

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
My best wishes to you all for the Festive Season

13 years of AlansAfrica projects

I first went to Sierra Leone in November 2005 but it was in **January 2007** that I started to work directly with my first school community. I am now supporting **6** schools, a community football club, running my Sierra LeOANS micro credit scheme, the Sunny Girl Project (supporting 300+ girls with sanitary pads) and 3 young individuals.

I have funded the building & equipping of 29 classroom (20 with water harvesting systems), 2 libraries & a laboratory (all with water harvesting) 7 toilet blocks (5 with water harvesting/ handwash stations), mains electricity in 9 rooms, installed a water well, refurbished another & funded a gravity fed water system supplying running water and flushing toilets. In addition we have undertaken many refurbishment projects at the schools. Also thousands of pounds worth of school furniture, equipment & stationery, school uniform, sports kits, knitted garments, Rotary water rollers, medical supplies and other items have been shipped courtesy of Westminster Group PLC.

With a number of financial pledges in hand I will pass **£250,000** raised by January 2020 and **EVERY £** goes directly to the projects. What has been achieved in Sierra Leone has only been possible due to the **fantastic** support I receive from literally hundreds of individuals and organisations and to each and every one I extend my sincere personal thanks and huge thanks from **ALL** the beneficiaries of that wonderful support.

2020 in Sierra Leone

I have just started to support the expansion of the nursery school facilities at the Calvary Primary School and also plan to build a 3 cubicle toilet block at Banbury International Community School for the Junior Secondary pupils in the New Year.

St Mary the Virgin,

Broughton & North Newington

Since 2009 the Parochial Church Council have supported my work by making a donation as a result of the collections over the Christmas period and they are continuing this again this Christmas.

Happy Christmas Momoh



I have been helping Momoh for several years and recently had the photo above, from Pastor Mark, showing the appalling condition of his current wheelchair. I told him to get me a price for a replacement and with support from Paul (who has supported Momoh before) & a group of his friends Momoh has just received an early Christmas present.



MANY thanks to Paul & his friends who have
“Made A Real Difference” for Momoh.

AlansAfrica is supported by:



Kunduma School toilets

Kunduma village now has a small toilet block with water harvesting and a handwash station. Prior to this over 120 children at the school had NO toilets whatsoever. This is a major plus for the school and village community as these are the first toilets in the entire village so we have created a community facility for all to use.



A basic toilet BUT better than the bushes !!



A letter of thanks from the Headteacher:

“The children, staff and village people of Kunduma village want to thank and appreciate you for providing us with a school toilet block. This facility has saved both the children and the staff from using the Bush as a toilet, as previously, the children were using the bushes as their toilet, which was not ideal for them”.

This hardly seems possible in the 21st century, but sadly this is the reality for many communities in Sierra Leone. I may not be able to change the world, BUT I can change the lives of some people and while I can I will continue to do so, with your support.



Last Sunday Sam, Karl & Sandra held another “Pay What You Want” Book Sale. It’s a busy time of year for everyone but especially for these guys as they have recently re-located the shop to Winchcombe and are still working to complete the premises and transfer literally thousands of books. The book sale raised **£150** taking the total raised by them this year to **£550**. I always appreciate their support but given their current situation I **REALLY, REALLY** appreciate it.

Winter fuel allowance

A regular donor has just sent me her winter fuel allowance, and asked for it to be allocated to the Sunny Girl project. With the strong exchange rate it will buy sanitary pads for **250** girls this month. MANY thanks “Auntie” hope you don’t feel cold!

AlansAfrica Sierra LeOANS

Mary & Tewah have just repaid their sixth monthly instalment and in the New Year I will be reviewing the plan to try and help them expand their individual businesses with Fayah’s help.

Banbury Irish FC – donate kits



I recently had a donation of several boys/youth kits from the Club and have just managed to get one sent out with a member of Westminster staff. Pastor Mark allocated it to a local school/youth group who were really pleased with their new kit. A second hand kit is greatly appreciated by communities in Sierra Leone. MANY thanks to Mick & the Club for their support.

Christmas gifts

I have transferred some money today to provide a sack of rice and food for Momoh and his carers and to buy the 3 of them a Christmas present each, which my good friend Pastor Mark will arrange.

I have also allocated some money to Abu, the manager of Mahera Wharf Oxford United, so that he can buy rice and food for the 8 orphan boys who play for the team. Some additional money has also been allocated to make some further improvements to the house that they live in.

Hot off the press –some REALLY good news

It has taken me a couple of days to put this Newsletter together (yes I know, I need to type faster) but during the last few days I’ve had £250 in donations, plus confirmed pledges of £1,000 which has taken me past the **£250,000** raised for AlansAfrica projects since January 2007.

With **EVERY** £ going direct to the projects we are **“Making A Real Difference”** in Sierra Leone.

I had literally just completed this Newsletter when I received an e-mail and some photos from Pastor Mark and, after finishing crying, I felt that I really ought to share the information with you. His e-mail to me was entitled “**Surprise & Joy**”. Pastor Mark received the money, £39, I sent him yesterday afternoon and this morning, after doing some shopping, he visited Momoh, his carer and family to pass on the various food items to them. A 50 kilo sack of rice (£20), a gallon of cooking oil, 1.5 litres of palm oil, mayonnaise and Maggie which is are tasty (salty) cubes with nice flavour to make a sauce very sweet. There was £10.50 left over for them to buy daily perishable foodstuff. This food will be enough to last them a month.



Pastor Mark’s e-mail - “My visit to Momoh & his family was an amazing moment. Neighbours came quickly to celebrate with the family. They had nothing to eat this morning, and were never sure where the day’s meal would come from. Thank you so much for this humanitarian intervention”. I had also given Pastor Mark some more money £29 to buy Momoh & the 2 ladies a Christmas gift each. He says – “I brought a tailor and he has taken measurements to prepare the clothes according to their individual choices. I will send pictures to you when the clothes are completed”.

I knew the family who care for Momoh were very poor but I did not realise just how impoverished they were and I feel really guilty about my lack of research into their situation. Now I am aware of this I will be trying to provide them with a monthly contribution towards their basic needs and Pastor Mark will continue to act as a conduit between me, the family and Momoh.

This is just another example of the situation that many families find themselves in and it makes me even more committed and determined to continue supporting those that I can. At a time of year when we in the West spend a lot of money celebrating Christmas, the harsh reality of the plight of this family has really hit home to me. I know that life is really hard for many families in Sierra Leone but this family are trying to support Momoh, who is an orphan, despite their dire personal situation and I am determined to support them through this.

A look back at projects during 2019

The past year has been relatively busy including supporting 2 new schools as well as ongoing support for existing schools, groups & individuals:

Liverpool Community School

The purchase of 1,400 textbooks for the 2 new libraries, the purchasing of all the basic laboratory equipment, the purchase of additional seating for the Junior library, the purchase of an additional 75 books for the Junior library, obtaining Government recognition for the school

Banbury International Community School

The building and equipping of 2 new classrooms, starting Junior Secondary classes and the introduction of the Sunny Girl project

Calvary Primary School

Funding a gravity fed water system providing running water and flushing toilets

Esthers School

The building of a 3 cubicle toilet block complete with water harvesting system & handwash station

Kunduma Community School

Refurbishment of the 3 classrooms and provision of classroom furniture, the building of a 3 cubicle toilet block complete with water harvesting system and handwash station

Mahera Wharf Community football club

Refurbishment of the hostel, including a new roof, where 8 of the boys live, provision of mattresses, supplying food, living expenses and paying school fees for a number of the orphaned boys

Sierra LeOANS – micro credit scheme

Setting up the scheme to help 4 ladies run small businesses to generate funds for their families.

In addition I have sent several consignments of football kit, sports kit and school uniform items as well as knitted baby clothes and blankets.

2020 promises to be another busy year for me in Sierra Leone starting with the construction of a toilet block for the Junior Secondary pupils at Banbury International Community School, another step forward for the school which will

“Make A Real Difference”