

## **Project - Provide Scholarships to Sierra Leonean Children**

Sierra Leone is on the West Coast of Africa, with an estimated population of 6.2 million. Of this population, only 35.1% are literate (age 15 and over can read and write English, Mende, Temne, or Arabic). (Source CIA Factbook) In other words, almost **65% of the population over 15 years old cannot read or write.**

According to the United Nations 2007-2008 Human Development report, Sierra Leone ranks as # 177 (last place) in Human Development Index. Sierra Leone is a poor nation with tremendous inequality in income distribution.



Develop Africa's education programs were established to provide support to schools and increase educational opportunities. Develop Africa's **Promise of Hope Scholarship Program** is helping to increase access to educational opportunities and empower students. The program enables students to further their vocational goals, preventing them from reverting to exploitative situations, such as child labor or the sex trade.

Develop Africa, Inc. believes that education is a key component in bringing real and lasting change in Africa. By investing into education, we are **contributing to the development of Africa's key resource – people**, and ultimately to the development of African nations. The children and youth are the future leaders of Africa.

Unfortunately, many families are unable to carry the educational costs or provide the on-going support. Consequently, many children and youth are forced to drop out of school because of financial hardships or inadequate funds. These frustrated children and youth sometimes end up in undesirable activities with their potential wasted.



**Scholarship Recipients at Award Ceremony**

Educating children and youths provides opportunities for economic independence and is an effective long-term investment to eradicating poverty. Access to education honors their basic human rights.



**Through this project, Develop Africa is providing life-transforming scholarships to deserving children in Sierra Leone.**