

Leh Wi Lan: Safe, inclusive, quality education for all




The second phase of Leh Wi Lan is part of the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme II (SSEIP II), funded by UK International Development. Leh Wi Lan is implemented by a consortium of organisations led by Cambridge Education, part of the Mott MacDonald Group.

What we do

Leh Wi Lan supports Sierra Leone's Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to deliver improved secondary education with a focus on schoolgirls and learners with disabilities.

Our inclusive approach to system strengthening means that we work with all education stakeholders, so they can play their part in realising a stronger, better education system. We aim to improve skills, capacity and performance at national, district and school levels, so that teachers and school leaders are better supported to provide learners with safe, quality, inclusive education.

A photograph of three young schoolgirls in white uniforms and blue skirts. They are gathered around a piece of laboratory glassware, which includes a vertical tube with a bulb at the top and a horizontal tube. One girl is holding the top bulb, and they all appear to be looking at it with interest. The background is a plain, light blue color.

More schoolgirls and learners with disabilities in Sierra Leone are staying in school to learn, progress, be safe and have improved life choices.

Our outcomes

Stronger school leadership and teaching to improve inclusive learning

Together with the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) and the MBSSE, Leh Wi Lan is establishing an accredited School Leadership Programme. Its aim is to prepare current and aspiring school leaders, including principals and senior teachers, to improve learning at schools through stronger management of academic outcomes and inclusion. We are also working with the TSC to establish a national system of school-based continuing professional development, so teachers regularly update their knowledge and skills in priority areas.

Improved safety and wellbeing of secondary school students

Leh Wi Lan is strengthening the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence to better protect learners. At district and school level we are providing training and support to school safety committees, teachers, school leaders and district officers, so they can implement the Teacher Code of Conduct and the National Referral Protocol. We are updating the Girls' and Boys' Clubs – which give learners information on violence, safety and wellbeing – to reach more young people. Leh Wi Lan is also supporting the MBSSE to roll out Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in secondary schools and explore how to deliver it outside the classroom.

Stronger monitoring, supervision and support for schools by districts

We are working with MBSSE to strengthen the professional network of School Quality Assurance Officers so they can provide regular support to secondary schools. Through digital tools and data, they will be able to better monitor, report on, and guide evidence-based changes in schools – for safe, inclusive, quality education. We are facilitating peer learning on the use of digital tools and implementation of policy in schools, putting School Quality Assurance Officers and District Officers at the heart of school improvement. Leh Wi Lan is also a member of the MBSSE's Education Data Working Group, establishing a national system of data collection.

Better systems of inclusive education for learners with disabilities

Leh Wi Lan is supporting Sierra Leone's Radical Inclusion Policy by improving systems that support learners with disabilities in secondary schools. We are training Inclusion Champions in every secondary school to support and advocate for inclusive learning and we are ensuring that Girls' and Boys' Clubs become more inclusive. We are expanding systems for screening, assessing and referring learners with disabilities, so that they receive necessary support. Leh Wi Lan is also working with Organisations of People with Disabilities, so they are empowered to provide input to the education system and hold it accountable for inclusion.

System strengthening approach

To ensure sustainable impact, Leh Wi Lan works across all levels of the secondary education system in Sierra Leone, engaging with its people, institutions and policies.

Our activities improve skills, capacity, relationships and performance across national, district and school community levels. We use evidence and we share ideas to co-create the changes needed to ensure that schoolgirls and learners with disabilities enrol and stay in secondary school. And so that they can learn, be safe and make improved life choices throughout their education.



3.3 million Pupil
Handbooks distributed for
English and Maths learners



1,658 Principals received
training to capture data on school
improvement indicators

Over 30,000 pupils
attended **Girls' and Boys' Clubs** to
learn about violence, sexual health
and life skills



Building on good foundations

Leh Wi Lan builds on a strong track record of positive change in Sierra Leone's secondary education system. The programme's first phase (2017-2023) recruited and trained over 200 School Support Officers, and provided training to school leaders and teachers on topics including lesson observations, inclusive practice and safeguarding. Alongside the Government of Sierra Leone, it developed and implemented transformational policies, including the Radical Inclusion Policy and the National Referral Protocol.

Learning and resources from Leh Wi Lan are available on the Sierra Leone Education Knowledge Platform:
<https://mbsseknowledgeplatform.gov.sl/>