



Girls in School

How You're Transforming Lives
From Hardship to Hope

Nelson Mandela once famously said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." We are seeing this inspiring statement come to life in Sierra Leone, where your generous gifts are making a real difference in the lives of young girls.

[continued inside ...](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ How You're Transforming Lives From Hardship to Hope
- ▶ A Message From Daniel
- ▶ Your Gift of Love ... Rush to the Front Lines



A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

You've likely heard the old adage: *Give someone a fish, and they eat for a day. Teach them to fish, and they eat for life.* That sounds like a simple and effective solution. But life isn't so simple for many of our neighbors. Some don't have the means to get a fishing line. Or their river has dried up in a drought. Many have no transportation to get to a market to sell fish.

These are the real challenges your love addresses through your gifts. Because of you, help goes beyond quick fixes. You make solutions that are local, smart and strong — solutions that break the cycle of poverty. Thank you for sharing your caring heart with children and families who need you.

God bless you,

Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

The future for girls who stay in school

Each year a girl stays in school:

- She increases her earning potential by 20%.
- She is less likely to be abused.
- She is more likely to marry later.
- She is more likely to raise healthier, better educated children.

Girls in School:

How You're Transforming Lives From Hardship to Hope *(continued)*

You see, education is the best way out of poverty, yet poverty is the number one reason girls miss out on attending school. By sharing your blessings, you're helping girls and their families break this vicious cycle!

Your love spread across generations

Kadiatu is 12 years old and can now attend school, thanks to your compassionate heart. When Kadiatu's 23-year-old mother, Aminata, was exactly Kadiatu's age, she was giving birth to Kadiatu — after being forced into marrying an older man who gravely mistreated her.

Living on their own with no support and little money, life was a constant struggle until your love reached this ambitious mother-daughter duo!

Through the new cash transfer program your kind heart helped start, Kadiatu and Aminata are now both enrolled in school. After a lifetime of hardship, they are working toward a better life and finally have the freedom to make their own choices about their future.



Thanks to your generous spirit, Kadiatu and her mother, Aminata, are now both enrolled in school.



[At] the time when the money came, I didn't have anything — nothing at all.

— Aminata

Kadiatu's favorite subjects are civics, math and social studies. She is also experiencing the joys of friendship. "I am happy to come to school every day with my friend," she says.

Aminata's dream is to go to college so she can get a job and care for her family.

They still face many challenges ahead, but with you by their side, Aminata and her daughter have the strength and the tools to face the obstacles in their path. By sharing your love with families like Aminata's, you're breaking the cycle of poverty and changing the world ... one girl at a time. ○

Called to Love Our Neighbors



"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

— Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)

How your kind gifts transformed lives in 2025:



853 girls stayed in primary school grades 4, 5 and 6 this year.



More than **300 girls graduated** from primary school in June.



Attendance is **consistently higher** for all age groups that received cash support. But **for girls ages 14-16, the impact was 6 times greater** than for those under 14.

Cash assistance helps provide:



FOOD



TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL



MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



UNIFORMS

CASH MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

87% of caregivers were “very satisfied” with the program’s positive impact on their children’s education and household well-being.



YOUR REACH GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND THE GOAL.

89% of caregivers said their other children benefited indirectly from the cash, whether through shared meals, school supplies or increased motivation to attend school.

Next Steps

- 1 Ensure that each girl currently active in the pilot is **re-enrolled** and has access to services she needs.
- 2 Expand to more districts and **enroll another 1,000 girls** in the pilot for Phase II.
- 3 Over time, **scale up** to more schools and regions. ○

Your *Gifts of Love* ... Rush to the Front Lines

When disaster strikes, families who’ve lost everything face overwhelming uncertainty and grief. Your *Gifts of Love* rush to the front lines – addressing immediate needs as well as remaining with your neighbors as they rebuild and more forward.



You helped families recover in Texas

When devastating floods ravaged communities in Texas in July 2025, your Gifts of Love, which included prepared cleanup kits, helped over 100 families per day rebuild.

You delivered a livestock lifeline

For years, Bikram and his family struggled to find stability in Nepal. After losing his job during the pandemic, it was difficult to make ends meet. Thanks to your kindhearted gifts, he received 125 chicks, farming supplies and training to become a poultry farmer. He’s since grown his farm into a thriving business, which allows him to care for his family and plan for their future.



You fed God’s children

After a catastrophic earthquake struck Myanmar, families lost their homes, thousands of schools collapsed and many places of worship were damaged or destroyed. One of the most urgent problems was the loss of markets and livelihoods, which caused a severe food crisis. Your timely Gifts of Love rushed emergency food, cash assistance, hygiene supplies, latrines and more – saving lives and restoring hope after unthinkable tragedy. ○

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

Burkina Faso

Your compassion grows lasting solutions. Thanks to your support, **2,025 families** are thriving. You're helping farmers grow more food by improving land access, providing stronger seeds and helpful tools, and teaching more efficient farming methods, including the use of irrigation and livestock support. You're also promoting good nutrition by teaching healthy eating, improving care for mothers and babies, and supporting local food production during emergencies.

South Sudan

Your love provides lifesaving water. Thanks to your kind heart, 16,000 of your neighbors now have access to safe, clean drinking water. You helped make critical repairs to the water storage system and infrastructure. Now children and their families also have reduced waiting times at water points (from **five hours to 40 minutes**) – giving women more time to focus on training and education instead of fetching water.

Honduras

Your kindness is helping to build brighter futures. For many young people in Honduras, poverty, unemployment and unpredictability pressures create barriers to education and work. Your generous gifts granted **1,800 students** with access to mental health support. You also helped create **55 internships**, with **45 leading to full-time employment** – transforming emotional hardship into motivation and uncertainty into purpose.

Your caring heart is making a real difference.



Taapsee and her daughter Shyamsi couldn't make ends meet before your love helped provide tools and training for Taapsee to become a carpenter.

Nepali

नमस्ते
छमिँकी

NAMASTE CHHIMEKI

English

Hello
Neighbor

When you first meet Taapsee, she seems shy and humble. It's not until she buttons a rugged work shirt over her sari and picks up a hammer that her quiet confidence shines through. Taapsee works in a carpentry shop connected to her home in southwestern Nepal. It's rare to find a woman carpenter here, but Taapsee has always been a hard worker.

She once had a job carrying buckets of cement on a construction site just to make ends meet. Over a year ago, you helped change her life by supporting the technical training courses she signed up for. She was the only woman in the carpentry course. **Thanks to your generosity, Taapsee has more than tripled her income**, making it easier for her family to afford basics like food and school fees. Best of all, her confidence has skyrocketed. Other women ask her how they can follow in her footsteps, and **she now feels like a positive role model for her two daughters.**

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



©2026 Lutheran World Relief. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted free of charge, with the credit "reprinted with permission of Lutheran World Relief."

SPREPORTS-44K-SPR26 | N26-SR



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG 800 597 5972