

FOUNDATION FOR
**INTERCULTURAL &
INTERRELIGIOUS**
DIALOGUE INITIATIVES



ANNUAL ACTIVITY

REPORT 2021 - 2022

Contact Us

**The Foundation for Intercultural and
Interreligious Dialogue Initiatives (FIIDI)**

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About FIIDI

The Foundation for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue Initiatives (FIIDI) is a non-profit, non-religious, non-partisan and non-political community-based organization working in Port Loko District of Sierra Leone.

Arising out of a commitment to end religious and ethnic violence, FIIDI has taken an awareness (education) based approach to address and prevent religious and ethnic challenges affecting the communities we serve in Sierra Leone. We believe that education, including education for tribal, ethnic, and religious leaders and actors, as well as youth, increase mutual respect; tolerance, and understanding while diminishing the risk that individuals could be manipulated for political purposes. We don't give aid; we strive for dialogue and tolerance, empowering communities to stand up for peace.

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Nelson Mandela (1918 – 2013). FIIDI's mandate and promotional activities stem from this quote. Our goal is to give meaning and actuality to Mandela's words.



Our Vision

To foster a strong community-centered platform grounded in a culture of peaceful coexistence among people from different backgrounds as a pillar for peace, stability, democracy, and sustainable development.

Our Mission

To promote intercultural and interreligious understanding and to empower communities in peacebuilding activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Celebration of the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

FIIDI joined like-minded organizations around the globe to celebrate the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief by organizing a Community Outreach Workshop at the Makomp Community Hall on Sunday, 22 August 2021. The celebration of the Day was an opportunity to engage religious leaders and community members especially the youth to promote a culture of Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue. The main topics lay focus on the dimension of faith and local contexts like peacebuilding and interfaith dialogue according to Islam and Christianity as well as discussions about young people and religious violence in Africa. The workshop brought together 70 participants who were mostly youth from the communities of Makomp, Mabesseneh, Royama, Malompoh, and Lunsar Town.



COVID-19 Awareness Campaign

In 2021, FIIDI incorporated COVID-19 awareness messages in all its activities targeting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the communities with the aim of combatting the challenges caused by the pandemic during the year. FIIDI sensitized the people of Makomp, Mabesseneh and Faredugu about COVID-19 and measures to be undertaken by all to prevent the spread of the pandemic. Awareness creation in the communities was undertaken by the organization immediately after it was registered by the Port Loko District Council in July 2021.



Community Circles for Interfaith Dialogue Project



The Covid-19 pandemic has been accompanied by a surge in stigma, discrimination, and hatred, which only cost more lives instead of saving them. The virus attacks all without caring about where we are from or what we believe in? To be able to recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we must make peace with one another. Therefore, as the United Nations invited all nations and people to celebrate the International Day of Peace with a focus (theme) on “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”; FIIDI launched its Community Circles for Interfaith Dialogue Project on Tuesday, 21 September 2021 during the well-known Luma in the Faredugu community of the Boya Romende Chiefdom in the Karenta District of Sierra Leone. The goal of the project is to foster peace and engagement and understanding in the community, by the community and for the community through Drama. This project has also benefited the people of Mabesseneh, and Makomp of the Marampa Chiefdom in the Port Loko District.

THE WAYFORWARD

Looking into the near future, FIIDI aims to build partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations in Sierra Leone and around the world to foster understanding, tolerance, and acceptance in the communities we serve. Our goal is to move from a dream to a progressive mission in Port Loko district and expand to benefit more communities across Sierra Leone. Currently, FIIDI has no regular funding partner. Our operations depend largely on the unfailing commitment of our volunteers and occasional donations from individuals who subscribed to our vision. The success with many small-scale projects has kept FIIDI in business to date. The expansion of FIIDI for now depends on the successes of projects acquired. Therefore, FIIDI will focus on resource mobilization and expands its programs and activities to benefit more communities in the Port Loko district and eventually to other districts across Sierra Leone. We hope that this annual activity report will give you an interesting overview of how we have tried to empower communities in peacebuilding activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue in Port Loko district from July 2021 to June 2022.

