

TOGETHER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH TRAINING

JANUARY AND MAY 2026
SHORT IMPACT REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT OVERVIEW

This report highlights the collective achievements and life-saving impact of our Maternal and Newborn Health Training programs conducted in Sierra Leone during the first half of 2026. Funded and supported through collaborative alliance-based models—including Helping Children Worldwide, the Healey International Relief Foundation, and Tenki for Born under the Together for Global Health Network—these interventions directly address critical gaps in frontline obstetric and neonatal care. Through strategic clinical education and intensive mentorship, we continue to bridge critical gaps in specialized knowledge, directly improving maternal and child health outcomes across multiple districts.

THIS CRITICAL WORK WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE DEDICATED FUNDING PROVIDED UNDER THE CCIH SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM,

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR INVESTING IN THE PROFICIENCY, CONFIDENCE, AND RESILIENCE OF SIERRA LEONE'S FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE HEROES.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK OF CARE WHERE EVERY MOTHER AND NEWBORN HAS THE CHANCE TO THRIVE



THE URGENT NEED FOR CLINICAL COMPETENCY EDUCATION

The critical importance of these clinical training programs is underscored by systemic gaps in the Sierra Leonean healthcare framework. Due to historic resource constraints, many nurses have graduated from clinical programs without sufficient hands-on, practical skills training, leaving them underprepared for immediate placement in high-volume delivery wards. Compounding this, there is an absence of a formalized continuous education mandate for practicing nurses and midwives, meaning frontline clinicians rarely have structured opportunities to update their medical knowledge or practice life-saving skills after entering the workforce

In a country confronting some of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates globally, these educational gaps carry devastating consequences. A significant portion of these tragic outcomes could be directly mitigated by swift, high-quality clinical interventions during delivery. By introducing structured, hands-on clinical competency education, our program targeted these exact friction points. We bridge the gap between graduation and actual practice, transforming high-stress, emergency obstetric environments into spaces where competent, confident providers are fully equipped to preserve life.



CORE CURRICULUM & COMPETENCIES



The training programs utilized an intensive, hands-on framework designed to translate theoretical knowledge into rapid clinical mastery. Core pillars of the training included:

- **Emergency Obstetric & Neonatal Procedures:** Intensive instruction on managing critical, life-threatening complications such as postpartum hemorrhage (excessive bleeding) and newborn resuscitation.
- **Training of Trainers (ToT):** Selecting rising leaders who demonstrate exceptional pedagogical aptitude to serve as mentors. Equipping these individuals to evaluate and inspire others ensures that high-quality clinical education remains sustainable and scalable long after our direct sessions conclude. Training focused on how nurses can incorporate short, frequent, on-site practice drills at their facility after the training was over. This design ensures that clinicians maintain high skill proficiency directly within their work environments without disrupting essential, day-to-day patient care.

While clinical competency is vital to saving lives, true healing requires addressing both the patient's experience and the provider's mental well-being. Our 2026 training cohorts deliberately incorporated dedicated modules on soft skills, focusing on two critical areas:

- **Respectful Maternal Care (RMC):** Midwives were trained on evidence-based practices that uphold the dignity, autonomy, and human rights of laboring women. In high-stress, overcrowded labor wards, maintaining empathetic communication and respectful treatment reduces maternal trauma and builds community trust in formal medical facilities.
- **Meditation and Breathwork for Providers:** Frontline healthcare workers in Sierra Leone operate under immense pressure, routinely managing catastrophic, life-or-death emergencies with limited resources. To combat systemic burnout and secondary traumatic stress, we integrated practical mindfulness, meditation, and guided breathwork exercises directly into the daily training schedule.

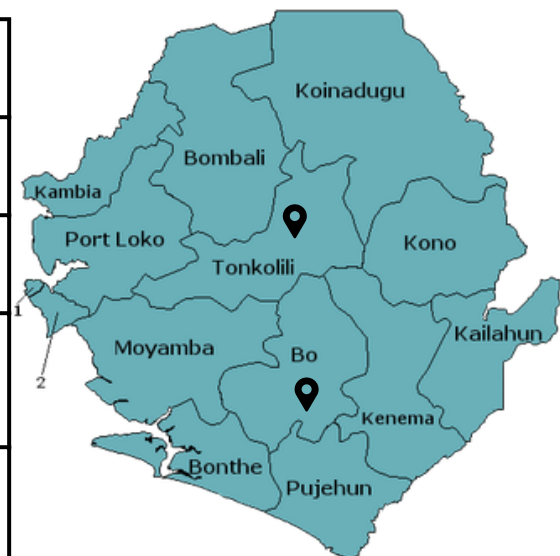
PERFORMANCE METRICS, TRAINING COHORTS & OUTCOMES

Our programmatic interventions targeted frontline healthcare providers, including nurses, midwives, Maternal and Child Health Aides, Community Health Officers, MPH students, and student midwives, focusing heavily on assessing baseline competencies and rapidly building mastery in life-saving obstetric and neonatal care.

To ensure the clinical integrity of our programs, participant certification was rigorously evaluated using a multi-tiered assessment framework:

- **Baseline vs. Final Knowledge Exams:** Written examinations were administered at the start and completion of the sessions.
- **Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs):** Midwives were required to demonstrate absolute technical mastery through practical, hands-on skills assessments using anatomical models and simulators. Every participant was graded on their real-time execution of critical emergency steps, ensuring they could physically perform life-saving procedures under pressure.
- **Confidence Self-Assessments:** Because technical skill must be paired with clinical courage, we tracked qualitative shifts in self-efficacy. Midwives self-reported their confidence levels before and after training, measuring their transition from initial hesitation to the decisive self-assurance required to save lives

	Tonkolili District	Bo District
Location	Magburaka Hospital	Bo School of Midwifery
Dates	January 19–23, 2026	May 11–15, 2026
No. of Participants	63	40
Outcomes	100% pass rate on final skills examinations	80% success rate (32 participants successfully passed all final competencies)



IMPACT STORY

The true measure of this work is not found in statistics, but in the lives saved on the ground. During our recent post-training site visits, we met Nurse Christiana Minnah, the Matron of Kindoya, a small, private hospital in Bo. Matron Minnah shared a powerful testament to the immediate necessity of this program.

She attended our rigorous Monday-through-Friday training, demonstrating exceptional aptitude and passing her final skills examination with high marks. Because of her standout performance, she was designated as a practice coordinator, tasked with leading future Training of Trainers initiatives within her own medical facility.

Two days later, on Sunday night, while on duty at her hospital, a mother arrived in labor. During her labor, she began suffering from severe, life-threatening postpartum hemorrhage. Faced with a critical emergency, the Matron did not panic. Instead, relying on the intensive, repetitive drills she had practiced all week long, she calmly and confidently executed the exact emergency procedures taught in our curriculum.

Her swift, skilled intervention successfully stopped the bleeding, saving the lives of both the mother and her newborn baby. Reflecting on the crisis, the Matron shared:

**"BEFORE, I MIGHT HAVE
PANICKED IN THAT
SITUATION, BUT BECAUSE
WE HAD DRILLED THOSE
SKILLS ALL WEEK, I KNEW
EXACTLY WHAT TO DO.
WHAT WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED HAD I NOT
ATTENDED THIS TRAINING?"**

MATRON CHRISTIANA MINNAH



Stories like this are the precise reason we do this work. Because of our collective efforts and your ongoing partnership, a newborn baby still has a mother, and a family remains whole. Thank you for investing in the proficiency, confidence, and sustainability of Sierra Leone's frontline healthcare heroes.