



## NMJD Hands Over Newly-Constructed School to Manjendu Community



With funding from Vibrant Village Foundation, the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) constructed a 6-classroom primary school at Manjendu in Famanjo Section, Gorama Mende chiefdom in Kenema district. The school was formally opened and handed over to the community on Friday 15th November 2024. The school, which is sited in a conducive environment for the safety and wellbeing of the children, comprises a Headteacher's Office and a Staff Room, whilst the construction of a 6-seater toilets is underway and nearing completion.

The West Africa Regional Director of VVF, Mr. Mohamed Osman, in his opening remarks stated "when we were coming to this side, I asked myself, if somebody finds himself or herself on this side of the country, what is the probability that the person can get good education, what is the probability that the person can have access to good drinking water and health facilities? But now that I have realized that Mr. Brima who is my boss came from this school or this community, I want to appreciate and respect you all". He also commended the high quality of the construction work on the school and he urged all community stakeholders, including community leaders, parents, teachers and

pupils to take ownership of the school with regards to care and maintenance and the opportunity which the newly-constructed classrooms present to them. He emphasized the importance of the education of the girl child to the development of any community and he encouraged the community to send the girl child to school and support them to pursue their education to the best of their ability.

In their response, the seemingly elated parents expressed deep appreciation to VVF for their intervention in addressing a perennial problem, which has been holding back the development of their community for a very long time. The parents and the entire community thanked NMJD for their steadfastness in advocating for not only the construction of the 6 classrooms but also for improving the health and sanitation of the school environment.

The project to construct the school was initiated in 2023 by the Town Chief of Manjendu and other chiefdom authorities who met with the Executive Director of NMJD, Mr. Abu A. Brima, and pleaded with him to help the community in addressing the teething problem of inadequate classrooms to cope with the growing population of children of school-going age. The opening and handing over of the school to the community marks another significant milestone in the quest of the people of Manjendu to promote quality education in their community, and the chiefdom as a whole.

