

TFSL MATRICULATES OVER 100 COHORT 7 FELLOWS



On 29 August 2026, TFSL held the Closing and Matriculation Ceremony for its Cohort 7 Pre-Service Training Institute, formally welcoming over 100 new Fellows into the Fellowship. The ceremony marked the successful completion of five weeks of intensive residential training and the beginning of the Fellows' two-year journey of service in schools and communities across Sierra Leone.

The event commenced with a formal procession, and welcome remarks delivered by TFSL's CEO, Madam Josephine M. Saidu. Congratulating the Fellows, she reminded them that the completion of the Institute marked the beginning of their leadership journey. In her words **“Take the knowledge, skills and values gained from the Institute into your class and become the leaders your learners and communities need.”**

Francis Sahr Jusu, representing the TFSL alumni community, reflected on the realities of the Fellowship journey and encouraged the new Fellows to remain committed to their purpose as they transition into their placement schools. He said **“The Fellowship journey will challenge you, but it will also transform you.”**

The ceremony also featured statements from TFSL's Board Chair, Madam Alice Onomake; a representative from the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education; Madam Cecilia Browne of the Embassy of Ireland; and Dr Mokhlesur Rahman of the World Bank.

In her statement, Madam Alice Onomake reminded the Fellows of the responsibility that comes with becoming a teacher and transformational leader.

“Teaching is more than a profession; it is a responsibility to shape lives and build the future. Serve with integrity, courage and an unwavering commitment to every child.”

The representative from the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education underscored the important role of teachers in supporting the Government's efforts to strengthen education and improve learning outcomes. In his words, **“The Government values the contribution of committed teachers to improving learning outcomes.”**

Madam Cecilia Browne reaffirmed the Embassy of Ireland's commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen teaching and expand educational opportunities for children. **“Ireland is proud to support initiatives like TFSL that develop capable and committed teachers.”**

Dr Mokhlesur Rahman of the World Bank emphasised that teachers are at the centre of every functioning education system. **“There can be no education without teachers, and education cannot achieve its purpose if the learning environment is not safe.”**

This was followed by a panel discussion featuring Cohort 7 Fellows Jude Tamba Alieu, Jamie Comfort Musa, Ann Baindu Momoh and Daniel H. Kettor provided further insight into the Fellowship journey. The panellists reflected on their recruitment and assessment experiences,

The panellists reflected on their recruitment and assessment experiences, the challenges and lessons from the Training Institute, and how they intend to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in their classrooms and communities.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission, Mr Lans Keifala. His message challenged the Fellows to translate their training into meaningful action and measurable impact by demonstrating professionalism, resilience and effective leadership in their placement schools. **“Training prepares you for the work; training is not the work.”**

Following the presentation of the fellows by the Training Lead, Daniel Patiwa, the COO, administered the Fellowship Oath. Through the oath, the Fellows publicly committed themselves to serving learners, supporting schools and communities, and upholding the values and mission of TFSL.

Certificates and awards were subsequently presented to recognise the Fellows' successful completion of the Institute and their outstanding contributions throughout the training period.

The Closing and Matriculation Ceremony celebrated both an achievement and a new beginning. As the Cohort 7 Fellows transition into their placement schools, they carry the responsibility to put their training into practice, inspire their learners and lead meaningful change.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TFSL'S PRE-SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTE

Teach For Sierra Leone's five-week Pre-Service Training Institute prepared over 100 Cohort 7 Fellows for their two-year journey of teaching and transformational leadership in schools and communities across Sierra Leone.

The residential Institute combined interactive sessions, practical exercises, group activities, reflections and peer learning. The training was organised around five core focus areas designed to equip Fellows with the knowledge, skills, mindsets and values required to lead effectively inside and outside the classroom.

The first thematic area was the **Vision and Mission**. Madam Josephine M. Saidu facilitated the session on Teach For Sierra Leone's vision and mission. She guided Fellows through a deeper understanding of the organisation's vision, mission and approach to



addressing educational inequity. The session encouraged them to examine the realities affecting children in underserved communities and recognise their role in creating lasting change.

Through reflection and discussion, Fellows began developing personal visions for their classrooms, learners and

ambitious goals and ensure that their daily actions contribute to a future in which every child has access to quality education and the opportunity to thrive.

Foundations of Teaching-This focus area introduced Fellows to the essential knowledge and practical skills required for effective teaching and learning. Sessions explored lesson planning, classroom management, literacy and Numeracy teachings in both Primary and Jss, learner engagement, developing of print reach materials, assessment and the creation of inclusive learning environments.

Fellows strengthened their ability to prepare purposeful lesson plans, respond to different learning needs and use of



assessment tools like TARL to monitor learners' progress. The training emphasised the importance of making classrooms safe, engaging and supportive spaces where every child feels valued and is encouraged to participate.

Personal Leadership- As a leadership training hub, TFSL placed personal leadership at the core of the Institute. Fellows were supported to understand that effective leadership begins with self-awareness, personal responsibility and a clear



commitment to purpose. They reflected on their values, strengths, areas for growth and the leadership behaviours needed to navigate the realities of working in schools and communities.

Cohort and Community Culture- Throughout the Institute, Fellows worked together to build a strong and supportive Cohort 7 community. Team-building activities, group assignments and shared reflections strengthened trust, collaboration and mutual accountability among participants. The focus on cohort and community culture helped Fellows appreciate the importance of collective leadership, community engagement and peer support. As they move into different placement schools and districts, the relationships established during the Institute will provide an important network through which they can exchange ideas, share experiences and support one another throughout the Fellowship.



Cross-Cutting Issues- Fellows also explored critical issues that influence teaching, learning and children's well-being. These included gender equality, safeguarding, disability and social inclusion, climate change, community engagement and the creation of safe learning environments. They were encouraged to approach their work with sensitivity, protect learners from harm and ensure that no child is excluded because of gender, disability, background or circumstance.



TFSL'S WEEKLY TESTS, RAFFLES AND GAMES ENRICH THE INSTITUTE EXPERIENCE

Learning at TFSL's Pre-Service Training Institute extended beyond daily training sessions. Throughout the five-week programme, Cohort 7 Fellows participated in weekly tests, raffles and recreational games designed to reinforce learning, sustain engagement and strengthen relationships across the cohort.

At the end of each week, Fellows completed tests covering the topics explored during the training sessions. These assessments



helped to measure their understanding, track their progress and identify areas requiring further clarification and support. The tests also encouraged Fellows to revise consistently, take responsibility for their learning and remain committed to the standards expected of them.

Raffle activities added excitement to the Institute and created opportunities to

recognise and motivate participants. They created moments of celebration, encouraged participation and helped maintain Fellows' enthusiasm throughout the demanding residential programme.

The raffles contributed to a positive learning environment in which hard work, engagement and community spirit were recognised and celebrated.



he Fellows were divided into four teams: **Team SAS P, Team Irish Aid, Team Teach For All and Team Mastercard Foundation.** Games such as Ludo, football, draughts and tug of peace promoted teamwork, creativity, communication and healthy competition.

Team SAS P won the football match and balance ball competition, **Team Mastercard**

Foundation won tug of peace, while **Team Irish Aid** won draughts and Ludo.

The activities also allowed Fellows to relax, connect with one another and build the strong sense of community needed to support them throughout their two-year Fellowship journey.

Together, the weekly tests, raffles and games created a balanced Institute



experience that combined academic rigour with motivation, wellness and community building. They demonstrated that meaningful learning can be challenging, interactive and enjoyable while preparing Fellows to become collaborative, resilient and transformational leaders in their schools.

Congratulations to all the Cohort 7 Fellows

TFSL WELCOMED LEH WI LAN, MASTERCARD FOUNDATION AND MBSSE TO THE TRAINING INSTITUTE



Teach For Sierra Leone welcomed representatives from Leh Wi Lan, the Mastercard Foundation and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to witness the Cohort 7 Pre-Service Training Institute.

During the visit, the representatives observed training sessions designed to prepare Fellows for effective service in classrooms and communities across Sierra Leone. The Institute equipped participants with essential knowledge and skills in teaching and learning, personal leadership, cohort and community culture, and other cross-cutting areas critical to their development as teacher leaders.

The visit provided the representatives with firsthand insight into TFSL's approach to recruiting, training and developing leaders committed to improving educational outcomes for children, particularly those in underserved communities.

TFSL appreciates the interest demonstrated by Leh Wi Lan, the Mastercard Foundation and MBSSE. The engagement reaffirmed the importance of collaboration and shared learning in strengthening teacher development and advancing educational equity across Sierra Leone.



TFSL CONTRIBUTES TO NATIONAL POLICY AND EDUCATION REFORM DISCUSSIONS



On 6th and 28th August 2026, TFSL participated in two important national consultations focused on strengthening pre-service teacher education and creating an enabling environment for Community-Based Organisations in Sierra Leone.

TFSL was represented at the Teacher Education Reform Consultation Meeting by its CEO, Madam Josephine M. Saidu, and Comms Lead, Jeneba Samura. The meeting, held at the Ministry of Finance in Freetown, brought together representatives from MTHE, MBSSE, TSC, TEC, teacher-training institutions, UNICEF and other key stakeholders. Participants reviewed Sierra Leone's pre-service teacher education landscape and identified priorities for developing a National Reform Roadmap.

TFSL, represented by Project Lead Samuel Rashid Jaward, also participated in the National NGOs Consultation and Resource Mobilisation Engagement on the Development of a National Community-Based Organisation Policy at YACAN Hall in Freetown. The engagement brought together representatives from NGOs and CSOs to contribute to the policy-development process being led by the Government of Sierra Leone through MOPED, in collaboration with SLANGO and the wider NGO community.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALHASSAN SIDIQUE TURAY



Meet Alhassan Sidique Turay, a Teach For Sierra Leone **Cohort 1 alumnus**, educator, child-rights advocate, climate-change activist, Emerging Public Leaders Fellow and Immigration Officer committed to advancing education, community development and public service in Sierra Leone.

Alhassan earned his undergraduate degree in History and Sociology from the University of Sierra Leone in 2019, specialising in Sociology. From 2020 to 2022, Alhassan served as a Cohort 1 Teacher-Leader with Teach For Sierra Leone at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Primary School in Port Loko District. He taught learners between the ages of eight and ten, working to improve educational outcomes, promote child-centred learning and support the holistic development of children in an underserved community.

According to him, his Fellowship experience strengthened his leadership abilities and deepened his commitment to creating opportunities for children and communities. Fast forward to 2026, Alhassan transitioned into the Civil Service as an Immigration Officer with the Sierra Leone Immigration Department. In this role, he contributes to border management, migration governance and national security while upholding professionalism, integrity and public-service excellence. His journey from the classroom to development leadership and national service demonstrates the lasting impact of the TFSL Fellowship.



We are proud to see Alhassan carry the spirit of transformational leadership from the classroom into national service.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: OSMAN HASSAN KOROMA



Meet Osman Hassan Koroma, a Teach For Sierra Leone alumnus and Headteacher of Global Outreach Primary School in Masantigie Community, Western Rural District.

Osman successfully completed the Africa School Leadership: From Good to Great Fellowship, organised by Teach For All and Global School Leaders. The programme strengthened his skills in classroom observation, teacher coaching, instructional leadership and school-improvement planning.

From 7–9 July 2026, Osman represented Sierra Leone at the Africa School Leaders Gathering in Nairobi, Kenya. He was the only Sierra Leonean among 15 school leaders from six African countries.

During the gathering, participants shared leadership practices, visited schools and refined their school-improvement plans. Osman developed a plan focused on making classrooms safe for learning, recognising that learners thrive when they feel protected, confident and included.

Osman successfully completed the programme's core learning and immersion activities and received a certificate of completion. Continued community support, peer engagement and progress updates will run until January 2027.



TFSL commends Osman Hassan Koroma for his continued efforts to inspire positive change in his school and community.

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT: JOSEPH K. B MORIE



Meet Joseph Kinnie Berewa Morie (Morison), a Cohort 7 Fellow who emerged as the overall top-performing candidate across the entire recruitment and assessment process.

His TFSL journey began in March 2026 while he was in The Gambia. After discovering the opportunity, Joseph submitted his application on the final day before the portal closed. He progressed from the telephone interview to the recruitment assessment in Bo and later participated in the three-day community bootcamp in Sahun, Pujehun District.

During the immersion, Joseph chaired a school-affairs meeting attended by over 200 community stakeholders, using his fluency in Mende to facilitate discussions on the community's educational challenges and aspirations.

He subsequently completed the five-week Pre-Service Training Institute in Freetown, where he strengthened his understanding of teaching, leadership, community engagement and service. His discipline, communication, teamwork and commitment throughout the process earned him recognition as the overall best-performing Fellow during assessment.

“Being named the overall best Fellow at the most rigorous assessment I have ever attended is an honour I deeply appreciate, but for me, the real reward is the opportunity to serve.”



We wish him every success as he begins this new chapter of teaching, leadership and community service.

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT: ANN BAINDU MOMOH

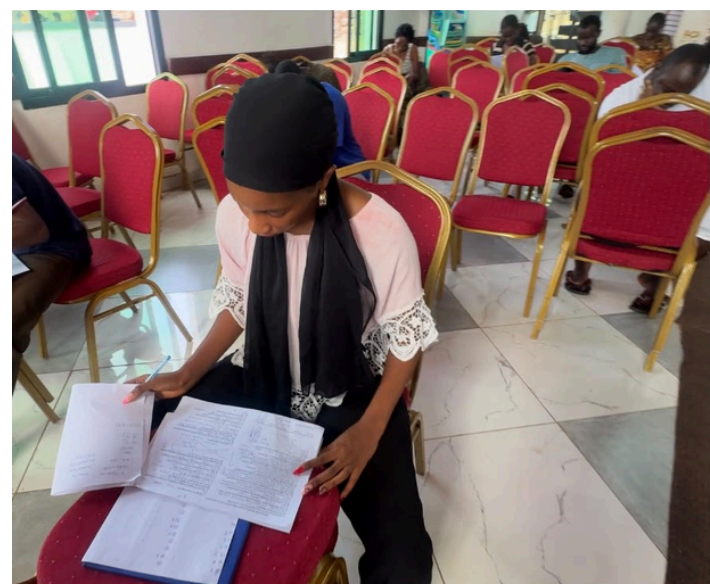


Meet Ann Baidu Momoh, a Teach For Sierra Leone Cohort 7 Fellow who distinguished herself as one of the highest-performing fellows during the five-week Pre-Service Training Institute.

Ann holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, graduating in 2024. Before joining TFSL, she gained professional experience as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

Her outstanding performance during the PSTI reflected her dedication, discipline and commitment to learning. She described TFSL's recruitment and assessment process as transparent, challenging and transformative, noting that it pushed her to think on her feet, recognise her strengths and reflect deeply on her purpose as an educator and leader, in her words; ***“I went into the Institute with expectations, but I left with a better understanding of the kind of teacher and leader I want to become”.***

TFSL commends Ann for her outstanding performance during the Pre-Service Training Institute.



We wish her every success as she begins her teaching journey and works to inspire positive change in her classroom and community.