



**HELPING
CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE**

**helping children,
saving lives**

building sustainable futures

2018 CAPACITY STATEMENT



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OUR MISSION

Helping Children Worldwide is transforming communities by serving vulnerable children and families through education, health care, and spiritual mentoring.

Since 2000, Helping Children Worldwide has been building sustainable futures for extremely vulnerable children and their families in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world.

OUR CHALLENGE

In Sierra Leone, one in seventeen women will die in childbirth¹, one in seven children will not survive until their sixth birthday,² and average life expectancy is only 51 years.³

The adult male literacy rate is 59% and the adult female literacy rate is 43%.⁴ 60% of Sierra Leoneans live below the poverty line, and most people survive through subsistence farming.⁵ For the sake of family survival, many Sierra Leonean children go to work at the same age children in wealthy countries begin preschool.⁶

Bo, Sierra Leone is a dense urban area where the average person survives on less than \$1.90 a day. Poor families in Bo cannot afford medical care, and do not have access to clean water or sanitation. Many do not have adequate nutrition. The surrounding villages are a long way from the nearest hospital, and during the rainy season, flooding and erosion make roads nearly impassable.

¹ Trends in Maternal Mortality, WHO 2015

^{2,3,6} UNICEF Data, www.data.unicef.org

^{4,5} United Nations Development Programme

OUR APPROACH

- We address the greatest barriers to sustainable futures: poverty, disease, and illiteracy.
- We support children and families where they live and connect them to the resources they need to build sustainable futures.
- We build sustainability in the community by identifying local needs, and by encouraging our partners to employ local solutions.
- We coordinate with in-country leadership to ensure that solutions are feasible and sustainable in the larger context of the community.
- We measure program impact through robust monitoring, data collection, and evaluation, and provide technical assistance, training, and feedback to ensure that the programs we support continue to improve and thrive.
- We provide accountability and transparency to donors invested in our work through regular reporting.
- We are efficient and transparent stewards of the resources provided to us.
- We are guided by our faith to work in partnership with the United Methodist Church, other nonprofit organizations, and the Sierra Leone government.



Helping Children Worldwide is committed to a vision of communities where mutual respect and caring is common practice and the generous sharing of resources, knowledge, and spiritual well-being lifts every child from hopelessness and poverty, shining God's light into every corner of the world.

We practice our vision through the programs we support, the partnerships we develop, and the mission teams we deploy. Our commitment to local solutions

is increasingly evident as we shift control of projects we initiate or support from Helping Children Worldwide personnel to local leadership. We intentionally recruit and develop local expertise through the implementation of the projects we choose to support.

One hundred percent of the staff serving the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital are Sierra Leonean, employed by the Sierra Leone United Methodist Church.

THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE

The Child Rescue Centre (CRC) was launched near the end of the ten-year Sierra Leonean civil war as a feeding program for street children who were separated from their families by the violence and chaos of the war. A small, secure building was acquired, and 40 children were rescued from the streets. Staff was hired, and the doors of the CRC officially opened on July 4, 2000.

In 2004, the UMC Urban Centre campus launched, and began providing safe housing for up to 70 children who were orphaned, abandoned, or removed from the home by Sierra Leone social services. An additional 100 children were rescued and placed in families with guardians in a program known as the Child Support Program.

Today, the need has transitioned away from crisis housing, and the focus has shifted far beyond the walls of the main campus. Now the CRC provides access to education and health care for more than 600 children and youth in Bo, and in villages and communities around the country.

We believe that family-based care is at the heart of God's plan for children. The CRC keeps children connected to their biological or adopted kin, and provides family counseling, education, training, and access to microfinance for parents to lift families out of extreme poverty.

The Child & Family Support Program

The Child & Family Support Program provides children and youth with the opportunity to go to school, as we believe that education helps end the vicious cycle of poverty. Students receive tuition, school supplies, uniforms and shoes, as well as free medical care at Mercy Hospital.

Some of the families of CRC students receive an



additional stipend, either because the family is extremely vulnerable, or because they are caring for foster children.

Students continue to receive support as long as they stay in school, and an increasing number of students are completing secondary education, remarkable in a country where only 36% of youth stay in school to the secondary level (high school equivalent).

**“WE BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION HELPS
END THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF POVERTY.”**

Microfinance Program

The CRC is empowering families to sustainably provide for their children through the power of microfinance. Participants learn money management, budgeting, how to apply for a loan, and the development of a simple business plan. Microloans are available for those who complete the program and produce a viable business and loan repayment plan.



Promise Scholars

Highly motivated students who complete secondary education may apply for a scholarship to attend vocational, technical or university programs. Students receive full tuition, learning materials, and guidance counseling. The scholarship program has graduated engineers, scientists, social workers, and two medical doctors. In a country with only 250 medical doctors, the impact of educating and graduating two new doctors is immense.



MERCY HOSPITAL

Mercy Hospital was founded in response to the desperate need for health care in Sierra Leone. Mercy has been administering quality care in Bo since 2007 and has extended its services via outreach clinics to 55 villages surrounding Bo.

When an epidemic level Ebola outbreak devastated the already fragile health care system in 2014, it left women and babies especially vulnerable. Despite the challenges caused by the crisis, Mercy has continued to serve Bo and the surrounding villages, annually providing care to more than 10,000 patients. The hospital has made great strides, earning the trust of the community as a provider of excellent health care for all, regardless of ability to pay.

Health care is not free in Sierra Leone, and people are turned away from most hospitals if they cannot afford to pay, but Mercy treats all regardless of their ability to pay. HCW wholeheartedly supports Mercy's mission to improve infant, child, and maternal health through holistic, community-focused care. We applaud Mercy's data-driven health care programs, and the focus on professional training and staff development to better serve the Bo community.

Village Outreach

The Mercy Hospital staff visits a network of villages surrounding the city of Bo to serve people who live far from the hospital. Twice weekly, the staff travels over precarious bridges and rough roads to bring care to remote sites. The services they provide include screening babies for malnutrition, prenatal examinations, malaria testing and HIV testing.

Nutrition Program

Both at the hospital and via outreach clinics, Mercy

MERCY HOSPITAL (CONT'D)

Hospital screens infants and toddlers for malnutrition and failure to thrive. Malnourished babies are enrolled in the Nutrition Program to receive supplementary feeding, and their progress is monitored monthly. An average of 100 new children are enrolled during outreach visits to remote villages. The 25 infants and toddlers graduating per month from the program are the true indicator of success.

Malaria Testing and Treatment

Malaria testing and treatment is offered to men, women, and children at Mercy Hospital, as well as via eleven monthly outreaches to villages surrounding Bo. A partnership with the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries enables Mercy’s malaria patients to benefit from monthly donations of medical testing supplies and the most effective drug treatments currently available.

Prenatal and Postnatal Care

Mercy Hospital provides prenatal and postnatal care to

women regardless of their ability to pay. Mothers are encouraged to give birth at the hospital where they can be monitored for complications. Mercy’s care for mothers and babies is having a powerful impact on maternal and infant survival in Bo and the surrounding community.

Cervical Cancer Screening

Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Sierra Leone. Mercy Hospital offers free cervical cancer screenings and refers patients who require treatment to the nearby Marie Stopes Clinic.

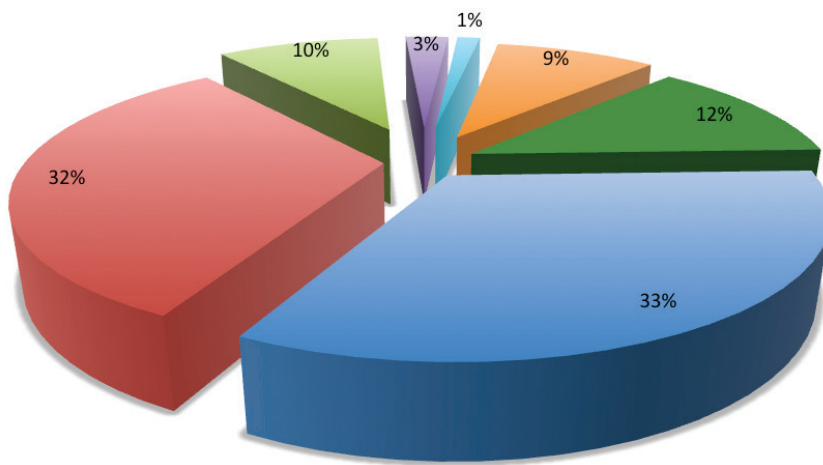
Operating Theatre

Last year, Mercy Hospital broke ground on a new wing. The first floor will hold two separate operating theaters, recovery room, waiting area, and office space. The second floor will house two new wards, a private ward, a conference room and exam rooms. The new wing will enable the hospital to offer Cesarean deliveries and other life-saving surgeries.

Mercy Hospital Proposed Operating Theatre Floor Plan



HOW WE USE OUR RESOURCES



How We Spent Money in 2017

- Direct support to the Child Rescue Centre (Education and Family Support)
- Direct support to Mercy Medical Programs (Hospital and Village Outreach)
- UMVIM (Volunteer trips to support programs)
- Child Rescue Centre support through the UMC Advance #14377A
- Mercy Hospital support through UMC Advance #15173A
- Management
- Fundraising



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2017 AT A GLANCE



609 extremely vulnerable children and youth received education, healthcare, and spiritual mentoring through the Child Rescue Centre



28 caregivers of Child Rescue Centre students completed the Microfinance Program and began loan repayment from their small businesses



23 students received Promise Scholarships for university, vocational and technical programs



2nd Promise Scholar graduated from medical school



10,000 patients received care at Mercy Hospital and via Mercy's Medical Outreach, regardless of their ability to pay



3,511 expectant mothers received prenatal care from Mercy Hospital



180 babies delivered at Mercy Hospital



55 villages served by Mercy Hospital medical outreach



8,100 patients treated for malaria by Mercy Hospital



1,139 total infants & children under 5 years of age enrolled in Mercy Hospital's nutrition program



100 malnourished children enrolled in Mercy Hospital's nutrition program and 25 graduated each month (monthly average)



1,293 adults and **60** infants treated for HIV through Mercy Hospital's HIV program

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