



## UPDATE ON EFSL

### ACTIVITIES

**November 1, 2024**

#### Preamble

This report summarises achievements from projects or interventions implemented between July to November 2024. It presents outcomes from activities carried out in partnership with Churches, and other partners including; Woord En Daad, Support EFSL, SAVE and World Vision International- Sierra Leone and Co-workers.

#### Geographical Coverage for the Period under review.

Eastern region -Kono District- (Kombayendeh,-Lei Chiefdom, Sao-Kainkodu Chiefdom, Njagbama- Faiama Chiefdom).North/West Region: Kambia District:-(Madina, Kafanta, Laya-Gboray and Yankambor.

Southern region- Bonthe District :-(Taessor, Yagoi – Imperi Chiefdom, Wulai, Mowagor and Molucia in Jong Chiefdom, Samabu and Mosonga in Sogbeni Chiefdom),

#### Support to Muslim Back Ground Believers (MBBs) .

We continue to provide Bi-monthly cash support to Ten (10) Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) in various locations in Sierra Leone. The cash support is helping the MBBs to meet their basic needs. For example, those MBBs in Colleges or schools whose parents abandoned them and refused pay their fees because of their new faith, are using the cash support to pay fees and to buy learning materials.

#### Church and Community Savings Project

Most formal financial institutions are unable to reach the Sierra Leone's poorest people, who greatly need access to financial services. To address this need, EFS helped Church and community members to form groups, pool their savings and make loans to each other. This approach has created economic opportunities for 302 people who live in three Chiefdoms in Kambia district

EFSL has established ten (10) Church-centered savings groups in Tonko limba, Magbema and Samu chiefdoms in Kambia districts. Church- based, Christ –cantered savings groups are a ministry for local churches to catalyse holistic community transformation by restoring broken relationships with God, self, others and the rest of Creation

EFSL provided training and capacity strengthening to savings groups, using a highly sustainable market-based approach Group members pray, study Scripture, share life together, and save and lend their own money

Table1: below shows names Churches and communities where the savings project is implemented

No.	Name of Community	Name of church Ministry	Number of participant per group	Chiefdom	Name of group Savings Agent
1.	Laya-Gboray	Bethel	31	Tonkor Limba	Ernest Kangaju
2.	Kafanta	Divine Grace	30	Tonkor Limba	Pastor Amos Alhaji Bangure
3.	Yankambor	New Harvest	30	Tonkor Linma	Amos Sorie Kamara
4.	Madina	Church of Pentecost	30	Tonkor Linma	Joseph A. Samura
5.	Madina	Bethel	30	Tonkor Limba	Rev. John T. Kanu
6.	Kambia town	New Harvest	30	-	Pastor Patrick Kanu
7.	Kambia town	United Free Pentecostal mission	30	-	Rev. Philip Sahr James
8.	Kassirie	Baptist	30	Kassirie	Saidu A. Turay
9.	Madina	Wesleyan	30	Tonkor Limba	Morlai Simbo Samura
10.	Yambaya	Wesleyan	27	Tonkor Limba	Pst. Ezekel S. Samura
Total	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>302</b>		<b>10</b>

Church-centred savings scheme has impacted the Churches and communities in following ways;

- Helped members restore relationships with God, others, and creation, which is leading to holistic community transformation. Members reported experiencing spiritual, material, personal, and social transformation as result of their participation in the church-based savings group activities.
- Local churches are building healthy relationships with community members
- Churches have used the savings groups as a tool for discipleship or evangelism. With this tools, New Harvest Global Ministries branch in Madina has started a new fellowship in Kabaya village with 50 members.
- Through this savings group meetings two persons have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal saviour
- Both Church and community members have started developing the culture of saving monies for future uses
- Saving in a group has created a safe place for people to put their money.
- Increased access to finance by Savings group members. Members can loan and payback with small interest.

## Radio Program

Through its weekly program, EFSL educated the general public in Western area (Rural and Urban areas) and Makeni on contemporary topics centered on excellent homes/ families and negative effects of early child marriage respectively. In Western Area (including Freetown) the program was aired in two radio stations, FM 92.5 Redeemer Radio Network and FM 96.5 VOPAD radio station. In their discussion, the radio panelists in Western area discussed and empathized that an ideal Christian home is built on God's principles and serves as a model for others. It requires the husband to lovingly lead as Christ leads the church, treating his wife with honour and respect. The wife submits to her husband's leadership and both parents work together to raise their children in God's ways.

In Makeni the discussion program was aired in Radio New Song and the panelist discussed the effects of early child marriage. The audience feedback after listening to the radio program revealed that the topics were relevant and appropriate as they speak to the actual issues affecting people in the western area and northern part of Sierra Leone.



Panelist during radio program

## Youth Empowerment

In partnership with Haggai National Chapter, we empowered twenty-two Christian youth through training with leadership skills. The training equipped and inspired strategically positioned young leaders to more effectively demonstrate and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare others to do the same. Topics covered during the five days included; Discipline, Context, Biblical Mandate, Goal setting, stewardship, Next generation, Communication and Leadership.

The five days training produced transformed Youth leaders, equipped with relevant skills to lead others to Christ both by word and example, and also enable others to do the same. The training participants included EFSL staff and Youth from EFSL member bodies. Total number of participants was 22 (males: 18; females: 4) young people drawn from EFSL member churches. The participants are equipped to end gospel poverty among their peers (youth) and the general population of Sierra Leone.



Photo above shows youth equipped with leadership skills during the five days training

## Basic Education and Sponsorship Project.

Access to appropriate learning materials is one of the strategies to achieve Target 4a on a safe, inclusive, and effective learning environment under SDG 4 (UNESCO, 2015a). There is now considerable evidence of the importance of textbooks and other teaching and learning materials (TLMs) for the quality of learning. To achieve target 4a of SDG4 and to contribute to improved quality of learning, EFSL supported 570 ultra-poor pupils in eight primary schools and xx secondary schools learning materials (Text books, school bags, pens, pencils and school uniform). Evaluation reports revealed children who learning materials showed improvement in the following ways;

- a) Improved academic performance — Children who received school learning materials participated more fully in class and completed assignments more effectively. This contributed improved grades and achievement.
- b) Boosted self-esteem — having access to basic school supplies helped children feel more confident and proud of their education. This motivated them to work harder and achieve their goals.



Photos of school pupils who received the school materials

## Psychosocial Training for Faith Leaders

In partnership with World Vision Sierra Leone, EFSL trained 386 community stakeholders including Pastors, Imams, Chiefs and youth leaders on Child protection and psychosocial support. The training was conducted in Njagbewma, Kainkodu, Kombayendeh, Tombodu and Jaiama communities in Kono District.

The training sessions motivated and equipped faith leaders and community stakeholders to respond in meaningful ways to prevent and respond to violence against children, including restoring child survivors; to address sociocultural norms and attitudes that drive violence; to promote peace and overcome violence.

Post training evaluation revealed that the training helped the Participants in the following ways;

- Helped Faith leaders develop relational wisdom to provide care and support for victims (especially children) of violence.
- Led to Christians and Muslim leaders working together to solve community problems

## Training on Empowered World Views.

EFSL used empowered world view model to train participants( World vision staff and Faith Leaders) in Njagbewma, Kainkodu, Kombayendeh, Tombodu, Jaiama and Kangama chiefdoms. This training targeted 410 (271 men and 139 women) World Vision Staff and Faith Leaders drawn for various communities in Fama, Soa, Lei, Kamara, Nimekoro and Gorama chiefdoms.

Empowered Worldview is a biblically-based project model that helped participants to have deeper and more sustainable changes in child and family wellbeing. The changed behaviour and mindset of participants toward on dependency and promoted individual empowerment among people living in poverty. During the training session we used biblical principles to engage individuals on issues of identity, self-esteem, hope, and vision for the future.

Post training monitoring report reviewed that the training on empowered world view have a positive impact on participants' level of empowerment, increasing their ability to become agents of change within their own lives, their families and communities.

The training has changed the mindset of participants and how they perceive themselves and their economic activities. After two Months of training EFSL visited Madam Adama who participated in the Empowered World view training in Kombayendeh community made the following statements *"We are changed people because we now know to earn more from less. The other beautiful component is that people have learned the importance of savings. Everyone has developed the mindset of making money from their farm produce; something that is helping my chiefdom develop because my people can now build better housing structures and invest in more sustainable ventures like poultry,"* A traditional leader Faiama also notes that the interventions have economically empowered women in the project locations

## Constitutional Review Process.

Delegates in council meeting held 21st June, 2024, resolved that the existing constitution be reviewed. To that end it was recommended that the secretariat constitute a constitutional review committee to undertake the review process. As result of the above recommendations, we sent invitation letters to Christian leaders requesting them to serve on the review Committee. The undermentioned persons graciously accepted to serve in that capacity.

- 1) Rev. Dr. Abraham F. Turay- Chairman
- 2) Rev. Sola Jegede
- 3) Rev. Mrs. Walker
- 4) Rev. Martin Kamara- Regional Rep( W/Area)
- 5) Rev. Kpandei Tucker
- 6) Rev. Joseph S. Baio
- 7) Mr. William Y. Conteh
- 8) Rev. Gadiru Bassie- General Secretary
- 9) Rev. Musa F. Fobay( Rapporteur)

Committee worked hard within two months to produce a draft copy of the revised constitution is ready for input from Executive committee members and Council.

## Future Projects in 2025

### 1) 2025 Biennial General Assembly

This event brings together EFSL member bodies in September every two years to fellowship, receive report from secretariat and plan for the future of the ministry. Please help us pray for God's provision to organize and hold this all important event in 2025.

### 2) Church roofing

EFSL continues to receive increased requests from Pastors for financial assistance to roof their churches in the rural areas. This is actually a felt need in the rural areas as some of the church services are held under makeshift structures with leaking roofs. This condition negatively affects Church services during the raining seasons.

### 3) Marriage TBS in February 2025.

Marriage has been designed by God to reveal the relationship between Christ and His church. Until we have some degree of understanding and appreciation of that, there is no way we can walk in consistent, effective application of marital duties. Only when Pastors and their spouses understand the relationship between Christ and the church can one understand the purpose of marriage. If we don't understand that relationship, we will not understand the purpose of marriage as Biblically defined.

Unfortunately EFSL has learnt that majority of Pastors and Spouses lack knowledge on the fundamental issues/ things that destroy marriages and what to do to have strong and healthy marriage relationship. A report of Rapid assessment conducted by Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone among 150 Pastors shows that 70% of Pastors marriages in Sierra Leone are struggling to survive as a result of the under mentioned reasons. To this end we are suggesting a marriage seminar with Pastors and spouses to help build their homes for effective ministry.

### 4) Freetown 5 Mile Project.

The aim of the Freetown 5 mile project is to organize a yearly 5 mile run in Freetown to raise money for various EFSL's activities. We are requesting for your prayer that stakeholders will buy in the concept, participate planning and implementation this fund raising event.

### 5) New Strategic Plan for 2026-2031

EFSL current strategic plan expires in 2025. This requires the fellowship to develop new strategic plan that fits the current context and challenges.

## Prayer point

Please help us pray for the following;

1. 2025 Biennial General Assembly
2. Strategic planning process for 2026-2031
3. Freetown 5 Mile project
4. New donors to support EFSL ministries in communities
5. TBS Marriage seminar.

Prepared by;

Gadiru Bassie, General Secretary, EFSL