

# ACTION SWISS SIERRA LEONE



## Children's Educational Sponsoring

In 2012, we funded the education of 225 children in Freetown and Makeni. 172 of them are sponsored by donors in Switzerland, USA, Germany, Spain and France. This year, 7 children completed their education successfully with the support of their sponsors. A Swiss donor has generously funded the education of all 31 children in the Polio village. Thanks to the support of all our donors, our program can continue to exist and these children can envision a better future.

The number of children hoping to go to school is constantly increasing. Our aim is to offer this opportunity to as many as possible. Unfortunately, we are limited by how many sponsors we have: their number still being insufficient, as the figures show.

- 225 children in the programme
- 172 children sponsored



## Newsletter 2012

Dear Friends of Action Swiss Sierra Leone,

2012 has again been a very active year for SSLDF and Action Swiss Sierra Leone. We are very excited about the improvements to the hospital in Magbenteh, as you can see below! Various key positions at the hospital and for SSLDF have been filled, making communications and information exchange easier.

On behalf of the committee of Action Swiss Sierra Leone, we wish you a joyful holiday season.

### *News from Sierra Leone*

This year has seen the arrival of Andrew Barrett as the new General Manager, who replaced Marcell Sutherland. Viviana Granobles joined MCH as Chief Financial Controller. Ibrahim Bangura is the new Human Resources Officer and Claudia Barrett, the new Head of Pharmacy.

Dr. Marjolein Hussien, our new surgeon, Deborah Ead, the new Head Midwife and Aoife Nicholson, the new Laboratory Scientist all come to us from Volunteer Services Overseas.

Xenia, a qualified nurse from Germany, joined the team at the hospital in Lungi as a volunteer for one year. In her role as Head Nurse, she managed to improve the working conditions and efficiency of the team already in place. She also spent 2 weeks at MCH to see how they work.

Dr. Abel Alvarez was unfortunately unable to come back to MCH after his illness at the end of 2011. We would like to thank him for his dedication and wish him the best for the future.

In April of this year, MCH was privileged to receive Dr. Andreas Zeugner, an orthopedic surgeon from Germany. He performed numerous surgeries with the assistance of Dr. ABD and Dr. Marjolein. Thanks to Dr. Andreas for the knowledge he shared, his commitment and his dedication to the work at MCH.

Two ultrasound scanning machines arrived at MCH in late spring 2012. At the time of their arrival, MCH is the only one medical institution able to provide ultrasound scanning facilities in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone.

Having technical problems with the 2 x-ray machines of MCH and Lungi for some time, we have now been able to repair them. Without these machines that make diagnosis easier, the work of MCH and Lungi was considerably slower and patients sometimes sent to other hospitals.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Nyon-La Côte for researching the best possible options for MCH and funding these 2 machines as well as their shipment in addition to the repairs of the x-ray machines.





#### Our Contact details

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<http://www.sslidf.com/>

#### Bank details for donations:

**Bank:** UBS SA, CH - 1260 Nyon  
**BIC:** UBSWCHZH80A  
**Account beneficiary:**  
Action Swiss Sierra Leone,  
CH-1196 Gland  
**IBAN:**  
CH30 0022 8228 5536 2701 J



Water supply has been an acute problem at MCH, especially during the dry season. Thanks to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for funding the improvement of the water supply at MCH. Started just before the rainy season the project finished in October 2012.

The project has now improved the water supply for the Magbenteh Community Hospital by providing a deeper well, tanks for storage and distribution of clear water, piping to the various buildings, etc.

Tom, a German Medical student, spent his internship at MCH. Here is what he had to say at the end of it. "It has been an extraordinary experience for me working together with everyone at MCH. This hospital is unique and it makes me feel very happy to see how many lives are changed, improved and even saved every day."

Aoife, Monika and Sinead, fourth year medical students at UCD in Dublin, had this to share after their internship at MCH: "Thank you for showing us a completely different way of life. Every day here brought new experiences, showing us things we only read about at home in medical books."

Alma College in Michigan, USA, again sent students to help at MCH this summer. Claire, Helen, Karalyn, Kasie, Caroline, Emily, Isaac and Matt spent several weeks there. Here are their thoughts from their visits: "We will never forget this place or the people. We have been blessed with amazing mentors and some of the best of friends." "This place and the people here are doing extraordinary things. We will never forget you."

MCH experienced a rapid increase in patient numbers over the years for several reasons. Our hospital, despite not being a government institution, decided to follow the decree of the government that all pregnant and lactating women and all children under the age of five receive free health care. Another cause of the increase in patients is both the quality of services offered and our reputation.

In the last 2 years alone, nearly 40'000 patients were treated in the current outpatient block. Originally, the hospital was to perform a few operations per week and provide basic health care to those in need. It became a necessity to construct a new OPD block.

Thanks to the Addax-Oryx Foundation in Geneva, work has already started on the new building. It will include several examination rooms, an emergency room, a laboratory, an X-ray room, a pharmacy and a patient screening area. Upon completion, the new OPD will allow us to better accommodate the high influx of patients.



### *We still need your help*

We would like to thank all those who helped us throughout the year. Many things have been achieved with your donations.

We are still actively in need of volunteers as doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, secretaries and administrators. We are specifically looking for a surgeon specialised in Tropical Medicine for our team at MCH to start immediately. Please contact us using the information on your left.

We also started a new project to help manage the costs of the hospital. We would like to invite you to sponsor our medical staff's salary over the coming year, or longer, more information is found in the flyer about this project.



*Season's Greetings to you all!*