

ALPHA MOHAMED KARGBO

BACKGROUND

I am Alpha Mohamed Kargbo, Coordinator for the Youth Leading the World team in Sierra Leone. I am the son of late Edward B Kargbo, Founder and formal Director of Future in our Hands Sierra Leone. I am 23 years old and presently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture. My late father taught me a lot about development, and he encouraged me in the Agricultural field, which I am proud to be in now.

I came in contact with the Youth Leading the World program in 2020, when Climate Change and Consciousness (CCC) partnered with Oz GREEN to offer this program to Sierra Leone youths.

When FIOH attended a conference on climate change, it was there when Walking the Land Africa was established comprising of the nations Sierra Leone, Malawi, and Senegal.

Michele Wilcox, who represents CCC Climate Change and Consciousness, partnered with Oz Green. She asked these countries organisations to send the selected youths to the conference. Since Future in our Hands is working with community youths in secondary and tertiary education I was able to furnish Michele with enthusiastic participants.

TESTIMONIAL

Fortunately my name was among the more than 15 youths sent from FIOH and I was the only participating youth from Sierra Leone. Thus, I was picked up and set to be the head of Sierra Leone youths team, though as time went on many left the group, through my inspirations I was able to bring, lead and mobilize more youths to come together and strengthen the Youth Leading The World Sierra Leone through FIOH.

It was a very difficult task for me at that time to bring and maintain youth in this programme, because most youths are looking out for immediate and direct benefit, so to mobilize them in coming together to achieve a common goal was not easy. But it was worth it.

At the beginning we are all apart, so I took upon myself to encouraging them to come together. I used my own resources to make this happen. I came to have relief when I started receiving some support from Michele, Sue Lennox, Stephanie, and FIOH in providing materials, internet subscription, Wifi, electricity, space for gathering etc. for the youth global congress online.

Edmond Kpsowa has been my personal helper in terms of direction and talking to the Youths in courageous words.

I felt motivated doing this, because I want to fulfil my father's wish and follow up with his legacy as a community leader. He is considered to be one of the greatest men in my community for all he did to meet people's needs, and I wish to ever serve my community in this capacity throughout my life time.

ACTIVITIES

Within these two years, I am trained to be a facilitator of the global eco-congress, and have been coordinating Youth Leading the World activities, with the help of my international Youth Leading The World partners in Australia and the US. I recruited more youth to come to the eco-congress and to become facilitators, and we have established four youth groups country wide, in Makeni, Mile 91, Freetown and Masingbie. In order to fulfil our aim and objectives, we have participated in various activities in addressing climate change in my country, activities like:

- ❖ planting trees
- ❖ collecting waste, especially plastics/bottles
- ❖ school education and sensitization on climate change to about 2,000 school going pupils,
- ❖ Interviewing farmers on how timber logging affects the farm products.
- ❖ Interviewing farmers involved in timber logging
- ❖ Organising the Eco-Congress for more youth involvement in global climate action, etc.

I have more than twenty voluntary members in each location.

I have the courage to go through this exercise because I feel proud to help save my country and the world as a whole. Along the way I faced several challenges that limited the extension of my activities. I intended doing the following;

- To extending the school sensitization in communities, radio and TV Stations.
- To establish school and community gardens in planting fruit and forest trees.
- To provide recycling bins for communities and schools in controlling plastics waste.

CHALLENGES

1. Farm tools
2. Transportation
3. Electricity
4. Water facilities
5. Sound system for School Sensitization
6. Empowerment in education

From Alpha Mohamed Kargbo

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