

Recent Success Stories

- In Kambia district AMNet trained women in their rights and in leadership skills. After encouraging women's engagement in governance issues, eleven women competed for positions in the district council and in the national parliament, resulting in one female councilor and the first two female parliamentarians of the district.
- Pioneered the setting up of the Women's Situation Room that agitated for peaceful election in 2012. Women and youths played leading roles that enhanced peaceful elections. No electoral sexual and GBV was recorded nation-wide.
- Contributed to the development and advocated for the Sexual Offences Act, that was finally enacted in 2012



Aminata Conteh, recently elected councilor in Kambia district and participant in AMNet's training programs in leadership and advocacy

Areas of Work

AMNet focuses on three areas: child protection, youth development and empowerment of women. However 4 thematic issues are mainstreamed: education, social protection, health and gender equality.

We work in all regions of Sierra Leone, but our main operational areas with own office structures are Kambia, Bonthe and the Western Area.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to Ban Child FGM in Port Loko District

Our strength lies in capacitating right holders at the grassroots level through sensitization and training to organize themselves and claim their rights by holding duty-bearers accountable.

Advocacy Movement Network - AMNet

www.amnet-online.net

E-mail: info@amnet-online.net

Phone: (+232) 076 603159

(+232) 076 640954

(+232) 078 515221

15 A Main Motor Road, Freetown



AMNet's mission is to deepen right holders' understanding about human rights and social justice as a means for them to reflect on their own lives and use their skills to make informed choices as agents of social change. AMNet as an advocacy organization facilitates social change from the communities to the policy level in cases of abuses and violations. Through the engagement of duty-bearers we advocate for the enactment and enforcement of laws that prevent women, children and youths from marginalization, violence and abuse.

AMNet also focuses on mass education as a preventive strategy to raise awareness around human rights abuses and violations, access to justice, internal security through community-based response systems.

AMNet officially registered as a right-based, female-led, national non-governmental organization in 2006.

Our Objectives

Child Protection

- Community-based prevention and response to protect disadvantaged and marginalized children against violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect
- Capacitate children to engage state and non-state actors in preventing children from exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence
- Capacitating children to make informed decision, participate in community development activities and pursue their own developmental aspirations.

Youth Development:

- Ensure better protection of especially female youth from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.
- Enhance the knowledge of youths in sexual and reproductive health, especially HIV/Aids.
- Facilitate access to economic and social skills to highly vulnerable youths.
- Capacitate youths in conflict management, political tolerance and in human rights.

Gender Empowerment:

- Facilitate reduction in infant and maternal mortality rates through nutritional and health education.
- Facilitate access to education by girls and increase access of women to adult literacy.
- Provide entrepreneurial skills and access to micro-credit to vulnerable women.
- Minimize sexual and gender-based violence.
- Capacitate and support women for social and political leadership.
- Advocate for the enactment and enforcements of laws that promote and protect women's rights and for gender-responsive budgeting

Coalitions and Networks

Strongly committed to networking and partnership, we collaborate in the following coalitions:

- Africa CSO Forum
- Africa-wide Movement for Children
- Civil Society Forum SL
- Education For All Coalition SL
- National Child Protection Committee
- National Commission on GBV
- Sierra Leone Child Right Coalition (current chair)
- Special Court Interactive Forum
- West Africa Child Right Coalition (UWAC)
- Youth Commission SL

Workshops and Capacity Building

We have trained staff of local and international NGOs and UN agencies. Please contact us to develop a workshop or capacity building program tailored to your organization's needs in the following fields:

- Generational dialogue: a culturally sensitive tool to challenge harmful traditional practices
- Community Animation and Facilitation
- Participatory Methodology
- Enabling Children to become Agents of their own Development
- Citizens' and Human Rights Education
- Basic Financial Management and M & E for CBOs
- Proposal development
- Report Writing
- Advocacy, Policy Influencing and Strategic Campaigning
- Conflict Analysis & Communication for Conflict Resolution
- Strategic Planning and Management for Supervisors, Managers and Coordinators
- Making Boards Work Meaningfully

Recent Success Stories

AMNet promotes the age of consent of 18 years to stop the practice of female genital mutilation on children. A long-term engagement in communities to change this highly sensitive cultural practice has yielded the following successes:

- Facilitated by AMNet, eight districts have signed memorandum of understanding criminalizing FGM of girls.
- Sexual gender-based violence including FGM in communities in Bonthe, Kambia and Western area challenged through culturally sensitive community dialogues. Pledges not to undertake FGM on children are made by participants.
- A FGM bush has been transformed into a formal education center in Kambia district.
- Children requested and received pledges from political parties not to use FGM as a campaign strategy in the 2012 elections. In Kailahun children asked a politician to support formal education instead of child FGM. Thus nationwide there was no evidence of FGM used as a campaign strategy during the elections.
- In districts with an MoU to ban child FGM, the communities monitor the implementation of the ban. Even children report FGM related issues and respond to them immediately.
- 100 former FGM practitioners have received start-up grants in Kambia, Port Loko and Western Area so that they are now active in alternative livelihoods.
- AMNet's advocacy on national level contributed to a new willingness to enact a law to ban child FGM nationwide.