



“making a real difference” in

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Sierra Leone trip

I'm just back from Freetown after a very busy, but rewarding trip, great to catch up on all my projects.

Banbury International Community School



Wednesday 16th – we start to dig the foundation trenches, I only managed 1 shovel due to the heat!!



Sat 20th – trenches dug & 100's of blocks made!!

Monday 21st – foundations being laid



Tuesday 22nd – really good progress being made



Taken yesterday - end of the day **EIGHT**. They are up to “wall height” and are forming the concrete lintels and the pillars for the veranda. REMEMBER that everything is done manually including making ALL the concrete blocks. The builder & his “**magnificent 7**” hope to finish everything, including furniture, pre-Christmas. Thanks to everyone who has donated both on and off line the total stands at **£1,420**

If **YOU** would like to donate, please visit:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alans-africa
EVERY £ donated goes directly to the project and EVERY £ will “Make A Real Difference”

Momoh

On Monday I visited Momoh at his new home. This was my first visit to the house, and to say I was excited would be a vast understatement. We stopped on the way to by the family a sack of rice.



The house was just brilliant - it has really improved the quality of life for Momoh & "Auntie" his carer and I also gave them their monthly food allowance. At present there is a problem with mains electricity in Lungi - we are looking at buying an "all in one" solar panelled system so they have a regular supply. When our vehicle drew up and he spotted us he let out a scream of excitement and his face just lit up. He is wheelchair bound and suffers from "locked in" syndrome so cannot talk, but he understands all that is said, even by me with my London accent. His smile and his laughter are infectious and despite his severe disabilities he is always happy. There were lots of community members present, many of whom help "Auntie" with Momoh's care and we had a lot of banter and lots of laughter. Momoh is just an absolute joy to spend time with.

While there I met Howa, who is 7 months pregnant. She was not feeling well and Pastor Mark rang one of his congregation, a maternity sister, at the nearby Government hospital. Howa attended later that day & we had a call to say she had been admitted with severe anaemia and needed a blood transfusion. Pastor Mark told me that she was unable to afford the hospital costs so I agreed to cover all the costs.

The following day we visited her at the hospital and she was looking so much brighter. They were going to give her another unit of blood, monitor her and providing all was well discharge her yesterday.



I paid the hospital costs, just £47, and Linda the maternity sister said that if she hadn't attended hospital, which she wouldn't have without the financial assistance, there was a high risk that she could have lost the baby, and possibly even her life. Howa was so grateful for the intervention by Pastor Mark and me for funding her treatment. They've given her a maternity plan for her to visit regularly. There were a number of nurses around and they all thanked us for our support. One nurse said to Howa that if she has a boy she should name him Alan - much laughter and another said "and if it's a girl?" to which I replied Alana is a good name - a lot more laughing but a nervous look from Howa.

Kankalay School official opening

Last Thursday was the formal ceremony to open the newly built 4 classrooms and toilet block. There were hundreds of community members present and I was appointed as an Honorary Paramount Chief. Solomon, translating my guest speaker's speech.

