

15 Years of Fighting for Access to Justice for Women and Girls in Sierra Leone

ANNUAL REPORT
2021



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This annual report outlines AdvocAid's work in 2021 and celebrates 15 years of AdvocAid.

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Introduction

If we were to choose a word to summarise 2021, it would be 'change'. It's been a year of change for AdvocAid - and as with all change, some of it is easy and positive and moves us forward, and some of it has challenged us. But all change has led us to finish the year in a stronger place than we started, and for that we are grateful.

Some of the hardest changes we have experienced have involved staff changes. In 2021 we bade farewell to our Executive Director, Rhiannon Davis, after two years at the helm. So much of what we have achieved this year is thanks to Rhiannon, and her legacy will be a strong one. We also had a change of leadership in our legal team, with the Legal Manager role changing a couple of times. We reflected hard on why this had happened, and know that a large part of it lies with the financial package a small organisation like AdvocAid can offer in comparison to international NGOs and organisations with more flexible budgets. So we have started to review how we can improve our salary and benefits packages, we lent our voice to the [Women Beyond Walls](#) report calling on donors to invest further in work with and for incarcerated women and girls and to be more flexible, and we've changed how we see leadership in the organisation. We created a Deputy Director role which Margaret Namaganda stepped into, and now co-leads the organisation with our new Executive Director, Zynab Kamara - we're excited to embrace co-leadership as a core part of being a feminist organisation.

Looking outside of AdvocAid, we saw one of the most positive changes we have campaigned for since our inception in 2006 - the abolition of the death penalty. This is a landmark moment not only for AdvocAid and other legal and human rights campaigners, but for Sierra Leone. We're proud and energised to see this change, and what it means for women and men who have been on death row, living with daily uncertainty, for years. This sits hand in hand with the pride we're feeling at how AdvocAid and our staff team have coped with the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we have changed and adapted how we implement our work. Read more about the work we have done throughout COVID-19 on page 16.

2021 saw us celebrate our [15th anniversary](#) of campaigning for women and girl's legal rights in Sierra Leone. After 15 years, we're proud to have affected change in the lives of over 15,000 women and girls. Tallying up all of the women and girls we have provided legal empowerment to, supported in correctional centres, and trained in communities, was such a proud moment for us. It makes us stop and think about the change we're trying to drive, and the people it affects. You can find out more on page 12 about the impact we have had in 2021, and our thanks to the wonderful partners we've worked with on page 19 who have helped us achieve all of this.

Finally, to celebrate 15 years of AdvocAid, we launched our new five year strategy - [Uman Get Rayt: 2021-2025](#). This is such an exciting document for us to launch. It is the result of a week-long workshop that all of our staff and volunteers took part in, working together to determine where we place our energy, where we can drive the greatest change, and what we need to do to remain a strong and relevant organisation. Turn to page 10 to read about Uman Get Rayt.

So yes, there has been a lot of change. Is this a bad thing? Not necessarily. In our 15th year, we embraced the change that comes with adolescence, and we are excited to see how this change settles in 2022, and fires us up to do more of what we do best - advocating for women's and girls' rights in Sierra Leone.

We hope you'll enjoy reading this report as much as we've enjoyed putting it together, and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to know more about AdvocAid, or how we can work together. You'll find our contact details on the back page.

About AdvocAid

Our Vision

That women and girls in Sierra Leone have their human rights respected and protected by a gender-responsive justice system and are empowered to secure their rights and hold the system to account.

Our Mission

To drive sustainable and impactful change in Sierra Leone's justice system via gender-responsive reform, to provide women and girls with the knowledge and tools to secure their human rights, and to demonstrate best practice through the provision of legal, social, and empowerment services to women and girls who come in contact with the law.

What We Do

AdvocAid works with girls and women caught up in Sierra Leone's often unjust legal system. We provide holistic access to justice, legal empowerment and post-detention support to women and girls who come into contact with the law. The women we work with are often vulnerable and marginalised. They might be survivors of gender-based violence, commercial sex workers, or women working in the informal economy.

Poverty and imprisonment frequently go hand-in-hand: both as the reason for women's offences and because women can rarely afford legal services, fines or bail. Alongside this, poor education means too many women don't know or understand their legal rights. This can result in admission to crimes they did not commit, not being aware of their right to bail, or not being able to read a confession statement.

AdvocAid works across Sierra Leone, with a head office in Freetown and regional offices in Makeni and Kenema. Our team of lawyers, paralegals and social workers are able to serve clients in all the major towns of Sierra Leone.

We ensure that women are supported and represented throughout the justice system – from police station to court to correctional centre*. As well as providing legal representation, we educate women on their legal rights and offer psycho-social support and rehabilitation services upon release.

We accompany these short-term interventions with advocacy and law reform projects, which focus on wider issues impacting women in the justice system. This part of our work aims to change the causes as well as the symptoms of gender inequality, and the gendered consequences of Sierra Leone being a heavily patriarchal society.

*Under the Correctional Act 2014, Sierra Leone renamed all Prisons as Correctional Centres

Namsa's Story



Namsa* is a 28-year-old widow and mother of 4 children, including a 7 month old baby. Her husband died in 2020, leaving her unemployed and struggling to provide for her family.

In early August 2021, she met a man and arranged to sell him some cement. This man paid her Le 6 million, but she failed to supply the cement. The man then made a statement against her at the Waterloo police station, and she was later arrested and detained.

AdvocAid’s social worker met Namsa during a police station monitoring session. Namsa told her that she had been detained for about 3 weeks without legal representation. She was locked up with her baby and her other three other children had been left alone to fend for themselves.

Our social worker informed the AdvocAid paralegal who gave her legal advice and AdvocAid’s lawyer provided her with legal representation. The social worker also provided her food and clothes for her baby.

After a while, the police investigation was concluded and Namsa was charged with obtaining money under false pretences. The AdvocAid lawyer applied for bail during the court proceedings, which was granted. However, Namsa could not find someone who would agree to stand as a surety for her, so she was detained at the Waterloo Correctional Centre with her baby for another four months.

In January 2022, she was found guilty at the Magistrates Court. AdvocAid's lawyer made a passionate plea and asked the Magistrate to “temper justice with mercy” by imposing a fine rather than giving her a custodial sentence.

Taking into consideration this argument, the Magistrate fined Namsa the sum of Le 500,000. The Magistrate showed compassion by not ordering her to pay compensation to the complainant, as this would have an adverse effect on her children.

AdvocAid paid the fine to secure Namsa’s release and enabled her to reunite with her children. Our social worker continues to maintain contact with Namsa and her relatives, encouraging them to provide her with the social support system that she needs.

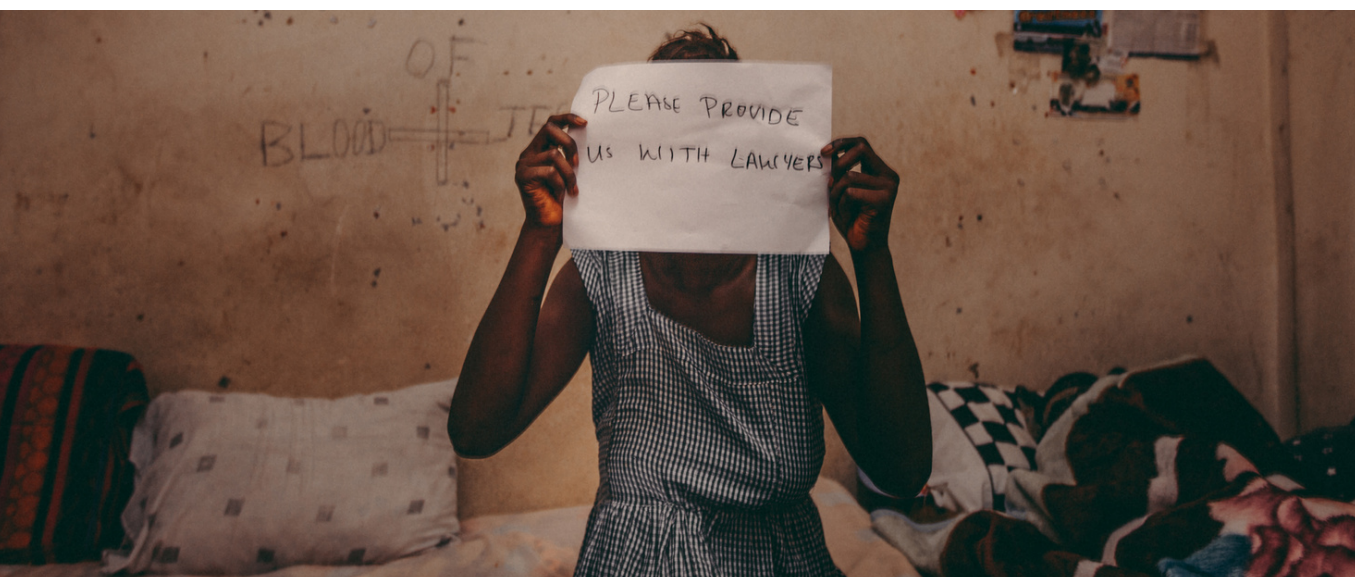
* Name changed to protect her identity. The image used on this page is a photo of a different AdvocAid client, for reasons of privacy.

15 Year Anniversary

Founded in 2006, 2021 was a big year for AdvocAid as we celebrated our 15-year anniversary. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported our work for women's and girls' rights over the last 15 years. Here are a few of the amazing things we have achieved together!

Highlights from 15 Years of AdvocAid

- Provided legal support to more than 15,000 women and girls.
- Successfully challenged the 21-day time limit within which to file an appeal for a person sentenced to death.
- Secured the release of six women and three men from death row.
- Successfully campaigned for the death penalty to be abolished.
- Secured the establishment of two separate detention facilities for women, including Sierra Leone's first correctional centre for women in Freetown.
- Established the first prison library in Freetown's Pademba Road Prison.
- Strengthened police accountability with our police complaints manual and used the process to ensure disciplinary action was taken against police officers who threatened our paralegal when she intervened to stop women being charged bribes to obtain bail.
- Freed 22 people who were wrongly sentenced for loitering.
- Launched a documentary film "Kolonko" highlighting abuses sex workers face by the police.
- Successfully advocated for a new Legal Aid Act and a new Correctional Services Act.
- Reached over a million women through our legal education outreach work, including our award-winning edutainment TV and radio series, Police Case.
- Grown to a team of 27 full time staff, with nearly 70% women.
- Supported the creation of the Go Bifo (Moving Forward) support group for formerly detained women, providing them with an opportunity to come together as a self-managing peer support network.
- Continued to operate without pause throughout the Ebola epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring rights were maintained during states of emergency.
- Won the Namati Justice Prize and Clifford Chance Access to Justice Award.



Justice in Sierra Leone

Facts and Figures

In 2020, AdvocAid released a report called 'Women Wahala Na Prison; Causes and Consequences of Women's Imprisonment in Sierra Leone'.

In interviews with 80 women in prison (representing 86% of the female prison population), the following figures were reported:

- 71% of women said that before going to prison, they could only afford one or two meals per day.
- 54% of the women were illiterate.
- 72% of women told us that before going to prison, they had suffered at least one type of abuse from their partner.
- 88% of the women had children outside of prison.
- 52% of women said they feared for their safety after release.
- 37% of the women had been convicted; the others were awaiting trial. The women surveyed had spent on average 427 days in pretrial detention.



AdvocAid Through the Years

2006

- Four women working at the Special Court for Sierra Leone form the Pademba Road Prison Monitoring Group, providing legal advice, education and support to women in prison.
- AdvocAid hires our first post-prison support officer, a formerly incarcerated woman.

2007

- Kadie is released following AdvocAid's legal intervention. Kadie was abducted by rebels during the civil war. She killed her rebel captor in self-defence and was detained for 5 years without going to court. AdvocAid traced her family and were able to reunite them.
- AdvocAid publishes illustrated legal education booklet '[After You Are Arrested: What Next?](#)' and conducts legal education sessions in Pademba Road prison.

2008

- AdvocAid is registered as a charitable company.
- AdvocAid releases [Children in Prison](#) report and proposes policy amendments.

2009

- Freetown Female Correctional Centre is established. AdvocAid had advocated for the former Special Court detention facility to be used to create a women's prison as previously women were held in a small space in the male prison, Pademba Road, which created safety and sanitary issues.
- AdvocAid starts providing literacy classes for women in prison in conjunction with EducAid.

2010

- AdvocAid establishes our first office in Freetown (we were previously hosted at the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law).
- AdvocAid hires paralegals and lawyers in Makeni and Kenema, extending our legal services support.

2011

- [MK is released from death row](#) with AdvocAid's legal support. She was the longest serving woman on death row in Sierra Leone.
- AdvocAid produces an [illustrated booklet](#) on the UN Standards for the Treatment of Female Prisoners and conducts trainings for prison officers.
- AdvocAid starts art therapy classes in the Freetown Female Correctional Centre and holds an [art exhibition](#) to mark Sierra Leone's 50th Independence Anniversary.

2012

- AdvocAid plays a role in the passing of Sierra Leone's Legal Aid Act, ensuring the legal architecture is in place for a nationwide legal aid system.
- Go Bifo women's group formed - a support group of formerly incarcerated women.
- 22 people who were wrongly sentenced for loitering are freed, thanks to AdvocAid.
- AdvocAid launches an [externship programme](#) to support the next generation of Sierra Leonean human rights lawyers.

2013

- AdvocAid launches the innovative [Police Case](#) - a TV series informing the population about their legal rights.
- AdvocAid launches a legal education music video, with leading female musician - Star Zee. The music video is filmed in Freetown Female Correctional Centre.
- Marvel Lombi, AdvocAid's paralegal, wins a [Youth Excellence Award](#) for her work.

AdvocAid Through the Years

2014

- A State of Emergency for Ebola is declared in August - AdvocAid remains one of the only legal organisations to continue operating during this time.
- AdvocAid opens their own offices in Kenema and Makeni.

2015

- AdvocAid launches the national '[Pay No Bribe for Bail](#)' policy report and campaign.
- [Six people are released](#) following advocacy from AdvocAid and partners. They had been detained without charge for almost six months under State of Emergency powers due to the ongoing Ebola pandemic.
- AdvocAid is awarded a [Namati Justice Prize](#).

2016

- Sierra Leone is officially declared Ebola free.
- AdvocAid celebrates its 10 year anniversary. Read [Victoria's story](#) of training to become a lawyer with support from AdvocAid.
- AdvocAid is awarded the Clifford Chance Access to Justice Award.

2017

- AdvocAid launches [Kolonko](#), a documentary about violence and harassment faced by sex workers and engages police leadership in reform efforts.
- AdvocAid's Executive Director and former Legal Manager, Simitie Laval, is awarded a Lawyer of the Year award.

2018

- AdvocAid works to strengthen [access to mental health services](#) for women in detention.
- AdvocAid launches [Voices from Inside](#) - a series showcasing stories and views from women in detention.
- Al Jazeera features AdvocAid's work in a photo story about Freetown Female Correctional Centre.

2019

- AdvocAid launches a national [Police Complaint manual](#) to support anyone to make a complaint.
- Aminata is [freed on appeal](#). She was formerly on death row and had been detained for 9 years. She was a survivor of gender-based violence.
- AdvocAid and CARL launch a campaign to decriminalise petty offences.

2020

- Sierra Leone reacts to the global Covid-19 pandemic with lockdowns - AdvocAid continues to operate and conduct monitoring of Correctional Centres and police stations.
- AdvocAid launches an important research report '[Women Wahala Na Prison](#) - Causes and Consequences of Women's Imprisonment in Sierra Leone'.

2021

- AdvocAid launches a five year 2021-2025 Strategy, [Uman Get Rayt](#).
- The Death Penalty is abolished in Sierra Leone - which [AdvocAid has campaigned for since 2006](#).

How We Work

Our Strategy

2021 marked the start of our new ambitious and feminist five-year strategy called 'Uman Get Rayt' (Krio for 'Women's Rights'). The strategy was developed in 2020 following an interactive and collaborative week of workshops, which the whole AdvocAid team took part in.

AdvocAid's 2021-2025 strategy is based around three core strategic directions for our work with women and girls: Pursuing Justice, Creating Opportunities for Women and Girls, and Multiplying our Impact. These will be supported by two internal strategic goals to enhance the quality of our delivery and our sustainability: Empowering our People, and Organisational Effectiveness.

AdvocAid aims to create systemic change for women and girls in Sierra Leone. We leverage the insights from our hands-on legal services and projects to conduct advocacy work that targets policy reform. By elevating the voices of women and girls to national and international platforms, we can create change for generations of Sierra Leonean girls to come.

At a national level, we listen to and work in close partnership with women and girls, and the whole legal and judicial system, to empower and support human rights fulfilment. Internationally, we engage with others and exchange evidence and best practices to bring about awareness and action for global feminist law and policy reform, and a reduction in the over-incarceration of women.

We believe in a partnership approach, working closely with the police, judiciary, correctional service, civil society, media, and women with lived experience of the justice system to improve conditions, secure human rights, and create a more gender-responsive justice system. AdvocAid centres itself on Sierra Leonean expertise but also values international and regional collaboration – through our partners, Board and staff – in order to foster different perspectives and to grow our networks.



Our Values



While developing our strategy, the team reflected on our values as an organisation, updating them to be fit for purpose.

Empathy

We act with empathy, arriving at each conversation without judgement and the ability to listen so as to understand other perspectives and use them in designing solutions.

Trust

We earn the trust of women and girls and our partners by acting with integrity and with confidentiality.

Inclusion

We ensure that we provide our services and support without prejudice or discrimination on any grounds.

Respect

We respect our partners, our staff and volunteers, and the women and girls we work with.

Feminism

We are passionate feminist advocates for women's rights and access to justice.

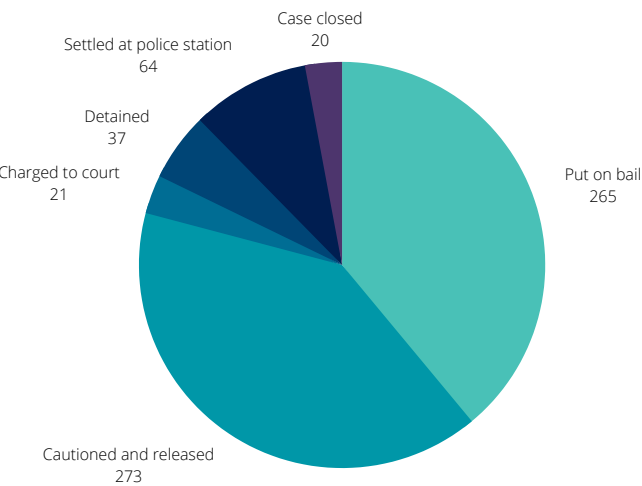
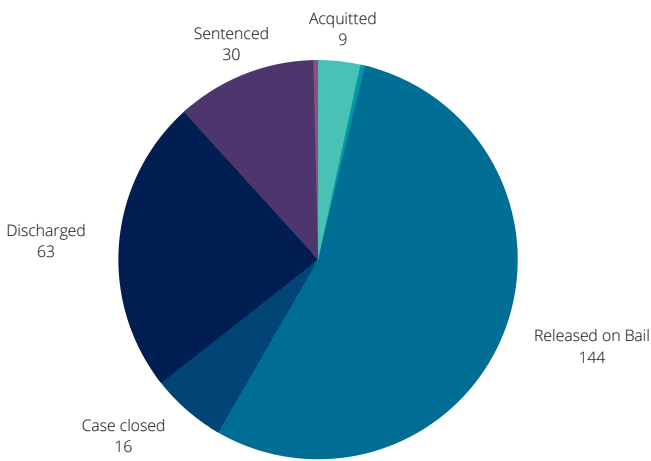
Standards

We are committed to the highest standards and excellence to ensure we achieve the maximum positive change for the women and girls we work with.

2021 In Review

Our Impact in Numbers

350 clients were provided with legal aid and representation by AdvocAid paralegals and Lawyers. The four most common charges were Assault, Wounding, Murder and Larceny/Receiving Stolen Goods. Without AdvocAid, these women would have had no access to a lawyer and been denied the chance of a fair trial. The chart opposite shows the breakdown of outcomes for these 350 clients.



680 women and girls received legal education and mediation at police stations. Women in Sierra Leone are often unaware of their rights in detention, which can lead to confessing to crimes they did not commit or incarceration for petty offences such as loitering. AdvocAid paralegals and social workers visit police stations to teach these women about their rights, and to advocate for bail or out of court settlements for petty offences and matters involving minors - this is far less harmful, more cost effective, and prevents women from being unnecessarily behind bars. The chart opposite shows the results of our mediation efforts.

28 paralegals from Kenema and Makeni received training in how to build cases. Participants included paralegals employed by AdvocAid and partner organisations. In a country where the population is mostly illiterate, paralegals play a vital role as intermediary between the people and the justice system. They help people understand the law and how it affects them, including the remedies available. Their work eases the pressure on the justice system, the correctional centres, and legal practitioners.

The AdvocAid training equipped paralegals to deal with the processes and procedures of handling Crime, Investigations and fact-finding for their clients. They developed skills in understanding the key elements of an offence, investigating cases that are brought to their attention for their intervention and determining the facts. This reduces unnecessary claims and saves expenditure on legal representation for cases that will not stand up in court.

Highlights from 2021

Abolition of the death penalty

For AdvocAid, one of the most important outcomes from 2021 was the abolition of the death penalty. AdvocAid has campaigned to end this cruel practice since our inception in 2006, and since then we have provided free legal representation for women and men on death row, to challenge their convictions and death sentences.

Although there have been no executions since 1998, there had been a resurgence in death sentences being delivered by Courts. Such a sentence causes unimaginable mental anguish to those on death row, and to their families. Under Sierra Leonean law, the death penalty was mandatory for certain crimes. This meant that a judge could not take into account any mitigating circumstances, such as gender-based violence.

In March 2021, AdvocAid, together with The Death Penalty Project (DPP) and the University of Oxford, submitted a memorandum on capital punishment to President Julius Maada Bio. The memorandum set out the case for cementing the country's de facto abolitionist position and detailed how the government could swiftly eradicate the death penalty. Two months later, in May 2021, the government committed to bring forward legislation for parliamentary approval and it was passed in July 2021. AdvocAid's continued advocacy against the death penalty has been supported by numerous funders, most recently the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The British High Commissioner thanked AdvocAid for our contribution, *"It has been a monumental effort to get here today, working tirelessly across a number of years in partnerships across Government, the Bar Association, the International Community, Human Rights Defenders, the Human Rights Commission and Civil Society including our partners AdvocAid, the Death Penalty Project and UK-SL Pro Bono network."*

Aminata's Story

In 2009, Aminata* was arrested, accused of murdering her abusive boyfriend during a struggle whilst he was beating her. Aged just 17, she was sentenced to death for murder in November 2010 and spent every day fearing she would be executed.

AdvocAid filed an appeal for her in 2010. In 2011, her sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Finally, 9 years after she was sentenced to death, her appeal was granted and her sentence was quashed. Since her release, Aminata has been working with AdvocAid to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty.

*Name changed to protect her identity

Highlights from 2021

Radical Rest Week

In July 2021, AdvocAid held our first week of Radical Rest. During this break, our staff took leave from all work activities. They took the time to focus on themselves, to rest and recharge. We recognise that working for AdvocAid requires emotional strength and resilience. The urgency and importance of our work can make it hard to take leave and set aside time for self-care. This problem was exacerbated by the high pressure of working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of our commitment to empower our people and ensure every member of our team feels valued and recognised, we choose to actively prioritise employee health and wellness.

The results of a staff survey after the week showed that 94.7% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they felt recharged and ready to start work and 89.5% of staff felt motivated to work to the best of their ability after the week of Radical Rest. We also received positive feedback from our partners when informing them of the Radical Rest week. We have committed to include the Radical Rest into our future annual work plans.

Our Community

In 2021, AdvocAid's supporters came together to form an online community through the Bomba Book Club. The book club read books written by women - primarily from across Africa - that touch on themes of gender and justice. We were honoured to have so many of the authors of the chosen books join the club for intimate online Q&A discussions. With the support of these authors and AdvocAid's friends, the book club not only raised in excess of \$2,000, but also provided an important space for friends of AdvocAid to come together at a time when we couldn't physically be together.

We were very grateful for the support of artist and AdvocAid friend, Lotta Teale, who in 2021 ran an online auction of a number of pieces of art depicting stunning Sierra Leonean landscapes. With the generosity of Lotta and the highest bidders, over \$4,500 was raised for AdvocAid's work.

Highlights from 2021

Forgotten by Funders research report

AdvocAid was part of **Forgotten by Funders**: An Exploratory Report on the Challenges of Funding Work with and For Incarcerated Women and Girls, published by Women Beyond Walls.



The report drew on survey responses from a total of 34 organisations, from 24 countries, spanning 5 continents, working with and for incarcerated women and girls.

The report found that resourcing for work with and for incarcerated women and girls has failed to adequately address the needs and capacities of these groups, including by feminist and women's rights funders. Key findings include:

1. Over two-thirds of organisations do not receive funding from feminist and women's rights funders.
2. The majority of organisations lack access to flexible, core funding.
3. Most of the organisations surveyed are facing precarious funding situations.
4. Organisations are facing challenges with the funding process and are not able to fund key staff positions.
5. Organisations are also in need of non-financial support for sustainability.

The findings present a compelling case for why work with and for women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system urgently needs increased resources and more effective funding.

2021 Project Spotlight

Protecting Women's Rights during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic which started in 2020 continued to be a major global emergency in 2021. For Sierra Leone, a country whose health system was taken to the brink of collapse by Ebola, COVID-19 posed a significant threat. Even before the pandemic, Sierra Leone was one of the world's poorest countries, with 57% of the population reporting food insecurity in 2020 (Source: [World Food Programme Sierra Leone Country Brief 2022](#)). Poverty greatly affects the population's ability to stockpile, socially distance or stay off work.

Lockdowns, curfews and restrictions on business and free movement were a serious concern for the women and girls we work with. During national lockdowns, we saw women being arrested for vital journeys such as fetching water or buying food for their families.

Women in prison were particularly at risk, due to the confined conditions, inadequate sanitation facilities, lack of handwashing stations and protective equipment.

AdvocAid worked hard to adapt our legal and social support during this crisis. We recognised that our provision of legal and welfare support was more vital than ever, as a health crisis should not obstruct human rights.

Our Paralegals mediated cases at police stations to avoid them reaching court and provided legal empowerment sessions by phone. Our Social Workers offered welfare support and counselling to those in prison.

We provided critical hygiene supplies to women in prison during the COVID-19 outbreak, such as soap, laundry soap, buckets and sanitary pads. We also supported the prison treatment centre with urgent medical supplies and PPE during a COVID-19 outbreak. The prison doctor said, *"Thanks to AdvocAid for their timely intervention. I just can't imagine how we would have run the treatment centre this week without your supplies."*

In recognition of our work, AdvocAid's Programme Manager Julie Mariama Sesay was spotlighted by the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development as a "COVID-19 Heroine". They highlighted how Julie had been unafraid to put her own health at risk to serve others.

Amie's Story



In Sierra Leone, 45% of women aged 15-49 report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.

AdvocAid's 2020 report '[Women Wahala Na Prison](#)' highlights that women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are more likely to come into contact with the law. Our research for the report found that the vast majority of detained women interviewed reported suffering at least one form of violence once in their lifetime. Amie's story illustrates the link between gender-based violence and women's incarceration.

"Life for women in this country is really hard, we suffer a lot at the hands of men. But I will make sure this doesn't define me, as a single mother, through AdvocAid's support."

Amie* endured constant financial, psychological and physical abuse from her husband. When she caught him with another woman in her home, she reacted, wounding the other woman. Amie was arrested and sentenced to two years in prison. At the time she was three months pregnant. She describes her period in incarceration as "painful" - lacking the services she needed as both a pregnant woman and a new mother.

When she and her baby were released, she could not return home as her husband rejected her and refused to accept the child as his. Amie was homeless and on the streets with her daughter.

Amie learned about AdvocAid's post-prison support and we were able to give her the care and support she needed.

This included housing support to pay her rent for a year, and a business start-up grant, which Amie has spent setting up a small business trading "fry fry" - various fried snacks and meals. AdvocAid has also linked her up to the Go Bifo women's group (a support group meaning 'moving forward' in Krio), and one of our social workers meets with her monthly to follow up on her progress and provide continued mental and emotional support.

* Name changed to protect her identity. The image used on this page is a photo of a different AdvocAid client, for reasons of privacy.

Looking Ahead

2022 - 2023 Priorities

2022 and 2023 will be key years for the delivery of our Uman Get Rayt strategy. Priorities for the next two years include:

- Advocating for the decriminalisation of petty offences which unfairly prejudice women and girls.
- Continuing our focus on legal empowerment for women and girls and expanding our strategic litigation work.
- Establishing a scholarship scheme that embraces feminist legal training to increase the number of female lawyers and paralegals in Sierra Leone (thanks to a donation from a generous supporter).
- Building relationships with feminist funders that will support our core advocacy work and implementation of our strategy.
- Growing the AdvocAid team so we can deliver more for the women and girls of Sierra Leone.
- Focusing on internal strengthening including team training and capacity building, and developing policies to support our team.



Thank you

AdvocAid is grateful to all its donors, partners and supporters for their generous support of our work. In particular, we would like to thank those who supported our work this year:

- European Union
- Global Giving - we are especially thankful to all those individuals who donated and support us through regular giving which helps us meet many core costs and provide urgent support to women in detention
- Medica Mondiale
- Mott Foundation
- Open Society Foundation
- Save the Children
- UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- UN Women

We would also like to thank our key partner organisations:

- Agiamondo - Civil Peace Service
- Campaign to Decriminalise Petty Offences
- Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law
- L.A.W.Y.E.R.S
- Legal Aid Board
- ILRAJ
- Human Rights Commission
- Namati
- Purposeful
- Roots and Wings
- Trocaire
- UK-Sierra Leone Pro Bono Network



Thank you for your support of AdvocAid. To learn more about our work, please visit www.advocaidsl.org

If you have been inspired by this report of AdvocAid's impact, please consider making a donation to support women and girls in Sierra Leone to access justice.

- **£15** could pay for a legal education workshop for 10 women held in a female correctional centre
- **£39** could fund legal advice and assistance at police stations for 10 women.
- **£427** could cover the costs of court representation for at least 10 women

There are many ways to get involved and support women to access justice. We would love to hear from you!

Head Office (Freetown)
3rd Floor, 145 Circular Road

Email: info@advocaidsl.org | Website: www.advocaidsl.org
Facebook: AdvocAid Sierra Leone | Twitter & Instagram: @advocaid

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