



ENHANCE-GSL UNIMAK

Engagement in Action at UNIMAK

Report on the Community Engagement Activities Conducted by the University of Makeni
within the Enhance-GSL Project

Literacy • health advocacy • climate action • entrepreneurship

University of Makeni (UNIMAK) • Community Engagement Team
Makeni, Sierra Leone — September-October 2026



Our Journey Today

An account of four activities conducted — from mandate to lasting impact.



01 Context & Mandate

ENHANCE-GSL and UNIMAK's place within it.



02 UNIMAK's Approach

How we engage: principles, roles & methods.



03 People First

Activity 1: Literacy — 2: Health campaigns.



04 Place & Prosperity

Activity 3: Environment — 4: Enterprise.



05 Impact & Allies

Results achieved, partnerships & lessons.



06 What Endures

Sustainability, next steps & discussion.

UNIMAK within ENHANCE-GSL

Enhancing Capacities for Sustainable Community Engagement.

An Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education initiative, funded by the European Commission — strengthening the bond between universities and society in Georgia and Sierra Leone.

- › UNIMAK co-hosted the milestone Freetown conference & training week (Oct 2025).
- › UNIMAK established a dedicated Community Engagement Unit — the permanent home of this work.
- › This report presents four student-engagement activities fully conducted by UNIMAK teams.
- › Trajectory: dialogue → implementation — Freetown 2025 → Georgia 2026.

6

Partner
Universities

4

Countries
United

4

Activities
Conducted

95–145

Students
Mobilised

One Dimension, One Discipline

All four activities were delivered through student engagement — students as tutors, ambassadors, stewards and mentors.

I

Listen First

Needs identified with leaders, teachers, parents, health workers & assessments.

II

Co-Design Always

Students, staff & communities planned jointly — shared ownership throughout.

III

Supervise & Reflect

Trained delivery, close supervision, journals, debriefs & evaluation.

PRACTICES APPLIED ACROSS THE PORTFOLIO

Community-engaged learning (service-learning) • Student volunteering • Advocacy & civic engagement • Educational service projects

Coordination, training, supervision, liaison, quality assurance & documentation led by the UNIMAK engagement team.

Four Activities — All Conducted

The complete UNIMAK delivery record within this reporting period.

#	ACTIVITY CONDUCTED	SCALE	DURATION	STATUS
1	Student-Led Community Literacy & Learning Support	10–20 tutors • partner schools	1 month • weekly sessions	✓ Conducted
2	Student Community Health Awareness & Advocacy	25–35 ambassadors • clinics & NGOs	8–10 week campaign	✓ Conducted
3	Student-Led Sanitation & Climate Action	40–60 volunteers • councils & EPA	Flagship + follow-ups	✓ Conducted
4	Student Community Entrepreneurship & Skills	20–30 facilitators • youth & women	1 month • workshops	✓ Conducted

Literacy & Learning Support

✓ CONDUCTED



Over a one-month period, UNIMAK mobilised 10–20 student volunteers as tutors and mentors for pupils in underserved communities around Makeni — delivering after-school lessons, reading clubs, homework support and motivational mentoring.

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- › Strengthen students' practical teaching, mentoring & communication skills.
- › Improve literacy, numeracy & learning outcomes among primary and secondary pupils.
- › Deepen experiential learning and outreach at departmental level.
- › Advance UNIMAK's mission of community service & human capital development.

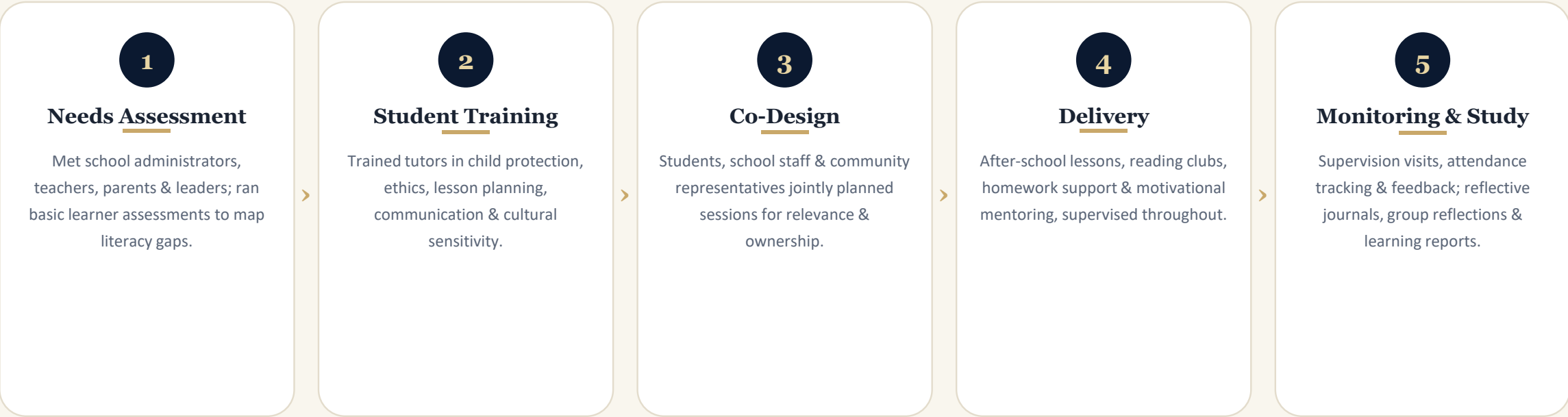
10–20
STUDENT TUTORS

1 MONTH
WEEKLY SESSIONS

SCHOOLS
NEARBY PARTNERS

How It Was Delivered

A five-stage delivery chain — from listening to documented learning.



PRACTICE & BACKING • Service-learning • Volunteering • Educational service project — Led by Faculty of Education & Social Sciences with partner schools and local education authorities.

Outcomes, Challenges & Lessons

What changed, what tested us, and what we carry forward.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

- PERSONAL** • Growth in empathy, leadership & confidence among tutors.
- EDUCATIONAL** • Stronger tutoring, facilitation & mentoring craft.
- SOCIAL** • A renewed culture of learning in host communities.
- ORGANISATIONAL** • Deeper, lasting university–school partnerships.

SOURCE	BARRIER FACED	HOW UNIMAK OVERCAME IT
Management	Logistics & transport limits	Nearby schools + integration into academic programmes
Colleagues	Supervision time pressures	Shared supervision & rotation system
Students	Competing academic load	Clear scheduling + academic recognition
Community	Unrealistic expectations	Transparent communication & defined scope

FIELD REFLECTION • *“Students are not only learners, but valuable contributors to social development.” — Evaluated through student learning outcomes, learner progress, community satisfaction & sustainability potential — reports and feedback tools.*

Moments from the Field



Facilitating Community Learning Through Interactive Teaching and Knowledge Sharing



Community Engagement in Action: Participants and Facilitators During Field Activities



Supporting Learning and Community Participation Through Classroom-Based Engagement

ACTIVITY 02 • HEALTH

Health Awareness & Advocacy

✓ CONDUCTED

Across an 8–10 week campaign, 25–35 UNIMAK students served as health ambassadors — planning and delivering awareness and advocacy on sanitation, nutrition, mental health, maternal health and disease prevention with professionals.

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- › Build students' advocacy, communication & community-mobilisation skills.
- › Promote healthy, preventive behaviours across participating communities.
- › Strengthen UNIMAK's contribution to public-health education.
- › Model culturally sensitive, sustainable health promotion.

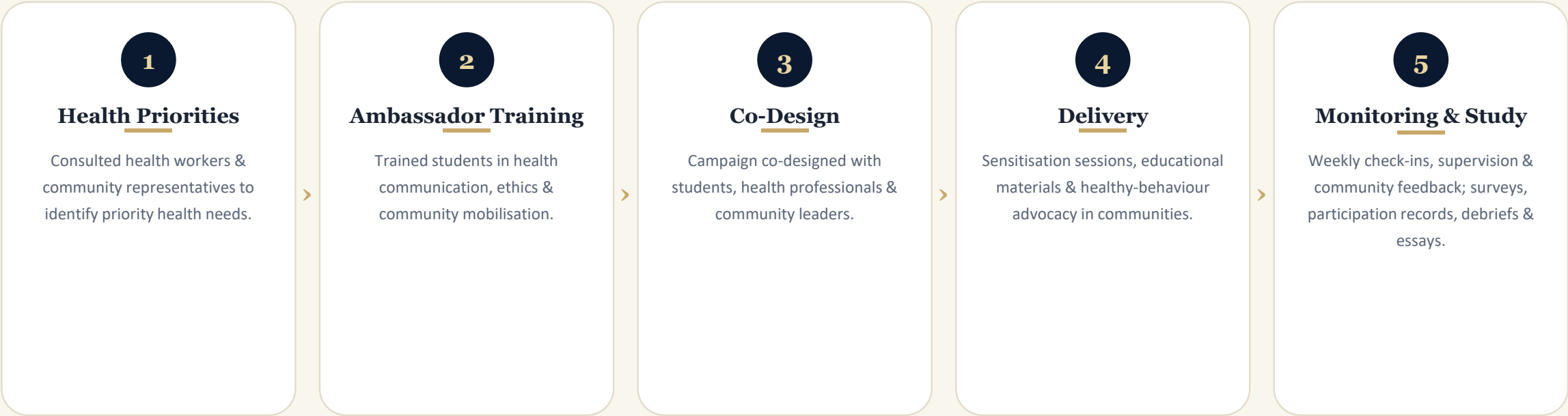
25–35
HEALTH AMBASSADORS

8–10 WKS
STRUCTURED DRIVE

CLINICS
NGO & LEADER ALLIES

How It Was Delivered

A five-stage delivery chain — from listening to documented learning.



PRACTICE & BACKING • Civic engagement • Advocacy • Volunteering — Delivered with the health sciences faculty, local clinics, NGOs, student health clubs & guest facilitators.

Outcomes, Challenges & Lessons

What changed, what tested us, and what we carry forward.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

- STUDENT GROWTH** • Sharper leadership, advocacy & public-speaking skills.
- COMMUNITY HEALTH** • Greater awareness and uptake of preventive practices.
- COLLABORATION** • Stronger institutional–clinic–community ties.
- SUSTAINABILITY** • Culturally grounded messages that outlast the campaign.

SOURCE	BARRIER FACED	HOW UNIMAK OVERCAME IT
Management	Limited funding	Leveraged health-agency partnerships
Colleagues	Limited health expertise	Invited guest facilitators
Students	Public-speaking anxiety	Training & mentorship
Community	Entrenched cultural beliefs	Engaged trusted community leaders

FIELD REFLECTION • *“Sustainable, culturally sensitive prevention outlasts any single campaign.” — Evaluated through community surveys, participation records and student reflective reports.*

Moments from the Field



Supervisors, staff, and student ambassadors during a collaborative health awareness session



Supervisors, staff, and student ambassadors during a collaborative health awareness session



Student participants using advocacy messages to promote health awareness and public engagement



ACTIVITY 03 • ENVIRONMENT

Sanitation & Climate Action

✓ CONDUCTED

03

UNIMAK's largest mobilisation — 40–60 student volunteers — delivered a flagship environmental intervention with follow-up engagements: community clean-ups, waste-management education and tree planting across Makeni communities.

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- › Promote environmental cleanliness & sustainable practice in communities.
- › Enhance student leadership through action-based learning & advocacy.
- › Support local environmental action alongside councils & agencies.
- › Cultivate lasting student environmental stewardship.

40–60
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

FLAGSHIP
+ FOLLOW-UPS

EPA
COUNCIL PARTNERS

How It Was Delivered

A five-stage delivery chain — from listening to documented learning.



PRACTICE & BACKING • Service project • Volunteering — Delivered with the Environmental Protection Agency, local councils, student environmental clubs & community action teams.

Outcomes, Challenges & Lessons

What changed, what tested us, and what we carry forward.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

- CLEANER SPACES • Visibly cleaner, healthier neighbourhoods.
- CONSCIOUS STUDENTS • Environmentally aware, action-ready graduates.
- LOCAL OWNERSHIP • Communities equipped to maintain shared spaces.
- PARTNERSHIPS • Enduring council, EPA & community alliances.

SOURCE	BARRIER FACED	HOW UNIMAK OVERCAME IT
Management	Limited tools & equipment	Partnered with local councils
Colleagues	Safety concerns	Full risk-assessment plans
Students	Physical demands	Team-based approach
Community	Maintenance challenges	Promoted local ownership

FIELD REFLECTION • *“When students lead, communities take ownership of shared spaces.” — Evaluated through community feedback and structured student reflections.*

Moments from the Field



Students and facilitators after a joint environmental clean-up activity



Students working together during a practical environmental clean-up exercise



Student volunteers engaged in collaborative action to promote a cleaner and healthier community environment

Entrepreneurship & Skills

✓ CONDUCTED



Over one month, 20–30 UNIMAK students mentored youth and women's groups in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and employability — through participatory workshops, coaching sessions and peer mentoring.

OBJECTIVES PURSUED

- › Strengthen employability & enterprise skills in communities.
- › Deepen student learning by applying theory to livelihoods.
- › Support community economic resilience, especially for youth & women.
- › Raise UNIMAK's profile as a development partner.

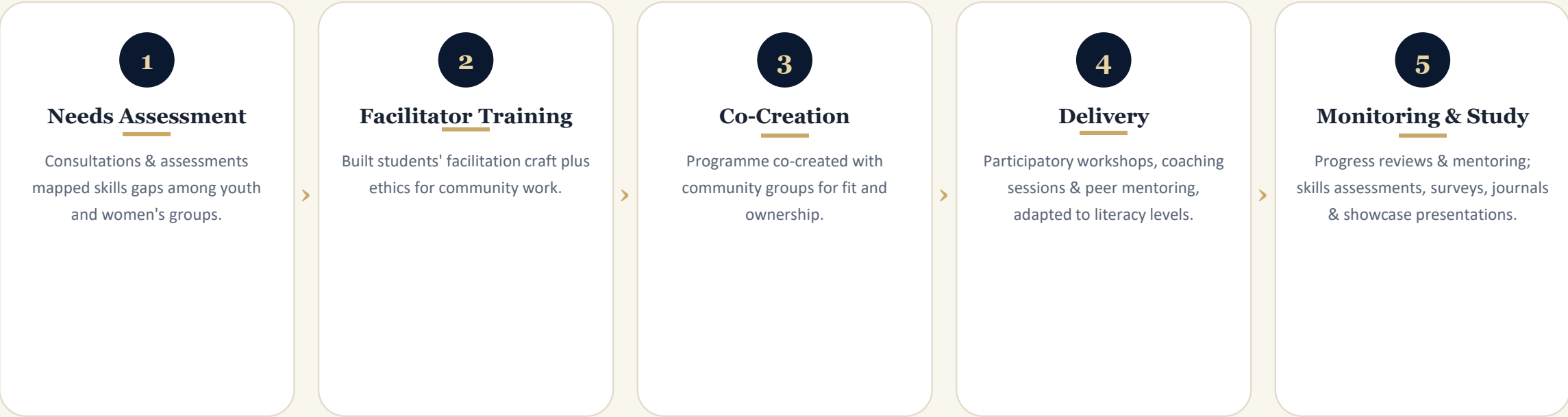
20–30
STUDENT FACILITATORS

1 MONTH
INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

HUBS
NGO NETWORK

How It Was Delivered

A five-stage delivery chain — from listening to documented learning.



PRACTICE & BACKING • Community-engaged learning • Service project — Backed by the business faculty, entrepreneurship hubs & NGO partners; groups engaged as co-creators.

Outcomes, Challenges & Lessons

What changed, what tested us, and what we carry forward.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

- SKILLED STUDENTS** • Confident, work-ready graduate facilitators.
- EMPOWERED GROUPS** • Youth & women equipped to earn and grow.
- RESILIENCE** • Stronger household & community economic footing.
- VISIBILITY** • UNIMAK recognised as an enterprise partner.

SOURCE	BARRIER FACED	HOW UNIMAK OVERCAME IT
Management	Funding limitations	Partnerships & grant-seeking
Colleagues	Availability constraints	Shared facilitation model
Students	Facilitation inexperience	Dedicated capacity-building
Community	Mixed literacy levels	Practical, hands-on methods

FIELD REFLECTION • *“Economic empowerment begins the moment knowledge meets livelihood.” — Evaluated through skills assessments, participant surveys and reflection reports.*

What UNIMAK Achieved Together

95–145

Student volunteers
mobilised & trained

4

Activities fully
conducted

4

Community fronts
served

100s

Lives touched
around Makeni

PERSONAL

*Empathy, leadership
& confidence*

EDUCATIONAL

*Tutoring, advocacy
& facilitation craft*

SOCIAL

*Healthier, greener,
learning communities*

ORGANISATIONAL

*Stronger UNIMAK–
community bridges*

Evidence: learner progress reviews • participation records • satisfaction surveys • reflective reports & journals

Partnerships Behind Delivery

Every conducted activity stood on a coalition of faculty, students and community allies.

01 • LITERACY

- ◆ Faculty of Education & Social Sciences
- ◆ Student volunteer groups
- ◆ Partner schools & education authorities
- ◆ University learning materials

02 • HEALTH

- ◆ Nursing and Allied Health sciences faculty
- ◆ Local clinics & NGOs
- ◆ Student health clubs
- ◆ Guest facilitators & community leaders

03 • ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ Local councils
- ◆ Student eco-clubs
- ◆ Community action teams

04 • ENTERPRISE

- ◆ Faculty of Commerce and Management
- ◆ Entrepreneurship hubs
- ◆ NGO network
- ◆ Youth & women's groups as co-creators

UNIMAK TEAM ROLE • Programme coordination • student training & supervision • liaison with schools, clinics, councils & hubs • quality assurance, documentation & reporting

What Endures at UNIMAK

From conducted activities to permanent institutional culture.

01

CE Unit

Operationalise UNIMAK's Community Engagement Unit — the permanent home of this work.

02

Manual

Translate and contextually adapt the Community Engagement Manual for Sierra Leone.

03

Georgia 2026

Present UNIMAK's results at the follow-up international conference.

04

Scale & Embed

Integrate service-learning into curricula; grow mentors, grants & community networks.

OUR COMMITMENT • Every lesson from these conducted activities becomes lasting UNIMAK structure — engagement that endures.

UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI • ENHANCE-GSL

Thank You.

Four activities conducted. Hundreds of lives touched. One enduring commitment.

QUESTIONS • REFLECTIONS • DISCUSSION

Community Engagement Team • University of Makeni (UNIMAK)

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