



# The Network for Children in Need Orphanage, Sierra Leone Supported by the Godlington Foundation



## ■ Sierra Leone, West Africa- a country with huge potential

Positioned on the equatorial belt, the country boasts some of the world's lushest lands that can grow an abundance of food and cash crops. There is huge mineral wealth including gold, iron ore, diamonds and oil.

## ■ Not there yet

The rebel war between 1991-2001, destroyed the country's infrastructure and resulted in tens of thousands of the population being killed and over one million being forced from their homes—many raped, tortured, and/or conscripted into rebel forces. More than half of Sierra Leone's population of 5.9 million live in extreme poverty. It ranks 177 out of 187 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index, which measures countries' health, education, and income. It has the 10th highest infant mortality in the world.

## ■ The children always suffer

The war has left 320,000 orphaned children. Sierra Leoneans have very little or no access to medical care. Government supplied medicines are often sold by families desperate for food or to pay rent. 1 in 4 children die before reaching the age of 5. Malaria is rampant. 50% of the children that die, perish of preventable causes such as diarrhoea, malnutrition or dehydration. Disabled children are often abandoned as parents don't know how to manage or cope with their disabilities.

## ■ There is hope

NCN began in Freetown with just 5 children in 1986. During the war the orphanage was an absolute lifeline and was one of a few organisations offering hope to the child survivors. During this desperate time the orphanage was able to support and house over 750 children. Today there are 70 children in its care. Thanks to the generous support of The Godlington Foundation, these children are now safe and are off the streets. They have a roof over their heads, three daily meals and clean water. The orphanage has a core salaried staff team. The children are safe, they go to school, and once a month a doctor checks them over and administers medication.



## ■ The future is sustainable

The next stage is an ambitious vision to create the world's first 3 modular environmentally friendly orphanage. Built with sustainable materials and encompassing rainwater harvesting, solar panels and wind turbines it will include:

- 1 Improved accommodation for up to 100 children**
- 2 Primary school for up to 200 children**
- 3 Secondary school for up to 200 children**

