Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Protecting River Rokel: Community-Led Climate Education and River Conservation Initiative - Northern Sierra Leone



A community-driven climate education and river conservation initiative empowering schools, chiefs, youth, and communities to protect River Rokel and build climate resilience.

Challenge
River Rokel is increasingly threatened by environmental degradation caused by unsustainable mining practices, waste disposal, and limited community awareness of climate and water protection. These challenges affect thousands of people in Magburaka Town who depend on the river for drinking water, livelihoods, agriculture, and household needs. Moreover,climate change is increasing pressure on water resources, making community action and environmental education urgent.

Solution
Equiearth Foundation Sierra Leone implemented a community-led river protection programme combining climate education, stakeholder engagement, school-based learning, river clean-up activities, and water monitoring. The initiative engages traditional leaders, schools, youth ambassadors, and community members to promote sustainable practices and protect local ecosystems. Its model is designed to be replicated in other climate-vulnerable communities across Sierra Leone.

Impact
Reached ~5,000 community members through awareness and engagement activities.
Trained and engaged 15 student River Rokel Protection and Climate Ambassadors from secondary schools.
Delivered climate education workshops for chiefs, schools, and communities.
Developed a climate and river protection learning manual for secondary school students.
Conducted river clean-up and environmental monitoring activities.
Supported youth-led environmental action through school climate clubs.

Partners
Rivers for Change: Project funder and supporting partner; Local schools in Magburaka; Community education partners and climate ambassador implementation partners; Traditional leaders and community stakeholders; Community mobilization and local support partners.



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