

# WP NEWS UPDATE

Patron: Lord Alton of Liverpool

[www.waterloopartnership.co.uk](http://www.waterloopartnership.co.uk)

Autumn 2020

## The Waterloo Partnership: caring for the vulnerable during Covid-19



• *Now wash your hands. Covid prevention is a priority*

### Bias to the poor

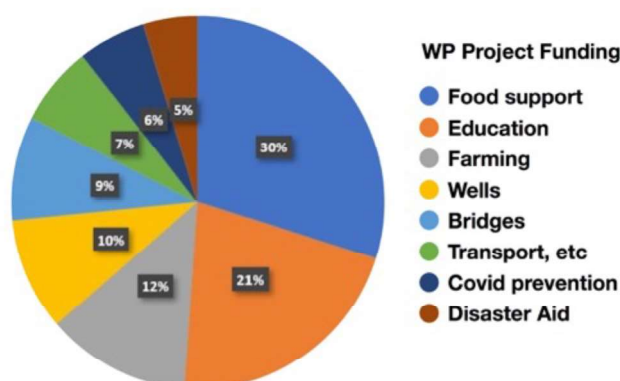
Our loyal donors have generously given over £21,000 this year to support our friends in Waterloo, Sierra Leone, and the “pie chart” shows how it was distributed among our projects. Unusually for us, 30% was spent on food aid, reflecting the effects of Covid-19 on the poor and vulnerable.

### The cruel price of rice

This is a recurring headline. 90% of residents in Waterloo cannot afford a sack of rice, so buy it by the cupful, on a day to day basis. One elderly lady wept tears of joy when given the first bag of rice she had ever had. Covid regulations have unfortunately limited the movement of fresh produce, inflating the cost of rice and other foodstuffs and causing hunger and malnutrition, especially among children.

### Meals for many

- Caring for Ebola orphans remains a priority. Our 45 foster families each receive a big bag of rice and other food supplies three times a year. This is essential during the “hungry season” of the rains.
- The Covid crisis, like Ebola, has left many people enduring two weeks rigidly enforced quarantine, unable to access food and water. Five groups have already been supplied, most recently a compound with 65 residents. Each delivery costs £500 and sadly more will be needed.



- 45 vulnerable elderly people too poor to prepare for sudden 3 day lockdowns needed supplies in advance.
- Home-grown food is now even more important, and one of our successful core projects continues to supply about 150 women farmers with seeds, tools and fertiliser.

### Hands, face, space

Mercifully, the Covid pandemic has so far caused few deaths. As during Ebola, WP has supported preventive measures, providing 120 “Veronica” hand-washing buckets in schools, mosques, churches, markets and lorry park.





• *Investment in education is invaluable*

## Opening opportunities

Education is vitally important in Sierra Leone, but Covid has greatly disrupted children's schooling this year. We are fortunate that Aminata Mansaray and Unisa, a teacher, supervise the welfare of our 60 vulnerable children, ensuring they not only receive their school uniforms, bags and books, but that the pupils' well-being is also a priority.

The children are having to cope with the pandemic only 5 years after many of them lost parents to the Ebola virus, so our new report system looks at both the education of each child and the social and emotional aspects of their lives.

It has been a very frightening time for the children and it is reassuring that we have dedicated people looking out for them.

**Former pupils' success:** Enterprising school leaver Hassan is teaching at a local school to pay his college fees. Of our nurse graduates, Cynthia has a permanent post at Waterloo Health Centre; while Betty and Francess have voluntary attachments at other nearby Centres.

Congratulations! It is so rewarding to see these young people giving back to their community, helped by the generosity of our donors.

## Fire fighting

A devastating fire destroyed a compound in During Street, leaving 45 people homeless. WP responded immediately, supplying food, water and baby milk: two of our schoolchildren were given clothes and school essentials. Sadly, a young woman miscarried during the disaster, so WP arranged and funded her medical care.

• *The clothes he stood up in. Schoolboy, 10 years old, after the fire*



## Keeping going

Meanwhile wells and bridges need maintenance and repair, and transport and communications must be kept running smoothly. For all our work we rely heavily on the commitment of the WP committee in SL and its Chair, Badara Mansaray, and of course upon you, our generous donors.

Our heartfelt thanks to you all.



• *Well being. Restoring a disused water source*

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