



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

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Dedicated to Serve



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Sustainable Communities Network (SCN) stands as a beacon of hope within Sierra Leone, dedicated to fostering sustainable development and transformation. As a National Non-Governmental Organisation, our commitment lies in catalysing progress across the nation, one community at a time. Embracing the motto ‘dedicated to serve’, SCN endeavours to empower communities, ensuring their active participation in Sierra Leone's journey towards prosperity.

From its genesis, SCN embraced a deliberate strategy, choosing to work hand in hand with the Cole Farm community, nestled in the heart of Freetown's West End. With an unwavering focus on youth engagement and sustainable practices, Cole Farm epitomizes the ideal setting for SCN's vision to unfold. Despite its modest size, Cole Farm grapples with multifaceted challenges, from youth unemployment to environmental degradation, underscoring the urgency of sustainable interventions.

SCN's operational framework revolves around five key thematic areas: Sports, Health and the Environment, Digital Platforms, Entrepreneurship, and Culture and Arts. Recognizing the intricate web of factors shaping community development, SCN adopts a holistic approach, addressing diverse needs comprehensively.

1.2 ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

After careful consultation with key stakeholders, SCN's founding team has crafted the following strategic framework that serves as a guiding beacon outlining the principles and aspirations of the organization.

1.2.1 Motto

Dedicated to Serve

1.2.2 Mission

SCN's mission is to foster national development by creating functional and sustainable communities throughout Sierra Leone

1.2.3 Vision

SCN envisages networks of sustainable communities everywhere in Sierra Leone, catalysing the country's development and transformation.

1.2.4 Values

Our values that undergird the operations of SCN are **Collaboration, Accountability, innovativeness, and Progress.**

1.2.5 Aims and Objectives

SCN shall pursue a diverse range of objectives to ensure that communities contribute significantly to the development of Sierra Leone. The organisation shall aim to:

- Address challenges to social mobility by implementing interventions and advocating for systemic changes that create a society where individuals have equal opportunities to succeed and achieve their full potential regardless of their background or circumstances.
- Equip young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to unleash their potential in making constructive contributions towards the progress and sustainability of their communities while enabling them to discover significance and direction for their own lives.
- Facilitate the grounds for community members to become stakeholders of their communities by promoting active participation of all in community development, encouraging the contribution of local ideas and resources, and engendering a sense of community leadership and ownership.
- Work with the mutual support of and in collaboration with other NGOs, local and international communities, and the Sierra Leonean government to optimise the effectiveness of SCN's members in contributing to the development of Sierra Leone.
- Foster community development in Sierra Leone by promoting engagement and entrepreneurship that empowers individuals and communities to create forms of sustainable growth and progress, which benefit everyone in the community

1.3 CURRENT HIGHLIGHTS

Since its inception in April 2023, SCN has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis, marked by significant milestones:

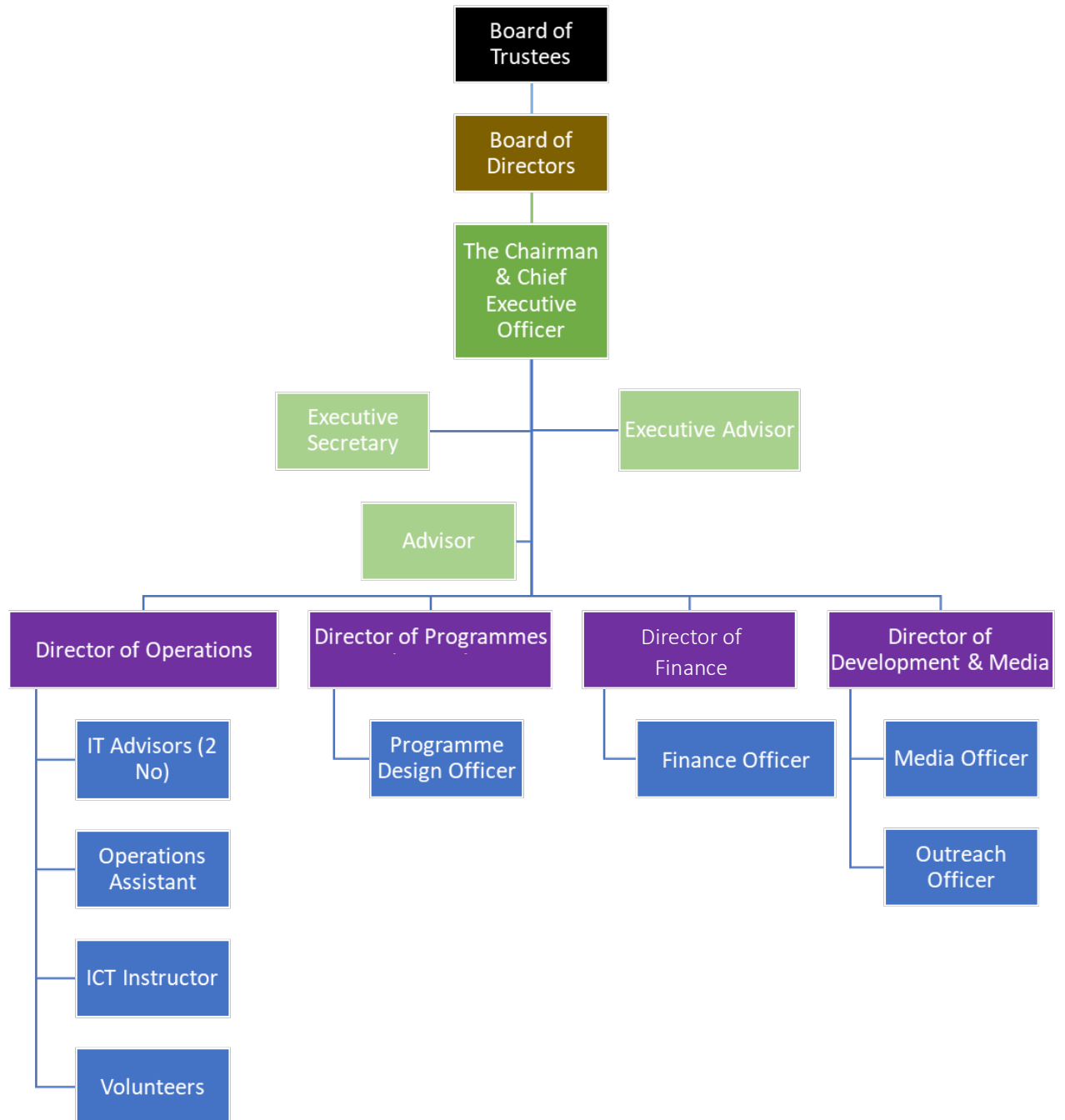
- *Recognition and Presence:* SCN has garnered commendable recognition both domestically and internationally, amplifying its influence across various sectors.
- *Community Engagement:* Collaborative efforts with the Cole Farm community have fostered cooperation, laying the foundation for impactful initiatives.
- *Dedicated Team:* A diverse team of volunteers has rallied behind SCN's cause, contributing expertise and passion to drive meaningful change.
- *Strategic Planning:* Together with the Cole Farm community, SCN has charted a comprehensive engagement plan for the upcoming years, ensuring sustained progress.

- *Infrastructure Development:* From establishing a functional office to enhancing operational efficiency, SCN has fortified its infrastructure to support burgeoning activities.
- *Transparency and Accountability:* Progress on the annual report signifies SCN's commitment to transparency, positioning it for continued growth and sustainability.
- *Digital Innovation:* The imminent launch of the Digital Platform Centre heralds a new era of connectivity and accessibility, promising transformative impact.
- *Financial Preparedness:* SCN's proactive approach to becoming grant-ready underscores its readiness to seize future funding opportunities, ensuring long-term viability.

1.4 INVITATION TO PARTNERSHIP

As SCN strides forward on its journey of empowerment and transformation, the path ahead brims with promise and possibility. By nurturing partnerships, embracing innovation, and remaining steadfast in its commitment to serve, SCN is poised to catalyse enduring change, enriching the fabric of Sierra Leone's communities. We therefore invite you to be a part of our journey towards a brighter and more sustainable future for communities across Sierra Leone. We believe that by working together, hand in hand, we can achieve this noble quest and make the country a better place for all its citizens.

2 THE SCN ORGANOGRAM



3 THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

3.1 SPORTS FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY & NETWORK (SSMN)

3.1.1 Preamble

One of the five tools SCN wants to use to engage the Cole farm community is sports. Sports can play a significant role in building sustainable communities by fostering social cohesion, promoting physical and mental well-being, and creating opportunities for personal and collective development. From our surveys, young people make up 51% of the entire population of Cole Farm. Generally, over 60% of the population of Cole Farm is between the ages of 25 – 47 years. The SSMN is a concept that has been uniquely designed for the Cole Farm Youth. It can be geared towards engaging the youths and young population in the transformation of themselves and their communities at large.

The idea is to develop and transform young people and their communities through sports and well-being, using an inclusive programme that practically addresses the needs of young people (boys and girls, men and women, able-body and the physically challenged) This also includes disability sports. To ensure a holistic and transformative impact through sports, the project also incorporates leadership training, skills for job opportunities, character building, health awareness, governance, education, community development, and sports coaching.

3.1.2 Aims of the SSMN

The following details the objectives of the SSMN:

- To backstop and complement programmes for the overall government policies of ‘The New Direction’ and ‘Direction for Prosperity’, the former focusing on changing mindsets and making opportunities available and the latter focusing on creating a sustainable economy in all communities across Sierra Leone. In addition, SCN will support the Government of Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan 2024-2030 (MTND)
- To help address the massive youth challenges in the country while developing sports from the grassroots level.
- To help render a massive boost for sports development and a constructive and sure way of developing sports from the community to the national level up to the international stage through the addition of the SCN's other development tools.
- To address the need for someone/organisation with the passion, commitment, drive, skills, knowledge, and experience to take the lead in supporting the Ministry of Sport and by extension, the Government.

- To enhance social mobility and network, community engagement, sports, and youth development.
- To express the need, desire, ability, and skills to deliver the National Sports Authority's (NSA's) seven Sustainable Development Goals.

3.1.3 The SSMN Method

- *Infrastructure development*: Establishing sports facilities such as arenas, and community sports centres to create spaces for individuals and groups to engage in various sports activities.
- *Grassroots programs*: Implementing grassroots sports programs at the community level to ensure access to sports for all age groups and abilities. These programmes can include sports clubs, leagues, tournaments, and training sessions.
- *Education and awareness*: Integrating sports-based education programmes that emphasize sustainable practices, such as environmental conservation, healthy lifestyles, and social responsibility, can help build awareness and develop sustainable habits among participants.
- *Collaboration and partnerships*: Collaborating with local organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies will enable pooling resources and expertise to support sports initiatives and ensure their long-term sustainability.

3.1.4 Tools for Driving SSMN

- *Sports equipment and facilities*: Adequate sports equipment and well-maintained facilities are essential for promoting sports participation and providing a safe and enjoyable experience.
- *Training and coaching*: Qualified coaches and trainers can provide guidance, skill development, and mentorship to participants, fostering personal growth and encouraging the adoption of sustainable values.
- *Technology*: Utilizing technology, such as sports analytics, fitness tracking devices, and virtual training platforms, can enhance performance, engagement, and data-driven decision-making in sports programmes.
- *Community engagement platforms*: Online platforms and social media can facilitate community engagement, communication, and coordination among participants, coaches, and organizers.

3.1.5 Advantages and Benefits

- *Health and well-being*: Regular sports participation improves physical fitness, mental well-being, and overall quality of life.
- *Social cohesion*: Sports bring people together, fostering social bonds, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging within the community.

- *Skill development:* Sports teach important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, discipline, resilience, and goal setting.
- *Personal growth:* Engaging in sports activities provides opportunities for personal growth, boosting self-confidence, self-esteem, and personal development.
- *Economic development:* Sports events and facilities can attract tourism, generate economic activity, and create job opportunities within the community.
- *Accessibility:* Sports can be adapted to cater to diverse abilities, ages, and genders, ensuring inclusivity and equal participation.
- *Scalability:* Sports programs can be scaled up or down based on the community's needs, making them adaptable to different sizes and demographics.
- *Community pride:* Successful sports programmes and events instil a sense of pride and unity within the community, enhancing its reputation and identity.
- *The inherent positive values of sports are* respect, self-esteem, discipline, confidence, awareness of others, teamwork, problem-solving, leadership, role model, fair play, and citizenship.

3.1.6 Potential Outcomes

- *Enhanced community cohesion:* Sports promote social interaction, bridge cultural divides, and create a shared sense of community spirit.
- *Improved health outcomes:* Regular sports participation contributes to reduced rates of chronic diseases, improved mental health, and increased overall well-being within the community.
- *Sustainable behaviour adoption:* Sports-based education and awareness initiatives can drive behaviour change and promote sustainable practices within the community, leading to long-term environmental and social benefits.
- *Talent development and opportunities:* Sports programs can identify and nurture talented individuals, providing them with opportunities for professional development and representing their community at regional, national, and international levels.
- *Community empowerment:* Engaging in sports empowers individuals, giving them a sense of agency, ownership, and responsibility for their own development and the betterment of their community.

3.1.7 The Way Forward

- Collaborative Partnerships
- Long-Term sustainable investment
- Empowerment and Capacity Building
- Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation
- Inclusivity in decision-making
- Develop and invest in the vision on a cross-government basis.
- 7.Understand the opportunities and challenges.

- Identify options for implementation.
- Support funding applications.
- Confirm how outcomes will be measured.

3.1.8 Conclusion

- By SCN supporting and working with the Cole Farm community, both parties can foster innovation, and achieve sustainable development goals effectively.
- This collaboration between the Cole Farm community and SCN can lead to positive outcomes such as improved quality of life, increased participation in sports, improved education outcomes, improved performance in sports, social inclusion, economic growth, and overall community well-being.
- By utilizing sports as a catalyst, the Cole Farm community can foster sustainable practices, promote well-being, and build stronger social ties, ultimately creating a positive and thriving environment for all residents.

Sports has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sports can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers.

–Nelson Mandela



Figure 1. Meetings with a cross-section of the Cole Farm Community.



Figure 2 Planning meeting and the issuance of certificates of appreciation.

3.2 HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

3.2.1 Preamble

Health and environment is one of the five tools SCN intends to use to transform the lives of young people in the Cole Farm community and make it a sustainable community. In doing so, SCN will focus on integrated health and environmental initiatives.

By combining health and environmental initiatives, SCN could create a holistic and sustainable transformation in the Cole Farm community, fostering a healthier, more resilient, and economically empowered population. Regular community engagement, monitoring, and adaptation of strategies based on community feedback will be essential for long-term success. Here are specific strategies and potential benefits:

3.2.2 The Principles

- *Community Engagement*
 - Involve the community in decision-making processes.
 - Conduct needs assessments to understand specific health and environmental challenges.
- *Holistic Approach*
 - Address health and environmental issues simultaneously for a holistic impact.
 - Consider social, economic, and cultural aspects in programme design.
- *Capacity Building*
 - Empower community members with knowledge and skills for sustainable practices.
 - Create awareness and where possible, provide training on health education, waste management, and environmental conservation.
 - Empower the community through education and skill development.
 - Build local leadership to sustain initiatives beyond SCN's involvement.
- *Partnerships*
 - Collaborate with local government, NGOs, and businesses to enhance resources and support.
 - Form partnerships to access funding, expertise, and wider networks.
- *Sustainability*
 - Focus on long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.
 - Implement initiatives that the community can maintain independently.
- *Community Resilience*
 - Strengthened community bonds and resilience against future challenges.
 - Sustainable practices that lead to long-term benefits.
- *Local Economic Development*
 - Creation of job opportunities through environmental and agricultural initiatives.
 - Economic empowerment leads to poverty reduction.

3.2.3 Methods

- *Health Education Programs*
 - Conduct workshops on hygiene, nutrition, and preventive healthcare.
 - Partner with existing facilities for regular check-ups.
- *Environmental Conservation Initiatives*
 - Implement solid waste management programs, including recycling and composting.
 - Promote tree planting, sustainable agriculture, and water conservation practices.
- *Health Initiatives*
 - Health Education and Awareness
 - Conduct regular health education workshops to raise awareness about preventive healthcare, nutrition, and hygiene.
 - Empower young people with knowledge about common health issues and disease prevention.
- *Skill Development*
 - Offer vocational training in environmentally friendly industries (e.g., sustainable gardening).
 - Foster entrepreneurship among young people for sustainable businesses.
- *Infrastructure Development*
 - Improve access to potable water and sanitation facilities.
 - Develop green spaces and recreational areas for community well-being.
- *Youth Empowerment*
 - Provide vocational training programs for employability.
 - Create youth-led projects related to health and environmental sustainability.
 - Foster entrepreneurship and income-generating activities.

3.2.4 Implementation

- *Baseline Assessment*
 - Begin with a comprehensive assessment of health and environmental conditions in the community.
- *Community Workshops*
 - Conduct workshops to sensitize and raise awareness about health and environmental issues.
 - Gather community input to tailor interventions to their specific needs.
- *Needs Assessment*
 - Conduct a thorough assessment to identify specific health and environmental challenges.
 - Engage with community members through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.
- *Action Planning*
 - Develop a comprehensive action plan with clear objectives and timelines.

- Prioritize initiatives based on urgency and impact.
- *Community Workshops*
 - Conduct workshops to educate the community about the benefits of health and environmental initiatives.
 - Seek feedback and incorporate local knowledge into planning.
- *Pilot Projects*
 - Start small-scale initiatives to test the feasibility and acceptance of proposed solutions.
 - Adjust strategies based on feedback and results from pilot projects.
- *Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation*
 - Establish monitoring mechanisms to track progress and adapt strategies accordingly.
 - Involve the community in ongoing evaluations to ensure their needs are met.
- Implementing these strategic principles and methods in a collaborative and community-centred manner can contribute to the transformation of the Cole Farm community, fostering sustainable development and improving the lives of its young people. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be crucial to measure progress and make necessary adjustments to the initiatives.

3.2.5 Potential Benefits

- *Improved Health Outcomes*
 - Reduced prevalence of diseases through health education.
 - Improved healthcare access.
- *Environmental Sustainability*
 - Cleaner and safer environment through solid waste reduction, conservation, and sustainable practices.
- *Empowered Youth*
 - Enhanced skills and knowledge leading to increased employability and entrepreneurship.
- *Community Cohesion*: Strengthened community ties through collaborative efforts towards shared goals.
- *Economic Growth*: Sustainable practices may lead to economic opportunities, such as eco-tourism or green businesses.
- *Improved Health*
 - Reduction in the prevalence of diseases and improved overall health.
 - Increased life expectancy and quality of life.
- *Sustainability*
 - Cleaner and safer living environment.
 - Enhanced biodiversity and natural resource conservation.
- *Empowered Youth*

- Increased employability and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Youth actively contributing to community development.
- *Youth-Led Environmental Projects*
 - Encourages young people to take the lead in environmental initiatives.
 - Support for youth-led projects such as tree planting, environmental awareness campaigns, or sustainable energy projects.
- *Skills Training for Sustainable Jobs*
 - Equips young people with skills that align with both health and environmental goals.

3.2.6 Conclusion

SCN shall strategically start with small-scale pilot programmes to test the feasibility and effectiveness of initiatives and adjust strategies based on lessons learned during the pilot phase. The success of any SCN initiative will rely on active community participation, ongoing education, and adaptability to the evolving needs of the Cole Farm community. Regularly reassessing and adjusting strategies will contribute to long-term success.



Figure 3: Cleaning Exercise (a)



Figure 4: Cleaning Exercise (b)

3.3 YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME (YEP)

3.3.1 Preamble

Unemployment rates among the youths in Sierra Leone are alarmingly high. The Sustainable Communities Network (SCN) has recognised this urgent problem and has launched the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme (YEP) to address it. As one of SCN's key thematic areas of focus, the YEP aims to tap into the potential of Sierra Leone's vibrant youths to empower them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become successful entrepreneurs and business leaders. The programme offers a comprehensive curriculum that covers all aspects of developing and launching a successful business venture and is designed to create job opportunities, foster innovation, and drive economic growth in the country. Furthermore, participants will receive mentorship and guidance from experienced business leaders and entrepreneurs who can help them navigate the challenges of starting their businesses. The ultimate objective is to motivate and empower a new generation of dynamic entrepreneurs and business leaders in various communities across Sierra Leone by providing them with the essential support and resources they need to pursue wealth creation. This will help unlock a brighter future for the country and make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of its citizens.

3.3.2 The YEP Rationale & Objectives

Youth entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone has the potential to drive economic growth and create jobs, but it faces several challenges. These include limited access to capital, poor infrastructure, market dominance by established businesses, and complex regulatory processes. Additionally, young entrepreneurs need mentorship and coaching to overcome skill gaps and lack of experience. To address these challenges, the YEP offers a comprehensive and robust curriculum that aims to fulfil the following objectives:

- Provide aspiring youth entrepreneurs with business leadership and management skills, financial literacy, and technology training to improve their chances of success and sustain their ventures.
- Establish mentorship and guidance that connects experienced business leaders with young entrepreneurs, providing valuable support for youths to build character, navigate challenges, and make informed decisions.
- Enable young entrepreneurs to access and generate the funding and resources needed to start and grow their businesses, providing links to financial support, mentorship, and networks of investors.
- Advocate for policies and infrastructure that facilitate innovation, fair competition, and transparent bureaucratic processes, while providing youths guidance and support services on regulatory compliance.

3.3.3 Approach and Strategic Focus

Given the objectives stated above, the YEP will focus on equipping young entrepreneurs with essential business skills, instilling a sense of social responsibility and community engagement, and empowering them through leadership training. Participants in this programme will also develop their character, and entrepreneurial mindset, and gain practical insights into entrepreneurship and business operations through hands-on experiences. The following lays out, in more detail, the YEP's areas of strategic focus for achieving its objectives:

- *Business Skills:* Our entrepreneurship and business programme focuses on honing essential business skills, including market research, financial management, marketing strategies, and business plan development. Participants gain practical know-how to turn ideas into successful ventures.
- *Citizen Engagement:* In our program, we instil a sense of social responsibility and community engagement. Young entrepreneurs are encouraged to develop businesses that positively impact society, fostering a culture of giving back and making a difference.
- *Leadership Development:* Aspiring entrepreneurs are empowered with leadership training, fostering effective decision-making, problem-solving, and team management skills. Our programme moulds future leaders capable of guiding their businesses to success.
- *Character Building:* Character-building forms a cornerstone of our curriculum, promoting ethical practices, integrity, and responsible entrepreneurship. Participants develop a strong foundation for ethical decision-making in their business ventures.
- *Entrepreneurial Traits:* We nurture the entrepreneurial mindset, emphasizing traits such as creativity, resilience, adaptability, and risk-taking. Participants learn to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and innovation.
- *Practical Experience:* Hands-on experiences are integral to our program. Participants engage in real-world business projects, simulations, and internships, gaining practical insights into entrepreneurship and business operations.

3.3.4 The SCN Brand Promise & the YEP Benefits

At SCN, we are committed to providing a truly transformative learning experience that empowers leaders to drive the development of sustainable communities. As outlined in the second above, our entrepreneurship programme utilises interactive and engaging learning methods, practical skills, locally relevant case studies, and personalised mentorship from successful local entrepreneurs to enable each participant to develop the qualities necessary to make a lasting impact in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Here are some potential benefits that the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme offers to individual participants as well as the wider society in Sierra Leone:

- **Job Creation and Economic Growth:** By promoting entrepreneurship, the YEP provides young people with opportunities to create jobs for themselves and others, contributing to the local economy and reducing unemployment rates.
- **Skills Development and Empowerment:** The YEP also equips young people with valuable skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, leadership, and financial management, making them more employable and independent.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Young entrepreneurs have the potential to bring fresh perspectives, creativity, and innovative ideas to the table. By nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship, the YEP can help foster a thriving environment of innovative startups and businesses that can address local challenges and contribute to the overall development of Sierra Leone.
- **Community Development:** Successful youth-led businesses emerging from the YEP can have a positive impact on their communities through the provision of products or services that address community needs, leading to improved living standards and social development.
- **Social Impact and Sustainable Development:** By engaging in entrepreneurship, graduates from the YEP can drive positive social change and contribute to sustainable development goals. The training will help young entrepreneurs prioritise social and environmental concerns, leading to the possible emergence of social enterprises that tackle critical issues like poverty, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability.
- **Resilience and Risk-Taking:** The YEP will inspire resilience and the willingness to take calculated risks in the face of challenges. In a country like Sierra Leone, where uncertainties are prevalent, developing these attributes among youth can lead to greater adaptability and a willingness to tackle obstacles head-on.

3.3.5 Conclusion

The YEP is a plan that seeks to empower Sierra Leone's teeming youths to become job creators and agents of economic growth in their country. By providing them with the necessary resources, knowledge, and skills, the programme aims to create a conducive environment for creativity and innovation, which is vital for the success of any business venture. In line with this vision, the programme sets clear objectives that guide its objectives. These include providing intending entrepreneurs with links to finance and markets, mentoring and coaching relationships, training and capacity-building, and networking opportunities. Through these initiatives, the programme seeks to equip young entrepreneurs with the necessary tools to overcome challenges and unlock their full potential. When fully activated and running, the YEP will raise a generation of job creators and innovators who will drive economic growth and development while fostering self-reliance that will help reduce Sierra Leone's dependence on foreign aid. ultimately, the success of the YEP will depend on the commitment of all stakeholders, including the

government, private sector, civil society, and development partners, to support and sustain it over the long term.



Figure 2: Tools manufactured in the Cole Farm Community and used for the cleaning exercise.

3.4 ARTS AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

3.4.1 Preamble

Throughout history, the arts have proven to be powerful catalysts for engaging youth in sustainable community development. As John F. Kennedy once eloquently stated, "If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him." Embracing this philosophy, the Sustainable Communities Network (SCN) has placed a strong emphasis on arts and culture as fundamental components for driving community transformation across Sierra Leone. In pursuit of this vision, the organization has introduced the Arts and Culture Development Programme (ACDP) to harness the influential force of artistic expression and creativity in addressing social issues, fostering social cohesion, and uplifting underserved communities. The ACDP is designed to provide Sierra Leonean youth with opportunities to explore their artistic talents and utilize them as instruments for positive change within their communities. Through this program, SCN aims to cultivate proactive changemakers within Sierra Leonean communities by nurturing creativity and offering a platform for self-expression. The initiative envisions engaging youth from all corners of Sierra Leone in sustainable community development through diverse art forms, thereby contributing significantly to the nation's cultural advancement.

3.4.2 The Programme Outline

- The Arts and Culture Development Programme is a comprehensive initiative that encompasses various art forms and activities. It focuses on six primary areas of artistic engagement:
- *Visual Arts*: This includes painting, drawing, sculpture, and other visual art forms. It also involves photography, printmaking, and mixed media art.
- *Performing Arts*: This category encompasses theatre performances, music concerts, dance events, and cultural exchanges.
- *Literary Arts*: This involves poetry, short fiction writing, and storytelling sessions. It also includes novel writing, creative non-fiction, and spoken word performances.
- *Advocacy & Cultural Art*: This area covers community art projects, art-based advocacy campaigns, mural painting, street art, and public art installations.
- *Digital & New Media Art*: This category focuses on utilizing digital technology and new media platforms to develop virtual art that includes short films and video art, interactive media, digital illustration, and storytelling online.
- *Art Therapy*: This area involves using art for communication, self-exploration, emotional expression, personal growth, sustainable living, and healing. It also includes group art therapy, expressive arts therapy, and art-based interventions for mental health.

3.4.3 The Programme Approach & Implementation

As part of SCN's commitment to promoting sustainable development and community building in Sierra Leone through arts and culture, the ACDP will be implemented using a multi-faceted approach that involves:

- *Educational Workshops and Programs*: Through the ACDP, SCN will organize workshops and programs that incorporate literary, creative, visual, and performing arts to teach youth about sustainability and social issues. For example, SCN could conduct storytelling sessions, poetry slams, or theatre workshops focused on sustainable practices and community development.
- *Community Arts Projects*: SCN will initiate community arts projects that involve young people in creating murals, sculptures, or other visual art pieces that convey messages related to sustainability and community development. These projects beautify public spaces while also spreading awareness about important issues.
- *Writing and Storytelling Competitions*: Organizing writing and storytelling competitions to encourage youth to express their ideas and visions for sustainable communities through literature and creative writing. The best entries will be published or showcased, bringing awareness to diverse community causes.
- *Theatre Performances*: SCN will collaborate with young artists to put on theatre performances that highlight sustainability challenges and solutions. These

performances will be used to raise awareness among community members and stakeholders.

- *Music and Dance Events:* Organizing music and dance events with themes related to sustainability will engage youth and the broader community in a fun and creative way. These events will also serve as fundraisers or platforms to share information about ongoing sustainable development projects.
- *Art-Based Advocacy Campaigns:* SCN will use creative arts to design advocacy campaigns centered around sustainable development goals. Youth will be encouraged to create posters, banners, or digital media content that spreads awareness and calls for action.
- *Cultural Exchanges:* SCN will facilitate cultural exchanges where young people from different communities or countries come together to share their artistic talents and learn from each other. These exchanges will foster a sense of global solidarity towards sustainability.
- *Sustainable Fashion Design:* SCN will organize workshops that teach youth about sustainable fashion and design. Young designers will be encouraged to create clothing and accessories using eco-friendly materials and techniques.
- *Digital Media and Storytelling:* With the prevalence of social media and digital platforms, SCN will help youth create digital content, such as videos or podcasts, to tell stories about sustainability efforts in their communities.
- *Art Therapy Sessions:* SCN will use arts as a form of therapy to help youth cope with stress and trauma, while also fostering a sense of community cohesion.

3.4.4 The Potential Impact of the ACDP

Impacts on Youth: The implementation of ACDP at scale has the potential to bring about a significant and sustained positive impact on both youth and communities. Below are some of its potential impacts in detail:

Youth Empowerment: The ACDP will empower youth to take on active roles in community development efforts, fostering a sense of agency and responsibility.

Creativity and Innovation: The ACDP will encourage creative thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling youth to come up with innovative solutions to sustainability challenges.

Social Awareness: With a focus on community sustainability, ACDP projects will help raise awareness about environmental and social issues among youth, inspiring them to become advocates for positive change.

Leadership Development: Involving youth in arts through the ACDP will develop leadership qualities, enhancing their capacity to mobilise others and lead community-driven sustainability projects.

- *Collaboration and Inclusivity:* The ACDP, through its various art projects, will help promote collaboration and inclusivity, encouraging youth to work together across diverse backgrounds and perspectives.
- **Impacts on Communities:**
- *Cultural Enrichment:* The artistic expression that the ACDP fosters will add vibrancy to communities, enriching their cultural identity and attracting visitors.
- *Social Cohesion:* The ACDP art projects will help bring communities together, fostering a sense of belonging and social cohesion around shared sustainability goals.
- *Environmental Awareness:* Arts produced by ACDP participants can serve as a powerful medium to raise awareness about environmental issues, inspiring communities to adopt sustainable practices.
- *Community Beautification:* The ACDP, through its various projects with community youths, will facilitate artistic installations and murals that can beautify public spaces, enhancing the overall aesthetics and pride of the community.
- *Sustainable Practices:* SCN is an ethical social venture and will therefore ACDP projects that incorporate recycled materials and eco-friendly techniques, thereby promoting sustainable living and resource conservation within communities.

3.4.5 Conclusion

SCN is employing the ACDP, with its wide-ranging but integrated art forms, as a powerful platform to engage with youth and promote sustainable development within communities. This encourages youth to engage with the arts and to utilise them as critical vehicles for building a sustainable future for themselves, their communities, and their country. This is why SCN is dedicated to working closely with national and community stakeholders who are passionate about building a cohesive and culturally vibrant Sierra Leone. Through the ACDP, the organization is utilising art-based approaches to promote sustainable development among youth, providing creative and engaging ways to raise awareness, share information, foster cultural understanding, and empower young people to become agents of change.

3.5 THE USE OF IT AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS (ITDP)

Sustainable Communities Network (SCN) is of the firm belief that the strategic use of information technology (IT) and digital platforms holds immense potential to effectively engage youth and foster sustainable communities.

SCN aims to engage youth positively and build sustainable communities by using IT and digital platforms because primarily, it can be highly beneficial to the organisation's operations and service delivery process and mechanisms. We consider the following as advantages and positive outcomes of using IT and digital platforms are huge to SCN:

3.5.1 Objectives

- *Digital Literacy:* Provide free basic computer classes to youth and adults, equipping them with essential digital skills for the modern age.
- *Access to Information:* Offer a platform for community members to access educational resources, job opportunities, health information, and government services online.
- *Empowerment:* Empower individuals and communities by promoting digital inclusion, enabling them to participate more effectively in socio-economic activities.
- *Community Development:* Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among community members, fostering a culture of innovation and collective problem-solving.

3.5.2 Components of the Digital Platform

- *Hardware Infrastructure:* The DPC is equipped with 14 desktop computers, ensuring access to digital resources for multiple users simultaneously.
- *Software and Curriculum:* SCN has developed a curriculum covering basic computer skills, internet usage, productivity software (e.g., MS Office), and introductory programming concepts.
- *Training and Support:* Provide technical support, guidance, and mentoring to participants, ensuring they make meaningful progress in their digital literacy journey.

3.5.3 Strategies for Implementation

- *Identify Community Needs:* Conduct comprehensive community assessments to understand the unique needs, challenges, and aspirations of the target population.
- *Select Appropriate Digital Tools:* Choose digital platforms and tools that align with the preferences, technological literacy, and accessibility requirements of the community members. This may include social media, community forums, mobile applications, or virtual meeting platforms.
- *Design Engaging Content:* Develop compelling multimedia content and interactive experiences tailored to the interests and preferences of the community, ensuring accessibility and cultural relevance.
- *Foster Two-Way Communication:* Create opportunities for dialogue, feedback, and collaboration between community members and stakeholders, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment.
- *Build Capacity:* Provide training and support to community members to enhance their digital literacy skills, enabling active participation and contribution to digital engagement initiatives.

3.5.4 Advantages of Using It and Digital Platforms

- *Increased Reach:* Digital platforms would enable SCN to reach a wider youth audience globally, transcending geographical boundaries.

- *Enhanced Engagement:* Interactive digital platforms such as social media, forums, and apps will facilitate two-way communication, encouraging active participation from youth in the Cole Farm community.
- *Cost-effectiveness:* IT tools will provide cost-effective solutions for SCN in organising events, disseminating information, and managing projects compared to traditional methods.
- *Data Collection and Analysis:* SCN will use digital platforms to facilitate the collection and analysis of data more efficiently, helping us understand youth needs, preferences, and behaviours better.
- *Education and Awareness:* SCN is on track to use IT tools to educate youth about social and environmental issues, empowering them to become informed advocates for sustainable development.
- *Collaboration and Networking:* SCN will use online platforms to foster collaboration between us, youth groups, and other stakeholders, facilitating knowledge sharing and resource pooling for community development projects.
- *Innovation and Creativity:* SCN shall use digital platforms to encourage innovative approaches to youth engagement, such as gamification, multimedia content, and virtual events, making the initiatives more appealing to the youth demographic.

3.5.5 Expected Outcomes

In using IT and digital platforms, SCN expects the following outcomes:

- *Empowered Youth:* Through digital engagement, the youth of Cole Farm can develop leadership skills, critical thinking abilities, and a sense of social responsibility, contributing to their personal growth and the sustainability of their communities.
- *Community Participation:* Increased youth involvement in Cole Farm community projects and decision-making processes that will lead to more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.
- *Amplified Impact:* Leveraging digital platforms will enable SCN to amplify the impact of its initiatives by mobilizing larger numbers of youth volunteers, supporters, and advocates.
- *Innovative Solutions:* The use of IT tools will empower SCN and youth to co-create innovative solutions to complex social and environmental challenges, fostering a culture of innovation within communities.
- *Long-term Sustainability:* By engaging youth in meaningful activities through digital platforms, SCN can cultivate a sense of ownership and commitment among the younger generation towards sustainable development goals, ensuring long-term sustainability.

3.5.6 Key Challenges

Even though the use of IT and digital platforms holds immense potential to effectively engage youth and foster sustainable communities, as an organisation, we do realise some of the fundamental challenges that we would need to pay attention to. Some of the key challenges are as follows:

- *Digital Divide:* Unequal access to technology and internet connectivity among youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds can exacerbate existing inequalities in participation.
- *Privacy and Security Concerns:* Collecting and managing the personal data of youth on digital platforms requires strict adherence to privacy regulations and robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive information.
- *Information Overload:* With the abundance of online content, engaging youth effectively amidst the sea of information can be challenging for SCN.
- *Digital Literacy:* Some youth may lack the necessary digital literacy skills to fully engage with online platforms, limiting their participation in digital initiatives.
- *Maintaining Engagement:* Sustaining youth and community engagement over time requires continuous effort from SCN to provide relevant and stimulating content, activities, and opportunities for involvement.
- *Digital Fatigue:* Excessive screen time and digital overload may lead to burnout and disengagement among youth, necessitating a balance between online and offline engagement strategies.
- Despite these challenges, and provided that SNC addresses them proactively and adapts approaches to the evolving digital landscape, the fact remains that the strategic use of information technology and digital platforms holds immense potential to effectively engage youth and foster sustainable communities.



Figure 6: SCN's Digital Platform Centre (DPC)

4 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

4.1 PREAMBLE

The Cole Farm community, situated in the West End of Freetown, with an estimated population of 8,450, faces infrastructural challenges and limited recreational space. Sustainable Communities Network (SCN) initiated a project to foster community cohesion and pride. This report details the implementation and outcomes of the Community Cleaning Exercise and Football Gala organized by SCN.

4.2 BACKGROUND TO THE CLEANING EXERCISE & FOOTBALL GALA

SCN recognized the potential of these events to promote community unity, health and pride. The objectives included organizing a community-wide cleaning exercise, conducting a friendly football match to encourage physical activity, raising awareness about the importance of exercise and community interaction, and fostering sustainable communities.

4.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE CLEANING & FOOTBALL GALA

- Organize a community-wide cleaning exercise to remove litter, graffiti, and debris.
- Conduct a friendly football match to encourage physical activity.
- Raise awareness about the importance of regular exercise.
- Create opportunities for residents to interact and build stronger relationships.
- Promote a sense of unity and pride in the community.
- Foster sustainable communities, especially among the youth.
- Raise awareness about the importance of a clean environment.
- Encourage youth involvement in community development.

4.4 SCOPE OF THE CLEANING

The cleaning exercise covered virtually every corner of Cole Farm and its environs, lasting from 7 AM to 1 PM, followed by the football gala from 4 PM to 6 PM. Human resources, hand tools, and financial contributions were utilized for successful implementation.



Figure 7: Cleaning exercise (c)

4.5 PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements include the promotion of a cohesive society, transformation of the community into a cleaner environment, motivation of youth participation in community development, and enhanced understanding of community ownership and the role residents play in maintaining peace and unity.



Figure 8: Presentation of certificates and football gala

4.6 PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

While successful overall, there was a deviation from the initial plan regarding certificate issuance, with community members recommending certificates to be issued to specific families instead of individuals.,

4.7 CONCLUSION

SCN successfully aligned its vision with the needs of the Cole Farm community, contributing to community betterment through sports, entrepreneurship, arts, culture, health, and environmental consciousness. The project emphasized the importance of sanitation and community cohesion.

5 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE PROJECT EVALUATION

5.1 Stakeholder Engagement

- **Objective:** To assess the level of involvement and collaboration between SCN and various stakeholders in the Cole Farm community.
- **Findings:** We have now been able to identify key stakeholders in the community. We have also established a sustainable mechanism to engage with them. The depth and quality of engagement with community members, local businesses, and governmental bodies within the community is encouraging. They agreed, in principle, to work with SCN to support the Cole Farm community.

5.2 Social Impact

- **Objective:** To evaluate the social changes and improvements brought about by SCN's initiatives.
- **Findings:** We observed **and documented an** increase in positive community participation, and positive changes in community cohesion, integration, and social mobility. We also identified improvements in awareness and understanding of community issues, especially about drug abuse.

5.3 Economic Impact:

- **Objective:** We examined the economic changes resulting from SCN's entrepreneurship initiatives.
- **Findings:** **There was evidence of** economic impact on local businesses involved in producing equipment, banners, T-shirts, etc. This created and increased the prospect and potential for changes in social mobility, social justice, employment rates, and income levels within the community.

5.4 Environmental Impact

- **Objective:** To analyse the environmental changes resulting from SCN's community cleaning initiatives.
- **Findings:** **Our analysis indicates that** the impact of the community-wide cleaning exercise on the environment underpinned not only one of the valued needs of the community, which is to create and live in a clean and healthy environment but that the cleaning activity also addresses the 17 sustainable development goal of the United Nation which member states should achieve by 2030. SCN together with the Cole Farm community has since put in place long-term sustainable practices for environmental conservation.

5.5 Health Impact:

- **Objective:** To evaluate the changes in community health resulting from SCN's cleaning and sports initiatives.
- **Findings:** There is now increased awareness and consciousness in the community about the need for improvements in community health resulting from the cleaning exercise due to the effectiveness of health-related initiatives introduced by SCN.

5.6 Impact on Culture and the Arts:

- **Objective:** To examine changes in cultural and artistic expression within the community.
- **Findings:** **With the involvement** of local artists and businesspeople in producing cultural materials, we identified positive changes in cultural awareness and appreciation among community members. This also underpinned the desire of local artists and businesspeople to address the needs for social mobility and social justice.

5.7 Cumulative Impact

- **Objective:** To summarize the combined effects of SCN's initiatives on the community.
- **Findings:** Overall SCN initiatives had the following cumulative impact on the Cole Farm community. An increase and positive participation of community members on matters about their community, increased participation of young people, increased enthusiasm for community engagement, awareness to be a community stakeholder, greater awareness and higher motivation among community members and stakeholders for the need to cooperate with SCN to create sustainable development in their community, improvement in community cohesion and integration, growth in social mobility and social justice, and increased awareness of drug abuse and crime. There was clear evidence in the synergies and interconnections between different thematic areas that explain the overall positive changes experienced by the community.

5.8 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:

- **Objective:** To identify potential risks and vulnerabilities resulting from SCN's initiatives.
- **Findings:** There was a clear indication, and in some cases, evidence of friction and competitive interest within the community that could have unintended negative consequences or risks associated with the implemented projects. To mitigate any negative impact and the potential breakdown of future projects and activities, SCN in collaboration with key community leaders and stakeholders, carried out an open and frank evaluation to address what went well and how things would have been done better. We also put in place strategies to for mitigating identified risks. One of the strategies was to have in place a continuous monitoring and evaluation process.

5.9 Cost-Benefit Assessment:

- **Objective:** To evaluate the costs incurred against the benefits gained from SCN's initiatives.
- **Findings:** Assessment of the cost-benefits and the financial investments made by SCN on the whole exercise and initiative, our financial records show that it was value for money. Key objectives were met, and the community and environmental impact assessment showed vital and significant benefits for both the Cole Farm community and SCN. Most importantly, the whole exercise set a blueprint for future engagement projects. However, we do recognise the fact that there is still a lot to learn about the allocation of funds in terms of prioritizing objectives and project activities.



Figure 3: Needs assessment survey in the Cole Farm Community

6 DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024/2027

No	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	PARTICIPANTS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
1	Ensure SCN continues to be a viable and progressive NGO in Sierra Leone.	Meeting all criteria for establishing and existing as an NGO in Sierra Leone.	2024 - 2026	The SCN team.	SCN been fully compliant with NGO requirements.	Receipt of NGO status certificate.
2	Develop, improve, and diversify SCN engagement activities with the Cole Farm community.	Implement SCN community engagement plan. Implement additional activities as may be necessary.	204-2026	The SCN team The Cole Farm Community	Increased, quality engagement. Increased participation. Increased community awareness on sustainability.	Additional engagement programmes and activities. Increase in participation in SCN activities by community members. Greater awareness on the need for sustainability.
3	Establish and expand the SCN network.	Engage with and form strategic partnerships with other NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, and other communities.	Ongoing	The SCN team	Expansion of SCN network and partners. Increased SCN capacity.	Increased SCN capability. Increased potential for expansion.

					Seek service level agreement with MDAs.			Formation of strategic partnerships and networks.	Better quality service delivery.
4	Actively seek funds for SCN activities and operation	Active applications for funds and grants. Proactive effort for partnership and collaborative work with other bodies and organisations.	Ongoing	The SCN team.		Recipient of funds and grants.		Quality service delivery. Increased operational capacity	
5	Build and develop SCN capacity.	Deliver more quality community engagement programmes. Increase SCN workforce capability. Provide quality and quantity pieces of office equipment.	Ongoing	The SCN team		SCN's ability to increase staff and volunteer numbers and adequately cater for them. SCN's capacity to build and deliver an overall qualitative and quantitative operational output.		Quality service delivery. Increased operational capacity	

6	Monitoring and evaluation exercise.	<p>Actions to ensure SCN is compliant.</p> <p>Deliver quality control exercises.</p> <p>Undertake evaluation exercises.</p>	Quarterly	SCN team	<p>SCN remains compliant.</p> <p>Guarantee that SCN is delivering relevant services.</p> <p>Assurance that SCN has the capacity and capability to achieve its vision and vision.</p>	<p>Compliance</p> <p>Capacity to deliver SCN objectives.</p> <p>Best practice.</p>
7	SCN to expand beyond Cole Farm and the shores of Sierra Leone.	<p>Build SCN's overall space and capacity to a very high level.</p> <p>Building SCN's potential, financial capacity, and workforce to enable the organisation to expand.</p> <p>Actively seek opportunities to expand.</p>	Ongoing	The SCN team	<p>Real-time expansion beyond Cole Farm and the shores of Sierra Leone.</p>	<p>Best practice around the management of SCN expansion activities.</p>

7 ACTIVITY PLAN 2024-2026

No	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	PERIOD	PARTICIPANTS	OUTCOMES	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS
1	SCN aspires to renew their register for a National Non-Governmental Organization status in Sierra Leone	Registration with Freetown City Council (FCC). Registration with SLANGO Opening of Bank Account Registration with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED)	April 2024– June 2024	Director of Operations and office volunteers.	Freetown City Council Registration Certificate Registration Certificate from SLANGO Bank Account opened Registration Certificate from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED)	National Non-Governmental Organization Certificate from MoPED Bank Account Name and Number assigned.
2	Build and transform the Cole Farm Community into a sustainable community to be proud to live and work in through a variety of engagement	Community engagement projects and programmes (SCN 5 engagement tools) designed to transform the Cole Farm community into a sustainable community.	February 2024 to July 2025.	SCN team and volunteers.	Transformation of Cole Farm into a sustainable community with high awareness and skills around community cohesion and integration, health, the environment, education, sports,	By using SCN's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategic framework.

	programmes and activities within SCN's five tools for engagement.				culture and the arts, entrepreneurship, and the use of digital platforms.	
4	Implement SCN's 5 strategic community engagement tools.	Sports, health and the environment, the use of digital platforms, art and culture, and entrepreneurship.	Ongoing from February 2024 to July 2025	SCN team and volunteers	Address health and environmental issues in the Cole Farm community. Address education and employability. Makes the Cole Farm community sustainable. Foster community cohesion and integration. Enhance social mobility and social justice.	By using SCN's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategic framework.
5	Establish and maintain contact and relationships with other NGOs, CSOs, MDAs, local	Keeping a constant line of communication	Ongoing from February 2024 to July 2025	SCN team and volunteers	Enhanced relationship with other bodies.	By using SCN's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategic framework.

	businesses, and the private sector.	Attending meetings and functions. Establish an MOU Establish partnership arrangements.			SCN becoming a more informed and connected organisation. Keeping a network of friends. Good public relations practice.	
6	Seek funding from internal and external sources.	A continuous search for funds. Establish a network with funding and donor partners. Make applications for funds.	Ongoing 2024 - 2025	SCN team and volunteers	SCN viability Build SCN capacity. SCN sustainability Enhance the potential of SCN	By using SCN's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategic framework.

8 FINANCIAL REPORT

COLE FARM COMMUNITY GALA AND CLEANING PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORT						
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT						
Date	EXPENDITURE	AMT Nle	AMT USD	INCOME	AMT Nle	AMT USD
	PAYMENTS:					
12/04/2023	Payment for one packet of 50piece of envelopes	100.00	4.40	Mr Samuel Koroma (Member Trustee Board)	1,000.00	44.01
06-Dec	Payment for minor repairs to the coal farm community.	300.00	13.20	Mr Gerry Magbity(Former Director of Development)(1,134+2,262)	3,396.00	149.45
12-Dec	Media coverage made to Freetown City council.	2,800.00	123.23	Dr Columba CEO & Chairman extra amount (media)(4,327.59+2,711.48+4500)	11,539.07	507.82
13/12/2023	Payment for forty pieces of local sweeping brooms	600.00	26.41	Mrs Ramatu Massaquoi (Member Trustee Board)	1,000.00	44.01
19/12/2023	Payment for fabrication of 1 banner frame	60.00	2.64	Mrs Inatoma comber (Member Trustee Board)	1,050.00	46.21
23/12/2023	For officiating the football gala.	400.00	17.60			
23/12/2023	Payment of rental of 4 sets of football jerseys for SCN	1,000.00	44.01			
23/12/2023	Media coverage paid to various media staffs by Dr Columba Blango	4,500.00	198.04	Mr Sylvester Blango Member(5,435.04+2,198.01)	7,633.05	335.92
	Total Payments	9,760.00	429.53	TOTAL INCOME	25,618.12	1,127.43
	PURCHASES:					
22/12/2023	Purchase of 50 Nose masks	500.00	22.00			
21/12/2023	Rope to hang banner	20.00	0.88			
22/12/2023	Purchase of cleaning tools for the cleaning exercise	3,180.00	139.95			
11-12/12/2023	Purchase of orange airtel to call and follow up on fund raising appeal letters.	200.00	8.80			
	Total Purchases	3,900.00	171.64			
	PRINTING:					
	Printing of SCN on flashers (lvs)	500.00	22.00			
19/12/2023	Cost for printing one banner by local artist for the cole farm activities.	350.00	15.40			
21/12/2023	Printing of 1 flex banners for SCN	650.00	28.61			
23-Dec	SCN T-shirts, invitation cards & certificates	6,150.00	270.66			
	Total Printing	7650	336.67			
	TRANSPORTATION:					
21/12/2023	Made to 7 SCN volunteers at Le 40 each	280.00	12.32			
21/12/2023	Transport To SCN Management Team member	50.00	2.20			
22/12/2023	Transport refund to SCN Management Board Member.	60.00	2.64			

23/12/2023	Five litres of fuel for the music set at the football field.	175.00	7.70			
23-Dec-23	Trasport & Lunch stipend to SCN Volunteers	350.00	15.40			
23-Dec-23	Transport to two SLP personel for security coverage	200.00	8.80			
23/12/2023	Tricycle service for rubbish collection cleaning exercise.	600.00	26.41			
29-Dec	Transport paid to councilor Ojumere Obalela and chair lady Miss Serah Bah after the meeting.	200.00	8.80			
	Total Transportation	1,915.00	84.28			
	TIPS/GENERAL:					
12/05/2023	Stipends to SCN volunteers (Alusine Bonga) for invitation card distribution for the football gala	80.00	3.52			
06-Dec-23	Bora/kola for the booking of the Cole Farm community field.	75.00	3.30			
12/11/2023	Stipend payment to SCN volunteer (Mohamed Maddia Conteh) for following up on appeal letters.	160.00	7.04			
13-Dec-23	Catering/Preparation of food and water for Cole Farm Youth for community cleaning exercise	1,500.00	66.01			
13/12/2023	Charges on orange money for Gerry Magbity pledge \$100	50.00	2.20			
13/12/2023	Casual labour to assist with offloading trophY, medal etc for Cole Farm (Fullah Boy)	40.00	1.76			
23-Dec-23	Rental of eighty chairs for SCN member	400.00	17.60			
23-Dec-23	Rental of musical set for the coal farm community field	700.00	30.81			
23/12/2023	Ten bundle of drinking water for 4 teams.	100.00	4.40			
23-Dec-23	Food preparation for SCN Team	1,500.00	66.01			
23/12/2023	SCN contributions to three winning trophies.	60.00	2.64			
27-Dec	Stiipend to Alusine Banya (SCN volunteer) for work done at the office	50.00	2.20			
	Total tips/General	4,715.00	207.50	Deficit (Difference)	2,321.88	102.18
	Total Expenditures	27940	1,229.61	Total Income	25,618.12	1,127.43
Total		27,940	1,229.61		27,940.00	1,229.61

NOTE:

The average rate at December 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.7226 and was calculated by the nearest 2 decimals.

The income balance b/f from the monthly contributions (Nle 4,049.27) is used to cover up for the total expenditure for the cleaning and Gala activities which is 4049.27 -2321.88= 1727.39

BALANCE B/F	4,049.27
DEFICIT	(2,321.88)
SURPLUS	1,727.39

DEFICIT occurs when the expenditure exceeds or greater than the income. while

SURPLUS occurs when the income exceeds or greater than the expenditure in an organization.

FINANCIAL REPORT ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 20/4/2023-31/12/2023

DATE	EXPENDITURE	AMT Nle	AMT USD	INCOME	AMT Nle	AMT USD
April/May 2023						
				Cash left behind by Dr Columba Blango Chairman & CEO \$200		
				Dr. Columba Blango also left behind GBP 250 and 200 GBP was exchanged equal to 5,500.	5,000	220.30
	First internet data purchase for Director of Programs.	200	8.81	Donation by Gerry Magbity	1,000	44.06
	Second internet data purchase for the Director of Programs.	200	8.81	First Donation sent by Sylvester Blango \$250	4,728	208.32
	Facilitation for FCC registration to FCC staff.	52	2.29	Second Donation sent by Sylvester Blango \$260	5,017	221.05
	Facilitation of TIN and Tax clearance certificate to NRA staff.	500	22.03			
	Facilitation to Team at Ministry of Youth for staff.	500	22.03			
	Facilitation to Team at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development for staff.	500	22.03			
	Facilitation to SLANGO staff for registration	100	4.41			
	SLANGO registration fee	3,309	145.80			
	MOPED registration fee	2,500	110.15			
	Purchase of 1Qcel mifi for Director of Programs	450	19.83			
	Purchase of 1 month mifi data package	400	17.62			

	Transport subsidy to Director of Operations and Director of Programs for May 2023.	2,400	105.75			
	Printing and photocopying of SCN documents.	200	8.81			
	Production of office stamp and stamp pad	90	3.97			
	Purchase of 1 Samsung 403 core Android phone for the Director of Programs.	2,700	118.96			
	cutting of two keys to main entrance door	80	3.52			
	Change of door lock on temporary office	450	19.83			
31/05/2023	total expenditure	14,631	644.65			
31/05/2023	surplus	1,114	49.08			
		15,745	693.73	Total income	15,745	693.73

June/July/August						
	Bought a GSM fixed wireless phone for the office.	1500	69.64	Bal b/f	1114	51.72
	Transport subsidy to Director of Operations and Director of Program(@1200 each for 3months)	7200	334.29	50 GBP was exchanged at the Bureau.	1435	66.62
	printing and photocopying of SCN documents.	500	23.21	Mr Gerry Magbity via orange money.	1000	46.43
	purchase of mifi data package for 3 month(@ 400 per month)	1200	55.71	Dr Columba Blango	6810	316.18
	Office garbage collection to Fullah Boy (@200 per month for 3 month).	600	27.86	Slyvester Blango	1890	87.75
	contribution towards office EDSA(@500 per month)	1500	69.64	Joseph Gbonda	2000	92.86
	total expenditure	12500	580.36			
31/8/2023	surplus	1,749	81.20			
		14,249	661.56	total Income	14249	661.56
Sep-23						
	Transport subsidy to the Director of Programs.	1,200	53.96	Balance b/f	1749	78.64
	contribution towards office EDSA	500	22.48	USD 100 from Sylvester Blango via Western Union.	2,059	92.58
	paid for office garbage collection(Fullah Boy)	200	8.99	USD 200 from Dr Columba Blango.	2,360	106.11
	payment for 1.5 litre honey fo office tea	140	6.29	USD 50 from Gerry Magbity via Orange money.	1,124	50.54
	transport subsidy to Director of Operation	1,200	53.96			
	top up for qcell wifi for Director of Program	600	26.98			

	paid for book(how to manage an NGO)	260	11.69				
	Hiring keke to conduct a tour grand cole farm	80	3.60				
	total expenditure	4,180	187.94				
30/9/2023	surplus	3,112	139.92				
		7,292	327.87	total income	7292	327.87	
Oct-23							
	Transport subsidy (Director of Program and Director of Operations @1200 each).	2,400	106.62	Balance b/f	3,112		138.26
	Contribution towards office EDSA.	500	22.21				
	paid for office garbage collection to Fullah boy.	200	8.89	Dr Columba Blango	2,630.53		116.87
	Paid for 3 books-How to manage an NGO (@250 each)	750	33.32	Slyvester Blango(usd100)	2,177.10		96.72
	Transport assistance to Ibrahim Jalloh(SCN volunteer driver) for cleaning exercise (football match).	100	4.44	Gerry Magbity (USD 50) via orange money.	1,134		50.38
	Purchase 2 Create Sierra bottled water (@ NLe45 each).	90	4.00				
10/04/2023	Transport subsidy paid to 7 SCN volunteers for attending meetings in the office(@ NLe40 each)	280	12.44				
	Transport and telephone call assistance given to Aloysious Aruna youth assistance in Cole Farm community stakeholders	100	4.44				
	Transport & launch paid to 2 volunteers(Suhainatu and Mohamed)to conduct mapping exercise for 2 days(cole farm)	200	8.89				
	Traditional kola given at initial meeting (cole farm community)	100	4.44				
	Payment of subscription for Qcell wifi	600	26.66				
	Hiring of Keke to locate(Welt Hunger Hilfe office)within cole farm community	50	2.22				
	Purchase of drinking water for the office(2 create of bottled and 5 bundles PKT)	130	5.78				
	total expenditure	5,500	244.35				
31/10/2023	surplus	3,553.63	157.88				
		9,053.63	402.22	Total income	9053.63	402.22	
Nov-23							
	Transportation for Director of Programs and Operations @ NLe1200each	2400	108.07	Balance b/f	3,553.63		160.02
	Contribution for office EDSA	500	22.51	GBP 100 from Dr columba by ria money (office operation)	2649.58		119.31
	Paid for office garbage collection to Fullah boy	200	9.01	usd 50 from Gerry Magbity(office operation)	1134		51.06
11/04/2023	Rental of 50 chairs @ Nle 3000each for meeting with Cole Farm community Youth.	150	6.75	Slyvester Blango(office operation)	2030		91.41

11/04/2023	Transport assistance to SCN volunteers(Abdulrahman Koroma) for attending meetings with Cole Farm Community Youth.	100	4.50			
11/04/2023	Contribution to food preparation for meeting with the youth of Cole Farm Community Youth.	500	22.51			
11/12/2023	Paid subscription for Qcell wifi for one month	600	27.02			
11/10/2023	Paid for 3 create bottle water @ Nle 40 each	120	5.40			
	Transport to AC technician for assessment of Office AC unit.	50	2.25			
14/11/2023	Paid for servicing Office AC unit .	250	11.26			
17/11/2023	Printing, photocopying, and envelopes for fund raising appeal letter(Cole Farm	336	15.13			
	Transport to photocopy SCN NGO registration certificate.	50	2.25			
17/11/2023	Transport and lunch to 2 SCN volunteers(Mohamed M Conteh and Abdulrahman) for distribution on fund raising appeal letters.	320	14.41			
21/11/2023	Additional transport and lunch to Mohamed and Abdulrahman(@ Nle 80 each)	160	7.20			
30/11/2023	Paid for 4 crates of bottled water @ NLe43 each	172	7.74			
	Printing and photocopying 2 copies of the EU 2023 Global Call for Purposal and transport =138+13	151	6.80			
30/11/2023	total expenditure	6059	272.83			
30/11/23	surplus	3,308.21	148.97			
		9,367.21	421.80	total income	9,367.21	421.80
Dec-23						
	Contribution for office EDSA	500	22.00	Balance b/f	3,308.21	145.59
	paid for office garbage collection to Fullah boy	200	8.80	GBP 100 from Dr Columba Blango(office operations)	2,700.05	118.83
	Transportation for Director of Programs and Director of Operations @ Nle 1200each	2,400	105.62	USD 50 from Gerry Magbity(office operations)	1,131	49.77
15/12/2023	Purchase of tissue paper for office use(2 boxes)	95	4.18	USD 100 from Slyvester Blango(office operations)	2,198.01	96.73
15/12/2023	Purchase of peak powdered milk(medium size)	140	6.16			
15/12/2023	Paid stipend to Vidal (SCN mgt team member) to cover lunch /transport	100	4.40			
15-19/12/2023	Payment of stipend to Alusine Banya(SCN volunteer) for work done in the office for 2 days.	240	10.56			
18/12/2023	Purchase 4 creates of drinking water(@NLe45 per create)	180	7.92			
18/12/2023	Paid subscription for Qcell wifi	600	26.41			
18/12/2023	Transport to and fro to renew the Qcell subscription(Alusine Banya).	20	0.88			

	Payment for logistics paid to Councilor Ojumere Obafela for data collection on Cole Farm Community.	313.00	13.77			
31/12/2023	Transport subsidy to Ibrahim Abubakar Kamara SCN MGT Team Member for attending a meeting at the office.	50.00	2.20			
31/12/2023	Paid for 1pkt screw 4 and workmanship (to strengthen SCN digital platform/computer room workstations made to Alhaji Sow aluminum works Technician	450	19.80			
	total expenditure	5288	232.72			
31/12/2023	suplus	4,049.27	178.20			
		9,337.27	410.92	Total Income	9,337.27	410.92

NOTES:

The Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) average rate at May 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.6961

The Bank of Sierra Leone average rate at August 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.6961

The Bank of Sierra Leone average rate at September 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.2407

The Bank of Sierra Leone average rate at October 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.5090

The Bank of Sierra Leone average rate at November 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.2079

The Bank of Sierra Leone average rate at December 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.7226

All USD conversions are calculated to the nearest 2 decimals

Financial Position for the year ended 31/12/2023

ASSET	Amount	Amount
Fixed asset	NLe	USD
Property Plant and Equipment (GBP725+GBP652+GBP3048+GBP1348= GBP5773)	142997.21	6293.17
office phone and office mifi (1500+450)	1950.00	85.82
Additional office Equipment(2700+3600+4200)	10500.00	462.10
total intangible asset	155447.21	6841.08
Current ASSET:		
Cash at bank(NLe500+ USD 200) Equivalent to 3,779.39	4279.39	188.33
total asset	159726.60	7029.42
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES:		
Surplus	1,729.39	76.11
loan(4500+142997.21+10500)	157,997.21	6953.31
Total equity and liabilities	159,726.60	7029.42

NOTES:

The total PPE amount results from the total cost of office equipment wherein we have the computers and laptops cost GBP 3,048, items for the Cole Farm project amounted to GBP652, office supplies GBP1,348 and the cost of shipment is GBP725 which total is GBP 5773 the exchange rate is 24.77 for GBP 1 as at December 2023.

The total current assets which totals are 4279.39 as a result of the cash at RCB which is NLe 500 and \$200 is equivalent to NLe 3,779.39.

The Equity amount that we have is a surplus from the income and expenditure account which is NLe 1729.39.

SCN also has a loan to cover which is NLe 4500 that the Chairman and CEO Dr. Columba paid out for media coverage for the Cole Farm Gala and cleaning activities. Dr. Columba said the amount he paid out for office equipment, Office Supplies, and Shipments is also a loan to the organization which amounts to a total loan of NLe 142997.21.

Dr Columba also bought some office equipment (TV set, Office carbinet, and Frige) locally atNLe 10,500).

The average rate at December 2023 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.7226 and was calculated by the nearest 2 decimals.

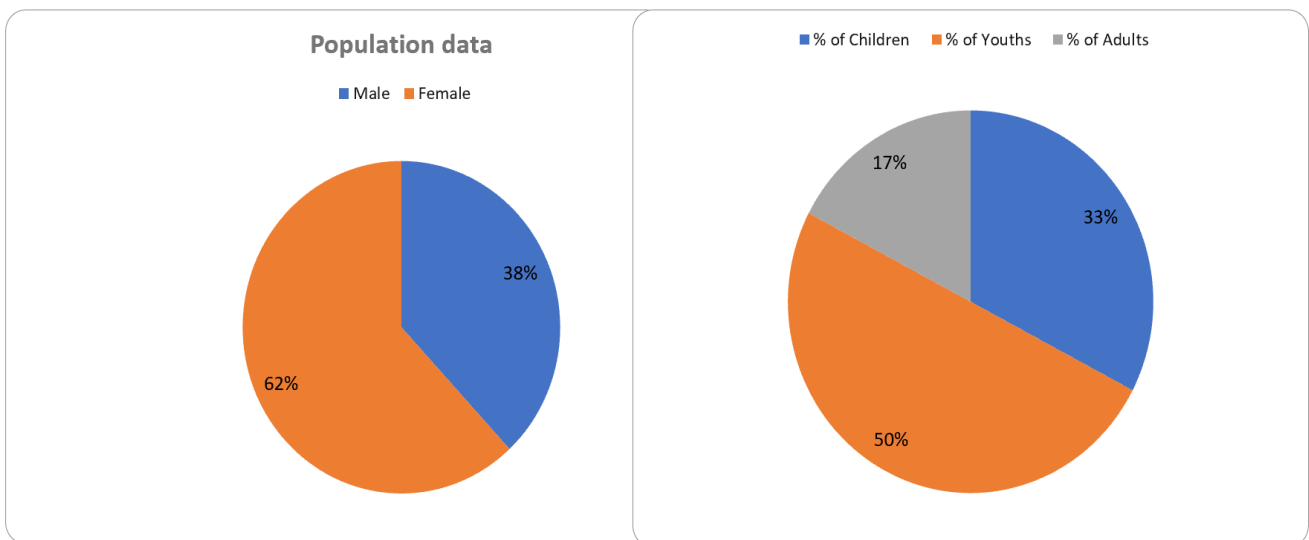
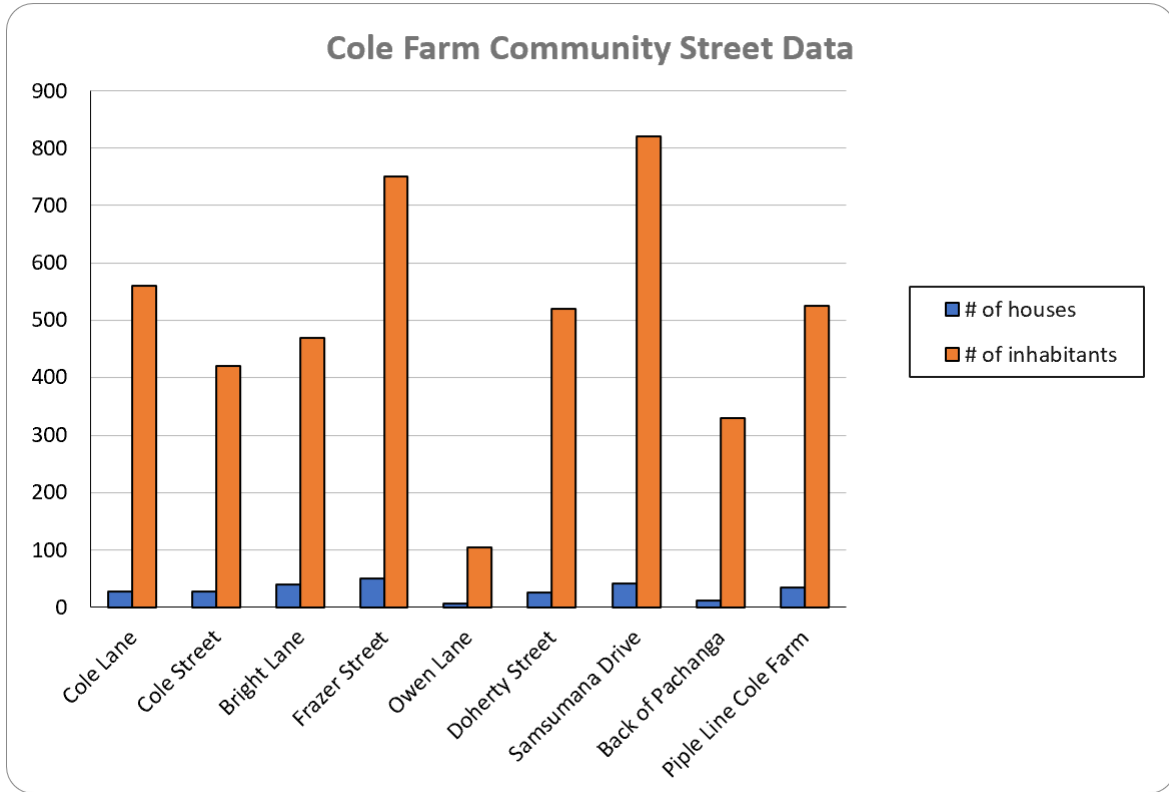
FINANCIAL REPORT ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1/1/2024-29/2/2024

DATE	EXPENDITURE	AMT Nle	AMT USD	DATE	INCOME	AMT Nle	AMT USD
Jan-24							
				31/12/2023	BALANCE B/F	1729.39	76.42
03/01/2024	Transport subsidy to Director of Operations.	1500	66.28	03/02/2024	Dr Columba Blango Chairman & CEO GBP 200	2,716.24	120.03
03/01/2024	Transport stipend to 3 SCN MGT Team Members 50 each	150	6.63	13/01/2024	Slyvester Blango \$250	2,203	97.35
10/01/2024	Transport stipend to 1 SCN MGT Team Member & one (1) 98.1 Radio Journalist Katherine Conteh for radio interview with SCN Director of Operations.	100	4.42	23/01/2024	Second Donation was sent by Dr Columba Blango Chairman & CEO (total GBP 200)	2,733.39	120.79
18/01/2024	one month subscription for K3 Telecom internet connection.	2349	103.80	25/01/2024	Second Donation was sent also by Sylvester Blango \$200	2,204	97.39
22/01/2024	Trasport subsidy to Vidal Lisk SCN MGT Team Member for 2 days work done at the SCN office.	200	8.84	25/01/2024	Gerry Magbity (USD 100)	2,300	101.63
26/01/2024	key cutting for Isha NLe 50 and Nle 20 transportation.	70	3.09				
29/01/2024	2 bundle of bottled water	84	3.71				
29/01/2024	Earpiece for Isha.	30	1.33				
31/01/2024	Stipend to Fullah Boy for cabbage collection.	200	8.84				
	Contribution towards EDSA top up .	500	22.09				
31/01/2024	Stipend to Isha for days worked in the office.	300	13.26				
	Total Expenditures	5483	242.29				
	Surplus	8,403	371.32				
		13,886	613.61		Total Income	13,886	613.61
31/01/2024	Balance C/D	8,403	371.32				
February							
				01/02/2024	Bal B/F	8,403	371.32
01/02/2024	50% Transport stipend to Vidal for February 2024.	600	26.60	08/02/2024	Mr Gerry Magbity via orange money.	2300	101.95
01/02/2024	Transport stipend to Hindolo Magbity	1200	53.19	09/02/2024	Dr Columba Blango GBP 200	5409.63	239.79
01/02/2024	Transport stipend to Bakarr AYV.	1200	53.19	09/02/2024	Dr Columba Blango (GBP 100)	2704.81	119.89

01/02/2024	Balance 50% transport stipend to Vidal Lisk for February 2024.	600	26.60	09/02/2024	Slyvester Blango	2753.19	122.04
02/02/2024	Transport stipend to Director of Operations	1,500	66.49	13/02/2024	Ahmed Kabba (GBP 40)	1057	46.85
5-02-2024	Payment of three bundle of drinking water @ 10 each	30	1.33	16/02/2024	Mrs Frances Blango GBP 20	539.11	23.90
07/02/2024	Printing of draft financial report for Review	23	1.02				
07/02/2024	Transport assistance to Aminata Kanu working on the financial report	20	0.89				
07/02/2024	Okada transport fare to Tom, Isha and Aminata to go print and print draft financial report for Review	15	0.66				
08/02/2024	Cost of new cylinder for main entrance door to the office	100	4.43				
08/02/2024	Tip to Fullah Boy for fixing of new cylinder to main entrance door lock.	10	0.44				
08/02/2024	Orange top up into Isha's phone to call SCN volunteers.	50	2.22				
08/02/2024	Lunch for Isha, Tom and Aminata for working on financial report.	180	7.98				
08/02/2024	Photocopying of needs assessment for SCN volunteers training (Isha)	75	3.32				
09/02/2024	Paid to print revised draft of the SCN financial report.	44	1.95				
09/02/2024	Transport + lunch stipend paid out to SCN Volunteers who attended the training session at the SCN office on the needs assessment questionnaire for the Cole Farm Community.	250	11.08				
	Paid for 4 creates of bottled water @ Nle 44 per create for office use.	172	7.62				
15/02/2024	Paid for 2 pcs Megaphones for Cole Farm Community use.	500	22.16				
15/02/2024	Trasport fare to orgnizing Secretary (Cole Farm Youth organization) to purchase the mega phone in town.	50	2.22				

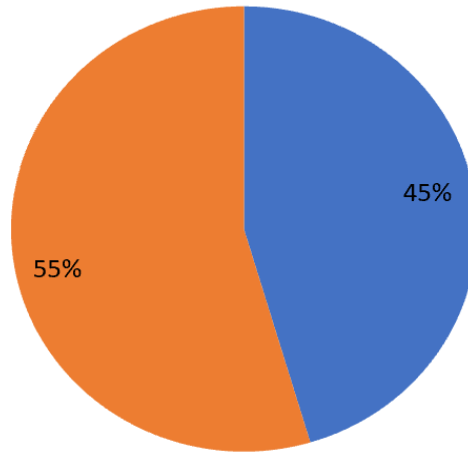
	Loan to Isha Sesay to be deducted from her February monthly stipend.	50	2.22			
16/02/2024	50% payment to Aminata Kanu for work done on preparing SCN financial reports, The Cole Farm Community Gala and cleaning exercise for the period April-December 2023.	1700	75.35			
26/02/2024	Paid for K3 Telecom internet connection subscription for one month(26/02/2024-28/03/2024.	2.336	0.10			
26/02/2024	Balance 50% payment to Aminata Kanu for work done on preparing the SCN financial reports	1700	75.35			
26/02/2024	Transport fare to Isha to go and pay for K3 Telecom internet connectivity.	30	1.33			
28/02/2024	Payment for toiletries and provision (2pkts sugar cube& 6 rolls toilet tissue and 4 pcs of hand facial/ tissue).	240	10.64			
28/02/2024	Payment for 7 creates of bottled water(Sierra) @Nle 45 per create.	315	13.96			
28/02/2024	Payment of transport stipend to Isha Sesay SCN full time volunteers.	1000	44.33			
29/02/2024	Contribution towards EDSA top up for the office for the month of February 2024.	500	22.16			
29/02/2024	Stipend to Fullah Boy for office clearing ad gabbage collection.	200	8.87			
29/02/2024	Total Expenditure	12,356	547.71	Total Income	23,167	1025.74
	surplus	10,810	478.03			
		23,167	1025.74		23,167	1025.74
	Balance C/D	10,810	478.03			
NOTE:						
The average rate of Bank of Sierra Leone(BSL) January 2024 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.63						
The average rate of Bank of Sierra Leone(BSL) February 2024 USD1 is equivalent to NLe22.56						

9 COLE FARM COMMUNITY DATA 2023



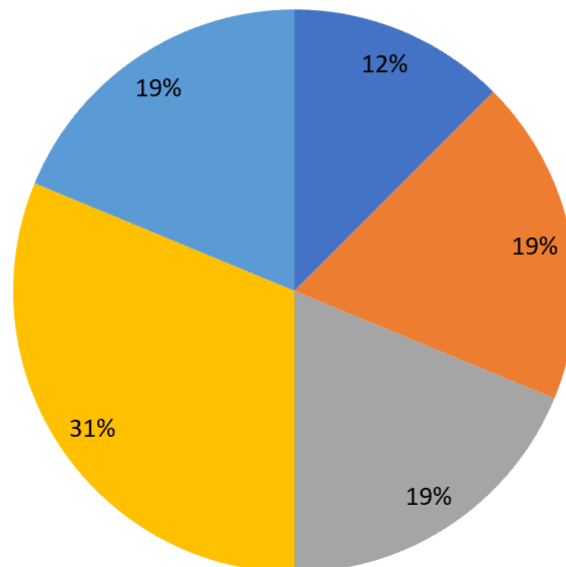
Unemployment rate

■ Number of Employed People ■ Number of Unemployed People

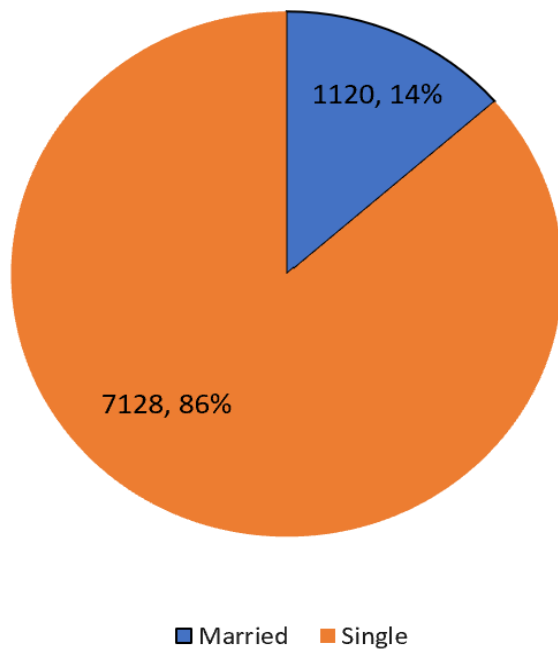


Community Amenities

■ Health Centers ■ Primary Schools ■ Secondary School ■ Churches ■ Mosques



MARITAL STATUS



Community Amenities

■ Health Centers ■ Primary Schools ■ Secondary School ■ Churches ■ Mosques

