

Our Theory of Change



ActionAid believes that change is possible, and it comes from the power in people. We believe that poverty and injustice can only be eradicated through the agency of individual and collective actions (especially women and young people) to shift unequal and unjust power relations (visible, hidden, and invisible). Therefore, we will support people living in poverty and exclusion to confront unequal and unjust powers that lead to denial of rights and challenge all forms of violence.

We are confident that we can contribute to achieving social justice and poverty eradication in Sierra Leone through people's power. Thus, when school systems are strengthened, learning environments improved and skills training opportunities are provided for women and girls, then inclusive education will be enhanced to foster diverse opportunities; when young people and women led CSOs are capacitated to effectively participate in governance processes and influence accountability for quality public service delivery, then governance will be inclusive, participatory, and foster sustainable development; when we support community based resilient livelihood programmes and harness their innovative ideas against climate induced disasters and emergencies, then they will have sustainable livelihoods and become climate resilient.

To enable this change, we will anchor on effective monitoring evaluation accountability and learning, robust fundraising, impact reporting and communication, improved financial management and information technology and a well capacitated human resource, strategically oversights by an active Board. We assume that:

- There is national commitment and political will to tackle poverty and inequality.
- Citizens are willing and committed to engage governance and democratic systems at all levels.
- There is behavioral change to support women leadership in all settings.
- The strategy lifespan will not be interrupted by health, political or any other forms of crises.
- ActionAid and partners have the requisite human and material resources to implement this strategy.
- ActionAid has secured the funds needed to implement this strategy.

Contact Us

 aasl@actionaid.org

 sierra-leone.actionaid.org

 [ActionAid Sierra Leone](https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidSierraLeone)

 [actionaidsl88](https://www.instagram.com/actionaidsl88)

 +232 73 461370

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

FOR INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

2024 -2028

The Strategy



This CSP IV titled “Transformative Action for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Communities” 2024-2028, builds on gains in the previous strategies seeking to strengthen the power in people to fight for a just transition in an environment of climate and economic uncertainties. It connotes context related issues and makes required alignments with Sierra Leone’s Development Agenda and the ActionAid International Global Strategy. This Strategy has three broad Priority strands and six focus areas – clearly indicating AASL’s Programming dimension for the next five years (2024 to 2028). The priority and focus areas are anchored on organizational priorities to ensure the achievement of a clear and measurable theory of change. Significant to this strategy is the programming approach including Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and Feminist Leadership. It also captures Women’s Right and Young People, Safeguarding, our participatory methodologies, and partnership vision within the five years period. In line with the Country model review, it presents an idea of our footprint and financial sustainability.

The Current Context

- After growing by 3.6% in 2022, and despite the expected increase in agricultural output, the projected growth of 2.7% in 2023 is undermined. Inflation continued to rise during the first half of 2023 reaching 44.8% in June 2023 from 37.1% in December 2022 driven largely by the pass-through effect of higher global food and energy prices, and the continuous weakening of the Leone.
- Sierra Leone is characterized by high poverty (59.2% in 2021), income inequality (Gini coefficient of 0.357 in 2018), and high youth unemployment (70%), compounded by skills mismatch.
- In terms of Gender Inequality, women and girls are disadvantaged in the social, economic, and political realms. UN Women report 2020 shows that the literacy rate for men is low, 51.6%, but for women it is much lower, 34.9%. Gender-based violence and child marriage are common and continue to be of serious and urgent concern.
- Sierra Leone’s educational system attracted massive investment by government since 2018 and for the first time in the democratic history of the country, the sector was allocated with a 21% of the National Budget in 2019 which further increased to 22% in 2020. This massive investment in the sector culminated to increased basic school enrolment across levels.
- The physical schooling infrastructure however does not match the growing number of enrolment as the national average of students per classroom increased from 42 in 2018 to 51 in 2019 at primary level, and similarly from 34 to 53 at junior secondary and 41 to 58 at senior secondary level.
- Qualified and experienced health workers’ availability with a balanced skills-mix is central to the provision of essential health services. Presently, the country has less than 650 medical doctors.
- The irrational use of the environment and natural resources over the years have resulted in environmental degradation leading to flooding, windstorm, landslide, erosion, wildfire, mudslides etc. This has and continues to have devastating impacts on sustenance and livelihood issues and the economy of the country.
- Youth (18 – 35 years) make up 30% of Sierra Leone’s population and constitute approximately 49% of the country’s labour force. However, and for many years now, youths in Sierra Leone have succumbed to be infantilized and ultimately absorb marginalization and molestation. Despite the challenges, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and its development partners have invested massively in the establishment of pro-youth systems and policies.
- The civil society space is currently interlocked with countless complexities with contradictory agenda of purpose.

Our Priorities



Priority 1: Inclusive and empowering education to foster diverse opportunities.

Focus Area 1: School systems strengthening and improvement of learning environments for quality educational outcomes.

Focus Area 2: Skills training opportunities for women and girls.



Priority 2: Inclusive and participatory governance for sustainable development.

Focus Area 1: Strengthen and capacitate young people and women led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for effective participation in governance processes.

Focus Area 2: Influence accountable public service delivery.



Priority 3: Climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods

Focus Area 1: Sustainable community based resilient livelihood programmes.

Focus Area 2: Community led resilience actions against climate induced disasters and emergencies.



Our Strategic Anchors

- Programme Effectiveness, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)
- Fundraising and Communication
- Financial Management and Information Technology
- Human Resource, Organizational Development and Governance