



EducAid
Sierra Leone

Impact Report

2025

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF EDUCAID ALUMNI NETWORK



For three decades, EducAid has opened doors, grown leaders, and created a lasting ripple of impact across Sierra Leone. Its work has transformed lives and strengthened communities, providing access to quality education, building confidence, values, and leadership.

I have experienced this personally and as President of the EducAid Alumni Network, I see it every day through the alumni who carry EducAid's principles into their own communities. In my role, I lead 600+ active alumni who give back through mentoring, community service, employability skills development, and advocacy. With alumni across Sierra Leone and internationally, our network holds enormous potential to extend EducAid's impact even further, shaping future generations and ensuring the transformative power of education continues to thrive.

In 2024-25, alongside other members of the Alumni Network, I had the honour of hosting the 30th anniversary celebrations. More than 200 alumni and 50+ friends and partners, including government, NGO, and community leaders, came together to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate three decades of EducAid. One of my favourite moments was during the community service in Port Loko, where alumni worked together to clean the hospital and cemetery and engaged with inmates at the correctional centre to discuss substance abuse awareness.

Seeing everyone united in service, giving back to the community while embodying EducAid's values, captured the heart of EducAid, its people, its community, and its enduring influence. It reminded us of the power of education to change lives.

Today, I also serve as EducAid's Liaison Officer supporting district education leadership and school improvement at the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) HQ in Freetown, working closely with government and partners to strengthen outcomes for learners across Sierra Leone.

In many ways, my work feels like giving back to the same system that once changed my life. I'm thrilled to be able to contribute to work that expands opportunity, empowers learners, and advances EducAid's mission to transform lives through education - not only today, but for the generations to come.

IBRAHIM BAI BUNDU
PRESIDENT, EDUCAID ALUMNI NETWORK



“ EducAid taught us how to serve the community, how to give back to the community.

- Ibrahim Bai Bundu, President of the EducAid Alumni Network

“ EducAid was the place that allowed me to pursue my dreams, playing a pivotal role in shaping my future and career. I am proud to be part of this 30 year journey and I look forward to be part of the growth and success in years to come.

- Gladys Mansaray, EducAid Past Student



EDUCAID'S ALUMNI NETWORK CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF EDUCAID

“ As proud alumni, we celebrate not just our memories but the legacy of hope and empowerment that EducAid represents. From classroom lessons to leadership training, EducAid equipped us with the tools to navigate life, thrive, and contribute to society.

- Yahya Kamara, EducAid Past Student



“ I extend my heartfelt congratulations to EducAid on thirty years of transformative work. The progress made by EducAid's students and teachers is nothing short of inspiring... As we look to the future, I am confident that EducAid will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping a Sierra Leone powered by a new generation of educated, empowered citizens.

- Hon. Conrad Sackey, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Sierra Leone

EDUCAID SIERRA LEONE: 30 YEARS OF IMPACT



1995:

EducAid is registered with the Charity Commission of England & Wales.



2000:

EducAid opens its first school in Lumley, Freetown. Classes begin under a tree.



2007:

EducAid's Women's Project (now the Strong Girl Incubator) begins to help out-of-school girls back into school.

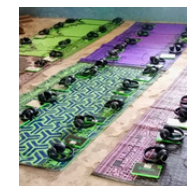


2015-2019:

Quality Enhancement Programme (QEP4E) with the EU, a teacher training and school improvement project that outperformed all targets.

2020: COVID-19.

EducAid creates radio lessons with the Teaching Services Commission reaching 1.4M children in Sierra Leone whilst sharing lesson learnt during Ebola school closures as widely as possible.



2023:

EducAid leverages technology to advance education through projects using AI and tablet-based learning.

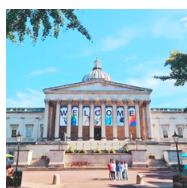
2024:

EducAid's work is featured by the Brookings Institution on strengthening partnerships in education.

1994:

EducAid is born!

James Boardman and Swithun Mason visit Sierra Leone as part of a University College London exchange and create a sponsorship programme.



2002:

EducAid Rolal opens in Port Loko.



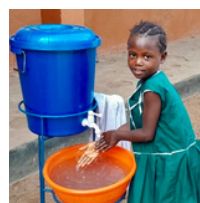
2003:

EducAid Maronka Primary School opens.

2014-2016: Ebola Epidemic.

EducAid responded to Ebola in 3 key ways:

1. Ensuring safety of staff and students.
2. Providing remote learning for non-residential students.
3. Building orphan care centres and integrating orphans into schools.



2018:

EducAid Alumni Network launched.

2022-2025

EducAid becomes an implementing partner in the Sierra Leone Education Innovation Challenge (SLEIC), working to improve literacy and numeracy for 134,000 children across the country.



2024:

EducAid launches the District of Excellence programme, working in close partnership with the MBSSE to improve education across Port Loko.





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About Us

EducAid is a registered UK charity, primarily funded by individuals and charitable organisations in the UK, Europe and the United States. We were incorporated in 1995 as a Charitable Trust (1048012) and transferred into a Charitable Incorporated Entity (CIO) in 2016 (1163161), both registered under the name of EducAid Sierra Leone.

EducAid Sierra Leone is also a registered NGO in Sierra Leone.

EducAid's Head Office in Sierra Leone is based at our Freetown site; Lumley, where EducAid's Finance and Operations Team are also based. EducAid's Education and Programmes Teams work from our Port Loko sites; Maronka and Rolal, with additional governance, fundraising and communications support remotely from the UK. Our registered UK address is EducAid Sierra Leone, 93 Tabernacle Street, London, EC2A 4BA.



“ My favourite thing about EducAid is you are always exposed to new initiatives and skills. EducAid is a learning ground, and it is always giving the staff members the opportunity to improve themselves. ”

- Hassan, Site Coordinator, EducAid Rolal

Our Strategy



EducAid pupils enjoy free, learner-led, high-quality education.



Role model schools:
EducAid's schools are centres of excellence, innovation hubs and teacher training centres.



Partner schools:
EducAid partners with schools to train school leaders and teachers to improve schools and share knowledge to inform system-wide change.



Education Ecosystem & Systems Change:
EducAid works hand-in-hand with government to co-design tools, processes and solutions that support system strengthening for learning transformation.



Global networks and advocacy:
EducAid shares research and learning to influence the broader international education landscape with learning from Sierra Leone.

“

I believe in education as a tool that can improve lives, communities, countries and the world as a whole. With education, we are unstoppable, our dreams can be achieved and we can make the world a better place for everyone.

”

- Tamba, Teacher at EducAid Maronka



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

Charitable Objects

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

Our Reach in 2025

65,000 +
Students served

3,000 +
Teachers trained

120,000 +
Community members

250 +
Partner schools

“ We’re not just teaching lessons - we’re building futures.

~Adama, EducAid Maronka Deputy Primary Site Coordinator

”



Key Moments in 2025

EducAid continued to reach new heights in 2025, working every day to strengthen education for a democratic, dignified and globally engaged Sierra Leone. Here are some of our favourite moments and achievements from 2025:



160 EducAid students sat WASSCE, BECE, and NPSE exams. EducAid Rolal proudly celebrated the top-scoring WASSCE student in the country.



116 girls successfully joined secondary school through the Strong Girl Incubator (SGI) programme.



EducAid's work received global and national visibility on national radio, the BBC and France24, highlighting impact beyond Sierra Leone.



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



Solar panels were installed across all of EducAid's sites - a huge step in sustainability!



EducAid staff led digital skills training across sites, installing internet and repairing devices.



EducAid pupils took action for the environment, leading clean ups, planting seedlings and growing crops on site.



EducAid students interviewed the British High Commissioner (Josephine Gauld) who noted how impressed she was with their questions.



EducAid students developed their leadership skills and experience through the Ministry for the Future at each EducAid school.



After 3 exciting years, the SLEIC project came to a close impacting 134,000 students across Sierra Leone.

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, covering all costs including school meals and materials.



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



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



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.



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.



EducAid's work with MBSSE to strengthen capacity at district-level via the District of Excellence creates a common language for actionable and accountable school improvement, aligning with MBSSE policies, curricula and initiatives.

630,000

school meals provided in 2025

65,000

students educated in 2025

98%

of girls in the SGI successfully joined secondary education in 2025

12

Ministries for the Future established at each EducAid school

1000

Trees planted by the EducAid Green Guardians

100

attendees at EducAid facilitated MBSSE summer training 11



No Poverty

53,856

exercise books

14,700

bars of soap for students
across sites

630,000

school meals



In Sierra Leone, over 6 in 10 children live in poverty (UNICEF, 2026)

EducAid believes that education is one of the most powerful tools to eliminate poverty. In its schools, EducAid provides free, high-quality education to underserved children, as well as school feeding, accommodation, learning materials and access to medicine when needed, removing financial barriers preventing children from learning and achieving their full potential. Our alumni demonstrate the long-term impact of education in reducing poverty. Many former students are now financially independent, breaking cycles of poverty for themselves and their families.



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.

- Foday, EducAid teacher and alumni (2025)





Quality Education

65,000+

students were served by
EducAid's programmes

3,000+

teachers were
trained

250+

partner schools were
reached across Sierra Leone



96% of 10-year-olds in Sierra Leone cannot read a simple sentence
(Global Education Policy Dashboard, 2025)

EducAid champions innovative, student-centred teaching and is committed to inclusive learning, working closely with government, school leaders, teachers, and communities to transform education across Sierra Leone. Our programmes are informed by data-driven insights, enabling sustainable solutions that empower both schools and communities to deliver higher-quality learning outcomes. In 2024-25, our programmes supported more than 250 partner schools across Sierra Leone - reaching more than 65,000 students and 3,000 teachers.



My favourite teacher is Mabinty because she explains everything so well, makes sure we understand, and helps when we make mistakes. She's always there for us - that's what keeps me learning and moving forward in school.

- Salay, EducAid junior secondary student (2025)





Gender Equality

98%

of SGI participants successfully
rejoined mainstream education

16 Days

of Activism and activities
against gender based violence

100%

pass rate of BECE for SGI
alumnae in 2025



Sierra Leone ranks 152/172 on UN Gender Inequality Index (UNDP, 2023)

EducAid advances gender equality by working with girls and women, men and boys, students and teachers, school leaders and communities to challenge harmful gender stereotypes and support girls to realise their full potential. EducAid’s inclusive, locally informed programmes – including Girl Power Groups, White Ribbon Campaigns, STEMpower, PAWA and the Strong Girl Incubator – promote the safety, enrolment, retention, and achievement of girls in education. EducAid also provides equal employment and career development opportunities for women, creating more equitable schools and communities.



My favourite thing about EducAid’s equality work is how it promotes teamwork and collaboration across our sites, stands up to challenge injustices such as gender-based violence against women and girls, and encourages respectful relationships where everyone’s voice matters and is heard.

- Sia, EducAid Equality Coordinator (2025)





Decent Work and Economic Growth

12

Ministries for the Future
established in each
Educaid school

150

participants in
Employability Skills
Programme

56

participants in
Jobs Placement
Programme



In Sierra Leone, informal employment makes up 91.7% of employment (ILO, 2018)

Educaid supports children and young people to grow into leaders and changemakers, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and experience to shape the future of Sierra Leone. This year, Educaid expanded its Ministry for the Future – an initiative enabling Educaid students to take the lead in tackling real-world challenges, contributing to local and national development. Educaid also partnered with King’s Trust International on their projects, Achieve and Get Into, which support pupils and young people to develop employability skills and access meaningful work.



I believe the skills I developed in the programme have been key to my success. Before the programme I could not afford to pay my school fees for two years. Life was uncertain. Today I am able to support my family in a way I did not expect within a matter of months!

- Samuel, Educaid “Get Into” Participant (2025)





Climate Action

104

**PV modules installed
allowing for solar energy
across sites**

100

**students leading
environmental sustainability
initiatives**

20

**EducAid students participated in
the Climate Action Project by
Take Action Global**

 **Sierra Leone is among the 15 economies worst-affected by climate change (IPCC, cited in World Bank, 2025)**

EducAid actively promotes climate action education within its schools, programmes, and communities. EducAid school sites are hubs for climate education and action, with newly-installed solar power, elimination of single-use plastics, planting seedlings, and engaging students and communities in sustainability projects. These initiatives provide practical, hands-on learning about climate stewardship, while reducing carbon emissions, building climate resilience, and inspiring environmentally conscious behaviour.

“ What makes EducAid’s work special is the active involvement of our students. The students have taken front-row seats in driving our agenda. EducAid students are setting the pace for climate action in schools across Sierra Leone. They are not just participants - they are leaders of change.

- Francis, EducAid Green Coordinator (2025)

”



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

18,541

students impacted through
the District of Excellence
Project

100

attendees at EducAid
facilitated MBSSE summer
training

12,846

lesson observations
conducted by
EducAid

 In Sierra Leone, 36% of the total population have access to electricity;
 6% in rural areas (UNOPS, 2025)

EducAid works in partnership with the government and communities to sustainably strengthen Sierra Leone's education system. The District of Excellence project, a collaboration between EducAid and the Ministry of Basic & Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), unites all education stakeholders around a common vision of educational excellence and provides targeted training, coaching, data and logistical support to MBSSE District teams to ensure this vision is realised district-wide. By co-creating tools and solutions, EducAid and the MBSSE are building resilient, inclusive, and well-functioning education institutions.

“

I was deeply impressed by the level of coordination and cooperation between the MBSSE in Port Loko and our key partner, EducAid. The synergy between these two institutions has been instrumental in ensuring the successful rollout of the initiative... their partnership stands as a model of effective collaboration in the education sector.

- Frances Kamara, Deputy Director at Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (2025)

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Leveraging Technology to Advance Education



High Tech, Low Tech Solutions: Adapting technology for use in all settings

Beginning with research with FabAI realting to their TheTeacher.AI tool a number of years ago, EducAid has been researching and adapting artificial intelligence to strengthen teaching in Sierra Leone, even where connectivity and materials are limited. EducAid has continued to expand its approach to EdTech and AI. Across its programmes, EducAid is supporting teachers to use a range of AI tools to create interactive, skills-focused learning materials delivered through low-tech methods, including transcribing content onto recycled cardboard for classroom activity stations, enabling learner-centred teaching in schools without devices or printers.



For students in our schools, AI tools help by giving lessons that match how each student learns. Whether you need extra help or can move faster, AI helps you learn at your own pace.



Gibrilla, EducAid Teacher, (March 2025)

Pikin Tab (MBSSE, Imagine Worldwide, EducAid)



Imagine Worldwide's Pikin Tab program is aligned with the Sierra Leone Government's commitment to improving the foundational literacy and numeracy skills of all primary school learners. The program uses a tablet-based, adaptive learning software that supplements teacher instruction within the national curriculum and timetable. EducAid is helping Imagine Worldwide to implement and scale this project, ensuring each child uses a tablet for 30-60 minutes per day to receive personalised lessons in reading, writing, and maths.

26,962
students

150
teachers

112
schools

Future Plans

“ We believe that solutions to Sierra Leone's most pressing challenges already exist within its communities. ”



As we look to the future, EducAid remains committed to ensuring every child in Sierra Leone has access to **high-quality education** that enables them to thrive and contribute to their communities.

A key priority for the year ahead is the continued development and expansion of the **District of Excellence** model. In 2024-25, EducAid and the Ministry of Basic & Senior Secondary Education made important progress designing an effective **model and tools** that we are eager to put into action. EducAid will continue working with government, school leaders, and communities to strengthen education systems at district level, sharing effective practices and supporting sustainable improvements across Sierra Leone. Our ambition is to demonstrate how **locally led, evidence-based**, and truly **collaborative approaches** can improve outcomes for all learners and contribute to national education goals.

Alongside this, we will continue to **strengthen our schools**, improve learning outcomes, and expand opportunities for leadership development. This includes continuing to support the Ministry for the Future, which provides an important platform for pupils to gain leadership experience and develop innovative solutions to complex challenges.

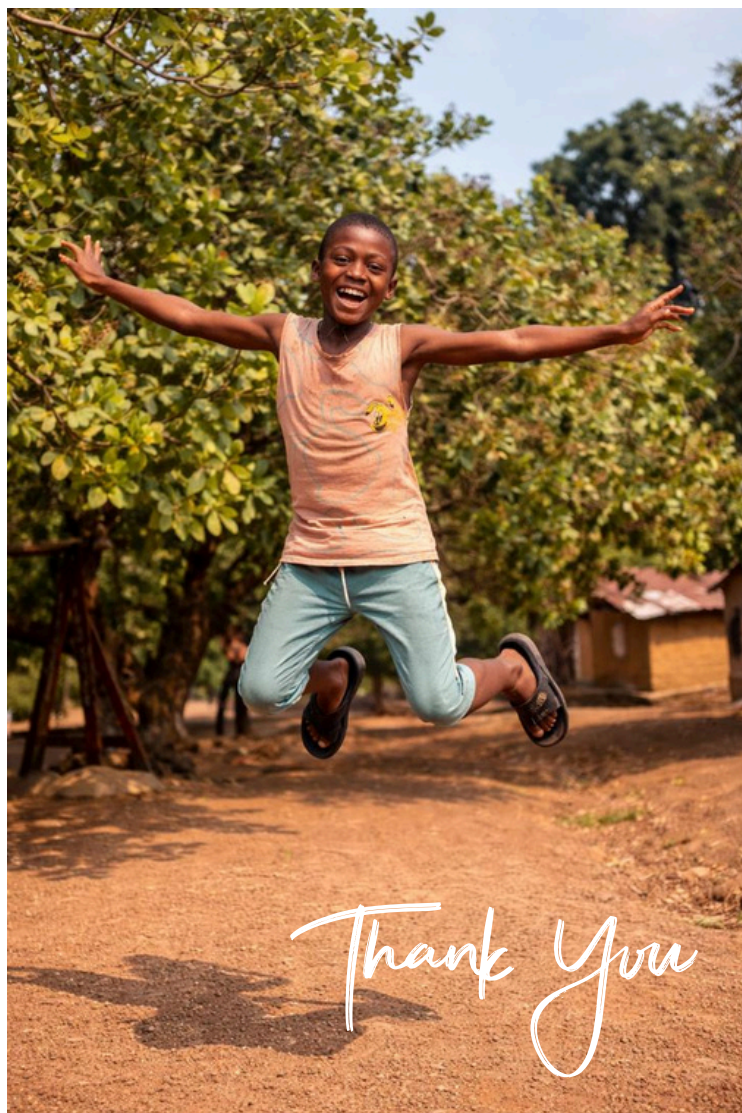
We will continue to **enhance learning environments** through targeted infrastructure improvements, improved connectivity, and greater access to technology, helping to create safe, inspiring spaces where students can learn, collaborate, and succeed.

Through our growing **network of partners**, we will deepen our work on education innovation, equality, youth leadership, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. We will continue to be a community-driven organisation with an international outlook, sharing our research and learning from Sierra Leone as widely as possible to inform the work of others in Sierra Leone and beyond.

Partners

Achieving impact through collaboration

A huge thank you to the following organisations for their generous support of our work in 2024-25. 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.



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

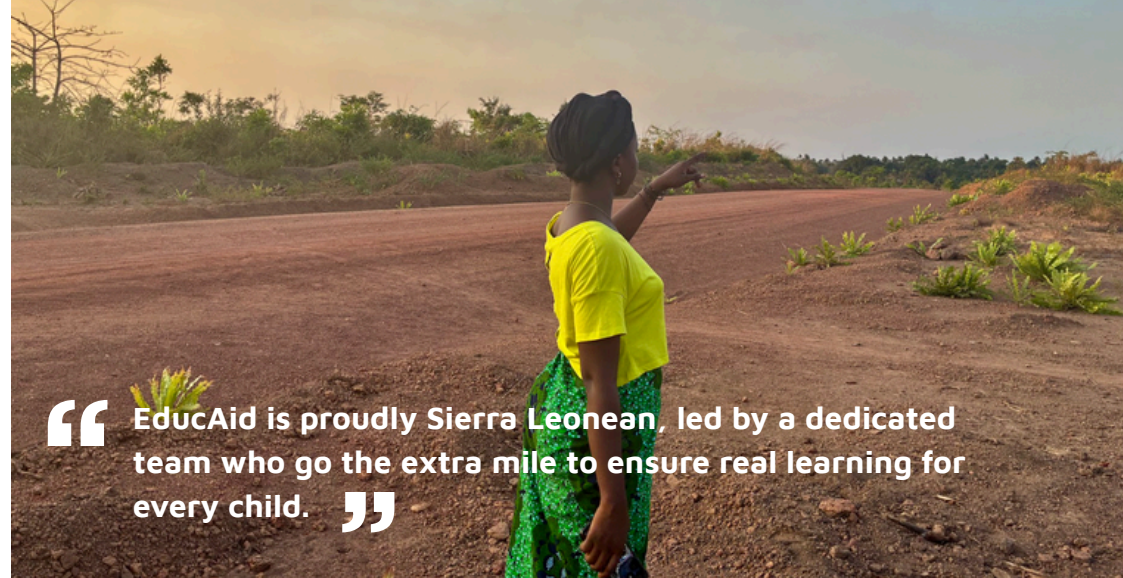
Dear Friends and Partners,

I am very proud to have become EducAid's Chair, and to be closing this annual report for 2024-25 and EducAid's 30th anniversary year. As you will have seen, it has been an exciting and significant year and, as an example, the Big Give 2024 raised more than £30,000 for EducAid's Rolal School in Port Loko District.

EducAid's schools and wider programmes are serving as role models for education across Sierra Leone. These are positively impacting **over 250 schools** and training **more than 3,000 teachers**. This year, I was fortunate to visit our programmes and schools across the country, meeting many members of the EducAid community. What impressed me was how deeply EducAid is embedded within its local communities and how well it is working hand-in-hand with the government to deliver inclusive educational programmes for so many young people.

EducAid is at an exciting point as an organisation as we expand and increase our impact. It was particularly poignant to meet our partners and see the positive influence of EducAid, reaching some of the most underserved schools and villages across the country. What was very evident to me was the motivation and dedication of the EducAid staff and how this permeates through to partner schools, creating a real force for change.

EducAid is proudly Sierra Leonean, led by a dedicated team, who not only go the extra mile to reach the remotest schools, but also the last metre into every classroom, to ensure real learning for the children they are teaching.



“EducAid is proudly Sierra Leonean, led by a dedicated team who go the extra mile to ensure real learning for every child.”

The team prides itself on regular professional development, involving EducAid led training events and additional degrees, and all this is delivered, on top of already busy schedules. As part of this professional development, EducAid provides excellent coaching and mentoring which in turn has created a growing and passionate leadership team. All of this ensures the sustainability and the future success of EducAid and reflects our ambitious vision of a democratic, dignified and globally engaged Sierra Leone, and our unwavering commitment to improving education for all.

These successes and our continued progress, reflect the immense skill and commitment of the entire EducAid team, led by our exceptional Chief Executive, Erin Northey, and our Country Director, Dr Miriam Mason-Sesay. I sincerely thank them and all our donors and partners, for the invaluable contributions that make real change possible.

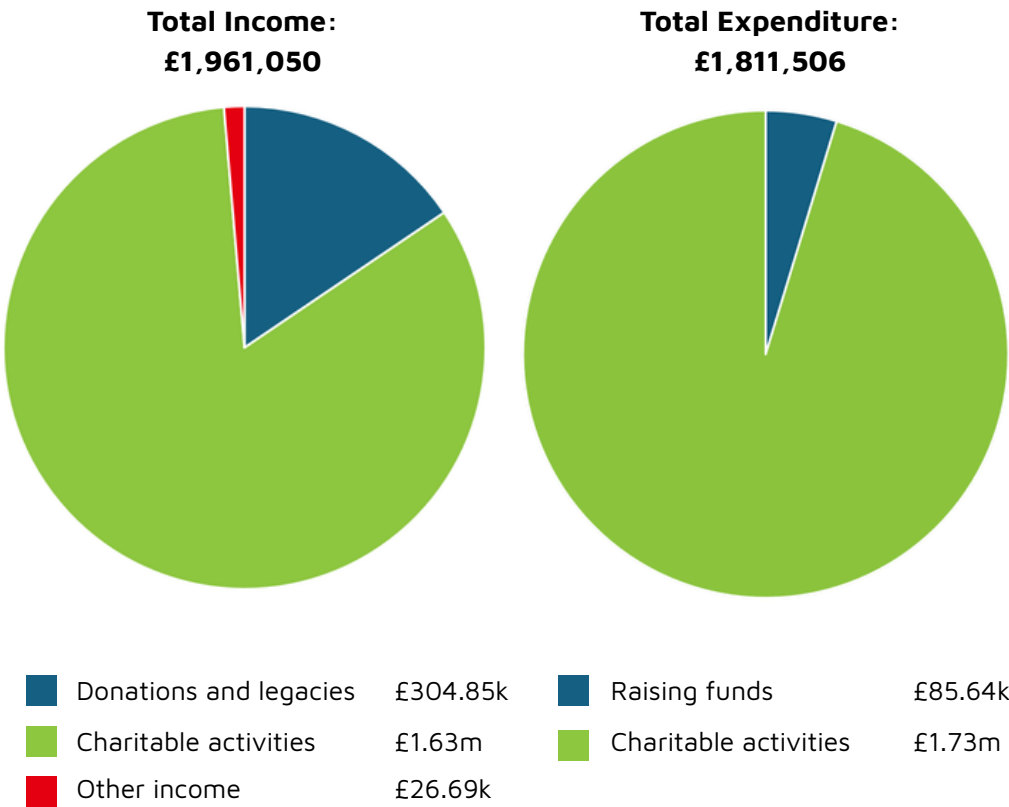
Together, we are making a difference.

With kind regards,

YVONNE WATKINS

CHAIR, EDUCAID BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Income and Expenditure Breakdown



In 2024-25, EducAid’s income grew by 41.87% to £1,961,050 with income from charitable activities growing significantly to £1,629,507 (from £1,065,019). This was driven largely by institutional funding for projects such as EducAid’s project with Imagine Worldwide which accounted for almost 33% of income. This funding, alongside partnerships with the Irish Embassy of Freetown for the Accountable Inclusive Education in Port Loko District project and Bridges Outcomes Partnerships for the Sierra Leone Education Innovation Challenge which both accounted for 18% of total income, highlights the growing importance of EducAid’s projects.

The stability and agility that makes EducAid’s work possible is a result of the continued generosity of EducAid’s individual supporters, whose donations were relatively steady at £304,855, a decrease of only .25% during a challenging climate for fundraising. Each and every donation matters to our organisation.

Expenditure rose by 24% to £1,811,506, reflecting increased programme activity, with ongoing challenges from inflation and exchange rate volatility managed through cost control and cash flow oversight. Fundraising costs increased, with a slight increase to 5% of income, up from 4% in 2024.

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