



# POLICY PLAN WOPI 2023-2024



BOARD

WOMEN OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL, JANUARY 2023

# Policy Document Women Of Potential International

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# Introduction and principles

Based in the Netherlands and established in 2018 the Women of Potential International (WOPI) foundation is active in Sierra Leone. This policy document represents the vision of the board of Women of Potential International (WOPI) for 2023-2024 and some of its Sierra Leonean key members. WOPI envisages to grow and extend the current activities, partnering with other non-profit foundations and funding organisations.

WOPI's vision is based on basic principles:

- Projects and activities are based in the grassroots of Sierra Leone and executed by Sierra Leoneans, primarily under the guidance of Sierra Leonean professionals. When possible resources are purchased locally.
- Connecting people gives energy to all program participants, donors and other interested parties. Direct contact between all persons interested in WOPI is stimulated.
- Children (orphans and underprivileged) are best cared for and educated and trained in their local settings.
- Training and education should primarily lead to employable skills and knowledge in Sierra Leone. WOPI is complementing primary and secondary schooling as provided by the Sierra Leonean government and local authorities.
- Every child has the right to be educated. However no education is possible on an empty stomach or when feeling sick, therefore WOPI supports education with direct care such as school feeding, transport and basic school health care.
- To be beneficiary of WOPI openness to positive, monitoring and guidance is necessary.

## Mission, vision, targets

We believe in narrow cooperation with the Sierra Leonean members of WOPI guiding us where to channel efforts and being practically involved in WOPI's grassroots movement.

### *WOPI's Generic Goals (as written in the foundations statutes)*

We empower and help orphans, underprivileged children, street children and women in Sierra Leone to discover and develop their potential. By training, providing school resources and support children in families to achieve self-sustaining education.



## WOPI's Specific targets

Activities are currently focused in the Freetown, Lungi and Makeni areas.

- In the Masuba community in Makeni WOPI focuses on the New Generation Academy community school. We believe education in the countryside is crucial for balanced and sustainable growth and may limit migration to cities like Freetown. Therefore the Academy deserves our structural support.
- In Freetown itself WOPI cooperates with other non-profit organisations (Peagie Woobay Scholarships and Mentorship Safe Space) to allow underprivileged to attend school by providing learning materials and school uniforms.
- The Lungi area is a targeted for developing training for the Hospitality business. Sustainable charity tourism is new to Sierra Leone and can provide potential sources of income for our children and their supporters. Currently we provide school support to children in the Lungi area.



## Background and current WOPI

Sierra Leone belongs to the poorest countries in Africa with a life expectancy of 55 years. Neighbouring Guinea and Liberia in West Africa its population is appr 8.4 million people in 2021. Being rich in mineral resources, agriculture and fishing are very important activities. Tourism development has been limited so far.

In its recent history Sierra Leone has met with civil unrest, Ebola, negative consequences of climatological change as well as depletion of natural resources. WOPI started in 2014 during the Ebola crisis and was established as a foundation in the Netherlands in 2018.

WOPI believes that education of children, boys and girls, as well as support for their mothers and caretakers are key to a better future. Currently almost 80 children are beneficiaries of our program in various age groups. A lot of our children have been with us for a number of years. Their progress is monitored by our Sierra Leonean volunteers and when schooling results are good, extension of our support is given.



School Materials	Oct/22
Boys	40
Girls	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>

Age group	Number
0 tm 4	14
5 tm 9	36
10 tm 14	20
>15	5
Unknown	3
	<b>78</b>



## WOPI policy 2023-2024

WOPI needs continuous financial support for its current boys and girls offering them and their caretakers support, guidance and care. So far this has been primarily based on private gifts from the Netherlands gathered during fund raising activities and small scale campaigns. We will continue to do so.

Based on this we believe we should scale up this basic support without losing our focus and grassroots approach.

### *New Generation Academy*

This community school is located in Masuba, a densely populated community at the outskirts of Makeni Bombali District and in the Northern province of Sierra Leone. In majority women are often widow or single parent with a livelihood of farming and petty trading. Most are challenged by their responsibility to provide daily amenities for their family and therefore will let their children partake in their petty trading or farming. In this community most believe to send their male child to school and not female children.

There are a lot of school aging children in Masuba and the nearest school is too far for children to walk to and from every day. Also they encounter dangers such as road accidents and kidnapping. The new Generation Academy was established by the local community in the year 2020 /2021 academic year to help these children with education to become responsible citizens. For their families, their Community and the Country as a whole.

The school caters for all levels of children both male and Female from Kindergarten to Nursery and through Primary level. The school is also looking forward to start its secondary Education in the near possible future.

WOPI has supported this school since 2020 and needs continuous financial support for the girls and boys in its program offering them and their caretakers also support, guidance and care. School feeding has started. So far this has been based on private gifts from the Netherlands gathered during fund raising activities and donations. We will continue to do so. However we believe we should scale up this basic support.

In 2023-2024 WOPI wants to:

- Support the New Generation Academy community nursery and primary school in Masuba, Makeni in Sierra Leone with modernizing the building, proper schooling equipment, materials, more frequent school feeding, basic health care and means of transport to and from the schooling facilities.
- Also supporting the teachers to make the Academy an attractive place to teach. This means a structural cooperation with this organisation ensuring good quality teaching and primary and secondary schooling.

### *Florinah's Orphanage, charity tourism*

In the Lungi area we want to establish a facility where orphans and underprivileged children can get vocational training in the hospitality business.

- Developing some charity tourism with hostel facilities we want to offer to the children that qualify for this opportunity vocational on the job training combined with formal schooling.
- The facility should offer basic stay over and hospitality services to cover part of the cost involved.



- This will make the participating youth electable to work in the developing hotels around the Lungi International Airport and in Freetown.

A first step is to conduct a feasibility study and to and enhance and detail the current project plan.

*Approaching charity organisations, ANBI status*

Both these projects require more substantial funding for which charity organisations will be approached. Therefore the ANBI status has been prepared and will be applied for early 2023.

## Board and Key Members WOPI

*Chairman Florence Sesay*

Being rooted in Sierra Leone our chairman Florence knows the local situation in Sierra Leone. Florence resides over 15 years in the Netherlands. As a professional in hospitality management she lived and worked in other countries like UK and USA too. Florence started WOPI in 2014 and registered the foundation in the Netherlands in 2018, guiding it through the Covid 19 period and desiring to structurally expand WOPI support for the underprivileged in Sierra Leone.

*Secretary Willem Meulenbeld*

Having worked in Africa and elsewhere Willem has experience with developmental aid. At the same time Willem worked at larger commercial organisation in international settings. Willem joined WOPI in 2022 and is looking forward to strengthen the initiative through transparent cooperation between the Sierra Leonean members, the Foundation and funding organisations.

*Treasurer Alise de Jong*

At the final stages of her medical studies Alise joined WOPI in 2022. She was treasurer before. For WOPI she is involved in acquiring the ANBI status. Alise has travelled extensively and she is looking forward to contribute to some basic health care and other activities.

The board consists of volunteers putting in their energy and resources without a remuneration and is supported by others on the same basis. We do everything we can to keep our administrative costs as low as possible so that the money from our donors and sponsors actually reaches the people in Sierra Leone.

WOPI key members in Sierra Leone are:

*Mohamed Kargbo*

Mohamed is a pastor in Freetown and involved with WOPI for many years. Involved not only with the distribution of school materials to program participants but also with following up and coaching the participating children in Freetown and the Lungi Area.

*Frances Sesay*

Frances works in the banking and financial sector in Sierra Leone. Frances has been involved in the WOPI activities in the Makeni area since its inception, supervising the learning material distribution and school feeding activities.





## Conclusion

In short the Board and Key members feel excited about the coming period and are looking forward to building and expanding WOPI based on individual as well as structural, institutional support for the initiatives in Sierra Leone based on ANBI status.

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy document. Any advice, contribution and support is welcome!

Florence

Alise

Willem

Sesay

De Jong

Meulenbeld

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

## Contact and social media

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