



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

**EDUCATE GIRLS.  
ERADICATE  
POVERTY.**

**Globally, 122 million girls aren't in school.**

**And yet, each year a girl is educated:**

- Her earning potential increases by 20%
- She is less likely to be abused or die in childbirth
- She is more likely to raise healthier, better educated children

## DEAR PARTNER IN MINISTRY,

Thank you for guiding your congregation toward building the world God envisions — one of dignity, justice and opportunity for all. Do you know the most powerful way to realize this vision and break the vicious cycle of poverty that so many of our neighbors find themselves in?

Education. Specifically, **girls' education.**

**Educated girls change the world. A simple intervention; a life-changing outcome.**

Because of congregations like yours, we're making remarkable progress for girls in Sierra Leone — and are poised to expand our reach to girls in other countries. This momentum is possible because we're not only educating girls; we're also removing the barriers that keep them out of school in the first place.

Now we invite your congregation to join others nationwide to reach **an additional 1,000 girls.** It's an ambitious plan — but your transformative love turns God-sized visions into reality.

Thank you for your faithful partnership.

In Christ,



*Lisa Kipp*  
**REV. LISA KIPP**  
Director of  
Congregational Engagement

## THE SITUATION:

Around the globe, an astonishing **122 million girls** are not in school. The greatest single barrier keeping them out of the classroom? **Poverty.**



## IN SIERRA LEONE:



70% of women have no education at all



1 in 3 girls drops out of school by age 12.



Half of 12- to 14-year-olds work 28+ hours a week

### Why are girls NOT in school?

- Deep poverty forces girls into child marriage, the labor force or much worse
- Cultural attitudes
- Distance to school
- Disabilities
- Lack of supplies and privacy during menstruation

## THE SOLUTION:

**Educating a girl changes everything.** She earns more, faces lower risks in childbirth and strengthens her local economy — empowering her family and transforming her community for generations.

With the support of congregations like yours, Lutheran World Relief launched a program to keep girls in school. **Working with local government and school officials, we use innovative tools to track attendance and identify girls at risk — then surround them with what they need to thrive: cash transfers for families, nutritious school meals, essential supplies, and support for teachers and mentors.**

## THE RESULTS ARE LIFE-CHANGING. IN 2025:



300+ graduated from primary school



853 girls enrolled in grades 4-6



25% increase in daily attendance



89% of caregivers reported benefits to other children through shared meals, supplies, and increased motivation to attend school.

Cover and above: Education is the greatest tool to break the cycle of poverty for girls like Posseh in Sierra Leone.

# FROM SADDEST GIRL TO STUDENT OF THE YEAR

When her teacher first met 15-year-old Posseh, she called her “the saddest child” at school — and with reason. After losing her parents, she was often hungry and stopped attending school because her family needed her to work.

Her aunt cared for Posseh and saw her potential. But there was no money for food, let alone an education for Posseh. **Her future looked bleak...until you stepped in.**

The love of congregations like yours reached Posseh just in time with monthly cash transfers to ensure she could go to school. **And that made all the difference.**

Posseh worked tirelessly to catch up. She not only graduated primary school, but she was also named “Student of the Year.”

Today, Posseh dreams of attending university — a testament to what your congregation’s generosity can make possible. **Watch her amazing journey here:** →



Compassionate congregations unlocked Posseh’s potential. But so many more girls are waiting for their chance ...



*Cash stipends mean girls don't have to choose between food and school.*

## GIRLS CAN'T WAIT!

## WE ARE CHALLENGING LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS TO JOIN TOGETHER AND REACH 1,000 MORE GIRLS IN 2026!

## HOW MANY GIRLS WILL YOUR CONGREGATION EDUCATE THIS YEAR?

In total, it costs about **\$348** to provide the opportunity for a vulnerable girl to stay in school for one academic year.

Your congregation’s gift can make an immediate and lasting impact:

**\$10,440** educates a classroom of 30 girls in Sierra Leone for a year.

**\$3,480** helps 10 girls in Sierra Leone receive education for a year.

**\$1,044** provides 3 girls in Sierra Leone with an education.

## HOW TO GIVE

Mail a check to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061.**  
Write “**Girls in School**” in the memo.

The dollar amounts listed represent the actual average cost of providing the respective service. Your gifts contribute to the entire mission of Lutheran World Relief, to be used where the need is greatest.



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

700 LIGHT ST  
BALTIMORE, MD 21230

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**THE NEED IS GREAT, BUT YOUR CONGREGATION'S LOVE IS GREATER.**

Poverty is the biggest barrier to education, yet education is the most powerful tool in fighting poverty.

**GIRLS CAN'T WAIT! HELP US  
REACH 1,000 MORE GIRLS IN 2026.**

*Your love will reach young students like Posseh and her best friend Mariama.*