



OUR WORK IN 2020

Including our accounts for 2019



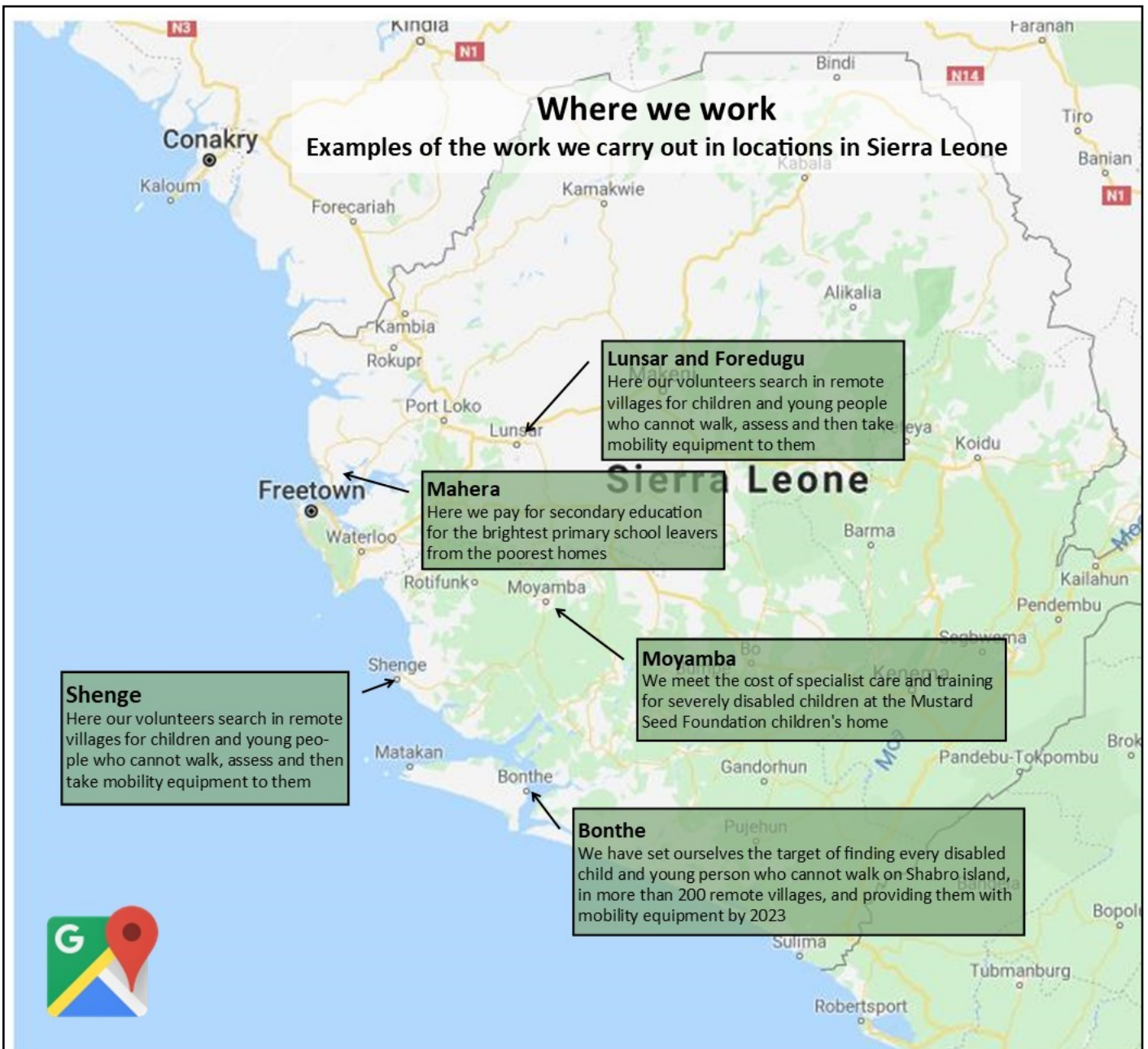
Mamie lives in Bonthe, on the island of Shabro. Disabled since birth, she walks with difficulty and in discomfort. We have given her this 'mobility cart' so that she can get to school more easily and move around the village, visiting her friends.

Our approach

We are a small charity. With about £14,000 this year we will change the lives of some of the poorest children in Sierra Leone, one of the world's poorest countries. The adults who care for the children we support live on less than £1 per day.

We cannot abolish poverty in Sierra Leone but we can bring education, dignity and the hope of a better future to around 70 children and young people this year. Already, after just seven years' work, we are seeing some of the children we have supported become young men and women, taking on leadership positions in their villages and acting as role models to others. Three of them have joined us as volunteers, travelling to remote villages to find children who cannot walk and taking them mobility equipment.

We employ no paid staff, have no office and own no vehicles. Our six UK trustees claim no travel expenses. Our wonderful Sierra Leone volunteers receive modest travel expenses but no fees or salaries. We keep running costs to an absolute minimum; even this report is printed for us by a donor and our postage costs are met by another donor.



In 2020 we set out to do these things:

- We will meet the cost of secondary school education for 22 young people. Each one performed very well in the national examinations at the end of primary school but could not continue in education because of poverty. Although the Sierra Leone government has abolished secondary school fees, money is still needed to buy uniform, shoes, exam fees, textbooks, pens, to pay teachers for extra lessons and to travel to school.
- Sometimes we will meet other needs so that education is not impaired. For example, we have paid for small solar lights so that the young person can study in the evening: most of our students come from homes without electricity. We have also paid for mosquito nets to help our young people avoid getting malaria. This year we are also providing our students with a small table and chair so that they can study at home. Typically, it costs £240 to sponsor a child's secondary education for one year.



Peter has had a disabled back since birth. He walks with difficulty, often stumbles and sometimes falls over. He told our volunteer Abdul that he could ride a bicycle well. Now he has his own and rides it proudly to school every day. He is pictured with our lead volunteer Chernor and his head teacher.

- We will provide mobility equipment for 30 children and young people who cannot walk. Most of the children we help have been disabled by polio. Some have been injured in vehicle accidents. During the long civil war up to 2002 polio vaccines were not delivered to the villages. Even after the war ended it took several years to re-establish the vaccination programme. Since 2014 no case of polio has been reported – but there are many young people who will live with the consequences of polio for the rest of their lives.
- Our volunteers will continue to search for disabled children in remote villages and then take 'mobility carts' (an adapted tricycle which a child can ride with their hands), wheelchairs and crutches to them. This equipment transforms the lives of the children and their parents or carers. It enables a child to get to school without crawling through the

mud or sand or being carried by their mother. School attendance improves markedly and social life can be enjoyed with friends. For less than £200 a girl or boy is empowered and their life is enriched. Sometimes the cost is higher if, for example, our volunteers need to hire a boat to carry mobility equipment to a remote island village.

In 2020 we set out to do these things:

- We will continue to support the Mustard Seed Foundation's children's home in Moyamba. This home is one of only two homes in Sierra Leone which cares for disabled children who are orphans or who have been abandoned by families. It is run by the dedicated Roselyn Freeman whose mother founded the home and who still, at the age of 82, lives in the home and plays with the children. Of the 28 children who live at Mustard Seed, nine are severely disabled. We will pay for two extra care workers to support these children and train them in simple personal tasks such as going to the toilet. The salary cost is £1800 for 12 months.
- We will respond to requests from organisations which support disadvantaged and disabled children if funds permit. For example, we have provided reading books for Grafton orphanage in Freetown, which is home to 20 disabled orphans. We have also provided hand tools for a workshop for disabled young people in Bo, the second city of Sierra Leone.
- We will respond quickly and sensitively to unusual requests. For example, one of our volunteers came across a young man in Tombo fishing village who had lost a leg after a motorbike accident. Alpha was severely depressed. We paid for him to receive an artificial leg and rehabilitation at Aberdeen Amputees' Centre in Freetown and his life has now been transformed. Another volunteer found Henry in Moyamba town. Henry is blind and no primary school would admit him. He now goes to a specialist residential school in Bo where he is learning brail. Although there are no fees at this government school we meet other costs including transport to and from home, toiletries and supplementary food. Henry's single mother cannot pay for these things.



One of our volunteers found Alpha in Tombo, a fishing village near Freetown. He was depressed following a motorbike accident when he lost his left leg at the age of 17. We have now provided Alpha with an artificial leg and training at an amputees' centre. His mood has changed completely and he has started a small trading business. The second photo shows him being measured for his new leg.



Our Sierra Leone Volunteers



Chernor is our volunteer 'country representative' and chair of the Sierra Leone committee set up in 2019 to manage most of our work. Here he is at Grafton orphanage for disabled children delivering lots of reading books. These are the first reading books the children have ever had.

Without our nine brilliant volunteers we would not be able to achieve much in Sierra Leone. Our leading volunteer is Chernor Barrie. We call him our 'country representative' so that he has some status when visiting officials and local chiefs on our behalf. Chernor is about to complete a Peace and Conflict Studies degree at FBC, the leading university in Sierra Leone.

Kevin Curley, the chair of the trustees, met Chernor by chance in a tea room on the island of Shabro in 2016. Chernor was keen to be involved and Kevin immediately saw his potential. He really is a star with a huge, generous heart and permanent optimism whatever the challenge.

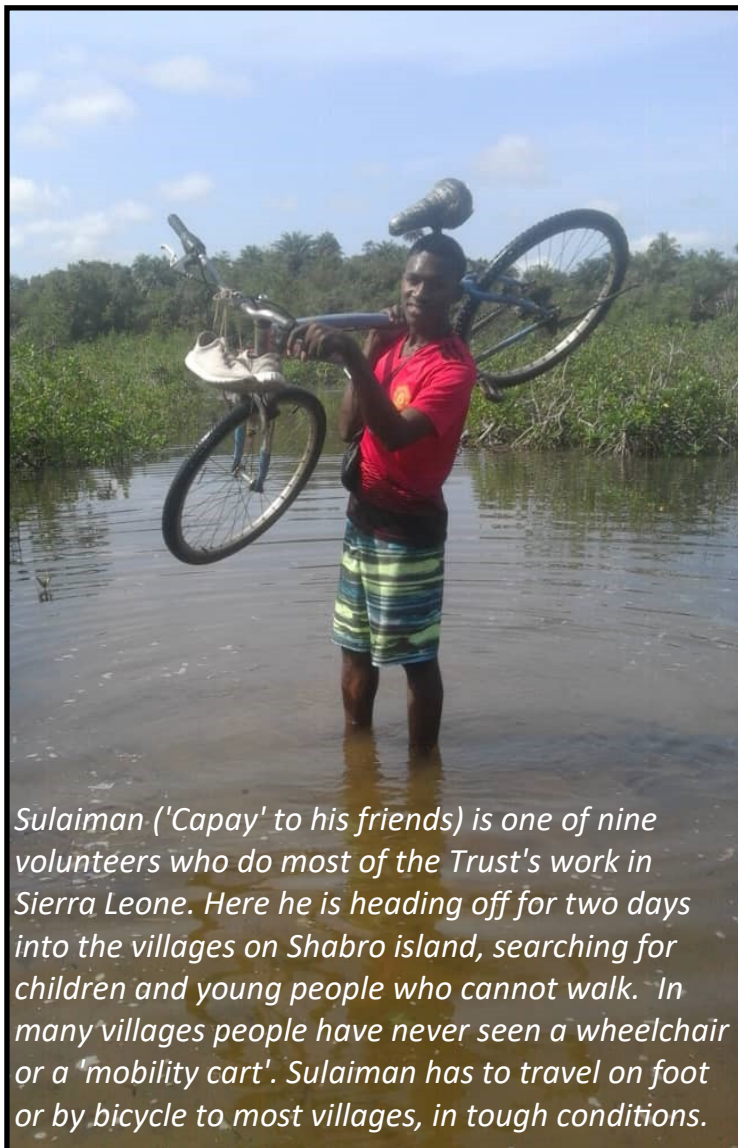
Our other volunteers are Foday Conteh, Abdul Sheriff, Sulaiman Bah, Yahya Jelloh, Alpha Joseph, Roselyn Freeman, Abdulrahman Charlie and Sulaiman Sesay. Both Foday and Abdul bring the insights and experiences of disabled people to our work.

We like this story. It reflects our values and the way we do things:

A boy is walking along Shenge beach and spots an old man kneeling often and picking up one of the thousands of starfish that have been washed ashore. The old man gently throws them back into the ocean because the sun is out and the tide is so low that they will die if he doesn't do this. The boy said "But old man, don't you realise there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it! You can't possibly save them all, you can't even save one-tenth of them. Even if you work all day, your efforts won't make any difference at all."

The old man listened calmly and then bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the sea and said, "It made a difference to that one."

Our Sierra Leone Volunteers (Continued)



Sulaiman ('Capay' to his friends) is one of nine volunteers who do most of the Trust's work in Sierra Leone. Here he is heading off for two days into the villages on Shabro island, searching for children and young people who cannot walk. In many villages people have never seen a wheelchair or a 'mobility cart'. Sulaiman has to travel on foot or by bicycle to most villages, in tough conditions.

Sulaiman Bah is training to be a Community Health Worker and Yahya is a university student, reading Peace and Conflict Studies. Roselyn runs the Mustard Seed Foundation children's home. Alpha, Abdulrahman and Sulaiman Sesay are in their late teens or early twenties and are still school students.

Six of our volunteers make up the Sierra Leone Committee which met for the first time in 2019 with Chernor Barrie in the chair. The Committee's responsibilities include selecting the children to receive support to go to secondary school and considering applications for financial help from our students. The Committee also recommends new projects for support to the UK trustees. The Committee has got off to a great start, bringing the insights of Sierra Leoneans in to the heart of the charity's decision making. It is a key part of our longer term sustainability.

Our Trustees

We have 7 trustees. Kevin Curley CBE is our Chair and the founder of the charity. Mike Martin MBE and Mike Clemson are also founding trustees. All three had long careers in the UK voluntary sector and are now retired. Ralph Steen owns Stag Geological Services and brings business experience to the trustee board. His company is the charity's biggest donor. Rachel Curley is a senior officer in the National Education Union and brings her enthusiasm for education to the board. Katherine Curley joined the board in 2019. She works for the British Red Cross and has a keen interest in international development work. She's also by a long way our youngest UK trustee! Chernor Barrie, our volunteer country representative, is also a trustee and joins us for our discussions through Skype.

UK trustees receive no expenses. Kevin Curley travels to Sierra Leone each year at his own expense. Chernor Barrie receives modest travel expenses when doing voluntary work for us.

Our donors



Wulematu is one of the students we are supporting through secondary school. From a poor single-parent family, 'Wule' is a high performer at school. Here she is with a complete set of text books. Secondary schools in Sierra Leone provide no text books for students.

112 people have donated to our charity since we began. 38 people are 'monthly donors', giving us a donation every month through Virgin Money Giving or direct to our bank, Triodos bank. In 2020 'monthly donors' will contribute just over £10,000 to our funds, including gift aid refunds. This support is invaluable, enabling us to plan ahead in confidence.

If you support our work please consider becoming a 'monthly donor'. Simply go to www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk and click on the Virgin Money Giving button on the home page.

Most donors are friends or relatives of our UK trustees. A growing number are friends of friends. We know that the best way to get support from a new donor is by word of mouth. Please ask one of your friends or family members to support our work. Show them this report. Just £10 each month means that we can support another child. Of course, we also welcome 'one off' donations.

Several people have organised fundraising events for us recently including a sponsored cycle ride and donations in lieu of birthday gifts. Please think of a way in which you could support us. Would you also consider leaving us something in your will so that our work can continue into the future?

We are doing amazing things with small amounts of money. It's only possible because you support us. Thank you.

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Registered Charity No.1158253

Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust

Receipts and Payments in 2019

Receipts	£
Donations from individual supporters	11,819.74
HMRC gift aid	1,284.60
Triodos bank interest	<u>5.13</u>
TOTAL	13,109.47

Payments	£
Support for secondary school students	7,270.00
Support for disabled students and adults	3,296.00
Tools for apprentices at motorbike repair training workshop	51.00
Support for Mustard Seed Foundation children's home ¹	1,290.00
Trustees' travel expenses ²	1,793.50
Website hosting fee, domain names and other fundraising costs	200.23
Small business development and training grants	0.00
Dan Street Youth and Community Group	124.00
Triodos bank charges including foreign transfers ³	230.20
Sierra Leone volunteers' travel and related expenses ⁴	384.00
Registration Fees ⁵	<u>158.00</u>
TOTAL	14,796.93

Funds held at Triodos bank at year end ⁶	6,184.00
Funds held in Sierra Leone ⁷	1,167.00

Accounts have been prepared in accordance with UK charity law and Charity Commission guidance.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- This covers the cost of a Care Worker for severely disabled children. The amount includes advance payment of part of the care worker's salary for 2020*
- All Trustees' travel expenses are refunded by them in full as donations enabling gift aid to be claimed. By claiming travel expenses and then donating them in full back to the charity we are able to claim gift aid on the sum of £1,793.50*
- We have to pay a foreign payment charge of £25 each time we transfer funds to Sierra Leone*
- Our nine wonderful volunteers receive no payment for their work. We meet their travel costs when they are visiting students and transporting disability equipment. Sometimes they travel to remote villages and on those occasions, we also meet the cost of simple overnight accommodation and food. We also refund their phone costs*
- Registration fees with the Ministry of Welfare in Sierra Leone and with Freetown and Bonthe Councils. Registration of the charity with the Sierra Leone authorities is essential to enable our volunteers and UK visitors to explain the charity's status to Immigration Officers and local Chiefs.*
- At the end of 2019 we had £6,184 in our Triodos bank account. The policy of the trustees is to reserve £5,000 so that we can fulfil our commitments to the students we support in the event that income falls in the future. The remaining funds are available so that we can support more students in 2020 and provide disability equipment to more children and adults who cannot walk*
- These funds were held in a Sierra Leone bank account controlled by Chernor Barrie, our volunteer Country Representative*