



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

Including our accounts for 2021



Isata (pictured left) goes to Kroo Bay Primary School (see page 2) which serves the most disadvantaged neighbourhood in Freetown. Thanks to our donors Isata now takes books home to share with her mum and siblings. Our volunteers have given books to every child in the school. We also provide textbooks for children in the top two classes of the school together with extra tuition in the evenings and solar lights for home study as most homes lack electricity.

Kroo Bay



Kroo Bay is a neighbourhood built by the sea in Freetown on a former rubbish tip. 11,000 people live there. It is affected by rubbish which flows down in rivers and streams from the densely populated areas above. It is prone to flooding and there is a high incidence of water borne diseases especially in children.

Kroo Bay Primary School

Umu Turay, our Deputy Chair, leads our work in support of Kroo Bay Primary School. This school supports the most disadvantaged neighbourhood in Freetown. We are giving 81 boys and girls in the top two classes the support they need to qualify for secondary education. Our support consists of a set of textbooks for every child, reading books, a solar light for home study and extra tuition from teachers ahead of the national exams. Already we have seen exam performance improve and more children go to secondary school.

We are also sponsoring 4 girls and 5 boys from Kroo in Junior Secondary School – all top performers in the National Primary School Exams.

This is the only work we do taking a ‘whole school’ approach. After three more years we will evaluate it.

Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust

www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk

6 Cumberhills Road, Duffield, Belper DE56 4HA

07970 028178

kevincurley59@btinternet.com

Registered Charity No.1158253

Our approach

We are a small charity. With about £30,000 this year we have helped parents and other carers to give their children more opportunities. Sierra Leone is one of the world's poorest countries where adults who care for the children we support live on less than £1 per day (that's about 16,000 leones).

We are not a strategic charity. We cannot abolish poverty in Sierra Leone. But we have brought education, dignity and the hope of a better future to 186 children and young people this year. Small is beautiful as Schumacher once said.

We believe our focus on education contributes to the country's development in a small way by ensuring that some of the most able children grow into future professionals, role models and leaders in their communities. Already, after just nine years' work, we are seeing some of the children we have supported become young men and women, ready to inspire others to access education. Six 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 eight 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.

Our Vision Statement:

We envisage a society in which the children and young people of Sierra Leone have overcome the barriers to their education and advancement in life.

Our Mission Statement:

We will contribute to the development of Sierra Leone by empowering children and young people to achieve their full potential through access to and support for education.

Support for tertiary education

Three of our successful secondary school graduates have completed their first year at university. Fatmata is studying Mass Communications, Alie (pictured below) Political Science and Zorokong, Pharmacy. Hassan is studying solar power installation at technical college. Kande and Alhusine will begin university courses in 2023. Mariama and Wulematu failed to get good enough grades in English



Text: Alie has completed his first year of Political Science studies at university. Like all our tertiary students he has been given a donated laptop, pictured here.

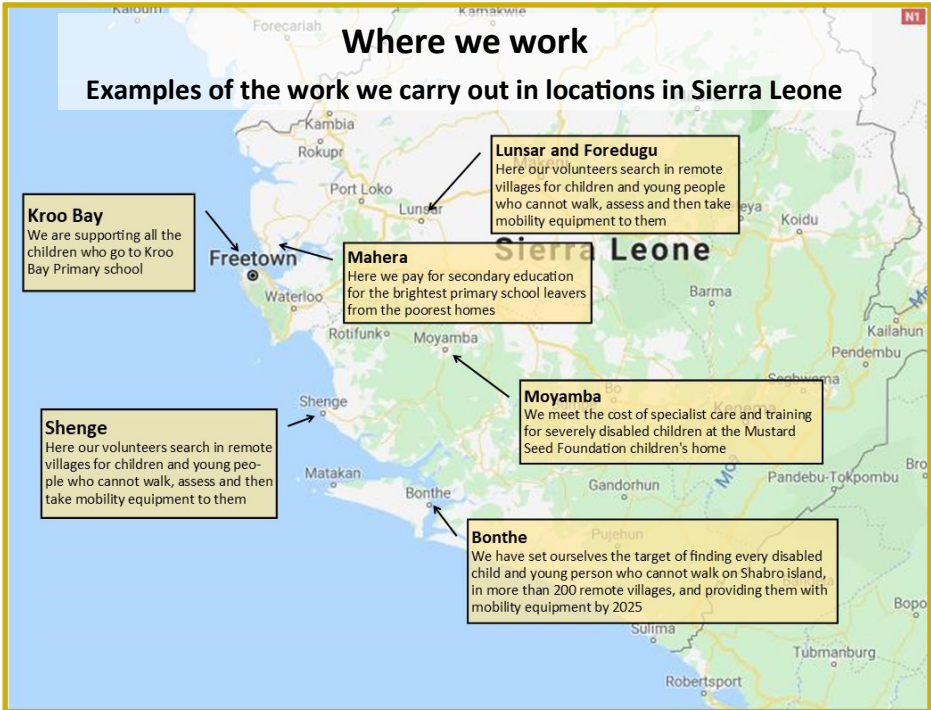
in the WASSCE exam (the equivalent of 'A' level in England) and we will support them to do resits.

Each university and college student is sponsored by one of our donors or a small group of donors. Sponsorship covers fees and textbooks and in some cases transport. The student's extended family must provide accommodation and food.

When we consulted a sample of our donors about extending our support to tertiary education you supported the proposal but urged us not to reduce support for children in secondary school. Individual sponsorship has enabled us to do this.

We have provided every tertiary level student with a donated laptop. ***Thanks to everyone who has donated old laptops in good condition – please keep them coming.*** An organisation called *Home Leone* based in Southampton gives us free space in their containers which go to Freetown twice a year.

Please get in touch if you would like to support one of our students to continue their education after school. £500 (£42 each month) plus gift aid enables a young person to go to university. Part sponsorship is also welcome.



In 2022 we achieved these things:

- We met the cost of secondary school education for 41 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 sometimes to travel to school.

Our students have told us that having a set of textbooks for all their subjects has been a vital factor in their success at examinations.

23 of our sponsored students are boys and 18 are girls. We are working towards a better balance but it's not easy. Girls under perform in primary school because they miss school for several days every month because of inadequate toilets. And they are sometimes made to stay at home for domestic duties.

In 2022 we achieved these things: (continued)



We will sponsor Aminata's (pictured above left with her mother) and Ezekiel's education for the three years of Junior Secondary School. If they perform well in the national exams at the end of the third year we will continue our sponsorship through Senior Secondary School. They are part of Sierra Leone's future.

- Sometimes we have met other needs so that education is not impaired. For example, we have paid for small solar lights so that our young people can study in the evening and not sit under street lights. Most of our students come from homes without electricity. We have also paid for mosquito nets to help our young people avoid getting malaria. We also provide some of our students with a small table and chair so that they can study at home. Typically, it costs £260 to sponsor a child's secondary education for one year.
- We have provided 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.

In 2022 we achieved these things: (continued)

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. There are many young people who will live with the consequences of polio for the rest of their lives.

- Our volunteers have continued to search for disabled children in remote villages and then take 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. Sadly this year no ‘mobility carts’ (adapted tricycles that can be



Mohamed now has a new arm. It helps his balance and improves his self confidence. His school performance has improved.

ridden with your hands) have been available in Sierra Leone. They are manufactured in the USA and we hope supply will be resumed in 2023. Local manufacture has been fraught with problems.

Last year trustees decided that the provision of artificial legs and arms to children who have suffered amputations would be treated as ‘mobility equipment’. It’s clear to us that giving a child a new leg has as much positive impact as providing a wheelchair. This year we funded two new legs and three new arms.

Zorokong, one of our volunteers, has interviewed all the recipients of

artificial arms over the last three years to find out what difference they have made to their lives. His report will be discussed by the Sierra Leone Committee in February 2023.

In 2022 we achieved these things: (continued)

We are often asked to provide mobility equipment to disabled adults. We have decided that we will help if the adult is a parent or carer because it is clear that parental mobility also assists the children in the family.



“When our volunteers first met Moya (pictured above left) her disability meant she had only limited mobility and could not carry her youngest child. Now, following our provision of mobility equipment (pictured above right), she can transport her youngest to market with her and she can accompany her older children to school. She benefits, and so do her children”.

- We continued to support the Mustard Seed Foundation’s children’s home in Moyamba. This wonderful, loving 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 Deborah (pictured right) founded the home. Deborah died last year aged 82. Almost until her death she played and cooked with the children every day.



In 2022 we achieved these things: (continued)

Of the 29 children who live at Mustard Seed, ten are severely disabled. We paid 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 £1900 for 12 months.

- We have responded quickly and sensitively to unusual requests. For example, Alpha one of our sponsored students injured his leg whilst playing football and was in so much pain that he could not go to school. He was threatened with amputation of his leg.

Our policy is to pay for medical treatment for our students in life threatening situations where parents and carers do not have the money. There is no free medical care in Sierra Leone. The risk of high medical costs is one of our greatest challenges. We live with the dreadful fear that there may be occasions in the future when we cannot help our students who face big hospital bills for urgent treatment.



- We also held a second special appeal this year so that Sulaiman, one of our sponsored students, could have a second major operation to save his leg from amputation following a bicycle accident. 15 donors contributed £2,530 in just three days. Sulaiman is doing well, his leg was saved and he no longer has chronic pain. He has missed many weeks at school so will repeat a year. He is a keen and able student.

Sulaiman (on the right in the striped shirt) is always cheerful and positive despite his badly damaged leg. He has joined us as a volunteer. He cares deeply about disabled children and searches for them in villages near his home. He found Lamin crawling in Kissy village and arranged to deliver a wheelchair to him. He is pictured with volunteers Alpha (on the left) and Saidu.

Our Sierra Leone volunteers

Eight of our volunteers make up the Sierra Leone Committee which meets 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 and supervises the work of our volunteers. The Committee brings the insights of Sierra Leoneans into the heart of the charity's decision making. The Committee will have an increasingly important role and is a key part of our future sustainability.

The Committee members are:

- Chernor Barrie (Chair and Country Representative)
- Umu Turay (Deputy Chair)
- Foday Conteh
- Abdul Sheriff¹
- Roselyn Freeman²
- Yayah Jalloh
- Sulaiman 'Capay' Bah
- Alpha Joseph

1: Abdul also runs DRIMS, a disability rights and advocacy organisation based in Bo

2: Roselyn also runs the Mustard Seed Foundation children's home based in Moyamba

Without our eighteen 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 studying law 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.

Please help to sustain our work in the future by leaving us something in your will. If you do so, please tell us.

Our Sierra Leone volunteers (continued)



Our volunteers at a training day held in Freetown in February 2022

In addition to the committee members, our other volunteers are:

- Fatmata Sheriff
- Alie Turay
- Alhusine Kalokoh
- Zorokong Kamara
- Sulaiman Sesay
- Hassan Kamara
- Saidu Sesay
- Kandeh Bureh
- Fatmata Kamara
- Alhaji Sillah

Sixteen of our volunteers are under the age of 28. Three are disabled people.

Our volunteers receive no fees. When they travel on our behalf we pay their travel and subsistence costs.

Our Sierra Leone volunteers (continued)



Foday (on the right) often travels by motorbike to villages to look for children who cannot walk. He found Abibatu crawling and brought her a wheelchair from Freetown. He never allows his own disability to limit his volunteering. He has a huge heart.

Our Trustees and UK volunteers

We have 8 trustees who decide overall policy and ensure that donors' money is used well:

- Kevin Curley CBE (Chair)
- Rachel Curley (Deputy Chair)
- Mike Martin MBE
- Mike Clemson
- Ralph Steen
- Katherine Curley
- Chernor Barrie (Sierra Leone Committee Chair)
- Tumi van Riper

Our work in the UK is supported by some great volunteers. Mike Batchelor looks after our website and James Holt and Laetitia Verel manage our Twitter and Instagram pages. David Burnby edits and publishes this report.

UK trustees and volunteers receive no expenses. Kevin Curley travels to Sierra Leone each year at his own expense and meets all our volunteers and many of our beneficiaries.

Our Donors

167 people have donated to our charity since we began. 45 people are 'monthly donors', giving us a donation every month direct to our bank, Triodos bank. In 2022 'monthly donors' contributed just over £15,000 to our funds, including gift aid refunds. This support is our foundation, enabling us to plan ahead in confidence.

If you like what we are doing please consider becoming a 'monthly donor'. Simply go to our website at **www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk** and click on the donate button on the home page. You will then see the details of our Triodos bank account to which you can transfer your donation. If you prefer please send a cheque payable to **Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust to: Kevin Curley CBE, 6 Cumberhills Road, Duffield, Belper DE56 4HA**

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 this year including an Inner Wheel Club tea party 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?**

Mark Simms and Hannah Thoresby donated laptops from their companies. These will enable our university students to prosper. Few university students in Sierra Leone have a laptop. It will make a real difference to their performance.


Our Donors (Continued)

Rusty Livock donated smart phones. Our volunteers use these to make videos of disabled children in remote villages so that experts can assess their needs.

We have consulted a sample of donors this year about difficult questions facing the UK trustees. We are very grateful to the many donors who took the trouble to respond giving us their views.

Follow us On Line!

Use the camera on your smartphone, tablet or computer to scan the relevant QR code below to have instant access to our website or social media pages.

	<p>http://www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk/ This is our website with information on all things to do with the Trust including instructions on how to donate</p>
<p>https://www.facebook.com/ Scan the QR Code (right) or go to Facebook (URL above) and search for Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust to find our Facebook Page. Please “Like” us and share our posts!</p>	
	<p>https://twitter.com/SLEDT Follow us on Twitter for the latest updates and please  our Tweets  and Re-Tweet!</p>
<p>https://www.instagram.com/sierraleoneaid.uk/ Check out our Instagram Page and follow us for images that describe our work in Sierra Leone</p>	

Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust

Receipts and payments in 2021

	<u>£</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>£</u> <u>2020</u>
Receipts		
Donations from individual supporters including gift aid	21,687.90	19,647
Donations from individual supporters to the Tertiary Fund including gift aid	1,450.00	00
Triodos bank interest	2.48	2
Easy fundraising	29.43	163
Amazon	5.90	00
The Bart Caulker Foundation (for mobility equipment)	<u>3,205.00</u>	<u>500</u>
TOTAL	26,380.71	20,312
Payments		
Support for secondary school students	10,050	4,192
Support for disabled students and adults	12,389	7,708
Support for students in tertiary education	381	0
Kroo Bay Education Project	522	0
Support for Mustard Seed Foundation children's home	850	2,475
Bank charges including international transfer charges	396	359
Sierra Leone volunteers' travel expenses, training and one laptop for volunteer Country Representative	455	298
Covid expenses	64	3,282
Printing, website, administration	417	202
Registration with Ministry of Welfare	<u>0</u>	<u>469</u>
TOTAL	<u>25,524</u>	<u>18,985</u>
Funds held in Triodos bank at year end	4,929.10	5,684
Funds held in Sierra Leone at year end	1,286	623

23 March 2022 (Revised 12 October 2022)

Our accounts for 2022 will be available in April 2023. They will be loaded up to our website or please request a copy if you would like to see them

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



Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust

www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk

Registered Charity No.1158253