



BINTUMANI INTERIM REPORT



Introduction

Over the past 18 months, Street Child has been working with over 13,000 Ebola orphans to provide emergency food support, as well as education and livelihoods support where funds are available, to support children back to school after the Ebola crisis and school closure. In the last 3 months alone, Street Child has given over 3000 education grants and 5000 business grants to primary age children, funded by the UK government.

However funding for secondary age children has been extremely scarce. In January 2015, Bintumani D SL made a generous donation of 15,000 euros to support Ebola orphans of secondary school age.

Programme activities

Street Child's goal is to work with the most vulnerable categories of out of school children, to support them back into school. The Ebola crisis left many children orphaned, without a caregiver to provide for their care and schooling. In addition, between September 2014 and April 2015, school in Sierra Leone was closed entirely. This made the challenge of getting children into school even more difficult.

We provide the following package of support to meet that challenge:

Family mediation: Ebola orphans receive a package of support that includes family placements, family mediation, and psycho-social counselling to ensure their home situation is safe and secure.

Education support: They are then supported to return school with an education support package containing a school bag, two sets of uniform, school shoes and notebooks. These are the basic material needs that incentivises a child and their caregiver to go back to school.

Livelihood support: In order to ensure that the child's caregiver has the means to keep them in school, Street Child conducts an assessment on the source of income. For the majority of Ebola orphans, the family does not have the money to send them to school. In this case, the family business team support the caregiver to start or develop a family business with a package of grants, training and mentoring.

To date, with the help of Bintumani D-SL, we have been able to provide 443 secondary age Ebola orphans with education support.

Bintumani Education Support

A total of 443 children were supported across 5 towns with an education support package: Kabala (East), Magburaka, Makeni, Lunsar (North) and Mile 91 (South) in February 2016.

STATION	# Children	Unit cost	Total (Le)
Kabala	42	130,000	5,460,000
Lunsar	234	130,000	30,420,000
Mile 91	53	130,000	6,890,000
Magburaka	60	130,000	7,820,000
Makeni	54	130,000	7,020,000
Total	443		57,590,000

NOTE: Cost figures in Leones. Exchange rate 5880 = 1 euro

Bintumani Family Business Support

The following family business support is planned in June 2016, targeted at families who have already received a grant for their primary age child/ children, but not for their secondary age child /children.

Ebola-affected families have received significant, much-needed support in the period January – April 2016. They have received family business grants for primary age children, and four months of food support from the World Food Programme.

It is Street Child’s intention to spread this final tranche of support for secondary age children to June 2016, to boost the business capital before the summer, allowing it time to grow and make profit in time for the enrolment in September 2016.

Business grants have been allocated as follows:

STATION	# Sec School children for FBS	Unit Cost For FBS	Total FBS	Funder total
Kabala	30	100,000	3,000,000	8,460,000
Lunsar	160	100,000	16,000,000	46,420,000
Mile 91	35	100,000	3,500,000	10,390,000
Magburaka	45	100,000	4,500,000	12,300,000
Makeni	36	100,000	3,600,000	10,620
TOTAL	360		30,600,000	88,190,000

NOTE: Cost figures in Leones. Exchange rate 5880 = 1 euro

Case studies of Bintumani beneficiaries

Kadiatu, Makeni, 17 years old

“Before I got pregnant my dad was helping to fund my education. He died shortly before I got pregnant and all the responsibilities was left to my mother. She too died of Ebola during the outbreak.

After my parents died, I had nobody to turn to for help, so I got into a relationship with a young man who rides bikes as transport to earn a living. He supported me financially for a while but while I was waiting for schools to re-open, I got pregnant. The man who was due to help me return back to school was responsible for the pregnancy.

When school re-opened I started going back to school but as the pregnancy grew bigger, I was unable to fit into my school uniform. Eventually I dropped out of school and had a baby boy.

I was out of school for a year and then Street Child came and



offered me the opportunity to return back to school. Street Child provided me with school uniform, school shoes, bag, pens and pencils. They also supported my six siblings back to school.”

Mariatu, Lunsar, 15 years old

“About two years ago I was living with my mother and younger sister shortly after my dad died. My dad was funding my education when he was alive but after his death my mother struggled to keep up even though it wasn’t easy for us.

I met a man at the time who was much older than me. He approached me and said he wanted to help fund my education and when my education is complete we would marry. I accepted the offer because my mother was struggling financially. I was 13 at the time.

I went home at told my mother about this man and what he had said. Mother said if the man meant what he said then its good news as she was struggling financially to keep me and my sister in school.



He started off well by buying school materials for me. At this time I was in class 5.

Few months later mother had travelled to a family gathering and it was just me and few other children at the house. He came over that night and said we should have sex, I refused but then he forced me and raped me. He was a big man so I couldn’t push him off.

He stayed for the night and in the morning he told me not to tell anybody especially my mother. He even threaten me that I do, He would harm me through his secret society. I got scared and decided not to tell anyone.

Few months later the lady that was going to initiate me in the women’s society (FGM) told my mother that I was pregnant and my initiation would have to be cancelled. I explained to my mother what had

happened and that the man who said he wanted to help fund my education raped me.

I dropped out of school when my belly got bigger and I went on to have a baby girl. Last year Street Child came to our house and said they heard of my story and would help me to return back to school. They paid for my school fees and bought my uniform as well as providing me with books, pens, pencils and school bag. Now I am back at school and I am now in JSS2”

Future funding opportunities

A particularly vulnerable category of children in the aftermath of Ebola are those who became **teenage mothers**. Street Child has recently completed a major piece of research, the [Girls Consultation Report](#), which found that teenage pregnancy is one of the biggest barriers to adolescent girls' education.

During the crisis, many girls were forced to take 'boyfriends' to support them financially in exchange for sex, sometimes coerced by their families. This led to **an increase in teenage pregnancy**. Yet after the Ebola outbreak, girls who were visibly pregnant were banned from the classroom or from taking exams. Once girls have dropped out of school to have their baby, it is very difficult for them to return to school.



In September, Street Child will launch a programme funded by DfID to support 4000 girls into school, and we have included 400 teenage mothers specifically in this support. However, UNICEF estimates that many thousands of girls have dropped out of school in Sierra Leone due to teenage pregnancy, and therefore Street Child is actively seeking further funds for teenage mothers in Sierra Leone.

It costs c €135 to support a teenage mother to sustainably go back to school. Each girl and their nominated caregiver will receive Street Child's package of education and livelihood support. The education support costs c. €25, and is accompanied by counseling and mediation with the family to support the girl back in school. The livelihood support costs c. €75 for a base business grant of Le 400,000, together with the training and workshop support they need to help grow their business. The girl's caregiver will also receive a 'care package' of food, worth c €35, to incentivise them to look after the baby whilst the teenage mother is in school.

Further information

You can also follow Street Child's updates on: www.street-child.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/streetchildofsierraleone

Twitter: www.twitter.com/scos/

Street Child of Sierra Leone would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Bintumani D-SL for their partnership and support!