



The Unforgotten

100% of your donation
goes directly towards
program services

*Providing clean food and water, shelter, schooling and a
future for mothers and children living in extreme poverty.*

NOTES FROM THE UNFORGOTTEN: FEBRUARY 2014

Our Board members have logged in quite a few miles lately, and we wanted to report to you on the progress we've seen in the field. We think you'll be pleased at the impact your contribution has made.

Sierra Leone:



Our Sierra Leone Team (from left to right: Madina, Sheku, Amina) were overwhelmed by the numbers of mothers and girls that were trying to get into our programs at the Kissy and King

Tom dumpsites in Freetown (second pic) during their visit. We are presently going through an interview and screening process, trying to identify the most vulnerable. We will be starting our program with 20 girls and their mothers in the programs.



Before Madina and Amina left, we started construction of two small schoolrooms in the Kissy and King Tom bomes



(trash dumps are referred to as bomes in Sierra Leone). The communities are very energized, and helped with the construction.



We also brought on board two certified school teachers: Alimatu Jusu for the King Tom site (sitting at the desk, on the left) and Francis Sesay (right) for the Kissy site. We hired a local carpenter (who also lives in the dumpsite) to build the chairs and desks, and will be hiring two certified cooks to prepare meals for the children and their mothers. Our goal is to prepare the girls to enter primary school in the fall of

2014 – we will be using these facilities to tutor the children (it will be a bridge program).

This summer a graduate student from Cornell will also be joining the field team. Sheku is our full-time in-country Projects Manager – thank you Sheku for organizing such a marvelous effort!

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A special thanks to Vipul Shah – we'll be directing his generous grant to scaling up our Sierra Leone program!

India:



We had the pleasure of hosting a volunteer French filmmaking team that is helping us make a documentary of

our work. We are indebted to Alain and Michelle, and Planete Urgence, for training our young staff how to make short films. The French team is field savvy and tireless, and we hope to work with them again in Sierra Leone this summer. Thanks to their efforts, and funding from Planete Urgence, we hope to have a short film to share with you shortly!



The women in our Self Help Groups (SHGs) are continuing with their tailoring coursework. These women are ready for their first order, and we'd like them to make polo shirts for The Unforgotten. If you'd like one, please let us know. The cost would be \$20, with all proceeds going to the women in the

SHG. The look would be similar to the shirts that Madina, Sheku and Amina are sporting in the first pic.



Our sponsored girls are all doing well in school. We met with the principal of The Raosaheb Patwardhan School—a private school where several of

our girls are attending. The school fees there are very reasonable in cost (\$60 per year), and the school does an excellent job in providing education for needy children. After our meeting and field visits, we are considering sending all of our sponsored girls to this school. Pictured above: Principal, Priya, Shilpa.

And again, a special thank you to Dining for Women! We are scaling up our India programs in preparation for their generous grant.



Also pictured below are some of the school supplies that Helen Belletti and Sushma Ashutosh donated to us that made the trip. In the picture is Mrunalini – our projects manager in Pune, India. And a special thanks to the Khorana family for funding our field office.



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Our India team (from Left to right): Michelle, Alain, Maitreyi, Shilpa, Mrunalini, Priya, Amit).

Second pic: Umesh, Amit, Mrunalini, Vandana, Ashwini, Rani, Will.



Vandana will have lead of our India Program, and is bringing the resources of Graphic Social Development Foundation with her.

Zambia:



The children in our Zambia program have been remarkably transformed after two years at Mapalo Trust School. When we last visited, the children could not

read nor write. During this visit, we watched them in class reading from the board. We were able to converse with them (it's an English medium school). One of the students, Justin, was actually first in his

class, and we presented him with a small gift for his efforts. Again, thanks to your contribution, these children have abandoned their old lives of wastepicking, and are well on their way to a bright future.



Our special thanks to our veteran projects manager, Rabecca (first pic) and our new teacher, Kangwa (second pic).



The school feeding program has been very successful. Previously, these children would often faint in school from lack of nutrition;

hunger was a real issue. Now, mothers take turns cooking and packing the school



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lunches for our sponsored children (sustaining support provided by the Malaxos family).

With your support, we would like to add two new projects to our Zambia program. We would like to start an adult literacy



program for our mothers. Presently, all but one is illiterate. We would like to teach them basic reading, writing and math skills so they can succeed in their business initiatives. Here they are sitting in the same



classroom as their children were moments ago.

The mothers also proposed a business plan to us. They would like to start an

agricultural initiative where they can raise chickens, pigs and some crops. If you are interested in directing a donation to this initiative, please let us know.

Our water projects in Zambia are all still functioning well. We checked on our Kabanana project (which we executed with our partner Kabanana Care Trust in the UK) – it is not only serving the orphans but 500 members of the surrounding community – in a drought prone



area of Zambia (first pic). The handpump that serves the Village of Ngwerere in addition to the nearby the health care clinic is also functioning well (second pic). In both cases, the secret to success is an engaged



community water committee that has assumed the responsibility of maintenance. They charge nominal fees to users so that they have funds to make needed

repairs. We also met with Ms. Daka and the Ministry of Community Development to plan future water projects (pic below).



All in all, our field visits were very productive, and we were able to observe that charitable efforts can work. The real heavy lifting, the day to day work, is executed by our in-country staff. They have the language skills and the knowledge in social work that is essential for success. And all of this work is made possible by your support, and for that we thank you. We've called out a few donors by name here, but there are so many of you (in the thousands now) that have supported us over the years. Our sincere thanks, and please keep in touch.

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**Thank you for reading this month's Notes from
The Unforgotten, and thank you for making this
work possible!** Feel free to also take a look at our
website: www.unforgotten.org

And we are: www.facebook.com/unforgottenfund

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