

St George Foundation Update - July 2015

We would first like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who responded to the Ebola outbreak in Freetown by helping the St George Foundation through your support, prayers and donations. The response was overwhelming and we are grateful to each and every person. Your support has enabled us to reach out and help children at a time of great need, and is something that we would not have been able to do without this fantastic response and generosity from so many. We are truly grateful.

Post-Ebola

When Ebola took hold in our local area, the Sierra Leone government gave the St George Foundation the responsibility of looking after an area called Western Rural. Western Rural is the entire peninsula outside of the urban part of Freetown.

Our work attracted the attention of the BBC and Sky TV and following this we had enormous support for the work we were doing. Thanks to the BBC coverage, support came, also for the first time, from international sources and enabled us to fund the care of children affected in the area of Western Rural.

The government has since rated St George as being the highest achieving organisation working for orphans in the Ebola crisis (which was very encouraging for us and for our staff).

2,000 children were orphaned by Ebola in our area. To date we have been able to help about 350 at our residential home and planning for another 100 as soon as possible, as no suitable arrangements existed for them elsewhere. For the remaining children, we examined what had been arranged by their extended families and judged them suitable.

St George Foundation currently

New Ebola cases are now very low and just a handful per day nationally and schools have reopened after being shut since July 2014.

At the St George Foundation, we are now turning our attention to ensuring that the arrangements made for the many orphans that passed through our care are working out. Occasionally, plans made for children in a new family don't go as well as we'd all hoped and so we have to revisit and sort out problems that arise and in some cases make alternative arrangements for the children.

Right now we are running a campaign to discourage children entering the labour market.

After a number of requests we have also intervened in an area called Port Loco. It's a two hour drive from Freetown but we were advised that conditions for Ebola orphans were not good there and we located 500 children we considered vulnerable.

In the past weeks we have been working through all the children there (from UNICEF lists) to check up and have so far paid for over 100 children to return to school. This is mainly in the form of ensuring they have uniforms and equipment and that they are enrolled in school. The cost of caring for these children is less than for those we were taking to the centre, so we are able financially able to support more children.

Future Fundraising Events

On the **18th October** there will be a 450 foot Zip Wire Challenge taking place at the Hampshire Cricket Ground - the Ageas Bowl, from the roof terrace of the pavilion down to the pitch. If you are interested in taking part and fundraising please get in contact with Corin on 07533 262592

Thank you once again for your support,
Kind Regards

Philip Dean
UK Founder