

# WP NEWS UPDATE

Patron: Lord Alton of Liverpool

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

Autumn 2021

## For richer, for poorer: sharing the burden in Waterloo, Sierra Leone



*Harvest home in Sierra Leone: the Seeds & Tools project*

### A precarious economy

Our cost of living problems in the UK give us just a taste of what our partners in Sierra Leone are facing. The effects of the pandemic plus uncontrolled inflation, with frighteningly high food and fuel prices, have all created great hardship for the community of Waterloo SL. This year the charity targeted its limited resources on the most disadvantaged, and on our core projects: farming, clean water, education, and food support for pupils.

### ‘Hunger and starvation cannot wait’...

... said Badara Mansaray, our Chair in Waterloo SL. In 2020-21 WP provided 14-day supplies of rice and bottled water for over 200 adults and children during enforced **Covid quarantine**. Without our immediate help, these families would have starved. The price and scarcity of food have had a disproportionate effect on the **vulnerable elderly**; some, known to Badara, have already died from malnutrition. WP gave food aid to two groups of elderly women, some blind and some with young dependent grandchildren. Sadly, this is likely to be a recurring problem. A generous grant from a children's charity helped

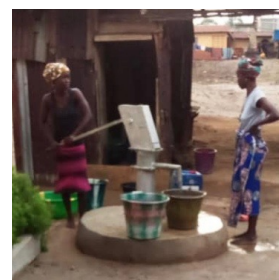
ensure quarterly food supplies for the 45 households caring for **Ebola orphans**.

### Fed and watered

With peoples' health and livelihoods at risk, it is doubly important to promote food production and the provision of safe drinking water. Our established seeds and tools project supports the families of about 150 **women farmers** (pictured above) with up to four harvests annually providing crops both to eat and take to market.

February 2021 brought an influx of displaced homeless families from nearby Newton village. Many pumped their water from ‘**Ronnie's**’ well which was damaged by overuse and needed repair: restrictions were later introduced to prevent further damage. In March a **new WP well** was sunk in Lumpa (pictured below), a populated area lacking its own source of drinking water.

We appreciate the generosity of our donors which enables us to fund regular maintenance and chlorination of all seven WP-built wells.







*Solar lamps, a brilliant solution for working in the dark*

## Education: lighting lamps

During the past academic year WP funded schooling for 61 disadvantaged children, including 45 Ebola orphans. Teacher Unisa Koroma, the orphans' supervisor, told us that few pupils have access to electricity, so homework after dark was very difficult, with school performance suffering. The problem was resolved when WP supplied **solar-powered lamps** to all the schoolchildren in our care: a low-cost and climate-friendly solution.

Several of the young people WP has helped educate now have successes to celebrate. Ebola orphans Abu and Augustine (pictured right) graduated from high school, while three young women undertook tertiary Business courses. Congratulations go to Humu after graduating in April, and to Patricia who gained high marks during her first semester. Beatrice awaits the results of her final exams at the end of a four year degree course and is currently writing up her critically important dissertation.

## Rapid response

Working closely with our deeply committed SL partners, we can respond promptly to emergencies without any 'red tape'. This year, as well as immediate food aid for the quarantined and the elderly, we have provided desperately needed clothing and rice for the victims of an extensive fire in Bassa Town. WP also quickly prevented an emerging malaria outbreak in Waterloo by funding mosquito control.

## You are 'Life Savers'

None of our work, emergency or routine, is possible without our donors' generosity, and we are immensely grateful to all our supporters in the UK and in Sierra Leone. In the words of Dag Hammarskjöld we can truly say, 'To the past: Thanks. To the future: Yes.'



*High school alumni Abu and Augustine*

*You can donate online via our website or Twitter and Facebook accounts.*

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