

Winter 2021



Schools and Health Foundation

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Mixed Times for Rothana Community

Rothana in Sierra Leone is an enlightened community. The people recognised the value of education and built its own school. It was wasn't of the highest standard but it gave the children the opportunity they deserved. SHF funded a fine new school .

In another major step forward the community opened a pre-school in the SHF building.

Unfortunately, a recent storm seriously damaged the old building. The rehabilitation of this building will be a major project next year.



A Good Year. Hopefully We Can Do More

Despite Covid we managed to fund many projects this year. Our funds come from two sources: major supporters like **Forsa** trade union and the students, parents and teachers of **Scoil Mhuire Cork**. To continue our work we need your support.

Please donate today. An on-going standing order would give us great encouragement.

On 15th December the SMC students led by teacher Ann Hyland are "Walking for Water".

School Gardens

When we introduced school gardens to educate children in Sierra Leone in agricultural practices we didn't foresee that there would be other benefits. Each of these three chosen schools cultivated rice in about 2 acres of swamp land. Part of the produce from these rice fields will be used as food for the students when they move in their vegetable gardening work and the remainder will be kept for seeds for the next planting season.



Learning and food

More Progress in Teacher Training

Our second and final year students, totalling 24 , will start their first semester in December. We hope to have two new students from Robonka Primary School to join the team if all goes well. They will start their first year of studies if approved.

This scheme will make a big difference to eight communities in Sierra Leone when 26 newly qualified teachers work in their schools with salaries paid by the government.

Manungu Teacher Houses Will Be Completed by Year End



Builders are relaxing

Because of the poor roads and the heavy rains the completion of the houses for teachers in Manungu, Sierra Leone was delayed. The project will now be completed by the end of December.

The SHF delegation will attend the opening in February

SHF sponsored credit unions without walls continue to grow in Sierra Leone

The three communities now have a total worth of over €4000 in their schemes. This is a significant sum in a country where the average annual income is little over €1000.

Next year local small projects will be funded.

A small step towards financial independence

Forsa Makes Another Large Donation

Forsa trade union is our most generous supporter. They have now agreed to fund a new block in Geisha School in Malawi where SHF has already built another block.

Work will commence in January and it is planned to have the official opening in April. This will be another step forward for this progressive community which now has over 1000 pupils. Starting with buildings made from scrap wood and zinc the complex has gradually grown into a school of fine buildings. Plans are afoot to name it the SHF Geisha Community School.



Debundscha Cameroon School Block

SHF has co-funded a school block with US Foundation, Global Pearls in Debundscha village in Cameroon. Work has progressed well and the block will be completed early in the New Year.

Hopefully this is the beginning of an on-going partnership with our US friends which will lead to further successful projects in Cameroon.

We need some help with our Website.

SHF has no salaried employees and those involved are too ancient to be technically advanced. There have been suggestions that our Website could do with a re-vamp. Anybody who can provide free support is welcome to contact us. Thanks in advance.

Largest Ever SHF Delegation to Visit Sierra Leone



Left to right: Erin Smith, Amy Nangle, Eve Roche, Carmel O'Donoghue, Ali McCarthy, Olivia Buckley, Aoibhinn Fitzgerald, Abbie O'Sullivan

These eight students from Scoil Mhuire Cork will travel to Sierra Leon on 19-26 February next. They will be accompanied by CEO John Mitchell and Board members Bernice O'Brien, Marian Hackett and Kevin Gaughran.

Plans for 2022

- ◆ Our existing scholarship and teacher training programmes will continue and be hopefully expanded
- ◆ We will complete our school block in Cameroon and begin one in Malawi
- ◆ If funds allow we will build more school blocks in Cameroon
- ◆ We hope to renovate the school in Robonka and the old block in Rothana
- ◆ We hope to complete the maintenance of Katick school

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