

## AYPAD SCHOOL PROJECT – MAFORAY VILLAGE

### BOMBALI- NORTHERN SIERRA LEONE



Celebrating Global Youth Service Day with youth organizations, 2019

Having seen harsh realities which are being experienced throughout the African continent as a result of violent wars, seven youth founded Africa Youth for Peace and Development (AYPAD) in 1995. AYPAD was registered in 2000, under the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Sierra Leone, as a non-governmental, non-profit youth development organization that aims at organizing, empowering and creating opportunities for youths and youth groups that are in difficult circumstances. AYPAD's vision of continental unity for youth development and peace is rooted in the organization's belief that violence achieves no meaningful goal.

The organization operates in the areas of education, peace building, HIV/AIDS awareness, homeless youths, children in conflict situations, health and sanitation, development (income generating activities, agricultural projects including farming and fishing) youth development (including job training) and the involvement of youth in societal change. AYPAD has addressed these issues by creating youth training workshops, seminars and conferences on how to bring sustainable development and peace for the nation and the world as a whole.

With its headquarters in Sierra Leone, AYPAD

Sierra Leone has spent the last twenty one year's rebuilding in the aftermath of a 10-year civil war which ended in 2002. Impoverished and scarred from warfare, Sierra Leone ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world

Educational opportunities are limited in Sierra Leone, especially for poor children in rural areas, working children, girls, and orphaned children. This section will summarize the main barriers these children face to gaining access to education.

#### Education access

Less than half of school-age children in Sierra Leone are enrolled in school. UNICEF's most recent data (2010-2020) reports the net primary school attendance ratio to be 51 percent in Sierra Leone, for both boys and girls. At the secondary level, the net attendance ratio drops to 32 percent for males and 18 percent for females

#### Income and gender inequalities

The Government of Sierra Leon conducted a household survey in 2000, called MICS II, with the technical and financial support of UN agencies and NGOs. The study shows that educational attendance increases as family income increases, and the gap between female and male attendance rates decreases as income increases (Figure 1). Thus, orphaned girls, likely to be in the poorest income bracket, have very limited educational opportunities.



## 1. Solution

Africa Youth for Peace and Development have the ability to identify the most vulnerable children in their communities. AYPAD has been working to rebuild the Maforay community in Northern Province of Sierra Leone both figuratively and literally—by helping the people strengthen their skills and self-esteem while repairing damage caused by the war.

Children in the rural town of Maforay, in the Bombali district of Sierra Leone's North Province, are in urgent need of support as they face all of the challenges previously mentioned. The children of Maforay are not in school because the nearest school is 25 miles away. 2000+ live with their parents, who can hardly afford daily meals. 1000+ are homeless, and the majority of them work in farms as a means of survival.

The school will function as a community center and a school, engaging less privileged, orphaned children and youth, ages 4-25, in formal education, while providing safe complex for community activities for them.

There are currently 250 children identified and will be part of our first phase of enrollment in our school, all of whom will participate in this project. [In addition to, we wish to serve \_\_\_\_ more children in Maforay.

### Current Situation

AYPAD Organization has secured 3 acres of Land for the development of the school. Land has been cleared up and ready for construction. The organization is currently seeking support to help construct the first 10 classrooms.

We aim to start with this number of classrooms, and 25 students per classroom. This will give us a total of 250 students for a start. .

Even though the school will not be free, Children and parents will have the opportunity to pay a very minimal fee. These fees will be used to sustain the project activities.



### 1.1. Objectives

- To serve 70% of children and youth ages 4-18 in the town of Maforay and the surrounding villages , in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone [
- To provide the less privileged children with adequate education
- To provide formal and non-formal education for these children.
- To provide vocational training for youth ages 16 and older, and an opportunity for youth ages 19 and older to run a small business
- To provide non-formal education in special categories for specific populations

## 1.2. Approach

The School project will strive to provide a comprehensive education for the children it will serve. It will provide standard instruction based on Sierra Leone's national curriculum as well as non-formal opportunities in the arts and social development.

To compensate for the varying levels of education the students will bring with them, the classes will be multi-grade so that students can study at their level while working to complete the standard education requirements for Sierra Leone's public schools.

## 1.3. Benefits

- Upon completing AYPAD's high-school education program, our students will receive an accredited certificate and be eligible to enter the university. Our partnership with Universities will help facilitate this process. Having a safe home and support network, our students will be less likely to engage in risky behavior.
- Our students will be able to reach their potential, set their own education and career goals, and be equipped with the skills and mindset to contribute to their community.
- There will be special programs for post Ebola and Corona Pandemic recovery for survivors



## 2. Implementation Plan

### 2.1. Methodology

Members of AYPAD will work with a **certified** teacher trainer to train the first team of teachers. After the first year of teaching, one or two high-performance teachers can continue the training of future teachers as the program expands. Instruction will run 8-9 months of the year, while teacher training and program evaluation will take place during the vacation months. Throughout the instruction period, teachers will receive in-service training from mentor teachers. The Excel document, School Budget presents the plan for development over six years, showing how the School will increase the number of children and youth it serves. It is easily modifiable to conform to the changing needs and resources of the community.



