



2024

Annual Report & Financial Statements

A Letter From Our Chair



EducAid is Sierra Leone-driven and has been for almost 30 years - this is a testament to its commitment to long-term change and sustainability.

Dear Friends and Partners,

I am delighted to be writing in my third year as Chair of EducAid at a time when we celebrate all that has been achieved and all that lies ahead in the years to come.

EducAid has had a remarkable journey from its small beginnings to today being recognised as an influential partner at community, district, and national levels. Everything is framed by our strategy - including major educational programmes, role model schools, and research and advocacy projects across Sierra Leone - which in 2023-24 improved the education of **62,000 students in more than 300 schools**.

Whilst there is undoubtedly more uncertainty in the world of international development than is ideal at the moment, EducAid is well placed to continue leading the conversation. Our ambitious vision of a democratic, dignified and globally engaged Sierra Leone, and our unwavering commitment to our mission and values, have allowed us to remain focused on what matters most - **valuing collaboration over competition**, and working alongside communities to improve education.

EducAid is Sierra Leone-driven and has been for almost 30 years. This is a testament to its commitment to long-term change and sustainability. In 2023-24, **84% of EducAid's staff were former pupils**. Our alumni can be found in almost every occupation and field across the country - especially as teachers, school leaders, and education stakeholders shaping Sierra Leone's future.

This progress reflects the remarkable skill, courage, and determination of an exceptional team, led by our Chief Executive and Country Director. I thank them - and all our donors, partners, and stakeholders - for their invaluable contribution. **Together, we can continue to make a difference.**

Warm regards,

Rupert Eastall

Chair, Board of Trustees
EducAid Sierra Leone

A Word From Our Chief Executive



“

We are still a grassroots organisation that listens first, acts locally, and values every voice.

”

As I reflect on EducAid’s 2023–24 accomplishments, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we achieved together, but I am even more proud of **how we have done this**.

EducAid has continued to grow in measurable ways, with more teachers and schools benefiting from our trainings and coaching, and more pupils impacted by our work. EducAid’s influence has expanded, with our work reaching further, informing research and best practice, and being a valued voice in district and national policy conversations.

Amidst all the large impact numbers and expanding influence, my favourite ones are the **smaller ones** that show not only EducAid’s innovation in pilot projects, but also illustrate that, despite our growth, we are still a **grassroots organisation that listens first, acts locally, and values every voice**.

In addition to the bigger programs, we still have pupils working to make a difference in their classroom, their school, and their community. A small team of girls working with their teachers to create STEM videos to explain simultaneous equations. Female staff members learning to ride motorbikes together. EducAid teachers mentoring and coaching teachers in partner schools. It’s these **smaller breakthroughs—acts of courage, creativity and solidarity—that set EducAid apart**.

In a world of big numbers and glossy campaigns, we hold tight to our core belief that **real change happens when education is rooted in dignity, respect, equity and kindness**.

Every child educated, every teacher trained, every barrier we dismantle and new educational norm we institute has been possible because of our extraordinary team, partners, and supporters. **Thank you for helping us to make all of this possible.**

Erin Northey

Chief Executive Officer
EducAid Sierra Leone



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“Schools do not stand by themselves. They belong to the community; they are the community.”

-Foday Kalokoh, Lead Researcher at EducAid Sierra Leone

”

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a democratic, dignified and globally-engaged Sierra Leone, where poverty is eliminated by educated citizens.

Our mission

Our mission is to provide high quality, holistic education to young men and women, which is essential to unlocking human potential, overcoming poverty, improving wellbeing, and building democracy. We believe that education is the cornerstone of stable development.

Our charitable objects

To advance the education of persons living and studying in Sierra Leone.



Our Reach in 2024

**“ EducAid’s impact goes beyond the classroom...
EducAid has pioneered a new approach to quality
education. ”**

-Conrad Sackey (2024), Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education of
Sierra Leone.



62,000 students



2,000 teachers



300 schools



Key Moments in 2024

EducAid continued to reach new heights in 2024, working every day to strengthen education for a democratic, dignified and globally engaged Sierra Leone. Here are some of our favourite moments and achievements in 2024...



EducAid excelled in the WASSCE. Rolal achieved top scores in Port Loko district and Lumley the top chemistry scores in Sierra Leone.



Students spoke up against early marriage and for the importance of keeping girls in school at the Parliament of Sierra Leone.



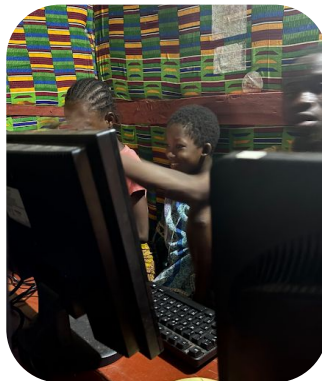
EducAid's Country Director and the Deputy Director of Education in Port Loko co-presented their research at Brookings, Washington DC.



EducAid pupils and staff stood up against gender-based violence and FGM.



5 staff members graduated from EducAid's degree course with the University of Makeni in 2024.



All EducAid schools opened new ICT labs to close the digital divide and prepare for a digital world.



EducAid pupils cleaned up and took action for the environment, winning the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Funding.



EducAid staff, students and stakeholders were featured on the radio and international news.

More than schools: EducAid's Alignment with Sustainable Development

EducAid's impact addresses a range of interconnected global challenges reflected in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From eliminating barriers to education and promoting gender equality to driving climate action and fostering economic empowerment, we are committed to building a more just, sustainable, and equitable future for all.



EducAid removes barriers to education by providing free, high-quality education in our schools and covering all costs including school meals and materials.

633,000

school meals provided
in 2024



EducAid promotes an innovative, student-centred and inclusive approach to teaching and learning that ensures quality education.

62,000

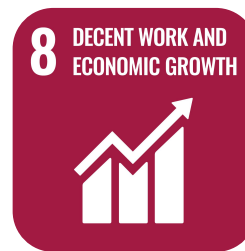
students educated



EducAid works to fight gender inequality and violence against boys and girls through The Strong Girl Incubator (SGI), Girl Power Groups (GPG), STEMPower and White Ribbon Campaign (WRC).

95%

of girls in the SGI
successfully joined
secondary
education in 2024



EducAid empowers young people to grow into leaders, teachers and changemakers to shape the future of Sierra Leone and confront the challenges of our rapidly changing world.

12

Ministries for the
Future established
at each EducAid
school



EducAid is a catalyst for climate awareness and action with activities ranging from beach and litter clean ups and seed planting to larger recycling and single-use plastic reduction projects.

500

Trees planted by
the EducAid Green
Guardians



EducAid's Top Ten Strategies codify 30 years of EducAid's work to create a common language for actionable and accountable school improvement, aligning with MBSSE policies, curricula and initiatives.

656

teachers piloted
EducAid's
Strategies in
primary schools

Note: Green stars indicate EducAid's core SDGs, defined as SDGs where EducAid impacts three or more targets.



Eliminating Poverty Through Education

633,000

School meals provided in 2024

2018

EducAid's Alumni Network founded

EducAid's vision explicitly connects education to poverty elimination. By providing free, quality education to underserved children and young people, EducAid addresses one of the root causes of poverty: lack of access to quality education.

EducAid's alumni demonstrate the lasting impact of education in reducing poverty. Many of these students, once at risk of extreme poverty, are now financially independent, breaking the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families. 35 EducAid students have acquired a degree from the University of Makeni through EducAid's degree course, and last year 84% of EducAid's staff were former EducAid pupils.

Offering school feeding, accommodation materials, extra lessons ahead of exams and medicine when needed, EducAid ensures that students can focus on learning without the burden of school-related costs.

Alumni Stories

"When I joined EducAid, The sense of belonging and support fostered within the EducAid community empowered me to overcome obstacles and seize every opportunity that came my way. EducAid gave me the opportunity to be bold, be confident and to learn what I truly stand for."

Ibrahim, Chair of the EducAid Alumni Network.

"I will never forget the day I received my exam results and noticed that I got the requirements for university. I had never thought of reaching such a level due to many challenges - I will always be thankful to EducAid for that."

Today, EducAid teacher and alumni



Improving Education in Sierra Leone

62,000

Children impacted and their quality of education improved through EducAid

2,000+

Teachers trained through EducAid programs

EducAid promotes an innovative, student-centred teaching approach and is committed to inclusive learning, working with schools, teachers and communities to transform education in Sierra Leone. EducAid informs its work across Sierra Leone with data-driven projects that create sustainable solutions, empowering schools and communities. Conrad Sackey, the current Minister of Basic and Secondary Education in Sierra Leone, asserts that “EducAid has pioneered a new approach to quality education.”

EducAid x Education Outcomes Fund

EducAid completed Year 2 of its Sierra Leone Education Innovation Challenge (SLEIC) project in 2023-24, working closely with 65 primary schools across 23 chiefdoms to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes. Student and teacher attendance and retention continued to improve in Year 2 alongside numeracy outcomes. EducAid’s intervention is multi-faceted, working with everyone in the school and establishing mutual accountability and support networks between schools and communities. EducAid works to create a common language and expectation of what good looks like, coaching teachers, school leaders and stakeholders on holistic, student-centred pedagogy.

EducAid x Irish Aid

EducAid launched its Accountable Inclusive Education project with Irish Aid in 2024, working to improve the performance of 20 underperforming secondary schools in Port Loko district by establishing new norms and behaviours to enable more conducive learning environments. The programme uses an inclusive, participatory approach to ensure acceptability and sustainability. Interventions at school level are complemented and supported by a robust advocacy action to challenge the negative norms affecting much of the secondary education service delivery at community, district and national levels. In Year 1, this project impacted 190 teachers and 5,500 students.



Empowering Young Women to Learn and Lead

154

Girls successfully returned to education through the SGI in 2023-24

95%

of SGI participants successfully entered mainstream secondary education in 2024

Sierra Leone is one of the most challenging places in the world to be a girl. Embedded in all of EducAid's projects and work is a multi-faceted, locally informed approach to dismantle stereotypes, challenge harmful gender norms, and empower everyone in schools and communities to work for equality and to end violence against women and girls. Specific equality-focused projects include: Girl Power Groups, White Ribbon Campaigns, STEMpower, Pawa and the Strong Girl Incubator.

Spotlight On: The Strong Girl Incubator (SGI):

The SGI is an accelerated, tailored learning programme that equips out of school and at-risk girls with the knowledge, skills, confidence and support network to successfully join mainstream secondary education. In addition to their self-paced academic work, SGI participants enjoy workshops, sisterhood circles, and other activities they create to foster support networks, self-esteem and resilience.

Mabinty's story

Unable to afford school fees to continue to secondary education, Mabinty joined EducAid in 2008. She was thrilled as this removed many of the barriers she faced in continuing her education. "Before EducAid my parents couldn't afford to pay for my schooling. I was helping my family by going out alone to the markets to sell sugar, but I hated going to the market, because I was always so tired and hungry at the end of the day. I wanted this to change."

Excelling at school, Mabinty became a fierce advocate for women in STEM and girls' education. During Covid school closures, she helped teach radio lessons which reached 1.4 million children in Sierra Leone. Receiving the highest WASSCE scores in her region at the end of secondary school, Mabinty earned a full scholarship to study at Ashesi University in Ghana.

"In five years, I see myself actively working in the fight against gender inequality and gender-based violence and at the same time improving the quality of education in Sierra Leone and ensuring that children in remote areas acquire good quality education. I hope one day to be a great woman in society. I would like to help people."

Leveraging Innovative Technology to Advance Education

EducAid STEMpower: Education Uninterrupted Incubator with **Plan International**

EducAid pupils participated in the Education Uninterrupted Incubator (EUI) – a competitive, youth-led virtual accelerator, creating STEMpower. We created engaging girl-led video lessons in maths and science to challenge gender stereotypes, to serve as virtual academic support and to sustain learning through school disruptions. This initiative won the award for Sierra Leone and was piloted, underscoring the project's potential for scale and sustainability.

10

Videos created

4

Secondary schools

Digital Foundational Learning Programme (EducAid with **Imagine Worldwide**)

EducAid implemented and piloted Imagine Worldwide's tablet learning project to improve foundational literacy and numeracy skills acquisition of children with the support of adaptive, child-centred, and technology-facilitated software on a tablet.

53

Schools included

11.4k

Students served

TheTeacher.AI (EducAid with **Fab Data**)

EducAid partnered with Fab Inc to train teachers, explore uses and conduct research on Fab Data's AI-powered, WhatsApp-integrated chatbot developed for teachers. The chatbot offers on-demand support and training through conversational interactions. Tailored to the local context with added safeguards and best practice pedagogical content, this is a collaboration with Columbia University researchers to analyse teacher's queries.

240

Teachers trained

80%

Use the chatbot



Future Plans

Strengthening District-Level Systems

Looking ahead, EducAid Sierra Leone is committed to building on the foundations of the past three decades with bold and forward-thinking initiatives. Central to our strategy is deepening our work in transforming the educational ecosystem at district level. By working more closely with local education authorities, school leaders, and community stakeholders, we aim to strengthen district-wide collaboration and drive systemic improvement to ensure quality education is accessible to all.

Youth-Led Innovation

We are also excited to support the next generation of changemakers through our youth-led Ministries for the Future. This innovative project will empower young people to ensure they and their fellow students leave school with not only strong exam scores, but also with the skills and knowledge to embrace opportunities and confront challenges in our rapidly changing world.

Digital Growth and Data Insight

Additionally, we will continue expanding our digital and ICT offerings to ensure learners and educators can thrive in an increasingly connected world. Through ongoing refinement of how we think about, approach, and collect data, we will aim to better understand the small but critical changes that drive meaningful impact—helping us to target our interventions more effectively and scale what works.

Celebrating 30 Years of Impact

As EducAid approaches its 30th anniversary, EducAid's Alumni Network will be leading the planning to celebrate this milestone year. Their remarkable journeys and achievements are a testament to the transformative power of education, and we look forward to honouring their contributions.



We are looking ahead with future-facing initiatives that reflect our unwavering belief in education as the most powerful tool for lasting change.

-Erin Northey, Chief Executive Officer



Partners



Achieving impact through collaboration

A huge thank you to the following organisations for their generous support of our work in 2023-24. We also wish to extend our thanks to the many donors who chose to remain anonymous and to EducAid's individual supporters who have given generously to EducAid, taken part in fundraising events or told others about our work. Each of you has played a vital role in all EducAid has achieved.

