



Bright Light Projects

Graduation Ceremony

CLASS OF DECEMBER 2020

**BLP Girls Shall Rise (GSR)
Program**





Vision, Mission and Motto

Mission

" To foster community initiatives through strategic partnerships by empowering communities to drive Sustainable development through livelihood support, sustainable food systems, environmental stewardship, and energy access for a resilient and equitable future.."

Vision

" We envisage a society where empowered beneficiaries become self-reliant leaders, contributing positively to the development of their communities and shaping a thriving and equitable future for generations to come."

Motto

Rebuilding Broken Communities



BLP CORPORATE OVERVIEW

Bright Light Projects (BLP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Houston, Texas. BLP is dedicated to building community resilience within the three core elements of sustainability: economic growth, Social Inclusion, and Environmental Protection. Our success is built on strategic partnerships with organizations that champion specific humanitarian needs, such as the Concert for Ebola Relief in Maryland (2014), which benefited Doctors Without Borders and the International Medical Corps.

With a strong presence in West Africa, BLP is registered as a community-based Organization in Sierra Leone and Cameroon, with some operations in Nigeria and Guinea-Conakry. Our commitment to sustainable development has led to significant recognition, including:

- Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) 2021
 - United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) – 2025
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) - 2025



Core Advocacy Areas

“Empowering Communities, Advancing Sustainable Development”

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)

- Energy Poverty & Renewables
- Human Rights (Disabilities, Women, Children & Youth)
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- Refugee & Internally Displaced Persons Support (IDPs)
- Prison Inmate Reintegration
- Skills Development and Entrepreneurship
- STEM Education
- SDGs | ESGs | CSR
- Environmental Sustainability (Awareness, Conservation, Restoration, Reforestation)

Our focus areas are designed to:

- Promote Sustainable and Inclusive Development
- Foster Environmental Sustainability
- Advance Human Rights and Social Justice
- Build Community Resilience and Self-reliance
- Promote SDGs & Africa's Union Agenda 2063



BLP METHODOLOGY



At Bright Light Projects, we believe in the power of human connection and direct support. Our methodology is built on the simple yet profound idea of direct support and engagement, where we listen and walk alongside our beneficiaries as partners every step.

- **Direct Support:** We meet our beneficiaries where they are, providing personalized support and resources to address their unique needs.
- **Constant Evaluation and Monitoring:** We regularly check in, assess progress, and make adjustments to ensure our support is effective and meaningful.
- **Capacity Building:** We empower our beneficiaries with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to take ownership of their lives and communities.
- **Sustainability:** We work towards long-term solutions that outlast our involvement, creating a lasting impact

By being present, flexible, and committed to our beneficiaries' success, we build trust, foster resilience, and create a brighter future together."

Problem Statement Validation





BRIGHT LIGHT PROJECTS

BLP PRESENTS GIRLS SHALL RISE PROGRAM GRADUATION



Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020



**Venue: Komra Training Centre
25 York Road, Waterloo, Sierra
Leone**



Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



CLASS OF 2020 KOMRA TRAINING CENTER IN WATERLOO

- 1. GBASSAY SESAY**
- 2. MARIONETT PITHOL**
- 3. KADIATU KAMARA**
- 4. KADIATU KAMARA**



GBASSAY SESAY IMPACT STORY

Gbassay Sesay was a street drop out after she lost her Mother at the age of 16, she was got pregnant by an unknown man. She gave birth to a fatherless baby girl within the Waterloo community. A relative who had known her parents from the village before they died rescued her. She was just given somewhere to sleep with her young baby, which was a terrifying life for her that she cannot afford to eat well as a suckling mother before breastfeeding her baby. She lived such a miserable teenage motherhood life.

She later decided to be carrying her child to do street hawking to afford what she could take care of herself and kid, but rather it was not easy for her. She was identified by the Ministry of Social Welfare through Family support Unit where she went to seek for help and Support, as she wants to go back to school while she finds someone to help taking care of her child.

BLP came into contact with her through the line Ministry of Government MSW. She was vulnerably assessed and sent to Komra Training Centre to do Tailoring. Within one Year Six Months, Gbassay became one of the most improving trainees in the centre, she became outspoken through the communication Skills lessons and served as a motivational speaker among her colleagues within and outside the Training Centre. Gbassay graduated from the Training Centre in December 2020 with a sound certificate in Tailoring and can design every type of cloth and fashion.





MARIONETT PITHOL IMPACT STORY

Marionette Pithol is one of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence victims whose file was in the Family Support Unit Division in the Western Rural Area District. A man who promised to marry her at a tender age impregnated marionette. This pregnancy made her to drop out of school and decided to stay with the man who never legally wed her.

She faced a lot of maltreatments ranging from hunger, abandonment, treated with other girls by the man, battering until she gave birth to twins and the man abandoned her with the kids and moved to another district called Moyamba in Southern Sierra Leone from Western Area. Since the man left, he never contacted Marionette neither asked how the children are doing. Marionette was supported and taking care of by some family members for a period of time where they could no longer continue to do. She continued to face hard times struggling with her kids, driven from one place to another. She later reported her matter to the Family Support Unit. She was linked with the Ministry of Social Welfare to effect investigation for Child Support.

BLPSL on their Collaborative work discovered such a sad phenomenon. We carried out our assessment and later discover all what went through and had to find out from her that she wanted to be empowered. BLP sent her to Komra Training Institute in Waterloo Western Rural District. She trained on Home Management, Catering Services and Decoration. She graduated on December 2020. She is now empowered and can take care of her kids and support other relatives through the support given to her by BLP.





MABINTY ARUNA IMPACT STORIES

Mabinty Aruna has never been to School since she was born by poor peasant village farmers from the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. She was given to marriage at the age of Twelve (12) to a man older enough to be her father. Mabinty gave birth to four children before the age of 20 years. As young as she was, she was left with a burden to take care of these children through vegetable farming. Her husband can only do annual subsistence farming to support her, which was not enough to take care of her and the kids.

With such sufferings, she decided to move to Waterloo to carry out street trading on basic items, where she will make money to send for her kids feeding and welfare. Yet life was not easy for her at the same time struggling for where to sleep and who to stay with, which was not really easy for her.

Later then, she had no option than to be a sex worker, where she slept with men and make money to take care of herself. Life continued to be miserable for her as she found out that was not the best option than to come to BLP for support.

She had about BLP from a friend whom BLP is supporting that was also picked from the street. She shared her story with BLP and she was found worthy to be supported with a skill at the Komra Training Centre.

Mabinty patiently went through her tailoring and designed training for two years where she graduated with a certificate in that. She can now sew and design every type of cloth and can now earn her daily living. She has now rented an apartment on her own and she is trying to bring her kids to the city to send them to school and rebrand her life.





KADIATU KAMARA IMPACT STORY

Kadiatu Kamara was brought from the village to go school by a relative in town at a teenage. Her aunt deviated from the formal purpose she brought her to town to rather to engage her in street trading and petty business.

This totally frustrated the dream of the poor girls from her initial happy goal driven dream. With her daily life in the street trading, she was caught up by a boy and got her pregnant with a child. This made her aunt to send her away from home and decided to stay with the parent of the man.

She continued to face adverse treatment from her pregnancy period until she became a teenage mother. She continued to loose hope as a child and continued to sale in the streets of Waterloo, where she was caught up by one of the Community officers of BLP, to whom she explained her sad story to. She was picked with a proper background assessment and later made one of the potential beneficiary of BLP GSR Projects.

She was sent to learn Tailoring at the Komra Training Centre and later graduated with a certificate in her course. She is now potentially capacitated with a certificate and work self-suffiaiently to earn her living and stay independently.





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.

