

SLURC

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A Tribute to Freetown's Beloved Cotton Tree

Braima M. Koroma and Marwa Barakat



Fallen Cotton Tree's stump, morning of May 25, in the general area of Freetown, surrounded by the Supreme Court building, the Sierra Leone National Museum and other significant landmarks. Photo credit: unknown source.

On the night of May 24th 2023, as a heavy rain storm hit Freetown, it brought down the city's most famous historic landmark, the Cotton Tree. The tree had stood for several decades, and was a symbol of the city's founding and a gathering place for many important events in Sierra Leone's history. It became an urban legend tied to freedom and peace, and held cultural significance for the people of Freetown. We at the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), along with the whole country, mourn this loss. We hope for a transparent collective participatory process to determine the future of the remmining trunk that engages all city stakeholders. We also call for building climate resilience as a critical take from this tragedy, reminding policy makers and planners that extreme climate events are a great threat to all living organisms and the built environment.



The Cotton Tree prior to its falling

Tackling Housing Inequalities in Sierra Leone

Joseph M. Macarthy and Ansumana Tarawally

Access to safe and affordable housing is a basic human right incorporated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 11, which addresses urban development, urges cities to ensure access to safe and affordable housing. However, the majority of the urban population in Sierra Leone does not have access to it.

The country's housing situation has worsened over the years with significant housing deficit, which now exposes several low-income families living in overcrowded housing and often precarious areas to a range of health and environmental problems such as flooding, mudslides, and rockfalls.

In Freetown, this is exacerbated by the continued spatial growth which, together with inadequate infrastructure, is leading to the proliferation of slum-like informal settlements. Added to this are the growing perennial challenges of unemployment, eviction and homelessness which increases the socio-economic vulnerability of low-income households. The problems in land management, include unclear land tenure systems, land speculation, and tenure insecurity. These issues contributed to the decline in private investment in housing, as there is too much uncertainty and risk linked to it for investors, making it difficult for low-income households.

SLURC's bi-annual conference on "Tackling Urban Inequalities: Pathways for Housing Justice and Inclusive Urban Development in Sierra Leone, which was held in September last year was informed by the key findings from the African Cities Research Consortium's study on housing in Freetown (www.african-cities.org). The conference allowed participants to engage with the power relations and the linked institutions that shape the housing sector, including factors (spatial, economic, social, etc.) driving and reinforcing housing inequalities and urban poverty in Freetown. It started with a brief but powerful skit play of low-income household tenants from informal settlements showcasing their everyday housing experiences and vulnerabilities from landlords. The conference brought together policymakers, academics, community leaders, and civil society organizations, to discuss the challenges facing urban development in Sierra Leone especially housing, and to identify policy solutions and approaches that can help to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

These discussions created a shared understanding of the difficulties facing urban development in Sierra Leone and to identify strategies for promoting more equitable and sustainable growth in the future.

Following the conference, SLURC, in partnership with IIED and Pathfinders, organized a three-day housing workshop with actors from the built environment including policy makers from various cities in Sierra Leone to discuss housing deprivation as a key factor in driving poverty in Sierra Leone. The workshop focused on examining the challenges facing housing production and delivery in urban areas in Sierra Leone.

Through presentations and discussions, participants explored topics such as access to land, financing mechanisms, local construction materials, and community participation in housing development. The workshop aimed to identify key bottlenecks and opportunities for improving the housing sector and to develop recommendations for policymakers and practitioners on how to address the housing crisis in Sierra Leone. The key observations were that:

- Land ownership remains a major hindrance to housing delivery, which limits housing possibilities for low-income households.
- Access to durable building materials and services for formal housing construction is often too expensive for low-income families, which forces many to live in precarious locations where they find alternative solutions in the informal sector.
- Until recently, the housing sector was not among the national government's key development priorities, and its approach to enabling housing delivery rarely worked to



SLURC bi-annual conference with housing focus. Photo credit: Transit Galaxy Multimedia.

effectively address the affordability constraints of formal housing.

- Housing delivery is constrained by the city's unplanned growth, with infrastructure and service provision coming only as afterthoughts after housing production and development.
- Most of the workers in the sector are not highly skilled, despite the high labour cost.
- The housing finance system is defective, which means that most of the residents cannot access formal housing finance. While microfinance is broadly practiced and well suited for informal housing development, it rarely focuses on improving the access of low-income households to quality housing.

The workshop discussion was planned to provide detailed information on the development of six policy briefs on key housing themes, which are expected to form the bedrock for the development of a new national housing policy in Sierra Leone. The discussions were structured to allow participants to share their experiences and knowledge on the critical issues affecting the housing sector in Sierra Leone. Through this collaborative process, the workshop sought to develop a consensus on the key recommendations and strategies that should be incorporated into the national housing policy. These findings provide insights into the current housing situation and build on the earlier conference discussions on the power relations and forces shaping the housing sector. The housing policy briefs can be accessed on:

www.slurc.org/policy-briefs.html

Exploring the Gender Gap in Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake: What Do We Know?

Abu Conteh and Ibrahim Juldeh Sesay

The Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) and the London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine (LSHTM) carried out an ethnographic study to explore the gendered dimension of Covid-19 Vaccination uptake in Portee-Rokupa. The study was motivated by observations of gender gaps in vaccine uptake - a key concern by the National COVID-19

Vaccine Response Centre (NACOVERC) which was highlighted to us in one of our discussion sessions. The main aim of the study was to support NACOVERC and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation with vaccine planning and deployment.

Findings from the study show that women experience challenges to access COVID-19 vaccines, which are reinforced by structural factors such as patriarchal norms, cultural and religious beliefs, low literacy, and supply side challenges. Patriarchal norms influenced decision-making about women's health as well as their ability to access vaccination. Reproductive health concerns in the context of patriarchal norms and expectations of women to bear children affected women's concerns about taking the COVID-19 vaccine. Access to the vaccine was also curtailed by domestic responsibilities and informal livelihood commitments. However, men's higher involvement in formal employment meant they had more incentives to take the vaccines given mandates for vaccine cards in public offices. These structural and gender differences shaping access to vaccination must be reconsidered in any vaccine deployment in the future to enhance equitable access to vaccines.



Fishmonger women in Portee-Rokupa waiting at wharf for boats.
Photo credit: Christiana Priddy.



ARISE community Covid-19 vaccination initiative, aiming to encourage the community members to take vaccine. Photo credit: Ibrahim Juldeh Sesay.

Driving Action for Inclusive and Accessible Cities: Launch of Inclusive Infrastructure Report

Braima M. Koroma and Abdulai Turay

As part of the final activities of the Inclusive Infrastructure project, the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) and SLURC launched the new case study report “Inclusive Design and Accessibility of the Built Environment in Freetown, Sierra Leone” on April 13th, 2023 at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel, Aberdeen Freetown. The Sierra Leone case study is one of six case studies that help build a global picture of the current state of inclusion and accessibility in our cities by engaging local stakeholders and communities. It explores the understanding of and potential for Inclusive Design to address some of the current barriers to inclusion while showcasing examples of good practice, supporting cities to be resilient, inclusive, and meet global goals.

The event showcased findings and recommendations for infrastructure, the built environment, and urban development in Freetown while driving action for more accessible and inclusive cities globally. The aim was to build a picture of the current state of inclusive design and accessibility of the built environment, where decision-makers, local stakeholders and

communities, international funders, and global experts set out the potential for inclusive design to address existing barriers to inclusion for persons with disabilities. The study revealed significant challenges faced by people with disabilities in Freetown, including discrimination, marginalization, limited access to assistive technology, and an inaccessible built environment. Large parts of the city are inherently inaccessible due to geographic conditions such as the steep terrain and development patterns that have led to many people living in informal settlements on high-risk land with limited access to basic services. The city has a strong track record of developing robust policies, including examples of inclusive policymaking processes such as the new AT strategy (Assistive Technology Policy and Strategic Plan 2021-25), but implementation of such policies and their relevance to the reality on the ground, especially for informal settlements, remains a significant challenge. The stakeholders identified several key areas that need improvement, such as mainstreaming disability issues into national plans, health service delivery, inclusive building designs plus affordable housing, transportation, and improving assistive technology services. The research project identified priorities for persons with disabilities, which include transportation, healthcare, education, livelihood opportunities, housing and activities of daily living.



Photo diary image from AT2030 study of a person living with a disability in Freetown



Photo diary image from AT2030 Built environment project of a blind person in an informal settlement



Figure 1: Photo diary image from AT2030 Built environment project of a person with disability in Freetown

Overall, the research provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Freetown and the priorities for improving inclusivity in the city. The project's findings can inform policymakers, urban planners, and other stakeholders to take action towards creating a more inclusive and accessible city for all.

data through interviews, focus group discussions, the Rapid Assistive Technology Assessment Survey (rATA) and a national study of Informal Markets for AT in parallel to the Sierra Leone AT Country Capacity Assessment. The findings of the sub-programme were presented at the launch event for the inclusive infrastructure report in April 2023.

One of the most interesting findings of the sub-programme was the high self-reported disability prevalence in informal settlements' communities compared to the national disability prevalence of only 1.3% according to the 2015 population and housing census. We also found that most AT users got their Assistive Product (AP) from the informal sector (30.8%) in Thompson Bay and Dworzark. Another finding was that most of the low-income residents of informal settlements who had AT had access to it from informal providers who provide cheaper and more accessible products. However, this had some negative implications on their health and wellbeing. The findings highlight the need for policymakers to prioritise the informal sector as a key sector to improve access to AT for users from low-income settings and ensure that AT accessed through the informal sector is safe and appropriate.

In the second phase of the project, working with SHM foundation, an action research intervention was carried out addressing the project participants' aspiration (which included both AT users and abled residents) for accessible and affordable health care. SLURC piloted a 'Community Health Champion' intervention linking local health champions (all AT users) to health experts in order to answer community members' questions about common health issues, using a mobile phone app (Rocket Chat). The pilot phone-based intervention programme showed promising addressing of the community's aspirations for accessible and affordable healthcare.

The presentation was well received by the audience, who engaged in a lively discussion after the presentation. Many policymakers and Persons with disability stakeholders expressed their appreciation for the insights provided by the research project and emphasized the importance of translating the findings into policy and action in order to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Freetown and all Sierra Leonean cities.

Exploring the Link Between Informality and Access to Assistive Technology: Insights from AT2030 Sub-Programme on Community-led Solutions

Brima M. Koroma and Hewanatu Bangura

The report launched events of Inclusive Design and Accessibility of the Built Environment in Freetown, also featured the findings of the AT2030 subprogramme: 'Communities Led Solutions: Assistive Technology in Informal Settlements' implemented by SLURC in collaboration with FEDURP, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London (UCL) and the SHM Foundation in London, with funding from the wider Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub). Within this AT2030 Sub-Programme, SLURC worked in two mainstream communities, Dworzark and Thompson Bay informal settlements, and one disabled people's community, the Help Empower Polio Persons Organisation (HEPPO) in Freetown, over three years. The research project aimed to understand the need for and access to Assistive Technology (AT) in ordinary settlements occupied largely by low-income residents, but without specific provisions for, or visibility of, people with disability. This was compared with one community led by disabled people (HEPPO). The project collected



Launch event of report on Inclusive Design and Accessibility of the Built Environment in Freetown. Photo credit: Abdulai Turay.

SLURC Engages Urban Infrastructure and Community Stakeholders

Amadu Labor

SLURC, through its urban infrastructure project, Beyond the Networked Cities (BNC) has been having engagements with community and infrastructure experts in the last three months to co-create solutions to water, sanitation, and energy problems in informal settlements.

The project started in April 2020, in partnership with the Bristol and Loughborough Universities in the UK. The overall aim of the project is to improve the delivery of sustainable and resilient water, sanitation, and energy services to marginalised communities. The engagements were preceded by data collection in Portee Rokupa, using a range of mixed methods approaches including desk reviews, household surveys and interviews to analyse the state of service provision and access in the three policy areas. Participants across all spectrums of age and sections of the community were concerned about service access gaps and the desire for community-led actions to address these gaps.

SLURC organized a series of engagements with stakeholders from the communities and from the water, sanitation, and energy sectors to address these service delivery barriers through co-produced innovative solutions. The engagements included community validation, followed by stakeholder workshop and a knowledge consolidation workshop. The 'validation workshop' aimed at sharing data with community residents to make additional inputs to strengthen the final outputs. This validation event was followed by the 'stakeholder workshop' which focused on discussing the outcome of the validation workshop and to look at innovative ways to improve service delivery in informal settlements. Finally, the 'knowledge consolidation workshop' was organised aiming to merge the ideas from both the validation workshop and the stakeholder workshop. The event brought together participants including infrastructure professionals working in the water, sanitation and energy sectors and community residents. The workshop provided a platform for community members and stakeholders to discuss and carefully examine solutions that are adaptable to the needs of informal settlement in Freetown.

This inclusive approach to community challenges is useful when attempting to enhance service delivery and improve accountability and trust between the

government, other urban actors and the marginalised urban residents. This has implications for how policies and interventions will be framed in the future by ensuring that the perspectives of the urban poor are included into decision making. It also means tapping from the knowledge of the urban poor to provide simple solutions to problems.



BNC stakeholder engagement. Photo credit: Marwa Barakat.

SLURC Staff Retreat: Developing the Next 5-year Strategy Plan for a New, Complex Reality

Andrea Klingel

SLURC held its second 2-day staff retreat in early February this year at the Fabulous resort in York, Western Area Rural. The retreat had a very clear and targeted focus: to directly contribute to the draft of a new 5-year Strategy Plan for SLURC. Similar to the first retreat, it was highly rated by staff and involved lively discussions and good teamwork.

The first 5-year Strategy Plan was crucial for successfully transitioning from core to project funding and guiding the organization through its infancy years from 2018 to 2023. However, the operating environment for SLURC has changed dramatically, especially in the last two years. Enormous global challenges, such as the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia on the world economy, have created a more complex reality that needs to be carefully considered while developing the next 5-year Strategy Plan and for long-term thinking beyond that.

The staff retreat began with initial reflections on how far SLURC has come in achieving the aims and objectives set out in the previous 5-year Strategy Plan, as well as identifying any gaps. In a 'Scanning the environment' session, the retreat participants

discussed the new challenges the organization faces. Factors considered included new legal reforms, advancing technology, economic developments, funding cuts, changing funder priorities, and more.

Through collaborative brainstorming and goal setting, the team explored how SLURC can best position itself to respond to this new reality and operate in a way that builds on the success of the last seven years and fulfills its ambitions. The staff reviewed and refined its vision and mission, and identified key focus areas, including new research themes such as urban agriculture and food security, as well as urban governance. The team also emphasized cross-cutting themes such as gender, disability, urban political settlement, inequality, and poverty. Additionally, the importance of Action Research was highlighted to ensure tangible outcomes and prevent research fatigue, thereby ensuring continued cooperation from the local communities. The staff also reviewed its strategic goals and discussed formulating a more prominent goal around increasing impact: 'Improved evidence uptake by urban stakeholders to change thinking, perceptions and practice; and to influence policy and strengthen advocacy'. Organizational strengthening was also discussed, including human resource development needs, fundraising aspects, and the importance of partnership building and strengthening.

The next steps for SLURC are to complete the new Strategy Plan, with consultation from the SLURC management board, by the end of 2023 and begin implementing its detailed action plan. SLURC is confident that with a well-thought-out and visionary new Strategy Plan, it is moving closer to fulfilling its mission and vision of an inclusive, socially and environmentally just urban Sierra Leone.

Achieving Gender-responsive and Community-owned Sanitation Facilities in Freetown

Braima Koroma

Access to proper sanitation facilities is a significant issue in many of Freetown's informal settlements, with women and girls particularly affected due to gender-related norms and practices. In many cases, they are forced to use unsafe and unhygienic facilities, leading to serious health risks. The lack of access to proper sanitation also affects the overall health and well-being of the community, as it can lead to the spread of diseases. To address this issue, SLURC, Centre of Dialogue on Human Settlement and Poverty Alleviation (CODOHSAPA), and Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP), with support from Freetown City Council (FCC), have implemented a strategic small-scale intervention that promotes gender-responsive and community-owned communal toilet facilities in Dworzark, Colbot, and Abacha street market. The intervention aims to provide safe and hygienic sanitation facilities that are accessible to all members of the community, particularly women and girls and persons with disabilities. The intervention also aims to promote community ownership of the facilities, which can lead to better maintenance and sustainability of the facilities.

The Toilet Design Workshop, held on June 1st, 2023, was a significant step towards achieving gender-responsive and community-owned sanitation facilities in Freetown. The workshop brought together various stakeholders, including community members, government agencies, private sector service providers, and NGOs, to discuss and select appropriate toilet designs and models for each community. The workshop featured presentations and discussions on various toilet designs and models, including biodigesters, composting toilets, and elevated VIP latrines. The presentations and



Left: Community signing MOU with FCC about community management of the communal toilet initiative. Photo credit: Marwa Barakat.

Right: Toilet Design Selection Workshop at June 1st, 2023 - Promoting just sanitation through cost-effective, affordable, and accessible designs and models. Photo credit: Amadu Labor.

discussions focused on cost-effectiveness, ease of maintenance, cultural acceptability, accessibility, and sustainability. The benefits and challenges of each design were highlighted, and examples of successful implementation in other parts of the city were provided.

Community members were given the opportunity to select the most appropriate toilet designs and models that they would like to see implemented in their community. The selection process took into account the gender-specific needs, topography, space, cultural adaptability, and flood vulnerability of each community, ensuring that the selected designs and models are appropriate for each community's unique needs. After the discussions, a consensus was reached on the most appropriate designs and models for each community. The involvement of various stakeholders ensured that all perspectives were taken into account, and the selected designs and models were culturally acceptable and sustainable.

The success of the workshop was attributed to the collaboration of various stakeholders, including community members, government agencies, private sector service providers, and NGOs, highlighting the importance of collaboration in promoting sustainable sanitation practices. Community ownership of sanitation facilities promotes a sense of responsibility and accountability among community members, leading to better maintenance of the facilities and promoting good hygiene practices within the community. The involvement of community members in decision-making processes related to their well-being also promotes a sense of empowerment and ownership in driving change, which can lead to better health outcomes.

The impact of the workshop is expected to extend beyond Freetown's community, as the selected designs and models can serve as a blueprint for other communities facing similar sanitation challenges. The success of the workshop serves as an example of how collaboration among stakeholders can lead to sustainable solutions to complex problems and is an important step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to sanitation. The workshop's impact is expected to be far-reaching, as it promotes sustainable and accessible sanitation in Freetown, particularly in areas that lack access to a sewerage system.

Building New Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange with Partners in Germany

Abu Conteh

Since 2016 when SLURC was set up, its funding stream has flown mostly from the United Kingdom (UK) government through research partners. Notably, our research partners have been the University College London (UCL), Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and many more. These collaborations have been very helpful in many ways, but the key among these is the introduction of a range of research methods, including participatory approaches, strengthening of accountability, and building relationships between urban actors and informal settlement residents. Capacity building of researchers, urban actors and community residents has been effective in strengthening research capacity and co-production of solutions that are aligned with community priorities.

As a research institution based in a low-income country, raising adequate funding to enhance institutional strengthening and sustainability can be daunting. Having core funding to support these long-term sustainability issues is even more daunting. Moreover, governments in many low-income settings such as Sierra Leone do not prioritise funding research because of the many competing priorities such as health, education, and infrastructure development. This means relying solely on external partners for research grants which are often short-term.

To build new research collaborations, SLURC has been working with new partners at the Bielefeld university in Germany since 2022. Through the African German Scientific Exchange, a moderate funding was provided by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to develop research ideas together with a Sierra Leone based NGO Enable the Children (ETC). The research ideas focused on the use of technology



SLURC presenting jointly a research proposal as part of the African German Science Exchange.
Photo credit: Abu Conteh.

to enhance healthcare access to people living with disabilities. The ideas were later presented at a writing workshop in Germany in March 2023 which was attended by researchers from West, South and East Africa to access funding from DFG. Although the funding bid was unsuccessful, it helped to build new research networks that might be helpful in future research grant applications.

Using Art for Communication and Community Engagement

Ibrahim Juldeh Sesay, Hawanatu Bangura, and Abu Conteh

In an effort to make research content more relatable and accessible to audiences who may not relate well to more traditional communication methods or are illiterate, SLURC through the ARISE project implemented the 'Power of LIGHT' project to showcase how art can be used as a vehicle for communication and engagement of the local community. ARISE has been working in informal settlements aiming to understand the health and wellbeing priorities of residents, and has over the years documented evidence about the health and wellbeing challenges faced by residents through research papers, briefs, and blogs.

SLURC and its partners within the 'ARISE Sierra Leone Hub', which are COMAHS and CODOHSAPA, organised a lantern parade with support from a UK-based artist, Luke Jerram, researchers and co-researchers within ARISE and many local artists

based at Dwarzark community. The lantern parade was meant to highlight how light can be used as a tool to address local priorities such as security and safety, access to healthcare, water and sanitation and improved health and wellbeing. The lantern were also used to communicate key findings from the ARISE exploratory studies and to demonstrate how communities can be empowered through inclusion in research.

The Power of LIGHT project showcased the participatory approaches which ARISE uses to communicate with marginalised urban residents, to co-create solutions to health and wellbeing challenges and to build local capacities. To enhance the inclusion aspect, we recruited 10 local artists living in Dwarzark community to co-design light sculptures that reflect the findings from our studies and their linkages to the core values of ARISE. The artwork was preceded by training on the design, development, and delivery of art-based approaches to communicate research outputs. These efforts were led by Luke Jerram.

The light sculptures included a globe, a heart to symbolise love for informal settlements, and the sun to raise awareness about climate change. Other sculptures included water taps to speak about the dire need for access to water in informal settlements. Such inclusive approach to knowledge sharing through arts can be useful to enhance local understanding about research outcomes and increase shared learnings about the continued challenges faced by informal settlement residents.



Lantern Parade of the ARISE project, as a different communication method. Photo credit: Ibrahim Juldeh Sesay.

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit's (DPU) Continued Support - SLURC Welcomes Another DPU Fellow

Andrea Klingel

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London has been a strong support pillar since SLURC's creation in 2015. It is a founding partner of SLURC together with Njala University, was a member of its International Advisory Committee and provides continued support on SLURC's Management board. The DPU has also been an equitable research partner on many research projects ensuring that SLURC, as a global south partner, has the weight it deserves within research projects.

A very special and invaluable programme is the DPU Fellowship, when a DPU alumni joins SLURC for 8 months; this programme is now in its fifth year. While the DPU prides itself in underpinning their Masters programmes with 'learning by doing', SLURC offers a great opportunity to these DPU Masters alumni to delve into the realities of theories learned within the courses. DPU Fellows can apply this learning directly to their work with SLURC in its knowledge creation on urban issues with particular focus on informal settlements and capacity building of urban stakeholders. Such hand-on experience over an 8-month period allows DPU alumni to widen their horizons, increase their experiences of and insights into urban development.

While the DPU uses discretionary money for the DPU Fellowship scheme, it is a win-win situation for all: It raises the profile of the university and provides additional benefits to MSc students, gives the opportunity to alumni students to be exposed

to interesting and meaningful learning on the job while SLURC benefits from tapping for free into the knowledge, experiences, expertise, and enthusiasm of fellows that come to work at SLURC.

In mid-March, SLURC welcomed Marwa Barakat from Egypt, a former DPU MSc student in Urban Development Planning. Her educational achievements include a BSc in Architectural Engineering and Postgraduate degrees in Architectural and Urban Studies as well as in Land Management and Informal Settlement Regularization. Marwa also has over 10 years' experience from across the public sector, civil society, private sector and as an urban consultant. The focus of this year's DPU fellow is on Communications and Fundraising. These areas that SLURC had identified as being in need of support; we want to ensure the visibility of SLURC and the impact of our work as well as the sustainability of our research centre in the current challenging financial environment. Marwa has already settled in practicing her krio and being a valuable member of the SLURC family. SLURC wished that this enriching and invaluable DPU fellowship programme didn't have to come to an end after our next and final DPU fellow.



Marwa Barakat, the DPU Fellow who operates as the Communication and Fundraising Officer at SLURC (March - November 2023).
Photo credit: Marwa Barakat.

This newsletter is also available on our website: slurc.org

