



FLI-SL
Annual Report

2022

For every child's dignity, rights, education, and well-being

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For every child's dignity, rights, education, and well-being

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024 has been a transformative year for Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL), marked by significant milestones in our mission to protect children's rights, promote non-violence, and empowers communities. With **unyielding dedication**, we have made substantial strides in our advocacy efforts, digital education programs, and community-based initiatives, positively impacting thousands of children, parents, and educators across Sierra Leone.

This year, with the **Pens Up, Canes Down** and **No Hit Zone Initiative**, we have advocated for violence-free schools and public spaces. We kicked off our **No Hit Zone Workshop**, which saw **150** attendees, including schoolchildren, teachers, parents, community chiefs, headmen and women, and religious leaders. The workshop was vibrant, impactful, and pivotal in raising awareness and driving tangible action to end corporal punishment in schools.

In parallel, we expanded the **Children-2-Children (C2C) Program** from eight **(8)** desktop computers to fourteen **(14)**, equipping young people with digital literacy and leadership skills to shape the future of Sierra Leone. **C2C TV** has been a powerful platform for youth advocacy. Our **Parent-2-Parent (P2P) Program** also thrived, empowering parents to adopt nonviolent parenting practices and supporting them in securing mini-business grants to improve their livelihoods.

Our commitment to creating a lasting impact extended to the **FilmFemmes Initiative**, providing young girls with the tools and platforms to create and share stories that empower them. The opening of our **safe space** has fostered collaboration and growth, positioning us to scale our operations and influence.



Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our goal to complete the **Steps to Dignity Project**—Sierra Leone's first-ever **No Hit Zone School and Health Clinic**. With construction underway and strong international support, we are confident that this will become a beacon of hope for over **3,000** children and families. We hope to see the **C2C Computer Program**; reaching **3,072** children by 2030- A total of **201** children have already been impacted through digital skills training in MS Word, publisher and internet safety.

In 2024, FLI SL has built significant momentum, cultivating a culture of dignity, respect, and non-violence. With the continued support of our partners, donors, and volunteers, we are transforming lives and creating a safer, more empowered future for Sierra Leone's children. As we look to **2025** and beyond, we remain committed to driving impactful, sustainable progress for Sierra Leone's children and communities, with the continued support of our partners, donors, and volunteers

All thanks to Professor Lucien Lombardo for his continuous support!

2. ABOUT US

Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL) is a child and women-led nonprofit, non-governmental organization headquartered in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Our mission is to end violence against children, women, and girls in schools, homes, and communities, with a focus on protecting their fundamental rights and upholding their dignity. Through our advocacy, education, and empowerment programs, we strive to create a safer, more inclusive society for all.



MISSION: Our mission is to educate, empower, promote, and protect children, women, and girls against violence in schools, homes, and communities by providing necessary skills, knowledge, and platforms. We achieve this through community advocacy, media, and technology, ensuring that these vulnerable groups have access to the resources they need to thrive.

VISION: We envision a society free from all forms of violence against children, women, and girls. Our long-term goal is to build an environment where every child, woman, and girl is empowered, educated, and protected—contributing to the overall well-being and sustainable development of Sierra Leone and beyond.

GOAL: Leading the way for the next generation to achieve its sustainable development through education and empowerment.

CORE VALUES

DIGNITY: Dignity is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that protecting one's rights starts with respecting their dignity. Our commitment is to prioritize the well-being of children, women, and girls, valuing their voices and stories

EDUCATION: We create an inclusive environment that grants vulnerable and less-privileged young individuals access to quality education, empowering them to transform their lives.

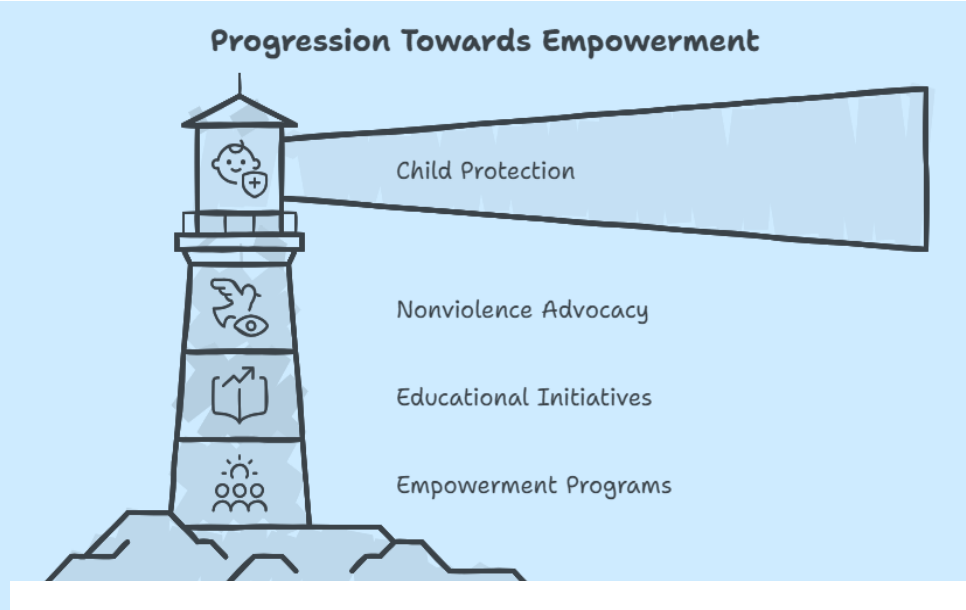
EQUALITY: We believe in equality and fairness. Everyone deserves equal opportunities, and we ensure that all individuals have the chance to reach their full potential, regardless of gender, background, or socio-economic status.

PEACE: Our commitment is to create a peaceful and loving environment where individuals of all backgrounds can thrive, learn, and grow in harmony.

TRANSFORMATION: We believe in the power of passionate individuals and well-defined plans to drive lasting change

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

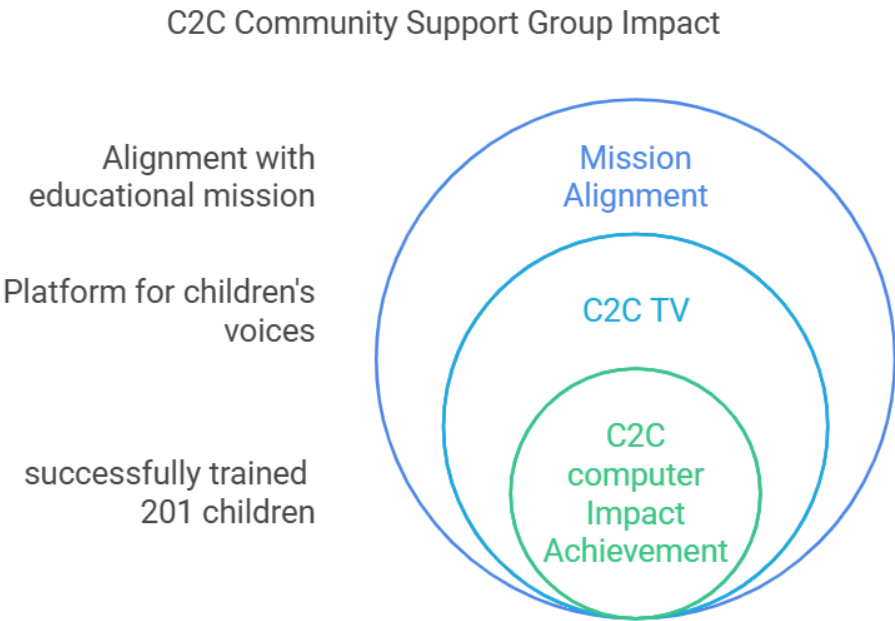
2024 has been a year of progress, growth, and impactful actions for Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL). Our key programs and initiatives have made significant strides in advancing child protection, nonviolence, education, and empowerment across Sierra Leone. Here are the major milestones:



Children-2-Children (C2C) Community Support Group
C2C continues to be a cornerstone of our work, empowering children to advocate for their rights and protect their peers. This peer-led initiative focuses on nonviolence, education, and child protection through digital skills training and media creation.

Impact: We have successfully trained **201 adolescents** from the capital city, **Freetown, to the Northern Province (Lungi Town)**, in digital skills since 2022, bringing us closer to our goal of impacting **3,072 children by 2030**.

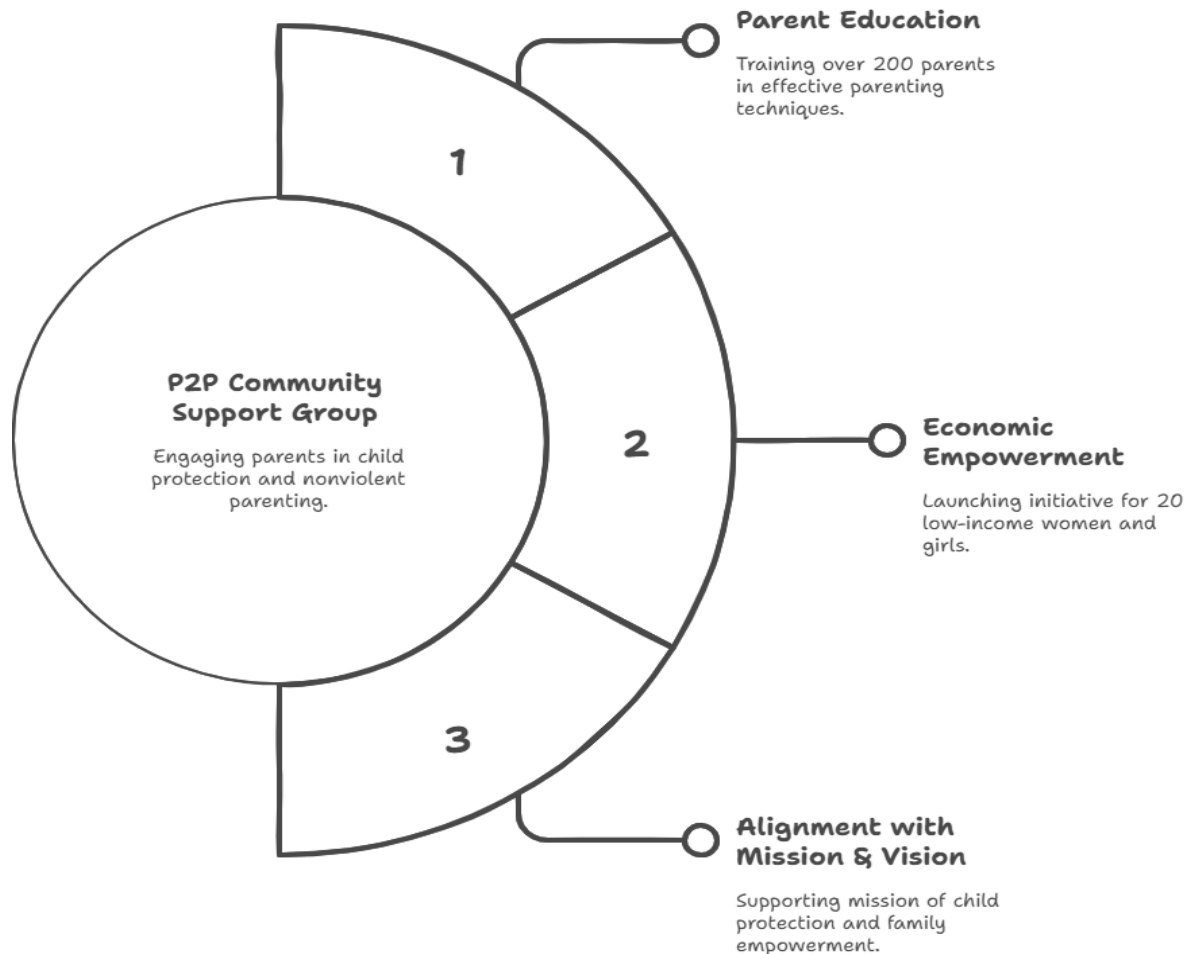
C2C TV: This is a local media platform that provides a safe space for children to amplify their voices on dignity, rights, and child protection, reaching hundreds of viewers globally. It also features adults sharing their childhood experiences on dignity and rights.



Parents-2-Parents (P2P) Community Support Group

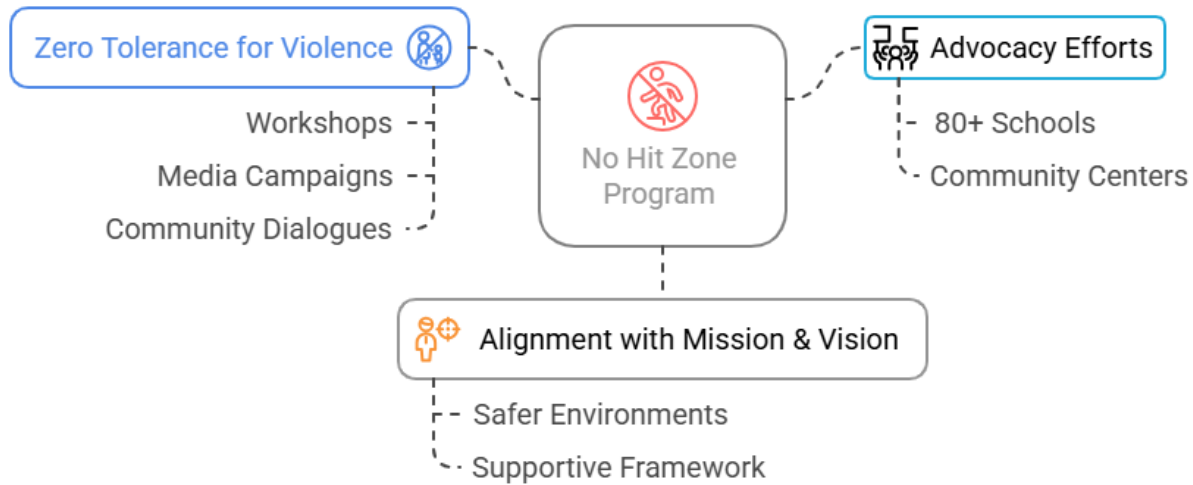
The P2P program has been instrumental in engaging parents and communities in conversations about child protection, nonviolent parenting, and the importance of creating safe spaces for children.

Unpacking the P2P Community Support Group's Impact



4. NO HIT ZONE PROGRAM

Our No Hit Zone program is a pivotal initiative in our efforts against violence and corporal punishment in schools and public spaces.



5. NEW OFFICE AND GROWTH

In 2024, Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL) and its supporters took a monumental step in strengthening our operations and expanding our reach. We launched a **GoFundMe campaign** to secure a safe space for our activities, and thanks to the generous support of donors, especially Lucien Lombardo and his friends, we successfully started securing a **one-year rental space**. This new office serves as a cornerstone for our mission of child protection, education, and empowerment.

We aim to secure a **five-year lease**, enabling us to expand our services and ensure long-term stability for our initiatives. The office plays a crucial role in enabling us to offer **safe spaces, emergency shelter, counseling, and empowerment programs** that support vulnerable children, women, and girls.

This new office is not just a physical space—it's a foundation for growth, community engagement, and enhanced service delivery. It allows us to scale our programs and foster stronger relationships with stakeholders, both locally and internationally.

Our **GoFundMe campaign** remains open, with a goal of raising **\$5,000** by the end of the year to extend our lease and continue expanding our impact. We invite everyone to join us in this mission, whether through donations, sharing our campaign, or spreading awareness about our work. Your support is essential in creating a safe environment where children and families can heal and thrive.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/mothers-last-gift-saving-son-from-abuse/cl/o?lang=en_GB&utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link&attribution_id=sl%3Aa0fba3fc-9a30-425f-b019-315ab9dec39e

As we look to the future, we remain committed to securing a long-term space that will enable us to provide ongoing care, empowerment, and hope to those who need it most.

Future Leaders Initiative SL Office Impact

Fosters relationships
with stakeholders

Equips children with
skills and resources

Helps overcome
trauma and rebuild
lives

Provides temporary
refuge for survivors

Central to healing and
empowerment



Future Leaders Initiative (SL)
RECEIPT

No:..... Date: 07/12/24

Received from: Ibrahim Sonie Bangura

The sum of: Twenty Million (20,000,000) (20M)

Being Payment for: Rent One year

Paid by Cash/ Cheque No:.....

Part Payment ☐ Full payment ☐ Balance.....

NLE 80,000/- Signature: [Signature]



In this new space, we have already registered over **200 adolescents** for our **C2C computer program**, with **70 enrolled in the first batch**. Of those, **43 completed their first assessments**, including **26 girls and 28 boys** aged 10-19, highlighting the growing demand and impact of our programs.

6. ONGOING PROJECTS & IN-PROGRESS WORK

The statistics in Sierra Leone highlight the urgency of our mission:

- 87% of children experience violence in school (UNICEF).
- 1 in 5 women in rural areas lacks access to maternal healthcare.

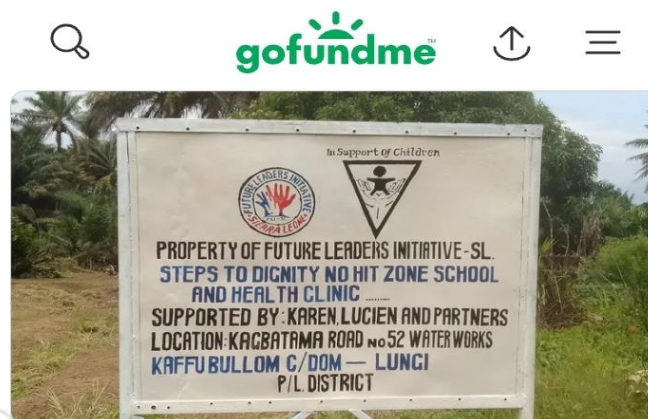
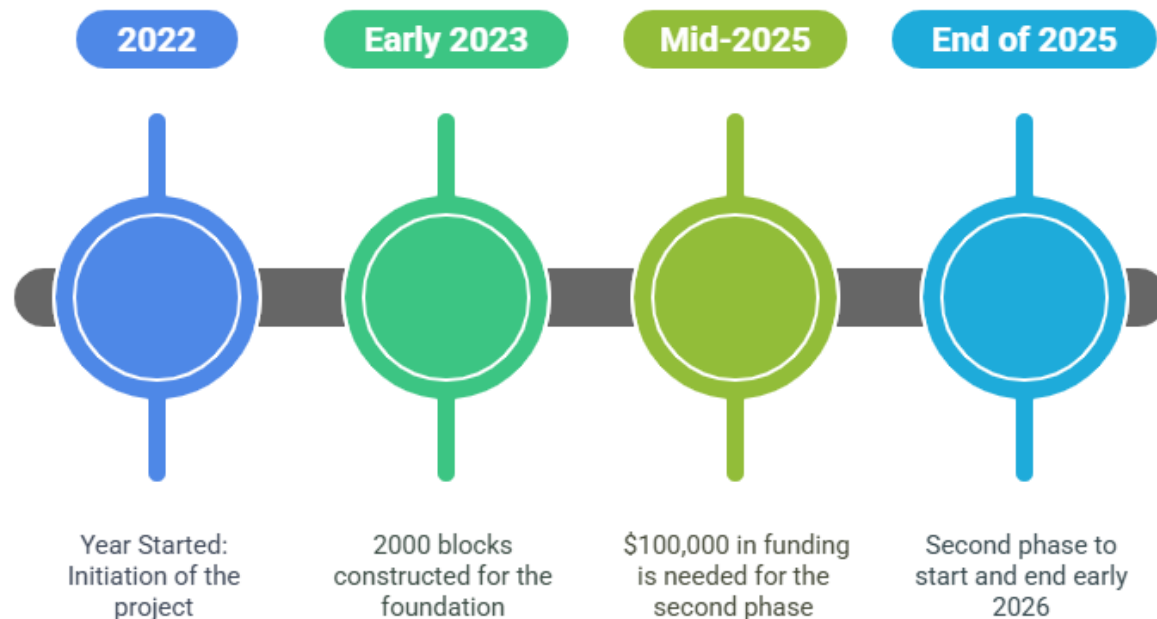
Future Leaders Initiative SL is launching a transformative project to establish the region's first No-Hit Zone School and Health Clinic. The project will consist of three buildings: a two-story school building and a one-flat health clinic. These facilities will provide a safe learning environment for over 300 children and accessible healthcare for families, addressing critical protection, education, and maternal care gaps.

I. STEPS TO DIGNITY: NO HIT ZONE SCHOOL & HEALTH CLINIC

In 2022, Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL) was gifted land to build Sierra Leone's first No Hit Zone school and health clinic. This initiative aims to create a safe space for over 3,000 people, offering education, healthcare, and protection free from violence.



Steps to Dignity: No Hit Zone School and Health Clinic



"Empowering Communities" Steps to Dignity

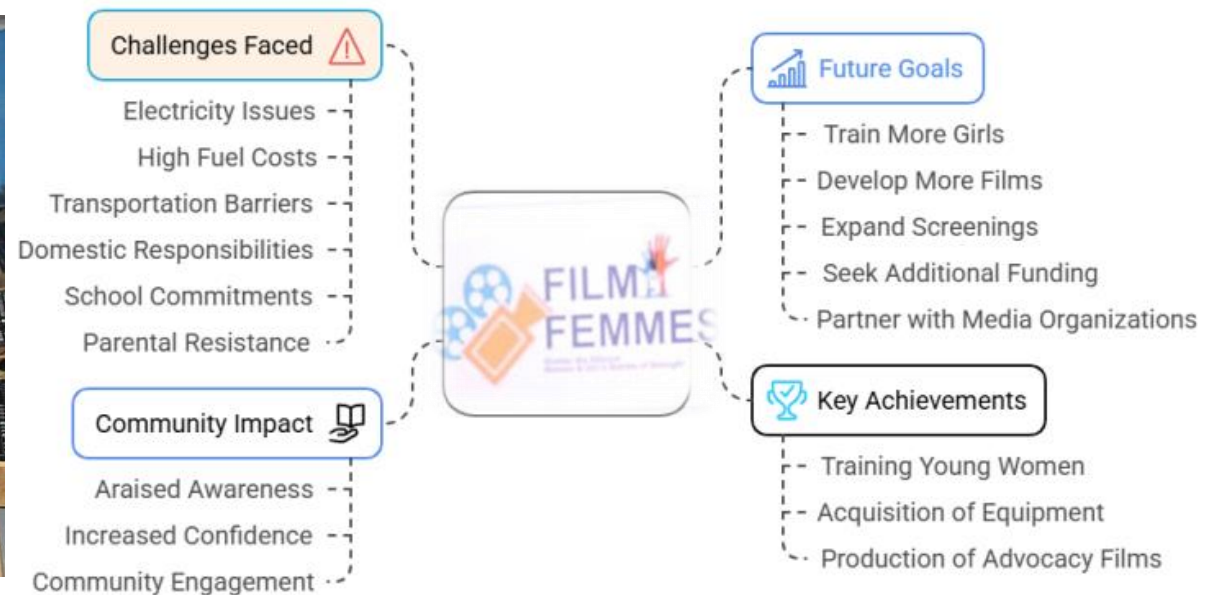
\$5,825 USD raised of \$5,800 goal • 34 donations

II. FILMFEMMES INITIATIVE: EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH FILM & DIGITAL SKILLS

The **FilmFemmes Initiative** is a groundbreaking program under Future Leaders Initiative SL, designed to **empower young girls through film production and digital education**. It trains **10 young women and girls**—all of whom are beneficiaries of the **C2C Computer Lab**. This is Led by **Saffiatu Barrie**, a passionate child rights advocate and head of the **Children-2-Children (C2C) Community Support Group**, the initiative provides hands-on training in video editing and content creation using **Adobe software**.

Goals & Achievements

- **Goal:** Equip women and girls with **film production and video editing skills** to amplify their voices and advocate for social change.



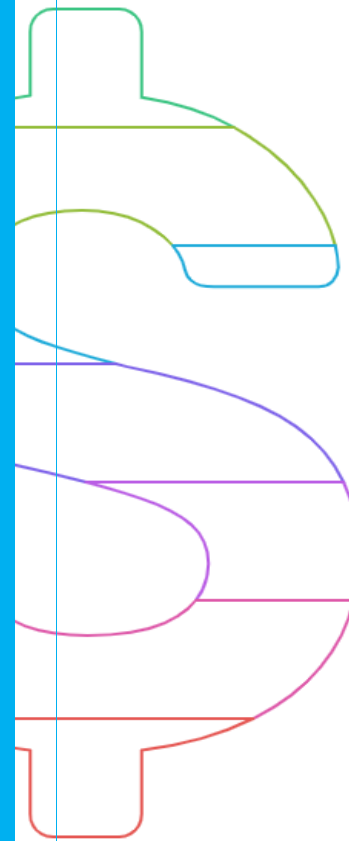
7. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS:

At **Future Leaders Initiative SL**, we recognize that meaningful change is driven by **collaboration and shared commitment**. Over the past year, our strategic partnerships with **local and international organizations, advocacy groups, and grassroots initiatives** have been instrumental in advancing our mission to **protect children, empower young women, and promote nonviolent education**.

Collaborative Initiatives: Expanding Reach and Impact

Through joint efforts, we have:

- **Launched the FilmFemmes initiative**, equipping young women with **digital and storytelling skills** to amplify their voices on social issues.
- **Strengthened the c2c community support group**, which empowers children through **digital learning and advocacy against violence**.
- **Advocated for no hit zones in schools**, working alongside **policymakers and child rights organizations** to ensure safer learning spaces.
- **Expanded digital access and creative learning** by enhancing the **c2c computer lab and c2c tv**, a digital platform where children can share stories, learn, and raise awareness about social issues.
- **Developing the steps to dignity no hit zone school and health clinic**, a pioneering initiative that integrates education, protection, and healthcare for vulnerable children.



Giving Joy Foundation

Supports digital storytelling initiatives



ConsumerConnect

Promotes digital literacy and online safety



EndViolenceTogether

Advocates for child protection policies



KeepingChildrenSafe

Provides expertise in child protection frameworks



We Yone Child Foundation

Improves operational capacity with resources



WayoutArts

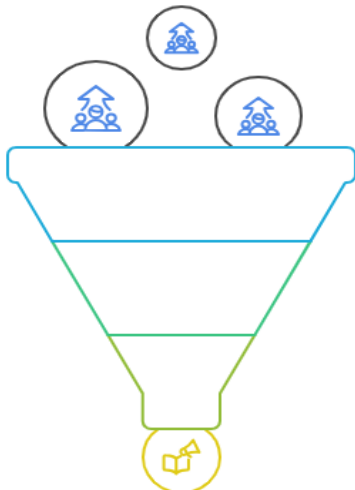
Offers creative media support



Local Community-Based Groups

Engages in grassroots initiatives

LOOKING AHEAD: STRENGTHENING FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS



Digital Training

Providing digital training to young women and girls



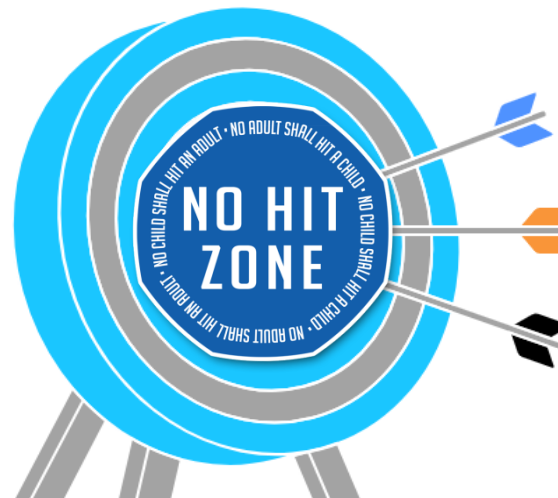
Partnerships

Collaborating with organizations focused gender equality and media literacy



Advocacy Skills

Equipping participants with skills to advocate for their rights



No Hit Zone School and Health Clinic

Central hub for holistic support



Pens Up Canes Down Initiative

Educational and protective framework



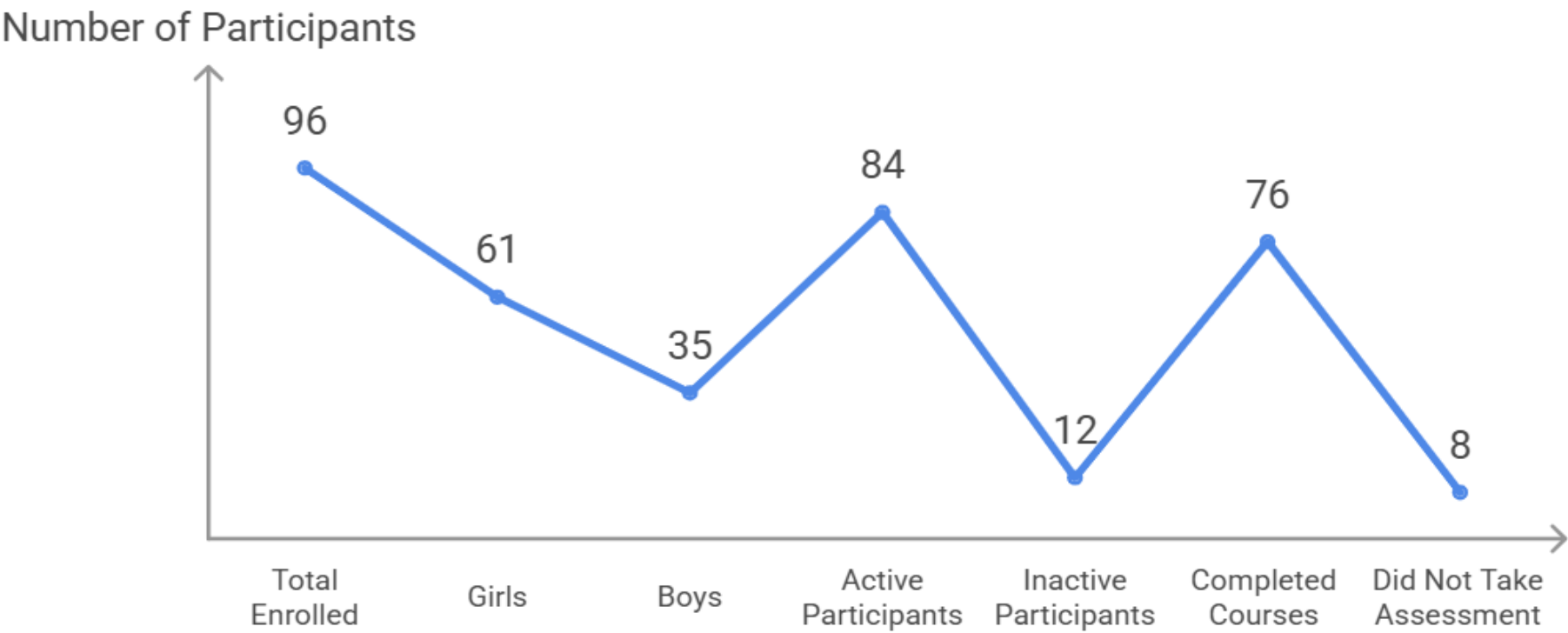
Expansion to More Communities

Broader reach and impact

Holistic Support System Expansion

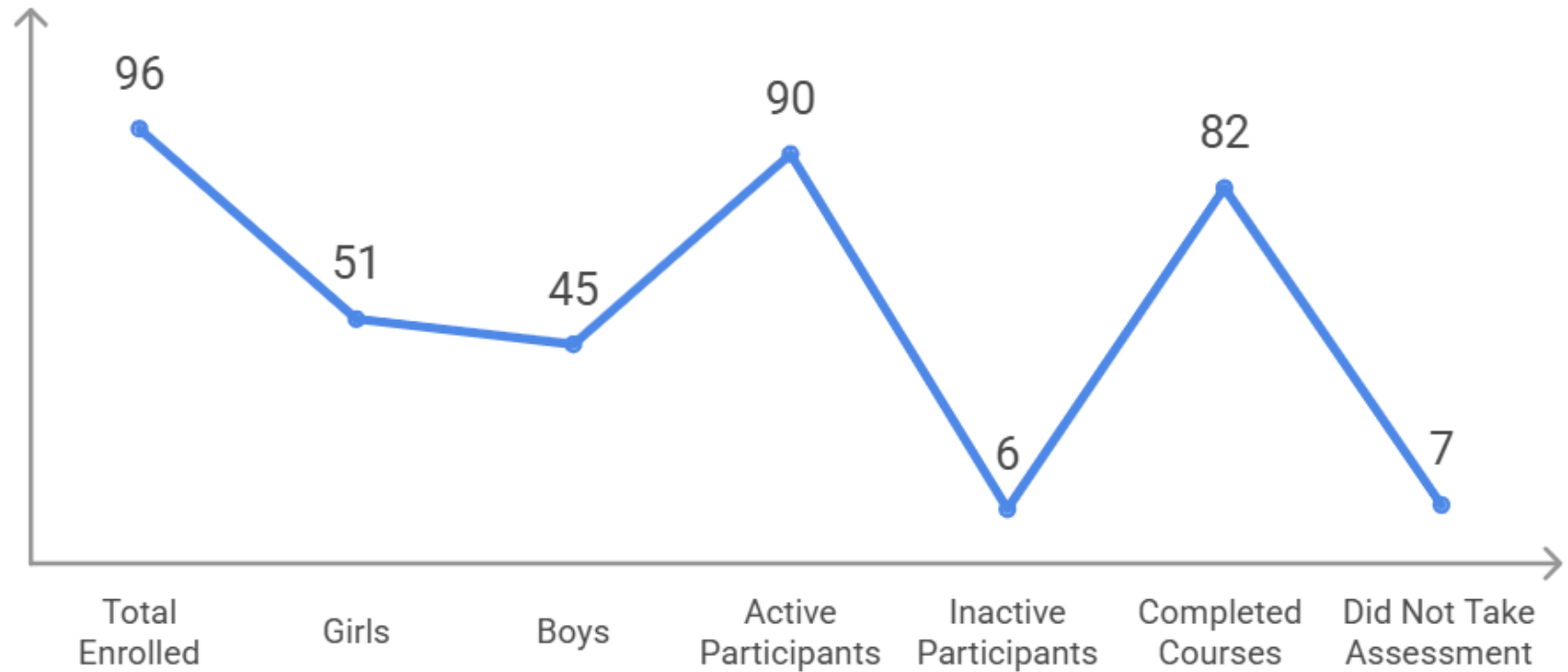
8. MEASURABLE IMPACT: EMPOWERING CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITIES

C2C COMPUTER LAB - FREETOWN (2022–2023) ENROLLMENT DATA



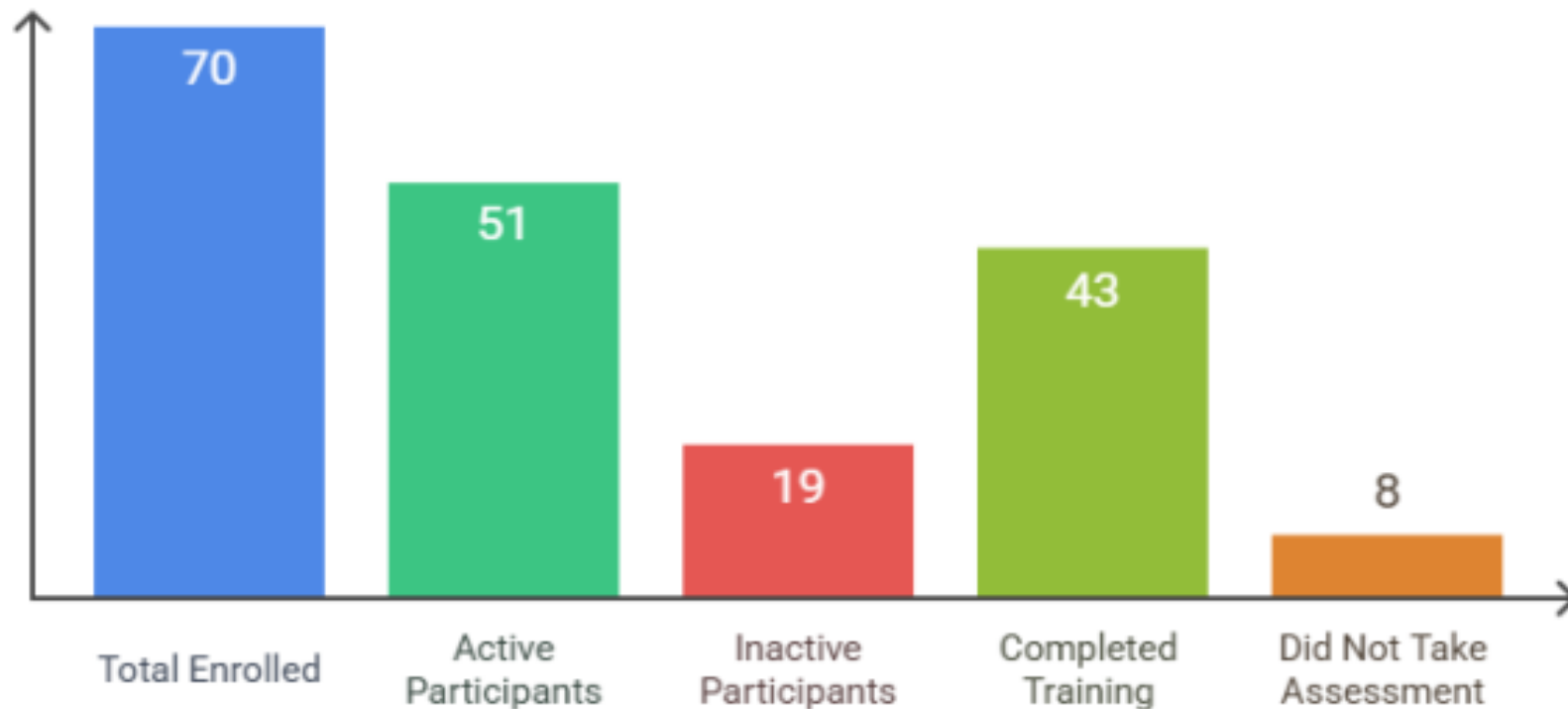
C2C COMPUTER LAB – KAGBATAMA, WATER WORKS (2023-2024) ENROLLMENT DATA

Number of Participants



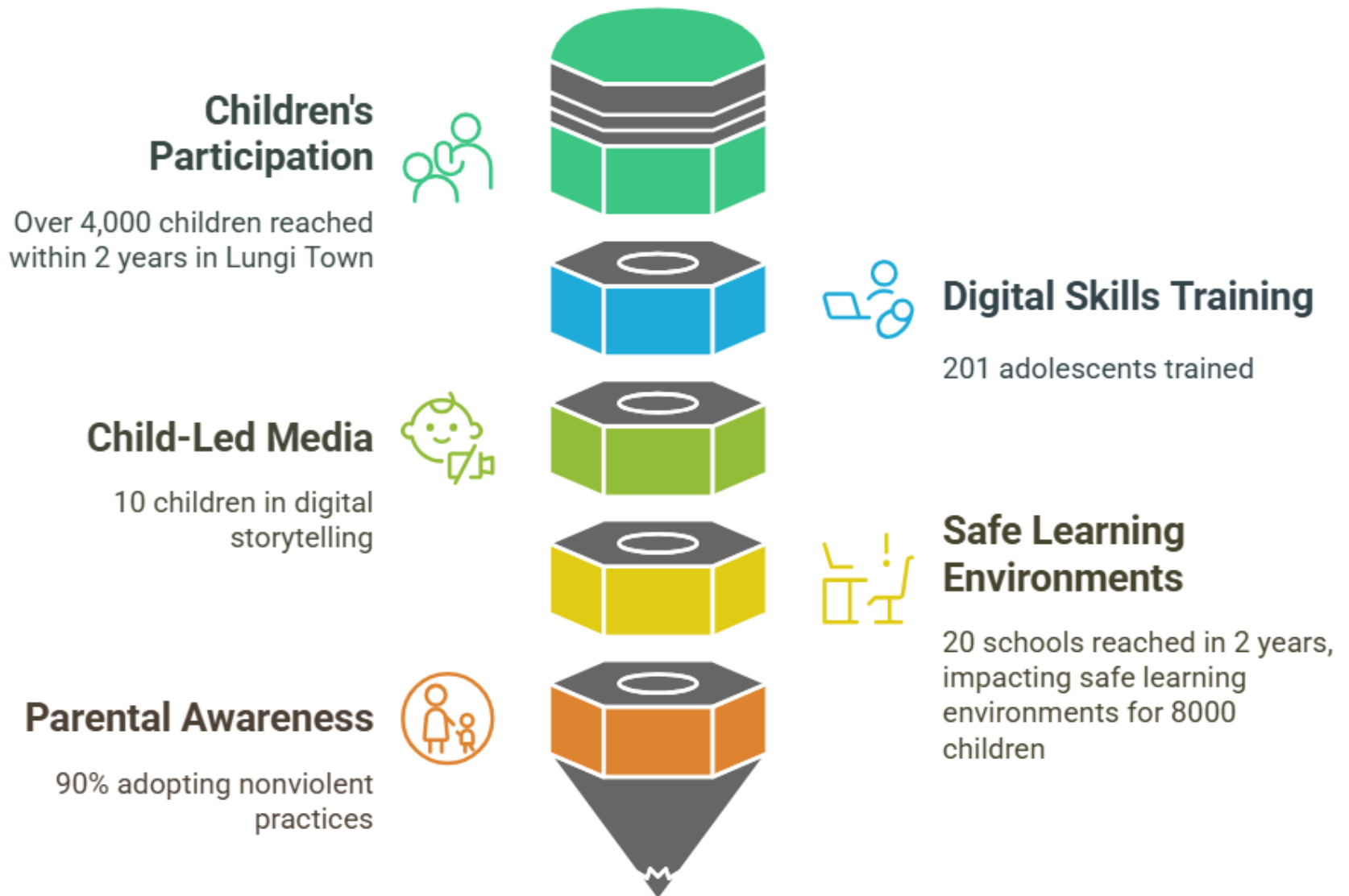
C2C COMPUTER LAB – TARDI LUNGI (JANUARY 2025) ENROLLMENT DATA

Number of Participants



2023-24-25

Community Program Impact Overview



Our SDGs: Advancing Global Goals for Children's Rights and Protection

Good Health and
Well-Being-SDG 3

Gender Equality-SDG 5

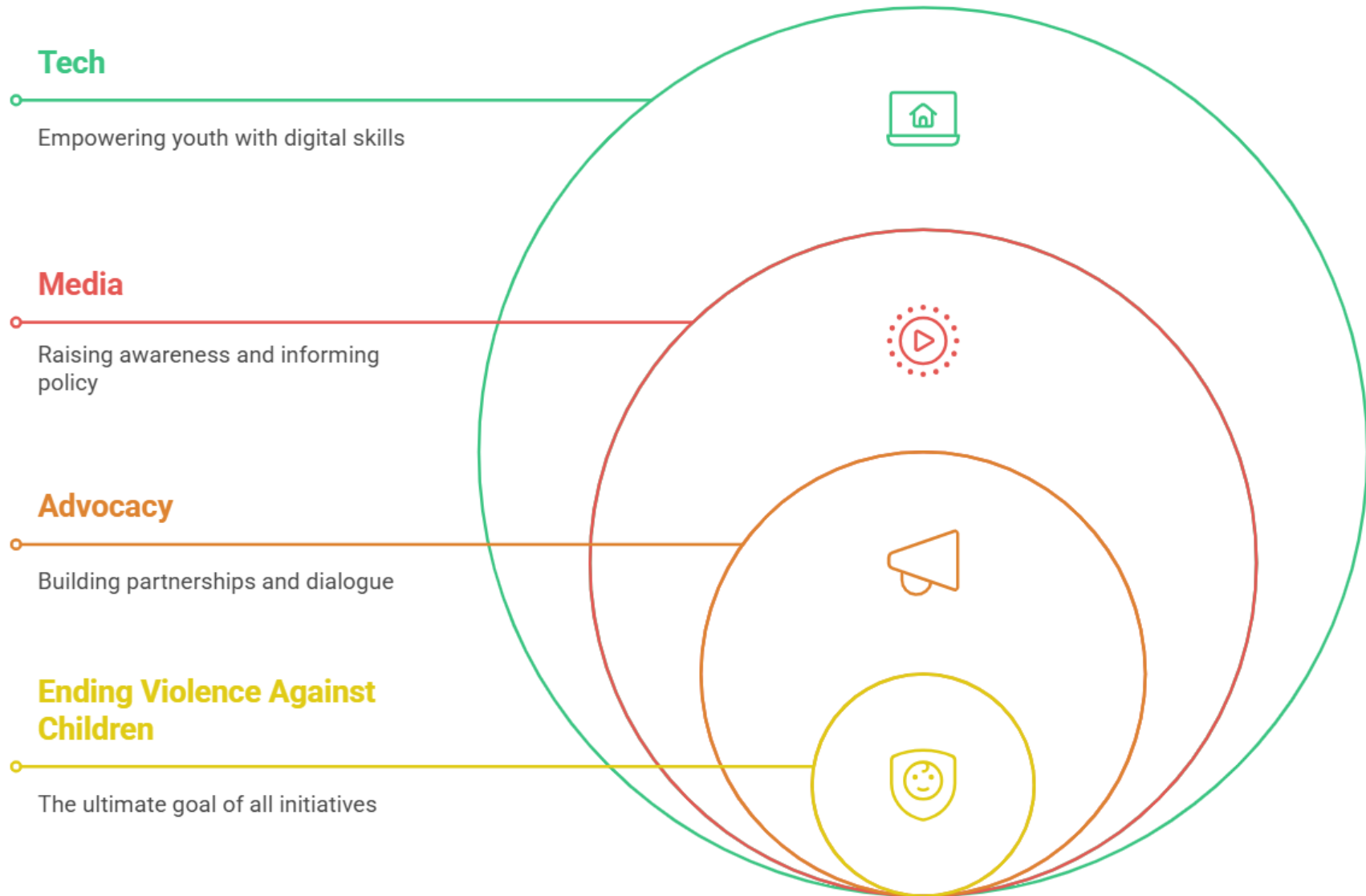
Partnerships for
the Goals- SDG 17



Quality Education
SDG 4

Peace, Justice, and
Strong Institutions-
SDG 16

Approach to Ending Violence Against Children



9. Financial Report

Overview of Financial Health

Future Leaders Initiative SL has remained committed to its mission of ending violence against children and creating safer learning environments, despite facing financial challenges. Over the past year, our primary sources of funding have been our **GoFundMe campaigns**, a **one-time grant of \$500 from Giving Joy**, and contributions from a small but dedicated group of **individual supporters** who have helped sustain our programs.

Despite significant efforts to mobilize resources, several GoFundMe fundraising campaigns fell short of their targets, limiting the scale of some initiatives. However, through strategic resource allocation, we have maximized the available funding to sustain essential child-focused programs and community projects

Sources of Funding

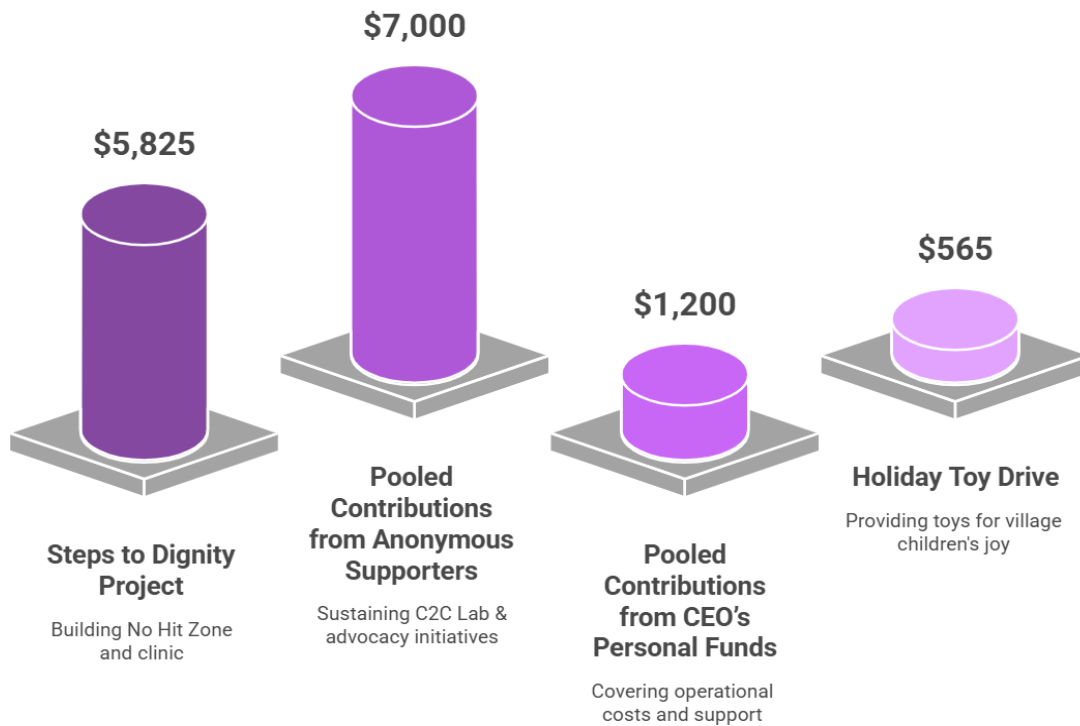
1. **GoFundMe Campaigns:** A series of fundraising efforts were launched to support various projects, including our **C2C Computer Lab**, **Steps to Dignity**, **No Hit Zone workshops**, **World Children's Day**, and **International Day to End Corporal Punishment**. Screenshots of these campaigns demonstrate our commitment to transparency in fundraising.
2. **Grant Funding:** We received a **\$500 grant from Giving Joy**, which was allocated toward our FilmFemmes initiative
3. **Individual Contributions:** Small networks of anonymous supporters have provided financial assistance to help cover essential costs, including **safe space rental** and ongoing program expenses.



"Empowering Communities" Steps to Dignity

\$5,825 USD raised of \$5,800 goal • 34 donations

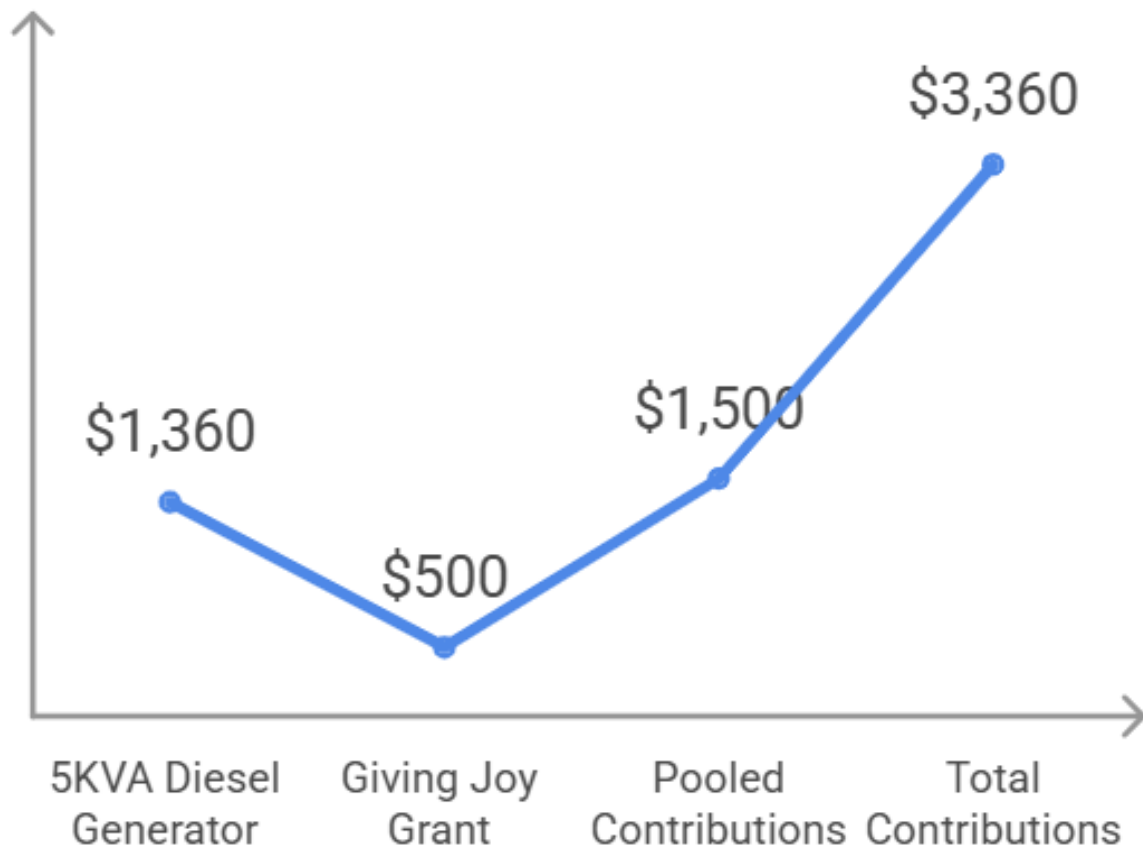
Funds Raised for Various Projects in 2022-2023



- **\$5,825** – Steps to Dignity Project: *Purchasing 500 bags of cement and constructing 2,000 blocks to build the first No Hit Zone and health clinic in Lungi, Port Loko District, Northern Sierra Leone.*
- **\$7,000+** – Pooled Contributions from Anonymous Supporters: *Received in multiple phases to sustain the C2C Lab & C2C TV, Parents2Parents (P2P) Program, and advocacy initiatives, including workshops and conferences for World Children's Day and International Day to End Corporal Punishment.*
- **\$1,200** – Pooled Contributions from CEO's Personal Funds: *Covering operational costs and organizational support over the past two years.*
- **\$565** – Holiday Toy Drive: *Providing toys for village children to promote joy and well-being.*

Total Raised & Invested in 2022-2023: \$14,590+





- **\$1,360** – 5KVA Diesel Generator for the C2C Computer Lab: Ensuring reliable power supply.
- **\$500** – Giving Joy Grant: Supporting the FilmFemmes Project to empower 10 women and girls through filming.
- **\$1,500** – Pooled Contributions from Anonymous Supporters: *Supporting C2C Lab operations, covering weekly transportation costs for volunteers traveling from Freetown to rural villages, as well as food and internet expenses for the team.*

→ **Total Raised & Invested in 2024: \$3,360**

10. Looking Ahead to 2025 and Beyond

At Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL), we are driven by a vision to foster a world where every child has the right to safety, dignity, and equal opportunities. Our strategic objectives for 2025 and beyond are not just ambitious—they are essential for transforming Sierra Leone into a place where children can thrive without fear, exploitation, or violence. As we look toward the future, we are committed to expanding our efforts, scaling the impact of our initiatives, and ensuring sustainable growth that benefits every child in Sierra Leone.



Strategic Goals For The Future

Our work is rooted in a child rights framework, ensuring that every decision we make prioritizes the well-being, safety, and dignity of children. We focus on the following strategic goals for 2025 and beyond:

1. Expansion Of The No Hit Zone Initiative

The No Hit Zone initiative has already laid the foundation for safer educational environments in Sierra Leone. In 2023-24, over 80 schools were marked as No Hit Zones, directly benefiting more than 8,000 children. By 2025, we aim to expand the No Hit Zone initiative to 150 schools, health centers, and public



spaces, fostering a safer environment where children can thrive free from violence. According to **UNICEF**, 86.5% of children in the same age group faced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers at home. Our aim is to significantly reduce this number, protecting children from physical and psychological harm.

2. Scaling The C2C Lab & C2C TV

The C2C Lab and C2C TV have become hubs for innovation, education, and digital literacy for underserved children. In 2024, we reached over 70 students enrolled in our digital programs, but the demand continues to grow. By 2025, we plan to increase enrollment to 300 children and expand our reach to rural and remote areas, empowering children with the digital skills they need to succeed in a technology-driven world. By 2030, we aim to impact the lives of 3,072 children. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), only 20% of children in Sierra Leone currently have access to online learning resources. To bridge this gap, we will provide essential tools and training, ensuring equitable digital access for all

3. Empowering Parents Through The Parents2Parents (P2P) Program

The P2P initiative empowers parents

and caregivers with the knowledge and tools to support their children's rights, well-being, and education. In 2024, **150 parents** participated in our workshops, and **200 parents** have already been trained in non-violent parenting techniques and child protection strategies. By 2026, we aim to reach **1,000 more parents**, helping them create nurturing environments where children can grow without fear. Studies show that non-violent parenting dramatically reduces the likelihood of children experiencing abuse and neglect, and we are committed to spreading this knowledge throughout Sierra Leone.

4. Increasing Advocacy And Public Awareness On Child Protection

Through workshops, events, and campaigns, our advocacy efforts have already engaged over 10,000 community members, educators, and policymakers. By 2025, we aim to double this outreach, championing stronger child protection policies, amplifying children's voices in decision-making, and eliminating harmful cultural practices that undermine their rights. **The World Bank** reports that over **70%** of children in Sierra Leone are affected by violence, abuse, and exploitation, making it critical for us to increase our efforts in this area.

Plans for Scaling Impact

To achieve these ambitious goals, FLI SL plans to scale our impact through strategic collaborations, enhanced volunteer mobilization, and sustainable funding initiatives.

1. Building Stronger Partnerships

We will continue to work closely with government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and international organizations to enhance the reach and effectiveness of our programs. These partnerships will help ensure that our initiatives are aligned with national child protection strategies and that resources are used efficiently.

2. Expanding Volunteer Networks

Volunteers are the backbone of our operations, and we will continue to expand our network to ensure that more communities benefit from our programs. In 2025, we aim to recruit **30 more volunteers** who will work in both rural and urban areas, helping to implement and monitor child protection efforts.

3. Leveraging Technology for Greater Impact

Phone / WhatsApp: +23299853572 | **Visit us:** www.weareflisl.org. Together, we can create a future where children's rights are upheld, their dignity is protected, and every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive. Thank you for being a part of this transformative movement.

We will invest in technology solutions that will enable us to reach more children and parents, particularly in remote areas. This includes online education platforms, virtual workshops, and digital advocacy tools that will amplify our message and provide learning opportunities for children and parents alike.

4. Diversifying Funding Sources

Sustainable funding is critical to ensuring the longevity of our programs. We will continue to diversify our funding base, reaching out to new donors, corporate partners, and government agencies. Our goal is to secure **\$500,000** in grants and donations by 2025-2026, enabling us to expand and scale our initiatives effectively.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

We welcome your inquiries, suggestions, and support as we continue working toward a brighter future for children in Sierra Leone. If you would like to learn more about our work, get involved, or make a contribution, please don't hesitate to reach out to us:
Email:

ibrahimflisl6@gmail.com

lombolunk@yahoo.com

isle.polonko@gmail.com

Acknowledgments

As we reflect on our journey, we are deeply grateful for the support we have received from our partners, donors, volunteers, and the communities we serve. Your belief in our mission has been the driving force behind our success. Without your commitment, the programs and initiatives that have changed the lives of countless children would not be possible.

To our partners: Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and support. Your dedication and expertise have helped us expand our reach and impact.

To our donors: Your generous contributions have allowed us to implement meaningful programs that provide children with the resources they need to succeed. Together, we are helping to create a brighter future for the next generation.

To our volunteers: Your time, passion, and energy have been invaluable. You are the heart of our work, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to children's rights and dignity.

Together, we have made a significant difference, and we are excited for what the future holds. We invite you to continue this journey with us as we work toward a world where every child is protected, valued, and empowered.

13. Volunteer Engagement: The Rise of Young Changemakers

Meet the **remarkable and driven young leaders** who started as students in our **Children-2-Children (C2C) Community Support Group** and have now become torchbearers of change. From **learning to leading**, these bright minds have evolved into mentors, advocates, and media voices for child protection and empowerment.

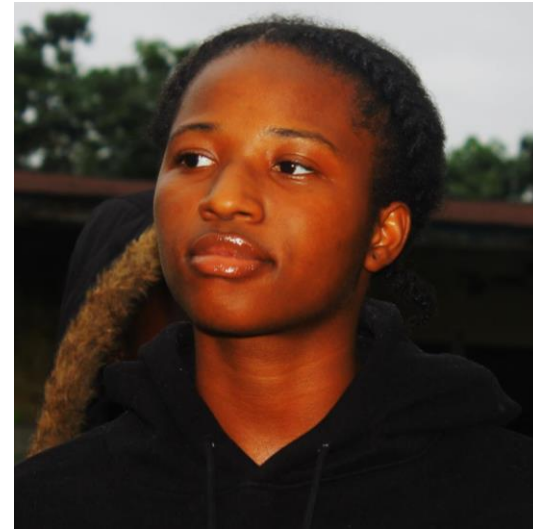
Once beneficiaries of the C2C initiative, these young people have transitioned from **classroom learners to active changemakers**, now leading **C2C programs and C2C TV**, where they educate their peers and communities on children's rights, dignity, and education. Some are **currently in high school**, while others, as **high school graduates**, are preparing to pursue their chosen careers at the university level.

Their journey stands as **a testament to the power of youth engagement**—when given the right opportunities and guidance, young people can become the driving force behind sustainable transformation. These young advocates have taken their lived experiences and lessons learned and are **paying it forward, creating ripples of impact across Sierra Leone**.

1.MEET SAFFIATU BARRIE

Saffiatu Barrie is an 18-year-old visionary leader, advocate, and changemaker with a heart for service and a mind set on greatness. As a high school science student at Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG), she is ranked second in her class, excelling in **English Language, Physics, and Chemistry**. She has already made significant strides in advancing education, child protection, and ending violence against children in vulnerable communities across rural Sierra Leone.

At Future Leaders Initiative SL, Saffiatu serves as the Head of Children 2 Children (C2C), leading her peers in championing education and advocating for a violence-free future. With five years of hands-on experience, she has become a passionate force for change, working tirelessly to make an impact in her community and beyond.



Her dedication has not gone unnoticed. In April 2024, she was honored with the prestigious Joy Giving Grant Award, a testament to her commitment to advocacy and empowerment. Saffiatu is also a proud member of the KidsRights Foundation, further amplifying her voice in the global conversation on children's rights and well-being.

Saffiatu's dreams extend even further. She aspires to become a neurosurgeon, a course she aims to pursue at Harvard University, USA, combining her passion for medicine with her mission to serve. Her ultimate goal is to build a hospital and an orphanage, ensuring that vulnerable children receive not just care, but love, dignity, and a chance at a brighter future.

With determination and purpose, Saffiatu is shaping a world where education, health, and protection are not privileges but rights.

2. MARIAN BANGURA



Marian Bangura is a 16-year-old girl and one of the youngest yet most committed young leaders on our team. She began her journey with us as a beneficiary of the Children-2-Children (C2C) Community Support Group, and today, she proudly serves as the Secretary of that same group.

She has been a part of Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL) for the past five years, growing from a quiet participant into a confident voice for her peers. Marian attends the Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG), where she is a science student in SSS 1. Her dream is to become a doctor so she can help save lives and support those in need.

Marian is focused, respectful, and passionate about child rights and dignity. Working with the C2C team, she now supports other children in the same way she was once supported. We are so proud of her journey—from beneficiary to leader—and we believe her story will inspire many more girls like her.

3. IDRIS M.M SESAY



Idriss M. Sesay is an 18-year-old young leader who is deeply committed to making a meaningful impact in his community. He started his journey with Future Leaders Initiative SL (FLI SL) in 2022 as a beneficiary of the Children-2-Children (C2C) Community Support Group. Since then, Idriss has grown into a strong and confident voice within the team.

Today, he serves as the Head of Media at FLI SL and leads the C2C media team, making sure all our events, stories, and memories are well captured and shared. Idriss also volunteers at the C2C computer lab, where he supports children in learning essential computer skills, especially in Microsoft Word and Publisher.

With his strong computer skills and creative mind, Idriss dreams of becoming an ICT specialist. His goal is to use technology to drive innovation, improve digital access, and create sustainable solutions that empower individuals and communities. He is passionate about using media and tech to raise awareness around violence, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and the rights of children, women, and girls.

Idriss is committed to lifelong learning and using his skills for good. From a C2C beneficiary to a leader helping others, we are proud of his journey and the impact he continues to make every day.



4. MEET MARTHA CONTEH

Martha is a 17-year-old trailblazer with a passion for healing, leadership, and impact. She dreams of becoming both a professional doctor and a football player, proving that ambition knows no limits. As the Financial Secretary of Future Leaders Initiative SL, Martha is more than just a leader—she is a changemaker.

Beyond numbers and reports, she dedicates her time to teaching children how to use computers, equipping them with essential digital skills for the future. Her vision extends far beyond the classroom. She aspires to study medicine in the USA, not just to earn a degree but to bring healthcare to those who need it most—especially the poor.

Martha's ultimate goal is to build a safe space for children and establish a health clinic designed exclusively for their needs. She believes that every child deserves a future free from suffering, and she's determined to be the force that makes it happen.

Martha's vision extends beyond personal ambition; she is actively shaping a future where healthcare and education are accessible to all children in need.



5. KADIJA BANGURA

Kadija (Dija) is a 17-year-old high school science student at St. Joseph's Secondary School, Freetown, currently in SSS3. She has a deep passion for leadership, advocacy, and community development. As an active member of the Future Leaders Initiative (FLI), she is committed to empowering young people and underserved communities.

Dija serves as the Head of the Parents2Parents (P2P) Community Support Group, a key part of FLI's educational project, Pens Up Canes Down. This initiative focuses on uniting parents from various communities and villages to combat all forms of violence against children (VAC).

Alongside her advocacy work, Dija is a strong leader who actively organizes community programs and workshops aimed at educating parents on positive parenting practices and financial independence.

Her ambition is to become a pediatrician, and she hopes to further her education at the University of Washington, USA.



6. SALAMATU KAMARA

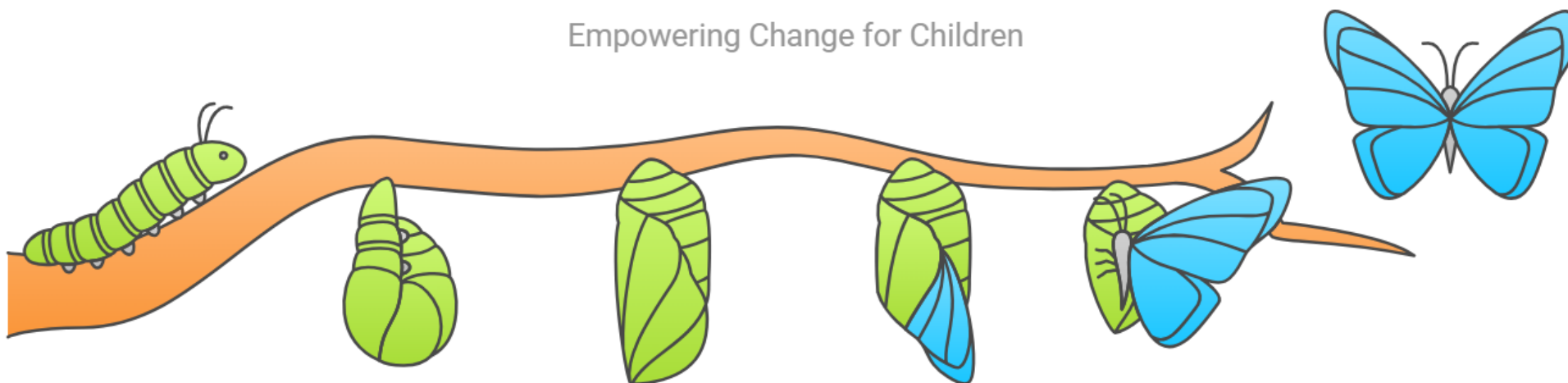
Salamatu Kamara is an 18-year-old passionate and driven young leader, currently serving as the Gender Desk Officer at Future Leaders Initiative SL. A proud student at the Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG), she is in her final year in the Commercial stream (SSS3).

Known for her strong sense of purpose and leadership, Salamatu is deeply committed to advocating for gender equality and empowering young women in her community. With a vision to become a successful bank manager, she aspires to pursue higher education at the prestigious University of Chicago in the USA, where she hopes to sharpen her skills in finance and leadership.

Salamatu is a true inspiration—bold, ambitious, and ready to shape the future with courage and conviction.

14. SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES & OUR SOLUTIONS

Empowering Change for Children



Current Challenges

Unsafe environments for children

Amplifying Voices

Engaging children and parents in advocacy

Sharing Success Stories

Highlighting journeys of young changemakers

Driving Policy Change

Advocating for child protection policies

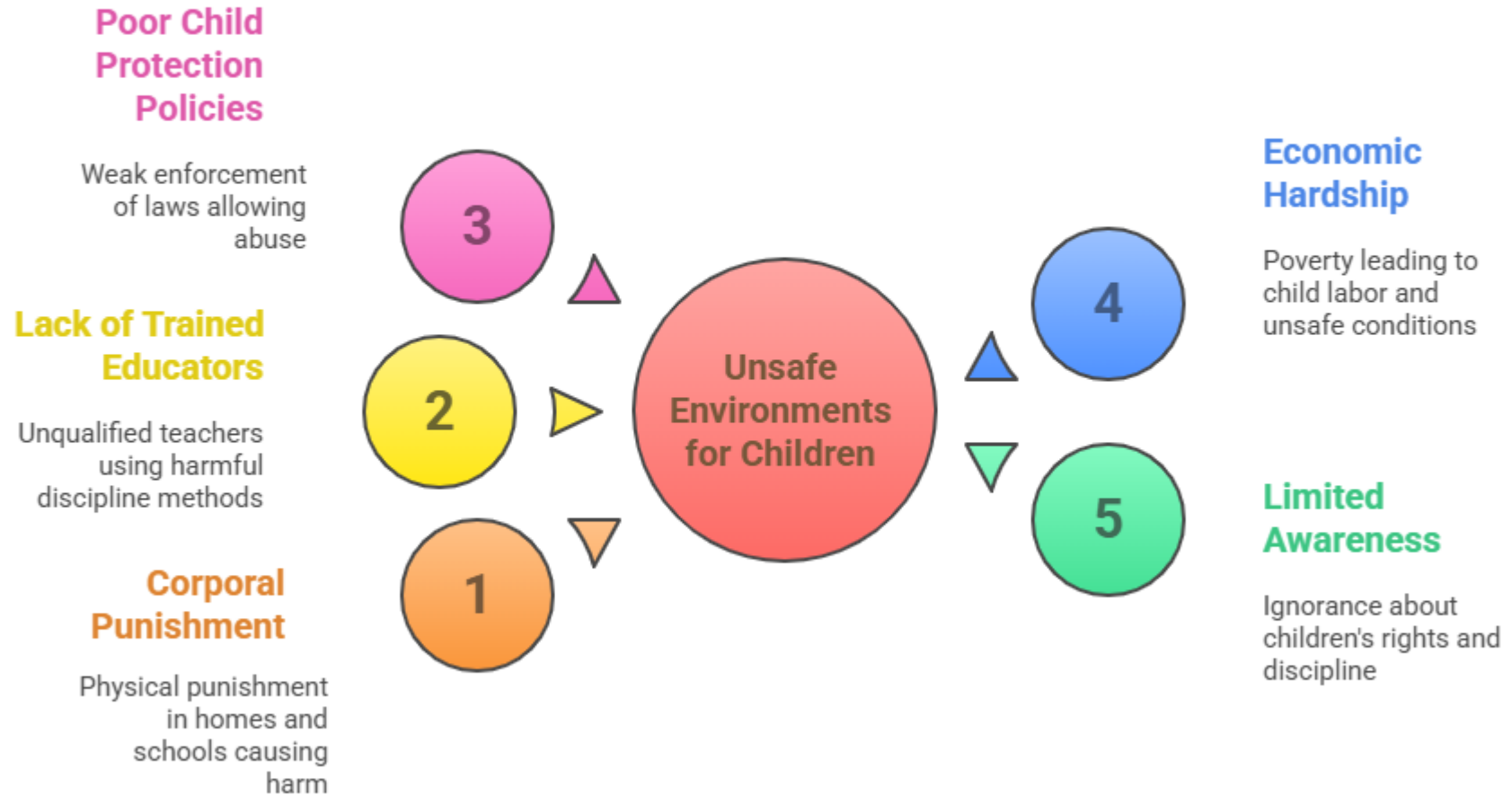
Engaging NGOs

Collaborating for systemic implementation

Safe Learning Environments

Empowered, violence-free schools

The Issues



HOW WE'RE AMPLIFYING VOICES

Our Efforts

1

Children 2 Children (C2C) Initiative

Young peers educate and empower each other on rights and protection while offering free digital skills training.



2

World Children's Day Events

Children advocate for policy changes at the community level, driving grassroots impact that influences national and global policies



3

Parent 2 Parent (P2P) Support Groups

Parents engage in discussions and learn positive parenting strategies, fostering a shift in norms and behaviors toward children



4

C2C TV

Children and parents share their views on children's rights, dignity, and education through C2C TV, driving meaningful policy change.



OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Impact of C2C Beneficiaries

Advocates for child rights

Advocates for child rights lead change through mentoring.

1



IT tutors in schools

IT tutors in schools exemplify career development through educational roles.

2



Preparing for leadership roles

Preparing for leadership roles involves mentoring and advocacy.

3



Nurses in hospitals

Nurses in hospitals represent career development in professional roles.

4

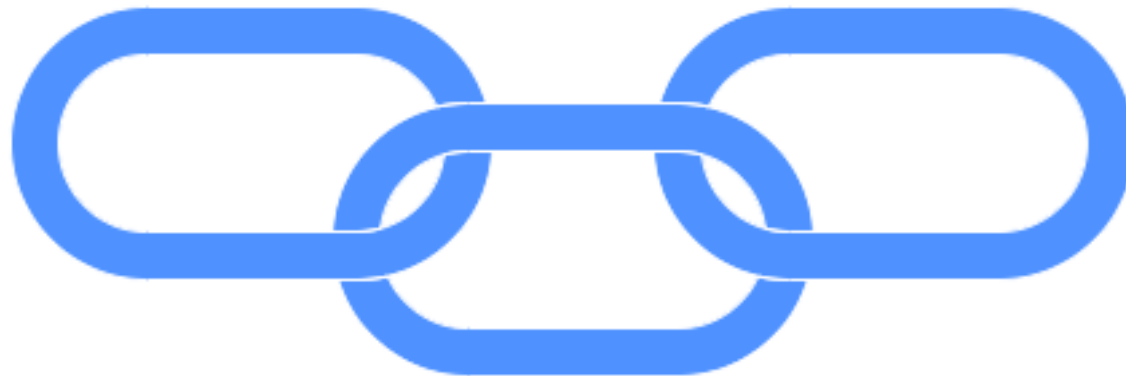


15. HOW WE DRIVE POLICY CHANGE

Empowering Safe Spaces and Policies for Child Protection

No Hit Zone
Initiative

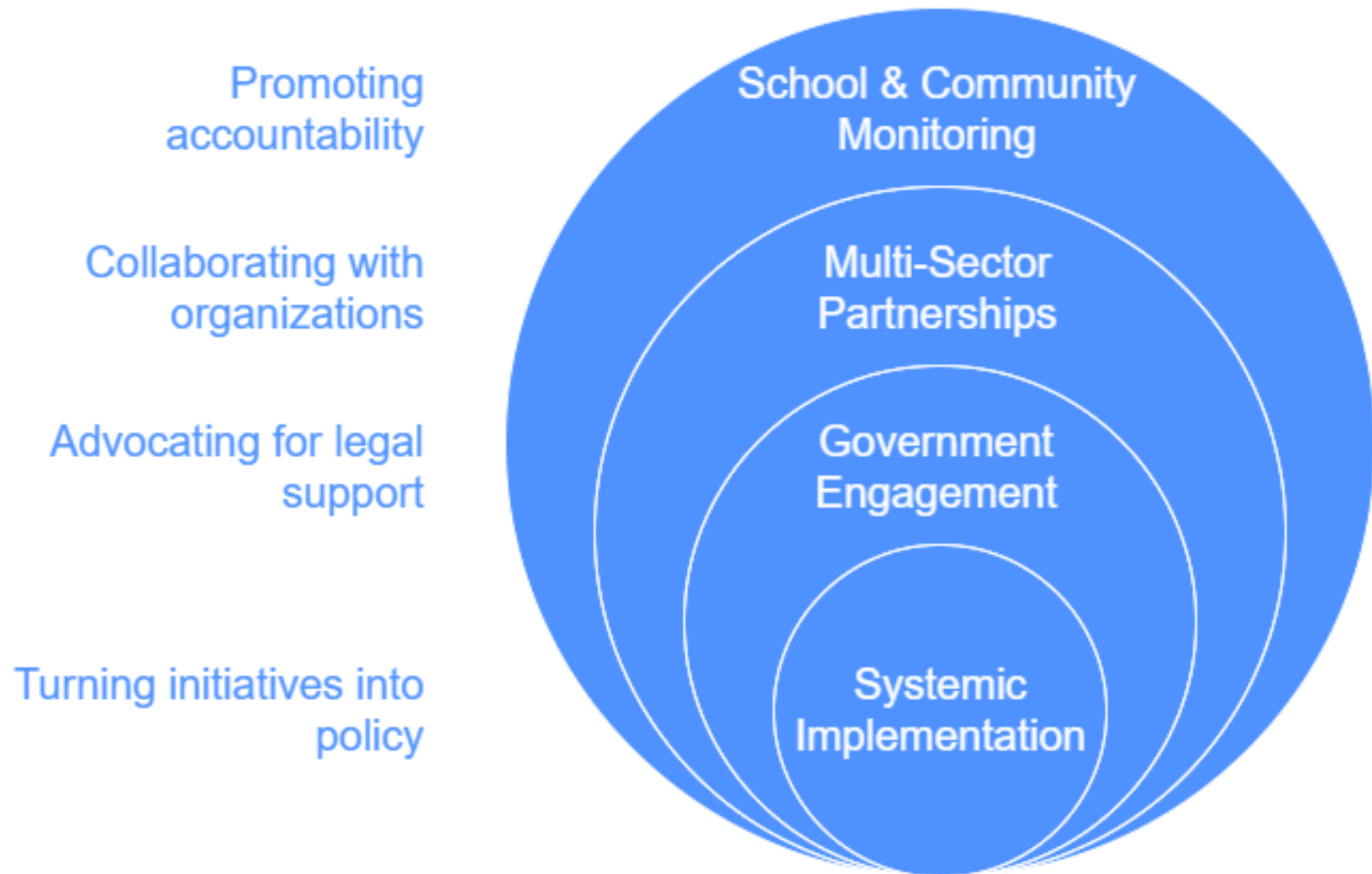
Pens Up Canes Down



Child Protection
Task Force

OUR PLANS

Our Child Protection Task Force (CPTF) Initiative- Purpose and Strategy



16. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO: IBRAHIM S BANGURA

Investing in Children's Dignity and Rights Is the Definition of Securing the Future

Dear Friends, Partners, and Changemakers,
As I reflect on the past year at Future Leaders Initiative SL, I am filled with both urgency and hope.

Urgency—because across Sierra Leone, too many children still suffer in silence. They are denied their rights, dignity, and protection. Corporal punishment remains a normalized act in many homes and schools. Girls face barriers to education, children live in fear instead of freedom, and our systems often fail to respond until it's too late.

Hope—because I have witnessed what is possible when even one child is given the chance to be heard, protected, and empowered. I've seen former victims become leaders. I've seen young girls once dismissed now teaching digital skills to their peers. I've seen parents shift from violent discipline to empathetic, respectful parenting—thanks to the support of our **Parent2Parent** and **Children2Children (C2C)** community groups.

At FLI SL, we believe that child protection is not just a service—it is a strategy for national development. It's not an act of charity—it is an act of justice. And it must be grounded in a grassroots, holistic approach that starts in homes, spreads to schools, and echoes across systems of power.



But the truth is—**we are unfunded across all three levels.**

We dream boldly, but operate on the margins. We create healing spaces with volunteers, digital labs with secondhand equipment, and dignity programs with zero core funding.

We keep going because **children can't afford for us to stop.** But let me be clear:

This last tier—tertiary response—is where the silence is most deadly.

It's where the system fails the child **after the harm has already been done.**

A girl reports sexual abuse—but there is no counselor.
A boy drops out of school after beatings—but there is no reintegration plan.

A child loses trust in adults—and never gets it back.
We are standing at the edge of a cliff, watching children fall—and yet we argue about ropes.

What We Refuse to Feel Still Hurts Others

“The sore that doesn't bleed on you is still bleeding—and it is a child's cry we keep ignoring.”

“The air we neglect today is the very breath our future needs to survive.”

“Violence against children is the most silent scream in our society—it doesn't echo through halls of power, but it destroys futures quietly.”

“You may not feel the slap a child receives, but that sound will haunt the future of your country.”

“A nation that ignores its children's pain is digging its own grave in slow motion.”

“Justice delayed for a child is not just denied—it's erased.”

Let us be honest: **if we do not fund the care and healing of survivors today, we will fund the consequences tomorrow**—through mental health crises, broken homes, lost talent, and systems overwhelmed by preventable harm.

The Link to National Stability

The wellbeing of children is not separate from national peace and progress—it is the foundation of it.

When a child is protected, heard, and given the tools to thrive, **a future leader is born**. But when a child is abused and abandoned, **a future risk emerges**—to health systems, to education, to justice, and to national development itself.

Our Call to Action

To government officials, development partners, foundations, corporate leaders, and those with the means to make a difference:

Invest in children's rights, dignity, and education—not tomorrow, but now.

- Fund community-based parenting and child safety education.
- Support digital literacy and skill-building centers.
- Provide emergency and long-term healing services for survivors.
- Equip grassroots movements like ours—we are closest to the pain and closest to the solution.

The future we fear is already forming—and the one we dream of is still possible. But the path we take depends on what we are willing to prioritize right now.

At FLI SL, we are ready. The children are ready. The only question left is—**are you?**

Let us build a Sierra Leone where **no child is hit**, no child is silenced, and no child is left behind. A country where **dignity and protection go hand in hand**. That is how we secure our future.

As a young girl growing up in Sierra Leone, I never imagined that one day I would go from being a student of the Future Leaders Initiative to leading one of its most impactful programs—C2C (Children -2- Children). Today, I not only lead C2C but also run C2C TV, a local platform that gives children, teachers, stakeholders, and parents a voice to share their challenges and experiences.

My journey with Future Leaders Initiative Sierra Leone (FLI-SL) since 2020 has been truly transformational. I was introduced as keynote speaker during FLI SL's first community debate and quiz completion for primary, junior and senior school pupils. Then in 2021, I started as a curious student, eager to learn, and what I found was more than just education—it was empowerment. It gave me a sense of purpose. Through C2C, I learned that children's voices matter. When those voices are nurtured, they can become powerful agents of change in our communities.

Leading C2C has opened my eyes to the deep-rooted challenges that children face every day—violence in schools, bullying, and the violation of our rights and dignity. Too many children are silenced by fear, hurt by neglect, and denied the safe, nurturing environments they deserve. We dream of creating peaceful, inclusive schools where every child feels safe, seen, and supported. But too often, our dreams are held back—not by a lack of passion, but by a lack of funding and resources.



Still, we press on. At the C2C lab, we train adolescent boys and girls in digital skills, host forums, share stories through C2C TV, and advocate for nonviolent learning spaces. We're not just dreaming of change—we're living it.

To the world, I say this: listen to us. Support us. Stand with us. Children are not just the future—we are the present. When you invest in our voices, you invest in peace. When you protect our rights, you protect the future of our nations. And when you fund our dreams, we rise—and we lift others with us.

Together, we can build a world where every child learns with dignity, grows in safety, and leads with courage.

Saffiatu Barrie

Head of C2C & C2C TV

Future Leaders Initiative Sierra Leone

Dear Global Community and Supporters,

As Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Future Leaders Initiative SL, it is my privilege to share with you our ongoing journey in championing children's rights and development in Sierra Leone. This message comes at a critical time when our collective efforts are more vital than ever.

Future Leaders Initiative SL has remained steadfast in our commitment to creating safe, nurturing environments where every child can thrive. Over the past year, our dedicated team has established community learning centers in 2 underserved areas, reaching over 3,000 children with quality educational resources and support. Our digital literacy program has brought fundamental computer skills to remote villages, while our dignity and alternative to corporal punishment initiatives have equipped over 50 educators with child-centered teaching methodologies.

Our health initiative, *Steps to Dignity*, is an emerging project designed to deliver regular health services to children and mothers through local clinic partnerships, with a focus on prevention and early care

My involvement with Future Leaders Initiative began after witnessing the profound educational disparities across our country. As an educator who started in a classroom with minimal resources, I saw firsthand how systemic challenges prevent bright minds from reaching their potential. This organization represents my belief that transformation comes through empowering communities to protect and nurture their children.

I have worked alongside our team to develop culturally relevant curricula, engage with community elders on child protection protocols, and advocate with government officials for policy reforms. Each day reinforces my conviction that education is not merely about literacy and numeracy, but about cultivating critical thinking, resilience, and civic responsibility in our youngest citizens. talented children were being left behind—not for lack of potential, but because the system was failing them.

Despite our progress, Sierra Leonean children continue to face formidable obstacles:

Educational Access: School enrollment rates remain alarmingly low, particularly in rural areas where distance, poverty, and traditional practices keep children, especially girls, from attending school. Physical infrastructure deficiencies, including lack of proper classrooms, sanitation facilities, and learning materials, further compromise educational quality.



Health Vulnerabilities: Preventable childhood diseases continue to claim lives and impair development. Limited access to clean water, inadequate healthcare facilities, and insufficient vaccination coverage leave children susceptible to illnesses that interrupt their education and threaten their futures.

Violence and Protection: Perhaps most disturbing is the prevalence of violence against children. Our recent community surveys reveal that 65% of children report experiencing physical punishment at school, while 48% face various forms of abuse within their homes. Gender-based violence disproportionately affects girls, with early marriage and exploitation remaining significant concerns.

Our work has revealed several critical gaps that require urgent attention:

1. Policy implementation remains inconsistent, with progressive child protection laws often unenforced at community levels.
2. Coordination between education, health, and child protection sectors is insufficient, resulting in fragmented services.
3. Community awareness and engagement in child rights issues varies dramatically across regions.
4. Resource allocation for child-centered programs continues to be inadequate at both national and local levels.

Call to Action

To our global community, I extend both gratitude and invitation. The challenges facing Sierra Leone's children are not insurmountable, but they require collaborative effort:

To policymakers: Prioritize children's issues in budget allocations and policy implementation. Create accountability mechanisms that ensure resources reach intended beneficiaries.

To fellow NGOs and international partners: Let us strengthen coordination to maximize impact and prevent duplication of efforts. Share knowledge, resources, and best practices freely.

To communities: Embrace your critical role as primary protectors of children's wellbeing. Challenge harmful traditional practices while preserving cultural values that support child development.

To donors and supporters: Your continued faith in our work enables sustainable change. Consider not just financial support but technical expertise, advocacy platforms, and networks that amplify our collective voice.

The future of Sierra Leone—indeed, the future of our world—depends on how we nurture our children today. At Future Leaders Initiative SL, we remain committed to creating environments where every child can learn safely, grow healthily, and develop into the leaders our communities need.

With hope and determination,

Tejan Kamara

Chairperson, Board of Directors
Future Leaders Initiative SL



Over the past year, **Future Leaders Initiative Sierra Leone (FLI SL)** has continued to grow and mature as an organization. From moving into its new headquarters to expanding opportunities for young people through its Children-2-Children (C2C) computer training lab, FLI SL has remained deeply committed to its mission. The organization has also continued to support parents through Parents-2-Parents (P2P) discussion groups and has raised significant awareness of children's rights—especially those of young girls—through powerful advocacy and events, including celebrations for International Children's Day.

The growth of the **Pens Up, Canes Down / No Hit Zone** campaign in schools and homes has positioned FLI SL as a grassroots leader in the global movement to end corporal punishment. By promoting dignity for children and all members of the community, the organization is building practical, nonviolent alternatives to harmful disciplinary practices—helping to break the cycle of intergenerational violence.

By engaging stakeholders at every level—from children and parents to schools and policymakers—FLI SL is expanding the reach of its message and transforming positive discipline and protection into a community-wide norm.

I can think of no better model for child safety, protection, and development than the strategies that FLI SL embodies. Their work shows how to interact with young people in ways that respect their dignity and nurture their growth.

I truly hope that everyone who sees what FLI SL is doing—and how they are doing it—will choose to support their efforts. If they do, we will see the world of children become a far better place.

Lucien Lombardo

