



## Sierra Leone McGovern-Dole Program

### All Pikin for Learn IV



#### Program Overview

In Partnership with the Ministry of Basic Education and Senior Secondary Education (**MBSSE**), Catholic Relief Services – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (**CRS**), will over the next four years (October 2018 – September 2022), use donated commodities and funding from United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) to implement the **McGovern-Dole Program** in Koinadugu and Falaba districts of Sierra Leone. The total value of the program is US\$25 million.

The purpose of this program is to reduce hunger and promote literacy and primary education, especially for girls. This will be achieved through providing school meals and carrying out other education, health and nutrition activities that boost the impact of providing school meals to pupils (see program activities section). The program will cover 15 chiefdoms in these two respective districts and will assist an estimated 69,731 pupils in 309 schools to boost their enrollment and academic performance and a total of 88,696 direct beneficiaries.

This McGovern-Dole project builds on previous McGovern-Dole projects implemented in Koinadugu and Falaba districts by CRS (**All Pikin for Learn I, II, and III**) since 2008. This will ensure sustainability of these prior investments made by USDA before. All Pikin for Learn IV will also ensure that the beneficiary communities of Koinadugu and Falaba districts will ultimately continue the sponsored activities on their own, or with support from other sources such as Government of Sierra Leone National School Feeding Program, private sector, local community, etc.

#### Program Objectives

- Improve the literacy of school age children
- Improve the quality of literacy instruction by training teachers and school administrators; providing improved literacy instructional materials, and certifying teachers
- Improve student attentiveness and attendance by reducing hunger through providing daily school meals
- Improve the health and dietary practices of students and communities by training cooks, school management committees and community members in basic nutrition, safe food preparation and storage, and hygiene practices
- Increase the capacity of government by providing technical advice; training supervisors from the Ministry of Basic Education

and Senior Secondary Education (**MBSSE**); and implementing a transition plan for school feeding which incorporates policy, legislation, and funding for sustainability

#### Main Program Activities

Over the next four years, this project will support implementation of the following activities in Koinadugu and Falaba districts:

- Building/Rehabilitation of latrines; schools; warehouses and storerooms; and wells and water station/systems
- Capacity Building at local, regional, and national levels
- Training of school management committees (SMCs)
- Establish activities to promote literacy
- School curriculum development
- Training of teacher and school administrators,
- Distribution of de-worming medication, vitamins & minerals
- Forming Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC)
- Providing daily school meals to 69,731 pupils
- Training on food preparation and storage practices
- Establishing school gardens
- Raising awareness on the importance of education
- Training on good health and nutrition practices

#### Key achievements from All Pikin for Learn III

- Improved literacy rates from 8% to 59%, surpassing a target of 25%
- Acquired 30 school approvals from the MBSSE
- Constructed 62 latrines, 52 school blocks, 37 stores & 24 boreholes.
- Trained and certified 1,292 teachers and 192 head teachers
- Trained over 6,257 community members in child health, nutrition, food preparation
- Provided 503,311 textbooks and other teaching & learning materials
- Provided 11,682,157 meals to students (32,684), teachers (1,292) and (519) cooks as school meals.
- Reached 40,092 direct beneficiaries (male:19,709; Female: 20,383)
- Enrolled 32,684 (male: 17,346; female:15,338) school children
- Maintained at least 98% regular student attendance for both boys and girls.