

WP NEWS UPDATE

Patron: Lord Alton of Liverpool

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Autumn 2019

The Waterloo Partnership: Protecting and Providing



• *Well pleased: pure water provision is a priority for the Waterloo Partnership*

Thanks to your generous help the Waterloo Partnership has supported a wide range of projects this year.

With our partners in Sierra Leone we have targeted our funding as fairly as possible between individuals and the community, sustainable projects and emergency aid, always bearing in mind our responsibilities to our loyal donors in the UK.

Accidents and emergencies

When a devastating fire in the nearby fishing village of Fogbo destroyed 30 homes, about 200 adults and children lost all their belongings and means of livelihood, and several suffered severe

burns. WP immediately provided rice, some baby milk, and urgent medicines for the burns victims: essential rice seed was later supplied to replace what had been lost.

Other individuals needed emergency care during the year. WP arranged a consultation with the only neurologist in Sierra Leone when a 15-year-old student from our Uniform Scheme became seriously ill: she is now much improved.

We funded treatment for a foster mother who suffered an amputated arm after a road accident; for the WPSL Chair, who needed prolonged antibiotics after his appendix operation; and for a child with tetanus.

Education: Achieving potential

The 2018 WPUK visit to Waterloo SL focussed particularly on our two educational projects. Four Trustees spent time with the older students in the Uniform Scheme, assessing their educational progress and discussing options for vocational training and employment, which are currently very limited. We would like to improve these prospects.

Our three student nurses have now qualified, while WP funds one ex-pupil who is doing a Business Studies degree.

WP also funds the schooling of 45 Ebola orphans. A part time qualified teacher has recently been found to work as their Educational Supervisor and we hope that this extra support will help these vulnerable children achieve their educational potential.

WP recently facilitated a Rotary grant to fund an in-service training programme for SL Primary school teachers. Organised by the Liverpool schools' 'Teachability' group, it builds on school links between Merseyside and Waterloo SL first established by WP in 2007.

Building for the future

Sadly the new timber structure of Songo Bridge was swept away by a combination of high tides and exceptionally heavy summer rainfall, so we are exploring a more permanent solution for a difficult engineering problem.

Our new Aku Town well was completed: two other WP wells needed repair, while our three remaining wells had their annual maintenance and chlorination.

Two Primary schools benefitted from improvements to their dilapidated buildings. Faith Cathedral school installed new windows and doors to improve security; while Kings and Queens school required new floors and roofing.

The cruel price of rice

Traditional farming methods do not yield enough rice, so Sierra Leone is dependent on imports, which are vulnerable to inflation against the US dollar. WPSL Chair Alieu Mansaray says: 'The poorest are really suffering as the price of basic foodstuffs and fuel continue to rise. Many homes cannot afford a square meal a day'.

WP aims to provide food security for two groups in Waterloo. Supplying tools, seeds, fertilizer, and Wellington boots (to protect from leeches) our Seeds and tools project enables 150 women farmers to grow subsistence and cash crops, harvesting four times a year.

After the 45 Ebola foster families suffered a poor groundnut harvest last year we agreed that the most effective form of support to these households would be a regular supply of rice three times a year. This enables us to reach all 150 or so orphans cared for in our foster homes.



• Fogbo village in ashes after the fire



• Bridge over tidal waters: the new Songo Road crossing was later destroyed by floods



• Fit for purpose: one of the schools refurbished by the Waterloo Partnership

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