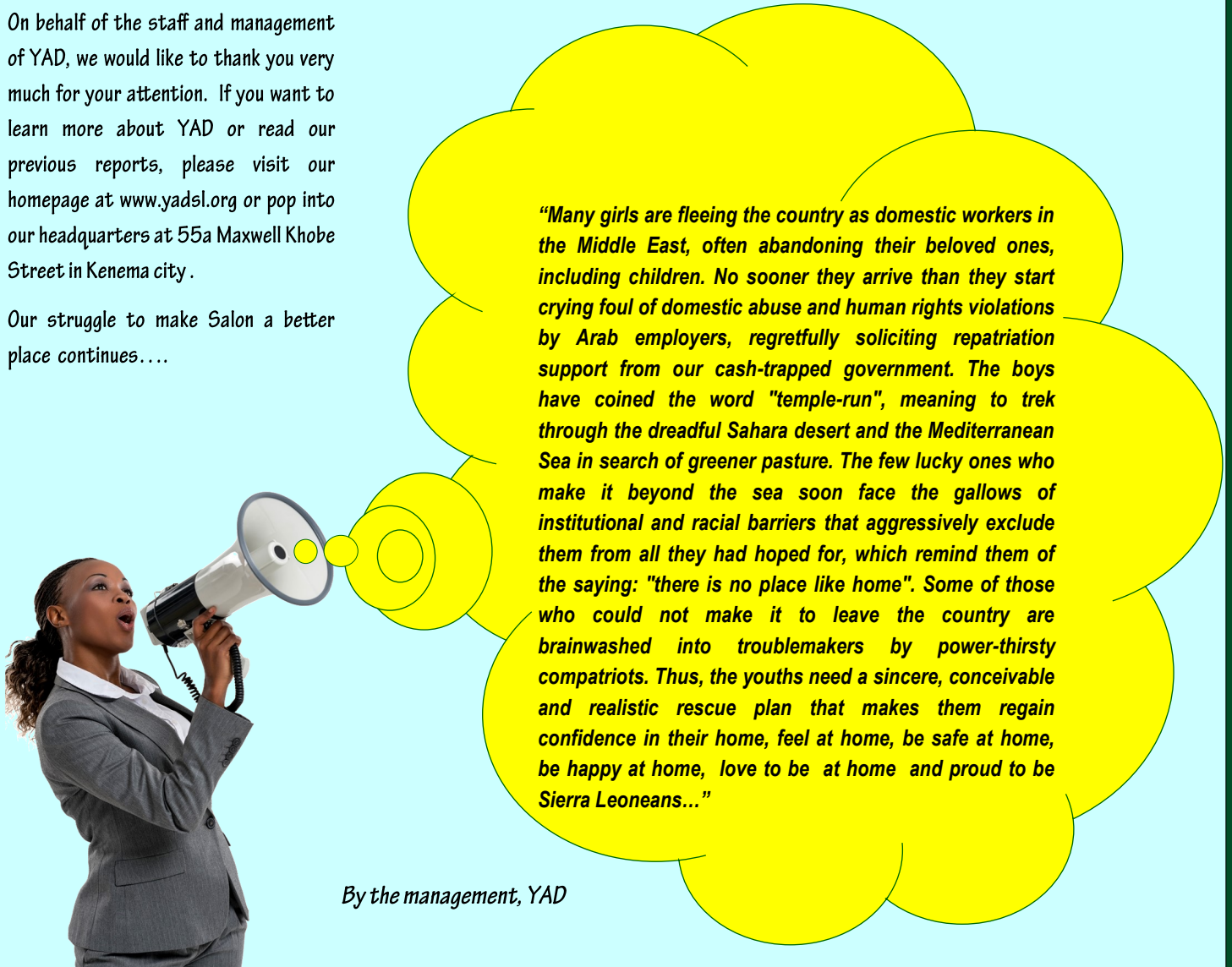
Many girls are fleeing the country as domestic workers in the Middle East, often abandoning their beloved ones, including children. No sooner they arrive than they start crying foul of domestic abuse and human rights violations by Arab employers, regretfully soliciting repatriation support from our cash-trapped government. The boys have coined the word "temple-run", meaning to trek through the dreadful Sahara desert and the Mediterranean Sea in search of greener pasture. The few lucky ones who make it beyond the sea soon face the gallows of institutional and racial barriers that aggressively exclude them from all they had hoped for, which remind them of the saying: *"there is no place like home"*. Some of those who could not make it to leave the country are brainwashed into troublemakers by power-thirsty compatriots. Thus, the youths need a sincere, conceivable and realistic rescue plan that makes them regain confidence in their home, feel at home, be safe at home, be happy at home, love to be at home and proud to be Sierra Leoneans...

Meanwhile, what about the positive and visionary thinkers among the youths who want to be the role models of our society; are they just standing arms-akimbo or sitting on the fence waiting for the fairytale leadership our speakers always promised them: "youths are the future leaders"? The answer is a big NO! Many youths are working hard to complement the central government's efforts in responding to the prevailing social, political, and economic situations in diverse ways. While some ride Okada to feed their families, some work in artisan workshops to upkeep themselves, others are active in indigenous community development initiatives such as YAD which strives to effect positive social changes in hard-to-reach communities.

In this year's report, we shall present to our esteemed readers the tremendous contribution of YAD youths to complement our government's efforts on diverse fronts throughout the years 2021/2022. This includes community hygiene and sanitation projects for rural dwellers, vocational and technical training programmes for underprivileged brothers and sisters, fostering peace and social cohesion in urban areas, and eradicating hunger and poverty for subsistence farmers in rural areas. The impacts of those projects are not only measured by internal subjective assessments carried out by YAD staff but also by objective, professional, independent external consultants hired by our donor partners abroad. This edition shall feature the result of a comprehensive ex-post evaluation conducted by movimantar GmbH, an international development-consulting firm based in Bremen, Germany, which evaluated our projects with support of the government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany. We shall also discuss the outgone German ambassador to Sierra Leone, His Excellency Horst Gruner's visit to our project sites in June 2022 to witness the impacts we have created together in Sierra Leone. Lastly, we shall start looking beyond our success by highlighting our planned activities against the year 2025.

On behalf of the staff and management of YAD, we would like to thank you very much for your attention. If you want to learn more about YAD or read our previous reports, please visit our homepage at [www.yadsl.org](http://www.yadsl.org) or pop into our headquarters at 55a Maxwell Khobe Street in Kenema city.

Our struggle to make Salone a better place continues....



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*By the management, YAD*



## THE YOUTH RESOURCE ACADEMY (YRA)

YRA's overarching goal is to eradicate poverty and unemployment for underprivileged youths in the eastern region through cost-free access to essential skills that shall enable them to become self-reliant and economically independent. The specific objectives are 1) to complement the government's efforts in the area of TVET by providing a conducive environment for skills training and wealth creation for underprivileged youths in accordance with Sierra Leone's Medium Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 and the government's free quality education flagship programme ; 2) to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills from European volunteers through the Sierra Leone/German cooperation to enable the students to acquire cutting edged skills; 3) to foster linkages between graduates from various programmes and potential employers across the country through internships, advocacy and skill-marketing; 4) to support graduates to establish private artisanal workshops and business enterprises through YAD's social entrepreneurship and microloan programmes.



*Cross-section of YRA students — 2021/2022 academic year*

YRA was granted permission by the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education in 2020 to operate as a TVET center in line with the 2004 Education Act and the two strategic pillars of TVET policy adopted in 2019: Enhancing Access to TVET Programmes and Developing Skills for Jobs. Currently, YRA can boast of 120 students, predominantly women, enrolled in the following professions:

### BEAUTY THERAPY AND COSMETOLOGY



*Corss-section of students in beauty therapy and cosmetology class—2021/2022 academic year*



## HOSPITALITY AND CATERING



*Cross-section of students in the Hospitality/catering class—2021/2022 academic year*



This faculty is one of the best equipped among other departments, with modern catering equipment and highly educated tutors. Even the principal of YRA, Mrs Agnes Sam is a graduate of this desirable discipline. The faculty is also working hard to create links between its students and existing hotels and restaurants, which could admit the students for internship and possible employment. The faculty is also offering catering services for private and institutional programmes. Institutions like MSF and VSO have been some of the patronisers who hired YRA staff and their students in conjunction with the YADs event management department to cater their programmes. Events such as workshops and staff retreats can be jointly handled perfectly by YRA and YAD.



## TAILORING/DRESSMAKING



*Cross-section of students in the dressmaking/tailoring class—2021/2022 academic year*

Our tailoring/dressmaking faculty is one of the most attractive faculties of YRA. Our tutors are highly educated and experienced in the tailoring and designing vocation. Some students in the department have already started earning from what they have learnt. Some have begun sewing for family members and friends, and others are getting tips directly from their tutors for special contracts. One of the significant patronizers of YRA who have placed confidence and trust in the institution by giving them official jobs is the Doctors without Borders (MSF) - Kenema office. During the past 12 months, YRA has gained millions of Leones' contracts from MSF for designing and sewing aprons, scrubs and face - masks, which not only supports the intuition but also gives the students confidence and trust in the designing and sewing profession as a reliable trade for their future.

## DESIGNING/PRINTING TECHNOLOGY



*YAD /YRA Staff undertaking executive training from a German professional, Daniel Bartosch (April 2022)*



Screen designing and printing is a desirable profession but rarely taught at any school in Sierra Leone. Most of the practitioners are learning by doing it. That is why YRA has placed a special premium on it. The faculty is currently understaffed, though, but key YAD/YRA staff now have enough knowledge of screen-printing as the management continues to find them learning opportunities in Europe, which would prepare them to serve as trainers in the field of screen-printing. For example, Daniel Alexander Bartosch of Siebdruckschmiede, Hamm, Germany, spent his 2022 Easter holidays at YRA in Kenema where he offered them intensive executive training in this unique profession.



**Cross-section of executive training participants from YAD/YRA**

#### **SECRETARIAL, OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND ICT**

Our secretarial and office management faculty is combined with Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This component targets youth with some degree of primary and secondary education. 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. YRA considers the successful enrolment in this faculty as automatic enrolment in the ICT training because a secretary in today's office environment must have computer knowledge. Meanwhile, enrolment in the ICT training (alone) does not guarantee direct enrolment in the secretarial and office management faculty since the former is more robust than the latter and the training lasts longer. However, enrolling in either programme can help candidates develop confidence in themselves to undertake further tertiary studies while working in a business environment. An exceptional opportunity that the candidates stand to gain is the high-quality ICT training manual which is tailor-made to be taught only at YRA. The ICT and secretarial/office management training has recorded more than 200 students since the inception of YRA in the year 2021.



**Students in the ICT/Secretarial class—2021/2022 academic year**



## SPORT AND FITNESS

YRA's fitness/sport component is an expansion of YAD's sport programmes. The objective is to diversify sport and recreational activities for YAD-affiliated youth groups and YRA students. The fitness studio has recorded more than 500 users since it was opened to the public. We still seize this opportunity to invite more subscribers so that together we can make YRA a better institution for all. In our sport/fitness facility, subscribers can have access to 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.



*Youths are busy at the fitness/sports centre during leisure hours, an opportunity everyone else is invited to utilize*





## CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPEN DEFECATION (COD)

Our Campaign against Open Defecation (COD) targeted 20 communities in Niawa and Langurama chiefdoms. This project's primary objective is to improve rural dwellers' environmental and household hygiene to reduce waterborne diseases in their communities. It constructed 49 blocks of toilets with 245-drop holes for 300 vulnerable households with about 2500 dependants. The project also trained 40 Community Hygiene Monitors (CHMs) in each community who shall serve as custodians of the sanitary facilities to ensure future sustainability. In close collaboration with local authorities, this project introduced bylaws that prohibit defecation in at least a mile radius of each community; prohibit defecation in swamps and streams; and the construction of houses in the future without making provision for toilets. The targeted communities had been inundated by open defecation in nearby bushes and streams, which increased the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea, especially for women and children. Some beneficiary communities had been defecating in the same streams they used to launder clothes, cook or drink since they do not have a safe drinking water.

*"The toilet provided by YAD has made life conducive for us - especially we, the women, who had found it hard to ease ourselves in the nearby bushes during the day as we were always ashamed or afraid of being spotted naked by men. The worst time of the year for us was during the rainy season when we had to go out to find conducive spots, usually behind trees, at night,"* Said Hawa Koroma, one of the beneficiaries.

Another beneficiary at Yabaima village explained his ordeal of how his entire family had to defecate in the same bucket at night and empty it every morning in the nearby river due to the lack of a toilet. *"We can now inhale healthy air at night, now that there is a toilet next to the house",* he said. *"May Allah bless YAD!"* he prayed.



**A cross-section of YAD staff after the formal inauguration of toilets at Sendumei town, Niawa chiefdom**

The toilets in Niawa chiefdom were officially inaugurated by the then Resident Minister - east, Honorable Andrew Ansu Fatorma, Paramount Chief of Niawa Chiefdom—PC Mariama Tamia Jaward (III), and District Medical Officer—Dr. Donald Grant, while toilets in Langurama chiefdom were inaugurated by the Paramount Chief, PC Prince Pewai.



## NIAWA INITIATIVE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY (NIHP)

As the name rightly implies, the main goal of NIHP is to improve the socio-economic and nutritional situation of 300 youth and female-headed households with approximately 2500 dependants in 7 villages across Niawa chiefdoms within 30 months. Key objectives include 1) cultivation of 50 acres of IVS and 50 acres of boliland for the production of rice, cassava and assorted vegetables, the main staple foods for the average Sierra Leonean household. 2) establish a food storage, processing and marketing centre equipt with rice mills and cassava processors to enable beneficiaries to add value to their products before marketing. 3) transform the beneficiary groups into a Community Based Organization (CBO) and capacitate them in climate adaptation and safe nutritional practices – especially for children.



*NIHP women harvesting okra at Matakan village in happy dispensation*

NIHP has established branches in all the targeted villages with solid executives representing their interests everywhere. The various groups have created a global executive that represents them collectively. Each group has also established a bank account at the community bank in Sendumei town where their project revenue is saved. Each branch has embarked on the cultivation of rice, cassava and assorted vegetables.



*A crop processing, storage and marketing center being constructed at Jekoyeiya, near Sendumei town in the central heart of Niawa chiefdom. All gadgets required to get the center functional have been imported from competent factories abroad*



## ICT GRADUATION CEREMONY

Despite the adverse effects of COVID-19, we were able to conduct our annual graduation ceremony on Saturday, 20th February 2021. The Ceremony was chaired by Mrs Isata Ngombulango, YAD's Finance and Fundraising Manager, and was attended by many essential stakeholders of the city, including Mr Mohamed Sesay - Regional Coordinator of National Youth Commission (NYCOM), Her Lordship Esther Nguanya Kaisamba - Deputy Mayor of Kenema Municipality, Mr Mohamed Kamara - Regional Manager of NASSIT and many others.



*A cross-section of happy graduates (2020/2021 batch)*

Having successfully completed hands-on Microsoft Office packages relevant to everyone in the Sierra Leonean business and educational environment, the candidates were awarded diploma certificates in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). ICT is a component of the Secretarial and Office Management training offered by the Youth Resource Academy (YRA), which is the educational offshoot of YAD. The graduates included civil servants, service men from the Sierra Leone police forces and ambitious youths. YAD returned 50% of tuition fees to Abubackar Sheriff and Elizabeth Mariam Kamara for their excellent performances in the final comprehensive exams.

We would like to invite every young citizen to come to YRA and grab this life-changing opportunity. YRA is the chance for everyone to turn their dream into reality.

The institute is fully recognized by the government of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Higher and Technical Education as a vocational and technical training institute that contributes to youth industrialization and middle-level human resources development in post-conflict Sierra Leone.



*A cross-section of graduates and stakeholders after graduation ceremony*



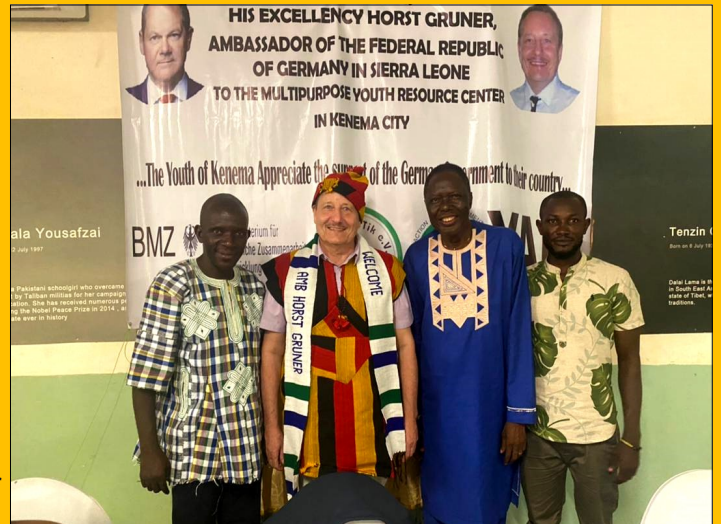
## A weekend with the German Ambassador - His Excellency Horst Gruner

The management of YAD spent 10th and 11th June this year in jubilant dispensation as they dined, wine and danced with His Excellency Horst Gruner, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Sierra Leone. The high-profile visit started on Friday afternoon with a systematic tour around YAD facilities in Kenema and a felicitous dinner with staff and management of the organization. At the dinner table, the organization presented a narrative retrospect of all projects implemented over the years with German funds, illustrating a brief summary of each project, including the number of beneficiaries, cost breakdown and vital components.

The tour went further on Saturday to Niawa Chiefdom, where the ambassador and entourage visited many projects, including community toilets, agriculture sites, conflict resolution and social mobilization centres, and schools.

Speaking to SLBC national television after the two-day tour, the ambassador could not help but express his ultimate satisfaction with how YAD managed the German funds. *"We have seen primary school; we have seen secondary school; we have seen sanitary equipment, for example; all these things are meant to improve the livelihood of poor people. And we have experienced a very, very cordial welcome. I think what we have done here with German money is quite useful. It was received well, and it has been taken care of very well. So I think this is a very good use of the cooperation between the two countries"*, he stated. The ambassador expressed abundant thanks and appreciation to the management of YAD for their professional jobs over the years and promised the Niawa community his government's commitment to helping them in the future.

At a reception organized Friday evening on 9 June 2022, in YAD's Peace and Unity Hall, the management of YAD proudly dressed the ambassador in traditional regalia with a combination of Sierra Leone / German flags. During the tour on Saturday, the ambassador dressed in a free western style in t-shirts and caps produced by students of the screen-printing and dressmaking departments of YRA. It must be noted that since YAD started receiving development support from the government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany about ten years now, this is the first high-power German delegation to inspect its activities.



**Horst Gruner at YAD's Peace and Unity Hall in Kenema**



**Horst Gruner and YAD staff at Sendumei, Niawa Chiefdom**



**Horst Gruner received in Golahun Vaama, Niawa Chiefdom**



**Horst Gruner on tour in Sendumei, Niawa Chiefdom**



## THE ANNUAL YOUTH COHESION MATCH (YCM)

YAD celebrated its annual Youth Cohesion Match on 24 December 2021. The main objective of the match is to promote sociocultural tolerance among the youth regardless of individual tribal, regional, political, religious or social backgrounds. The event started with the usual win-win match among the participating youth groups, including Burner Youth Development Association (BYDA), Pujehun Youth Developmental Organization (PYDO), Action Star Youth Club (ASYC), Ultimate Family and Youth Resource Academy. Since every player's objective of going to the pitch is to become the victor of the game, the contending brothers and sisters locked horns at the Kenema city field with volleyball for women and football for men. The struggle lasted for hours as each team put up stiff resistance to let go of the other. After the first, second and third rounds of the volleyball ended in a draw, Youth Resource Academy swept the board at last with few points. As if God had heard the "win-win" message, which is the spirit of the game, the football match ended with 3 to 1 against the Youth Resource Academy, thereby allowing the coalition of BYDA, PYDO, ASYC and Ultimate family to emerge victorious. Since this was a win-win match, no one went home empty-handed. The winning teams for football and volleyball got a price of one million Leones (Le1000.000) each, while the losing teams got eight hundred thousand Leones (Le 800.000) each.



A pictorial review of 2021 Youth Cohesion Day in Kenema



## EX-POST EVALUATION REPORT ON 10 YEARS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: AN INDEPENDENT, OBJECTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL OPINION ABOUT YAD

*It is true that every project require an evaluation component, which enables the implementing agency to checkmate itself as implementation progresses, but such evaluation tools are normally developed and used internally by the implementers. However, an ex-post evaluation conducted by an independent body simply mean seeking an expert opinion about timeliness, suitability, practicability, replicability, efficiency, effectiveness, coherency and sustainability of the projects as well as integrity and qualification of the team who implemented it. It is natural that nobody wants to be evaluated.*

*The usual peaceful air in YAD premises became frenzy between June and September 2022 as the energetic team found themselves under the heavy beam of movimentar GmbH, a professional development-consulting firm based in Bremen, Germany, who was hired by Fambul Tik e.V. and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to comprehensively evaluate all projects they have co-funded and implemented over the years by YAD in Sierra Leone. YAD has collaborated with Fambul Tik and BMZ since the year 2012.*

*The projects evaluated include “Matakan Community Primary School”, Matakan village; “Niawa Chiefdom Secondary School”, Gandorhun town; “Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre – phases I and II” in Kenema city; “Konjo Community Market and Social Mobilization Centre”, Ngiehun Konjo town; “Campaign against Open Defecation in Niawa and Langurama Chiefdoms”; and the “Niawa Initiative against Hunger and Poverty (NIHP)” in Niawa chiefdom, in Kenema district.*

*The team used a very sophisticated scientific algorithm based on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) evaluation criteria, which focused on the six aspects of development assessment, namely: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. Amongst the key informants interviewed were internal and external institutional stakeholders in government institutions, UN agencies, embassies, implementing partners, city and district councils, paramount chiefs, youth leaders, women’s leaders, students, teachers, principals and ordinary project beneficiaries. The team formulated their questionnaires grading the projects from A=5 (very good), B=4 (good), C=3 (regular/acceptable), D=2 (poor), E=1 (very poor).*

### Summery of the Evaluation Report

**Relevance and design (A = 4.6 – ‘very good’):** *The projects have very high relevance considering the needs of their target groups. The main needs reported by beneficiaries were hunger, water-related diseases, and poor access to education. Those are the problems exactly the projects sought to address.*

**Coherence (B =4.4 – ‘good’):** *The extent of synergies between the projects and government actions, institutional strategies, and the policy scenario was very high. The projects addressed several priority areas of Sierra Leone’s national development plans. The project activities made relevant contributions to national policies and strategies. The inclusion of local government authorities in the project implementation, such as in the district council of Kenema, has resulted in concrete contributions to the implementation of national and institutional policies.*

**Effectiveness (A= 4.6 – ‘very good’):** *Planned output and outcome targets were achieved to a great extent. The majority of outcome and output indicators were achieved regardless Covid-19 outbreak. Participation of key stakeholders during planning and implementation phases was high. Collaboration with implementing organizations, relevant ministries, and local government authorities were recorded in many ways.*

**Efficiency (B = 3.7 – ‘good’):** *The overall efficiency of the projects was good. The activities can be considered cost-efficient. Several external factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the inflation crisis made financial management difficult. However, activities involving fundraising and volunteering effectively supported self-sustainability of projects and activities.*

**Impact (B = 4.4 – ‘good’):** *The projects’ impacts were very high. They contributed to the development of Sierra Leone – to a reduction in waterborne diseases, improved education, and the economy of the villages – and were aligned with national*



strategies. The COD project improved the health and hygiene situation of various villages and thereby reduced water-related diseases and contamination. By separating the toilets by gender, physical condition, and age, vulnerable groups were given more comfort, safety, and dignity. The impacts from the different projects reinforced each other. For example, by reducing diseases, more children were able to visit the schools. According to key informants, the schools help to literate the communities and thereby contribute to economic growth of the families. This is supported by the educational training given in the MYRC for youths, who now have a better reputation in their communities. One of the country's major problems, hunger, was tackled by the NIHP project, which enabled beneficiaries to improve their farming techniques and thus increase food production. While there were several indirect positive impacts, no negative ones were reported. Some of the unplanned impacts were, for example, increased recognition and growth of YAD as well as a sense of unity created within the villages. Based on the positive impacts that the projects had, several key stakeholders stated that the projects should be implemented in other parts of the country, too.

**Sustainability (A = 5.0 – ‘very good’):** The sustainability of the projects is very high due to a high level of ownership, a long-term orientation of the activities, and a very high contribution to the institutional and management capacity of local partners. The majority of key stakeholders were convinced that the projects would continue to benefit the beneficiaries after the end of the support and even will benefit future generations. The fact that at the time of the assessment all established project facilities and activities were still active supports this. Mechanisms were established to sustain all project components such as community findings and committees responsible for monitoring and/or maintenance and repairs. The high level of ownership by the beneficiaries leads to a high sustainability of the projects. For example, the constructed facilities such as the sanitation facilities, the MYRC, and the market are regarded as the community's responsibility and have benefits for all. Thus, the target groups are willing to put efforts into their maintenance. This level of ownership was achieved by multiple training sessions and good involvement of the beneficiaries in planning and implementation. Institutional and management capacity of local partners were very high despite the short duration of most projects. In particular, capacity-building activities for various leaders and counsellors play important roles for the enforcement of laws at community level.

## Conclusion

The seven projects were highly relevant to the national context and the needs of the target groups. They have contributed to the sustainable development of Sierra Leone in line with government goals. In their intervention logics (including planned objectives and outcomes), the projects prioritized vulnerable groups, that is, women, children, youths, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. This is exemplified by the engagement model that YAD and Fambul Tik implemented for the equal participation of women and men in activities, the inclusion of youth organizations in support of YAD's actions in Kenema City, and the adaptation of project structures and tools for the use of older people and persons with disabilities. The activities carried out in MYRC phases II, and I for example, were relevant in providing the youth from Kenema City and surrounding villages a safe place for their meetings, where they also received workshops on conflict resolution issues and career counselling. Key informants confirm that youths are satisfied with the services provided, which is reinforced by the survey results, according to which 91% of the respondents rated the project relevance ‘very high’ (73%) and ‘high’ (18%). When asked about their opinions on the work done by Fambul Tik and YAD, 89% of the keywords used by the respondents in key-informant interviews were positive. Regarding the relevance of the support considering the beneficiaries' needs and priorities, 75% of the keywords used were positive.

The sustainability aspect was the most highly rated by the key informants. Again, the participatory approach that YAD and Fambul Tik implemented contributed to creating a sense of ownership and responsibility among the beneficiary communities. This, together with the partnership with local and national authorities, helps to maintain the delivered structures in the long term. Strategies created by stakeholders, such as the implementation of local laws punishing those who degrade project structures, monthly payment of a fee to the local village bank account in cases of repairs, and delegation of monitoring responsibility to village residents in reporting to YAD members are examples of best practice supporting sustainability.

## Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

**Lesson learnt 1:** The introduction of the beneficiaries' participatory approach in the implementation of the projects is key to the successful sustainability of the project's outcomes.

**Best practice 1.1:** The open and regular local meetings between the organizations implementer and all the local authorities and villagers provides a democratic space where everyone has the right to speak and share their needs, which are agreed upon as a group. This allows for finding effective solutions to their own problems, based on their own experience.

**Best practice 1.2:** The inclusion of the beneficiaries in the achievement of the project's objectives, such as the use of their



labor force in the construction of the schools, youth centers, markets, and toilets, for example, was not only an economic way of financing the projects but also created a feeling of unity and ownership in the communities, as mentioned in most of the answers in the assessment.

**Best practice 1.3:** The establishment of representatives who monitor the project facilities, such as the Konjo Youth Development Association (KYDA) for the Community Market and Social Mobilization Centre and the community health monitors (CHM) in the villages covered by the COD project promoted collaboration with local authorities to ensure the sustainability of the projects. KYDA leaders and the CHM received theoretical and practical training so that they can continue to manage the project after implementation. This practice can be further expanded in future projects in different fields.

**Lesson learnt 2:** The introduction of a charging platform for cellphones in KCM sped up and eased the communication between beneficiaries and YAD staff and improved business in the market.

**Best practice 2.1:** The source of energy through solar panels in all structures implemented by the projects contributes to their sustainability.

**Lesson learnt 3:** Feedback obtained through the KIIs/FGDs suggests a strong and frequent communication and monitoring network implemented by YAD members with the ambassadors (representatives) of each village. The selection of representatives from each village to work as the main connecting bridge between their residents and YAD members helped to coordinate the tasks and avoid misunderstandings in the implementation of activities. Despite that, the results emphasized the importance of increasing capacity building in ongoing and future projects.

**Best practice 3.1:** The selection of representatives of the beneficiary groups for the implementation of each project is an example of a best practice, which catalyzes the work of the implementing organization with the decentralization of responsibilities and assurance of community ownership.

To read the full report including annexes, please visit our homepage at [www.yadsl.org](http://www.yadsl.org) or contact our administrative department at YAD headquarters, 55a Maxwell Khobe Street, Kenema city.



"Evaluators usually evaluate projects implemented by humans, which makes humans subject to the evaluation too. Naturally, nobody wants to be evaluated by others. But the greatest irony is that an independent objective evaluation is the only credible way we can be efficient, effective, diligent and accountable to our partners and beneficiaries in community development and humanitarian service delivery. "



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### 1 NO POVERTY



It is a known fact that YAD's primary goal is to eradicate poverty and human suffering and effect positive social changes in our society. However, there is a wise saying that *"a vision without action is merely a dream; action without knowledge is like a boat without river; and action without vision only passes the time. But vision with action steered by knowledge and passion can remove a mountain."* This obliges us to streamline our strategic development plan against the year 2025, clearly highlighting what we want to achieve, when, where, how and why. Our main projects shall include the following:

### 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



- ◆ Scale up our campaign against open defecation by constructing 200 blocks of toilets for 1000 vulnerable households with about 10,000 dependants in deprived communities across the east and southern regions.

- ◆ Construct 50 solar-powered boreholes to provide safe drinking water for 500 households with 250000 dependants in the east and southern regions.

### 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



- ◆ Embark on "Multipurpose Youth Resource Center – phase III" to expand YRA to accommodate more students in other professions not currently taught in the institute and support graduating students to become self-reliant.

- ◆ Organized graduation for ICT and vocational students from YRA every year.

- ◆ Provide digital library service for 2000 students from tertiary institutions in Kenema city

### 2 ZERO HUNGER



- ◆ Scale up the "Niawa Initiative against Hunger (NIHP)" to target the entire Niawa, Langurama and Koya Chiefdoms in the eastern region.

### 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- ◆ Construct 10 Social Mobilization and Conflict Resolution Centers in 10 marginalized communities across the east and southern regions.

- ◆ Sensitize 50,000 youths against domestic and politically motivated violence during and after subsequent elections.

- ◆ Provide Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services for 1000 youths in Kenema city and lead them to find peace within themselves without the involvement of police or authorities who might request settlement fees.

### 5 GENDER EQUALITY



- ◆ Organize Youth Cohesion Events on 19th and 20th December every year.

### 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- ◆ The above projects are strictly aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while ensuring that they conform with and are in firm support of the central government's strategic development framework. We shall therefore work with hands in gloves with local councils and line ministries while collaborating with relevant development partners across the country.



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 unique 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 our collaborating partners; 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
- ⇒ District Development Coordination Committee (DDCC)
- ⇒ Kenema District Youth Council
- ⇒ North-South Bridge Foundation, Germany
- ⇒ International Association of Educators for World Peace
- ⇒ Movimentar GmbH, Bremen, Germany
- ⇒ Affiliated youth groups

GOOD NEWS  
FOR EVERYONE

## YAD Has a Digital Library Service, First Time in Kenema City!

YAD wishes to inform the general public that the 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, 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””**



# Youth in Action for Development

# Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre

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