



## Schooling for Life

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### ***SCHOOLING FOR LIFE IS GOING GLOBAL AND ONLINE***

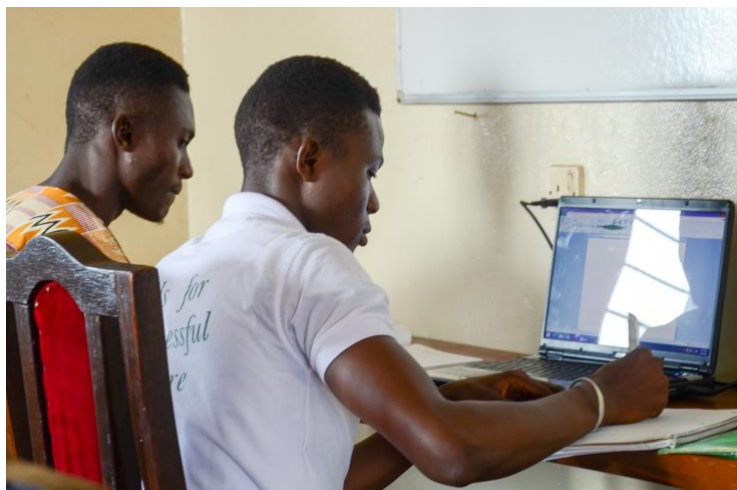
Over 6,5 years, we have been able to support 45 students with scholarships, employability skills classes, and guidance in their behavioural change and character building. Through our students, the trainers we have trained and the outreach we have done, we have impacted over 3000 people in the period that we have been operational in Sierra Leone.

Over 85% of our students who have completed the Skills for a Successful Future programme have found and kept their job within a year after leaving the programme.

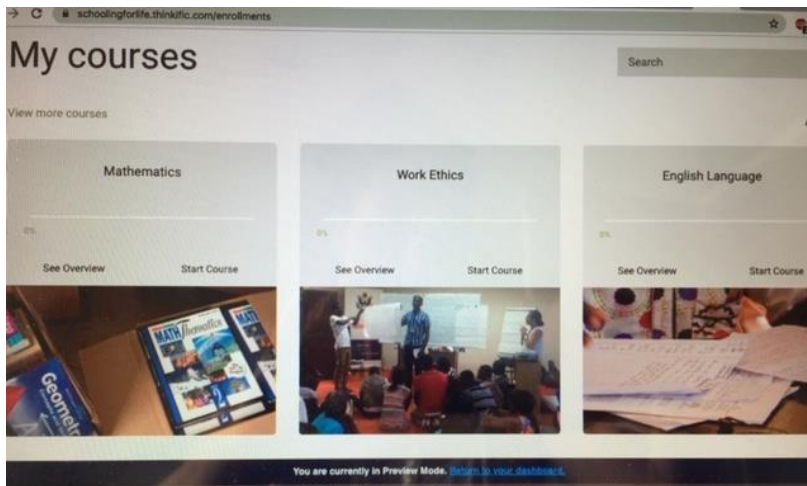
Incentivised by the COVID-19 situation and our wish to reach more people around the world, we are embarking on a new adventure and moving our work online. Our objective to bring youth and employers together in low- and middle-income countries and help upskill employees on local job markets remains the same. Our transition will however mean that we will close our physical space and programme in Sierra Leone. Of course, we will continue to support our batch four students in their second year.

The new course will be a more professional paid course that will be launched online, focused on the needs of employers regarding employability skills and behavioural change for their employees. Additionally, we will focus on organisations working with youth to help them prepare for the job market, and youth on an individual basis, all in low- and middle-income countries on a global level. Schooling for Life will not be giving out scholarships anymore nor perform any face to face training in Sierra Leone.

Once the full online course is available, we will make sure to let you know!



## CONTINUATION OF THE THIRD SEMESTER SKILLS CLASSES ONLINE



At the start of April 2020, the programme had to be paused due to COVID-19 measures. Schooling for Life started exploring alternative options to continue the third-semester employability skills classes for our batch three and four students. Not knowing how long the measures would remain in place, we wanted to make sure to build a sustainable platform that

could accommodate all classes. We conducted a pilot phase with two of our students from batch three and four to assess the accessibility and user-friendliness of the e-learning platform on phones and in local context. Once that aspect proved to work well, SfL continued building the e-learning platform for the remaining subjects of the third semester: English Language, Mathematics and Works Ethics – with Time Management to be addressed at the end, in collaboration with KOMO (see insert).

The SfL third-semester skills classes were officially launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. To facilitate this initiative for the students, SfL created a video and PDF tutorial on how to use the platform, bought smartphones for students who couldn't afford one (on loan), and provided mobile data for all students throughout the semester to facilitate access to the online classes. With the COVID-19 measures in the country slightly softening in July 2020, SfL discussed with the trainers to hold the third-semester exams in the office in small groups.

Overall, the online third semester was a big success. The students enjoyed the new experience while being able to continue their education. This led SfL to carefully reflect and decide to continue on this route for the continuation of the organisation.

### SCHOOLING FOR LIFE COLLABORATION WITH KOMO

Komo is a company that focuses on online skills building for and mentoring of youth. It focuses on helping youth develop critical thinking and cognitive skills to enhance learning in general. Based on the alignment in our strategies, KOMO and SfL decided to join forces. KOMO very generously donated components of its online course to facilitate SfL's Time Management module. The donated modules were checked on context sensitivity and understandability for our students. In addition, complementary trainings were developed by SfL to cover all subjects within the SfL Time Management curriculum. The Time Management module - 7 weeks – eventually evolved to be a much broader life management and general planning skills module. For this reason, SfL asked KOMO to offer the module to both batch 3 and 4 students, as even though batch 3 had already gone through the Time Management module in their first year, the course as it had developed, gave them great additional value in their critical thinking and planning skills. KOMO agreed and donated the module to SfL for 19 students.

We want to send KOMO a heartfelt thank you for its generosity and contribution to the growth of our students!

## ***SCHOOLING FOR LIFE ACTIVITIES***

### ***SCHOOLING FOR LIFE WINDING DOWN MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS AND GUARDIANS***

As Schooling for Life was about to close its physical space (office) in Sierra Leone, we made sure to inform all relevant stakeholders about our new adventure. In November 2020, we had different meetings in smaller groups at the SfL's office; with all students as well as with the guardians. In these meetings, we discussed the organisation's plans to go global and online, and what that would mean for the students.

We assured the current students (batch four) about our continuous support in order for them to finish the two-year programme.

### ***GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR BATCH TWO AND THREE STUDENTS***



Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions, SfL was not able to hold the graduation ceremony for batch two students, as planned.

However, after careful consideration, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, we held a graduation ceremony for 28 students; 2 students from batch one, 13 students from batch two, and 13 students from batch three. The batch three students, who

have not yet completed their scholarships, received a confirmation letter of completion of the employability skills classes and personal guidance and will receive their official certificates upon completion of their studies. As we are winding down in Sierra Leone, we did want them to have the experience of the graduation ceremony together with their peers.

It became a day full of motivational speeches, achievement awards and fun!





## **SCHOOLING FOR LIFE – A CELEBRATION OF THE SUCCESS OF THE SKILLS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE PROGRAMME**



On the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020, we had our biggest celebration ever!

Sponsors, partners, government representatives, Schooling for Life students, trainers, and the Sfl team came together at the beach of Q-Bar Restaurant to celebrate the organisation's success over the years.

The day was set up to show the impact the Skills for a Successful Future programme has had on our students' lives. Students performed dramas,

poetry and songs to show what they have achieved through the programme and to show their talents, as each batch presented a unique activity to tell their story.

Also our trainers, the representative of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education and our country director shared their own experience with the organisation and thoughts on the importance of Sfl's work.

We are very grateful to all those who came to celebrate with us and we want to use this opportunity to thank Africell Sierra Leone, Protec and Q-Bar for their endless support to our events, and again on this momentous day.



**THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

As we embark on our new adventure and move our work online, we want to thank the sponsors who have made the Skills for a Successful Future programme in Sierra Leone possible throughout the years.



impact investors



**And thank you to all our anonymous sponsors and donors!**

**We want to express our tremendous gratitude for your support and your partnership.**

## **WHAT THE SKILLS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE PROGRAMME MEANS TO SOME OF OUR STUDENTS**

"Skills in the job market are very important for an employee to possess. I am proud to say I am acquiring rich skills that I can use in the job market after graduation. Thank you SfL."

Jariatu Saffy Kamara,  
studying Banking and  
Finance, batch 4

"Through the skills for a successful future programme in SfL it has always been a transformational change for me, in behaviours, goal setting and academics. It has helped me shape my personality to become a role model in society."

Mohamed Kamara Jr., studied  
Electrical and Electronics  
Engineering, batch 2

"Since I was accepted into the "Skills for a successful future program" at Schooling For Life, I have learnt so many personal and professional skills like Communication skills, Time Management, Critical and Creative thinking skills, Problem solving skills, self-reliance spirit and many other soft skills. From the core of my heart, I will want to thank the entire staff of Schooling For Life for all the resources they've invested on us over the years."

Augustine Aiah Morsay, studying  
Mechanical Engineering, batch 4

I do know there are a lot of people that need these skills. I was opportuned to in SfL. Thank you SfL for adding me to the outstanding skilled youths in Sierra Leone by providing me the skills for a Successful future. I will forever remain grateful.

Sylvester Mansaray, studied  
I.T., batch 1

"..... Schooling for Life has also transformed my life in a way of being an effective communicator, showing integrity, working as a team and taking responsibility of my act. With all these, I can now see impossible as I'm possible."

Abubakarr A. Turay, Studying  
I.T., batch 3



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On behalf of the Schooling for Life Sierra Leone team and students, we want to say a very big thank you to everyone for having been there for us throughout our operations. We wish all our partners, sponsors, volunteers, staff, students, trainers and all supporters of Schooling for Life all over the world good health in this precarious time, and futures full of growth and success.

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, please go to [www.schoolingforlife.net](http://www.schoolingforlife.net).

