



**Group Name:** Youth Movement for Sustainable Development Sierra Leone (YoMSuD-SL)

Youth Challenge Fund (YCF) Phase Two (2) Report.2023 Quartely report

**Group Lead/Project Coordinator**

**Project Title: Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) Among 600 adolescent girls in Falaba district.**

**Project Cycle: 2 Months**

**Project Completed.**

## **REPORT NARRATIVE 2**

**Please see next document for program activities and pictures**

**Check out our social media handles for program videos.**

**What have we done since receiving the funds fund:**

Purchase of project activity items/materials to fast-track the implementation

**Project Activities Implemented**

**Brief Introduction of the project communities**

Dembelia Sinkunia Chiefdom is located in the Northern part of Sierra Leone bordering the Republic of Guinea. Subsistence farming, cattle rearing, timber harvesting and backyard gardening are their major sources of livelihood, majority at 90% are Muslims and significant group of Christians. The population is made up of different ethnic groups such as Yalunka, Fullah, Limba and Kuranko. Their religious and cultural practices influence their social life and livelihood greatly this resulted to high teenage pregnancy, early child/forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) leaving young people in the communities more stranded especially the adolescent girls within the Chiefdom.

- 1. School authorities engagement meetings in five schools (two secondary schools and three primary schools) in the five project communities; Sinkunia, Bantantia, Jedia, Mannah & Gbindi Communities.**

The project targeted five community-based schools authorities by sending them visitation letters to each Headmaster and principal of the various schools, they are the decision makers and they influence the societies' religion, laws, norms, cultures and tradition that has greater impacts on the adolescents. They are among the major actors responsible for the increase or decrease in sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, early child marriage, violation of women and girls' rights, because



### **Who were involved**

School authorities which include headmasters, principals, deputy headmasters, deputy principals, school pupils, community-based service providers (CBSPs), and all senior, junior staff and all the pupils of each school.

From the 10th -15th of March 2023, a team of YoMSuD-SL visited each of the five community-based schools reaching out to the aforementioned school authorities in each community and had comprehensive engagements on the purpose of our School to school visitation and had successful meetings with school authorities and pupils to inform them on the repercussions of early and or unwanted pregnancy, early child/forced marriage, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) associated with Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights issues.

We first visited KG.D.E.C.Primary school Bantantia ,YoMSuD-SL team was welcomed by the school authorities and the Community Based Service Providers of Bantantia community including the stakeholders.The school to school visitation meeting was successful in Bantantia with majority of the school pupils and staff confirmed to work with YoMSuD-SL completely to end teenage pregnancy, early forced marriage and violations of women and girls' rights in their community.

Headmaster Alusine Kamara emphasized that girl child education has been one of the primary visit of many NGOs in their communities but the methods and approaches were a bit different from what YoMSuD-SL is doing. "We have been receiving a lots of organizations here for the same purpose but the energy and spirit from YoMSuD-SL team is exceptional,I can see that even on the faces and reactions of our staff and pupils because of that I assure you successful implementation and good result of the project especially in my school".

Mr.Abu Turay,senior teacher of the same school added that the information and messages of the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) are sometimes difficult to be accepted and digested by pupils and community members rooted from their strong cultural and religious practices.But I will confirm to you that with the language and familiarity you are using we the staff of this school will join you on your school to school sensitization to ensure that the message flows and being worked with in our communities.

The meeting ended where the headmaster assigned Teneba Bangura to us as the coordinator between YoMSuD-SL and the school for further communication and easy implementation in their school.

On the same day 10th March 2023,YoMSuD-SL team visited KG.D.E.C.Primary school Jedia.

We were as well welcomed by the headmaster in their staff room.The meeting started with opening prayers individually.YoMSuD-SL Project Cordinator,Mariama Bintu Sesay started with the purpose of our visitation which includes to inform the staff about ASRHR issues affecting the young people in their community especiaaly in schools,she added that early child marriage,teenage pregnancy ,sexual and gender based violence are some of the key detrimental factors that has been keeping women and girls in the kitchen and at backyards,so she requested a full support and cooperation from the school authorities to join hands on deck like the community stakeholders are already doing.

The headmaster Mr. Sorie I. Sesay considered the visit as a privilege and opportunity for not only the school pupils but then the teachers and community members because most of the community teachers has been victims of impregnating their own pupils,according headmaster Mr. Sorie I.Sesay cases like that



are not well treated since the whole community is a one family making it hard for stakeholders to support him bring the perpetrators to justice.

Senior staff Mr Mohamed Sawaneh lamented too that he believed one of the best ways of ending unwanted /teenage pregnancy, is for the young people including staff as well to increase their contraceptive acceptor rate. He further said, if they are using contraceptives such as condoms and pills with nurses or Community Based Service Providers guide, the level of even HIV, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) will be reduced too.

On the 13th March 2023, we went to KG.D.E.C. Primary school Mannah, where we met with the school authorities including the headmaster and his deputy headmaster.

We held the meeting in the headmaster's office where the meeting started with individual opening prayers.

Just after the opening prayers, Madam Mariama Bintu Sesay, YoMSuD-SL project coordinator introduced YoMSuD-SL team that were present and continued explaining our purpose of the visit.

She added that we are here to implement the second phase of the project Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) funded by Youth Challenge Fund through Plan International Sierra Leone. This is to inform school authorities and pupils their roles in the fight against ASRHR. We will be forming School Health Clubs in each school to ensure the continuity of the campaign even after the project deadline.

The Headmaster, Mr. Mahmud K. Mansaray was impressed to see indigenous members of their community part of the project implementation, because he believed that they know and understand the issues surrounding ASRHR in their communities and working with them will help solve the problems.

He further added that the entire staff and school are wholeheartedly ready to support the project in whatever ways they can. Because this has been the greatest factor undermining girl child education in this community, lots of factors surrounding the ASRHR issues are keeping girls away from school, when girls are in their menses they stay home, when they turned twelve (12) they forced them to marriage, sexual assaults are just few of the cases we as a school have been trying to solve but to no avail.

Mr. Abu Kamara added that if ever we are to succeed in this fight, then a lot needs to be done and the campaign must be a continued or sustainable process where communities will always hear the messages as a reminder just as their religious leaders are preaching to them everyday, so ASRHR messages should be if change is what you seek.

The meeting ended with closing prayers and they were informed about our next visitation to form school health clubs.

On the 14th of March 2023, we visited Ansarul Secondary School Gbindi.

We were received by the school authorities led by the principal in their staff room. The meeting started with opening prayers.



Mariama Bintu Sesay Project Coordinator started introducing the motive of the visit. She explained the importance of the project in the fight against women and girls violence, early child/forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and teenage pregnancy. She continued adding that it is the adolescent girls that are more vulnerable to the many damaging factors around ASRHR.

The Principal Mr. Mohamed Mansaray welcomed us as a team and affirmed that they will work with YoMSuD-SL and Plan International to ensure that project objectives are achieved and deliverable, and that they will be waiting for YoMSuD-SL in the formation and training of the school health clubs. Even after the project cycle we will enforce this group in our school to make sure that every pupil of this school benefit from this project.

Mr. Mansaray also added that YoMSuD-SL and Plan International have taken the best steps and approaches in ending ASRHR issues in communities because most at times people lack the knowledge and information about ASRHR and this is influencing the behaviors of the adolescent boys and girls.

The meeting was ended with closing individual prayers.

On the 15th of March 2023 we visited Government Secondary School, Sinkunia town. We were welcomed by both the two principals for Junior and Senior level respectively. We started the meeting in their staff room where majority of the staff attended because it was lunch hour.

The meeting was initiated with individual opening prayers. Just after that moment Mariama Bintu Sesay explained the purpose and importance of the visit. She continued to say that Sinkunia is having the highest early child/forced marriage, teenage pregnancy and STDs, SGBV even. If ever women and young people are to progress, developed and free from every form of violence school authorities has many roles to play as education has been a powerful tool in influencing others. We have come to explain to you our purpose of visit and importance of this project and to inform you of your roles and responsibilities in this project she added.

Principal Marrah extended his warm regards to the entire YoMSuD-SL team and Youth Challenge Fund and Plan International for considering their school to benefit from this project. He considered that to be an opportunity to success and growth in the fight against ASRHR issues.

Mr. Harding Manga, senior staff added that it is time for Sinkunia to remove itself from that bracket of the home of the highest teenage mothers, sexual assaults and forced marriages. We are trying our best as teachers to ensure young people gets quality education but there has been strong existing factors playing with our efforts and dragging it to the drainages. Having a home-based organization to fight against those strong existing forces is a privileged and good chance for us the staff in this noble school.

Mr. Kanu a staff and one of YoMSuD-SL Community Based Service Providers added that he will continue to support YoMSuD-SL in various ways to make sure that the main objective of the project is achieved and they will call a Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) meeting to press more on the importance of this project in order to change community's attitude, behavior and perception on women and girls in our communities.

The meeting ended with closing prayers.



## **2. Selection and Training of the School Health Clubs (SHCs) Members from the five community based schools in the project communities.**

### **Who were involved**

A team of YoMSuD-SL, School authorities such as headmasters, headmistresses, Community Based Service Providers (CBSPs) senior and junior staff and pupils of the schools were involved in the selection and training processes of the School Health Club members from each school. A random selection approach was deployed in selecting the club members in the various schools.

On the 16th of March 2023, YoMSuD-SL team visited KG.D.E.C. Primary school Bantantia for the selection and training of school health club members. The selection was done in collaboration by both the school authorities and YoMSuD-SL team through random selection sampling system to avoid biasness in the process. At the end of the process, ten adolescent girls were selected and provided comprehensive training on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) issues, they were better informed and Trained to serve as Ambassadors for YoMSuD-SL and its partner organization to improved teenagers' behaviors, attitude and knowledge on ASRH&R and Teenage Pregnancy in their communities and beyond.

On the same day after the selection and training of the ten selected school health club members in Bantantia, we proceeded to KG.D.E.C. Primary school Jedia community, the same methodologies were applied in the selection process. Where girls selected filled our School Health Club Membership form to gather data and for record keeping. A date was announced for the school sensitization.

On the 17th of March 2023, a team comprising of YoMSuD-SL visited KG.D.E.C. Primary school Mannah community, the school authorities assigned Mr. Lansana M. Kamara to us including Mrs Filla Mansaray one of the trained Community Based Service Providers (CBSPs) for easy performing of task.

However, the selection and training process were done appropriately. The ten selected girls were provided effective and educative training on ASRHR.

On the 20th March 2023, YoMSuD-SL team went to Ansarul Secondary school and KG.D.E.C. Primary school Gbindi. We engaged both the school authorities and YoMSuD-SL representatives in each of the schools known as Community Based Service Providers (CBSPs) in the selection and training of the ten selected girls. Five were selected from Ansarul secondary school and the remaining five were selected from the KG.D.E.C. Primary school Gbindi forming a total of ten School Health Club Members in Gbindi community. They were trained on ASRHR issues, access to ASRHR resources and information methods, and how to continue the campaign ongoing in their respective schools even after the project timeline.

On the same day of the 20th March Sinkunia Government secondary school was visited ten adolescent girls were as well selected and trained on ASRHR issues, sensitization and access to resources and information on ASRHR, the rights of women and girls as human rights, stress management and trauma. Mentorship and counselling program has been launched by YoMSuD-SL to continue supporting those marginalized adolescent girls in their various communities.



School Health clubs were formed and trained in the five targeted community based schools in the project communities to serve as Ambassadors for YoMSuD-SL and its partner organization to improved teenagers' behaviors, attitude,contraception acceptor rate and knowlwdge on ASRH&R and Teenage Pregnancy in their communities and beyond. At the end of the trainings in each of the schools pictures,videos were taken for record keeping and report purposes and each received transport refunds and refreshment.

### **Impacts of the Training**

The fifty (50) School Health Club Members were trained on the following key points as a means for them to get an insight of the root causes of gender inequalities in their communities that are resulting to teenage pregnancy,early child/forced marriage,Female Genitale Mutilation (FGM) and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).The training helped them to understand the following points where to access ASRHR information and resources and how to prevent,avoid or escape the impacts or influence of these root causes of gender inequalities in their communties such as;

- In poverty, parents withdraw their daughters from school when means are limited. Girls exchange money for sex.
- Lack of correct information.
- Lack of sexuality education, like sex in this area is still a taboo deeply rooted from culture and tradition especially in rural communities.
- Peer pressure; Early and forced arranged marriages-sexual harassment and abuse promiscuity.
- Lack of commitment on the parts of parents and the girls-poor environmental influence.
- Lack of adequate care and support from parents and the community
- Challenges are limited with single parenting.
- Separation and divorce-early motherhood and –poor survival skills.

**Training methodologies used;** Trainer presentation,Group work,Discussion and Post –training test exercise. The training ended with photos,transport refund and Refreshment money given to attendees/School Health Club Members.

### **Outcome of the training /how did it changed their lives**

The selected trainees before the training had no knowledge on issues surrounding adolescents and they lacked the necessary information for protecting adolescents sexual and reproductive health rights in their communities.Although they were aware of the too much teenage pregnancy,early forced marriage,sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV),sexual assaults,but they never had the opportunity on what to do when cases aroud adolescents occurs.After the training they have been well informed and knowledgeable on adolescents sexual and reproductive health rights,what to do to prevent cases like teenage pregnancy,early forced marriage,and how to counsel their colleagues adolescents when in stress or trauma,how to go about family mediation and helping them overcome challenges they face in schools and communities in hard times.Precisely,the training has helped them changed their mindsets and are ready to support in diverse ways to end violence against women and adolescents.



### **3. Intensive Schools sensitization in the five project communities**

Changing the mindsets, behaviours, norms and culture of a whole community that has been in existence for decades needs an inclusive and participatory governance, including every sectors not only stakeholders but the entire community members. In respect to that YoMSuD-SL conducted a two-day intensive School to school sensitization in the five targeted communities.

On the 22nd of March 2023, a team of YoMSuD-SL, Community Based Service Providers (CBSPs), School authorities and School Health Club Members conducted a school sensitization in KG.E.C. Primary school Bantantia where every adolescent boys and girls were reached, informed, involved and educated on ASRHR messages and information. The sensitization went according to a well drafted agenda- introduction of team members- purpose of the visit- welcome message from the school authorities, school health club members and the entire pupils of the school in- depth sensitization of the project- attendance list, refreshment, pictures / videos and pasting of posters in Bantantia community .

Thank you note was given by the newly recruited female teacher Tenneba K. Bangura.

On that same day after Bantantia school sensitization, YoMSuD-SL team moved to Jedia and was welcomed by the entire school management and pupils. Just after their school feeding program (lunch) the sensitization started, however, it was amazing to see young adolescent girls sending ASRHR campaign messages in their local languages which indicated that they got the message well. Though the population cannot be compared to the other targeted community schools due to the terrain and size of the community. The sensitization ended successful and thank you note was given by Nyemeh Sesay

On the 23rd we proceeded to KG.D.E.C. Primary school Mannah as these three communities are sitted along the same highway to Kabala the district headquarter town of Koinadugu district. Mannah school authorities, school health club members and the entire school community welcomed YoMSuD-SL and expressed their deepest gratitude for such opportunity offered to them by Plan International and Youth Challenge Fund through YoMSuD-SL. Though YoMSuD-SL team was available but almost the bulk sensitization talks were done by the School Health Club Members exhibiting their indepth understanding of the ASRHR topics.

The sensitization was done in a more apprehensive manner. The vote of thanks was done by Mariama Kamara Member of the School Health Club Mannah School.

On the following day, Ansarul secondary school and KG.D.E.C. Primary school were visited and mobilized respectively for the sensitization. Both YoMSuD-SL team, School authorities of the two schools, Community Based Service Providers (CBSPs) and community stakeholders were present. As sex discussion was still a serious taboo in these communities the involvement of the School Health Clubs break the silence and a way for discussion around that topic. One success that was noticed and amplified was that even non-school going adolescent boy and girls were all involved in this campaign, parents made commitments to change attitude and behaviors especially on girl child education and to stop giving their daughters hands in early marriage.

On the same day, we moved to Government Secondary school Sinkunia to involved and engaged them in the sensitization walks. The team was received and welcomed by the Vice Principal Mr. Conteh of the





Junior level and the Senior Principal Mr..Marah Saio of the same school,including senior and junior staff,community teachers,the pupils,Community Based Service Providers (CBSPs) and the trained School Health Club members.The entire school activities were paused and influenced by the sensitization activity in the school.The sensitization was done in a more guided and delivered manner by the School Health Club Members and were given minimal guidance and supports.It was an amazing moment,when one of the School Health Club members confided in me that she has never had an opportunity to public speaking and she has been yearning for that unfortunately for her discrimination has been a major factor pushing her in the corner without being able to speak her voice out.But thank God to YoMSuD-SL and partners for this opportunity for me,I have always wished to be selected in a public speaking program but to no avail she said.

However,all the sensitization activities went according to a well drafted agenda-introduction of team members-purpose of the visit-welcome message from the school authorities,school health club members and the entire pupils of the school, in-depth sensitization of the project-attendance list,refreshment, pictures /videos and pasting of posters in all the schools were done and all the schools were informed about the scheduled date for the general sensitization were supports will be given to the School Health Clubs.The sensitization ended with refreshment and photos.

#### **4. General Sensitization and Support to school Health Clubs**

The General Sensitization and support was done on the 25th March 2023. School Health Club members' representative were selected and trained on a short skit drama around the theme that deliver messages on addressing challenges that affect girl-childrens' ASRHR' lives, women and girls rights in local societies in which the organization gave out supports such as a dozen exercise books,pen,sanitary pad to each of the fifty adolescent girls including program T-Shirt,tag for identification, An amount of Three Hundred Leones (Nle 300) to each school health club group , transport refunds and refreshments including contraceptives such as pills and condoms,and a rechargeable megaphone with battery to each School Health Club as a way of inspiring the pupils to embark on sensitization even after the project deadline. Drama videos and pictures taken,few have been uploaded to all our social media platforms such as website, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram for those outside targeted areas to benefits equally,Plan International was tagged in all of those posts.

#### **5. Community Stakeholders Engagement Meeting to set up Sustainable plans/Action Plans**

- At the endpoint of the project exercise on the 28th of March 2023, Stakeholders and parents were asked to give their consent on how to make this project sustainable upon their participation they suggested we formed ASRHR groups which has been done already (The Community Based Service Providers, and School Health Clubs), these small groups will be overseeing the day-to-day concerns of the young girls in their respective communities and how to handle and communicate these cases,equally our community representatives for further proceedings on ASRHR and related issues affecting adolescents in project communities.
- According to Town Chief Balla Kamara,he stressed on that the project duration was short and they as stakeholders are requesting that YoMSuD-SL and partners to extend the project time for





the messages to have a more serious impact on the attitudes and behaviors of everyone in the communities. By that the project sustainability is assured.

- Mr. Kanu a staff of Government Secondary school and a Community Based Service Provider also emphasized that if ever the project should be sustainable we must continue to support the School Health Clubs and Community Based Service Providers with effective and firm monitoring system.
- Section Chief Pa Sanna Kamara also suggested that we established Youth-friendly service centers like kiosk where young people will be able to go for any ASRHR resources and information such as contraception and more without fear of shy and embarrassment they faced in public hospitals within the communities.
- Mammy Queen stated that community engagement, advocacy campaigns for women and girls. Human rights are very important and should be a continuous process in order to involve all the communities in the district.
- However, the meeting ended with significant suggestions for project sustainability. YoMSuD-SL team appreciated their input and attendance as well as promised to include their points into our reports for the funders review.
- Transport refunds and refreshment of the activity were taken followed by closing individual prayers.

#### **Community Members' recommendations /Suggestions and comments during sensitization activities**

- **Headmaster, Mr. Alusine Kamara of KG.D.E.C. Primary School Bantantia** suggested that the funders and YoMSuD-SL should try to reach all the schools in the district as this is crucial amidst post-COVID-19 and difficulties women and girls are facing in the country right now.
  - **Mr Samba B. Kamara staff of KG.D.E.C. Primary school** also suggested that YoMSuD-SL includes mentorship and counselling programs for the adolescent girls are going through a lots of stress and trauma situations in their homes and communities.
  - Madam Serah samura of Jedia stated that YoMSuD-SL should involve the law enforcement bodies especially Family Support Unit (FSU), social welfare to bring justice to victims of sexual assault and for perpetrators to face the law without compromise.
  - **Ms. Kamatique Mansaray pupil of KG.D.E.C. Primary school Mannah** requested that the organization continue with the awareness raising as some of them have learned a lot, So she suggested YoMSuD-SL and Partners to not leave them alone in this fight else project objectives will be difficult to achieve.
  - We appreciate Plan International for supporting our community based organization, YoMSuD-SL to undertake such campaigns in the language we can understand and we trust the process and we accept the messages, **said Principal of Sinkunia Secondary School**
6. **Selection of Radio Speakers and Radio discussion program on the topic “ teenage pregnancy, early child/forced marriage and violence against women and girls”**



Selection of radio speakers was done in consent of school authorities and school health club members together with project team lead which comprises of four categories one each. Each of these representatives were selected by the school health club leads. The radio presentation was done on the 29st March,2023 at the Falaba district Radio station with freequency 101.3FM located in the Gbindi community, the discussion was moderated by Paul Aruna and the Project Team Lead Mariama B.Sesay. Representatives from the various categories were asked to give their own views on “Roles of adolescents in the fight to end teenage pregnancy,early child/forced marriage,sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)” and give recommendtion or measures to put in place inorder to minimise the occurence. Phone lines for calls and SMS messages were opened for recommendations,comments and suggestions from listeners accross Falaba district.

### **Impact /Outcome of the radio discussion**

It was used as a platform to spread out campaign messages on teenage pregnancy,early child/forced marriage,violence against women and girls to a wide range of people and improved or changed the mindset of listeners,community members and parents , reduce inability level to make responsible and appropriate decisions about protecting themselves from disease and pregnancy , essence of monitoring their children and also were able to learn some best practices at home, school and even in the community as a whole inorder to help reduce the teenage pregnancy rate.

Callers Recommendations during open phone calls

Unfortunately no phone call was received due to harsh weather at the end of the radio discussion program.

## **7. Success Stories**

- This is an amazing period for us the adolescents in this part of the country after many years without support ...**Makuta pupil of Sinkunia Government Secondary School**
- YoMSuD-SL does not only support us with academic materials and school charges but they are also empowering the mindsets of we the young people to become Ambassadors in building sustainable communities,this is the difference between other organizations and YoMSuD-SL.Their mentorship and counselling programs are exceptional said **Isata Kamara of KG.D.E.C.Primary school Bantantia**
- Poverty,lack of hope and awareness are some of the major reasons why Female Genital Mutilation (FGM),early child/forced marriage,violence against women and girls still exist in our homes,because if my parents could not pay my education bills completely,then marriage would become the next option,I think YoMSuD-SL is reaching deserving communities with the effective solutions.So thank you for that YoMSuD-SL and partners said **Konsoh Pupil of Government secondary school Sinkunia.**
- Greetings to you all here today.My name is **Fatmata Mansaray student of Ansarul Secondary school.**There is no guarantee that communities can change their attitudes and behaviors postively if there is no growth seen on their children.We would like to be parts of



the projects, and decision-makings that matters to our growth and lives, this is what YoMSuD-SL is doing in our rural communities that is why I love YoMSuD-Sierra Leone.

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My name is **Halimatu Turay student of KG.D.E.C.Primary school Mannah**. I greet you all for attending our program. Thanks to YoMSuD-Sierra Leone for including us in solving our own problems, these are skills we will use even in the future to solve the global issues, because we are the future leaders, so continue to engage us, continue to empower us and show us the way. Once again, thank you so much

## 8. Challenges Encountered during implementation

We encountered many challenges, some of these challenges were foreseen and mitigation strategies were put in place by the organization for the security and safety of our staff. While some of these challenges were unnoticed and unavoidable. Below are few of the challenges we faced on the field;

- Poor road network-roads leading to project communities were only motorable and in most cases we had to walk by feet and leave the motor cycle in a distance. During this process one of our team Lamin lost his smart phone the organization has to compensate him for the loss.
- Poor network and internet-Most of the project communities like Jedia and Mannah lacks network let alone to talk of internet. So we still found it so difficult to communicate with other staff and coordinate project activities.
- No electricity-Most of the days our phones stay off because in most of the project communities there are no charging facilities and the few available charging centers, their owners could only open them when they feel like especially when the cost of fuel had shoot up. So we had serious challenges in charging our phones for continuous taking of pictures and videos.
- Unstable Increase in Price of commodities-This affects our activities greatly because prices keep changing everyday like a pendulum and we had no control over this. This resulted to extra expenditures and shift in some of our activities.
- Weather conditions-The continuous raining not only disturbs our activities but also get some of our staff sick with cold and flu because some of the times we had to sacrifice to go out even when it is raining to work within project timeline.
- Farming season and rural settings- Some times community members/stakeholders not available when staff visit project communities and if fortunate to meet them, they are impatient and urgent to go back to their farms
- Poor Receipt-Most of the community business centers and service providers does not have receipts.
- Coordination of community Based Service Providers and School Health Club Members was also challenging due to the poor network system in communicating with them, staff visited the project communities several times.

### What Changed during implementation

- ❖ Price of Fuel (Petrol) was Changed: The initial Price on the budget planned was twenty Leones per litre but price increased at the time of implementation to twenty-three leones per litre in project communities.



- ❖ The Budgeted amount planned for activity 2.1 School Visitation to form school health club which was One thousand five hundred new leones (NLe 1,500) was changed during implementation and given as financial support to School Health Clubs. Three hundred Leones (NLe 300) was given to each school Health Club as a way of inspiring the pupils to embark on sensitization even after the project deadline.

**How has the YCF improved your group leadership? ( e.g : girls and young women in decision making; new members recruitment, etc.)**

The YCF grant has helped improved our group leadership immensely through the following ways;

- Provided effective trainings to our staff and volunteers on effective leadership and communication
- It has helped our team to increase in volunteer capacity from just three to twenty five volunteers
- Increased organizational and systemic awareness
- Creation of high-performing teams
- Improved knowledge transfer
- Increased commitment and accountability
- Enhanced capacity to develop and improve the system, services, and processes
- Better team functioning, maturity, and capability
- Sharing of knowledge within and among our team, and across levels and generations of our volunteers and staff.
- Fostering a culture of learning and a growth mindset.
- Giving leadership skills and hope to young women and girls within our reach and team especially in decision-making.