



# ANNUAL REPORT WOMEN OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL 2023



BOARD

WOMEN OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL, JULY 2024

# Annual report 2023 Women Of Potential International

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## Introduction and summary

Based in the Netherlands and established in 2018 the Women of Potential International (WOPI) foundation is active in Sierra Leone.

WOPI's vision is based on the following principles (See WOPI policy plan 2023):

- 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, 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 positive openness to monitoring and guidance is required.

In 2023 WOPI has strengthened the local impact in its approach as outlined in the policy plan 2023 by:

- Achieving the ANBI status based on new articles of association as registered at the Chamber of Commerce.
- Organizing a successful Benefit Dinner.
- Receiving substantial support from Contribute Foundation (Contribute) (<https://www.contribute.nl/>) for the New Generation Academy to scale up its activities in the Makeni area.
- Achieving positive project results in the New Generation Academy in Masuba and in Waterloo (Freetown).
- Strengthening the local volunteer team in Sierra Leone.

All in all, **well over 125 beneficiaries** were supported by WOPI in 2023, a sizeable increase from the 78 beneficiaries in 2022. And not only in numbers but more importantly also in kind, providing school furniture, basic hygiene and extra-curricular activities.

In 2024 WOPI hopes to further strengthen its initiatives with the help of private donations as well as structural support such as we thankfully received from the Contribute Foundation.



## Contribute Foundation and New Generation Academy

WOPI is extremely proud of the support of the Contribute foundation for the New Generation Academy in Masuba (NGA). In September 2023 a project approval for the schoolyear 2023-2024 has been approved by the Contribute Board.



In October the activities started and continued in q4 2023 for the New Generation Academy as they will in during the schoolyear 2023-2024. Chairman **Florence Sesay** visited both our beneficiaries in Freetown and kicked of the project at the NGA.

### *New Generation Academy Project*

The NGA community school is located in Masuba, a densely populated community at the outskirts of Makeni Bombali District, which is located 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. The New Generation Academy was established by the local community in the schoolyear 2020/2021 to help these children with education to become responsible citizens. The school caters for all levels of children both male and female from Kindergarten to Nursery and through Primary level up to Secondary school.

WOPI has supported this school since 2020 and needs continuous financial support for the girls and boys in its program offering them 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.

Thanks to the **Contribute Foudation support** we are able to scale up the basic support with

- Weekly school feeding based on local food and local preparation by local volunteers.
- Basic Hygiene in the form of towels and buckets, soap and chlorine to purify the water.
- School uniforms and school materials for all pupils.
- School furniture and school boards produced by local carpenters for all classrooms.
- Strengthening attendance and lowering dropout rates based on solid registration.
- Support for extra lessons each Saturday.
- Conclude the schoolyear with a Summer School in 2024.



Thanks to this support the attendance at the NGA has grown from 68 to 98 pupils in the school year 2023-2024 whilst 9 pupils participate in the national primary exam in 2024 as entrance for secondary school. Dropout ratios are negligible.

Pupils NGA end schoolyear 2024			
	Boys	Girls	Total
Nurseries	16	12	28
Primary 1&2	10	18	28
Primary 3&4	12	13	25
Primary 5&6	13	4	17
	51	47	98

The school building (In fact an unfinished house) starts looking like a school and the enthusiasm of pupils, teachers and parents is heartwarming. Extracurricular lessons on Saturday are given and sessions for the day of the African child and International Women’s Day have taken place in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affair.

Frances Sesay, who is also member of the NGA schoolboard manages the project for the NGA and reports on progress to the WOPI Board.



School furniture for the NGA

School feeding



## WOPI beneficiaries in Waterloo and Freetown

- In Waterloo/Freetown the set-up is different from the NGA: the WOPI beneficiaries are attending 7 different schools. Moreover, we are supporting some of our beneficiaries during Secondary School.
- In Freetown 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.
- In 2023, 27 beneficiaries were reached by the WOPI program in the Freetown/Waterloo area. During the visit of **Florence Sesay** all children received school bags and school materials. 11 of them have been participants in the program for 4 years, 9 are visiting secondary school.

Beneficiaries WOPI Freetown/Waterloo 2023-2024			
Class	Gender		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Primary 1	1	2	3
Primary 2	1	1	2
Primary 3	4	1	5
Primary 4	2	1	3
Primary 5	3	2	5
Secondary 1	1		1
Secondary 2		1	1
Secondary 3	1		1
Secondary 4		1	1
Secondary 5		3	3
Secondary 6		2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>

Long term volunteer for WOPI **Mohamed Kargbo** supervises the beneficiaries and provides mentoring and coaching to prevent drop-out. He is the Sierra Leonian driving force for this part of the program.



Florence and Waterloo WOPI beneficiaries



## Fund raising activities in the Netherlands

### *Florinah's charity dinner*

In March 2023 Florence organised a charity dinner with successful raffle as we did before the COVID period. The result was very positive. Over 50 persons attended and a total of €2.725,- was added to the WOPI funds.

### *Private gifts*

Small social media campaigns and personal gifts brought in a total of €1.480,- in donations.

## WOPI achieves ANBI status

On the 3d of May 2023 WOPI adopted new articles of association and Chamber of Commerce registration. Based on this the Tax authorities awarded the ANBI status to WOPI as of 1-1-2023. This is a major step forward.

In Sierra Leone the WOPI annual certificate of Registration (certificate number 6845) as community-based organization was extended.



Fundraising diner 25th of March 2023



## Board and Key Members WOPI in NL and Sierra Leone in 2023

### ***Chairman Florence Sesay***

Being rooted in Sierra Leone our chairman Florence knows the local situation in Sierra Leone. As a professional in hospitality management, she worked in the UK, the USA and is currently working in the Netherlands. Florence started WOPI in 2014 and registered the foundation in the Netherlands in 2018, guiding it through the Covid 19 period. In October 2023 Florence visited again all beneficiaries in the Freetown/Waterloo area. During her visit she kick started the Contribute funded project at the New Generation Academy.

### ***Secretary Willem Meulenbeld***

Having worked in Africa, Willem has experience with developmental aid. At the same time Willem worked at larger commercial organisations in international settings. Willem joined WOPI in 2022 and looks forward to strengthening 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. Alise has travelled extensively, and she wants to contribute to some basic health care and other activities. In fact, in the meantime, Alise has also visited Sierra Leone and the New Generation Academy as well! Further information on her visit can be found on the website.

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 children 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. Pastor Mohammed joined the NGA board and is sharing his experience in motivating parents and teachers to jointly stimulate attendance.

### ***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. Frances also manages the increased weekly and extra-curricular activities at the NGA. As mentioned above Frances is also member of the schoolboard of the NGA.



*Teacher's training on hygiene*



*Alise & Frances*





# Financials 2023

## *Introduction*

This part of the annual report provides an overview of the financial performance and position of Women of Potential International for the fiscal year ending on 31st December 2023. The financial statements, including the Income Statement and Balance Sheet, are prepared to present a clear view of the organization's financial health and activities during the year. The results and balance sheet for WOPI as deposited at the KVK for 2023 can be found on the next pages.

## *Income Statement*

The Income Statement outlines the various sources of income and categories of expenses for the past year. The organization received income from several sources, including donations, fundraising events, subsidies, and sales of lottery tickets and prizes. The most significant source of income was the subsidy of Contribute, followed by entry fees from the fundraising dinner. The total income for the year reflected a positive financial influx.

On the expense side, the organization incurred costs in several areas. These include bank charges, purchases, and significant expenditures related to its activities in Sierra Leone. The costs for Sierra Leone covered school materials and uniforms, school feeding, transport, a renewal of the foundation's certificate in Sierra Leone, teaching support for the extra Saturday classes, expense reimbursements for the WOPI volunteers, and other miscellaneous costs. Additionally, there were expenses for outsourced work, the largest costs being the notary. The total expenses for the year were managed effectively, resulting in a net profit for the organization.

## *Balance Sheet*

The Balance Sheet provides a snapshot of the organization's financial position as of 31st December 2023. The organization did not hold any fixed assets during the year. The liquid assets, which include funds held in current and savings accounts, were the primary component of the organization's assets.

The equity section reflects the organization's net worth, encompassing the accumulated profits over the years. The organization had no significant liabilities, indicating a solid financial standing with no outstanding debts or payables.

## *Conclusion*

The financial statements for Women of Potential International for the year ending 31st December 2023 show a profitable year. The organization has effectively managed its funds, ensuring that the overwhelming portion of its income is directed towards its mission in Sierra Leone. The balance sheet reflects a strong liquidity position, indicating prudent financial management.

## *Recommendations for 2024*

- Continue focusing on efficient fund management to ensure maximum impact in Sierra Leone.
- Maintain transparency and detailed documentation for all expenses to support financial integrity.



## Income statement 2023

Results	31/12/2023	
	Debit	Credit
<b>Income</b>		
Opening balance		€ 1.847
Donations		€ 1.480
Fundraising dinner revenue		€ 2.690
Interest		€ -
Sponsorship		€ -
Subsidy		€ 6.121
Sales		€ 837
Incomes from previous years		€ -
Unforeseen income		€ -
<b>Total income</b>		<b>€ 12.975</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
General expenses	€ 0	
Bank fees	€ 264	
Purchases	€ 300	
Transfers to Sierra Leone*	€ 5.768	
<i>*Materials</i>	€ 2.612	
<i>*Purchases</i>	€ 2.637	
<i>*Transport</i>	€ 123	
<i>*Certificate renewal</i>	€ 60	
<i>*Transfer fees</i>	€ 15	
<i>*Teaching support</i>	€ 125	
<i>*Expense reimbursement</i>	€ 150	
<i>*Other</i>	€ 46	
Venue Fundraising diner	€ 315	
Transportation	€ 1.000	
Outsourced work	€ 614	
Expenses from previous years	€ -	
Unforeseen expenses	€ -	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>€ 8.261</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 8.261</b>	<b>€ 12.975</b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>€ 4.714</b>	
<b>Loss</b>		



## Balance account 2023

		31/12/2023	
		Debit	Credit
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Inventory	€	-	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	€	-	
<b>Current assets</b>			
Accounts receivable	€	-	
Amounts receivable	€	-	
<b>Total current assets</b>	€	-	
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
ING current account	€	4.714	
ING savings account	€	-	
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	€	4.714	
<b>Equity</b>			
Equity		€	4.714
<b>Total equity</b>		€	4.714
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		€	-
Accrued expenses		€	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>		€	-
<b>Total</b>	€	4.714	€ 4.714

## WOPI in 2024

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report. Any advice, contribution and support remains welcome!

We would like to extend again a warm thank you to the Contribute board for its support in 2023-2024.

In short, the Board and Key members feel excited about 2023. We 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 with the following focus points.

- WOPI will explore opportunities for additional funding sources such as monthly donations, fundraising activities, sponsorships of children and partnerships.
- Recommendations on financial management and transparent reporting will be applied.
- Strengthen our relationship with the Contribute Foundation based on successfully executing and concluding the NGA project for the year 2023-2024, extending the project with sustainable development initiatives.

The board expects and hopes to strengthen its local activities in Sierra Leone to maximise sustainable development at grass root level to the benefit of under privileged children, orphans and WOPI beneficiaries as stated in its mission.

Florence

Sesay

Chairman

Alise

De Jong

Treasurer

Willem

Meutenbeld

Secretary

## Contact and social media

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Support Isatu, Alpha & others!

