



Our work in 2019
including our accounts for 2018



Our volunteer Foday found Adekalie crawling in a village 40 miles from Freetown. He isn't strong enough yet for a 'mobility cart' but the wheelchair we gave him means his mum can get him to school every day. When he is older, we will swap the wheelchair for a 'mobility cart'.

Our approach

We are a small charity. With about £11,000 each year we set out to 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 60 children and young people every year. Already, after just six 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. Two of them have joined us as volunteers, travelling to remote villagers to find children who cannot walk and taking them mobility equipment.

We employ no paid staff, have no office and own no vehicles. Our five 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 2019 we set out to do these things:

- We will meet the cost of secondary school education for 20 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 meet other needs so that education is not impaired. For example, we pay for small solar lights so that the young person can study in the evening – most of our students come from homes without electricity. We also pay for mosquito nets to help our young people avoid getting malaria. Typically, it costs £240 to sponsor a child's secondary education for one year.



Mariama cannot walk because she had polio when she was very young. Now with this 'mobility cart' she can go to school independently and have a dignified social life with her friends.

- We will provide mobility equipment for 25 children and young people who cannot walk. Most of the children we help have been disabled by polio. 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 2012 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 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.
- We will 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 81, lives in the home and cooks meals for the children. Of the 25 children who live at Mustard Seed 8 are severely disabled. We pay for one extra care worker to support these children and train them in simple personal tasks such as going to the toilet. The salary cost is £800 for 12 months.
- We will respond to requests from organisations which support disadvantaged and disabled children if funds permit. In 2018 for example we provided reading books for Grafton orphanage in Freetown, which is home to 20 disabled orphans. We also provided hand tools for a workshop for disabled young people in Bo, the second city of Sierra Leone.



Our volunteer Abdul found Henry in a small town called Moyamba. Henry is 8 years old and has been blind from birth. No primary school in his town would admit him because he is 'disabled'. Abdul found him a place in Paul residential school for blind children. One of our donors met all his costs. He is doing well

Our Sierra Leone volunteers

Without our 5 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 in the final year of 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.

Our other volunteers are Foday Conteh, Abdul Sheriff, Sulaiman Bah and Yayah Jelloh. Both Foday and Abdul bring the insights and experiences of disabled

people to our work. Sulaiman is training to be a Community Health Worker and Yayah is a university student, reading Peace and Conflict Studies.

Our trustees

We have 6 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. 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

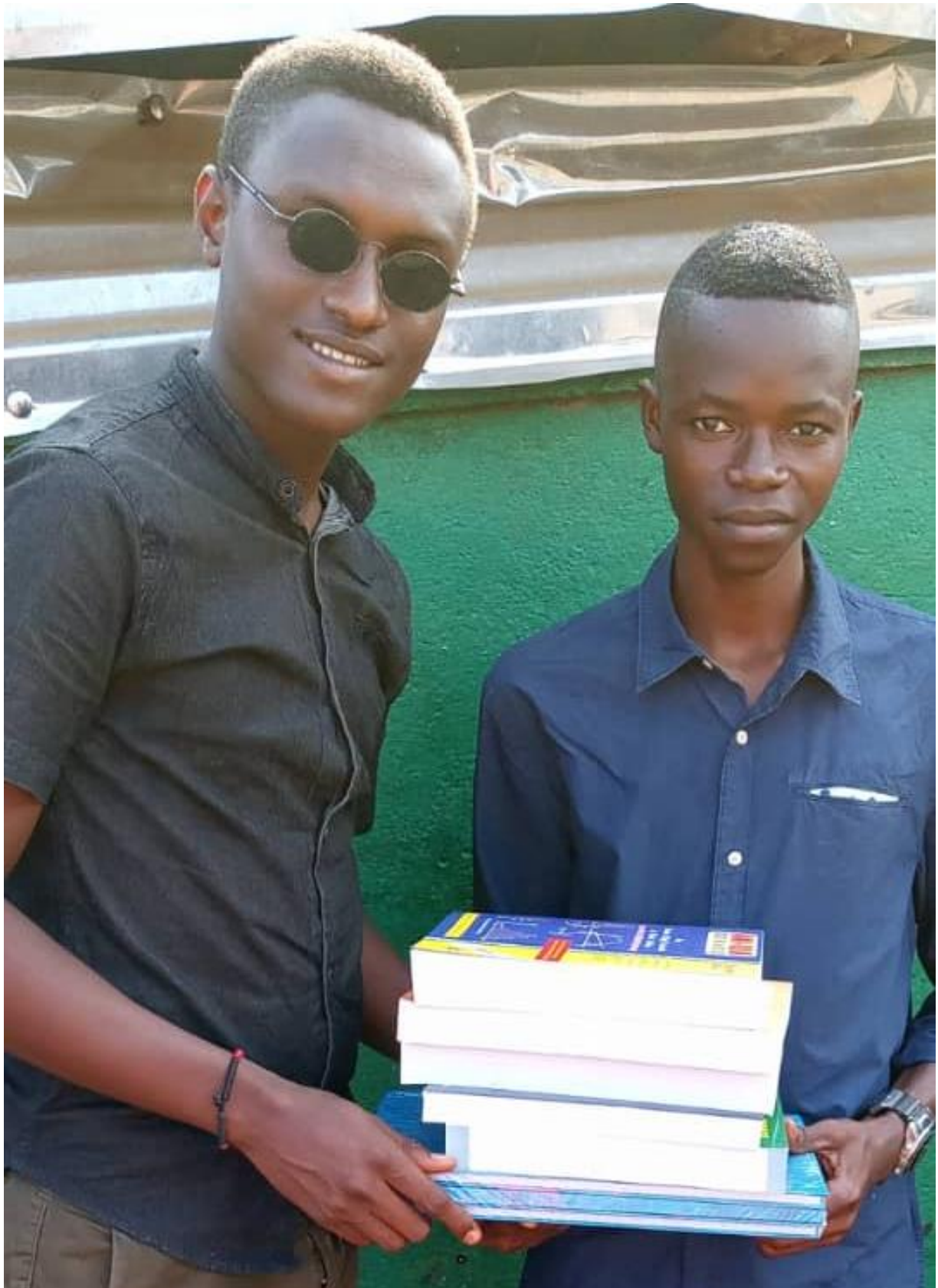
98 people have donated to our charity since we began. 28 people are 'monthly donors', giving us a donation every month through MyDonate or direct to our bank, Triodos bank. In 2019 'monthly donors' will contribute just over £7,000 to our funds, including gift aid refunds. This support is invaluable, 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 MyDonate button on the home page.

In June 2019 BT will close their MyDonate service. We are likely to use the Virgin Money Giving donations platform from the spring of 2019. Please click on this button on the [home page](#) if you wish to make a donation.

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. 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.



Kandeh Turay is a high achieving student in his third year at secondary school. He is an orphan cared for by his grandmother. Here our volunteer and 'country representative' Chernor is presenting Kandeh with the best quality text books available in Sierra Leone. They cost £105.

Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust

Receipts and payments in 2018

Receipts

Donations from individual supporters through MyDonate	£6,325.61
Other donations from individual supporters	£3,811.00
Donation from Stag Geological Services	£0.00
HMRC gift aid	£1,030.46
Triodos bank interest	<u>£5.68</u>
TOTAL	£11,172.75

Payments

Support for secondary school students	£4,577.00
Support for disabled students and adults	£2,171.00
Tools and equipment for Bo workshop for disabled people	£2,118.00
Grafton orphanage – books	£45.00
Tools for apprentices at motorbike repair training workshop	£104.00
DRIMS disability education campaign	£561.00
Support for Mustard Seed Foundation children's home (<i>care worker for severely disabled children, beds, mattresses and furniture for disabled children</i>)	£2,963.00 ¹
Mustard Seed Foundation children's home – special donation by one donor for building work	£1,200.00
Trustees' travel expenses (all refunded as donations by all trustees)	£1,065.60 ²
Website hosting fee, domain names and other fundraising costs	£165.60
Small business development and training grants	£0.00
Triodos bank charges including foreign transfers	£299.20 ³
Sierra Leone volunteers' travel and related expenses	£465.00 ⁴
Registration of SLEDT with Ministry of Welfare in Sierra Leone and with Freetown and Bonthe Councils	<u>£278.00⁵</u>
TOTAL	£16,012.40

Funds held at Triodos bank at year end **£8904.59**

An additional amount of £1,208 was held in a Sierra Leone bank account controlled by Chernor Barrie, our volunteer Country Representative

Note: of these amounts £6,700 is reserved to ensure that we can meet our commitments to sponsored students throughout their 6 years of secondary education

Further notes:

1. *This amount includes advance payment of the care worker's salary for 2019 of £778*
2. *By claiming travel expenses and then donating them in full to the charity we are able to claim gift aid on the sum of £1,065*
3. *We have to pay a foreign payment charge of £25 each time we transfer funds to Sierra Leone*
4. *Our five 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.*
5. *Registration of the charity with the Ministry of Social Welfare in Sierra Leone is essential to protect our volunteers and UK visitors from difficulties with Immigration Officers and local Chiefs*

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



Fatmata lives in Tombo, a fishing village 25 miles from Freetown. She had polio when she was very young and now cannot walk. Her mother was carrying her to primary school on her back. Fatmata missed lots of days at school and her mother 's back was in pain. Fatmata has a strong upper body so we gave her a 'mobility cart'. Now she goes to school every day and is making good progress. Another life transformed.

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