

Hope 4 Ebola Orphans Sierra Leone

Annual Report 2017

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Activity Plan 2017-19

I Mama Mayilas' Introduction

My Foundation, Hope for Ebola Orphans, has been campaigning since the height of the Ebola crisis to raise awareness for Ebola's generation and for child and girl rights in Sierra Leone – the right to an education rather than enduring child labour, the right to choose who and when to marry, the right not to be cut and the right to a future free from dangerous climate change. We are proud supporters of the sustainable development goals and I am pleased that my team aligned our activity plan to these essential global goals.



Sustainable farming empowering rural women inspired by Dr Richard Munang

Inspired by Dr Richard Munang at the 2016 launch of EBAFOSA (eco based adaptation for food security assembly) - the AU and UNEP programme to introduce sustainable, climate-smart farming to help boost yield and adapt to climate change - we worked with rural communities in Sanda Magbolonto Chiefdom to develop a self-governing co-op launched in July; harnessing the power of innovative volunteerism and our human and natural capital to empower rural women, improve nutrition and food security for subsistence farmers and for children in our interim care and kinship fostering programmes.

My Foundation directly delivers a kinship fostering programme for 59 children orphaned by Ebola or disabled, living with relatives in Moa Wharf - one of the most marginalized communities in one of the least developed countries in the world - and provides

Interim Care for up to 30 children, entrusted to us by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs with a focus on resettlement, successfully resettling 11 children with family or in foster care in 2017.

I am delighted to continue campaigning to end child and early marriage - reaching more than 19,000 people a month on social media - and together with the Not In My Name Coalition, to value our coming of age traditions but seek to end FGM (female genital mutilation) and stop cutting girls - in Sierra Leone 9 out of every 10 women and girls are cut (90%).

The tragic mudslide in August tested Sierra Leone's preparedness and resilience and with three times the usual rainy season rainfall, was ample proof that Sierra Leone is the third most vulnerable country in the world to dangerous climate impacts. I am proud that together with our partners we were able to mobilize quickly and were amongst the first civil society organizations to deliver practical help in the critical first 72 hours of the crisis delivering rice, oil and water before the international organizations came to Sierra Leone's aid although question marks hang over government's spend of international donations and delivery of promises to the survivors. I was

heartened to receive a humanitarian visit from Madam Fatima Maada Bio during the crisis making a generous donation supporting our programs.



A welcome visit and generous donation from Madam Fatima Maada Bio's Foundation during the mudslide

Despite funding constraints I am also very proud to have provided some help to colleagues in the struggling interim care sector making 5 deliveries of rice, oil, onions toiletries and clothing over the year to over 140 children living at Initiatives 4 Women and Girls Empowerment Interim Care Centre at Wellington, Network 4 Children in Need Orphanage at Allen Town and Mahanaim House, caring for children with disabilities. And I am very happy to have finished the year bringing some Christmas joy to 250 children holding parties with some small presents thanks to Little Big, lots of lollipops and lashings of fizzy pop!



Mayila Yansaneh
Founder & Director



Eleven of the children orphaned by Ebola supported in our kinship fostering programme



Four of the children orphaned by Ebola supported in our kinship fostering programme

2 Mission Statement

Our mission is to deliver hope to some of the most marginalized children in Sierra Leone - Ebola's generation, mudslide survivors and children living with disabilities. Campaigning for child and girl rights, we provide high-quality, low-cost interim care with good child protection and care standards and a focus on resettlement. Our kinship fostering programme operates in one of the most challenging environments in Sierra Leone feeding, clothing and educating 59 children orphaned by Ebola or disabled. We're passionate about climate change & the environment, because these children deserve a safe world to thrive and our self-governing co-op empowers rural women, improves nutrition and food security for subsistence farmers in seven rural communities helping ensure our financial sustainability within the time-frame of this activity plan.



3 2017 Annual Report: Key Achievements

The Hope team achieved some solid progress in 2017 attaining respected NGO status in Sierra Leone in July, also the launch month of Hope Sakuma - inspired by EBAFOSA and the spirit of innovative volunteerism - our self-governing sustainable farming co-op starting with 57 members and finished the year with 335 subsistence farmers in seven villages, a majority women, producing wetland rice and groundnut; with exciting plans for seven villages working together in Sanda Magbolonto Chiefdom to empower rural women and improve nutrition and food security.

We proved ourselves agile in response to last August's mudslide and together with partners Society 4 Climate Change Communication and Concern for the Deprived Welfare Association, provided aid and social worker support to the mudslide and flooding survivors in the first crucial 72 hours until international aid agencies stepped up and then through until September, making a total of seven deliveries of rice, water, oil, fish, toiletries and laundry soap to command and control centres and providing a temporary home for four mudslide survivors and a permanent one for two orphans of that tragedy.

Our kinship fostering programme continued through the year feeding 59 children and educating 35 children, orphaned by Ebola or living with disabilities in Moya Wharf, one of the most deprived communities in one of the least developed countries, with our resident coordinator acting as a safe adult in the lives of vulnerable children.

Our Interim Care Centre, caring for 49 children at the beginning of the year finished 2017 caring for 22 children, having resettled 17 children with family including one overseas adoption on medical grounds and 9 cases inherited. Our social media campaigns for child rights, ending child and early marriage (female genital mutilation) and for climate and environmental action and sustainable farming reached more than 225,000 people in 2017.

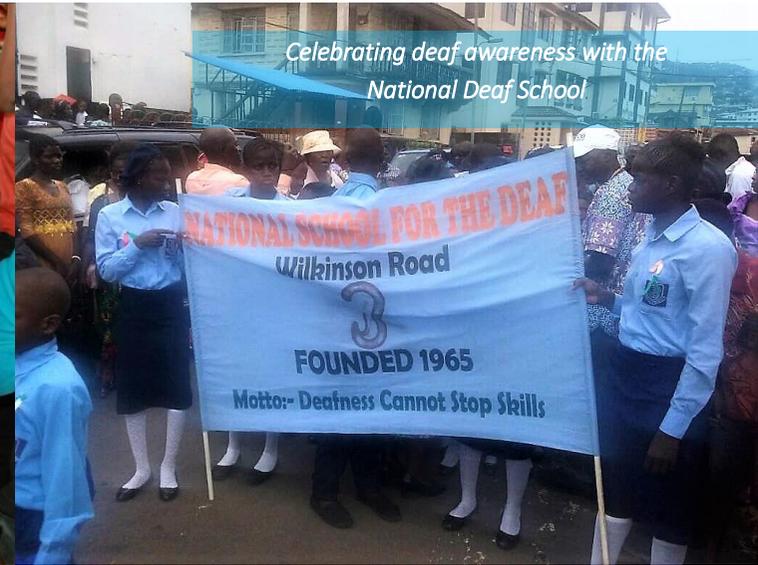
Despite funding constraints, we were able to support colleagues in three interim care centres and feed and clothe 140 vulnerable children 5 times over the year thanks to our summer fundraiser and the amazing efforts of Hart voor Afrika.



Katie, living with a hearing and speech disability supported in our kinship fostering programme



Moa Wharf, one of the most marginalized communities in one of the least developed countries in the world



Celebrating deaf awareness with the National Deaf School

A Kinship Fostering & Outreach

1. To better meet the **Alternative Care Policy** we reconfigured our quarterly feeding programme to deliver a monthly kinship fostering programme providing:

- a resident coordinator as a safe adult and regular welfare checks
- a monthly supply of rice, learning lessons from the previous year and overcoming logistical and household storage problems identified by the community;
- support with school fees and school kit
- in return for agreement on basic care standards with relatives caring for the orphaned children, such as no corporal punishment and ensuring attendance at school and school work

2. Our **Kinship Fostering programme** launched in March providing for 42 vulnerable children under 17 and we were able to expand our programme in the last quarter to 59 with revised age criteria age 21 and support for 3 additional children with disabilities and 6 destitute children, delivering more than 4 tonnes of rice over the year.

3. Our Education Programme:

- enabled 35 school age children orphaned by the Ebola pandemic attend school;
- collected base-line information to measure impact
- supported and 2 children with disabilities at the National Deaf School proudly marching with them to raise deaf awareness
- donated 500,000 Leones to the National Deaf School
- provided school exercise books and pencils etc to 140 pupils in Manays school the heart of our farming co-op's community thanks to the amazing generosity of Team Canada.





One of seven deliveries to command and control centres of vital supplies to mudslide survivors



"We shall rise from the ashes" Miss Universe Sierra Leone Miss Universe Beauty Queens positive message in national tragedy

4 Mudslide Appeal

Our joint **Mudslide appeal** raised \$1032 enabling essential supplies and vital social work support in the first 3 critical days before the international community galvanized into action and then thru to September:

- a) making seven deliveries - the first on the day after the tragedy - to command and control centres of fish, rice, oil, water, powdered milk, and personal care items at Regent Pentagon, Kamayama, Kanigo, Dworzark and Congo Cross
- b) helping keep the CoDWelA social work team on the ground from the day of the mudslide registering and supporting survivors thru to September providing vital social work support
- c) ensuring Society 4 Climate Change Communication, having broken the story internationally, could keep reporting.

Our **Friendships** continued to develop constructively with Concern for the Deprived Welfare Association (CoDWelA); National School for the Deaf and Dumb; Society 4 Climate Change Communication, Sierra Leone Green School Club (YALI), PACJA, Initiatives 4 Women and Girls Empowerment Interim Care Centre, Network 4 Children in Need, and Mahanaim House for children with disabilities and Eco Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly Sierra Leone (EBAFOSA-SL).





Supporting 140+ children in the struggling interim care sector with rice, oil, fish and toiletries

4. Our Outreach Programme

Our 2017 outreach programme focused on colleagues in the interim care centre sector struggling to cope with no government aid and sporadic support from the world food programme:

- a) Delivering practical support to a neglected interim care centre by providing six deliveries of rice, oil, toiletries and clothes to 140 children to Initiatives 4 Women and Girls Empowerment Interim Care Centre, Wellington; Network 4 Children in Need Orphanage, Allen Town and Mahanaim House for children living with disabilities thanks to our summer fundraiser and generosity of Hart voor Afika
- b) Supporting 4 Christmas parties in 2 days for 240 vulnerable children. Hope Interim Care hosted 105 vulnerable children from Moa Wharf and our local community, Hamilton and we shared some Christmas joy with 140+ children living in Initiatives 4 Women and Girls Empowerment Interim Care Centre, Network 4 Children in Need Orphanage and Mahanaim House, caring for children with disabilities.



Christmas joy for 240 children with 4 parties in 2 days, small presents, food, lollipops and lashings of fizzy pop!



Toddlers - 3 living with disabilities - in our interim care programme learning and playing every day



Kids in our interim care programme loving their education and thriving at Rising Academy

B Interim Care Centre & Resettlement

- I. Supporting the national alternative care policy our interim care centre and resettlement service:
 - a) successfully moved to new premises in February
 - b) provided quality interim care for 49 children reducing to 22 by year end including 4 children with disabilities
 - c) reunified 7 children with biological relatives
 - d) successfully fostered 4 children, with on-going support including direct payments, school fees and regular welfare checks
 - e) concluded 1 overseas adoption on medical grounds and 9 inherited
 - f) admitted 3 children including 2 mudslide orphans and re-admitted 3 struggling resettled children
 - g) maintained a good child to volunteer ratio of 3:1
 - h) commissioned and delivered training in child protection and care standards for 21 care-givers (reducing to 14 by year end).
 - i) undertook a review of mainly historic physical and sexual child abuse review endorsing previous actions taken and introducing new traffic light procedure and reporting mechanisms
 - j) secured periodic World Food Programme support (Jan-Dec 2017)

- k) Involved children in regular meal planning, setting rules and responsibilities, agreeing proportionate discipline and holding regular elections for head girls and boys and deputies.
 - l) Ensured the children had regular outings, monthly birthday parties and took part in world day celebrations
 - m) Secured regular assistance from World Hope International to help care for our children with health and disability issues.
2. Our **Education Programme:**
 - a) Secured fundraising to enrol 18 children in school (including 5 school age children not previously in school); providing fees, uniforms, badges, school bags, ledgers and text books. (Jan – Jul 17)
 - b) Enrolled 14 children in Rising Academy to ensure a quality education including 2 previously not in school (Sept 17 - onwards)
 - c) Tracked children's attainment with 75% making significant progress





Campaigning for child rights & protections – education, no child marriage, ending FGM, stop teen pregnancy



C Campaigns



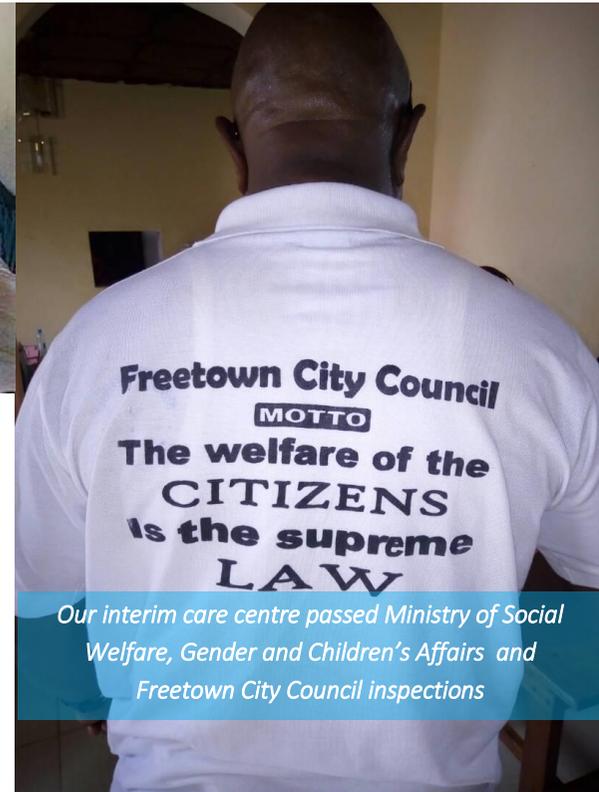
- I. In 2017 we continued our participation in girl and child rights based campaigns:
 - a) reaching a monthly average of 3k people on facebook and 16k people on twitter raising awareness for Ebola's generation during 2017 a 100% increase on the previous year
 - b) reaching 32,235 people on facebook and twitter with a 10% active engagement rate to end child and early marriage in Sierra Leone
 - c) attending the UK Parliament with colleagues from the Not in My Name Coalition aiming to value coming of age tradition but to end FGM (female genital mutilation or cutting) in Sierra Leone and reaching 39,836 people on social media



2. Our social media campaigns supporting environmental and climate action and Eco Based Adaptation Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA) an African Union and UNEP framework to sustainably transform and boost agricultural yields reached 46,437 people.



Our interim care team celebrate passing their probationary with new ID cards and holding a team meeting



Our interim care centre passed Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and Freetown City Council inspections

D Team Development for Goal Delivery

1. Team professionalism and goal delivery was improved in 2017 by:
 - a) delivering regular training building capacity in child protection, finance and administration.
 - b) holding weekly “team huddles” and monthly team meetings identifying challenges and developing solutions together
 - c) implementing a new Staff Development and Appraisal programme with 14 volunteers passing their probationary period
 - d) instituting volunteer id cards and standardized volunteer agreements, setting out terms and conditions including Freetown City Council regulations and service expectations
 - e) introducing traffic light child abuse monitoring system and refresher training in response to learning exercise from historic abuse report

2. Our operational effectiveness was improved by:
 - i. launching a new volunteer handbook, developed with the team, setting out policies and procedures, with key performance indicators, a suite of standard letters and forms to ensure accurate recording of medical history, accidents and reports of inappropriate behaviour or touching.
 - ii. introducing ICT: an office phone, 2 donated laptops and 2 donated tablets, enabling the development of digitized child files, management system and accounting

3. Six Hope Sakuma volunteers received agricultural training subsistence farmers trained by JIKA

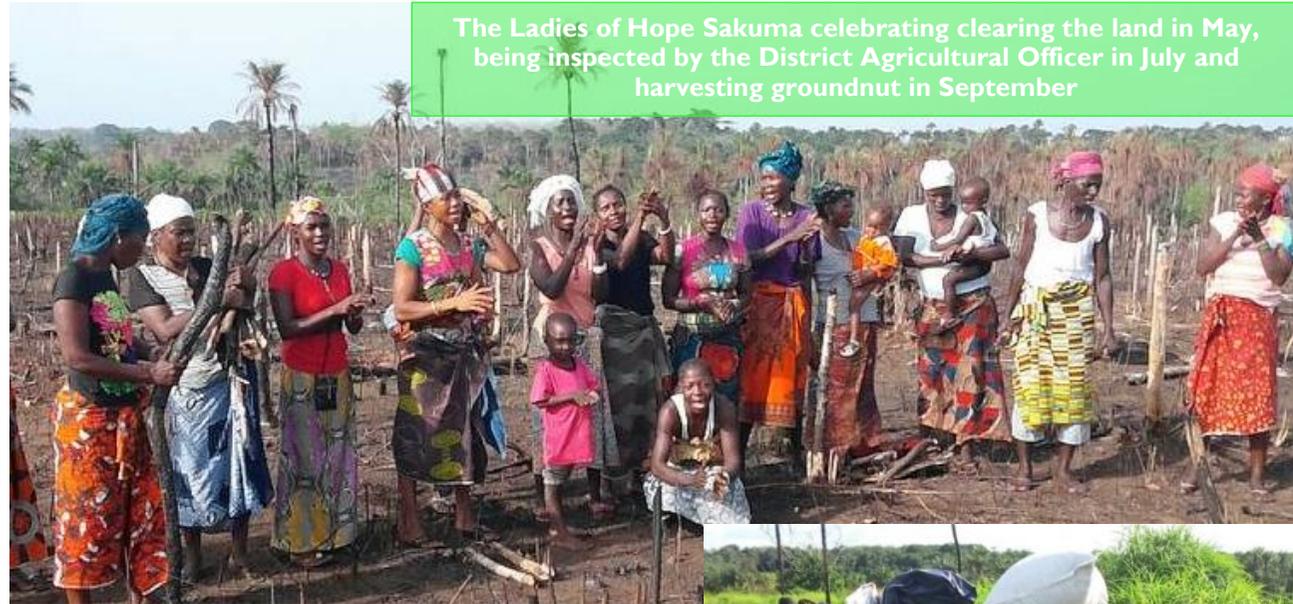
A person wearing a dark blue t-shirt, black shorts with a red stripe, and a colorful patterned headwrap is bent over in a muddy field, planting rice seedlings. The field is filled with rows of young rice plants. In the foreground, there are several bundles of rice seedlings lying on the ground. The background shows more of the field with rows of plants extending into the distance.

Hope Sakuma sustainable farming co-op,
Sanda Magbolonto Chieftdom

Our sustainable farming co-op volunteers planting hand-nursed wetland rice by hand to provide food security for seven rural communities and our kinship fostering and interim care programmes

E Empowering Rural Women for Food Security

1. To improve nutrition and our programmes food security we worked with 6 subsistence farmers in the Western District:
 - a) Supporting them with seed, natural fertilizer and 6 watering cans
 - b) appointing a retired seed multiplication officer to help save and process seed
 - c) Improving our children’s nutrition and reducing our programmes’ food costs by commissioning (partially successful) wholesale food arrangements, achieving 4 deliveries of pepper and squash. However, the potential for generating regular supplies and a joint income with this group remains unrealized due to our current lack of transport.
2. A planned expansion to 3 other districts was inhibited by a lack of finance, however we successfully expanded our programme from Manays to 6 neighbouring communities in Sanda Magbolonto Chiefdom and began preparatory work with 2 communities in the western rural district.
3. Working with Manays community, Sanda Magbolonto Chiefdom, Port Loko District with 30 acres of land contributed by two volunteers and 20 acres contributed by the community we:
 - a) Developed a self-governing co-op January-June starting with 59 volunteers participating, rising to 232 adult volunteers and 103 youth volunteers in seven communities by year end.
 - b) Focused on habitat and bio-diversity preservation, farming only previous farmed land using climate smart techniques of crop rotation and interplanting
 - c) Encouraged womens’ participation – a majority of volunteers are women who have an equal voice
 - d) Ensured gender balance at all levels



- e) Ensured minimum age and maximum hours for youths 14-18
- f) Hand planted 15 bushels of groundnut, 30 bushels of hand nursed wetland rice and cassava.
- g) Registered the co-op in July with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and food security, Port Loko District Agriculture Office, National Union of Farmers
- h) Received climate-smart agriculture training from JIKA for 6 subsistence farmers
- i) Provided drying facilities and repaired storage facilities with pallets to reduce post-harvest losses
- j) Were unable to access fertilizer in time due to its national disappearance leading to a lower range harvest and with the consequence that we were unable to generate any income for volunteers or our programmes.
- k) Agreed with volunteers suggestions to replant the majority of the harvest in 2018 with 35 bushels of groundnut (133% increase) 40 bushels of wetland rice and 40 bushels of boli land rice (166% increase).



Women have an equal voice at all levels in our sustainable farming co-op, Hope Sakuma



Celebrating a donated groundnut sheller and roaster (parcher) to add value to groundnut harvested by Hope Sakuma

F Income Generation for Financial Sustainability

- a) Plans to upcycle and have child-led families sell secondhand clothing and footwear from donated adult clothing and footwear failed to generate sufficient income to pay for future shipping costs; *target deleted cost of shipping donated clothing uneconomic*
- b) Plans to generate income by wholesaling food deferred to (Dec18) as whole 2017 harvest replanted
- c) A groundnut sheller and roaster commissioned from artisan metalworkers (thanks to VKD) and delivered Nov 17 to help the co-op add value to groundnut in 2018.

