



# Programs & Projects

## Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone

Mind to  
**CHANGE**

*The Netherlands*

Achter Clarenburg 1  
3511 JH UTRECHT

[T] +31 (0) 30 232 29 29  
[F] +31 (0) 30 234 35 08

[E] [info@mindtochange.nl](mailto:info@mindtochange.nl)  
[W] [www.mindtochange.nl](http://www.mindtochange.nl)

*Sierra Leone*

14, Bojon Street  
BO TOWN

[T] +232 (0) 33 73 58 20  
[F] +31 (0) 84 839 67 76

[E] [info@mindtochange.org](mailto:info@mindtochange.org)  
[W] [www.mindtochange.org](http://www.mindtochange.org)

# MIND TO CHANGE – Sierra Leone

## PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

### SCHOLARSHIPS | one

#### GOAL

Mind to Change aims to help (re-)build the postwar society and to find ways for the postwar society to absorb and involve vulnerable groups and people who find themselves in the margins of society.




The scholarship program focuses on empowering and capacitating individual members of vulnerable groups to enable them to develop their own lives in the postwar society through education.

Mind to Change will mainly target former child soldiers, but our projects will also encompass other vulnerable groups in society (eg. the (war) disabled, and (war) orphans). The reason for our choice of a broader target group is threefold:



- One, to prevent stigmatization and resentment of former child soldiers in the wider society*
- Two, to measure the effectiveness of our programs*
- Three, to gain knowledge about child soldiering in general, by determining if and in what way child soldiers differ from their peers and other vulnerable groups in society.*

#### DESCRIPTION

The scholarship program provides scholarships to individual former child combatants for:

-  Basic education (secondary school)
-  Professional training
-  Higher education

The 'scholarship project' is a total package for the complete education of individuals and has four components:

-  Material help, directly related to education: college fees, uniforms, schoolbooks, school materials, pamphlets, exam fees, extra classes.
-  Material help, indirectly related to education to enable the individual to follow education and concentrate on his or her studies, (if proven necessary): Lunch money, maintenance money, housing, fund for maintenance of family members the individual is responsible for.

- 📖 Advice in their educational careers, based on;
  - 📖 the individuals' wishes, capacities, and talents
  - 📖 opportunities on the job market
  - 📖 the needs of society as a whole
- 📖 Moral support in personal or educational difficulties.

## METHOD

*Individual approach:* Applicants will be handpicked by advisors, who will also function as their mentors once they have been granted a scholarship. The participants will at all times stay individuals and will be guided through their education accordingly.

*Community approach:* To promote the responsibility of families towards their children, communities identify vulnerable families based on pre defined criteria, through child welfare committees, which will include families with former child combatants who have not reintegrated well into society. Support will be given to between two and four children in such families with scholarships covering direct school support for fees, books, uniforms, pamphlets and study fees. The families will be provided small grants to support other needs indirectly related to the children's education. The community will be stimulated to take responsibility for providing moral support in personal and educational issues regarding our beneficiaries.

Participants will be assisted throughout their educational careers. The assistance they will receive is dependent on their personal circumstances, talents and capabilities. We expect the participant to take own responsibility and be motivated to follow education. Their scholarship will be re-evaluated half yearly. If participants fail without 'good' reason, their rights to a scholarship will be revoked. Mind to Change will assist them to find other means or ways to (re)build their lives.

When applicants finish their education, Mind to Change will help them to find their way on the job market and apply for jobs.






### *Reciprocity*

We expect our participants to be available for the tutoring of society members or other participants. We expect our participants to take active part in at least one of our educational projects for people who have less education, for a period of four weeks, to spread their knowledge and skills.

We expect our participants to function as a mentor for at least two future participants in the scholarship program.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The scholarship program was a private project of founder Ginny Mooy, and was taken over by Mind to Change. The program will be implemented in three phases:

-  Pilot phase: a sample group of fifty participants will be followed and monitored for one year. After this year, all the participants will be asked to write their findings and take part in discussion groups to assess the effectiveness of the programs and to identify flaws and imperfections. The pilot phase will be implemented in Freetown and Bo Town.
-  Active phase: if the pilot project proves to be successful,
  -  the target group will be made bigger, in concordance with the material and physical abilities of Mind to Change.
  -  the pilot project will be documented and applied in other areas, in collaboration with (other) local organizations.
-  Evaluation phase: after every year, the program will be evaluated through scientific research.

## SKILLED WORKERS | two

### GOAL

Mind to Change aims to help (re-)build the postwar society and to find ways for the postwar society to absorb and involve vulnerable groups and people who find themselves in the margins of society.

The ‘skilled workers’ program focuses on empowering and capacitating individual members of vulnerable groups to improve their prospects on the job market, to enable them to develop their own lives in the postwar society through education and to enhance the quality of their individuals lives.

Mind to Change will mainly target former child soldiers, but our projects will also encompass other vulnerable groups in society (eg. the (war) disabled, and (war) orphans). The reason for our choice of a broader target group is threefold:

- One, to prevent stigmatization and resentment of former child soldiers in the wider society*
- Two, to measure the effectiveness of our programs*
- Three, to gain knowledge about child soldiering in general, by determining if and in what way child soldiers differ from their peers and other vulnerable groups in society.*

### DESCRIPTION

The ‘skilled workers’ program aims to supply the participants with skills and vocational training to improve their positions in the labor market, through:

- 📄 Material funding for existing skills and vocational training facilities: fees, materials, pamphlets, exam fees.
- 📄 Development and implementation of non-existing but (considered) necessary (for society) skills training programs, with a special focus on illiterates.
- 📄 Material help, indirectly related to skills training to enable the individual to follow training (if proven necessary): Lunch money, maintenance money, housing, fund for maintenance of family members the individual is responsible for.
- 📄 Advice in their professional careers, based on;
  - 📄 the individuals' wishes, capacities, and talents
  - 📄 opportunities on the job market
  - 📄 the needs of society as a whole
- 📄 Moral support in personal or educational difficulties.

## METHOD

*Individual approach:* Applicants will be handpicked by advisors, who will also function as their mentors once they have been granted a scholarship. The participants will at all times stay individuals and will be guided through their education accordingly.

*Community approach:* To promote the responsibility of families towards their children, communities identify vulnerable families based on pre defined criteria, through child welfare committees, which will include families with former child combatants who have not reintegrated well into society. Support will be given to between two and four children in such families with scholarships covering direct school support for fees, books, uniforms, pamphlets and study fees. The families will be provided small grants to support other needs indirectly related to the children's education. The community will be stimulated to take responsibility for providing moral support in personal and educational issues regarding our beneficiaries.

Participants will be assisted in every aspect of their professional development. The assistance they will receive is dependent on their personal circumstances, talents and capabilities. We expect the participant to take own responsibility and be motivated to follow training. If participants fail without 'good' reason, their rights to a fund will be revoked. Mind to Change will assist them to find other means or ways to (re)build their lives.

When applicants finish their training, Mind to Change will help them to find their way on the job market and apply for jobs.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The ‘skilled worker’ program will be implemented in four phases:

- 📄 Developmental phase: a special method and project will be designed to develop skill training programs for illiterates, which will then be implemented from the pilot phase on.
- 📄 Pilot phase: a sample group of fifty participants will be selected, followed and monitored for one year in existing skills training facilities. After this year, all the participants will be asked to write their findings and take part in discussion groups to assess the effectiveness of the programs and to identify flaws and imperfections. The pilot phase will be implemented in Freetown and Bo Town.
- 📄 Active phase: if the pilot project proves to be successful,
  - 📄 the target group will be made bigger, in concordance with the material and physical abilities of Mind to Change.
  - 📄 the pilot project will be documented and applied in other areas, in collaboration with (other) local organizations.
- 📄 Evaluation phase: after every year, the program will be evaluated through scientific research.

## BASIC KNOWLEDGE | three

### GOAL



Mind to Change aims to help (re-)build the postwar society and to find ways for the postwar society to absorb and involve vulnerable groups and people who find themselves in the margins of society.

The ‘basic knowledge’ program focuses on empowering and capacitating individual members of vulnerable groups to improve their knowledge of basic principles in society. One of the main problems in prewar Sierra Leone, and an important reason for many young people to join (one of the) armed forces was their lack of basic knowledge of the (political) system and a lack of power in everyday life. The ‘basic knowledge’ program will teach individuals and groups about basic societal and political principles, so that they know and understand their civic rights and duties.

Mind to Change will mainly target former child soldiers, in areas where they cause trouble and/or apply violent means to further their goals. Since our ‘basic knowledge’ program will be setup to serve big groups, we will involve the whole community in workshops and educational campaigns.

### DESCRIPTION

The ‘basic knowledge’ program aims to teach the participants with basic societal and political principles to make them aware of their civic rights and duties, through:







-  Development and implementation of basic knowledge educational projects for large groups, with a special focus on:
  -  Key political issues and an explanation of the political system

## METHOD

The projects will be implemented on community, village and small town level. The education in basic knowledge will be given by participants of the scholarship program and expert volunteers. The materials and specific projects will be developed by Mind to Change in collaboration with students, the participants of the scholarship program, expert volunteers and (local) power holders.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The ‘basic knowledge’ program will be implemented in four phases:

-  Developmental phase: a special method and project will be designed to develop the basic knowledge programs
-  Pilot phase: a series of 20 sample projects will be held in Kono province. Since Kono is one of the areas that still has difficulties with the reintegration of former child soldiers.
-  Active phase: if the pilot project proves to be successful,
  -  the program will be implemented on a larger scale
  -  the pilot project will be documented and applied in other areas, in collaboration with (other) local organizations.
-  Evaluation phase: The first year, the program will be evaluated after every project through scientific research.

## BASIC LITERACY | four

### GOAL

Mind to Change aims to help (re-)build the postwar society and to find ways for the postwar society to absorb and involve vulnerable groups and people who find themselves in the margins of society.

The ‘basic literacy’ program focuses on empowering and capacitating individual members of vulnerable groups to improve their positions in the postwar society. One of the main problems in prewar Sierra Leone, and an important reason for many young people to join (one of the) armed forces was their lack of basic knowledge of the (political) system and a lack of power in everyday life. The ‘basic literacy’ program will teach individuals and groups the basics of literacy, so that they can have access to necessary information and have more means to communicate and to express themselves.

Mind to Change will mainly target former child soldiers, in areas where they cause trouble and/or apply violent means to further their goals. Since our 'basic literacy' program will be setup to serve groups, our projects will also encompass other vulnerable groups in society (eg. the (war) disabled, and (war) orphans).

## DESCRIPTION

The 'basic literacy' program aims to teach the participants basic literacy, through:

- 📖 Development and implementation of basic literacy projects for groups

## METHOD

The projects will be implemented on community, village and small town level. The education in basic knowledge will be given by participants of the scholarship program and expert volunteers. The materials and specific projects will be developed by Mind to Change in collaboration with students, the participants of the scholarship program, expert volunteers and (local) power holders.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The 'basic literacy' program will be implemented in four phases:

- 📖 Developmental phase: a special method and project will be designed to develop the basic literacy program
- 📖 Pilot phase: a series of 20 sample projects will be held in Kono province, since Kono is one of the areas that still has difficulties with the reintegration of former child soldiers.
- 📖 Active phase: if the pilot project proves to be successful,
  - 📖 the program will be implemented on a larger scale
  - 📖 the pilot project will be documented and applied in other areas, in collaboration with (other) local organizations.
- 📖 Evaluation phase: The first year, the program will be evaluated after every project through scientific research.

## SMALL BUSINESS | five

### GOAL

Mind to Change aims to help (re-)build the postwar society and to find ways for the postwar society to absorb and involve vulnerable groups and people who find themselves in the margins of society.

The 'small business' program focuses on empowering and capacitating individual members of vulnerable groups to improve their prospects on the job market, to enable them to develop their own








lives in the postwar society through building a professional career and to enhance the quality of their individuals lives, and to create more job opportunity for the wider society.

The Small Business program will mainly target teenage mothers and former ‘bush wives’, but this program will also encompass other vulnerable groups in society (eg. the (war) disabled, and (war) orphans). The reason for our choice of a broader target group is threefold:

- One, to prevent stigmatization and resentment of former child soldiers in the wider society*
- Two, to measure the effectiveness of our programs*
- Three, to gain knowledge about child soldiering in general, by determining if and in what way child soldiers differ from their peers and other vulnerable groups in society.*

## DESCRIPTION

The ‘small business’ program aims to supply the participants with the means and knowledge to start a small business, through:

-  Material funding: start capital, materials, skills and knowledge
-  Material funding related to the startup phase of the small business to enable the individual to invest time and to reduce risks of income loss(if proven necessary): fund for maintenance of family members the individual is responsible for.
-  Advice in their professional careers, based on;
  -  the individuals’ wishes, capacities, and talents
  -  opportunities in the local economy
  -  the needs of society as a whole
-  Moral support in personal and professional difficulties.

## METHOD

Applicants will be handpicked by advisors, who will also function as their mentors once they have been granted a fund to start a small business. The participants will at all times stay individuals and will be guided through their development as small business owners accordingly.






Participants will be assisted with every aspect of their professional development, including a short but intensive training in small business management, basic literacy and basic accounting skills. The assistance they will receive is dependent on their personal circumstances, talents and capabilities. We expect the participant to take own responsibility and be motivated to start a business. If participants fail without ‘good’ reason, their rights to a fund will be questioned. Mind to Change will assist them to find other means or ways to (re)build their lives.

During the first year of its existence, Mind to Change will help the small business owner with advise, knowledge and finding his or her way in the bureaucratic system. Mind to Change will also stimulate beneficiaries to adequately account for their activities as tax payers.

We expect the small business owners (in mutual understanding) to take on apprentices who are recommended (if their financial situation permits it) by Mind to Change and make places available for internships.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The ‘small business’ program will be implemented in four phases:

-  Pilot phase: a sample group of ten participants will be selected, followed and monitored for one year. After this year, all the participants will be asked to write their findings and take part in discussion groups to assess the effectiveness of the programs and to identify flaws and imperfections. The pilot phase will be implemented in Freetown and Bo Town.
-  Active phase: if the pilot project proves to be successful,
  -  the target group will be made bigger, in concordance with the material and physical abilities of Mind to Change.
  -  the pilot project will be documented and applied in other areas, in collaboration with (other) local organizations.
-  Evaluation phase: after every year, the program will be evaluated through scientific research.

## KING JIMMY | six

### GOAL

Mind to Change aims to help (re-)build the postwar society and to find ways for the postwar society to absorb and involve vulnerable groups and people who find themselves in the margins of society.

The ‘King Jimmy’ program focuses on empowering and capacitating individual members of vulnerable groups to find their way to mainstream society, to improve their prospects on the job market, to enable them to develop their own lives in the postwar society through building a professional career and to enhance the quality of their individuals lives.















Mind to Change will mainly target former child soldiers, but our projects will also encompass other vulnerable groups in society (eg. the (war) disabled, (war) orphans and street criminals).

One of the main challenges of the postwar society is to involve groups of people with deviant lifestyles, who do not have any prospects for a job or a meaningful future as civilians. These people

live in the ghettos, referred to as 'King Jimmy', and have no attachment with mainstream society. The 'King Jimmy' program aims to find ways to involve ghetto youths in mainstream society.

## DESCRIPTION

The 'King Jimmy' program aims to involve the participants in mainstream society and give them reasons to end their deviant lifestyles, by bestowing them with skills, knowledge or education to enable them to (re)build their lives in the postwar society.

-  Material help, indirectly related to education to enable the individual to follow education and concentrate on his or her studies, (if proven necessary): Lunch money, maintenance money, housing, fund for maintenance of family members the individual is responsible for.
-  Material help, directly related to education: college fees, uniforms, schoolbooks, school materials, pamphlets, exam fees, extra classes.
-  Material funding for skills and vocational training: fees, materials, pamphlets, exam fees.
-  Development and implementation of non-existing but (considered) necessary (for society) skills training programs, with a special focus on illiterates.
-  Material help, indirectly related to skills training to enable the individual to follow training (if proven necessary): Lunch money, maintenance money, housing, fund for maintenance of family members the individual is responsible for.
-  Development and implementation of non-existing but (considered) necessary (for society) skills training programs, with a special focus on illiterates.
-  Material help, indirectly related to skills training to enable the individual to follow training (if proven necessary): Lunch money, maintenance money, housing, fund for maintenance of family members the individual is responsible for.
-  Advice in their professional careers, based on;
  -  the individuals' wishes, capacities, and talents
  -  opportunities on the job market
  -  the needs of society as a whole
-  Moral support in personal or educational difficulties.
-  Basic literacy training (if necessary)
-  Basic knowledge training (if necessary)

## METHOD

Applicants will be handpicked by advisors, who will also function as their mentors once they have been granted a scholarship. The participants will at all times stay individuals and will be guided through their education accordingly.

Participants will be assisted throughout their educational/professional careers. The assistance they will receive is dependent on their personal circumstances, talents and capabilities. We expect the participant to take own responsibility and be motivated to follow education. Their scholarship will be re-evaluated half yearly. If participants fail without 'good' reason, their rights to a scholarship will be questioned. Mind to Change will assist them to find other means or ways to (re)build their lives.







When applicants finish their education or training, Mind to Change will help them to find their way on the job market and apply for jobs.

### *Reciprocity*

We expect our participants to be available for the tutoring of society members or other participants. We expect our participants to take active part in at least one of our educational projects for people who have less education, for a period of four weeks, to spread their knowledge and skills.

We expect our participants to function as a mentor for at least two future participants in the scholarship program.

## IMPLEMENTATION

-  Developmental phase: the designing of programs that can meet the needs and interests of future participants, through extensive research and workgroups among the ghetto youths.
-  Pilot phase: a sample group of fifty participants will be followed and monitored for one year. After this year, all the participants will be asked to write their findings and take part in discussion groups to assess the effectiveness of the programs and to identify flaws and imperfections. The pilot phase will be implemented in Freetown and Bo Town.
-  Active phase: if the pilot project proves to be successful,
  -  the target group will be made bigger, in concordance with the material and physical abilities of Mind to Change.
  -  the pilot project will be documented and applied in other areas, in collaboration with (other) local organizations.
-  Evaluation phase: after every year, the program will be evaluated through scientific research.