



IMPACT REPORT

Executive Summary

In Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world, 88% of out-of-school children live in rural areas. Household poverty is the primary barrier to children accessing and staying in basic education.

In 2018, motivated by reports that Sierra Leone would not achieve universal primary education until the end of the century, Street Child set the ambitious goal to radically scale up our rural schools work and reach 1,000 rural communities by 2023, setting ourselves a fundraising target of £10 million.

Thanks to the support of funders like the Bright Futures trust Street Child has to date been able to work side-by-side with **339** remote, rural communities to kick-start or transform community primary schools where children can learn.

Impact

In remote, rural Sierra Leone, children are growing up in villages where there is no school nearby, or not one worthy of the name. Where there are schools in these most remote regions, often they receive no government support, forcing parents to bear the costs of paying teacher salaries and providing basic school resources. For many families this is unaffordable – most rural communities survive through subsistence farming. Household poverty is the primary barrier to children being able to access and stay in basic education.

Street Child's work is grounded in the principles of long-term sustainability. Alongside constructing or renovating structures in partnership with local communities, where needed we provide teacher training, and innovative teaching strategies designed to rapidly help children catch up and succeed. Also where needed, we provide an agricultural grant to school management committees to establish an independent income-generation initiative, the profits of which can pay teacher's salaries and fund core school costs until the schools are approved for government funding.

And we seek to empower the most vulnerable families through our award-winning Family Business for Education Scheme, supporting them to start or grow a small business or agricultural initiative to sustainably meet the costs of their children's education. Since 2008 Street Child's Family Business Scheme has helped over 25,000 families in West Africa, directly enabling over 40,000 children to go to school. Impact studies show an average 85-90% retention in school two years after Street Child's support has ceased¹.

The UK government, via the Department for International Development has given Street Child their highest rating for its 'proven low-cost' rural education programmes, and an independent evaluator found we 'ignited education' in rural villages through 'collective empowerment'.

The support of the Bright Future Trust has been invaluable to the progress of Schools for Tomorrow and we are so grateful for your support.

Since Street Child started working in Sierra Leone we have supported **339** villages with education provision and worked to help train **1091** teachers reaching **35,000** children in the remotest parts of the country with access to better learning. Since announcing our Schools for Tomorrow plan in 2018 in which the Bright Futures Trust invested, we have raised £1.4million of our £10million target. With this we have constructed or renovated **67** new schools, provided resources for **471** classrooms. We have provided **360** teachers with in-classroom mentoring. Street Child's work has facilitated **20** schools to be approved by the government, enabling their teachers and students to access the government's resources and funding.

What next?



1,000 SCHOOLS BY 2023

We are determined to enable 100,000 children in 1,000 villages to access education in remote, rural Sierra Leone by 2023.

We are seeking support from funders to invest in Sierra Leone's future changemakers and help give them the education they deserve.

In 2020 our focus will be on providing improved learning in the schools which are already on the programme. We plan to scale up our teacher mentoring programme and roll out more widely our highly suc-

¹ In November 2019, Street Child received a prestigious WISE Award in recognition of the scheme's success in addressing global educational challenges and bringing positive change to societies and communities.

cessful, innovative remedial teaching method ‘Teaching at the Right Level’ (TARL) which has shown extremely promising results so far.

We hope that 2020 will also bring increased funding to allow us to reach new communities with our whole model of support; construction, teacher training, classroom resourcing and income generation.

Case study`



Al Kudus Islamic School, Buuma, Sierra Leone

Sulaiman, 69 years old, is a teacher at Al-Kudus Islamic School in Buuma, Sierra Leone, one of the 339 schools supported through Schools for Tomorrow.

“I have been teaching in this community for 14 years. The old school was made of mud and thatch. The school would become damaged by the rainy season; the roof would leak, the walls would begin to fall apart. The old school had 79 children. We didn’t even have benches and would have to use mud blocks as benches.”

“In 2004, the school collapsed due to the heavy rains. This is a community of subsistence farmers so we didn’t have the money for a new school. The nearest school is about 3-4 miles away and for a young child that’s about an hour and a half walk!”

Following the collapse of the school, Sulaiman had to teach his classes in the community centre, a structure comprising of a concrete floors, wooden struts and a zinc roof: “It was very challenging. We had no benches and no learning materials, no money for chalk or pencils. I had no means of illustrating the lessons I was trying to teach.”

Thanks to the Schools for Tomorrow fund Sulaiman’s school was re-built, was provided with learning materials and benefited from teacher training support to further improve capacity.

“The new classroom makes me happy. Now I have better materials to teach. The new benches help the children learn and motivates them to come to school.”