



Bright Light Projects - Sierra Leone
Graduation Ceremony
CLASS OF April 2025

GIRLS SHALL RISE Program





Vision, Mission and Motto

Vision

"To implement sustainable, community-driven initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and the United States of America by building partnerships with local organizations, governments, and stakeholders, ensuring inclusive growth and shared prosperity for all"

Mission

" To empower individuals and communities by fostering a future where beneficiaries become self-reliant leaders, contributing positively to their communities, creating lasting impact, and driving meaningful change in their environment."

Vision

Rebuilding Broken Communities



Core Advocacy Areas

BLP supports and conducts non-partisan initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union's Agenda 2063 in the following domains: Skills Development (Vocational & Livelihood Support)

- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**
- **Human Rights (Disabilities, Women, Children & Youth)**
- **Refugee & Internally Displaced Persons Support (IDPs)**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Prison Inmate Reintegration**
- **Education (Formal & Informal)**
- **STEM Education**
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**



BLP METHODOLOGY

BLP Methodology is built on the simple premise of direct support and contact with our beneficiaries, with constant evaluation and monitoring, capacity Building with sustainability as the product





BRIGHT LIGHT PROJECTS

BLP PRESENTS GIRLS SHALL RISE PROGRAM GRADUATION



Date: Thursday April, 12, 2025



**Venue: SLOIC Makeni Campus,
Bombali District, Sierra Leone**



Time: 09:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Institution: Sierra Leone Opportunities
Industrialization Centre – Makeni Campus**



Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

- 1. MABINTY SAMURA**
- 2. AMINATA K CONTEH**
- 3. FATMATA M. KOROMA**
- 4. ISATU CONTEH**
- 5. EMELIA KADIATU CONTE**
- 6. AUGUSTA MARY KAMARA**
- 7. SENTO BANGURA**
- 8. GBASSAY KANU**
- 9. MBALU BANGURA**



INDIVIDUAL STORIES



MABINTY SAMURA

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

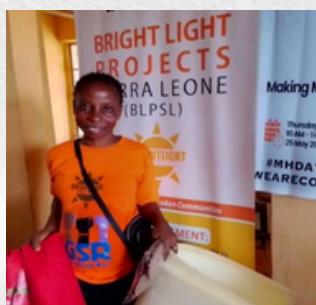
Mabinty Samura was born on the 10th of August 1996 in Makeni, she is currently staying at Thoronka street in Makeni, Mabinty is currently staying with her aged widow mother as she has lost her father way back in 2009. Mabinty attended her secondary school at the Makeni Compressive Academy up to higher secondary 2, until she lost her father who was her supportive pillar for her education.

After the loss of her father who was the bread winner, she became the bread winner of the family and taking care of her siblings, she engaged herself in petty trading selling cake to support her mother and siblings.

Unfortunately for her, she encountered an ugly incident of raped by an unknown gang men. The issue was reported at the police station for investigation, as well at the Rainbow Initiative center for medical examination, according to the medical examination, it was proven beyond doubt that she was raped.

Mabinty was assessed and became a beneficiary of the Bright Light Projects Sierra Leone (BLPSL) under the Girls Shall Rise (GSR) Program.

In 2023 February, she was enrolled at the Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Center [SLOIC] to acquire skill in tailoring and fashion Design. She has completed a year and six-month program in tailoring as she is now an awaiting graduate.





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



AMINATA K. CONTEH

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Aminata K Conteh is a 21-year-old young lady who is currently living with her single parent mother at Limba corner in Makeni. Aminata's father is dead, and her mother lives out of state and cannot take care of her education.

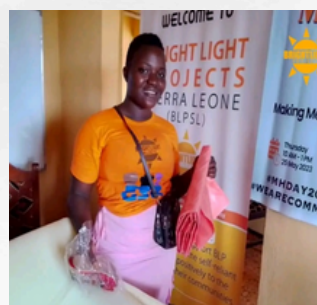
Aminata is a victim of sexual abuse whose case was reported at the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs to help refer the matter for medical examination at the Rainbow Initiative center. The rainbow center was able to provide medical support and psychosocial counselling to her.

Aminata due to her sexual abuse, experiences periods of isolation by friends in school, especially when she was described as a victim. She feels disconnected from her in school as she maintains few friendships in school.

Aminata struggle with her education as she completed her higher secondary school, however, she did not pursuer further her education due to financial constrain and later join the street as a sex worker to gain her survival through peer group influence.

Aminata received recognition from the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs during the BLPSL vulnerability needs assessment and became a beneficiary under BLPSL Girls Shall Rise empowerment program.

She enrolled at SLOIC for vocational skill training under the Tailoring and Fashion Design department since 2023. She successfully completed her program at SLOIC which lasted for a year and six months. She is currently waiting for her graduation.





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



FATMATA M. KOROMA

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

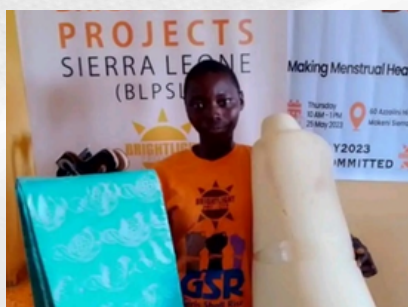
Fatmata M. Koroma lives at Masuba community with her parents, Fatmata Koroma is a victim of sexual abuse which led to pregnancy with a child. Fatmata because of the abuse her parents live out of state so as not to be involved to support her daily life. She then became a dropout to take care of her child at a very young age.

Fatmata through the intervention of BLPSL in a joint vulnerability need assessment of sexually abused victims together with the ministry of social Welfare Gender and children's Affairs under the Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment program in 2019, she was enrolled at National Pentecostal junior secondary in the 2019-2020 academic year.

She did not further her education due to constraints in studying during the night because of the child's responsibilities as she must take care of the child before going to school and during the night.

She is determined to learn not only to sit in the classroom, make a request to the Bright Light Projects to switch over for vocational skill training, honoring her request, the beneficiary in February 2023 was enrolled at the SLOIC for vocational skill training under the tailoring and Fashion Design department.

The beneficiary upon enrollment has successfully completed her training program lasted for a year and six months at SLOIC, the beneficiary is currently waiting for graduation 2025





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



ISATU CONTEH

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Isatu Conteh is an orphan who lost both parents at the age of three. After the death of her parents, she was taken care of by her grandmother who became the pillar taking care of her clothing, feeding and support her primary education.

Unfortunately for Isatu, she again lost her grandmother the same year she enrolled for lower secondary. Her grandmother, who was serving as her pillar, life started becoming miserable having no support from any family nor relatives.

As a young lady having no support to further her education, she became a dropout as other young girls who are already in the streets. She was left with no option but to follow the influence of her peer group living on the streets as a sex worker for her survival as she became a victim of sexual, physical, psychological abuse.

Through the intervention of Bright Light Project Supporting, empowering girls through the middle manpower, the young lady was assessed, reunified with her unknown family members as one of the criteria to be enrolled.

With the help of BLPSL, the beneficiary was enrolled at SLOIC to acquire vocational skills under the tailoring department. She has gone through her training procedure which lasted for a year and six months, completed her internship and at the moment is waiting to graduate from SLOIC.





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



EMELIA KADIATU CONTE

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Emelia Kadiatu Conteh is living at 8 perter lane Makeni together with her mother as her father died many years ago. Emelia was attending school supported by her parents, she lost her father at the age of 17.

Emelia was a victim of sexual abuse, she was perpetrated and got pregnant as a teenager, since this incident, she lost courage, hope as she could not continue her education for the purpose of taking care of her child and the lack of finance and support to continue her school.

She engaged in petty trading just to support herself and her child, from that petty trading, she was able to enroll herself in an institution to gain and acquire a skill, but the lack of support makes her a dropout, unfortunately, she suddenly became a sex worker where she encountered BLPSL team.

BLPS through the Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment program for victims of abused and sex worker in a joint vulnerability needs assessment, Emelia was captured as a sex worker and became a beneficiary of BLPSL

With the support of BLPSL, she was enrolled for vocational skill training at SLOIC to pursue skills training in Tailoring and Fashion Design department. She is currently working as a volunteer in a tailoring shop around her area, as she awaits her graduation from SLOIC





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



AUGUSTA MARY KAMARA

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Augusta Mary Kamara resides at 13 Tedson Drive in Makeni where she currently lives with her mother and sister. Mary at an early age lost her father who was supporting and taking care of her, including her siblings.

Since the loss of her father, she sees life as unfavorable as things became difficult as her mother cannot meet their needs and support her education. she engaged in petty trading to support her education and basic needs until when she attains to higher secondary 3 where she took her West Africa Senior School Examination,

Taking her higher secondary examination things became more difficult as the petty trading cannot support her education. She became a BLPSL beneficiary under the Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment program for sex workers and victim of sexual abuse, vulnerability needs assessment together with the ministry of social welfare gender and children's affairs as she was captured as a victim of sexual penetration at age 13.

Through the help and support of BLPSL Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment Program, she was enrolled for vocational skill training at SLOIC Makeni Campus.

With the support of BLPSL, she has successfully completed her one year six months Tailoring and Fashion Design program SLOIC Makeni Campus.





INDIVIDUAL STORIES

GBASSAY KANU

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Gbassay Kanu is living at 7 Lunsar Road Makeni with her grandmother, at the age of 14, she was sent to Makeni from the village by her parents to come and stay with her grandmother to acquire her education.

Gbassay at that age, with little or no experience of socialization became a victim of sexual abuse which led to her pregnancy in which she has to face with a lot of constrain such as clothing, feeding being that her stepmother abandoned her for becoming pregnant despite the case was reported at the police station, but the perpetrator was nowhere to be found.

After the delivery of the baby, she enrolled to continue her education where she attained up to the level of higher secondary 2, she was not able to further her education because of taking responsibility for her child and the lack of support from family members as she atomically became a dropout. She engaged herself in petty trading to raise finance to support herself and her child, as things did not go as planned, and with peer group influence, she became a sex worker

She was enrolled at BLPSL under the Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment program since 2019 under a joint vulnerability needs assessment together with the ministry of social welfare gender and children's Affairs she was assessed and captured as a sex worker and became a beneficiary of BLPSL

She was enrolled at the SLOIC for a vocational skill training under the Tailoring and Fashion Design department which lasted for a year and six months. She has successfully completed her program at SLOIC





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



SENTO BANGURA

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Santo Bangura is 31 years old who is currently living with her spouse at 11 Sembu Fornah lane here in Makeni, with their two children as a school dropout. She became a school dropout after being sexually abused, which got pregnant at a very early age of 14 years at the time she enrolled for lower secondary.

She decided to continue in her lower secondary school but yet couldn't cope with continuing because of early parental responsibility role was left with no option but to start petty trading.

Due to financial constrain to support her business, she decided to join the street as a sex worker which she thinks the best option to gain money to take care of her children with a lot of risk, abuse, etc.

BLPSL under the Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment program for victims of abuse and sex workers, Sento was captured as a sex worker in 2019 until February 2024, BLPSL under the Girls Shall Rise [GSR] empowerment program enrolled her at SLOIC for a vocational skill training under the Home Management department which lasted for a year and six months.





INDIVIDUAL STORIES



MBALU BANGURA

Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Centre - Makeni Campus

Mbalu Bangura is an Ebola orphan. Both parents died in 2015 during the Ebola epidemic, after the loss of her parents she went to stay with her grandmother at Robuya community a surrounding community in Makeni.

Mbalu was enrolled in school by her grandmother who was taking care of her school and basic needs as a petty trader selling fire coal. With the support of her grandmother, Mbalu was able to take her National primary school examination [NPE].

Mbalu at a very early age of entering lower secondary 1, she lost her grandmother who was taking care of her, since the loss of her hope, life became difficult and unfavored for her, with the help of her grandmother relative, Mbalu was able to have accommodation where she stayed for a while, in some few months, Mbalu suffered an ugly incident where she was sexually abused by unknown perpetrator, as a result of this sad event with no support to further her school, she became a dropout.

BLPSL in a joint vulnerability needs assessment for victims of abuse and sex workers with the ministry of Social Welfare Gender and children's Affairs to support and empower women and girls by providing them with vocational skill training under BLPSL Girls Shall Rise [GSR] flagship program, she became a beneficiary of BLPSL because of being sexually abused. With the support of the organization, she was enrolled at SLOIC to acquire a skill in Tailoring and Fashion Design for her to become self-reliant and contribute positively to support herself.

She has successfully completed her one year and six months training and is currently awaiting graduation.





THANK YOU BLP PARTNERS, DONORS, SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

Thank you for supporting our vision to promote our beneficiaries to become self-reliant and contribute positively to the development of their communities.



CONGRATULATIONS!



BLP SIERRA LEONE CLASS OF 2024



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