

Annual Report 2024



Hope's Mission in Sierra Leone

Our mission is to help vulnerable children and families in marginalized communities in Sierra Leone, one of the most disadvantaged and least developed nations in the world.



Message from M'Mayila: Our Impact is Your Impact

As we enter our tenth year, amid preparations for our birthday party later in the year, I and all of my team want to thank you, our donors and supporters for your continuing support helping us deliver real hope and a brighter future for more than 600 vulnerable children - whether by donating clothing, sports kit, food, cash money or by sharing our social media posts to raise awareness for vulnerable children - we couldn't do what we do without you!

I'm happy to report that we supported more children than ever in 2024. Our second annual Summer School was oversubscribed and a great success; we helped more young mums-to-be and welcomed three new children to our new home. Highlights of the year included a trip to see the refurbished classrooms at Mabron; York young mums and holding two parties for local children.

And the foundations for our boundary wall, were laid in November after an intensive year of fundraising.

I hope that you will enjoy our annual report - a year in numbers - celebrating your impact bringing hope and a brighter future to vulnerable children in Sierra Leone.



Healthy Outcomes for Vulnerable Mums

Last year we successfully concluded the first year of a pilot initiative for vulnerable mothers in partnership with Dutch foundation, Heart for Humanity and local partners, the York health maternity clinic and Blessed Mokaba maternity hospital in Freetown.

65 mums-to-be benefitted with a distribution of free 'baby boxes' shipped from the Netherlands by Heart for Humanity, packed full with essential kit to assist in a safe birth, as well as blankets and clothing for new-borns.

After consultations with women in the programme and the local clinic, the developing project aims to improve clinic attendance and incentivize vital first-year vaccination rates at York health maternity clinic enabling us to build relationships with vulnerable mothers and develop interventions with partners, such as providing respite care to help keep families together.





Education is the Key

Education is a vital part of our mission and the key to lifting vulnerable children out of poverty and in 2024 with the support of Marantha Reformed Church, Werkendam, we delivered educational support for:

55 vulnerable local children - 60% girls - enjoyed free breakfast and free equipment benefiting from our second, month-long free summer school - an increase of xx - .

The summer school provided breakfast and taught younger kids struggling with their alphabet, numbers, shapes and colours and for students moving up to class 6, past national primary school exam papers to help prepare for this crucial challenge next year.

49 graduates received diplomas and school bags packed full of essential kit for the new academic year, presented by York Chief, Maraïam x.



21 vulnerable children in care each received scholarships providing school fees, uniforms and school bags and we were proud that our 'class of 2024' all passed their exams and graduated, winning promotion.



26 children, orphaned or living with disabilities in Moa Wharf slum community, each received education support including school bags and kit.

Campaigning for Child Rights and Climate Justice

Our campaigns for child rights to education and climate justice, as well as against child marriage and FGM continue on social media reaching more than **89,000** people with a **31%** engagement rate and more than **28** hours of video watched.





Spring Water Community Academy

But our biggest impact was with the teachers and students at Spring Water Community Academy, at the heart of Mabron community - who we first got to know during our Ebola outreach back in 2016 reuniting orphaned children with biological family - now teaching more than **360** pupils

The Springtime saw the construction of a new well providing clean fresh water to the pupils, as well as easing pressure on Mabron communities own well.

And the summer break saw a transformation as the school underwent a comprehensive refurbishment that extended to classrooms, staff quarters and even the headteachers' offices. entire school now boasts a fresh, modern look both inside and out, creating an inspiring and conducive environment for the children from the Mabron community to thrive academically.

And with donors' continued support the school has exciting plans for more classrooms to cater for more than 100 extra pupils since we first stepped in last year to put this vital community asset on a firm financial footing.





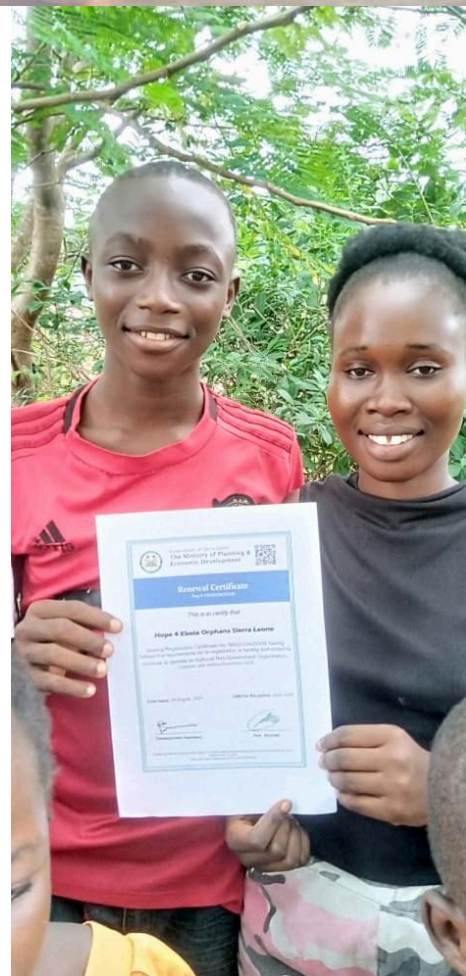
Caring for Vulnerable Children

Our core mission is to provide quality care for vulnerable children and we continue to do this in three ways - (1) through direct provision of an interim care service for Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs referrals focused on resettlement; (2) by supporting children in kinship foster care arrangements and (3) by supporting colleagues and children in the interim care sector.

Mama Mayila's Cradle

Mama Mayila's Cradle at Hope Interim Care Centre provides 24 permanent bedspaces for vulnerable children referred by our partners, the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs and 16 additional short-term emergency bedspaces are also available to the Ministry in case of natural disaster.

Each of the childrens' bedrooms benefits from its own bathroom, keeping genders separate and with off-grid solar power the children's new home enjoys clean, green free power.





With an acre of land for play areas, a football and sports pitch with new goals the children enjoy plenty of activities, as well as learning to swim on outings to the beach!!

The children's kitchen garden is already providing nutritious organically-grown cassava, krain-krain, potato leaf, garden eggs, pineapples and peanuts, meeting approximately 25% of the centres needs



Planted with more than 100 fruit trees, the kids enjoy tamarind, guava, plums and bananas, providing the vitamins they need all year round, while helping improve our food security and reduce costs.

And as 2024 drew to a close, ground was broken and construction began on our compound wall.



Homestay programme

Our innovative Homestay programme, running since 2019, develops and fosters strong family bonds, when it's safe to do so, as well as giving older children a bit of freedom to build their own identity and sense of belonging rooted in the communities they came from.

The team assesses each family and home to make sure the kids can be supported and are safe on their holidays and families agree to take responsibility and not to apply corporal punishment or have the children selling.

Last year **10** children benefited from our Homestay programme, sending in holiday snaps and spending a total of **90** days with families during school holidays helping kids foster strong family relationships rooted in their community.





Kinship Foster Care

Our kinship foster care programme in Moa Wharf community now supports **36** vulnerable children orphaned by Ebola or living with a disability, down from 95 the height of the Ebola pandemic, with a resident co-ordinator to support the children and on-hand to step in to tackle any issues. In 2024 we delivered:

850 kilos of rice, palm oil, fish and small direct cash payments for children living in kinship foster care arrangements in one of the most disadvantaged communities in Sierra Leone.



Support for Interim Care

With no governmental or grant support available to orphanages in Sierra Leone, we continue to provide vital food and cash assistance to colleagues in the interim car sector, supporting four orphanages:

146 children living in four interim care centres in the Western urban and rural districts benefited from **575** kilos of rice, **180** litres of palm oil, food and personal care items, as well as **9,000** NLe in direct cash payments.



Network for Children in Need cares for 54 children, under the leadership of Jim Gbappy, son of the late and esteemed Mrs Kamara.





Initiatives for Women and Girls Empowerment, led by Aunty Margaret, cares for **18** children and moved premises during the year back to their old home.





Mahanaim House is the only dedicated facility in the Western Area and cares for **41** children living with a wide spectrum of disabilities and special needs in a new build centre completed by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs last year.





The Jesus Disciples Care Centre in Rokel was struggling but following a call-out at the District's co-ordination committee we were able to provide some support to tide the **12** children over into the new year.





Hope Sakuma Farm

In 2024, the Foundations' contribution to Hope Sakuma was able to be reduced by more than a third to €2,046 and a new farm plan for 2025-26 aims to further improve the farms' financial sustainability by increasing land productivity focusing on increasing rice production and the cassava value chain.

Rice Value Chain

The farms' rice paddies produced two tons of rice from twelve paddies planted July to October with a mix of three and four month nerica rice, especially bred in Sierra Leone for inland valley swamps and fertilized naturally with Azolla, ducks and tilapia.



The new plan aims to increase land farmed from rice to 30 acres and harvest 10 tons of rice - enough to meet all of Hopes' requirements for its interim care and foster care programmes..



Cassava Value Chain

The Hope Sakuma team collect more cassava sticks to plant for harvesting in two years time

In 2024 Hope Sakuma supplied 17 x 75 kilo of rice, 20 x 20 litres of palm oil to Mama Mayila's Cradle.

Financial Report Summary

H4EO ended 2024 with an improved asset base, a resilient and diversified donor base and increasing in-country and in-kind donations, which helped significantly offset the increase in the underlying costs of our programmes due to continuing local inflationary pressures.

Revenue

Despite the worldwide squeeze on incomes, revenue from in-country and international donors increased by 12% in 2024 to €46,860.

Additional resources were donated through the year to fund improved outcomes for vulnerable mothers and babies in partnership with York Health Maternity Clinic and Dutch Foundation, Heart for Africa.

H4EO NL 2024 Income & Expenditure Summary

Balance 01-01-24	3,649.41
Income	46,860.59
Expenditure	49,321.89
Balance 31-12-24	1,188.11

Income	Euro
Donations - The Netherlands	39,200.00
Donations - Rest of the World	7,660.59
	46,860.59

Expenditure	Euro
Donations to Sierra Leone	46,979.19
EU Expenditure	2,342.70
	49,321.89



In-kind donations totalled an amazing xxxx, including xx kilo of rice and breakfast for the kids for the whole year thanks to uncle Godfrey!

Assets

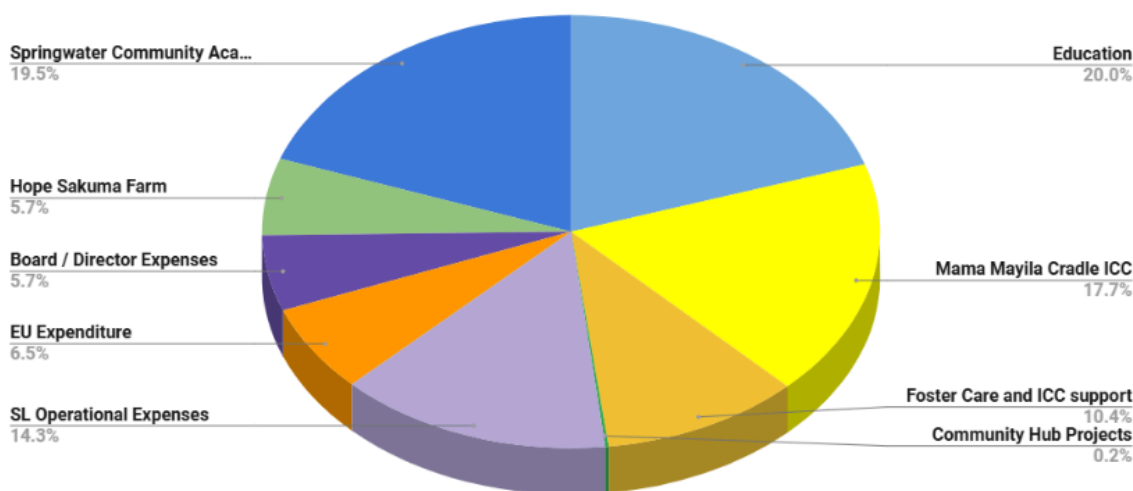
Expenditure

The underlying cost of Hope's programmes, excluding capital investment in the construction of the boundary wall, increased by 18% - significantly below the national inflation rate of 28.5% - as we continued to bear down on indirect costs. EU expenditure more than halved to €2,342 reflecting the reduced shipping of items for the build of the new interim care centre.

The increase in programme costs was met from underspend in some areas of the general fund and as lease and electricity savings came on stream, as well as through additional donations received through the year.

The lack of a minibus meant that transportation to the children's schools is now a significant cost accounting for 7% of the total education budget.

Expenditure excluding capital investment



Although inflation fell from last years' peak of 47%, the negative impacts of a near 30% inflation rate in Sierra Leone was partially off-set by food grown in the centre's kitchen garden and the significant increase of in-country donations of rice, foodstuffs and personal care items, helping meet nearly 30% of the centres needs.

MMC Expenditure Le PCM		€ Monthly cost	Le cost per child	€ cost per child
Orphanage	16,000	673.68	941	39.63
School Transport	6,000	252.63	353	14.86
School Liunch	3,800	170.02	224	9.41
		€1,096.34	1517.65	€63.90
			ex/r	23.75

These factors contribute to a reduction in per child costs which are currently €40 per child pcm, excluding education costs and €64 pcm including education costs.