



EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND

Expanding Opportunities for Blind and Low Vision Children and Adults
Cooperative Agreement no -636-A-13-00002

Final Project Report October 2013 – December 2016

Helen Keller International

Table of Contents

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	3
1. Certificate in Special Needs Education (SNE) of the BLV	4
2. In-service training of teacher-assistants from five schools for the blind (SfB)	5
3. In-service training of Braille technicians, in collaboration with the African Braille Center.	6
4. Equipping, installing and commissioning the Vocational Training Centre for the ECBVI	6
5. Increasing access to various Braille materials and official documents.	7
6. Stakeholders’ meetings	7
7. Monthly Interactive Radio Advocacy	8
Annex	9
Annex 1a: First cohort of the SNE certificate course for teachers of the BLV	9
Annex 1b. University of Makeni and Helen Keller International	10
Annex 1c. Second cohort of SNE certificate course for teacher of the BLV.....	11
Annex 1d. List of equipment supplied to UNIMAK	12
Annex 1e. Appreciation Letter from Director of SNE Department – UNIMAK	13
Annex 2a. List of trainee of the in-service training of teacher-assistants at 5 schools for the blind..	14
Annex 2b. Letter of Appreciation from Program Coordinator	15
Annex 2c. Appreciation Letters from Head Teacher, Koidu of School for the Blind.....	16
.....	16
Annex 3a. Participants of Braille hardware training (11).....	17
Annex 3b. Report on Advanced Perkins Brailers Repair Course, 17 th - 21 st February 2014.....	17
Annex 3c. Report from the Participants by Schools for the Blind in Sierra Leone.....	20
Annex 4. List of items procured and supplied to ECBVI.....	21
Annex 5a. Attendance list First Meeting, 2014.....	22
Annex 5b. Attendance List Second Stakeholders Meeting 2015	22
Annex 6a. Radio Advocacy Schedule	23
Annex 6b. SMS Text Messages Received During Radio Broadcast	24

NAME OF AGENCY: Helen Keller International (HKI)
PROJECT LOCATION: Northern, Southern and Eastern Provinces and Western Area
CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Mary Hodges, HKI Country Director, Sierra Leone

Specific Objectives

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (BLV) CHILDREN BY PROVIDING:

- In-service SNE certificate course for teachers of the BLV, implemented at University of Makeni.
- In-service training of teaching assistants, implemented by Milton Margai School for the Blind.
- In-service training of Braille technicians, in collaboration with the African Braille Centre.

IMPROVE INTEGRATION OF BLV ADULTS INTO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY:

- Establishing a vocational training centre for the BLV implemented by ECBVI.
- Increasing access to various Braille materials and official documents.
- Sensitizing the general public through radio discussions.

Deliverables

Certificate in special needs education of the BLV

Two cohorts of 15 teachers currently teaching BLV students will receive in-service training in Special needs Education (SNE) for the BLV. The residential course will be held at the University of Makeni (UNIMAK) over a total of ten weeks during four consecutive school vacations: 2, 2, 4 and 2 weeks. A certificate in SNE will be awarded by UNIMAK to teachers who complete the course satisfactorily.

In-service training of twenty teacher-assistants from five schools for the blind at MMSB.

Training of seven technicians during a five-day workshop on maintenance and repair of Perkins Braille machines in collaboration with African Braille Centre.

Equipping, installing and commissioning the Vocational Training Centre for the ECBVI including one Braille embosser, manual typewriters, looms, sewing machines, musical instruments.

Equipment and supplies required by UNIMAK including 1 Braille embosser, curriculum materials, teaching-learning materials

A stakeholders' meeting to discuss issues surrounding the educational facilities for the BLV, their integration into mainstream school and society, and the certificate course for teachers with participants from Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, SightSavers, Handicap International, Sierra Leone Association of the Blind, teacher's training colleges, ECBVI and Voice of the Blind.

Monthly interactive radio advocacy programs to sensitize the public and help integrate the BLV into mainstream society

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Objective	Indicators	Outcome	Method	Who
1: Improve quality of teaching for the BLV	Field reports of participants <i>in situ</i> : (TP1 and 2). Standardised final performance evaluations (TP <u>FMS</u>)	31 candidates (21 male 10 female) 764 children benefitting (males 436, females 328)	SNE Certificate course for teachers of the BLV held at UNIMAK. Full SNE professional training curriculum developed and tested	International: Dr. McCall and Kofi N'yambe, local consultant Mr. A.J. Sandy and Ms. Emma Parker
	Internship training of teaching-assistants	Increased from 16 to 20 (16 male 4 female)	Internships changed from MMSB to on-site training in the five SfBs	local consultant Mr. AJ Sandy
	Braille technicians (7) in attendance for 5 days	11 trained All male	Residential at UNIMAK	African Braille Centre
2: Improve vocational training and integration of the BLV into mainstream society	# Braille materials embossed	Semi-annually	Supplies of adaptive technologies to various institutions including MSWGCA	HKI-SNE coordinator: Hannah Pessima
	Monthly schedule, SMS messages, phone calls and emails received following broadcasts	265 'compiled' SMS messages 20 live broadcasts	Sensitization of general public by radio panel discussions on National STAR radio and Citizen radio	Advocacy officer: Mr. S.I. Bangura
	Vocational Training Centre opens in Grafton	5 new vocational training facilities 206 registered users (males 85, female 121)	Procurement and commissioning of equipment: computers, weaving looms, musical instruments, gardening, TL materials	ECBVI & HKI-SNE coordinator: Hannah Pessima
	VTC attendance	>80 average/quarter males	(41%, females 59%)	HKI-SNE coordinator: Hannah Pessima
	Stakeholders Meeting	Annual	20 in 2014 10 in 2015	HKI-SNE coordinator: Hannah Pessima

1. Certificate in Special Needs Education (SNE) of the BLV

- The SNE certificate curriculum was designed for four residential sessions and 14 modules at UNIMAK. Two-four modules to be funded by SightSavers depending upon timing.
- Enrolment to the UNIMAK course was shared 50/50 with SightSavers as planned.
- Introduction of maths teaching into the curriculum for BLV using abacus;
- Terms of Reference were developed for both the external and local consultants.
- All training had to be suspended before the first cohort had completed their *in-situ* supervision in July 2014 when the Ebola emergency necessitated the closure of all schools and universities.
- Their final modules 10-14 and the TP FMS were undertaken by the local consultant under remote instruction and support by the curriculum designer and external consultant: Dr. McCall.
- Originally 15 candidates/course were planned but a total of 31 have been trained.
- The second cohort to complete the practical evaluation in 2016 due to the last 9 months (Ebola).
- In total 31 teachers, 21 male and 10 female.
- Awarding of certificates by UNIMAK is planned for the end of the academic year, June 2016.



FIGURE 1. PARTICIPANTS/FACILITATORS PARTAKING IN THE CERTIFICATE COURSE ON SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION (SNE) OF THE BLV

Equipment and supplies required to start the SNE department for BLV were procured, delivered and commissioned;

- Teaching and learning material were developed and supplied to UNIMAK.
- The HKI SNE program coordinator for BLV was re-located to UNIMAK to support the head of department.
- List of participants, equipment supplied, schedules, letters from UNIMAK in Annex 1.

Impact

- The chronic shortage of SNE-trained teachers for the BLV is gradually being addressed.
- SNE-trained teachers are now able to identify the needs of children and young people with BLV and have the knowledge and expertise to adapt their teaching appropriately.
- The SNE department at UNIMAK now have a tailor-made curriculum for BLV suitable for the context and a trained local consultant able to facilitate this certificate course in future.
- The SNE department at UNIMAK now have suitable teaching and learning materials to support this course including abacus.



FIGURE 2. NEW SUPPLIES, INCLUDING TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS.

2. In-service training of teacher-assistants from five schools for the blind (SfB)

Originally planned for 16 teacher-assistants internship this had to be modified to in-situ training in their own schools when the local consultant Mr. Sandy retired from the MMSB. A total of twenty (20) teachers' assistant that are already working in the provincial SFB, whose educational level will not allow



FIGURE 3. PROVISION OF BRAILLE PAPER AND ABACUS FOR TEACHERS WORKING AT THE FIVE SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND.

them entry into the SNE certificate course was conducted to equip them with the basic skills to enable them handle their BLV pupils in class appropriately.

Training was done in their own schools and settings, in groups. This was advantageous as it entails direct access to teachers own pupils, to teaching and learning materials, and flexibility of the teachers in his/her environment.

Impact

Prior to this training most of the teacher-assistants at these provincial residential schools have very little knowledge or skills to appropriately teach BLV children.

Teachers trained have now understood how to effectively provide the right type of educational services to BLV learners and they are also now capable of adopting the ideas of using common local materials conversant to BLV pupils. List of Teacher-assistants and letters of appreciation from Head Teachers of Kenema SFB and Koidu SFB are found in Annex 2.

3. In-service training of Braille technicians, in collaboration with the African Braille Center

Further training of Perkins Braille technicians during a five-day workshop on maintenance and repair of machines 11 technicians training in Braille machine repair was completed in February 2014. This training augments the first session that took place during the previous cooperative agreement. The same trainees attended from all the six SFB and two BLV adult institutions Mr. Samuel Gichia (Senior Production Officer) from ABC, Kenya facilitated both these sessions.

Impact

The Perkins Braille technicians' training is very important to all the BLV institutions as these Braille machines are expensive machines and require routine care, maintenance and regular repairs. These Schools for the Blind now have technicians. List of participants, brief reports from facilitator are found in Annex 3.



FIGURE 4. TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS

4. Equipping, installing and commissioning the Vocational Training Centre for the ECBVI

Equipment, teaching and learning material and technical support has been provided by HKI to provide vocational training skills, basic adult educational and middle level education that enable the BLV to be integrated into mainstream society. This Institution provides facilities for both men and women who are enrolled in various courses on a quarterly basis. List of equipment supplied is included in Annex 4.

Impact

This support has established a sustainable, functioning (Vocational Training Centre) VTC that can successfully enhance appropriate vocational skills and social life skills of BLV adults in their integration in to society. This increase in manpower training and increase in outputs and production have in many ways eased much of the challenges this centre faced before.

5. Increasing access to various Braille materials and official documents.



FIGURE 5. BLIND MAN UTILIZING BRAILLE EMOSSER

This Project donated braille embosser and Braille papers to Support the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs (MSGCA). The braille embosser donated will alleviate the problems and challenges the Deputy Minister, Mr. Mustapha Bia Atila who is blind, and other Blind officials face with braille their official documents. It would also solve the hazardous tasks the brail lists go through when transcribing bulky printed speeches, cabinet papers, and documents for the Deputy Minister. The embosser speeds up the process and very accurate. Being an embosser of Braille, it can also multiply

copies for more than one person. This would facilitate easy and quick access to Braille copies of an essential document in this ministry. A list of equipment is included in Annex 5.

6. Stakeholders' meetings

Discussions concerning the educational facilities for the BLV, their integration into mainstream schools and society, the SNE certificate course for teachers and strengthening of the Education for Children Network (ECDN). were held in July 2014, at UNIMAK with 22 participants from MSWGCA, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), SightSavers, Handicap International, Sierra Leone Association of the Blind, teacher's training colleges, ECBVI, Voice of the Blind, DfID-school officer, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Dorothy Springer Trust, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and St Joseph School for Hearing Impaired. Collaborative planning for a national register of all People With Disabilities (PWDs) to commence with HKI, SightSavers, and the NCPD.

A second stakeholders meeting was held at HKI in March 2015 to plan better selection of mainstream teachers for the second cohort of SNE teachers of the blind and better inclusive 'placement' of BLV children coordinated by MEST. Attendance list is found in Annex 5.



FIGURE 6. NEEDS ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO STAKEHOLDERS MEETING FOR KOIDU SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

7. Monthly Interactive Radio Advocacy

From the inception of this project the monthly, interactive radio programs on issues concerning BLV aimed to reduce ignorance, suspicion, discrimination, barriers and prejudices regarding the BLV have been very successful. The local radio station Star Radio broadcasts the programs as it has national coverage, aired at regular intervals. These broadcasts are developed using Position Statements and Frequently Asked Questions with panelists drawn from parents, guardians, caregivers and teachers of the BLV.

Feedback from the public is solicited through phone-ins and SMS messages during and following these broadcasts to inform further discussions. Radio Advocacy Schedule, Position Statements and Frequently Asked Questions are shown in Annex 7.

Annexes

Annex 1a: First cohort of the SNE certificate course for teachers of the BLV

No	Name	School / Institution	Qualification
First Cohort 2013-15			
1	Hanaffi Sowa	Kenema SFB	HTC
2	Sahr Thomas	Koidu SFB	HTC
3	Momodu S. Kamara	Bombali SFB	TC
4	Augusta Amara	Paul SFB - Bo	HTC
5	Brima Thoronka	Kabala SFB	TC
6	Eustace Mansaray	Milton Magai SFB	TC
7	Thomas Alieu	ECBVI	BA
8	Salieu Turay	SLAB	TC
9	Daniel Thoronka	VFB	MSc
10	John S Conteh	St Anthony Boys - WA	TC
11	Lansana K Kamanda	St Anthony Boys - WA	TC
12	Fatmata J Amara	F.A.W.E Primary - Bo	TC
13	Sullay Mallah	F.A.W.E Primary - Bo	TC
14	Mohammed Conteh	BDC Primary School - Makeni	TC, HTC
15	Benson S Turay	BDC Primary School - Makeni	TC,

Classroom (residential) teaching at UNIMAK

	Planned/Modules	Actual/Consultant	Location/Consultants
(*2 weeks:	March-April 2013/1-2	March - April 2013	UNIMAK/Steve McColl)
2 weeks:	December 2013/3-4	December 2013	UNIMAK/Steve McColl
2 weeks:	April 2014/5-6	April 2014	UNIMAK/Steve McColl
2 weeks:	June-July 2014	Nov 2014-Feb 2015	ECBVI,Bo, Bombali/Mr Sandy

Itinerant supervision following training practicum guidelines checklist

(*2 weeks:	March - April 2013	March-April 2013	Bombali SfB/Steve McColl)
2 weeks:	December 2013	April-May 2014	Bombali SfB/Steve McColl
2 weeks:	April – May 2014	June-July 2014	Bombali SfB/Steve McColl
2 weeks:	June – July 2014	Nov 2014-Feb 2015	ECBVI,Bo, Bombali/Mr Sandy

Annex 1b. University of Makeni and Helen Keller International



University Of Makeni (UNIMAK)

www.universilyofmakcni.com

Post Office Box 2
Azzollni High Way
Makeni,
Northern Province
Mob: 23276-561 803
Email: info@universityofmakini
www.universityofmakeni.com

Re: Students enrolled in Special Education (visual impairment) certificate course under HKI sponsorship

To whom it concerns,

I am writing to clarify the position of certain students, enrolled in the University's Special Education (Visual Impairment) Certificate course, who are being sponsored by HKI. Recently, a representative from HKI asked for the drawing of an MOPU clarifying the student's eligibility for a legally operative Certificate of the University. Sadly, the issuing of certificates cannot be the subject matter of a binding MOD. However, as Registrar of the University, it is my pleasure to assure HKI that the students under their sponsorship have been registered of Bona Fide students of the University, and upon completion of the course will be issued official and legally operative Certificates bearing the great seal of the University.

Each 'course' sponsored by HKI represents one module of the Certificate Course authorized by the Academic Senate of the University. The Certificates which will be issued will be identical and indistinguishable from those of any other student who successfully completes a course equivalent to one year's credit hours and meets all other departmental requirements for convocation. These students will be treated identical to any other student emollec1 in the University, Any questions can be directed to the email listed below.



University of Makeni
algoguen@gmail.com

Annex 1c. Second cohort of SNE certificate course for teacher of the BLV

Classroom (residential) teaching at UNIMAK

No	Name	School/Institution	Qualification
Second Cohort			
1	Mr. Raymond Kargbo (Sighted)	Bombali SFB Makeni	TC
2	Miss Adama M. Kamara (Blind)	Paul School for the Blind – Bo	TC
3	Mr. Ishmael Gbla (Blind)	Koidu School for the Blind – Koidu	TC
4	Miss Saffie Sankoh (Partially Blind)	Kabala SFB	TC, HTC
5	Mr. Alpha Koroma	Kabala SFB	TC
6	Miss Amelia Smart Kamara	ECBVI	Diploma SW
7	Mr. Hassan B. Sowa	Kenema SFB	TC
8	Mr. Bobson N. Banya	Kenema SFB	TC
9	Mr. Samuel Sesay	Milton Margai SFB	TC
10	Mohamed D. Kamara	RC School Primary School – Makeni	TC, HTC
11	Florence o. Kamara	RC School Primary School – Makeni	TC
12	Mrs. Magdalene M Conteh	St John, Municipal Primary school Freetown	TC
13	Gloria Sheku Conteh	St Anthony Girls - Freetown	TC
14	Yeawa Mustapha	YWCA Primary School - Bo	TC
15	Osman Goiva	Methodist Primary School - Bo	TC
16	Hannah S Pessima	HKI	TC, B. Ed

	Planned/Modules	Actual/Consultant	Location/Consultants
2 weeks:	Jul 2015/1-2	July 2015/1-2	UNIMAK/Kofi, Mr. Sandy & Emma Parker
2 weeks:	Sept 2015/3-4	Sept 2015/3-4	UNIMAK/Kofi, Mr. Sandy & Emma Parker
*2 weeks:	Jan 2016/5-6	Jan 2016/5-6	UNIMAK/ Mr. Sandy & Emma Parker
*2 weeks	Apr 2016/7-8	Apr 2016/7-8	UNIMAK/Kofi, Mr. Sandy & Emma Parker

Itinerant supervision following practicum guidelines checklist

	Planned	Actual/Consultant	Location/Consultants
2 weeks:	Jul 2015/1-2	July 2015/1-2	Bombali Sfb/Kofi N'yambe, Mr. Sandy & E. Parker
2 weeks:	Sept 2015/3-4	Sept 2015/3-4	Bombali Sfb/ Kofi N'yambe, Mr. Sandy & E. Parker
*2 weeks:	Jan 2016/5-6	Jan 2016/5-6	Bombali Sfb/Mr. Sandy & Emma Parker
*2 weeks	Apr 2016/7-8		All schools /Mr. Sandy & Emma Parker

*Funded as planned by SightSavers

Annex 1d. List of equipment supplied to UNIMAK

No.	Description	Quantity
1	Laptop Computer	1
2	Index Basic D Embosser	1
3	Duxbury Braille Translation Software	1
4	Tractor Fed Paper - Braille	5
5	Embosser Cabinet	1
6	Perkins Standard Braille	5
7	Talking Calculator (P/N: 221047)	3
8	Eye mask (P/N: 481060)	20
9	Ambutech folding cane (P/N: CG4020) 1 Each of Sizes 32,40, and 50	3
10	Bell Soccer ball - Large (P/N: 441003)	3
11	Bell Soccer ball - Small (P/N: 441007)	3
12	Bell ball - 4 inch (P/N: 6020)	5
13	Low vision simulation kit (P/N: 301117)	1
14	Braille Slate (P/N: 521030) with Stylus	50
15	Coil Raylite Magnifier (P/N: 7259-30)	2
16	Stand magnifier (P/N: 301042)	2
17	Loupe Magnifier (TS1975)	2
18	Coil Tray (P/N: 311004)	1
19	AAPOS Vision screening Kit (P/N: 120)	2
20	Model of eye - 7 part model (P/N: F13)	2
21	Cubarithm and cub	19
22	Abacus	19

Procured from International Procurement Agency; 4322 Avondale Street N.W. Canton, OH 44708, USA

Annex 1e. Appreciation Letter from Director of SNE Department – UNIMAK



21th August 2015.

Dear Dr. Hodges,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor and the Institute of Inclusive Special Needs Education (ISNE) - UNIMAK, I wish to thank, Helen Keller International Sierra Leone for kindly donating teaching and learning materials for the training of teachers of the Blind and Low Vision in Sierra Leone. The donation of Braille embosser, Embosser cabinet, Perkins Standard Braille, laptop computer, etc, arrived on the 10th July 2015.

This presentation was timely, as ISNE was in great need of equipment for the training of teachers of the Blind and Low Vision. This donation will add value to ISNE. The Registrar Mr. Adam Goguen and Dr. Joseph B. Tholley Head of Department of Agriculture UNIMAK received the equipment on behalf of The Vice Chancellor of UNIMAK and expressed their wonder and gratitude on having such modern adaptive technology available in the Institute.

UNIMAK really appreciate Helen Keller's support and encouragement, active participation and interest in the welfare of Children with disability and particularly their input into educating and enabling teacher training.

The support offered by HKI, in providing a person to coordinate the work for disability at UNIMAK, is of immense help. This input has opened up many possibilities for future development for the Institute. Hannah's personality builds easy relationship that brings people to enquire how they can enter the field, whereby children with disability can be cared for and given their rights in life.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Sr. Mary Sweeney.

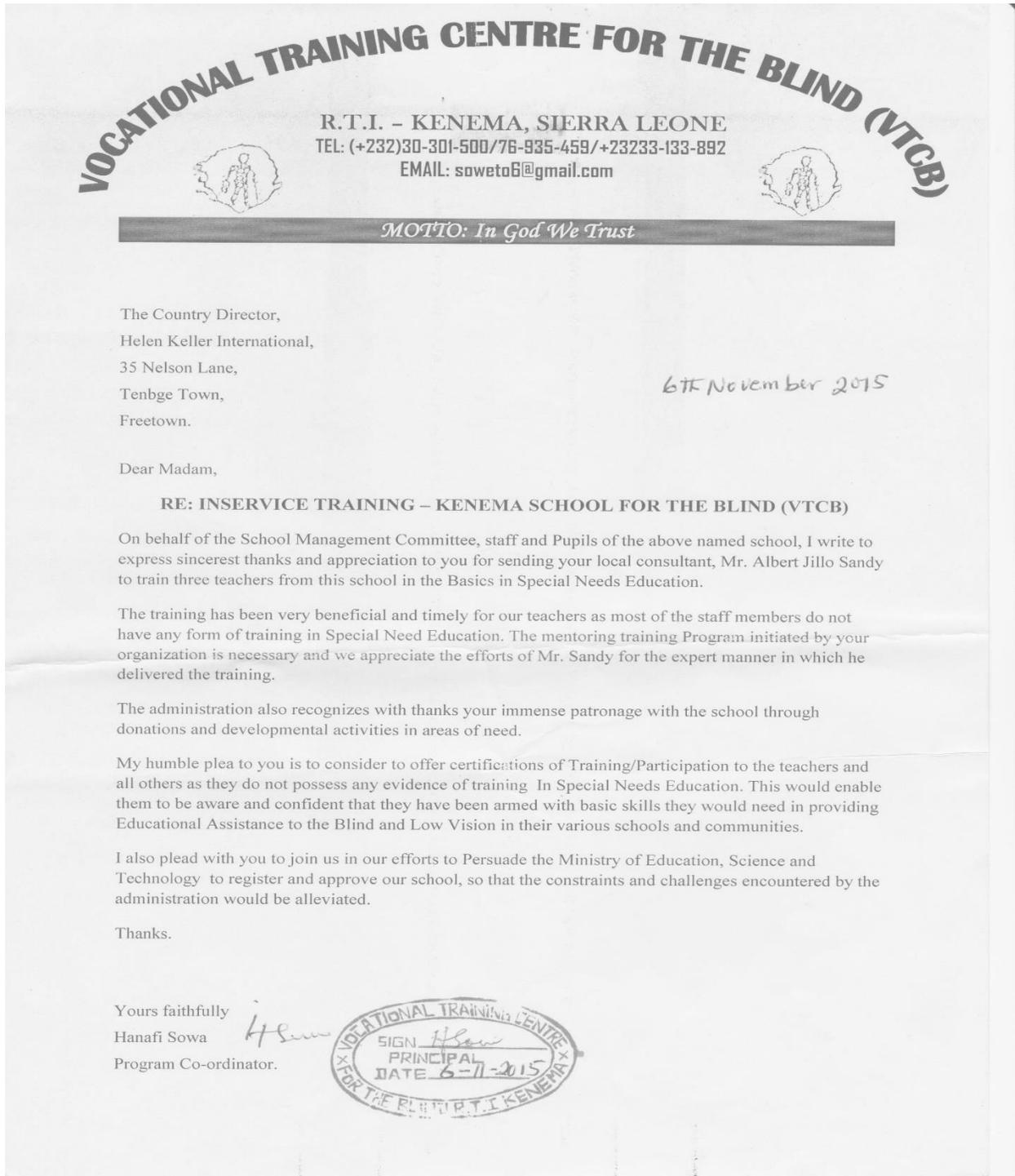
Sister Mary Sweeney,

Director ISNE.

Annex 2a. List of trainee of the in-service training of teacher-assistants at 5 schools for the blind

No	Name	Class Taught	Category
Koidu August 2014			
1	Philip D Sesay	3 & 4	Blind
2	Michel Tarawali	1 & 2	Blind
3	Samuel Foday	4	Sighted
Bombali August 2015			
4	Bakarr Jalloh	5	Blind
5	Clarice Kanu	4	Blind
6	Susan Y Bangura	4	Blind
7	Momodu Kamara	5	Sighted
Kabala June –July 2015			
8	Karifa Y. Kargbo	6	Blind
9	Alpha Koroma	4	Blind
10	Saffie Sankoh	1	Low Vision
11	Moses Sesay	3	Sighted
Paul SFB – Bo August – September 2015			
12	Abdul Koroma	5	Blind
13	Ismatu Sheriff	2	Blind
14	Simeon Trye Paul	6	Sighted
15	Fredrick Lansana	3	Sighted
16	Kenema SFB October – November 2015		
17	Mr. Mohamed Sheriff	5	Sighted
18	Jacob S. Moiforay	5	Blind
19	Steven Musa	3	Blind
20	Karim Sandi	6	Sighted

Annex 2b. Letter of Appreciation from Program Coordinator



Annex 2c. Appreciation Letters from Head Teacher, Koidu of School for the Blind

Koidu School for the Blind,
P.O. Box 83,
Off D.O. Barracks Road,
Mbaoma II – Koidu City – Kono
15th May, 2015.

The Country Director,
Helen Keller International,
35 Nelson Lane,
Tengbeh Town,
Freetown.

Dear Sir/Madam,

**LETTER OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE ONE MONTH SERVICE TRAINING OF
OUR TEACHERS BY MR. ALBERT JOE SANDY, YOUR AGENT.**

On behalf of the School Management Committee and the Chairman Community Teachers Association, Staff and Pupils, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to your credible Humanitarian organization for the kind service of Mr. Sandy, your Agent and our local supervisor.

Your organization has been proactive in this drive in the training of Teachers of Schools for the Blind as Mr. Sandy has offered well in our school. You also helped to advocate for positive changes in the Schools for the Blind with the regular supply of Teaching and Learning Materials but still they are inadequate, because every year the pupils are integrated into mainstream Secondary Schools carrying the Learning Materials with them.

With respect to the above regarding the training, the Management is appealing that you continue to help us with the similar Training exercises possibly every year.

Thanks you for all your previous helps and understanding for our needs in the realm of educational development.

May the Almighty God richly bless you and your kind Staff.

Yours faithfully,

.....
Tamba Mathew Gbessay
(Head Teacher)

CC: ✓
The Project Officer
Helen Keller International
Freetown



Annex 3a. Participants of Braille hardware training (11)

Name	Institution	Contact
Sahr Simeon Thomas	Koidu SfB	077412030 076883058
Fredrick Foday Lansana	Paul's SfB, Bo	076592647 030589063
Saidu Deen Sesay	Sierra Leone Association of the Blind	078926812
Rev Patrick Deen	Milton Margai SfB, Freetown	077563448 078728464
Alex Sesay	Bombali SfB	0769462570 030768008
Brima Thoronka	Kabala SfB	076900701
Momodu S. Kamara	Bombali SfB	088902133
Eustace Mansaray	Milton Margai SfB	077682135
Amara Kargbo	ECBVI	030569747
Mohamed Sheriff	Kenema SfB	078982518
James Koroma	Kabala SfB	078656479

Annex 3b. Report on Advanced Perkins Brailers Repair Course, 17th - 21st February 2014

By Samuel Gichia, African Braille Centre (ABC)

Introduction

The workshop started with prayers conducted by Sister Mary for the Christian and Muslim by Thoronka and introduction of the chair was done by Mrs Umu Turay. Who welcomed the members of the Board of trustee for the HKI who had come from USA to see the projects in Sierra Leone and open the workshop. They comprised of the president and the chief executive officer: Kathy Spahn, HKI Chairman: Mr. Henry Barkhorn and HKI Country Director: Dr Mary Hodges, Council Chairman: Mrs. Isatu Fofana, SightSavers Country Director: Mrs. Nancy Smart, University of Makeni Vice Chancellor: Rev. Fr. Joe, Ministry of Education SNE officer: Mr. Korosa, and ABC facilitator: Mr. Samuel Gichia, and the chairperson: Deputy Mayor for Makeni.

The chairperson thanked HKI for their continued support to the education for the blind in Sierra Leone and urged them to continue this good work.

Kathy Spahn said that HKI was set up about a hundred years ago to care for the blind and to reduce preventable blindness worldwide.

Dr Hodges said that access to education and social inclusion was the focus of this project.

Mrs. Smart reiterated that SightSavers are in good partnership with HKI in fighting the level of blindness in the country.

Fr. Joe said that a civilized nation can be measured by the way they treat the vulnerable and that UNIMAK needs to engage in more research into disability and assured the Heads of Departments of his continuous support.

Mr. Gichia reported that there had been basic training for technicians sponsored by USAID and HKI two years earlier and emphasized the partnership between HKI and the African Braille Centre.

Mr. Musa Siafa stressed of the need to have proper maintenance of the Perkins Brailier and lauded the HKI for the support they were giving to the education of the BLV in Sierra Leone

Training course

The aim of this course was to have properly trained Perkins Brailiers technicians in institutions. These are expensive items and there are many which are spoilt because of being repaired by untrained people with no knowledge of these machines. With trained technicians the situation of meddling will be avoided.

Participants were picked from the beginners one week training in 2012. The course was divided into three stages format.

Stage 1 Evaluation

Participants were expected to have had experienced different findings as they tried to repair machines in their institutions. Some of the problems are;

- There are differences between the next generation and the classic Brailiers and also had problems with adjusting the dots
- Another one had problems with fixing the pressure roller, He also noted that Most of the machines are affected by the dust and the students use the machines with a lot of vigour which leads to a lot of breakages.
- We're not able to differentiate the spares for the classic and the next generation Brailiers.
- They were having problems with fixing the main spring, repairing the carriage,

Stage 2 Drills

An explanation of how Brailier mechanism works and the materials used in making this parts and why that material, for example the casting is made of cast iron, because it is to be used in different climates. It should be protected from sun and dust and always covered when not in use...

Participants were then paired in two and given Perkins Brailier in good working condition to dismantle and reassemble. The instructors explained each of the parts, why some are made of alloy, plastic and other just iron, the repairable and non- repairable parts.

Stage 3 Advance stage programme

Tools and materials required	Dismantling	Drum assembly_	Rack bar
Reconditioning Sub-assemblies	Removal of right end plate	Feed roller	
Drum Gear assembly	Drive assembly	Stylus cam support	Carriage tube

Advance stage process

This was a serious exercise as it involved the dismantling of the whole Braille while it was still resting on the candle with the left end plate. The technicians went through the process of removing the main spring, pressure roller, the beam, the left end plate, the drum, the feed knobs, the carriage tube and the carriage. They were taught on how to remove the stylus and arrange them without any difficulties plus the drum gear. All of this exercises was done several times until the trainees were competent.

Repair of broken Braille

In order to ensure that the trainee were competent they were given broken Braille to fix with the supervision of the facilitator who ensured that they were done properly. They repaired 13 classic Braille: serial numbers L1164, 284308, 313714, 313694, B7949, L4334, 313713, D3153, 315441, 345439, 320414, 313710, 284309 and two Next Generation Braille.

Assessment

Trainees were excited to learn the remaining portion of the training. It was interesting to one Alex that even the blind were participative in trying to know how to service the Perkins Braille. They learnt to use the right tool and to be patient. There was fun in learning.

The facilitator was caring and patient to the participants. Trainees gained a lot experience especially when they were shown how to open the end plates return then and other relevant parts. The facilitator stood by the trainees whenever they had difficulties in fixing some parts

The training exercise has empowered me greatly and it prepared me to handle tailor made problems which shall be brought before me as I go back to my institution.

Trainees expressed their gratitude to the USAID, Helen Keller International, and African Braille Centre for making the training a success.

The training helped the trainees to revise on the difficulty areas such as moving the pressure roller, the drum, and stylus

The training was perfect as even the blind trainees learnt a lot. The facilitator was very committed and hardworking, easily approachable, and willing to give assistance.

More people should be trained in repair and maintenance of the Perkins Braille, and the trained technicians should be meeting sometimes later to share experiences after the training.

Annex 3c. Report from the Participants by Schools for the Blind in Sierra Leone

The training was successful, timely and there was cooperation from all participants and the facilitators. There were challenges however' such as lack of spare parts, especially with the new generation of Perkins Braille Machine (PBM). On behalf of all participants and especially the MMSB, I thank particularly Mr Samuel Gichia and Hannah Pessima for their tremendous support in making sure that the training was a successful one. We can now proudly say that; 99% of all participants can do general repairs and maintenance on the Perkins Braille. I personally had experience I did not received from the first session especially with disassembling and assembling of the embossing head in the Perkins Braille and the successful replacement of the pressure roller, replacing the drum and other technical parts of the Perkins braille: *typing keys*. I look forward to advance training as an expert in the General Maintenance and Repairs of the PBM.

Experience learned from the second session from participants as follows:

- Replacement of the side covers and the drum
- Time and enough patient is always needed as a technician
- Replacement of the space bar keyboard and stylus
- Cleaning by lubrication
- The important of group work
- Pressure roller and stylus
- Replacing the keys, covers, oiling,
- The importance of managing nuts and screws
- Making sure that the Braille works properly in good condition for persons with BLV

RECOMMENDATIONS

- International training for best participants with resources through resource mobilization
- Quarterly meetings of trained technicians to continuing sharing ideas and develop project proposal towards the successful repairs of the braille machine
- Supplies of spare parts, tools and centres/workshop at various locations of participants.
- More time to become conversant with the hardware and mechanics of the Perkins braille
- More spare parts especially for the classic which is in higher percentage in the country.
- Refresher training for new machines: *Perkins Smart Braille-PSB*

Annex 4. List of items procured and supplied to ECBVI

No	Description	Quantity
1	Laptop Computer	3
2	Desktop computer	6
3	Modern Braille Embosser	1
4	Duxbury Braille Translation Software	1
5	Tractor fed paper for braille embosser (carton)	4
6	Windows XP	1
7	Windows 7	1
8	Drivers Collection	1
9	Pedal sewing machine (singer)	6
10	Hand sewing machine (singer)	4
11	Giant Scissors	10
12	Wool Thread	20 pkt
13	Polyester Thread	20 pkt
14	Scissors Medium size	2 boxes
15	Machine Oil	2 boxes
16	Tape Rule	2 pkt
17	Yamaha keyboard	1
18	Drum primier	1 set
19	12 channel max mixer	1
20	Max mic 760	2 Pairs
21	15" max speaker box	2
22	800 MX Amplifier	1
23	Sony Standard Cassette Voice Recorder	10
24	Braille Slate (P/N: 521030) and Stylus	60
25	5.5 KVA diesel generator	

List of items procured and distributed to MSGCA

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	Modern Braille Embosser	1
2	Duxbury Braille Translation Software	1
3	Tractor fed paper for braille embosser (carton)	1

Annex 5a. Attendance list First Meeting, 2014

Attendance List - Stakeholders Meeting
Date: 24/7/14

No	Name	Organization	Designation	Email Address
1	Andrew U. Dumbuya	St. Joseph's Hearing Impaired	Lecturer SEN	andumbuya@gmail.com
2	Steve McCall	UNIMAK	Lecturer ISOW	s.mccall@brnu.ac.uk
3	Jon McCall	UNIMAK	Lecturer (UI)	jonmccall@btmail.co.uk
4	Aiams J. Momoh	MEST	Director Play/pt	tsjmomoh7@yahoo.co.uk
5	Ay. Osman Bah	Leonard Cheshire	Regional Rep.	leonardcheshire_wars@yahoo.com
6	Chigimany - NCPD	NCPD	Chairman	nepdsvia.lesse@gmail.com
7	Melrose Colay	NCPD	As. Executive Secretary	nepdsvia.lesse@gmail.com
8	Amara Sowa	KCD	PE Project Manager	amara.sowa@yahoo.co.uk
9	S. Stephen Allie-Korosa	MEST	AD Special Needs Educ	stevenkorosa@yahoo.com
10	Albert J. Sandy	HKI	National Facilitator	jilo.sand@yahoo.co.uk
11	De. Martin Dumbuya	DFP	CEO - SL	ahs_02204@yahoo.co.uk
12	Cecilia A. Castel	M.S.W. & C.H	Senior Social Services Officer	cecilia.castel@yahoo.com
13	Nancy Smart	Sightsavers	County Director	nsmart@sightsavers.org
14	Tiangay Gondoe	Sightsavers	Project Officer	tgondoe@sightsavers.org
15	FDDAY S. BANGURA	M.S.W. & C.A	Social Serv. Officer	fdays.santing@yahoo.com
16	Emerica King	Sightsavers	Programme Manager	eking@sightsavers.org
17	Edward Davis	DFID	Education Advisor	e-davis@dfid.gov.uk
18	SOFIA GOINHAS	HKI	DCD	sgoinhas@hki.org
19	Ali Martin	sesay	M.C.P.D	
20	Kabbakah Noah		M.S.W. & C.H	

Annex 5b. Attendance List Second Stakeholders Meeting 2015

	Name	Organisation	E-mail address	Telephone number
1	Mr. Stephen A Korosa	MEST	steventkorosa@yahoo.com	076-770125
2	Albert Sandy	HKI	Jilo.sand@yahoo.co.uk	076-795924
3	Hannah Pessima	HKI	hpessima@hki.org	076-746742
4	Sr. Mary Sweeney	UNIMAK/SJI	stjosephshischool@gmail.com	076-705433
5	Beny Sam	WV	beny_sam@wvi.org	076-605224
6	Nancy Smart	SightSavers	nsmart@sightsavers.org	076604713
7	Tiangay Gondoe	SightSavers	tgondoe@sightsavers.org	078364441
8	Emerica King	SightSavers	eking@sightsavers.org	076-630193
9	Amanda Crookes	HI	sir.coord@handicap-international-mr.org	
10	Fred Joe Feika	HI	ie.pm@handicap-international-mr.org	088-028018

Annex 6a. Radio Advocacy Schedule

Date	Panellists	Topics to be Discussed	SMS
Dec 2013	UMC–Bob Conteh, Connaught Hospital-Alhaji Koroma	Causes treatment prevention of blindness	38
Jan 2014	Parent of BLV-Fatmata Kabba, Yemeh Sesay	Shearing of experience by parents/guardians of BLVP	14
Feb	Peace Links-Ajgeeb kabba, ECBVI-Maseray Brima	Shearing of experience by BVI victims of all level	18
Mar	SLAB-Thomas Lebbie ECBVI-Thomas Alieu	Traditional believes and prejudice	12
Apr	SLAB-Kabakeh Noah VFB-Jonathan conteh	Rehabilitation and integration of the BVI persons	5
May	SLAB-Henry Tucker ECBVI-Marie Kanu	Blindness a loss of sight not mind	9
Jun	VFB-Didimus Kargbo SLAB-Daramy	Blind people can be successful	12
Jul	SLAB-Emma Parker ECBVI-Daniel Parkima	Mainstreaming of the BVI	20
Aug - October	Albert Sandy MEST-Steven Korosa	Importance of SNE training White cane and mobility skills	Cancelled- Ebola
Nov	MMSB- Imorana Vandy &Eustace Mansaray	Social inclusion of BLV	12
Dec	ECBVI-Amelia Kamara MMSB-Paul Charles	What is expectations of the BLV	8
Jan 2015	VFB-Alie Martin VTCK-Hanafi Sowa	Employment opportunities for BLV	15
Feb	ECBVI-Daniel Parkima VFB-Slieu Turay Albert Sandy	Empathy and support not sympathy	17
Mar	ECBVI-Thomas Alieu SLAB-Kabakeh Noah	Blindness in Sierra Leone and the developed countries	8
Apr	2015ECBVI-Thomas Alieu SLAB-Kabakeh Noah & Albert Sandy	Blindness in Sierra Leone and the sub region	15
May	SLAB-Alex Sesay & Adama Conteh	Blindness in Freetown the provinces	13
Jun	MMSB-John Kargbo SLAB-Korladay Theope	Friendly environment needed for BLV persons	9
July	ECBVI- Thomas Alieu & Amara Kargbo	Braille and it huge challenge	4
Aug	ECBVI-Daniel Parkima & James Koroma	Audio learning for BVI	9
Sep	SLAB-Emma Parka & Jastu Kamara ECBVI-Amelia Kamara & Marie Kanu	Blind women and girl child concern	19
Oct	Connaught Eye Department Mohamed Rogers-Survivors Partners in Health-Gibril Sheriff	Post Ebola syndrome and the eye sight	8

Annex 6b. SMS Text Messages Received During Radio Broadcast

December 2013

1. I want to have an advice the quest you have in the radio stations especially the two parents to be patient everyone must have faith. These of your blind children does not apply for it and I believe blindness is not the end of life one fine day God will help them succeed in the mere future even as they are in school now let them continue.
2. We in the provinces here at mile 91 do not have the opportunity for blind people as it is in the city. Here blind people are beggars. From Abdulai.
3. This is an advice to their parents to stop sending their children to the street, let them send them to school so that they can become great people in the future. From Alie Conteh in Magbouraka.
4. It is true that blind people have been always ignored in Sierra Leone that generally people living with disabilities are not been encouraged by the public except their parents but mind you we are all human being and therefore we must love one another.
5. I have a blind child but that child is too stubborn at times when he is playing with friends he always brutal them I just want to encourage the parents of blind children that the loss of sight does not mean that all is lost.
6. Watin na some of di sign of blindness dem en if you si eni of den sign dem dae watin you for du?
7. I am a mother of a blind girl child presently enrolled at the Milton Margai School for the blind, I am encouraging parents of BVI children not to keep their children at home but take them to any school for the blind you know of across the country, because they have only lost their sight and not their mind. They have something in them that is very powerful, so parents like myself that have BVI children take them to where they can learn something to benefits themselves, family and society.
8. The blind and the visually impaired people should be accepted by the public.
9. Ar don really listen to dis program way the go on en dis program really nice, watin nor mor me di tell me sister dem, the kind vision wae them get for the pekin them leh them keep it up god go help them one day.
10. Mi sef way ley don nay a ar nor blind ti day but you no watin God don make for me tomara. So leh people nor look low upon blind people them, leh dem nor do anything way go ring bell na them yes say dis person bin talk dis word, because one thing about bad talk, you kin talk am en forget, but dis wan way u tell di bad word, e nor go forget . so ar dae encourage dem mi tow sista ya en pray say God go bless dem.
11. Government especially the father of the nation duya leh dem wuman wae dae talk yanda you for cam to them aid personally. Help them betteh wan.
12. For istant MB atillah tiday na wantin? Na the minister of social welfare.
13. Some of them are eminent personalities in the society, some of us with sight have never reached that level, and all they need is support and encouragement. So let them be courageous and patient .Tithe concern you have for these blind children may God bless you so that you can continue caring more and more for them.
14. Madam Isata have faith, God will surely help you to take care of your three blind children. Lahai from Kingtom.
15. Ar dae tell tenki to me sista mini for di courage en patient way ee get for take care of that blind pekin . God go pay you for that one day. Dauda from doller ground.
16. Blind people are more important than some of us know. Junny wisdom is building a primary at our village from Alie Y Conteh.

17. Listening to the various mothers of the blind children, you end up gaining a lot. Truly the mothers are very courageous>M Bah from 91.
18. Star radio let the government put more support in to the blind children in order for them to be able to treat and take care of blind children.
19. Children with visual disabilities should be encouraged. I love the two women. They are so passionate about the love they have for their children. May God provide for you and see you through ABC Jumah, Kenema.
20. I want to have an advice the quest you have in the radio stations especially the two parents to be patient everyone must have faith. These of your blind children does not apply for it and I believe blindness is not the end of life one fine day God will help them succeed in the mere future even as they are in Scholl now let them continue.
21. We in the provinces here at mile 91 do not have the opportunity for blind people as it is in the city. Here blind people are beggars. From Abdulai.
22. This is an advice to their parents to stop sending their children to the street, let them send them to school so that they can become great people in the future. From Alie Conteh in Magbouraka.
23. It is true that blind people have been always ignored in Sierra Leone that generally people living with disabilities are not been encouraged by the public except their parents but mind you we are all human being and therefore we must love one another.
24. I have a blind child but that child is too stubborn at times when he is playing with friends he always brutal them I just want to encourage the parents of blind children that the loss of sight does not mean that all is lost.
25. Watin na some of di sign of blindness dem en if you si eni of den sign dem dae wetin you for du?
26. I am a mother of a blind girl child presently enrolled at the Milton Margai School for the blind, I am encouraging parents of BVI children not to keep their children at home but take them to any school for the blind you know of across the country, because they have only lost their sight and not their mind. They have something in them that is very powerful, so parents like myself that have BVI children take them to where they can learn something to benefits themselves, family and society.
27. The blind and the visually impaired people should be accepted by the public.
28. Ar don really listen to dis program way the go on en dis program really nice, watin nor mor me di tell me sister dem, the kind vision wae them get for the pekin them leh them keep it up god go help them one day.
29. Mi sef way ley don nay a ar nor blind ti day but you no watin God don make for me tomara. So leh people nor look low upon blind people them, leh dem nor do anything way go ring bell na them yes say dis person bin talk dis word, because one thing about bad talk, you kin talk am en forget, but dis wan way u tell di bad word, e nor go forget. So ar dae encourage dem mi tow sista ya en pray say God go bless dem.
30. Government especially the father of the nation duya leh dem wuman wae dae talk yanda you for cam to them aid personally. Help them betteh wan.
31. For istant MB atillah tiday na wantin? Na the minister of social welfare.
32. Some of them are eminent personalities in the society, some of us with sight have never reached that level, and all they need is support and encouragement. So let them be courageous and patient .Tithe concern you have for these blind children may God bless you so that you can continue caring more and more for them.
33. Madam Isata have faith, God will surely help you to take care of your three blind children. Lahai from Kingtom.
34. Ar dae tell tenki to me sista mini for di courage en patient way ee get for take care of that blind pekin . God go pay you for that one day. Dauda from doller ground.

35. Blind people are more important than some of us know. Junny wisdom is building a primary at our village from Alie Y Conteh.
36. Listening to the various mothers of the blind children, you end up gaining a lot. Truly the mothers are very courageous. M bah from 91.
37. Star radio let the government put more support in to the blind children in order for them to be able to treat and take care of blind children.
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51. Some of them are eminent personalities in the society, some of us with sight have never reached that level, and all they need is support and encouragement. So let them be courageous and patient .Tithe concern you have for these blind children may God bless you so that you can continue caring more and more for them.
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54. Blind people are more important than some of us know. Junny wisdom is building a primary at our village from Alie Y Conteh.
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75. Star radio let the government put more support in to the blind children in order for them to be able to treat and take care of blind children.
76. Children with visual disabilities should be encouraged. I love the two women. They are so passionate about the love they have for their children. May God provide for you and see you through ABC Jumah, Kenema.

January, 2014

1. I am a blind victim and am very much glad for this program because of the educative sensitive discussions you are doing in the studio. May God bless you the panellists. My senior and co – colleague, and I hope that this discrimination of PWD’s will be a thing of the past.
2. Thank you moderator for this wonderful program. I want to thank my two brothers and one sister representing the blind community in this program.
3. I want to definitely say that the story of the panellists and their courage are very challenging and hope that our brothers and sisters who find themselves in similar situations will know that all is not lost; just like how the panellists are trying to make us know.
4. Somehow I just feel a bit ashamed, you know about how some of us with sight are treating the blind in that way, actually it heart rendering because just like how they have pointed out rightly blindness is not a communicable disease like leprosy that will make us shy away from them; so it really shameful that we the sighted can know that this can happen to anyone at any time. So if our brothers and sisters are in that situation let treat them as equals.
5. After all we are God’s children, certain conditions you may find yourself in life, you know that the God who allows that to happen still loves you and cares about you. Certainly this our brothers and sisters in the studio are demonstrating. I feel very inspired and challenged by their experiences. May God bless them for this.
6. I am a blind lady; my concern is that majority of the drivers running public transport refuse us entering in to their vehicle because of our blindness state. Some institutions and organizations we belong to disallow us to participate in their activity. They still hold the view that because of our blindness we cannot deliver anything and that we have nothing to offer, so I want the public to know that even though we are blind we are still useful.
7. I am a blind victim. I became blind in 2012, but before then, I was a teacher for three years. When I lost my sight I just thought that all was lost, not until one day when I listen to a live radio talk show in this very situation about hope and future for the blind. Being that I am in Makeni though this program I was told were to go to be rehabilitated and integrated in to the society. Up on visiting an adult organisation for the blind in this town, I was taught braille and I am now preparing to pursue my higher teacher certificate in college using assistive device like type writer, perking Brailier e.c.t to move on with life.
8. I feel pity for the blind, but however, I believe that we are all the same.
9. Their negative perception about people, we should take them as our brothers and sisters and also encourage the in the society.

10. I am impressed listening to the blind panellist making sensitive contributions in the discussions; I wish the blind in Port Loko had such an opportunity because we see many of them around with difficulties.
11. There presenter I am happy for the blind and visually impaired people. They have proved to us that is ability in disability. I therefore urge ever body to show love for them whenever you come across them or where ever you meet them.
12. Hi Mr. Moderator disability is not inability. My aunt has been blind for six years now but she is the bread winner of our family. She is Christian and people do come to her for prayers. I am always proud of her and whenever she asked me to go out with her I am always at her service.
13. I have listen to my brother and sister and I was touched to make my contribution by encouraging them especially the lady, she is talking like someone who have been council seriously so that she can in turn likewise do to her colleagues in similar situation. As an Islamic leader, I will like to give them a back ground that someone blind is not zero person. In Egypt, one of the most prominent in the end of the 20th century is a blind man. He wrote hundreds of books I myself have them in my archives I bought them when I travel to Egypt. Also the motives who are the spiral directors in Saudi Arabia, three of them that have acted in this position are blind. The king or authorities will never take any decisions if they are not consulted. For me blind people can do great things.
14. Blindness does not mean that all is lost. Now according to scientist the human brain is divided in to two. They half work if you are sighted but as soon as you became blind the other half that was not working comes on right away. So it is no wonder my brother was talking about computer. They have a sharp brain.

February, 2014

1. Sometimes my eyes do scratch. What causes that?
2. The way your panellists are allaying issues clearly shows that expatriates in eye business no need to doubt it.
3. I am a health worker, we helped one lady deliver a baby in her community but the deformed the eyes are closed and some other abnormalities. This same baby was born with one ear we referred this woman to PCMH and just yesterday she came back to us in our clinic with the baby eyes still closed and running. What will you advice?
4. My eyes have problem, one is running water what will you advice.
5. My question is that I receive glasses from the western area eye clinic but whenever I used these glasses my eyes are running water then at the same time it's like there are some sandy particles in my eyes. I do not know what the cause is.
6. Is it advice sable to buy drop without prescription?
7. I want to know if injection water is good for Apolo?
8. What is this prevention all about "blindness" in question?
9. Is it true that palm wine is good for eye sight?
10. Could there be any measure for someone who is seeing straight? That is "cross eye" to be adjusted prevented or reversible.
11. What are the measure that you have put in place to reduce the number of blind cases in the country.
12. Blindness na bad sick for anybodi so mi fambul den leh we take tem.
13. I have a problem with one eye but it is of late that I discovered this problem. I escorted my friends one day to the eye clinic because he had eye problem so I just decided to take that as an opportunity to check my eyes when it was made known to me that the one eye has no vision but been that the other one was still ok. I was always thinking that I have no eye problem. I was giving

some eye ointment which I have been using for good two weeks now, unfortunately up till now, I have seen no difference. Is like thinks are still the same as before. What will you advise me?

14. I am also experiencing a similar problem with my right eye and have visited the eye hospital in our district. Do I need to change hospital what would you advice?
15. I really want to be enlightened with the eye that is affected with high blood pressure; my right eye is very heavy on me. I really don't know what to apply on this eye since we who have high blood pressure are many. If there is pressure on your eye what must take or apply?
16. I have heard your panellist say that it is good to check your eyes. Please let me know where can I go for this eye check?
17. I have jegay in my eyes, but have gone to the eye clinic to check my eyes. After the eye checked I was advice to buy the eye drop only. So do I need another eye check or do you advice?
18. I have been experiencing eye itching so much that I almost want to put my fingers in to my eyes when scratching. These are red in away I don't understand. What is your advice?

March, 2014

1. For a pregnant woman is there any cause that can make a baby to be blind taking in to that you are saying onchocerciasis and vitamin A deficiency can lead to blind ness.
2. For me I have problem with my eyes. I have visited different eye clinics, but have still not received proper medication. I understand that I have glaucoma that has affected my sighted my sight. One eye is damaged. I want to be advice what prevention to take or what must do not to lose my sight completely.
3. This oncho tablet you are talking about. I can still remember when I was with my grandmother in the village. You are saying that it should be given by height; I thought it should have been by age. At that time my elder brother distributed this drug and gave 3 to a six year old boy which created another problem for that child. So why not by age instead of by height, because some children are short but above 14 years whilst some can be tall but above 7 or 10 years.
4. I want to know if you can take this oncho tablet after six month or every six month.
5. Are these drugs namely oncho medicine, vitamin A capsule sold in our pharmacy.
6. I want you to help me how to get glaucoma medicine or the treatment.
7. What is the cause for a baby to be born you see the eyes red and running water? This problem goes on from zero to one year.
8. What is the cost of this drugs we are talking about or is this free treatment.
9. I am listening to this program and will want to make an input to this discussion. I am calling from Pujehun somebody want to know whether a child can be blind because of a woman pregnancy really it is not possible for a child to be blind in the belly due to oncho, but if that pregnant woman have infection like gonoria and does not take treatment then give birth to a child and does not take treatment then give birth to a child then the discharges enters the child's eyes then then the mid wife does not take care of this eye by then, does not apply tetracycline eye ointment later on that child can go blind.
10. May god bless you all for this program, the program is too interesting very sensitive and as for the media we are getting you loud and clear in our area Plantain Island. Most of the questions I would have loved to ask the panellists have been asked already however I want to state here that poverty is really a contributing factor for the spread of these disease in Sierra Leone.
11. I am happy that you are taking this kind of interest as people calling themselves "welbodi" organisation I was happy to hear you talk the foods we have in our markets that can help with good health. The foods we grow in our country that we not import by this if everyone cultivates the habit or eating these one cultivate the habit or eating these foods "welbodi" would be our portion.

12. I have one problem in our district Moyamba. The supply of the drugs does seem to be sufficient. I am semi blind by the way. Most times when I hear of the oncho tablet I go to receive to the health centres for these drugs to be treated for the oncho but unfortunately I am informed that there are no drugs. So please see that you supply enough drugs for everyone to be treated.

April 2014

1. I do agree entirely of what my brothers and sisters are discussing right now on the radio, you know any time blind people are seen, they are been associated to many things, in fact even if they see them well dressed, or with a decent appearance, they will still want to remove coins to give them thinking that they are beggars.
2. Really to solve this problem, we the blind people should not close our mouth.
3. Thank God for the present government that has given the PWDs act, because in this act many good things are in it that can give BVIP confidence to stand up and talk and do things independently.
4. For far too long we the blind have been pushed to the corner, we the educated or privilege should continue advocating on behalf of our colleagues change the negative statement made to know of the many opportunities around.
5. I see no need of casting aspirations on BVIPs

May 2014

1. Blindness can stops someone future.
2. I feel that the blind people deserve more than the sighted, we should come to their aid.
3. I do support the building of the capacity of the blind for empowerment.
4. My question is can blindness be inherited? Assuming that someone grandfather or grandmother was blind before, will the grandchild or grandchildren meet their blindness through this when there is no sickness or accident.
5. Something is doubting me about the PWD commission, just like the panellists are saying that the disable people must succeed in this country, I do agree and I am glad about this but the commissioners that have been elected and appointed now, to even see them is not easy, too much protocols are around them depriving people from seen them.
6. For a PWD to be active, policies must be put aside.
7. We are expecting the head quarter of the commission to be at Kingharman Road why did it not happen so?
8. Good evening, I want to know if there are any skills training centres in Bo if yes, how we can locate them.
9. How do you see access to public building or offices in Sierra Leone?

June 2014

1. I am sure that BVIP should be given special public transport.
2. I think helping the children of the blind is one way of empowering them, as these children will take care of them in the future, the children that are the children that are in the streets with them.
3. Empowering the disable is very good, and will help them do something.
4. Are you considering the blind beggars on the street as their primary objective is begging?
5. First of all I will congratulate people employing blind people to display their potentials it is a job well done, and I do hope that others will emulate this examples.

6. I am a blind person I thank the panellists for all that they are addressing to see that our issues are addressed I really appreciate their commitment in this of our land Sierra Leone.
7. We should try to sensitize the public because we are in the modern days, for far too long BVIPs have been facing challenges, with education which is very paramount to the blind person.
8. I thank you very much for the good work you are doing, please keep it up.
9. It is with education that a blind person can become useful in the society, and to educate a blind person is very expensive we are calling on those at the hem of things to really come to their aids.
10. I really appreciate the panellists in the studio, this is a step in the right direction, of course I am not a blind person but I attended school with BVIPs, some of them now are very useful in the society.
11. Blind people should try to add value to themselves like we are discussing, about transport fare, even some of us who are sighted, there are times we have no transport fare, but we do negotiate instead of just going in to a vehicle to lower your prestige to gain sympathy from other passengers, the driver or apprentice.
12. I am very much interested in the program, the blind people are much intelligent, they are brilliant, they can do better than we the sighted if only we give them empowerment I know Steve Wonder, an American blind musician that is so great, and admired worldwide, so let us help them in whatever we can to be part of the society.

July 2014

1. Most girls and women in Secondary and tertiary institutions face discrimination or sexual harassment, because some school authorities take advantage of them because of their condition.
2. The CRC should also consider integration of BVIPS issues in to the review process.
3. Is there adequate educational in facilities in secondary and tertiary institutions for BVIPS
4. Society still frons on P'S even though they are as equally important as the sighted persons
5. Mainstreaming indeed really helped the blind and even the sighted to work hand in hand in the same class room
6. Disable issues na alman issue, leh we sheer equal love en leh we join hand for push disable education go before
7. Blind people are really suffering, I am appealing to the government t to build quarters for them and give employment
8. I want to know if the principals in the various secondary schools and colleges do have a patient to really handle issues of the blind accordingly in their institutions because me listening to you now see that you are ok with mainstreaming BVI persons in this institution so that they can work side by side with their sighted colleagues.
9. Thanks to HKI for this program including the panellists and you moderating.
10. I do agree with one of the panellists that personnel is one challenge but again I would say encouragement is necessary for the personnel to be attracted so that he/she can show interest the whole idea in helping the blind.
11. Learning materials not been available for mainstreaming is a big challenge therefore the government has a role to play in making it a policy they should work with the INGOs to see it happen.
12. God has not completed creating a person until he or she is dead because you can be sighted today and tomorrow you are blind; you then immediately become part of the disable constituent.
13. There is adult education for the sighted by the way what about the blind is there any way for them to have a center for blind adult education?
14. I want people to know that even the blind can live like us the sighted so in the society everyone
15. Must be considering the same with no discrimination.

16. Blind people can think that most of us who are sighted can not do.
17. One thing in this country is that people see the disabled as bad people, they see them as a cause forgetting to know that this is just an example for the world to know that it can be to any one in respect of his/her status.
18. I hear you discussed challenges for the blind at BECE.
19. Is it that you the blind do not have a representative at WAEC to advocate on your behalf?
20. We have so many blind children in mile 91, most of them want to learn I am appealing to MEST to make effort.

November, 2014

1. I think everybody in the society can fall or risks of becoming blind so let us please consider the blind school.
2. I know one of the panellist in the studio, I therefore want to say that blind people are really powerful.
3. I want to say thanks to my mentors in the studio, as they have said a lot, my contribution is that the government should give blind people position in the society, where the sighted have able to make it, perhaps we can make it up, I am sure that blind people can do things better.
4. I knew on blind lady may her soul rest in peace, this lady worked hard to be well educated, the late Buray Sesay learnt to the highest peak and got Division one from the Fourabay College, and so I am encouraging further blind sisters to follow the footsteps of this lady, I know that in the near future, blind people will make a mark in mama Salone I thank you.
5. My own contribution to this Program, is that the government should have sympathy for the blind, if it is left with me, I want them to be given high positions in this country, knowing that issues of the disabled must be every body's concern.
6. Let the blind people keep the faith, one day the government will see reasons to consider them.
7. Actually my issues with Persons With Disabilities is that people tend to put them aside thinking that they are a liability, to the nation but like what my learned colleague is saying there is that if they can only be giving what they need to make progress, the sky will be their limit.
8. I want to commend all the panellists in the studio, for their nice presentation, and I want to assure the Government that and the people of this country that they should give PWDs a chance to show what they are capable of doing towards development, thanks.
9. I am really glad for this information NGO's should support blind people to that they will live an independent life in the future.
10. My mother is blind and is always worried what your advice is?
11. How can the blind read and write when they cannot see, because human beings can use their sight to see and to do everything on earth.
12. I want to know if all of you in the studio are blind.

December, 2014

1. I thank you for this program, how can one locate you people.
2. We are calling on the Government and the law enforcement agency to clamp down on any one that is mocking PWDs and allow the law to deal with them.
3. What I want to state in this program is that someone you see blind should not be looked low upon, and example is the Deputy Minister of social welfare though blind but he is up there today and I can make measure of other who are sound producers, so don't just see a blind person and think that he is not useful in the society.

4. I am really happy for my brothers in the studio speaking good things very sensible issues, sincerely in Freetown it is better compared to what is happening in the provinces, things are terrible here, however, we in Kenema are using the skills we have to move on in life, had it not being because of the Ebola crises, we would have being suppliers of Volley Net for all the schools in Kenema, because we have people who can plant volley ball net, and other good skills thanks.
5. Thank you for the information you have done this afternoon.
6. Please sir, let us work together to eradicate the terrible discrimination in our different community, because this blind people are not foreigners.
7. For me, what must blind people can do, we the sighted cannot do it, I have interacted with a good number of them, believe me they are very intelligent than most of us who called ourselves sighted, so we should stop discriminating them, they are intellectuals.
8. This program you have come up with is really fine, most vehicles coming from Waterloo are still refusing to take blind people, they are really suffering, once I was force to argue with a driver for this wicked tricks so they should stop discriminating the blind.

January 2015

1. I thank you all for this program especially my senior colleagues in the studio, I do appreciate them for what they are discussing. Really there is high discrimination on us blind people just imagine one Friday morning I went to buy polish for my shoe, as soon as I entered the shop the shop keeper shouted at me my friend go away the time is too early I have not sold anything. He perceives me to be a beggar I felt bad.
2. The government should give us a place in the Sierra Leone constitution so that our issues can be addressed; there should a special Ministry to handle People with Disabilities in the country.
3. There should also be a seat in parliament for PWDs with no election it should be proportional representation. We should also have a seat in the city and district council respectively.
4. We the blind people in Kailahun, are really suffering to earn our living we have to dig toilet pits for people, we cracks stone to survive of course you will agree with me that these are not jobs meant for blind people at all. Because we have no support for either government or NGOs were left with no other alternative but to do this dangerous job.
5. Everyone should realize that blind people are parts of the society because they do pay local task so they should benefit from all facilities in the country.
6. First and foremost I want to commend the panellist in the studio our senior in the disability world, like the previous caller said issues of PWDs is an umbrella issues, that Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs alone cannot be able to handle these of our issues alone, so I want to go in line with him that in this constitutional review there should a space that will state clearly that a special ministry be provided for disability issues to specifically address our issues and empower the NCPWDS you know this commission have a big work to do, really we are facing a lot of discrimination in most cases where we live.
7. Really just like one of the panellist said that disability is a part of life, someone can be able today but tomorrow is disable or perhaps even few minutes or an hour from now. So if there are no modalities for PWDS he that is new in the disable world will feel the pinch than the disable because we are already used to it for quite a long time so let there be proper laws we must have proper representation in parliament so that we can also have an opportunity to discuss our issue so that they will not just make laws without our involvement.
8. Disability is not inability so we the able person we must encourage and accept them as our own brothers and sisters. Because it is not their making and wish.

9. I can feel the same with you gentlemen but you know your problem may your communities empathize with you because disability is not inability. God bless us all.
10. What of people with cross eye, is there any solution to the deformation?
11. Hi Brother SI Bangs, and team the right of way, access to private and public venues and building and acceptability by others is difficult for you and unfriendly. Leadership is not the number of people that serve you but the number of people that you serve. Constantly engage the media, lobby with the government on its policies starting from the councillors to the president.
12. I am really happy for this program, the Blind should be given a lot of opportunities and just as one of the panellist was saying that you know about today and do not know what may be fall you tomorrow, the government should really consult the blind people for whatever they want to do for them especially when constructing buildings or buying buses.
13. It is really pathetic one thing about Sierra Leoneans is that they are very wicked every one cares about his or her business. Some time back I say one blind person suffering and I shed tears. My prayer is that God guide you and provide for you and touch the heart of the leaders to do something for you the blind.
14. Actually I have listen to the panellists one of the panellist that made mention of the building been constructed in the country in the sky rocketed manner wherein they have no thought of what will happen in the future so this is really a food for thought because I do not see why you can be putting up such structures forgetting that one day you might not be OK to claim that structure.
15. So for we the sighted, let us carefully consider this so that we can do things well for tomorrow.

February 2015

1. Mr. Bangura and Sheik Kallay, I have a serious problem with my eyes, I have lost my sight on my right eye, medical reports shows total retinal detachment. I have been ask by SightSavers to immediately buy two types of polycarbonate lenses. Please I am begging your organization to help me purchase the glasses. I am out of employment and my age is 67 years.
2. One day a blind man asked a wise man, can there be anything worse than losing your sight? The wise man replied say yes. Then the blind man asks what? The wise man said losing your vision is the worst, so fellow youths always have vision in life.
3. Kudos for the program you see, such media deliberation in connection with our visual impaired brothers and sisters is indicative of a feeling of belonging, hope and prospect.
4. Indeed, the blind should be heard in all sphere of life. The panellists in the studio make me feel proud on the way they respond to questions. Kudos to all.
5. My former Headmaster was the late Rev. G.A.B Garber who was a blind man but a very credible and delights person, RIP.
6. Mr. Bangura what is the name of your organization?
7. I am happy for this program especially for the two panellists in the studio who I quit well know, I pray that the good God continue to see them through and help them to help themselves, may this extend to fellow blind people.
8. Really I am happy for this program, may God bless you all. I have been seeing many blind people suffering, most of them are uneducated. They have no trade, please help this vulnerable people because they have been encountering problems with vehicles some falls in the gutter. To me it is very shameful to see such a thing, I was very close to blindness so I know what it means even though I regain my sight so whenever I see a blind person I am very quick to render him help. You should respect them.
9. Please think of them take them out of the street they are not too many, some of them have their wives and children and are suffering every day.

10. My contribution to this program is that, when someone is blind, he/she have additional ideas than the sighted person because with the five senses we have sight is one of them.
11. So when you lose the sense of sight the lost sense add to the one still active, there by empowering their thinking faculty.
12. I am blind but I have over 75 mobile numbers in my head so the loss of sight gives me strength to think more, please take note of that.
13. I want to thank all the panellists but one thing we must also discuss is the various causes of blindness.
14. I am proud of the panellists in the studio, they have made me to be what I am today. A person like Jonathan Conteh when I became blind in 2006 he made me to enter college and I know have HTC now in the teaching field even though I have still not been approved yet by the government but I am really proud of these men. I am also proud of my blindness state. Blind people have potential may God bless them. My only appeal to them is that they help advocate on my behalf that the Ministry of Education approve me. I have thought for complete six years as a blind teacher but have not been approved. So even as they have helped me to be what I am today please come to my aid I am feed up with this.
15. The blind must be heard in all spheres of life, the panellists in the studio make me proud of the blind, the way they respond to questions, kudos to you all.
16. I am the first beneficiaries of Vision for the Blind in Makeni, I am very happy to hear the voice of my director Jonathan and I am impressed.
17. I thank the organizers of this program very much, for giving the opportunity of the blind to express their views on the air especially when this topic is given correct information on the successes and achievement of the blind as that will give zeal to any leader of this country to be considering the blind and see them as very important persons in the society. I would want to extend my special greetings to Jonathan and SI Bangs.

March 2015

1. I urge all blind people to have courage and to be strong in order to defeat inability, may God help you.
2. Disability is not in ability, I am therefore calling on all PWDs to start searching for jobs instead of speaking for arms or be involved in begging.
3. How old or how young should a blind child be before been admitted in the blind school
4. Good afternoon Sirs I grew up with an eye problem from the age of two years, but I was having an aid from the missionaries of charity, but now that they have gone I have no body to help me to take care of my eyes because I am a poor student not having money to do frequent eye check-up how can this program help me?
5. I want to know if someone is blind and does not want to remain ideal, how he or she can be opportune to be productive in life.
6. For some of us who were not born blind, but met our blindness as a result of the senseless war in our country just like me a SLA that is now totally blind, I am really suffering. The government of this country owns us a lot we fought for this country and now we have lost our sight, since then that is the end of the matter. No comprehension no benefit, so as blind person how can we really live.
7. Just like one of the panellist was saying that if someone does not want to give you that is when he will say you are not serious, PWDs please be focused so that they will know how serious you are.
8. I am really happy for this discussion, all along I have been hearing you discussed issues of the blind, but I have never had you discussed about the deaf and dumb. I am a parent of a deaf child but

getting this child to Wilkinson Road is really challenging, so I do not really know what are you going to do about these category of people

April, 2015

1. Blindness is not a barrier to make you do what you intend to do.
2. Sir as you know that 80% of the blind people are illiterate and most of them are in the street begging so how determine are you to see that this people receive help to be given jobs in their status.
3. Many thanks to you for this programme but honestly discrimination among the blind people is too much. You need to embark on more sanitization in the street and in the provinces.
4. Friends how effective are you in the provinces to see that the blind people also have opportunity to draw close to you.
5. Actually the blind should be giving the chance or opportunity to belong. They should be brought on board to be part of the community.
6. You know that in Sierra Leone we have a lot of odd jobs when you apply for job from companies these are the jobs they will offer. I will want to know if you have provision for the blind or are these people expected to take jobs like drivers, cleaners, fitters. Do you have such provisions for blind people in this country because if you go to the mining companies to apply for jobs, these are the odd jobs that Sierra Leoneans are giving?
7. As for me I do believe that disability is not inability. Anything that an able person can do they can also so be done by the PWDS. The only problem here is that the public is not treating the PWDS fairly. Let us look at one or two advantages on PWDS: as you were discussing about the past supply which was done in my ward we, advice the food suppliers that the PWDS should be treated first but there was one Liberia lady that was very reluctant. She said disable or able must join the queue.
8. Really this is a sensitive issue. We have seeing it that people like taking advantage on disable people and the disadvantage is great on this people.
9. If you feel that people should not sympathize with the disable people or feel sorry for them, for me I will say no, they should sympathize with them where ever they are and you should give them the priority.
10. I am a counsellor, I just listened to the discussion in connection with food supply and the concern raised by the previous texter, yes indeed there was food supply in my ward. I suggested that the blind people should be giving preferential treatment for this food supply but the lead person in charge for this supply say no, everyone should join the que and wait for their turn. For me I saw that to be unfair.
11. I want to thank you for this educative Programme, as it teaches our families who are always neglecting or pushing the blind people in one corner. A lesson, even though they have been thinking that when one is blind he or she is no longer useful.
12. Gentlemen, according to the history blind people have made in this country, I am impressed, they have contributed greatly to nation building especially MR SFB Campbell, former head master of the Milton Margai School for the Blind who mentored all prominent BVIPS in the country, and I believe that you in the panel discussion went through him. People by now must change their negative perception about blind people.
13. You are right, the blind people should be giving the opportunity to show how useful they are because if you give them the opportunity they will make use of it better than the sighted.
14. I have followed this radio discussion right from the beginning. I want to analyse the wonderful things that blind people have done successfully: look at the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, are you not seeing his performance therefore people should embrace blind people to let them realize that all is not lost for them. They are very useful in the nation.

15. My contribution this afternoon first off all is that I want to thank all of you for coming to this studio to sensitize us about blindness indeed disability is not inability. We have learned a lot about great works done by the blind people worldwide, which is a great reason why they should be allowed to participate in the development of the society.

May, 2015

1. All what these blind people at the radio station discussing is the fact, it is only in this country that I see greedy people making PWDS to suffer, no facilities provided for them, is like they have been totally forgotten. Sincerely this should not just be for the government of today but it should be for all government. Their right must be a constitutional issue.
2. I am a victim of family rejection, a very young girl like me have been left alone by my relatives. Even when a message was sent to them for them to assist me their reply was negative
3. I am asking those in the ministries responsible for the welfare of these people to reach out in the villages and do more sensitization about blind people and their importance to the society so that they can be giving equal rights or opportunities because their understanding in these villages is that when someone is blind he or she is a living corpse whether educated or not there is no way they can make it in life. As far as they are concerned, the only means of survival of these people is begging.
4. This issue you are discussing about is true, we PWDS can do things that can contribute to the developmental process of the country. I am one practical example, a proprietor of a school and a farmer here in Pujehun. I made all effort to seek for support to upgrade these two project but have receive no positive reply from anyone.
5. I am glad to hear your topic for discussion on this programme and want buttress that what you are saying is really true. The government should brail text book for pupils and students during their pre-girl child education distribution of school materials so that they themselves will have their text books read first hand.
6. It is not really easy even for us in the colleges as a blind girl the challenges are huge so for us not to be left behind we will want our pamphlet and our books to be Brailled
7. Concerning these blind women and girls those that tamper with them should be careful. Some people are not afraid to interfere with them.
8. We should pay attention on these blind women and girls greatly, I am appealing to the donors to give a helping hand to the blind women and girls.
9. This particular programme you have come up with is really good because in most organizations they always try to put us out therefore this programme will serve as a voice for the voiceless, to sensitize the public about what must be done to make blind and visually impaired persons empowered for progress.
10. We should take care of the blind people because it is not their wish to become blind.
11. I Mr. Presenter I love the way this programme is going on the blind people are not having any encouragement in mama Salone because they think that they cannot in anyway be responsible.
12. The government should make provision by creating an office for them to have their issues addressed so that they can be giving encouragement and facilities in the community and the country as a whole.
13. My concern here is about the challenges facing blind women and girls particularly: I know of an incident wherein a mature blind lady one day was out in the street trying to visit a friend she asked one young man to passing by to help her go across, unfortunately this young man took this blind lady to a hideout where he asked her to make love with him she refused but he threatened to stab her. This poor powerless and defenceless blind lady had no option but to comply just to save her life. This is why I am asking that all stake holders pay great attention to the welfare of blind and girls. Finally

while should blind women be embarrassed in hospitals or clinics because they are pregnant are they not women like other women

June, 2015

1. I appeal to the government to help the blind people at Mile 91
2. How can I be sure that the medicine must not be sold? Because I am seeing government books that are not to be on the market.
3. Depriving a blind and visually impaired person from accessing braille materials is like sending a soldier to the war front without ammunition.
4. I am appealing to the big business men especially those dealing with stationary to bring in braille materials for sale.
5. How difficult is it to teach braille?
6. Braille is used across the globe; we should make sure that we do not deprive our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone from their system of reading and writing.
7. I wish I had an opportunity of providing these materials.
8. Parents who can afford please make sure that you provide these braille materials for your blind children
9. I am advising the government to cater for the braille reading and writing materials so that when they are distributing reading and learning materials to schools the blind would not be left behind.

July 2015

1. What have you done for the blind people in the villages? Because most times I hear you focusing attention on blind people in Freetown.
2. Please try to see that the blind in Waterloo are given great assistance, because most of them can be seen moving about in the high way which is very risky and dangerous for them and their child guides.
3. I am appealing to the Government that they take the lead in giving a helping hand to the blind in other to improve their leaving conditions.
4. If only the Government can come on board to assist these venerable blind people it will not only be beneficial to them but would also be beneficial to their families and the country as well.

August 2015

1. What are the mechanisms that government has put in place for the blind people especially in Yoni chiefdom?
2. There are so many blind people that are suffering in Yoni chiefdom. I hope government will put good mechanism in place in other to help them.
3. What are the policies that have been put in place to address issues of the blind?
4. In other countries, medical people do visit schools to check student's eyes to prevent blindness .what are the plans for our own children in Sierra Leone to prevent blindness
5. Thanks so much for this program. Losing sight does not mean you should lose faith or all hope is lost. Thanks to President Koroma for choosing a BVIP Mr. Bai Artilla to be part and parcel in the development of our country Sierra Leone.
6. Looking at the issues of the blind in this country, it is painful. Some blind beggars walk from Waterloo to the central part of the city to beg.

7. Ladies and gentlemen, when I'm reading newspapers .My sight is not as usual as before .I strain a lot I need a medical advice.
8. What is the relationship between your institution and Baptist Eye Hospital Lunsar?
9. Ar wan 4 ask wona y mek wona nor kin gee attention 2 wona compin blind dem?

September 2015

1. I am following your discussion and learning a lot from the information you are sharing on air right now.
2. Friends quite a good number of us are really learning today. Indeed we continue to use negative on you PWDS ignorantly .I am a victim of this improper way of addressing you people.
3. I have a BVI friend who I always admire at .Each time I come across him and call him by his name he also responds calling me by names.
4. Our friends are right in their own opinion and their view most be respected because we are enquire in God sight.
5. I want to know whether it is the word blind that the people in the studio are trying to discouraged .If I am correct then what other words should be used to replace it?
6. Please list down more of these words that have been negatively used on you PWDS for our understanding.
7. I want to know whether it is only through radio programs that you want to get people to be sensitized on these negative words or do you have other means of gathering people for these purpose to educate them on these issues.
8. I have a concern my friend happen to be blind was in love with one lady who later became pregnant. When she gave birth it was made cleared that the baby was his .But after two years the lady now said the baby was mine friend's own after taking care of him for good two years .My question now is what action do you think my friend should take on this lady or what help do you like to give to him?
9. I am happy how this program today is progressing .I want to add my voice to the discussion .Sincerely what PWDS hate is giving them false names.
10. Don't tag someone by his or her problem. Am sure you know that we all have needs, therefore if you can give any help to someone leave him or her.
11. Ladies and gentlemen of cause there is no one leaving with a disability that we love to be addressed by his or her state, because there no happiness or benefit in that. If you don't know the name of the individual you can either use words like mummy Daddy, brother sister uncle or aunty I want to have a word with you.
12. I am a VIP and not a disable person because I can do many things .for example, I can drive whenever am travelling to my village Songo as soon as we enter waterloo I take over the driving seat from my driver until we arrive.
13. It is the eye that has problem not every part of the body. Many people that get train at the Milton Margi School for the Blind, I can proudly say am not miserable they can never go without a skill no way. You are either equipped academically or musically.
14. If you want sympathize with any of us leaving with disability move away from us we become offended by your words of sympathy.
15. My brothers and sisters in the studio some one that is sick and is expecting to be healed from that illness needs sympathy but for a person with a disability that is not expecting anything like that till death don't need sympathy from no body.
16. The best way to work with blind person is to be friend with him or her, have time to discuss important issues or make room for healthy debate and discuss soba issues. They don't need sympathy but empathy

17. Some people really want to handicap us and they make us discourage for the rest of our lives .I have a relative each time we meet its like we are in the state of morning as if she has lost a love one .One day I could not bear it, I stopped her and told her that her tears would only hinder progress. And that if she cannot encourage me let her not discourage me. We don't need your tears.
18. I am listening to this program I am a PWD born from a polygamous family of twelve children. In spite of this I appreciate the wise decision of my Dad who sported something good in me so much that he paid great attention on me now I am the bread winner of the family and have raised up three of my children with good education. Two are graduate and the other one is the university. I am also supporting extending family members .PWDS have problem with a part or more part in their body but sincerely they are hard working with regards developing themselves. I always tell PWDS that they should not lose hope or give up on themselves .am residing in BO not only owning a house but owning a big compound. I went up to administrative finance and a head of department.
19. Friends can be educated if not you can learn other skills as PWDS to maintain your dignity, don't give your children to relatives. Do something productive to take care of them .Don't allow yourselves to be disabled. Be proud to see yourselves doing more than what those without the disability are doing. I a living example am well known by the community. Last but not the list my brothers and sisters this program is really educative .Therefore, using this negative ways to address our blind colleague is really not good because they did not apply for it. God knows why it happened to them this way. You should mock them, the reason being that you don't know what may be your end. In your life time you should be very careful .If someone has problem and you don't have any help to give don't radicle

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1. How are you interfacing with these people?
2. How are you coordinating or harmonizing with the activities around these people?
3. Since you are laying more emphasis on survivors, what if am not a survivors but have money to pay for my eye treatment, will I not be attended to?
4. Am hearing you discussing about provisions for survivors .What about the orphans? Because I have three children who lost their mother from the Ebola Virus Disease they are in my care but unfortunately up to now no help have been given to them. I am still taking care of their schooling. Are they not considered on the free package from the government?
5. Are you just considering the survivors? What about those who died from the Ebola virus disease?
6. I want to know more about the sources of vitamin A to prevent me from blindness.
7. Hi friends, thanks for the program .I want to know if survivors have photos on their certificate, if not, don't you think that someone suffering from the same eye problem can use the certificate in the name of the survivors?
8. Eye problem is too delicate, as an organization you should treat everyone free. Eye problem is a big and serious problem.