



Bright Light Projects
Graduation Ceremony
CLASS OF DECEMBER 2021

**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

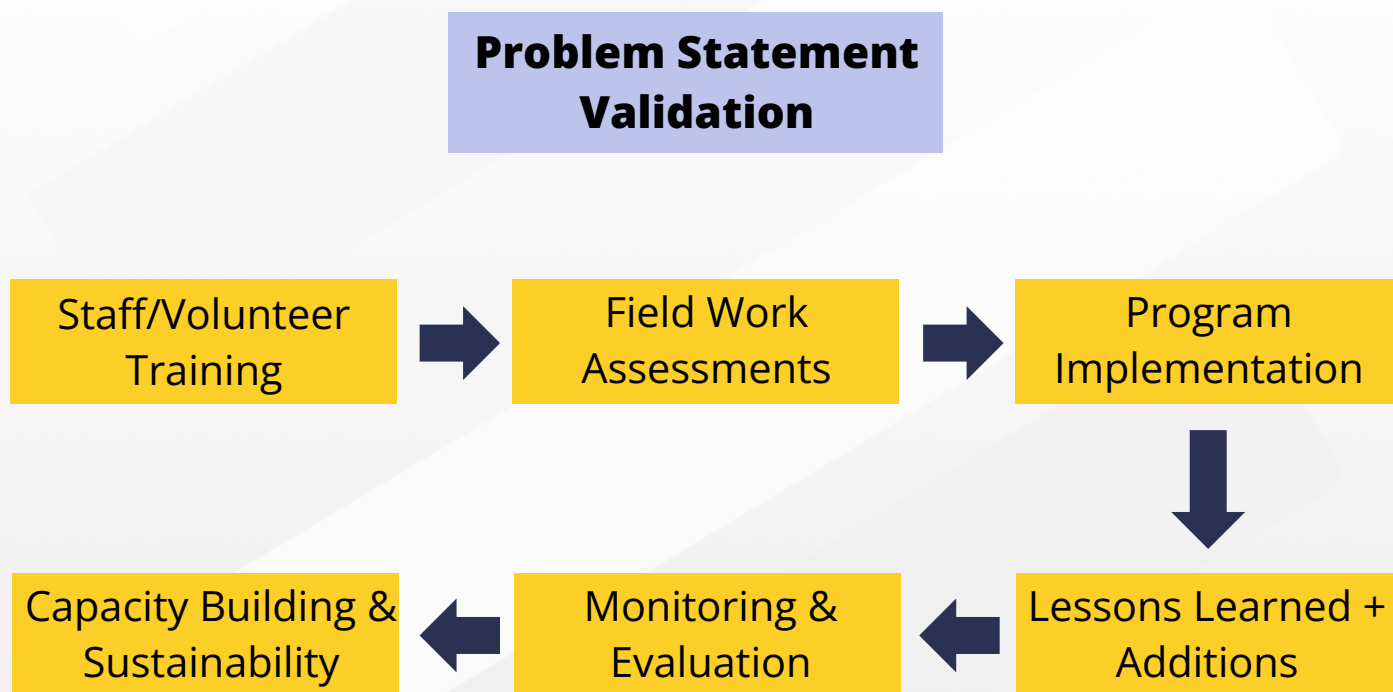
BLP METHODOLOGY



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."





BRIGHT LIGHT PROJECTS

BLP PRESENTS GIRLS SHALL RISE PROGRAM GRADUATION



Date: Friday, December 17, 2021



Venue: SLOIC in Makeni Sierra Leone



Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



DEPARTMENT: HOTEL AND HOME MANAGEMENT

- 1. HAWA KEMOH MARAH**
- 2. SONITA SESAY**
- 3. MARIATU SESAY**
- 4. MARIATU TARAWALIE**
- 5. AMINATA KABIA**
- 6. ISATU KAMARA**



INDIVIDUAL STORIES

HAWA KEMOH MARAH

Hotel and Home Management

Hawa Kemoh Marah was a born native from Kabala town Koinadugu district a far extreme part in the northern part of Sierra Leone, the beneficiary was then staying with her aged vulnerable parent who were struggling in terms of taking care of her food and schooling affairs as their source of livelihood was farming.

The beneficiary having taken her higher secondary examination with no support and faith to further her education, the beneficiary at that tender age became the bread winner of her parent, Hawa being facing such challenge as a young lady who supposed to be taking care of she decided to make a move from her family in kabala then move to Makeni in Bombali district seeking for better opportunities to continue her school which was a challenging moment for her living into a new land of having no friend, neither family member.

The beneficiary only best option after several attempt of seeking for help after many request failed, the beneficiary only best option was to engage in commercial sex work just to sustain for her daily living/survival.

Through the GIRL SHALL RISE PROJECT assessment in Bombali, Hawa fortunate to become a beneficiary of Bright Light Projects, as she was enrolled to pursue a vocational skill training career course at the Sierra Leone opportunist's industrialization center (SLOIC) under the home management department.

Hawa Kemoh Marah as a beneficiary under the Bright Light Projects Girls Shall Rise program is now a well-trained, qualify and certified guardant, from the Sierra Leone opportunist's industrialization center (SLOIC) since December 10th 2021.



Hawa Marah a sex worker, now a trained and certified graduate in hotel and home management



INDIVIDUAL STORIES

SONITA SESAY

Hotel and Home Management

Sonita Sesay is an Ebola who lost her both parents during the Ebola epidemic since 2014, at a time when she was at lower secondary school, which the loss of her both parent resulted her to become a drop out, since then she was having no immediate family member to take up her responsibility except her vulnerable partially blind and aged grandmother who serve as her caregiver.



The beneficiary and her grandmother who were staying together at station Road in the municipality of Makeni with their only way of survival was selling coal for their survival.

The beneficiary having gone this of having no good parent to monitor or provide her needs which she fined her only option was to join the street through peer group influence to engage into commercial sex working just to meet her needs.

Through the support of Bright Light Projects Sierra Leone under the **GIRL SHALL RISE** (GSR) with the aim of providing vocational skills training to victim of sexual abuse (commercial sex workers) she then fortunate to become one of the beneficiaries assessed.

Sonata as a young lady was enrolled for vocational skill training at the Sierra Leone opportunist's industrialization center (SLOIC) under the home management department where she was well train and certified upon graduation,



Sonita Sesay from commercial sex worker now a graduate as a train and qualify in hotel and home management



INDIVIDUAL STORIES

MARIATU SESAY

Hotel and Home Management

Mariatu Sesay is one of the beneficiaries assessed under the Bright Light Projects Sierra Leone **Girls Shall Rise (GSR)**, based on our vulnerability assessment the beneficiary was staying with her grandparents as a result of both her biological parent were separation at her very early age, since then the beneficiary never came across any of her biological parent, as they have be said to an unknown location.



Mariatu Sesay upon staying with her grandparent was fortunate to be enrolled for primary school with the support of her grandparents, unfortunately for the beneficiary, during her early junior secondary school, she was abused by an unknown perpetrator in which she became pregnant at a very early age of 15 years, since then, the beneficiary couldn't able to continue her education but to became a drop out with her best option to join the street and became a commercial sex worker which she see as a means of survival and the child.

Fortunately for Mariatu Sesay, through the support of the Bright Light Projects Sierra Leone, she became one of the beneficiaries assed under the **Girls Shall Rise Project**, (GSR) where she was enrolled for vocational skill training at the Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Center (SLOIC) under the home management department.

With the help and support of the Bright Light Projects which also include counseling, follow up monitoring both home and school, practical's and transportation support, she was able to graduate as a trained and qualified in hotel and home management as graduated at the Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialization Center (SLOIC) vocational campus



Mariatu Sesay as a graduate in hotel and home management
10th December, 2021.



INDIVIDUAL STORIES

MARIATU TARAWALIE

Hotel and Home Management

Mariatu Tarawalie came from a rural setting known as pate Bana community in the Bombali Shebora chiefdom, Bombali district northern Sierra Leone. Mariatu Tarawalie is said to ever come across her biological parent as adopted by a relative who was serving as her caregiver whom she knew as her aunty, wherein later Mariatu decide to leave on her own and started a petty trading business.



Mariatu before she encounter with the Bright Light Projects, she was a school dropout and unsuccessful business owner and a commercial sex worker. The beneficiary having gone through she became pregnant by a perpetrator who never show up and has been on the run since.

lucky for the beneficiary, through the Bright Light projects, vulnerability assessment, under the GSR project, she was assed as a commercial sex worker and became a bright light projects beneficiary and one of the enrolled beneficiaries for a vocational skill training under the tailoring department at the sierra Leone opportunities industrialization center (SLOIC) with also the support of counseling, monitoring, lunch and transportation. The beneficiary through the support of the organization has completed her training as a trained and certified hotel and home management qualification as she graduated since December 10th 2021.



Mariatu Tarawalie a commercial sex worker nor a graduate in hotel and home management.



INDIVIDUAL STORIES

AMINATA KABIA

Hotel and Home Management

Aminata Kabia is a native born and raised in the central of Makeni who lost her father at a very early age, the beneficiary since then staying with her single parent mother who was taking care of her needs.



Aminata Kabia was attending school where she attained up to up to higher secondary school, due to the little or no support from her single parent mother and family members, she faces difficulty to continue her school, Aminata Kabia during that process, she was abused at her ages of fifteen (15) years, she got pregnant and currently with two children.

With the support of the Bright Light Projects (BLP), the beneficiary was fortunate to be assessed under the Bright Light Projects **Girls Shall Rise** vulnerability assessment as she is one of the vulnerable sex worker captured as a commercial sex worker.

After the vulnerability assessment, the beneficiary was enrolled for vocational skill training at the Sierra Leone opportunity industrialization center (SLOIC) under the home management department the beneficiary also help with other support such as counseling, monitoring, and sometimes help with lunch and transportation, with these support, the beneficiary was successfully able to go through her training and graduated in hotel and home management since December 10th 2021.



AMINATA KABIA

Aminata Kabia a commercial sex worker now a change agent and an impact creator in the community



INDIVIDUAL STORIES

ISATU KAMARA

Hotel and Home Management

Isatu Kamara as a young lady who was staying with her father together with her step mother, Isatu Kamara mother is said to stay at the village as a result of separation, Isatu being staying with her father was attending school up to lower secondary school until and unless when she came to encounter numerous challenges of hard Labour from her step mother which made the beneficiary not regular in school and feels uncomfortable to staying with her step mother.



Isatu Kamara notwithstanding decided to stay far from her step mother and father and stay with friend which resulted her dropout, as the fact remain she cannot locate her biological mother. The beneficiary after became a drop out, she decided to engage in petty trading which became unsuccessful, unfortunately, through peer group influence, she joined the street and became a commercial sex worker which they see as a easiest way of getting money.

Through the support of Bright Light Projects Sierra Leone, under the Girl Shall Rise empowerment program, she became a beneficiary under the said projects and was enrolled for vocational skill training at the Sierra Leone opportunity industrialization center commonly known as (SLOIC) under the home management, the young lady through the support of Bright Light Projects Sierra Leone as well benefited counseling, transportation and practical's fees, etc.

The beneficiary Isatu Kamara under the Bright Light Projects support having gone through the course successfully, is now a trained certified graduate from the Sierra Leone opportunities industrialization center (SLOIC)



Isatu Kamara from the street to the class room, now a graduate in home management





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.

