



## Sustainable Development Application Form

Submitting Partner: Council of Church of Sierra Leone		<b>Date Submitted:</b> May 3, 2024	
Address: 4A King Harman Road, P. O. Box 404,	City: Freetown	Country: Sierra Leone	Zip Code:
Name of Contact: Mrs. Keziah Kargbo		Title: General Secretary	
Phone Number(s): +232 79871009		E-mail Address: councilofchurchesinsl@gmail.com	
Project Name, Local Partner, and Location: Empowering Women for Climate Resilience and Poverty Reduction, Council of Churches of Sierra Leone (CCSL), Tonkolili District, Magboroka and MaKontayKay			
Person at DOM responsible for and accountable for this project: Kahala Cannon, Global Relations Minister, Africa			
Partner's History/Relationship with the Project:			
<p>The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) founded in 1924 is an ecumenical organization that brings together over twenty-four churches from different denominations and nine affiliate organizations. As a church-driven network, CCSL places strong emphasis on democratic leadership, transparent governance, and inclusive participation of churches and their communities in their structures. The church leaders and staff structures have enabled broad cross-sections of the churches and their communities to participate in the identification, design, and management of community-based programs.</p> <p>At present, the CCSL serves about one million members and close to three million beneficiaries each year with potential to reach more by 2026. Most of these individuals are vulnerable and marginalized people from low-income families and communities. CCSL offers unique institutional development and program collaboration opportunities across national, religious, and ethnic boundaries. Through its programs and facilities, the council is in touch with member churches and communities daily. The council's programs have both a rural and urban presence thus ensuring it has a pulse on the country's entire population through its membership. This strategically positions the CCSL in the country.</p>			
<b>Description of Project</b>			
A brief description of the project (agricultural, health, water, micro-credit, education, community development, etc.):			
<p>This project will empower women in vulnerable communities to become agents of change in addressing climate change and reducing poverty. The project seeks to address the critical problems of climate vulnerability and poverty among women in rural communities in Sierra Leone. Women in rural areas, particularly those from low-income and marginalized communities, face a dual challenge of climate change impacts and poverty. This project addresses several issues related to the problem of climate change and poverty.</p> <p>Women are often more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change due to social and economic disparities including poverty and gender justice issues. They bear the brunt of extreme weather events, water scarcity, and crop failures leading to food insecurity and displacement. Women often lack access to education, training, and financial resources hindering their ability to adapt to climate change and pursue sustainable livelihoods. This perpetuates cycles of poverty and dependence. Women are underrepresented in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Their valuable insights and contributions are frequently overlooked, hindering effective solutions.</p> <p>Climate change disrupts traditional livelihoods, such as farming and fishing, affecting women's income and food security. Without alternative opportunities, they are trapped in a cycle of poverty. Many women in vulnerable communities lack awareness and understanding of climate change and its implications. This knowledge gap limits their ability to make informed decisions and adapt to changing conditions. There is a shortage of programs and support systems tailored to</p>			

empower women in climate-resilient entrepreneurship and leadership roles. This hampers their capacity to create sustainable solutions.

Addressing these issues is essential not only for gender equality but also for building resilient communities that can effectively respond to the challenges posed by climate change. This project seeks to empower women to become agents of change, driving climate adaptation and poverty reduction efforts in their communities.

Each of the components of the project will be implemented with a strong focus on training and capacity building. Training and capacity building will have direct and indirect economic benefits for the women and communities; it will also contribute to the project sustainability and scaling up. Training on farm practice and climate change adaptation will give women a better understanding of the climate change adaptation strategies available to them (for example, farm planning in terms of seasonal forecasting, planting crops which are flood and drought resistant). This will boost higher agricultural productivity and surplus production, together with improved livelihoods and food security. The project will be implemented taking into consideration the three components: agriculture, climate change education, and documentation and dissemination.

The project will be implemented in two communities in the Bombali District. Twenty-five women in each community will participate in agricultural activities. These women will be formed in groups of twenty-five. There will be a total number of two groups. One Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) will be hired to provide technical support. The AEO will work with cooperatives of small-scale farmers to introduce and increase the use of climate-resilient crops and set up market linkages.

To ensure climate change education, a capacity building program will be designed and implemented from the outset of the project. Two community climate change champions (a male and female) will be selected in each of the four project sites. They will provide climate change education in their communities. They will also provide oversight role to community Eco-Clubs (ecology-Clubs). The third component, documentation and dissemination of information, will allow for the sharing of lessons learned within and between pilot communities as well as with Chiefdom and District officials, the Environment Protection Agency, and the Ministry of Agriculture. The case studies, as well as the various tools developed through the project, will be shared locally, nationally, and internationally through platforms provided.

Target Population (children, women, farmers, urban poor, etc.):

Women in vulnerable communities in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone, their families, and their communities.

How many persons are/will be served? (please give as specific a figure as possible)?

People directly affected by the project: 50 women in two communities (two groups of 25 women) and two Climate Change Champions (one male and one female) in each project site.

People indirectly affected: 1,000 family and community members of the project location – mainly through climate change education.

The project will empower women through agricultural activities to enable them to provide for their needs and children. Women are at higher risk of climate change variability. As a community led action, the project will target stakeholders through trainings and Training of Trainers (TOTs) and planned community engagement activities. We anticipate we will reach about 500 people.

Key Objectives:

**Objective 1:** To increase climate literacy among women and empower them to advocate for gender-responsive climate policies.

- Outcome: Increased climate resilience and reduced vulnerability among women.

**Objective 2:** Provide training and capacity-building programs to equip women with skills for climate-resilient livelihoods and improve access to financial resources and support mechanisms for entrepreneurship.

- Outcome: Growth of women-led climate-resilient businesses, income, and livelihoods for participating women.

**Objective 3:** To establish women-led climate action groups and initiate community projects.

- Outcome: Enhanced community awareness and action on climate change.

Key Activities:

**Objective 1**

- Identification of priority areas for action to effectively address climate change challenges
  - Hire and sign contract with consultant to conduct the needs assessment
  - Consult conducts needs assessment
  - Report, document, and validate report
  - Share the final assessment with donors and relevant stakeholders, especially women, to ensure their active participation in the project planning implementation
  - Implement the action plan
- Women and community members are education and are engaged in climate change education
  - Master trainer is contracted to provide training
  - Master trainer provides training for 50 (25 per community) women climate change champions. The training will include topics such as: Meaning of climate change, causes and impacts of climate change, prevention of climate change, and disaster management skills including basic first aid
  - Conduct community and congregational engagements through workshops, climate change impacts, and adaptation

**Objective 2**

- Women acquire new skills and knowledge for climate-resilient livelihood activities
  - Contract master trainer to provide training for small scale farmers to build their capacity in the use of climate-resilient agricultural practices.
  - Master trainer conducts workshops to train small scale women farmers on climate-resilient crop production. A total number of 50 women will be trained in the two communities. Each community will be organized into one group of 25 women farmers.
- Increased agricultural yields in climate-resilient crops, such as cassava cultivation, inland valley swamps rice cultivation, and vegetable gardening
  - In workshops, project officer works with small scale farmers to draw on the crop and climate models and traditional knowledge to develop farm plans. This will include:
    - Mapping agricultural areas
    - Planting and harvesting schedules
    - Development of seed production and storage systems of the identified crops
    - Identification of agricultural equipment such as hoe, garden forks, shovel, spade, watering machines, etc., and other inputs such as fertilizer and equipment.
    - Identification of agricultural equipment needs, including tractors, fencing requirements, and harvesting equipment, such as hand hoes and garden forks
  - Implement farm plans with the assistance of the project officer

**Objective 3**

- Women initiate women-led climate projects for advocacy activities
  - Develop and manage Eco-Clubs (community and congregational) to disseminate climate change adaptation and prevention messages
  - Develop and print climate change adaptation messages
  - Conduct community engagements through workshops, climate change impacts, and adaptation
  - Establish community Eco-Committees to monitor and manage activities that contribute to environment degradation

Duration of Project: June 2024 – June 2025

**Project Budget**

Total Budget: \$15,080

Amount Requested from Week of Compassion: \$10,000

Is this a one-time request or an on-going request? One-time

Is this specific proposal financially supported by ecumenical or outside partners? If so, what percentage does it cover for this project? No

Please list partners who are funding this project: N/A
Does this project/partner receive funding from UCC OGHS, if so how much? No
What is the overall percentage of fund requested that will be used for administration/overhead? 18%
Please attached a detailed, itemized budget and cost breakdown for the requested funds.
Dates and project names of previous proposal submissions: Fall of 2019 - Project Title: "Empowering Women through Savings and Credit."
How do you plan to monitor and evaluate the project and its objectives? Additionally, please provide a report back to Week of Compassion on the project. <i>(Please note that future funding is contingent upon reporting. In addition to reporting, please provide stories of transformation and photos.)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular assessment of project activities and impact.</li> <li>• Feedback mechanisms for participants.</li> <li>• External audits and reviews.</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring is a routine process for CCSL and covers all activities across operational areas. Specific M&amp;E guides and tools will be developed to allow routine tracking of implementation activities. All monitoring activities will be linked with the overall activity plan, considering on-the-spot checks and verifications.</p> <p>Evaluation will be conducted both internally and externally periodically. For this project, evaluations will be designed to occur at the start, mid, and end phases, with occasional impact evaluations, especially focusing on vulnerable communities/groups. Evaluation will be carried out through an internal review approach involving staff and key partners, organized for sharing and reflection. Evaluation results will be submitted to the Programs Committee of the Council and partners for advice and input regarding performance.</p>
If granted, is there a deadline by which to receive funding? No
If granted, please provide full information for how (wire transfer, check, etc.), where, and to whom funds should be sent:
Wire transfer to DOM/Global Ministries

**COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN SIERRA LEONE**

**Empowering Women for Climate Resilience and Poverty Reduction**

<i>Each amount is presented in USD and translated in the Leones value.</i>			
Expense Category	Total Project Budget	Expense Category Narrative	
Program Cost	Fx Rate 23.8	USD	SLL
<b>1</b>	<b>Objective 1: To increase climate literacy among women and empower them for to advocate for gender-responsive climate policies.</b>		
1.1	Needs Assessment and Community Engagement:	800	19,040.00
1.2	Climate Mitigation Education Workshops	1,800	42,840.00
1.3	Advocacy and Community Awareness	1,200	28,560.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Objective 2: Provide training and capacity-building programs to equip women with skills for climate-resilient livelihoods and improve access to financial resources and support mechanisms for entrepreneurship.</b>		
2.1	Building the capacity of small scale women farmers (workshops, training and meetings)	1,500	35,700
2.2	Agricultural Productivity for Climate Change & Livelihood Support (Survey, Clearing and Weeding)	500	11,900
2.3	Farming Equipments (Tools, machines, and seed production) for cassava cultivation, inland valley swamps rice cultivation, vegetable gardening	4,000	95,200
<b>3</b>	<b>Objective 3: To establish women-led climate action groups and initiate community projects</b>		
3.1	Support to women-led climate action initiatives	1,000	23,800

<b>COUNCIL OF CHURCES IN SIERRA LEONE</b>				
3.2	IEC materials	300	7,140	
	Sharing, capturing, documentations, sharing of knowledge, outputs & experience to influence policy development and advocacy			There will be a reflection workshop for each project year to capture outputs, lessons learnt which will be captured in publications and policy recommendations.
3.3		500	11,900	
<b>4</b>	<b>Core Staff</b>			
4.1	Project Officer	1,680	39,984.00	100% full time staff assigned to the project
	<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>13,280</b>	<b>316,064.00</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Administrative Cost</b>			
5.1	Fuel and vehicle maintenance	900	21,420.00	
5.2	Local travels	500	11,900.00	
5.3	Office supplies	400	9,520.00	
	<b>Total Indirect Cost</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>42,840.00</b>	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,080.00</b>	<b>358,904.00</b>	
	<b>Funding From Week of Compassion</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>		
	<b>Funding from CCSL and local community</b>	<b>5,080.00</b>		