

2025 ANNUAL MESSAGE

President & Executive Director | IBTK Foundation



Welcome to the I.B. Taylor-Kamara Foundation.

2025 has been a year of focused growth, strategic engagement, and strengthened community impact. Throughout the year, the Foundation deepened its commitment to youth and women by continuing to implement and expand core programs, including the Scholars Initiative and the She Rises Program. These initiatives continue to provide access to education, leadership development, mentorship, and practical livelihood support to young people and women across communities.

Our work in 2025 also reflected a broader and more integrated vision of empowerment. Through engagements such as Reproductive and Mental Health: Empowering Girls and Women, the Foundation helped advance an important conversation on the wellbeing, dignity, and health of girls and women, recognizing that empowerment must include both opportunity and holistic care. The Foundation's wider programme areas include women's empowerment, youth empowerment, scholarships, education and skills, climate advocacy, and community outreach, which together reflect a multi-dimensional approach to development.

The 2025 Beyond Beijing 30 Summit further reinforced IBTK Foundation's commitment to gender equality and women's leadership, honoring three decades of progress while also reminding us that much work remains to be done. For IBTK, Beijing's legacy is not only historical. It is a living call to ensure that women and girls are equipped, protected, heard, and positioned to lead.

Youth leadership remained central to our 2025 engagements. Through the YouthLead Dialogues and the Youth Summit on Peace, organized in partnership with IPPDR, the Foundation contributed to platforms where young people could engage in dialogue on leadership, peacebuilding, civic responsibility, and social transformation. These initiatives affirmed a core IBTK belief: young people are not merely future leaders; they are present-day actors whose ideas, courage, and participation are essential to national and continental progress.

A major milestone of the year was the Foundation's official launch in Freetown under the banner Legacy Meets Leadership. This moment carried deep symbolic meaning. It connected the legacy of H.E. Ishmael Byne Taylor-Kamara with the Foundation's present mission to build human capital, expand opportunity, and strengthen communities from within. It also marked a renewed institutional commitment to Sierra Leone and positioned IBTK for wider regional engagement.

Our continental vision also gained momentum through the African Youth Virtual Summit, which reflected the Foundation's growing commitment to cross-border youth engagement, shared learning, and African-led development conversations. As IBTK strengthens its roots in Sierra Leone, we are also looking outward, with the intention to expand our activities and partnerships in Nigeria, Kenya, and Ethiopia. This direction reflects our belief that the challenges facing young people and women across Africa are interconnected, and that solutions must be collaborative, locally grounded, and regionally informed.

The Foundation also advanced its climate and sustainability agenda through partnership engagement around LCOY Sierra Leone, contributing to youth-centered climate policy conversations. This work reflects our understanding that the future of African youth is inseparable from environmental justice, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience.

Beyond events and partnerships, our mission remains deeply personal. It is about the scholar who stays in school because someone believed in their future. It is about the woman who builds a livelihood after being given tools, confidence, and support. It is about the young person who enters a leadership space and realizes that their voice matters.

While 2025 has been a year of growth, it has also underscored a central challenge facing mission-driven organizations: the need for reliable, sustainable financial resources. The demand for educational support, women's livelihood assistance, youth leadership training, community outreach, and advocacy continues to grow, often outpacing available funding.

For the IBTK Foundation, this challenge has strengthened our resolve. We are committed to building a more sustainable resource base through strategic partnerships, grant opportunities, donor engagement, sponsorships, and responsible income-generating initiatives that can support long-term programme delivery. We will also continue to explore partnerships with private-sector actors, diaspora networks, philanthropic institutions, development agencies, and community-based organizations that share our vision.

Our goal is not only to fund activities, but to build systems that can sustain impact. Financial sustainability is therefore central to our next phase of growth. It will allow us to plan more effectively, expand responsibly, and ensure that the young people, women, and communities we serve can depend on programmes that are consistent, credible, and lasting.

Looking ahead, our direction is clear. We will continue to strengthen our programmes, deepen strategic partnerships, expand regional engagement, and invest in initiatives that advance

education, leadership, entrepreneurship, women's empowerment, youth participation, peacebuilding, and climate resilience.

Together, we are not only shaping futures. We are building a movement of possibility, one life, one community, and one country at a time.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and belief in the work of the IBTK Foundation.

Hawa Taylor-Kamara Diallo

President & Executive Director

I.B. Taylor-Kamara Foundation