

COMMIT AND ACT FOUNDATION USING ACT TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY STRUCTURES IN THE FIGHT OF COVID-19

Sierra Leone, a country in West Africa, has a special significance in the history of the transatlantic slave trade as the departure point for thousands of west African captives. The capital, Freetown, was founded as a home for repatriated former slaves in 1787.

But the country's modern history has been overshadowed by a brutal civil war that ended in 2002 with the help of Britain, the former colonial power, and a large United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Sierra Leone has experienced substantial economic growth in recent years, although the ruinous effects of the civil war continue to be felt.

The country is also rich in diamonds and other minerals. The trade in illicit gems, known as "blood diamonds" for their role in funding conflicts, perpetuated the civil war. The government has sought to crack down on the trade. The country is beautiful with many beaches, mountains, forest, coconut trees but with multiple problems such as Violence against women, poverty, corruption, pure and lack of water and sanitary facilities, increase in maternal and mobility rate, and many more. Government and other NGOs are doing their best to overcome some of the challenge faced by the country

Commit and Act Foundation Sierra Leone (CAF-SL) was founded as an independent Sierra Leonean NGO in 2013. It received its founding impulse through close cooperation with a German association (commit and act e.V.) with which the founder Hannah Bockarie and other project staff have worked to overcome the Ebola and Covid-19 crisis. The founder is still the director of the organisation today. She is a trained teacher at Makeni Teachers College in Sierra Leone and has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a certificate as a psychosocial counsellor. She is supported at the centre in Bo and Makeni by other partners, and a team of employees (social workers, community health officer, etc.) and more than 100 volunteers. CAF-SL focuses on the prevention and reduction of violence among girls and is one of the leading organisations in the Bo district in the field of legal advice as well as medical, psychosocial and social work services for abused girls and young women. The German Doctors e.V. (GD) has already been working with the Commit and Act Foundation Sierra Leone in the field of child protection for several years, so that a trustful cooperation exists. The organization has worked with commit and Act to provide support services for orphans and babies born as a result of Sexual Gender based violence. (commit and act e.V.) Germany and USA has supported Commit and Act Foundation to provide Act training to couples in Conflict. Couple are now champions to cascade trainings to other couples in their communities. The organization has played integral role by using ACT to training all categories of individual, groups in the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in the communities



Children sourcing water for domestic use

Sierra Leone's populations face a range of humanitarian challenges, from limited infrastructure for providing safe drinking water or sanitation improvements, to rampant hunger and very high infant mortality rates. The outbreak of Covid-19

Impact of Covid-19 in Commit and Act operational area.
Increase in Sexual Gender Based Violence, Migration of project participant, increase in teenage pregnancy, lost of job, increase in drug intake by youths resulting to violence, increase in cost of goods and services, poverty, increase in violence and crime rate, separation of families, high dropout rate among girls

What was done by commit and Act Foundation?

- Provision of support services for girls that have experienced sexual Gender based violence
- ACT training for community members to help them break the Chain of Covid-19 transmission.(using the Matrix)
- Provision Covid -19 prevention materials to community members
- Strengthen chieftdom level bye laws and monitoring of law and action plans developed
- Counselling services for individuals and couples



Using ACT Matrix to help people to move toward their own value by keeping the laws of Covid-19



Strengthen Covid -19 guide lines with community members



ACT trainings for girls in Sierra Leone. A girl explaining her challenges during Covid-19



Role plays during trainings



Hand washing demonstration during trainings



Covid-19 community volunteers

