SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PERSEVERE DESPITE COVID!

Last year, CODE supporters rallied in support of the Class of 2023 campaign to help us launch CODE’s inaugural scholarship program. As a result, 100 ambitious young women in Sierra Leone set off on a three-year journey toward becoming qualified primary school teachers and agents of change in their communities. One year on, it’s clear that nothing will get in the way of their success - not even a pandemic!

We are delighted to share that 99 of the 100 scholarship participants have passed their first year of teachers’ college! You can read the women’s personal reflections at: www.code.ngo/scholarships

The Class of 2023 scholarships support an urgent, and oftentimes overlooked, need to increase the number of young women pursuing careers in education. In Sierra Leone less than half of primary school teachers have any formal teaching qualification and only 29% of primary school teachers are women.

In a country that in recent years declared a state of emergency over rape and sexual assault, the presence of women teachers in schools is tremendously important and perhaps the single most effective way to create safe environments, promote gender equality, and provide mentorship to girl students. Thank you for making this project possible!

“...My current studies have added value to my life and being a scholarship beneficiary has given me a sense of importance and belonging that was lacking in my life since my parents died.”

-Yeanor, scholarship participant
According to the World Bank (2019), an estimated 53% of children in low and middle-income countries can't read proficiently by age 10. With your kind support, we strive to ensure that children are able to realize their right to read and have access to books they can see themselves in.

We are excited to share that we’ve just concluded distribution of 216,350 books developed by local authors and illustrators in Sierra Leone. These books focus on a variety of girls' empowerment themes and were developed for grades 4, 5 and 6 students. From experience, we know that books with fiction, non-fiction, and poetry pieces for children can be powerful and appropriate tools for sharing important knowledge around girls' rights and informing young people’s attitudes and habits.