



Photo: Leh Wi Lan



LWL Insights

May
2024

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter from Leh Wi Lan (LWL), which shares our news on programme events, activities and successes. This quarter, we're offering updates on recent campaigns that showcase the programme's core messages and on the new School Leadership Programme, which has recruited its first trainees.

LWL continues to support the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to build a stronger, better education system in Sierra Leone, with a focus on schoolgirls and learners with disabilities.

International Day of Education

LWL was delighted to join MBSSE and education programmes from around the country to celebrate the International Day of Education on the 24th January under the theme 'Learning for Lasting Peace'.

In Bo, Southern Province, the International Day of Education was marked by a week-long celebration that included strategic discussions on the direction of education policy and initiatives in 2024, as well as a display of national education projects. LWL showcased educational materials and presented on upcoming activities.

"It is a time of opportunities to continue supporting the MBSSE to improve high-quality, safe, inclusive education promoting a brighter future for all learners in secondary education, especially adolescent girls and learners with disabilities."

Musu Kamoh, District Programme Office for LWL.

School Leadership Programme

In January, LWL supported the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) to recruit the first ever school leaders who will participate in the national School Leadership Programme (SLP). The SLP is a national programme that will improve learning outcomes by ensuring better inclusive practice and effective management of academic outcomes amongst senior school leaders.

The first course to be piloted by the SLP will equip school leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to evaluate their school's requirements, to implement significant changes to safety, inclusiveness, and guidance, and to advance their professional development objectives. It will be piloted in five districts: Western Area Urban, Bo, Kailahun, Bombali, and Port Loko.

In addition to the SLP, a nationwide and school-based Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme is being designed to enable teachers and principals to regularly improve their knowledge and abilities in priority areas. It will be launched in May, this year.

School to School campaign on International Women's Day

Schoolgirls encounter numerous challenges on their journey through secondary education – but their education is an essential human right and is imperative for building inclusive societies. LWL provides support through activities that improve inclusion to ensure girls can learn and stay in school. International Women's Day provided a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of inclusion in schools and the potential of girls and women who are empowered through inclusion.

Observed annually on 8th March, International Women's Day honours the achievements of women globally and this year the UN's theme was "Invest in women: Accelerate Progress." The Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MoGCA) and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) co-hosted a national celebration in Freetown based on this theme with speakers emphasising the importance of investing in girls and women and the positive transformation that may result from doing so. LWL attended the event with over 60 schoolgirls from 10 schools in Western Area Urban to empower and inspire them.

LWL also joined MBSSE and MoGCA to lead a School-to-School campaign across 50 schools in Falaba, Kono, Kambia, Pujehun, and Bonthe. Leaders from both ministries were joined by female role models from local communities to inspire learners to break gender barriers, say no to sexual and gender-based violence, and create positive change for inclusion in their communities.

"It's time for women to take leadership roles in society, and you can start by influencing the future around you in the classroom. Women are no longer at the back; instead, we are breaking down barriers and taking purposeful leadership roles."

Madam Elvera Lewis, Head of the MoGCA Gender Unit, Kono District.

Training on Safety and Inclusion

Over the last quarter, partners Leh Wi Lan SQAOS from the MBSSE, Social workers from the MOGCA and the Deputy Directors, the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) and staff from 5 Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD's) have received training from on a variety of topics to ensure activities can be delivered effectively. This included training district-level education staff and District Directors on School-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV). The objective was to raise awareness about learners' safety and wellbeing, explain the procedures and responsibilities for reporting sexual violence incidents, highlight the use of school murals to improve learners' awareness of safety, and to build understanding of the Child Adolescent Health and Life Skills pilot programme, which will be implemented in 50 schools nationwide later in the programme.



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The second phase of the Leh Wi Lan programme is part of the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme II (SSEIP II), which is funded by UK International Development. This five-year programme supports Sierra Leone's Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to deliver improved education outcomes at secondary level, with a focus on schoolgirls and learners with disabilities. Leh Wi Lan is implemented by a consortium of national and international organisations led by Cambridge Education of the Mott MacDonald Group.

