

We Yone Child Foundation  
**Impact Report 2017**

*written by Luisa Sluga*



**WYCF's mission is to provide sustainable education and care  
to underprivileged children in Kroo Bay and George Brook;  
and overcome the social and environmental problems that deepen and perpetuate  
the cycle of poverty in these communities.**

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## Content

Executive Summary .....	4
About We Yone Child Foundation .....	5
Communities .....	6
George Brook .....	6
Kroo Bay .....	6
Project Review .....	7
Project UKAM 2 sponsored by Street Child .....	7
Business Grant donated by Laura Becker .....	7
Secondary School Scholarship Association .....	8
Emergency Response Mudslide and Flood Disaster .....	8
Girls to Women Talk-Talk Business .....	9
Football for Child Development .....	10
Books as Bridge Project .....	10
Highlights and Events .....	11
02.04.2017 – Good Deeds Day .....	11
12.04.2017 – International Street Children's Day .....	11
07.04.2017 – Kid's Talent Show .....	11
25.05.2017 – Partnership with Kids for Peace .....	11
08.06.2017 – School Centre Codes granted by Ministry of Education .....	11
09.07.2017 – First Annual Graduation .....	11
14.07.2017 – End of year academic evaluation .....	12
09. - 24.11.2017 – Kick for a brighter Future .....	12
15.12.2017 – School's annual Christmas Party .....	12
22.12.2017 – We Yone End of Year Party .....	12
17.02. & 22.02.2018 Inter – Primary Athletics Sports Meet .....	12
Volunteers .....	13
Annual Evaluation 2016/17 .....	14
Conclusion and Outlook .....	16

## **Executive Summary**

We are pleased to present a summary of the We Yone Child Foundation's highlights and events of 2017. These include all our efforts to provide sustainable education and care as well as extracurricular activities throughout the year. The focus of our work are the families of the deprived communities of Freetown, vulnerable children and teenage mothers.

The following pages contain a brief history of WYCF, including a short introduction of our operational areas, followed by reports of our on-going projects and their progress. The summary of our highlights and events gives an overview of our extracurricular activities and special occasions. To conclude, we proudly present to you the Annual Evaluation of our three schools.

## **About We Yone Child Foundation**

In 1996, twelve year old Santigie Bayo Dumbuya was among several boys who were taken from Kamabonko Village to fight for the Revolutionary United Front during the Sierra Leone Civil War. Fighting near the Guinean border, by the age of fourteen Santigie had sustained multiple bullet and shrapnel wounds.

In 1999 Santigie's unit was stationed near a town called Sanyah.

"When we entered the town in the evening the heavy gunfight sounded like music, but full of death and sorrow. What I saw on that day was so terrible. Some of my close friends were killed. During the fighting I saw a female child at the age of 5-6 years old crying. I saw two people lying on the ground, one was already dead and the other is struggling to die." Santigie remembered his village and the person whom he was raised to be – "that was the day of my revolution and my heart was inspired".

He dropped his gun and ran through the crossfire to save the girl. With no food or water, Santigie carried her for two days and two nights to safety. He saved her life.

Santigie never saw the girl again. He went to Freetown to recover from the war, complete his education and founded We Yone Child Foundation (WYCF) in 2009. Santigie decided to focus WYCF's efforts on Kroo Bay and George Brook. The appalling conditions in these two communities called for action and no other organisation was producing results.

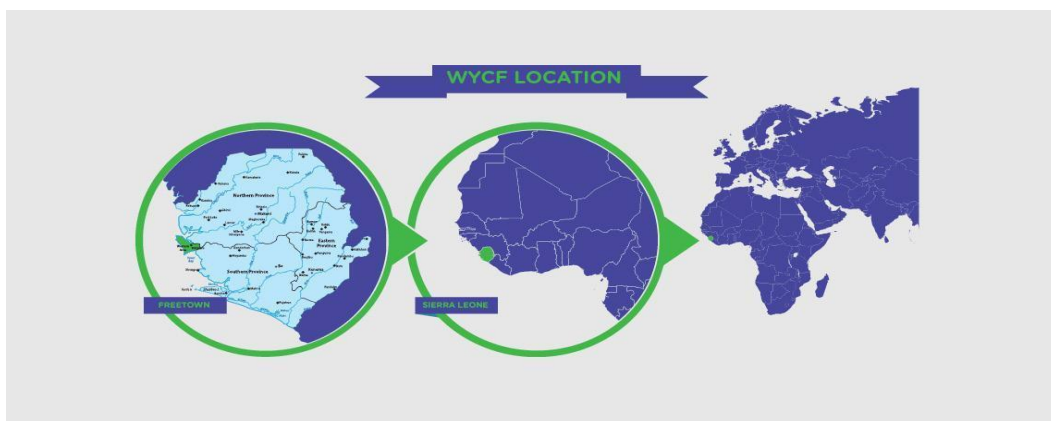
## Communities

### *George Brook*

George Brook is located in the hillside of Freetown and home to an estimated population of 4,000 people. We run two primary schools in this isolated area; We Yone Primary School George Brook and Temple of Faith Primary School with 346 and 359 pupils respectively. We conduct extra curricula activities and health insurance scheme including scholarship schemes. The poor infrastructure and the lack of sealed roads within the community is a daily struggle, especially in the rainy season George Brook is badly affected by flooding.

### *Kroo Bay*

Kroo Bay is located in bay area of Central Freetown with an estimated 7,500 people living in tin shacks. We run a primary school for 192 children within this community as well as extra curricula activities, health insurance scheme and family business schemes to support our sustainability plan. The We Yone Primary school in Kroo Bay is a great success with remarkable performances in the three termly tests in 2017.



## **Project Review**

### ***Project UKAM 2 sponsored by Street Child***

This Project started in 2014 in cooperation with Street Child UK and is successfully going on. It supports families and teenage mothers with family business grants to help them towards economic Independence. In 2017, our local team of social workers identified 107 vulnerable families that have become beneficiaries of the grants. For 2018, educational support for Primary School students, 154 children were found out to be in need and first contacts were made.

After giving them out, our workers keep monitoring the progress of the business to ensure its sustainability. Another aspect of the project is saving. We ask our beneficiaries to save a certain amount of their weekly income and check if they do so, in order to become more independent, so we can focus on other families in need.

Additionally we reached 49 teenage mothers who have dropped out of school after Primary School but were willing to either go back or attend vocational training.

By now, a total of 396 grants were given to families in all areas of Freetown to start a business and ensure a stable income. In 2017, we started to also ensure the school enrolment of the younger siblings of our beneficiaries and reached another 304 children.

### ***Business Grant donated by Laura Becker***

German Volunteer Laura Becker worked for almost 4 month with WYCF. During her stay, she grew interest for the UKAM 2 Project and felt empathy for the WYCF clients' poor living situation in the communities. She took her own initiative and created a fundraising page to sponsor business grants for the families. Her efforts were highly valued by the We Yone Child Foundation and rewarded with generous donations from her friends and family members in Germany.

Laura raised the funds to support 20 families with business grants that ensure the children's basic needs at home and cover their school fee. Families with one child received Le 300.000 (translated to 40 USD) whilst those with two children received Le 400.000 (translated to 50 USD). Statement was given by the Kroo Bay Counsellor, the grant recipients, the administrative Director and Laura.

## ***Secondary School Scholarship Association***

The SSS Project supports our students after completing Primary School to continue to a higher educational level. The initiative of the association for our Secondary School Scholarship beneficiaries was found by our Team of social workers. Its objective is to unite students from different schools and communities to exchange their stories and experience in the presence of our social workers, so that they can track and improve our students' academic performance. Meetings are set once a month and also offer an opportunity to discuss issues such as teenage pregnancy, menstruation, hygiene, early marriage threat or sexual sensitization and to find solutions together. Often children are engaged to increase the families' income so it is important to coordinate home activities and school performance. To avoid school drop out's due to these issues, our Team started one on one counselling with our students and their parents or caregivers. Interviews with friends or former teachers enabled us to find out the different problems of our students.

Regular home and school visits were a progress to ensure our students' appearance at school and analyse their performance and behaviour.

The introduction of the SSS Association had a very positive impact and allowed us to work more individualized. Furthermore it strengthened the relationship between the community and the social workers and improved the communication.

## ***Emergency Response Mudslide and Flood Disaster***

In cooperation with Street Child of Sierra Leone and other partners, WYCF gave active emergency aid to victims of the flooding and mudslide that happened in the early morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. This disaster, caused by heavy rainfall, destroyed hundreds of buildings and left more than 3000 people homeless. Over a thousand people have been confirmed dead or missing. The staff and volunteers of WYCF provided on-site support, distributed emergency packages, and established an emergency telephone for the victims. WYCF also offered counselling to affected young women, lactating mothers and children. Santigie B. Dumbuya and his Team themselves donated food and clothes and continuously called for action.



## Girls to Women Talk-Talk Business

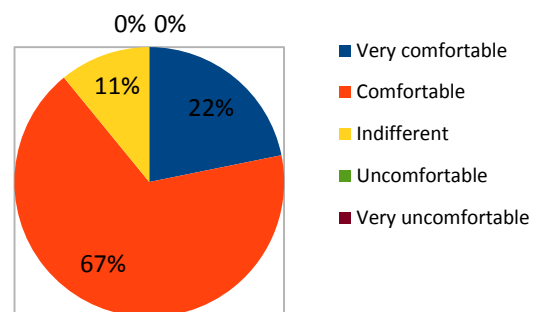
This Project focuses on the problems our girls have with menstruation, regarding the lack of hygienic sanitary facilities and the sensitivity of this issue. Most girls cannot afford tampons or pads so they often stay at home while they're on their period, which has a negative impact on their academic performance. They suffer discomfort and have to use unhealthy materials to manage their period that can lead to serious infections. The Project was conducted and sponsored by two of our Volunteers from the UK, Helen Lee and Liz Hunter. They passed on their knowledge about menstruation and health to social workers, local women and other community elders and introduced their solution of producing reusable sanitary pads.

For three months, 8 local women were trained to independently manufacture such pads and share their use. The training did not only improve their tailoring skills, but also widened their horizon regarding Menstruation and Health. The production is successfully going on and ensures a stable income for the sewing team and an affordable product for all girls and women. A pack of 4 pads is sold for Le 5.000-6.000 (translated to 0,70 USD), based on the level of vulnerability across the communities. Surveys among the girls that received the pads proofed the great success of the project, the use of the pads were scaled only as either 'very comfortable' or 'comfortable'. The WYCF Team keeps monitoring their attendance at school, which has already increased immensely and also showed a positive impact on their marks.

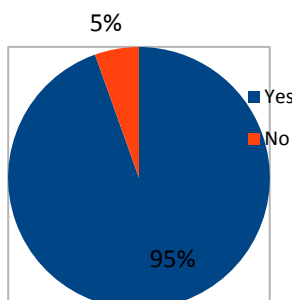
The sewing-team even extended their field of work, The women showed interest and curiosity to enhance their tailoring skills in favour of their children and started to produce high quality units for the school sport. Monthly meetings with the project coordinators strengthened the relationship and provided the opportunity to discuss challenges among the sewing-team. They proofed their reliability and motivation towards the project.

With active inter-community sessions, WYCF also reached other schools where especially girls are likely to drop out due to a lack of the basic Menstruation and Health knowledge. The sessions were well-attended by a highly interested audience.

How was the pad after you've washed it?

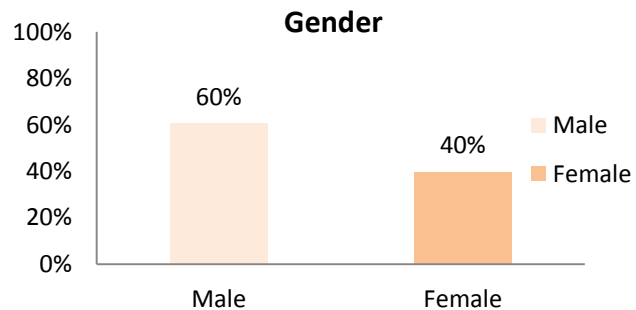
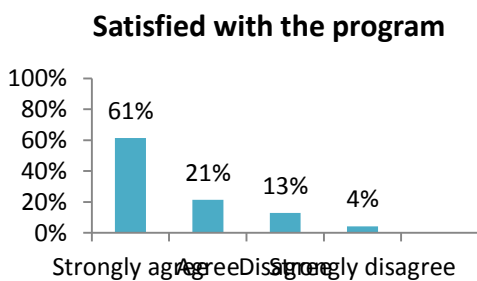


Were you confident and happy to come to school wearing the pad?

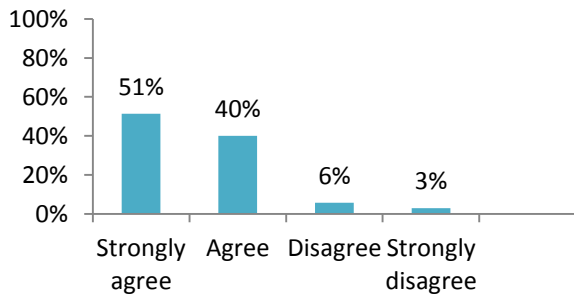


## Football for Child Development

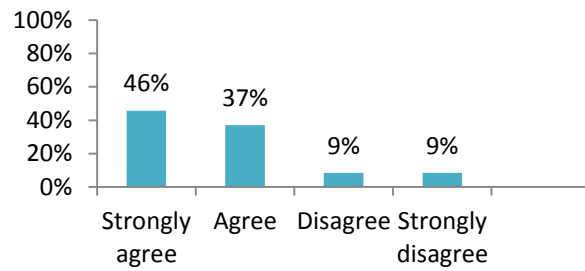
Another two weeks competition under the motto 'Kick for a brighter Future' was organized by our staff and greatly supported by the community. The Project Football for Child Development started in 2016 and is ever since then one of the highlights not only for our players but also for their parents. Thrilling matches between several teams of the George Brook and Kroo Bay Communities took place on the football pitch in the communities and were passionately followed by the parents and caregivers as well as the WYCF staff and volunteers. It gives our students a welcoming exchange to the classroom and increases their team-building skills at the same time. This occasion also gave the opportunity to spread key messages in terms of ending teenage pregnancy, early child marriage or forced marriage, child abuse and sexual health.



**Brings more positivity in the community**



**The messages will help reduce early marriages**



### ***Books as Bridge Project***

In cooperation with our Partner Books as Bridge we started a pen-pal Project with children from all around the world. A total of 260 international contacts were made, our students happily received and answered their letters. While building international friendships through letters, the children on both sides widen their horizon regarding other countries, cultures and beliefs.

## **Highlights and Events**

### ***02.04.2017 – Good Deeds Day***

In favour of education, our girls signed up promises to not get pregnant or married before they turn 18, so did the boys to not impregnate any girl below that age. The schools Health Club contributed with awareness raising messages about that issue.

### ***12.04.2017 – International Street Children's Day***

We joined millions across the world to celebrate the International Street Children's Day and reminded of the everyday problems street children have to face. Debates, social messages, drama and storytelling were performed by the students to raise awareness towards the importance of education and other topics.

### ***07.04.2017 – Kid's Talent Show***

The first Kid's Talent Show was a great success in the communities George Brook and Kroo Bay. The Event was organized by the staff of WYCF but all the parents were involved. The students of both schools had the opportunity to show their talents and skills on stage, which they took with excitement and enthusiasm. Amazing singing and dancing was performed by the children and cheered by the audience. The Talent Show was also an opportunity to fundraise within the community. The funds were used for renovation work at the schools.

### ***25.05.2017 – Partnership with Kids for Peace***

Kids for Peace is an organization that is active all around the world, promoting peace through youth leadership. Kids for Peace Clubs were established in all the WYCF schools on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May to focus on social behaviour, kindness and peace keeping among the community.

### ***08.06.2017 – School Centre Codes granted by Ministry of Education***

After several meetings with the Ministry of Education the WYCF schools finally received their verification and registration. The Centre Codes gives our students the opportunity to take their National Primary School Examination (NPSE) at our schools. To prepare for the Exams we also organised night studies during the national holidays. This offer was very welcomed and well attended by our students.

### ***09.07.2017 – First Annual Graduation***

Another mile stone was set in the history of the We Yone Child Foundation: 149 students from across the three WYCF Primary Schools graduated to Secondary School. This very special occasion was celebrated at our new school in the upper George Brook Community. Rewarding speeches were hold by the Founder Santigie Bayo Dumbuya and the teachers and followed by singing and dancing performances of the students. Finally, all of them received a Certificate of Completing the Primary School Education.

### ***14.07.2017 – End of year academic evaluation***

The end of the year academic evaluation on performance and enrolment proofed the success

throughout the terms. 66% of the students of all We Yone Primary Schools passed their three termly tests which allowed them to attend Secondary School. For more detailed information see our analysis on the last page.

The attendance in class was high over the whole year. The free enrolment and educational facilities including sanitary are very appreciated by the parents.

### ***09. - 24.11.2017 – Kick for a brighter Future***

The annual football competition between several Teams of Kroo Bay and George Brook was great fun and entertainment that connected our communities. After weeks of training, the Teams performed exciting games in front of a large audience. To promote girls' empowerment, we proudly awarded the best female player of the tournament.

### ***15.12.2017 – School's annual Christmas Party***

For our students, the year 2017 ended with a Christmas party in the George Brook community. One of the highlights was an amazing dance performance by two girls of the Temple of Faith Primary School.

### ***22.12.2017 – We Yone End of Year Party***

The WYCF staff members and volunteers went for a trip to the beach to celebrated all the hard work and great efforts of the year 2017, to be continued in the next year.

### ***17.02. & 22.02.2018 Inter – Primary Athletics Sports Meet***

The annual sports competition was organized by WYCF and happily joint by other schools to build a stronger sense of community. Various races between several teams took place, suitable for all ages, from infants to senior students. The highlight of this vivid event was the so called invitation relay, carried out by all the participating schools.

This occasion also allowed the sewing-team of our Girls to Women Project to show their skills in tailoring high quality sports outfits.

## **Volunteers**

### **Emma Dugdale, UK**

- Assistance in the classroom
- Established the WYCF Blog and published stories

### **Sara May, USA**

- Photojournalist
- One year funding for wireless internet access

### **Laura Becker, Germany**

- 5 Day Computer Software Training, dealing with Microsoft Excel
- Funding for Business Grants to 20 vulnerable Families

### **Lily Staunton Howe, UK**

- Intensive fieldwork and Interviews with teenage mothers of our schools who got pregnant at the age of 19 and below

### **Brittany Anderson, USA**

- 5 Day Computer Software Training, dealing with Microsoft Word

### **Judie Holt, UK**

- Experienced Volunteer, organized a training at Kroo Bay school to renew and enhance knowledge of teachers
- Returned in December

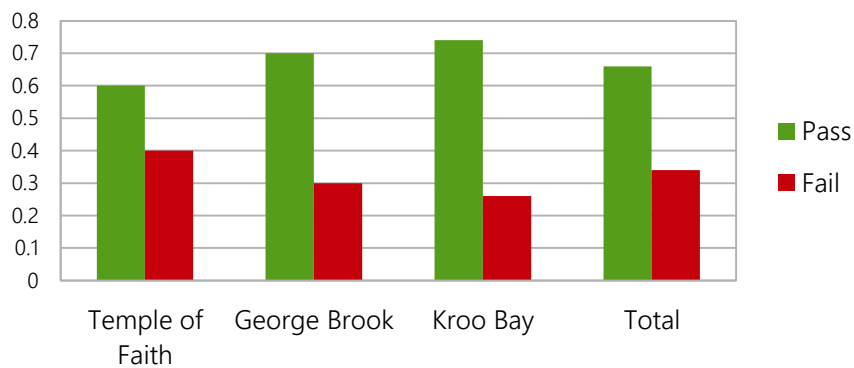
### **Liz Hunter and Helen Lee, UK**

- Supported and launched Girls to Women Project, trained 8 women to produce reusable sanitary pads

### **Katie Connan, UK**

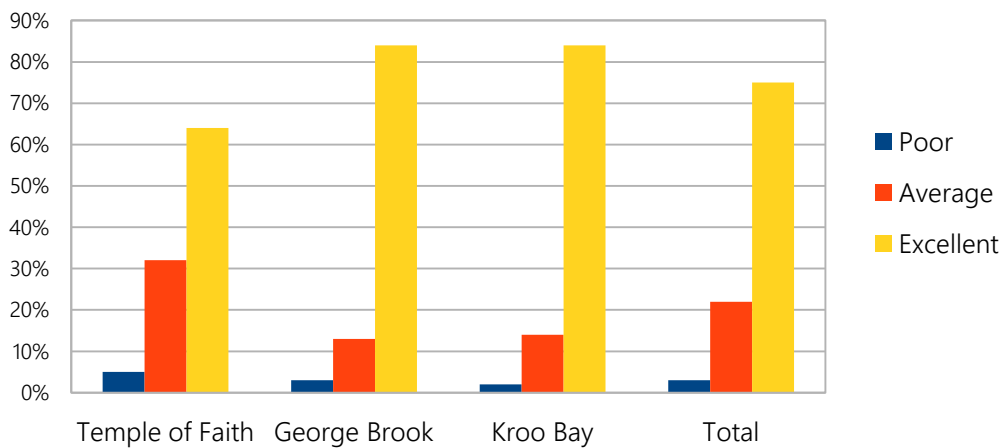
- Gender based Violence research and survey across the two communities

## Annual Evaluation 2016/17



– The above graph shows that 66% of kids enrolling in our schools passed their three termly tests and are allowed to their next classes.

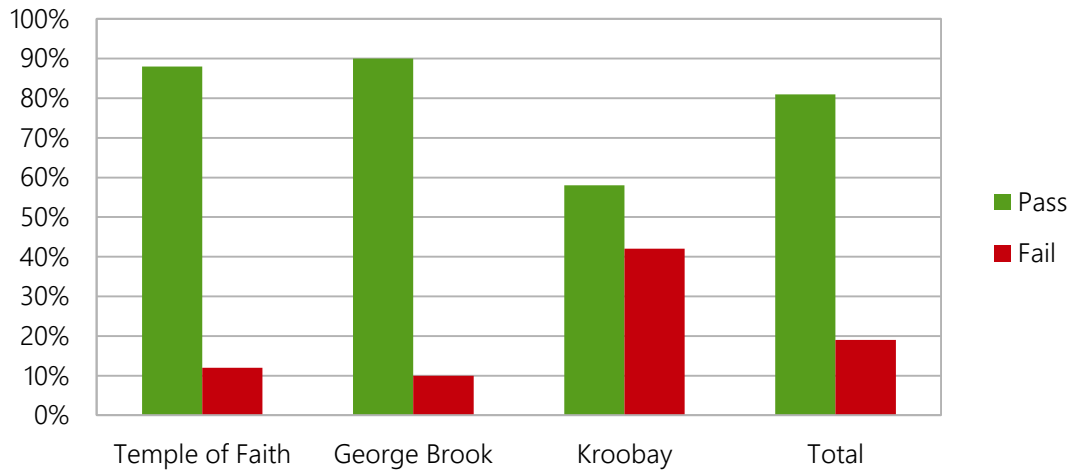
– The performance pictogram shows that We Yone Primary School Kroobay earned the highest performance with 74% in which We Yone Primary School George Brook followed with 70%



– 75% of the children enrolled in our schools for the academic year 2016/2017 showed an excellent attendance in class

– We Yone Primary School George Brook scored the highest enrollment with 85%

### NPSE Final Exams



- The NPSE (National Primary School Exams) showed excellent results in We Yone Primary School George Brook with 90% of the students passing them, followed by Temple of Faith School where 88% of the students passed their exams.
- We Yone Primary School Kroo Bay delivered average results but therefore scored the best performance throughout the terms.



## Conclusion and Outlook

We look back with proud on a successful year 2017, full of events and positive outcomes of our projects.

To have a lasting impact in the communities we operate, we highly value to have a close relationship to all members. Monthly meetings with the School Management Committee, formed by stakeholders who represent the community, help us to reach out to them and learn about their views and concerns. Additionally, we have regular meetings directly with the parents or caregivers of the students who attend our schools.

During the year, the WYCF Team also had to face several challenges including natural disasters, lack of general needs such as electricity and problems within the communities. The intensive contact and direct communication with the members of the community improved and strengthened the relationship although illiteracy and language barrier often were an obstacle.

Regular visits to the households and individualized monitoring had a great impact on the academic life of our students. We also improved our reporting methods so that we are able to track back each and every students' academic performance.

Due to an increasing number of teenage pregnancy cases, every occasion was used to spread awareness-raising messages among the students as well as the communities.

Through additional training, partly organized by international Volunteers, our staff members, teachers and volunteers could deepen their knowledge and introduce new strategies to their daily work. They proved their flexibility and professionalism when the mudslide and flooding disaster happened in August.

WYCF successfully continued working with the partner organization *Street Child UK* and *Street Child of Sierra Leone*, *Building Trust International*, *Developing World Connections*, *Fight For Peace*, *Momentaworkshops*, *Pens for Kids*, *Photographers without Borders* and *Thare Machi Education*.

New partnerships were made with the organizations *Kids for Peace* and *Books as Bridge*, and even more invitation letters were sent out to national and international potential partners.

We say thank you to all supporters and donors around the world and look forward to another successful academic year 2018/19.

Sincerely Yours,  
WYCF Team