



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

Mission

Advancing quality education in Sierra Leone through local partnerships

Vision

A Sierra Leone where good education is a normal part of every child's life

Why education matters

“Education is a powerful driver of development and one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace, and stability” -The World Bank

Our programs actively work toward the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Dear Friends,

What an incredible year 2017 was for our students, teachers and their communities – all made possible because of you!

Together we have expanded our reach to 26 communities and over 7000 children and their families. Because of you, more children are going to school, staying in school and learning to read and write. Because of you, our teachers are improving their teaching skills and receiving their National Teacher Certification Credentials. Because of you our classrooms have more learning materials and books than ever before! Because of you ALL our girls have the feminine hygiene products they need to stay in school – everyday! And because of you, ALL our pre-teen and teenage girls and boys are receiving reproductive health education to teach them about their changing bodies and preventing teenage pregnancy – so everyone can stay in school.

We are immensely grateful for your partnership. Together we are stronger as we work to empower the students and teachers of Sierra Leone – providing the chance to have a better future for themselves and their families.

We are excited about the year ahead! Thank you for joining us on this journey. Thank you for helping to make dreams come true for the children of Sierra Leone! Wishing peace and opportunity for all.

Cindy

BOOSTING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Building schools



We completed new schools in the villages of Sulehun and Walihun, benefitting over **400 children** and their communities.



More study time with solar light

We installed solar lights in **4 schools**, and gave **20 solar study lights** to our school communities.

Water and sanitation



We upgraded **all our schools** to include handwashing stations and latrines with three private stalls per unit.



Student scholarships

We provided scholarships to **58 students** so they can afford to attend school.

“The best thing you can do for a village is plant an educational seed by building a school”
-Joseph Williams-Lamin, founder and Executive Director of Programme for Children Sierra Leone

ENRICHING QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Training
librarians



We sponsored a librarian training workshop with the RISE Network for **31 librarians** across the country whose schools received books from the Africa Library Project.

Equipping
teachers



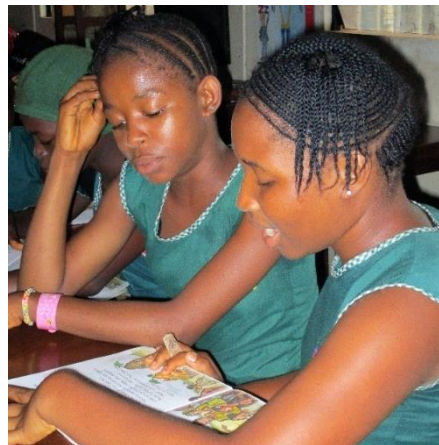
We held literacy training for **10 teachers** in the north, and piloted a teachers-training-teachers workshop with **8 teachers** in the Western Area. We sponsored **20 teachers** to pursue their teaching certificates.

Delivering
books



We distributed **2,000 books** to Mamboma Library, and **2,000 early phonics books** to accompany teacher trainings.

Remedial
reading
clubs



We sponsored remedial reading club programs with The Learning Foundation in three schools around Freetown benefitting **80 students**.

“When you build the teachers, the teachers use the materials for the children, then you have built a country, you have built a nation”

-Mamusu Tarawalie, head teacher of Education for All Primary School after receiving training at the teachers-training-teachers literacy workshop in October.

BOLSTERING GIRLS' OPPORTUNITIES

*Menstrual
kit program
sustainability*



We began marketing the DfG kits we produced, and sold **2,000 kit pods** to UN Women, which allows us to continue producing kits.

*Menstrual
hygiene
supplies*



We distributed **over 700** DfG menstruation kits to girls in our schools and to survivors of the August mudslide.

*Menstrual
health
education*



We conducted reproductive health education to over **2,000 girls and boys** in our schools.

*Menstrual
kit
production*



We employed **4 women tailors** and produced over **2,500 DfG menstruation kits** in Sierra Leone.

One student told us that at a church youth camp she attended, there was a girl who started her period for the first time and was dull in the camp while others were active and happy. Our student went closer to her trying to motivate her to be happy. While they were talking the girl cried and revealed that she was bleeding. Our student encouraged her to stop crying and told her that it is not anything bad but that the bleeding is her period and explained to her about menstruation and its importance and then gave her a kit pod so she would have the tools and confidence to manage her period.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Flood relief



We provided over **\$23,000** worth of life-sustaining assistance to survivors of the flood and mudslide.

Safe housing



We constructed an **emergency home** for a teacher and students from one of our schools whose living situation was unsafe.

Planting trees



Our students planted and are caring for **80 trees** at our schools to counteract climate change.

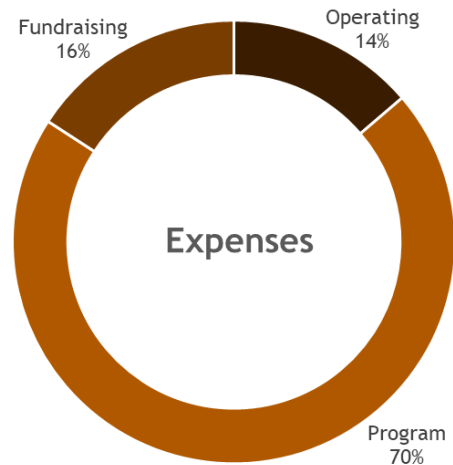
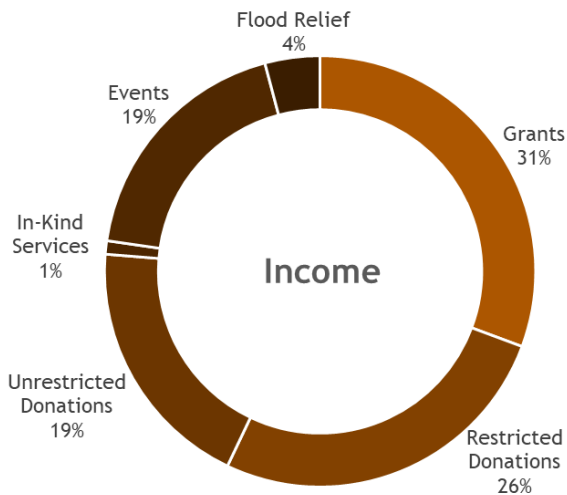
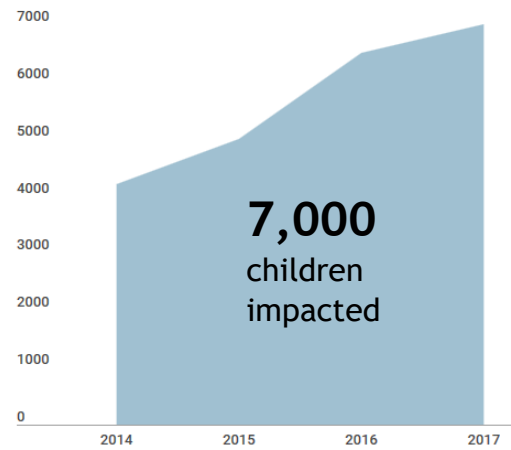
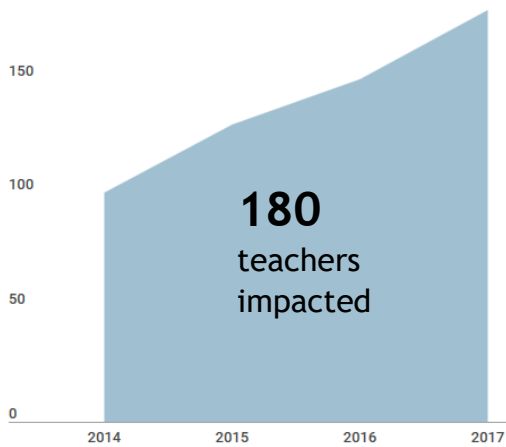
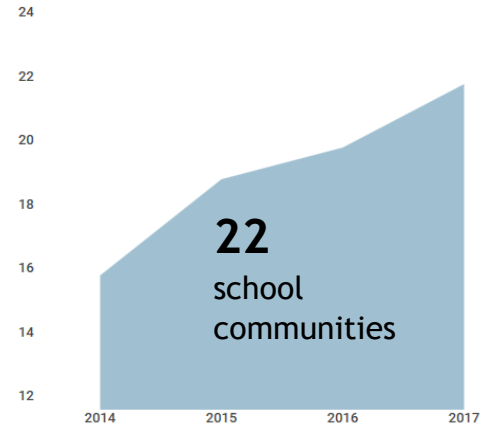
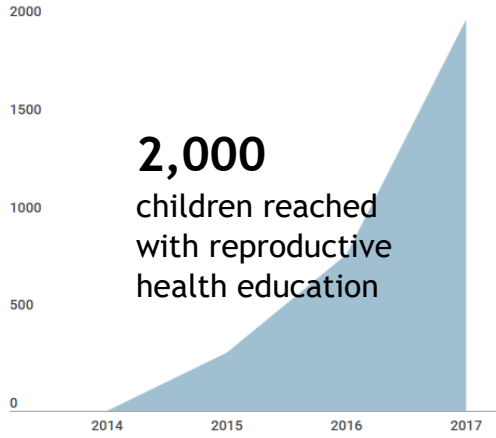
Building wells



We built 2 wells providing clean water to **2 communities**.

Our team in Sierra Leone coordinated with Shellac Davies, National Coordinator of Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (SLANGO) on relief efforts in Hill Station and Kamayama communities. Together, we distributed 250 bags of rice, cooking oil, salt, mattresses, drinking water, and menstruation kits to flood survivors. Our team, SLANGO, and other organizations including Village Link, Water Bearers, and Families without Borders also distributed water filtration systems to ensure survivors had access to safe drinking water.

OUR IMPACT



WITH GRATITUDE

A very special thank you to the McPherson Family Foundation, the US Embassy Freetown, everyone who attended our Seattle, San Francisco, Washington DC, and Mother's Day Events, all our GiveBIG donors, and all our wonderful supporters for making it all possible!

LOOKING TO 2018

- Expand teacher trainings for literacy, reading, and school library development
- Strengthen and expand our Uman Talk menstruation kit-making programs and reproductive health lessons and increase its sustainability
- Implement after-school remedial reading programs for our students
- Distribute books, school supplies, and learning materials as needed
- Improve hygiene and sanitation by constructing new septic toilets and handwashing stations in our school communities
- Construct a new Junior Secondary School at Mile 38 for a community of vulnerable students

... and much, much more!



Photo by Larry Snyder