

WP NEWS UPDATE

Patron: Lord Alton of Liverpool

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Autumn 2017

The Waterloo Partnership: help where it's needed



Africa is the birthplace of Atlantic hurricanes, but Sierra Leone is poorly equipped to cope with natural disasters, particularly flooding from tropical rain storms.

In August 2017 the hillside settlement in Regent, near Waterloo, was overwhelmed by a mudslide which killed about 1000 people and made hundreds homeless. Fortunately with WP's links 'on the ground' we quickly provided survivors with food supplies, which were distributed by our Chair and government officials.

Thank you to all our generous and committed donors for this intervention, and indeed for all our 'targeted aid' to Sierra Leone.

Disaster prevention

WP funded two educational workshops aimed at reducing risk from accidents and disasters. The first covered the hazards from fire, flooding and 'unexploded ordinance'.

After August's floods the second workshop focused on cholera prevention; and we've also funded hand-washing facilities and well chlorination.

Harvest home

Supplying 150 or more women farmers with seeds, tools and fertilizer is a priority, and this year has seen bumper crops of okra, maize, greens, potatoes, cassava and rice, due to early planting.

• Pictured - Our women farmers with WP chairmen Badara (SL) and David (UK, 2015)

Ebola orphans - caring for the carers

During 2016-2017 WP continued to provide education for 45 Ebola orphans and to support their carers (whose households often contain several orphans). In addition to a large bag of rice before the 'hungry season', carers received groundnuts for planting.

A microfinance project has been a major innovation, aiming to make our carers self-sufficient over time, with monitoring and support.



After initial training by a local bank, they received a 'pump-priming' grant to set up small businesses such as 'fast food', soap making, and selling fish or firewood.

After a promising start exceptional rains disrupted business activity, but we hope trading will pick up again soon.

- Orphan, carer, and small business; supported by WP in Waterloo, Sierra Leone

Education: investment in the future

WP has continued to fund the 36 school children in our Uniform scheme, after four students took their final exams and left school in July 2016.

We are grateful to Sacred Heart Catholic College for providing SEN training bursaries for three nurses. Cynthia Reffel matriculated in May 2017, and is now waiting for her licence to practice before starting her first job.

With funding from WP Betty Nicol is about to enter the final year of her SEN course, while Francess Kamara is starting her first year.

Thanks to the kindness of donors, these three young people can look forward to successful and worthwhile careers.

Bridges and wells: lifelines for the community

WP-built bridges remain a visible sign of our support for the community: this year two needed maintenance and ongoing repairs, due to flooding and river bank erosion.

A new well, the 'Lotus', was built and commissioned thanks to a single very generous donor; and WP restored a disused well serving the Waterloo market area.



- Providing proper bridges to replace old ones like this is an obvious priority

Welcome Badara

In October 2016 we welcomed our SL Chair, Aliou Badara Mansaray, for a busy 10 day visit to Waterloo and Crosby.

Badara was an excellent ambassador for WP when visiting schools and churches, and speaking on Ebola at Edge Hill University.

But he had time to meet Jamie Carragher and see Liverpool play at Anfield! We appreciate Badara's commitment to WP: his visit certainly strengthened our mutual understanding and partnership.

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