



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



RAINBO INITIATIVE - SIERRA LEONE ANNUAL REPORT A YEAR IN FOCUS 2022

Where we work.





Acronyms.

GBV	Gender-Based Violence
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
RI	Rainbo Initiative
FSU	Family Support Unit
MoGCA	Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs
MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
CoP	Community of Practice
NacGBV	National Committee on GBV
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UK	United Kingdom
EU	European Union
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
PIH	Partners In Health
TCC	The Carter Centre
SL	Sierra Leone



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Letter from the Executive Director.



Dear valued stakeholders,

As the Executive Director of Rainbo Initiative (RI), I am proud to present our Annual Report for the year 2022.

Our organisation is committed to ending Gender Based Violence (GBV) and providing support to survivors of SGBV and communities affected by this crisis. Over the past 12 months, we have made significant progress in achieving our mission, and we are excited to share our accomplishments with you.

In 2022, our single biggest achievement is the expansion of RI programs to the sub-regional countries of Liberia and Guinea and thus scaling up our RI model to these countries in preventing Sexual and Gender-Based violence (SGBV) by establishing country programs in these countries; and securing sustainable and diversified funding stream by establishing funding affiliates in UK respectively. As an organization, we consider this expansion drive as a significant milestone because it has given us the unique opportunity to attain an international status and thus stride to become a global leader of SGBV.

We have continued to work tirelessly to raise awareness about GBV and its impact on survivors and communities. Through our campaigns, trainings, and community engagements, we have reached thousands of people and provided them with the knowledge and resources they need to take action against GBV.

In addition, we have provided critical support to survivors of SGBV, including Free medical and psychosocial services and legal assistance. Our team of dedicated professionals has worked tirelessly to ensure that survivors receive the care and support they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

We are also proud to report that we have made significant progress in engaging with communities to end GBV. Our programmes saw a major expansion, with several new partnerships and projects launched. These included the 'What Were You Wearing?' survivor art exhibition in Freetown and three other regions in the country, as well as an expansion to Liberia and Guinea. Furthermore, a Rainbo Centre was established in Kambia District, including a Satellite Rainbo Centre at our Head Office in Freetown for case referrals. We are also supporting six out of the eight government-established One-Stop Centres across the country.

Through our community-led initiatives, we have worked with local leaders and community members to identify and address the root causes of GBV. This has included providing education and training on GBV and safeguarding, addressing harmful cultural practices, and advocating for policy change.



None of this would have been possible without the support of our valued stakeholders. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, partners, interns, and staff for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we strive to end GBV and support survivors of SGBV and communities affected by this issue.

With gratitude,

Daniel F. H Kettor,
Executive Director, Rainbo Initiative.



Executive Summary.

This annual report contains key organisational achievements made against the strategic priorities and goals of Rainbo Initiative in 2022. Specifically, this report highlighted the progress we have made as an organisation in securing and diversifying our funding sources to support the implementation of programs thus positioning us as a sustainable and professional organization within the GBV landscape in Sierra Leone.

In this report, RI will also share with the wider audience stories of change that illustrate the impact of our work on especially women and girls in the communities where we work. These compelling, human-interest stories highlighted how a person, family or community has achieved positive change because of a Rainbo Initiative project in 2022 and focused on key achievements of Rainbo Initiative's work and programmes.

The organisation recently received a multi-year grant from Irish Aid of € 1,000,000 With this renewed funding commitment from Irish Aid, the organisation is expanding the reach of its services to more GBV survivors and focusing on the organisation's future goals.



Key Milestone reached in 2022.

Milestone	Description of Achievement	Period
Purchase of land	The organisation has purchased 1.3 acres of land from the Scout Association of SL for the construction of RI center of Excellence.	Oct-Dec' 22
Secure a multi-year funding	Rainbo Initiative has secured multi-year funding from both Irish Aid and Trocaire. Implementation is on annual basis.	Oct 2022 for Irish Aid January 2023 for Trocaire
Registration in the UK	The organisation has registered as a charity in the UK and established a fundraising Affiliate to secure a sustainable and diversified funding streams by establishing funding affiliates across UK,	Aug-22-March ' 23
Scale-up RI programme in Guinea and Liberia	RI's expansion strategy successful scale-up RI model in both countries to address SGBV in the sub-region by establishing country programs in Liberia and Guinea.	Jan-Dec-22
Establish and equipped a Business Development and Fundraising Unit	RI has established a fundraising unit to primarily support the organization's expansion drive and support the growth and programs needs of the organization.	Aug-22

SGBV Summary Statistics of Survivor Incidents at the Rainbo Centres – 2022.

Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Achieved at Rainbo six Centres	Total
SGBV, associated issues and referrals														
Number of sexual assault cases	221	233	242	195	280	274	219	209	213	222	217	180	2705	2,941
Number of physical assault cases	19	12	33	17	17	20	15	16	18	22	18	27	234	
Psychological Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	
Number of pregnancy cases	40	25	32	25	43	40	33	40	51	40	40	42	451	
Number of HIV/AIDs cases	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Number of other STIs	183	186	171	133	203	210	153	157	169	149	137	134	1985	
Number of referrals from FSU	233	231	255	199	284	280	219	209	216	224	226	186	2762	
Number of referrals from community	7	12	19	12	13	13	15	16	13	20	9	20	169	
Number of referrals from partner	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	10	
Number of referrals to other service providers	63	47	38	30	55	53	15	54	73	50	37	44	559	
Number of follow up home visitation	5	12	4	10	29	28	29	41	26	29	35	14	262	
Number of follow up treatment	52	77	85	78	91	77	71	72	79	96	102	57	937	
Number of Female survivors	239	243	271	210	295	293	232	223	231	243	236	206	2922	
Number of Male survivors	1	2	4	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	0	1	19	
Total Cases that access Justice														
Number of Cases with First time magistrate Court Appearance	7	0	15	8	6	12	6	5	2	31	13	14	119	
Number of cases Committed To High Court	33	4	18	6	4	17	11	7	6	10	11	12	139	
Number of cases successfully prosecuted	2	3	6	0	3	5	7	1	2	7	3	0	39	

NOTE: The data shared above is only for reported cases at our Rainbo Centres and is in no way representative of the total incidences of SGBV in Sierra Leone. The indicator reporting and associated statistics are generated exclusively by Rainbo Initiative. Rainbo uses its system for data collection in the execution of its response and prevention activities in six (6) Rainbo Centres across Sierra Leone and with the consent of its survivors. This data shared should not be used to follow up on survivors or shared outside irresponsibly.



Progress made in the attainment of Rainbo Initiative's Strategic Goals in 2022.

In 2022, Rainbo Initiative worked tirelessly to promote the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in communities. We are proud to report on the successes made under the following headings.

Strategic Goal 1: Provide free quality, age-appropriate response services to survivors of SGBV.

Providing Supportive Services to SGBV Survivors

In 2022, we continued to provide free medical and psychosocial services to survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) across six (6) Rainbo Centres. Our medical and psychosocial teams provided a range of specialised services including counselling, medical examinations and treatment - ensuring the survivors receive timely and comprehensive care. Our efforts have helped survivors of SGBV to receive the care and support they need to heal and recover from their experiences. We provided medical and psychosocial services to 2,941 survivors of SGBV. We further reduced the spread of sexually transmitted infections among survivors by providing necessary medication and protection at their first contact with our Rainbo Centres. We also provided survivors with referrals for follow-up care and medical certificates were issued to survivors who wanted to pursue their cases in court.

Survivors' Voice

“Mr. Koroma grabbed me and forced himself on me.”

A 17-year-old girl was sexually abused by her 35-year-old father.

A 17-year-old girl was sexually abused by her 35-year-old teacher during extra lessons at his house. The girl was threatened with failing the course and death if she told anyone. The girl was shattered and devastated by the behaviour of her teacher – a man whom she trusted so much. The girl became withdrawn and refused to attend further lessons. The mother noticed a change in her daughter's behaviour and got her to open up about the abuse. ***“I could see fear in her eyes as she became timid daily. She was isolating herself from everyone.”*** The mother said. She was immediately taken to a Rainbo Centre where she received psychosocial and medical services, after revealing the abuse. ***“On that day, as always, I went there for extra class and all of the sudden, Mr. Koroma grabbed me, and forced himself on me.”*** The case was reported to the police and the perpetrator was arrested and sentenced to three years in prison after four years of court attendance for the survivor and her family. Now 21, the girl is preparing for her exams and has dreams of becoming a medical doctor. Rainbo Initiative will continue to support her.

Strategic Goal 2: Increase awareness of SGBV at community and national levels.
Community Outreach Engagements and Stakeholders' Meetings

In addition to successful clinical responses, the devastating impact of sexual violence on survivors can be mitigated by efforts from para-professionals and community-based structures. We recruited, trained and supported Community Gender Focal Point volunteers, and Outreach Interns who carried out awareness-raising activities by strengthening community involvement in SGBV awareness – changing perceptions and attitudes towards survivor-



Stakeholders meeting in Kenema.

support behaviours and the dissemination of key messages on Rainbo Centre services and referral pathways. We partnered with community leaders, including religious leaders, policymakers, law enforcement agencies, schools, and other partners to raise awareness of SGBV and its effects on survivors, families, and society at large. Through this behavior change intervention, we reached 114,619 (female 45,876 and 68,743) community members through various outreach engagements, including town hall meetings, school talks, and door-to-door sensitisation. This enables us to empower 102 communities and stakeholders on how to identify and report cases of SGBV within their communities. This has increased survivors' confidence in reporting cases of SGBV through community sensitisation campaigns.

We also facilitated several stakeholder meetings to discuss and strategise ways to combat SGBV. We engaged with government agencies, NGOs, and civil society organisations to share best practices for addressing SGBV and to advocate for the rights of survivors. This garnered support and commitment from stakeholders to join in the fight against SGBV.

200 stakeholders meeting was organised and facilitated with **25** participants attending each meeting.

Strategic Goal 3: Influence National SGBV Policy by Evidence-Based Advocacy.

16 Days of Activism and Other SGBV Campaigns

We were a key player in the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" Campaign. We organized a sponsored walk with and for SGBV survivors to raise awareness of the effect of SGBV and to advocate for survivors' rights. We also conducted several other campaigns, including the 'What Were You Wearing?' survivor art exhibition, social media campaigns and radio and TV programmes on SGBV that reached thousands of people. This increased public knowledge and awareness of SGBV through radio and TV programmes and social media engagements.



16 Days of Activism Sponsored Walk in Freetown

Empowering Communities to End SGBV

We continued empowering communities in ending SGBV through various interventions such as trainings, awareness campaigns, and community dialogues. These activities focused on educating community members, particularly stakeholders on the consequences of SGBV, how to identify and prevent it, and how to intervene when it occurs. Our advocacy programmes focused on building political will and capacity for SGBV prevention and intervention at the community level.

Through our awareness campaigns, we reached over 114,619 (female 65,876 and 68,743 male) community members, and a significant proportion of these members have reported having learned something new about SGBV prevention and response. Additionally, we conducted community dialogues in 102 communities, and as a result, created community-led responses to SGBV. We are confident that communities are now equipped with this knowledge.

Strategic Goal 4: Be a Sustainable, Effective Professional Organisation.

Business Development and Fundraising

To ensure a detailed implementation of Rainbo Initiative fundraising and resource mobilisation strategy in 2022, a Business Development Consultant was hired to lead the process of operationalising our funding strategy. Following his recruitment, a cultivation plan has been developed to guide our donor engagement and fundraising efforts in-country. Similarly, a mentoring and coaching plan was developed drawing from the skill gaps of staff. This plan informed the training sessions organized by the Business Development Consultant which was based on identified needs amongst staff. RI's single biggest achievement in business development and fundraising in 2022 was securing a mega grant to the tune of € 1,000,000.00 from Irish Aid to implement a multi-year project

across five districts in Sierra Leone. In partial fulfilment of its funding strategy, RI upgraded its website and added a donation section to make it more user-friendly for its online audience to enable them to donate more easily using this platform.

Safeguarding and Trainings

We provided safeguarding trainings in 2022, with the aim of building capacity among our partners, including communities and schools, and staff to respond effectively to SGBV cases. The training focused on identifying early warning signs of SGBV and recognising and responding to cases of SGBV ethically, within a human rights framework, and emphasising the importance of safeguarding the survivors, children, and women.



We established 16 safeguarding school clubs and delivered safeguarding training for over 477 (78 RI staff, 60 Interns, 48 Community Volunteers and 291 Community stakeholders) people. Over 65% of the participants demonstrated increased knowledge and capacity to identify and respond to SGBV issues. Since the trainings, our communities and schools have been able to report and respond to SGBV cases more confidently and effectively, which will undoubtedly lead to increased reporting in the future.

Research Development and Data Management

In 2022, we continued to focus on research development and data management to improve our understanding of SGBV in the community.

Research Development

Our research team conducted and participated on several studies on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in communities, providing in-depth information on the nature and extent of the problem. We collaborated with partners and research organisations to develop evidence-based strategies for preventing and addressing SGBV.

5 different SGBV related research were conducted, involving **250** participants.

We conducted a Risk Assessment on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) in seven cities and municipalities (Western Urban, Western Rural, Bo Kenema, Kono, Port Loko, and Bonthe) in Sierra Leone for Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) World Bank funded Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project (RUSLP) in June and July 2023. Collaborated with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHM) and College of Medicine and Allied Health Science (COHMAS) Sierra Leone to research the “health service responses and help-seeking for violence against women during outbreaks in Sierra Leone” in August 2022. In October 2022, conducted an Independent



Impact Assessment on the Irish Aid Funded Interventions during the last four years (2018 - 2022) with Rainbo Initiative in the five RI operational districts (Western Area, Kenema, Bo, Bombali and Kono). We shared GBV data with over 90 intuitions, stakeholders and partners including universities and freelance researchers in and out of Sierra Leone.

Data Management

Our data management unit was designed to collect, analyse and store data on SGBV at our Rainbo Centres. We established a database of SGBV cases, enabling us to track trends, patterns, and risk factors related to SGBV. We provided training to interns on data collection and management, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and confidentiality of data. We also used data to develop evidence-based programmes and policies that aim to prevent and address SGBV.

Our research findings and data management systems had a positive impact on our work in preventing and addressing SGBV in communities. We look forward to continuing our efforts in this area and building on the success of our research and data management in the coming year.

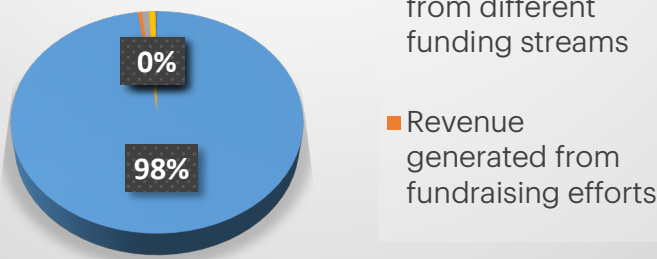
Rainbo Initiative's Annual Income and Expenditure for the 2022 Financial Year.

Rainbo Initiative's Annual Income

During the 2022 financial year, Rainbo Initiative-Sierra Leone generated an income to the sum of Twenty-one Billion, five hundred and eighty-seven million, two hundred and fifty-eight thousand, six hundred and sixty-five leones and seven cents (Le 21,587,258,665.07) from different funding sources namely: Funding streams such as bilateral funding (such as Irish Aid); multilateral funding (United Nations fund for population). Partner Non-Governmental Organisations funding such as Partners in Health, Trocaire). Trust and Foundation funding (such as Comic Relief). Funding from consultancies (such as World Bank-funded projects with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies). Funding from the disposal of obsolesces organisational items/assets (such as sales of worn-out vehicles, motorbikes, computers and furniture). Income is mobilised from the interests accrued from investments (such as fixed deposits). Income generated from fundraising efforts (such as sponsored walk on the 16 days of activism).

The pie chart below shows the different levels of contribution amongst the different sources of funding in the financial year 2022.

% Contribution amongst different sources of funding in 2022 financial year



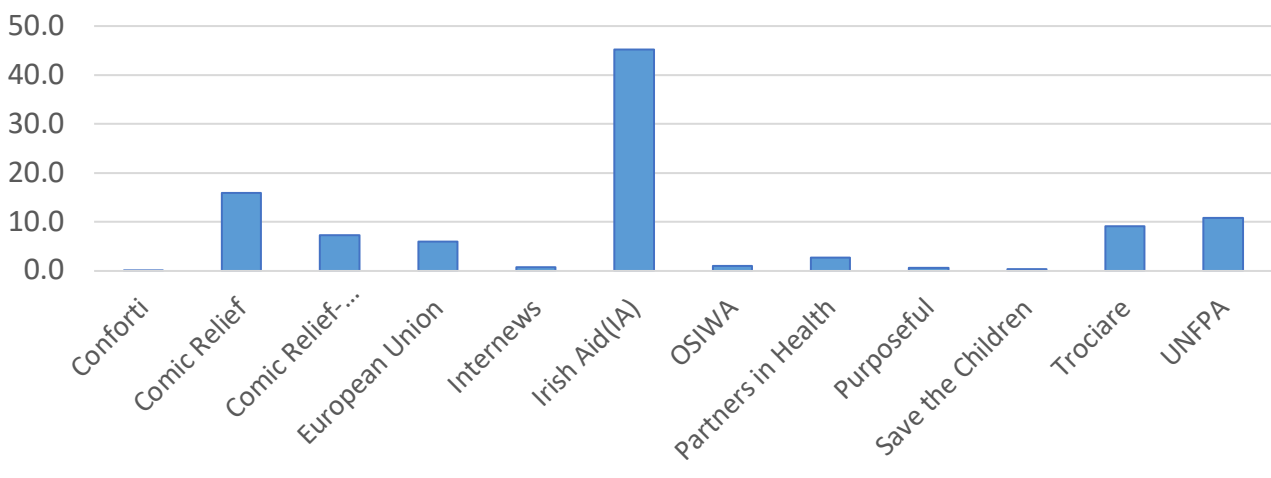
From the above pie chart, it is seen that revenue received from different funding streams (bilateral, multilateral, Trust and Foundation, partner NGOs) accounted for 97.7% of the organisational funding to support the implementation of program activities in 2022.

Similarly, funding generated through consultancies accounted for 0.9% of the organisation’s funding whilst income accrued through interest from RI investment amounted to 0.8% respectively.

In the same vein, revenue generated from fundraising efforts and the sales of obsolete organisational assets/items accounted for 0.5% and 0.2% respectively. The above pie chart demonstrated that RI is heavily reliant on income from funding from donors (mainly Irish Aid) to support the country programme in meeting its strategic goals since 97.7% of the country program’s income comes from this funding stream.

Rainbo Initiative - Sierra Leone Income by donor for the financial year- 2022.

% contribution amongst different donors in 2022 financial year





At the end of the 2022 financial year, RI's annual income received was Twenty-one Billion, five hundred and eighty-seven million, two hundred and fifty-eight thousand, six hundred and sixty-five leones and seven cents (Le 21,587,258,665.07) with Irish Aid accounting for 45.1% of the total income whilst Comic Relief and UNFPA accounted for 23.3% and 10.8% respectively. In the same vein, Trocaire, European Union and Partners In Health (PIH) all contributed 9.1%, 6.0% and 2.8% respectively. It is important to point out that 45.1% of RI annual income was channelled towards the implementation of the project entitled: "Improving the Availability and Quality of Free Health Care for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence Western Area, Kenema, Kono, Makeni and Bo Districts in Sierra Leone".

Similarly, 23.3% of RI's income was spent on RI's organisational strengthening activities such as staff capacity building programs and a project titled: "Shifting Norms and Empowering Girls to End Sexual Violence (SNEGES)" in schools and communities.

Furthermore, 10.8% of RI's income was utilised to implement the UNFPA annual project activities whilst 9.1% was used to work the Trocaire-funded project on "Promoting best practices with service providers and increase Access to Rainbo SGBV support services in 3 Districts – Bombali, Port Loko and Kambia".

In addition, 6.0% and 2.8% were spent on EU-funded projects entitled: "Strengthening GBV Prevention and Inclusive Response Services in Sierra Leone – SGP Project" and PIH-funded project entitled: "No Woman or Girl Left Behind" respectively.

In summary, from the above pie chart, it is evident that RI is heavily reliant on Irish Aid funding to support the country program in meeting its strategic goals since 45% of its country program income comes from this major donor.

Rainbo Initiative's Annual Expenditure.

During the 2022 financial year, Rainbo Initiative-Sierra Leone expensed the sum of Fourteen Billion, eight hundred and fourteen million, six hundred and forty-seven thousand Leones, two hundred and twenty-seven thousand Leone and thirty-six cents (Le 14,814,647,227.36) on various cost drivers such as staff cost, program intervention, vehicle repairs and maintenance etc.

Plans for Advancement in 2023.

Following the recent success of the Rainbo Initiative, which includes the purchase of 1.3 acres of land at the Scout Association Camp in Grafton, secured multi-year funding from Irish Aid, and formed a new partnership with The Carter Centre (TCC), the organisation plans to further improve its services to GBV survivors and strengthen its revenue base to support its expansion into the UK (funding Affiliate), Liberia, and Guinea (Country Programmes).



The impact of rape on women and girls cannot be underestimated. It is a heinous crime that limits the potential of women and girls and instills fear in them. Rainbo Initiative, in partnership with its supporters, plans to build a Rainbo Centre of Excellence that will expand its work and leverage global best practices to provide a gold standard of care to survivors of sexual assault. The Centre will provide free, confidential, and quality health care services, including medical treatment and psychosocial support, to survivors of SGBV in their recovery with dignity. As the number of reported cases of sexual assault increases daily, the services provided to survivors must be multiplied.

Rainbo Centre of Excellence will not only be a building but also a space that promotes best practices for the clinical management of sexual assault. It will serve as a training hub where healthcare and social workers can learn and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver evidence-based, high-quality care to SGBV survivors in Sierra Leone.

To construct the Rainbo Centre of Excellence in Freetown, Rainbo Initiative urgently requires funding. Therefore, the organisation appeals to donors to help continue making a difference in the lives of the survivors it works with and for. Rainbo Initiative is committed to supporting survivors of SGBV and inspiring them to make a change in their communities.

This plan depends on good relationships and partnerships and on securing funding from different sources, including corporate organisations, donors, individuals, and international fundraisers. If you would like to donate to Rainbo Initiative or partner with the organisation, please contact the Executive Director; daniel.k@rainboinitiative.org



RAINBO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE