



BSL EVENTS: PROMOTING FINANCIAL INCLUSION



OIM Library for Women's Financial Inclusion in Sierra Leone

The Oral Information Management (OIM) Library for Women's Financial Inclusion Project broke new ground in helping illiterate women in Sierra Leone access financial services with confidence, as the initiative uses simple memorable icons to replace complex financial text.

Led by My Oral Village (MOVE) in partnership with the New Salone Woman Organisation (NSWO), the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL), and microfinance institutions.

With only 41% of women in Sierra Leone literate, many face barriers when dealing with savings, loans, and other banking services. To address this, the project team engaged women in rural and urban communities through focus groups discussions and field visits. Their insights guided the design of icons for commonly used documents such as passbooks, loan repayment cards, and deposit slips. Testing showed that women quickly recognised and applied these tools, improving accuracy and trust in financial transactions.

As the project monitoring was done in August & September 2025, the project proves that OIM tools can be scaled nationally while remaining user-friendly and culturally relevant. Looking ahead, it is recommended that BSL integrates OIM into national financial literacy programs, while partners continue to train and conduct research to strengthen women's economic empowerment across Sierra Leone.



OIM Team engaging unschooled women

