



Country: Sierra Leone

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BRIEF HISTORY

I was born to a chieftaincy family in a small village in the southern region of Sierra Leone. I started my primary education at the Bo District Council School in Bumpah in 1969 where I sat to the selective entrance examination and passed for the Bo government Secondary School Bo in 1975 and again sat to the General Certificates of education (G.C.E) with a division II pass in basic sciences. In 1980 while awaiting to pursue my tertiary education. I pick up a teaching job at Bumpah High school Bumpah and taught General Science to form I students for a year.

In pursuant of higher education, I was awarded a European Economic Commission (EEC) scholarship in 1981 to pursue my secondary education at Njala University College University of Sierra Leone for 4 years, and graduated with a second-class Division in Agriculture General in 1985. After graduation from the University, I was employed by the Ministry of Education as an Assistant Teacher at Bumpah High School where I taught physics and Agriculture up to G.C.E O'level class for several years. I was again fortunate in 1995 when awarded the Netherlands Fellowship programme (NFP) to pursue an international course in Agriculture at Barneveld college in the Netherlands and graduated with a postgraduate Diploma in Poultry husbandry and Nutrition. Whilst in the Netherland for a period of one year, I attended professional field trips to other universities, and private enterprises in Germany, and Belgium to enhance my professional training in Animal Husbandry.

BACK TO SIERRA LEONE.

I finally came to Sierra Leone in 1997 where I found out that my home town Bumpah was vandalized by the rebels and all the inhabitants were now residing in refugee camps. It was a sad moment for me. I had no alternative but to stay in Freetown which was wasn't my original plan while in the Netherlands. However, having stayed in Freetown for a while frustrated with no job, I decided to go and reside finally in my home village Bumpah where I applied for a job advertised by World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVI-SL) titled 'District Animator which brought me into the NGO world. Also, whilst at WVI-SL, I rose up to the position of District Coordinator before I left in 2004.

MY CONTACT WITH EDWARD B KARGBO(DESEASED)

Following these, my first encounter with Edward B. Kargbo (deceased), former Director of FIOH-SL came about in an NGO workshop in Bo, where he manifested profound interest in me teaming up with him to develop FIOH-SL in future.

This came to reality when I was recruited as program manager of FIOH in 2005. As securing partnership is one of the strengths of FIOH-SL I teamed up with Edward and continued to build partnership and linkages with a variety of local, private and international organizations including Bread for the World (BfTW), CARE International, Georg Hansen – Norway, FIOH-UK, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) – UK, Global Agriculture and Food Security Project (GAFSP)/SCP, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), COOPI International/UNDP and GIZ - Germany and implemented sustainable development projects in Tonkolili and Koinadugu Districts respectively.

In 2011 and 2018, I participated in two learning conferences, one on conflict sensitivity in Sri Lanka and the other on climate change and consciousness in Scotland UK. I incorporated this new learning in all aspects of governance and development, straightening the social and cultural capacities within FIOH -SL and groups to prevent conflict and mitigate climate change.

Based on my solid personal achievements coupled with my experience with FIOH-SL and national and international donors, I was appointed Director of FIOH by the Board of Trustees in 2018.

Summary of Profile

I have cross-disciplinary experience in promoting economic livelihood within all levels of project designing, project management, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, donor relationship, community mobilization and project execution at field level. I am currently working towards building fundraising and resource mobilization, capacity of community-based organization apart from developing functional linkages with donors across the world. I have strategic management roles (including budget management and payroll), have good ethics and communicate with impact both written and oral for internal and external partners. I have played a technical role securing funding and contributing to report writing proposals and concept notes. I am keen to apply my empathy and community building skills towards transformative projects that bring people together, future economic strengthening and shape richer lives. My recent activities included providing leadership and high-level oversight in all areas of programme implementation and operation and mitigating the effects of climate change in agriculture. I have promoted enterprises that facilitate growth in agriculture and non-farm sectors, improvement of market linkages and also facilitate the development of key growth-related services committed to food security.

SKILLS

Fluent in English, Creole and Mende.

Interpersonal and team building.

Client account management.

Training and facilitation skills.

Budget development and management

Capacity building development.

Computer skills including Microsoft packages and Internet use.