

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

*UCD Safe Learning Study
a mixed methods study of 100
primary schools in Sierra Leone*

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Sierra Leone – Country Profile

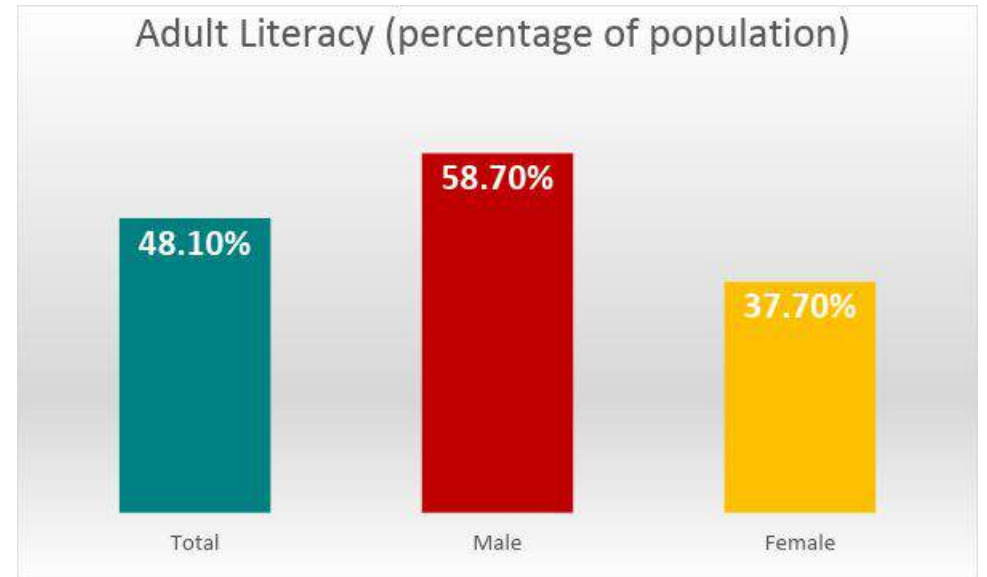
- Population 7.4 million (2016)
- One of the world's poorest nations
 - Rank 179 on the UN Human Development Index (out of 188 countries)
 - 14th poorest – GDP (International Monetary Fund, 2017)
- Life expectancy at birth – 51.3 years
- Societal Context
 - Civil war: 1991-2002: (50,000 killed, one million displaced; Human Rights Watch)
 - Ebola epidemic: 2014 – 2016 (4,000 deaths, 13,500 cases; WHO)



Disruption of Education

- Negative consequences of civil war, Ebola crisis
 - Destruction of buildings, displaced population, child soldiers
 - Quarantine, school closures, teen pregnancy.
- Low literacy rates
 - Average years of schooling: 3.3 (UNHDI, 2016)
- Gender inequality, urban-rural divide (25% literacy)
- Elitist, postcolonial structure
- Lack of funds, facilities, and teacher training

□ Focus of humanitarian interventions



Safe Learning Model (Concern Worldwide)

Teacher Level

- Teacher professional development
- Instructional design
- Pedagogy
- Teacher learning circles

Student Level

- Social and emotional learning
- Student voice
- Sex education

Community Level

- Domestic violence
- Youth voice in the community
- Community conversations
- Safe spaces

Gender equality



Safe Learning in Tonkolili, Sierra Leone



Out[16]=
Tonkolili district



Randomised Controlled Trial

Control	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3
25 Communities	25 Communities	25 Communities	25 Communities
No Intervention			Community Level
		Student Level	Student Level
		Teacher Level	Teacher Level
Sexual health services & Agriculture	Sexual health services & Agriculture	Sexual health services & Agriculture	Sexual health services & Agriculture

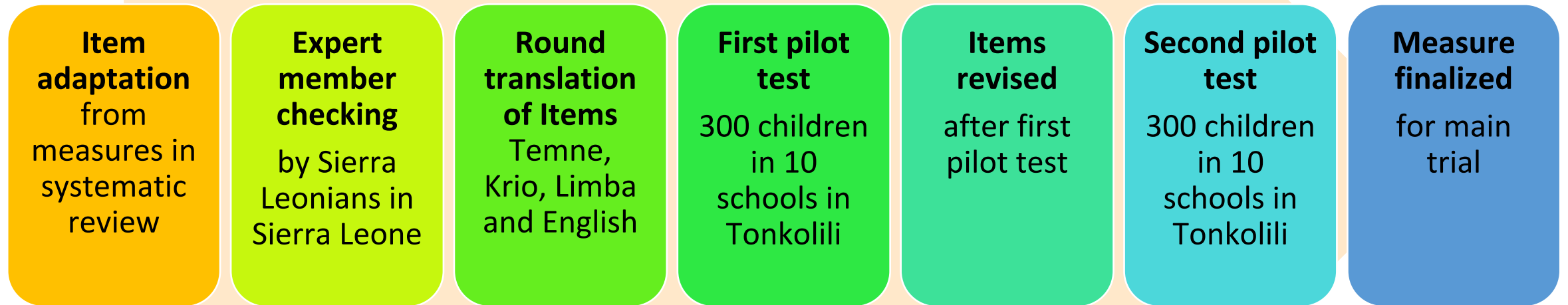
Research Design



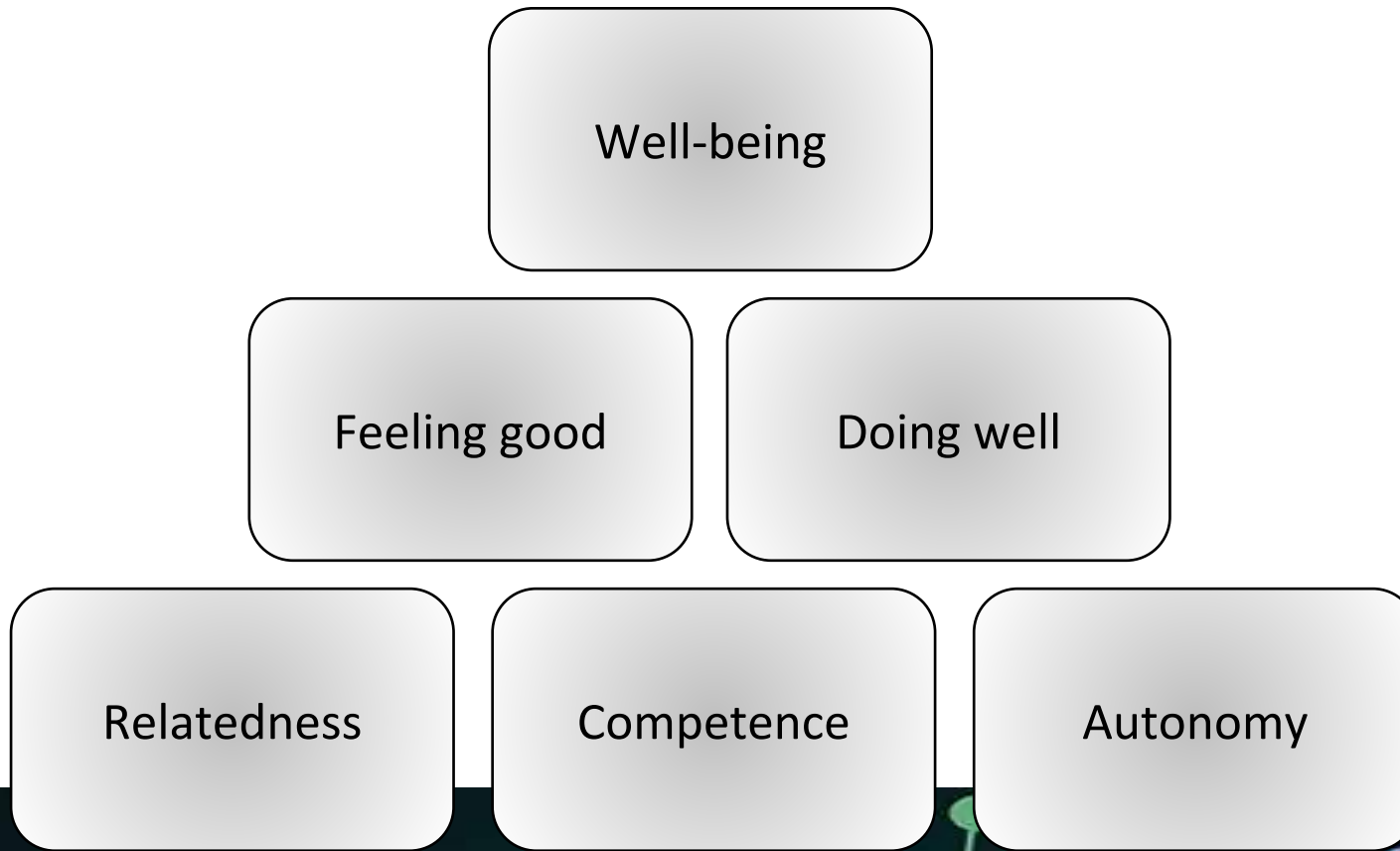
2017	18/19	2019	19/20	2020	2021	2022
Mar – Aug	Sep – Feb	Mar - Aug	Sep – Feb	Mar - Aug	Mar - Aug	Mar - Aug
Develop wellbeing measure	Pilot wellbeing & gender	Pilot wellbeing & gender	Trial measures at baseline	Trial post-test 1	Trial post-test 2	Trial post-test 3
	EGRA	EGRA	EGRA	EGRA	EGRA	EGRA
	Demographics	Demographics	Demographics	Demographics	Demographics	Demographics
	Case Study	Case Study	Case Study	Case Study	Case Study	Case Study



Wellbeing measure development



Wellbeing measure structure



- Classical wellbeing theory
- Functional wellbeing
- Social evolution
- Self-determination theory

Qualitative Study Overview



- Ethnographic and child-centered
- **Pilot phase:** Jan – Mar 2018
- 30 children, 4 families, in one case study school/village
- **Main study:** Tracking same group of children over three years (2019 – 2021)
- 120 children, 4 field sites, 16 families



Participant observation of children's everyday lives



Guided tours led by the children



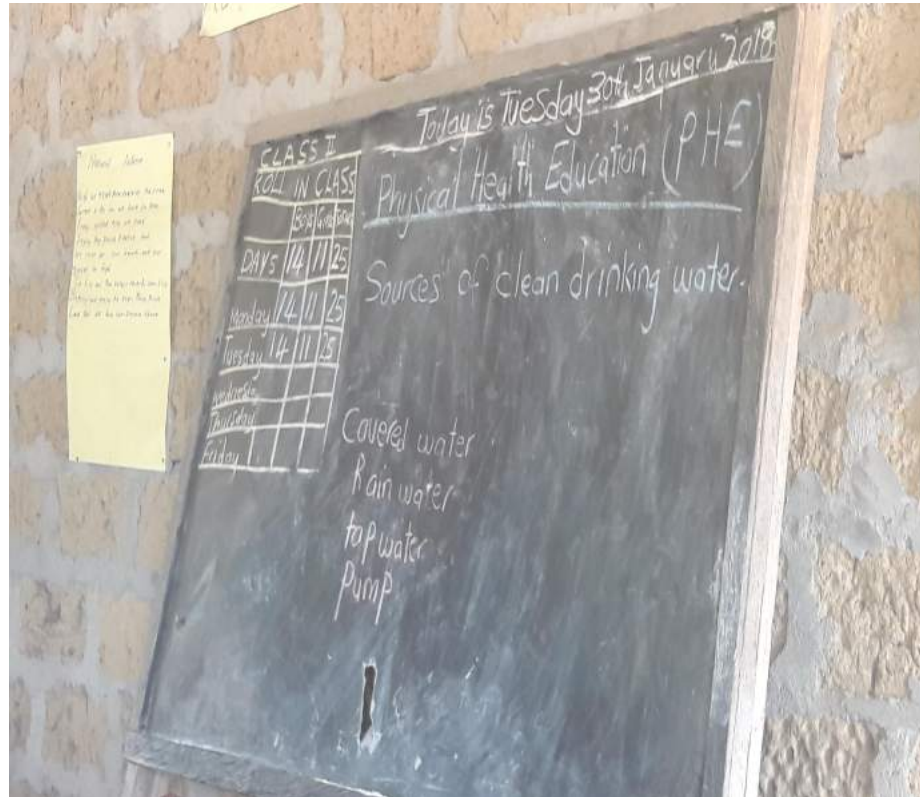
Children's contribution to household's domestic economy



School



Humanitarian organizations and western notions of “childhood”, “education” and “well-being” as fundamental dimensions of children’s everyday life in school



Thank you!

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More information is on our website: www.ucd.ie/safelearning

