



Bim and Pardeep Sandhu
The Sandhu Charitable Foundation c/o The Santon Group
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13th November 2014

Street Child Ebola Orphans Appeal: Donation from The Sandhu Foundation

Dear Bim and Pardeep,

I am writing to thank the Sandhu Foundation for the very generous donation of £5,000 from the Foundation towards our emergency Ebola Orphans Appeal, a cheque for which we received in the post today.

Thank you also Pardeep for taking the time to come along to the House of Lords last week. It was a pleasure to have you there. For your information, I enclose a report on the event. As we highlighted then, the current Ebola crisis has made the need for Street Child's presence and work in Sierra Leone desperate. **Your donation will ensure we can provide the immediate survival care for 100 traumatised and destitute orphans.**

I very much look forward to keeping you updated on our work and how your contribution has made a difference. In the meantime, for regular updates on our work, please go to www.street-child.co.uk/ebolareponse/ or follow us on Facebook (streetchildofsierraleone) or Twitter (@scosl). These are regularly updated due to the ever-changing nature of the situation. We are continuing to evaluate our work to ensure we are providing the best response (both in the short and longer term) for those affected by the outbreak.

Myself or my team would also be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and you can contact me on 0207 614 7691.

Thank you again.

Yours,

Tom Dannatt

Founder & CEO, Street Child



Street Child
42-44 Bishopsgate
London
EC2N 4AH

13/11/ 2014

Dear Bim and Pardeep,

I am writing to confirm receipt of a donation made by The Sandhu Charitable Foundation to Street Child for supporting our Ebola Orphan Appeal to the sum of £5000, received by cheque on 12/11/ 2014.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elen Thorne".

Elen Thorne
UK Charity Co-ordinator
Street Child

Report on the Ebola Orphan Crisis

House of Lords, 6th November 2014



Executive Summary

Ebola is a humanitarian crisis that has left over **20,000 children destitute**, the UK charity Street Child has revealed at an emergency briefing at the House of Lords. Speaking to an audience of parliamentarians, media, donors and partners, Street Child UK CEO Tom Dannatt expressed profound concern that the number of children orphaned by Ebola in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea is underreported, has grown to crisis proportions and that urgent action is immediately required to save lives – and re-build futures.

- **TRAUMA AND DESTITUTION FACED BY THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN.** Street Child of Sierra Leone Director Kelfa Kargbo and Street Child Liberia Programme Director Chloe Brett reported their experiences from the field of huge numbers of children left traumatised, destitute and abandoned following the death of their primary caregiver from the virus.
- **GROSS UNDER-REPORTING OF FIGURES: AT LEAST 20,000 ORPHANS.** UK CEO Tom Dannatt noted that the widely circulated figure of 3,700 orphans represents gross under-reporting of the true scale of the issue. Accounting for the current death toll, under-reporting of cases within the population, and data reports from local teams, Street Child estimates there are at least 20,000 children in the region who have been effectively orphaned by Ebola – left with no-one to care for them.
- **STREET CHILD LEADING THE EBOLA ORPHAN RESPONSE.** Street Child's Liberia Programme Director Chloe Brett reported that with 600 staff on the ground across Sierra Leone and Liberia, Street Child is already on the ground and supporting 1,500 Ebola orphans with immediate care and family business grant support. Moreover at this stage there is no evidence of other major charity operations for orphans, though it is very hoped others will begin soon. They are also engaged in important social mobilization to break the chain of transmission of Ebola. A minimum of £500,000 will be required by the end of the year.

Introduction by the Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Dorney

Baroness Miller, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Street Children, opened the meeting. Having attended Street Child's briefing on street children in Sierra Leone in November 2012, Baroness Miller praised Street Child for bringing the important issue of the Ebola orphan crisis to the House of Lords.

Voices from Sierra Leone



Street Child footage of individual stories was shown to the audience, illustrating the trauma experienced by caregivers and children whose mothers and fathers had died of the disease, such as Dauda, right. These Street Child stories, which have featured on Newsnight, CNN and Channel 4, [can be viewed here](#).

Pre-briefing statement from the Sierra Leone Government

"The world has been late on so much of the Ebola crisis so far, but let us not be late for these children who need us to be there in their darkest hour – right away."

Sierra Leone Government statement

The briefing began with the reading of a statement from the Sierra Leone Minister for Gender and Social Welfare Moijueh Kaikai, emphasizing the extreme trauma and destitution faced by thousands of children left orphaned by Ebola, and shunned by the community due to the stigma around the disease. Having requested direct support from Street Child in September 2014, the Ministry praised the charity's rapid response for 1,000 Ebola orphans in Sierra Leone, and for their foresight in raising the alarm as the scale of the crisis grows. The full statement [can be viewed here](#).

Briefing from the Panel

- **Street Child UK** CEO Tom Dannatt
- **Street Child of Sierra Leone Director** Kelfa Kargbo
- **Street Child Liberia Programme Director** Chloe Brett

Introduction

Street Child UK CEO Tom Dannatt began by thanking the donors, supporters, media and partners that have enabled Street Child to launch an immediate response to the Ebola orphan crisis.

Street Child of Sierra Leone Director Kelfa Kargbo

Mr Kargbo reported the devastating impact that the Ebola crisis is having on children and families in Sierra Leone, recounting instances of extended families of 16-18 people where all but two or three children had died. Despite being declared infection-free, the children had been ostracized by the community who did not understand that Ebola can only be caught from symptomatic sufferers of the disease.



The Director noted the medical response to the crisis was finally materializing on ground in Sierra Leone, but that immediate humanitarian support for children orphaned by Ebola was distressingly absent. He added that social mobilization is desperately needed to break the chain of transmission. According to Mr Kargbo, the importance of prevention cannot be over-stated to prevent the spread of Ebola – yet resources from the international community have focused almost exclusively on treatment and hospital beds.

He noted that Street Child of Sierra Leone has close to 600 staff on the ground in Sierra Leone, trained in Ebola education and currently working in urban and rural communities to educate families on the basics of how to protect themselves from transmission.

Street Child Liberia Programme Director, Chloe Brett



Ms Brett reported an extremely worrying situation in Monrovia, Liberia, from her field visit the previous week, which had also been reported through [a series of video blogs on Sky News](#). She began by presenting the following case study from a field trip to Monrovia, Liberia in November, the 11-year-old Joseph and his aunt Victoria:

"My dad vomited blood before he died. I sometimes ask why it happened. I feel bad when I see people still hugging each other. I do not want to die so I will be careful and so will my siblings.

Now, most people in this area are afraid to come close to us. They say we too have Ebola. I have no friends again and I feel so bad. The other children shout 'Ebola boy' to me. If my Dad was here he would make them stop. My auntie is helping me now though, this makes me feel happier. Sometimes she does struggle to give us rice to eat. This makes me sad again."

Ms Brett reported that Joseph's aunt Victoria was living on the breadline like so many families affected by Ebola, with six children of her own. She noted that

their story was extremely common, but that Street Child had been able to help Joseph and Victoria using its three stage Ebola orphan response that is currently operating across Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Firstly, Street Child's Liberia team had provided Joseph with an immediate relief package of food, clothing and bedding, costing around £50. Then, they had located a close relative – his aunty Victoria – who was willing to take him in. Finally, Street Child is now working with Victoria to develop a small business plan to generate the income they will need for the long-term, which would cost around £150. The same model, which is adapted from Street Child's successful work with orphans in street children since 2008, is followed in Sierra Leone.

Street Child UK Chief Executive, Tom Dannatt

Street Child UK CEO Tom Dannatt noted that the current figure circulating in the media, that there are 3,700 Ebola orphans, is a vast under-estimation. With close to 5,000 deaths from Ebola to date, according to the WHO, working on a one death to one orphan basis there would be at least 5,000 orphans. The CDC estimates that deaths from Ebola are under-reported by a factor of 2.5. On this basis, it can be assumed that at least 12,500 children have been orphaned by Ebola already.

He added that reports from Street Child's 600+ staff in Sierra Leone and Liberia's field teams have corroborated this estimation. In Kailahun district, Street Child of Sierra Leone teams had been tasked with delivering aid for Ebola orphans. The team was told by the authorities there were 172 orphans in 14 sections of the district. After working in just 3 sections, the teams had already identified 265 Ebola orphans and had no resources left with 11 sections still to go.



Mr Dannatt also noted that many more children had lost their primary caregiver, estimating that between **20,000 and 25,000 children are now without a breadwinner**. This number, he said, will only grow by the end of the year at current infection rates. "What we have focused on is less the narrow issue of whether a child has lost one or both biological parents, but how many children

have lost the adult they most rely on for love and in particular material support. That is what actually matters for children".

In conclusion, Mr Dannatt said that there were two levels of need in the Ebola orphan crisis: firstly £50 per child to safeguard their survival. Secondly, £150 per child would support that child's wellbeing in the long term, by helping their primary caregiver to develop a source of income to fund schooling. He added that to deal with the current crisis, Street Child was reaching out to a range of partners to work together to combat the crisis, but on current estimates at least £500,000 would be needed by the end of the year to safeguard 10,000 children.

Questions for the Panel

There were several questions from the assembled audience, including:

- The **Wellcome Trust**, who thanked Street Child for its work responding to the Ebola Orphan Crisis, and noted the importance of prevention and social mobilization in tackling the crisis. They raised the question of monitoring and evaluation of the projects. Street Child responded that activities being undertaken followed an M&E template that had been successfully undertaken over the past six years of programming for street children, and was currently being adapted for the crisis.
- **Rotary International** raised the question of maintaining the Ebola crisis' profile in the media, as well as asking about cooperation efforts on the ground. Street Child responded that it had been working hard to raise the profile of the humanitarian crisis in particular in the media, and is actively seeking to cooperate with any and all actors in the Ebola orphan space on the ground, which is currently woefully under-filled.
- **The Sunday Mirror** asked what resources were included in the £50 Ebola orphan survival packs. Street Child responded that these packs include basics necessary for survival: food, clothing and bedding (which is burnt in the quarantine process) and chlorine kits.
- **Age UK** asked whether there was scope for Street Child to partner with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which had recently launched an appeal. Street Child responded that it had reached out to all 13 members of the DEC by formal letters to their CEOs to offer advice on the issue of Ebola orphans and indicate its willingness for any partnership.

--REPORT ENDS--

Street Child and its partners would like to thank all donors for their support of our Ebola appeal since its launch in late August, especially:

Comic Relief/Child Hope (£50,000); Peppercoast Foundation (£33,000); Anonymous private donor (£25,000); World Jewish Relief (£20,000); Anonymous private donor (£20,000); 2 private donors, Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope; City of London School for Girls; Evan Cornish Foundation (all c.£10,000); several charitable trusts which have given £5,000+ including Hugh Symons Charitable Trust, Lancaster Foundation, Charitable Assets Trust & Zurich Trust.

We would also like to thank DFID; and all who supported our UK Aid Match appeal earlier in 2014 – which significantly enabled our strong response to date

And the British media who have played a huge part in publicizing Street Child's Ebola Crisis work and Ebola's impact on children, especially these three journalists:

- Lisa O'Carroll from the Guardian, [*breaking Douda's story*](#).
- Robert Yates from the Observer, [*featuring Bintu's story on his front page*](#).
- Gabriella Jozwiak, freelance journalist, telling Princess and Angie's tragic story [*in the Independent*](#) and [*Titus' story in the Sunday Times*](#).