

U N F F

The Unforgotten



Annual Report 2014



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

Working towards the
UN Millennium
Development Goals

Country Offices:
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Lusaka, Zambia
Pune, India

www.unforgotten.org

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Financial	4
Donations.....	4
Expenses.....	4
India	5
Status of wastepickers in India and Pune.....	5
Working conditions of wastepickers.....	5
Site selection.....	5
Project staff.....	6
Beneficiaries Selection	6
Program Accomplishments.....	7
Girls’ schooling.....	7
Self Help Group Formation.....	7
Skills training.....	7
Microlending/Income Generation	8
Short Film.....	8
Partnerships and Stakeholders.....	9
Expenses in 2014	9
UN Millennium Development goals supported by program	9
Measuring Program Success	9
Program Timeline	10
Personal Stories.....	11
Challenges.....	12
Feedback from aid recipients.....	12
Exit strategies.....	13
Budget/goals for 2015.....	13
Sierra Leone	14
Site Selection.....	14

Status of Waste-pickers in Sierra Leone.....	14
Working and Living Conditions of Waste-pickers.....	15
Project Staff.....	16
Beneficiaries.....	16
Program Accomplishments.....	16
Girl’s Schooling.....	17
Track and Field Sporting Event.....	17
UNFF Sierra Leone Intern	17
Media Coverage.....	18
Partnership and Stakeholders.....	19
Program Timeline	19
<i>Personal Stories</i>	20
Challenges.....	20
Zambia.....	21
Status of Wastepickers in Zambia.....	21
Working and living Conditions of waste pickers	21
Site selection.....	22
Project staff.....	22
Beneficiaries selection.....	22
Country Office Accomplishments.....	22
Education program.....	22
Women’s Empowerment.....	23
Water project.....	23
Partnerships and stakeholders.....	23
Personal Stories.....	24
Challenges.....	26
Expenses in 2014	26
Goals for 2015	26
For More Information.....	27
Directory: The Unforgotten. 2014.	27

Executive Summary

The Unforgotten Fund (UNFF), founded in 2007, provides clean food and water, shelter, schooling and a future for child **wastepickers** living in, or near, trash-dumps. At end of 2014, we had active programs at the dumpsites in Lusaka (Zambia), Freetown (Sierra Leone), and Pune (India).

In 2014, The Unforgotten substantially increased its programs, and provided services to many more disadvantaged women and children living in extreme poverty. We continue to make a small contribution towards the fulfillment of the UN Millennium Development Goals, namely those to increase enrollment in primary school, increase access to safe drinking water, empower women, and increase the income of those living in extreme poverty. Our primary focus remains helping those who survive as wastepickers in the landfills of developing countries. At end of 2014, we had active programs in India, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

Having expanded our reach to three different countries on a very small budget, our current goals are to strengthen and grow our existing programs, and our ability to manage them. To achieve these goals we have expanded our roster of active Board members and our charity staff in our field offices.

We remain committed to delivering aid at minimal overhead costs, and directing all donor funds to the field. Our charity remains managed and governed in the US by an active volunteer Board of Directors. All paid staff are deployed to the field, which allows us to direct donor funds towards program services.

Financial

Donations

In fiscal year 2014, thanks to the generous support of donors, we raised \$130,000 US for our charity programs. \$55,000 of those funds were raised through the Combined Federal Campaign and state campaigns; in these campaigns donations were received from federal employees and state employees, respectively. \$29,000 of our funding came from a grant from Dining for Women (www.diningforwomen.org), and was targeted towards supporting wastepickers in Pune, India. The remainder (\$46,000) was direct support from individual donors.

Expenses

In fiscal year 2014, The Unforgotten directed \$74,000 towards program expenses. Much of that funding (\$28,000) was used to support the education of wastepicker children, including \$5,000 towards school construction in Sierra Leone. \$12,500 was directed towards hunger alleviation and school feeding programs. \$14,500 was directed towards microlending and women's programs – in 2014 much of that funding (\$8,500) was used to purchase an agricultural plot for our supported women in Chingwere, Zambia. The remainder (\$19,000) was used for staff salaries, project related travel, information technology and legal expenses.

India

In 2014, The Unforgotten Fund (UNFF) received a \$29,000 installment (out of a total \$49,243 grant) from Dining for Women, to provide aid to 100 girls and 50 mothers surviving as wastepickers in Pune, India. The grant enabled UNFF to scale up its operations in India; the grant is over a two-year period, after which UNFF will continue the larger program with its own funding. Grant funds are being directed towards providing skills training and microloans to the mothers to start small businesses. Funds are also being used to enroll the daughters in primary school and providing them with extra tutoring. The goal is to free these families of the burden of earning a living by wastepicking.

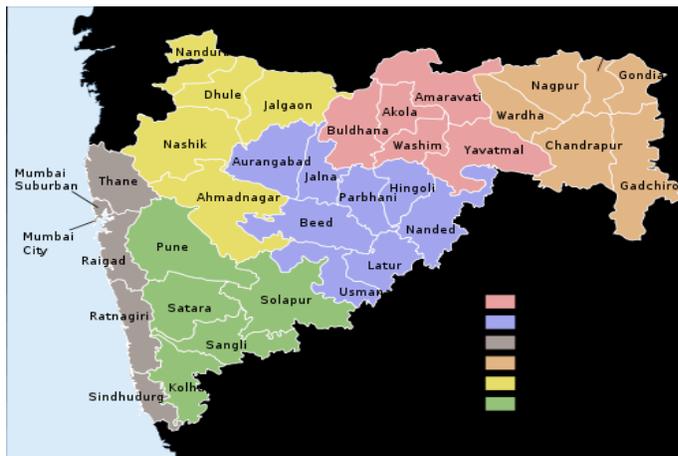
Status of wastepickers in India and Pune

There are an estimated 1,500,000 (15 lakh) waste pickers in India, or about 1% of the population. Maharashtra state has more than 300,000 (3 lakh) waste pickers, with nearly 9,000 of them living in the city of Pune.

Waste pickers in Pune are almost exclusively Dalits, of the 'untouchable' castes, more specifically the Mahar (including Mahars who have converted to Buddhism after 1956 and are now called Neo-Buddhists) and the Matang castes. They rank the lowest within the urban occupational hierarchy even within the informal sector. The total population of such workers in Pune is estimated to be over 9,000, of which waste pickers constitute 66 percent. The proportion of women in the sector is 73 percent.

Working conditions of wastepickers

- 75% walk for more than five hours-- many walk up to 10 km (6 miles) a day with loads of up to 40 kgs (80 lbs)
- 50% work 9-12 hours daily. The average daily earning is 150 Rs (\$2 to \$3 US).



India Project Location

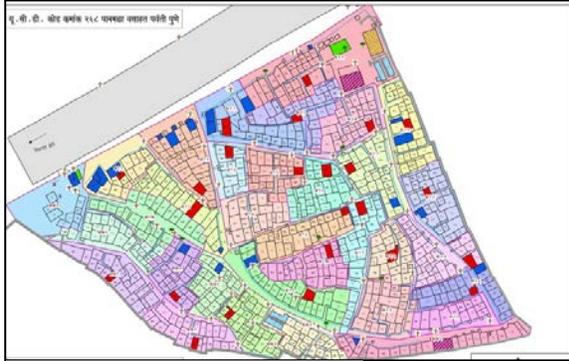
UNFF project sites in India are in the state of Maharashtra, in the city of Pune. Pune has grown rapidly in the last few decades. Its total population is more than 4 million and about 25%-- that is more than 1 million-- live in urban slums. Slums are overcrowded, dense areas and consist primarily of displaced people who were escaping famines in rural areas, in search of ways to earn a living. Most of the population living in slums migrated 25 to 30 years ago. The living conditions of slums are quite unhygienic due to lack of proper housing and other basic services.

Site selection

The UNFF field staff selected two wastepicker slums in Pune in which to work: Panmala Vasahat and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar on Sinhgad Road. Both slums are inhabited by wastepicker mothers and their

daughters. These slum areas were selected with the assistance of Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP). KKPKP is the wastepicker union in Pune and our organizations work closely together.

PanmalaVasahat is about 800 households and approximately 4000 in population and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar is about 300 households and 1500 in population.



Panmala Vasahat



Project staff

The UNFF team in Pune is led by Project Manager, Mrunalini Pendse, a social worker with over 15 years of field experience. The Unforgotten has also hired two young women from these slums to be our field assistants: Priya Alhat and Shilpa Zombade, whose mothers are wastepickers. In addition to working for our charity, UNFF is supporting their education.

Priya is 18 years old, has successfully completed her 12th grade examination and is the field coordinator for PanmalaVasahat. Shilpa is 19 years old, has passed her 10th grade examination and is the field coordinator for Rajiv Gandhi Nagar. As field coordinators they identify families that survive by wastepicking, mobilize women for Self Help Group meetings, and provide support of school fees or tuition fees to families for girls and collect receipts.



India Project Manager Mrunalini Pendse

As Project Manager, Mrunalini guides, trains and provides support to field workers in all their tasks. She conducts community meetings with the sponsored women, leads the formation of Self Help Groups (SHG), opens and maintains bank accounts of the SHG, monitors and implements project goals and objectives, tracks the funds and maintains the accounts, prepares reports, and coordinates with outside partners.

Beneficiaries Selection

In order to identify who would receive services from UNFF, the field staff interviewed and collected data on the inhabitants of the wastepicker slums. Data collected is socio-demographic information on

potential aid recipients, including age, income, education, literacy level, time spent waste picking, where the family migrated from, and information on other family members. UNFF identified the 100 neediest girls to enroll in school, and created a waitlist of other girls to enroll should resources become available.

Program Accomplishments

Girls' schooling



Unforgotten Project Manager Mrunalini Pendse working with sponsored girls

We are pleased to report that as of February 2015, The Unforgotten has already succeeded in enrolling 92 girls in school. The girls are also receiving extra tutoring outside of school, enabling them to succeed. The girls have been enrolled in nearby schools: Sane Guruji Primary School and Nandadip English Medium School. The Executive Director for UNFF, Amit Kapadia, and India field staff visited with the school principals in January 2015 to ensure that the objectives of this grant were being met. All girls have stopped waste picking and are attending school regularly. UNFF field staff regularly check on the girls and visit with school officials. In 2015, we will be adding 10 more girls into the program for the second year of the grant.

Self Help Group Formation

As of February 2015, The UNFF has facilitated the creation of 3 Self Help Groups (SHG) in the wastepicker slums. Each SHG is made up of 10 mothers who are wastepickers and has nominated a president and treasurer. UNFF helped the groups open bank accounts at the Bank of Maharashtra, which is a bank that caters to the needs of aid recipients receiving microloans. In order to make a withdrawal from the account, the president, treasurer and UNFF project manager must sign. DFW grant funds have been wired directly into these SHG accounts, giving aid recipients a sense of ownership and responsibility in the success of the program. In the second year of the grant, two more SHGs will be created.



Unforgotten field staff (Shilpa and Priya) visiting with Sane Guruji Primary School principal Mangalu Kamle

Skills training

Each SHG was allowed to choose what types of skills training they would prefer to learn. Many of the women expressed a desire to learn tailoring so UNFF arranged for the women to attend a tailoring course from August to October. The three-month "basic tailoring course" was conducted at the Panmala Community Center and was provided by the Indian government's Human Resource Development Ministry's agency Jan Shikshan Sansthan. DFW grant funds were used to pay for the course expenses (such as supplies and instructors). Each of the women completed the course successfully where they learned basic tailoring techniques, including how to take measurements, stitch clothes for infants, dresses

for girls and simple types of blouses for ladies. At the end of the course, an evaluation was done by the agency and each woman received a certificate of completion.

Microlending/Income Generation

Each of the women in the Self Help Groups was given an initial loan of \$100 over a 10 month period (which ended in December 2014). The groups decided they would have to pay \$110 back into the account. Before anyone could take a loan, each had to submit a business plan. Some of the women went into tailoring while other women chose other business ideas (such as selling plants, selling jewelry, selling garlands, and cutting iron).

Twelve of the women decided to continue learning more tailoring skills and took an advanced tailoring



course for two months. Some of them used their loans to buy sewing machines and have now started to make an earning from the vocation.



Variety of colorful dresses stitched by trainees

Of the 3 SHGs, one has been very successful. Each woman in that group has already repaid their loan, and will be taking a larger loan in the coming year. Women have increased their income to about 200 to 250 Rs per day (\$4 US). Success has been mixed in the other two SHGs, with some still in the process of repaying their loan. Most of the women in the SHGs still wastepick periodically to supplement their income. This is actually as we expected. It is easier to positively impact the lives of the children; turning the lives of the mothers around usually takes several years.

Short Film

We have created a short video as a follow up to the initial video we prepared for DFW. Organized and funded by Planete Urgence, a French film making team. They volunteered their time to help us make a documentary of our work. They also trained our young staff how to make short films. The new short film can be viewed on the homepage of the UNFF website (www.unforgotten.org).



Partnerships and Stakeholders

Building partnerships and reaching out to stakeholders are very critical in project implementation. We work closely with KKPKP union of waste pickers in the city. KKPKP has worked for more than 20 years to empower the waste picker community by demanding their rights of employment, safety, and security.



This partnership has been mutually beneficial for identifying beneficiaries, doing small research projects, photo documentation or implementing any activities. When required we partner with other Government or Non-Government agencies including schools and educational institutions.

In 2014 in collaboration with Planette Urgence, UNFF hosted two volunteers from France to train the staff and program participants in photography, video documenting and efficient use of video cameras. With their support, UNFF was able to develop a video documentary of UNFFs work in India/Pune.

UNFF had the opportunity to host one social work intern from Spain for three months. With his help the project was able to develop SHG women interview documentation as well as conduct some group building activities with our girls.

Expenses in 2014

Expense	Indian Rupees	US \$
School fees	85050	1,418
Tutoring	177000	2,950
Microloans	151000	2,517
Business supplies	5296	88
Travel	14400	240
Facilities	9700	162
Information Technology	36250	604
Staff (project manager and two field workers)	252000	4,200
Total	730696	\$12,179

UN Millennium Development goals supported by program

MDG 1: Eradicating extreme poverty, by helping those whose income is less than \$1 US per day,

MDG 2: Attaining universal primary education,

MDG 3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

Measuring Program Success

We will be working with about 10% of the population in these slum communities. We will be reaching about 100 families. Since the average family size is five persons, directly and indirectly we will reach about 500 individuals.

Measuring Program Success – Targets for Mothers

Program Objective	Description of objective	Measuring success	Objective met?
Income generation	Increase each mother's income to \$2 per day.	We have a target of 50% of women meeting this goal in two years. And our goal is to have 90% of our sponsored women meeting that income target in 5 years.	Yes. 20 out of 30 women i.e. 66% that we supported through microloan have increased income to \$3 per day.
Loan repayment	Initially, each woman will be given a small loan of Rs. 5000/- (\$100 US). Those that are successful in repaying the smaller loan, will be given larger loans (up to Rs. 25000/- or \$500 US).	Our goal is to have 75% of the mothers paying back the small loan within the first six months. Our goal is to have 75% of the larger loans repaid in two years (by the end of the DFW grant period).	Initially, 30 women received a small loan of Rs. 5000/- (\$100 US), and given ten months to repay that loan. 18 out of 30 women i.e. 60% of the mothers repaid back the small loan within the first ten months.

Measuring Program Success – Targets for Girls

Program Objective	Description of objective	Measuring success	Objective met?
Grade advancement	Sponsored girls should be receiving good report cards, passing their school exams and progressing to higher grade levels.	We have a target of 90% of all our sponsored girls advancing to the next grade, every year they are in the program.	14 out of 19 sponsored girls i.e. 73% of them advanced to the next grade, every year they are in the program.
End to wastepicking	Field teams will visit the sponsored families at their homes and visit the waste dump sites to ensure that girls are attending school and not working at the trash dumps.	We have a target of 90% of all our sponsored girls ceasing to be wastepickers, and fully concentrating on being students.	Yes, in fact 100% of our sponsored girls have ceased wastepicking
Regular attendance	We will check with the girls' teachers to monitor their attendance.	We have a target of each child missing no more than 15 days per school year.	Yes, our sponsored girls have been regularly attending school

Program Timeline

Below is the timeline that describes how and when we reached our most important goals.

Timeline with Project goals/tasks				
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Year 2013		Community visits for rapport building Field worker selection	Survey and data collection of waste picker families	Conducted women's meeting for SHG formation

		Prepared list of girls to be supported	<p>Provided educational support to 19 girls in Panmala Vasahat</p> <p>Conducted women's meeting for SHG formation</p> <p>Visited a govt agency to collaborate for vocational skill training</p>	Conducted basic tailoring course for 20 women in Panmala Vasahat
Year 2014	2 SHG formation UNFF video documentary prepared	<p>Micro loan dispersed to 2 SHGs</p> <p>Basic profile and business plans documented from all women</p> <p>Prepared list of girls to be supported SHG 3 formed</p> <p>Bank account of group 1 opened</p>	<p>Micro loan dispersed to SHG 3</p> <p>Bank account of group 2 opened</p> <p>Provided educational support to 92 girls from both communities</p>	<p>Monitoring visits made to girls to ensure they attend schools</p> <p>Visit to schools and meetings with school principals done to monitor girls progress</p>

Personal Stories

In the picture we see Maina, age 30 with her kids. Maina is in our Self Help Group. She stays in Panmala Vasahat with her husband, two daughters and one son. She and her husband have worked as wastepickers for 5 years. They have been assigned a particular society area for door to door garbage collection.



As it was difficult to manage expenses with their earnings, she started selling some goods and accessories on a wooden stand. She used to earn Rs. 100/- per day with that. She became a member of our SHG and received Rs. 5000/- microloan. It helped her as a capital investment to purchase the accessories in large quantity as well as to get some fancy items. Maina is now able to sell more and earn about Rs. 200-250/- per day.



The lady in the picture is Sangita, age 34. She stays in Panmala Vasahat with her husband, one son and one daughter. She works as waste picker and her husband runs a small workshop of iron cutting. Sangita became a member of our SHG and received Rs.5000/- microloan. She wanted to support her husband in the business. Using the loan they were able to buy the iron cutting machine that they were previously renting. Sunita's family is now able to save the rent money and take on more work and earn more money. They now earn Rs. 500/- extra money per day.



In the above picture we see a girl in our program Mohini, 8 years old who resides in Panmala Vasahat with her paternal aunt Anita in the above picture. Anita is a wastepicker and a member of our SHG who has received a Rs. 5000/- microloan. Using the loan Anita started making and selling brooms to earn Rs. 100/- per day. Anita who is a widow is struggling to survive for herself, her son who is now big enough to work. Anita looks after Mohini who lost her parents when she was small. We are supporting Mohini for her school fees. She has successfully passed through grade 2 and is now studying in grade 3.

Challenges

In Rajiv Gandhi Nagar we have not initiated SHGs as the community might get evicted as the residents have already received such notice from the local government authority. We are working on a contingency plan to provide services to another area or community so we can work with more women. UNFF has visited a community that we think would benefit from project implementation.

Feedback from aid recipients

The women receiving services from The Unforgotten are all thankful to the project. Women have expressed their gratitude below:

Anita Kamble, SHG member says, 'microloans help us to get some extra earning in spite of the fact that I am not educated. And the most helpful thing is educational support for the girl that releases our burden to some extent.'

Usha Bagade says, 'because of the support received we try to do something that could help us earn more money which is always necessary. And because we will again get the support we are motivated to repay the loans.'

Exit strategies

Women and girls will be able to graduate our program but it needs more time and support to sustain.

Budget/goals for 2015

Future milestones and an annual budget for 2015 by same categories is given below.

Project Milestones: Micro lending with Indian Waste pickers in Pune

Milestone	Target Date	Tasks
Form 2 Self Help Groups (SHG) of 10 women	Quarter 1 and 2, 2015	<p>Identify new slum community.</p> <p>Survey households into waste picking in selected community.</p> <p>Conduct community and women meetings.</p> <p>Form SHGs</p> <p>Collect data on family income, number and ages of children, schooling status of children, family members, and employment history. Give priority to single mothers (where father has abandoned family), mothers that earn less than 100 Rs per day in waste picking, families that have two girls, families where children also engage in waste picking, girls that have never attended school but are of primary school age</p>
Open accounts	Quarter 2, 2015	<p>For new Self Help Groups, open bank account after getting 2 nominations. Funding for account to be provided by UNFF. All payments made by members deposited into Account. Group decides interest rate. Unforgotten takes no share.</p>
Present business plans	Quarter 2, 2015	<p>Each member of SHG presents a business plan to the entire SHG on her plan to develop a business. How much she would like to borrow, and what she plans to do with it, how much she expects to earn.</p>
Disperse loans	Quarter 2, 2015	<p>Disperse loans to members of new SHG with business plans approved by SHG</p>
Disperse loans to old SHGs	Quarter 1 and 2, 2015	<p>Evaluate the repayments of old groups and disperse loans again for all SHG members</p>
Monitor and evaluate success	monthly	<p>Evaluate the progress each woman is making in her business. Track monthly income and expenses. Track repayment rates.</p>
Monitor girls success	Twice a year	<p>Monitor regularity and grade advancement of girls supported by visits to home, school and tracking progress reports.</p>
Provide educational	Quarter 2 & 3,	<p>Prepare list with the girls previously supported with any changes (deletions and additions). Disperse support provided</p>

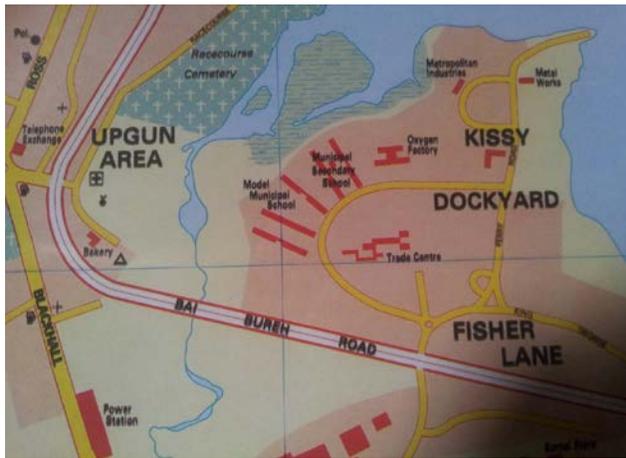
Milestone	Target Date	Tasks
support to girls	2015	from UNFF.

Sierra Leone

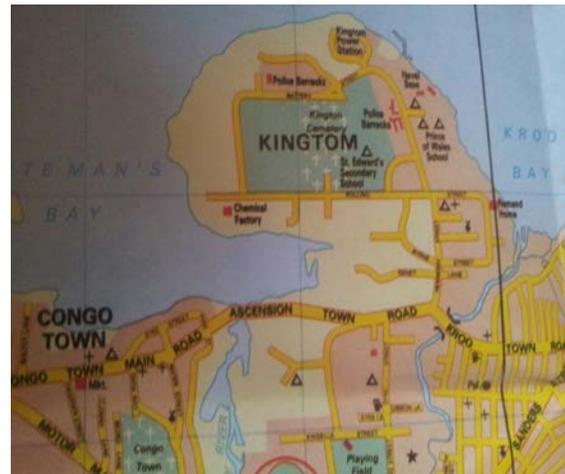
The Unforgotten Fund (UNFF) Sierra Leone Country Office was first registered with the Department of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children’s Affairs in November 2013 and commenced operation in January 2014. The mission of the program is to improve the lives of the unemployed, undernourished children and their mothers, who live in dumpsites or inhabit the neighboring dwellings (slum areas). The UNFF Sierra Leone Chapter specifically targets “waste-pickers” working at the Kissy Dockyard and Kolleh Town dumpsites. The program consists of many components: 1) an education program which includes a bridge tutoring program, future enrollment in private school, and homework tutoring; 2) a microloan component that involves business training classes for the mothers and startup capital for them to create small businesses; 3) a nutrition program that includes the preparation and providing of two meals a day for the girls in the bridge tutoring program and one meal for their mothers and other family members; and 4) a water project to provide clean and safe drinking water as well as a hygiene program to the communities.

Site Selection

The program is designed to benefit the people of the Kissy Dockyards and Kolleh Town by giving the girls a chance at an education and by providing their mothers a way to earn a sustainable income, helping to decrease their dependence on waste-picking at the dumpsites.



Map of the Kissy Dockyard



Map of KingTom

Status of Waste-pickers in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone over the past few years has made great strides towards economic recovery; however, it is still recovering from the effects of the brutal 11-year civil war. The war was extremely detrimental to the country’s economy and infrastructure, leaving over 50,000 people dead and displacing more than 2 million people. During the war there was a mass migration of people from the provinces seeking refuge in

Freetown. After the end of the devastating civil war, many of these displaced people chose to stay in the city in order to seek a better life. Currently, Sierra Leone suffers from a massive unemployment rate of around 70%. This affects all genders and age groups; however, it disproportionately affects women and youth. Due to an increasing population and lack of employment, Freetown has seen a tremendous growth of slum areas. Currently about 60% of the city resident's live in slum areas and suffer from a lack of access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation.

Working and Living Conditions of Waste-pickers

The most vulnerable living situations in these slums occur in the dumpsites. Diseases are common with flooding sewers and the discarding of human waste and toxic chemicals at the dumpsite. Wastepickers survive by salvaging reusable or recyclable materials thrown away by others from the dumpsite. They then must sell those items in order to earn money to make a living. The housing situation is deplorable; many live in one-room houses constructed of thin metal sheets that provide little protection from the outside elements (e.g. weather, security, and toxic emissions from burning trash in the dumpsites). In addition, these homes lack access to proper toilets, running water, and electricity. Many families without an income resort to waste-picking in the dumpsites; however, the little income they earn each day is not enough to sustain their families. The children are most affected by the conditions at the dumpsite and face economic exploitation, forcing many into child labor rather than attend school.

UNFF Sierra Leone was created to address the needs of these children and their mothers who live in the slums neighboring Kissy Dockyards and Kolleh Town dumpsites. UNFF works towards the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- to promote sustainable development in the poorest areas. In each dumpsite, there are over 1,800 settlers. UNFF Sierra Leone intends to reach at least 14% of the population, approximately 250 individuals, in each of the dumpsites.



Children waste-picking at the dumpsite.

Project Staff

Sierra Leone Country Directors- Aminata Alharazim and Madina Alharazim-Plummer

Field Projects Manager – Huratulai Bah; is the head of all fieldwork in Sierra Leone. The Projects Manager is also responsible for carefully monitoring each girl's school attendance and curriculum progress. She holds bi-weekly meetings with each mother to discuss their child's progress in school. She is also responsible for developing and enhancing relationships with the waste picking communities, and school administrators.

Field Project Assistant – Mabinty Michaela Sesay; Assists the Projects Manager and measures the progress towards project goals and the overall impact on target beneficiaries.

Field Outreach Coordinator – Abu Bakarr Sesay; liaison with the public on behalf of the organization and implements projects which aim to support vulnerable children, especially girls, to access quality education which will empower them and enhance their well-being. In addition, the Outreach Coordinator works closely with local authorities and/or national government, the country team, international organizations, and NGOs to advocate for humanitarian access.

Bridge School Tutors – Francis Sesay; provide tutoring for the pupils at Kissy Dockyard. Matu Jusu; provides tutoring for the pupils at Kolleh Town Community in King Tom

Cooks: Kadiatu Kargbo; prepares food for the beneficiaries at Kissy. Frances Barlay; prepares food for beneficiaries at Kingtom.

Volunteer: Amanda Ward; 2014 Summer Intern from Cornell University, located in United States of America.

Beneficiaries

In order to identify and sponsor the most disadvantaged children and their mothers, UNFF staff made several visits to the Kissy and King Tom dumpsites. Each mother and daughter selected possessed the following criteria: 1) live in or near the dumpsites, 2) of primary school age (between the ages of five and twelve) and have never attended school (girls only), and 3) earn less than \$1.00 per day from waste picking.

For each mother and daughter willing to participate, UNFF interviewed and collected the following data: 1) first and last name, 2) age, 3) health history, 4) level of education, 5) number of children (mothers only), 6) daily income generated from waste-picking (individual vs. family), 7) employment history (mothers only), and 8) number of siblings and family members also living at the dumpsite.

Program Accomplishments

In 2014, we have made tremendous progress at our project sites in Sierra Leone.

Girl's Schooling



Sponsored girls at KingTom taking their lessons. King Tom Tutor, Matu Jusu, is training one of the girls on the proper way of holding a pencil.

In 2014, UNFF Sierra Leone built two new Bridge Schools in the dumpsites of King Tom and Kissy Dockyard. Full operation of the Bridge School Programs commenced in King Tom, March 2014 and in Kissy Dockyard, May 2014. UNFF Sierra Leone succeeded in enrolling approximately twenty girls in the program. The UNFF program consists of an educational program that works with young girls, ages five to eight. They are tutored in a classroom that helps to prepare them for enrollment in school. The program also pays for tuition and other fees to enroll the girls in local private schools and provides homework help and additional tutoring assistance following the school

day. There has been a tremendous improvement in the course of learning for the girls. Most of them can now read and write which, was not the case before.

Track and Field Sporting Event

In April 2014, UNFF girls located in the King Tom Bridge School were invited to participate in a track meet by the neighboring school, Jasmine Primary, at the Prince of Wales Secondary School playground. The girls competed with three other primary schools. They not only competed in all track and field events, but they placed second in the competition! The girls attributed their success to their loose fitting uniforms and the refreshments they received prior to the competition. Our field team also credits the success to the two weeks of training to get the girls fit for the competition. Because of the solid performance of our girls, UNFF was promised by the heads of the other competing schools that they would be sending invitations to us to participate in their upcoming sport meets and other extracurricular activities.



UNFF Sierra Leone Intern

In May 2014, UNFF Sierra Leone received an intern from the Cornell University in America named Amanda Ward. She stayed in Freetown, Sierra Leone

for 7 weeks. She contributed tremendously to the program in Sierra Leone by helping the mothers with their business plans and trying to find partnerships to help us steadily expand for work. Despite the Ebola outbreak, Amanda was able to make tremendous progress in several areas. She drafted an evaluation plan to assess the efficacy of our program services, created an action plan for business training, identified and met with potential NGO and government partners, helped the mothers in our Self Help Groups draft

business plans, helped apply for grants and planned the course curriculum. She also provided special training to the teachers in tutoring the girls since she was a former teacher in America. She celebrated with UNFF Sierra Leone the “Day of the African Child”, which is normally celebrated on the 16 of June every year. Pictures below are taken from celebration.



Amanda Ward and the girls on the day of the African Child



The girls doing a quick test design by Amanda to win different prizes

The Unforgotten would like to thank Amanda for her services to the organization and we look forward to her continued participation in the charity’s work.

Media Coverage

The Ebola outbreak reached Sierra Leone in May 2014. In the fight against Ebola, the government restricted the movement of people, banned all social gatherings, which resulted in a closure of schools and higher institutions, a drastic fall in the GDP of the country, and an increase in prices of commodities. For the safety of the staff, UNFF limited their work in the field but continued office duties. In addition, the UNFF Sierra Leone made a very difficult decision to temporarily close both Bridge School Programs in King Tom and Kissy Dockyard. The Unforgotten team in Sierra Leone focused their efforts on raising awareness about the disease by embarking on an “Ebola Sensitization Workshop” with UNFF beneficiaries. The workshops took place at the Kissy Dockyard and Kolleh town communities on Thursday, 28th August. The workshops were so successful; it gained much attention from the public and Sierra Leone’s most widely circulated newspaper called, “The Awareness Times”. UNFF Sierra Leone was a featured article on the front page.

Throughout the remainder of 2014, UNFF Sierra Leone continued to work closely with NGO and CBO partners to raise awareness and provide sponsored mothers with information and resources to help prevent the disease.



At KingTom: UNFF Sierra Leone Team with a representative from our partners the MDG ambassadors in Sierra Leone. Sponsored girls and their mothers are holding cleaning supplies provided during the workshop.

Partnership and Stakeholders

The Unforgotten Sierra Leone is within its second year of implementation. We have been working closely with community elders in both dumpsite locations and have developed close partnerships with governmental institutions and agencies responsible for children, such as the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs and Freetown City Council, in which we are a registered organization.

UNFF has also built partnerships with other NGOs, such as Aid Sierra Leone Business Development service, Africa Rib Group, Comforti Community Aid Children Organization and the Millennium Development Ambassadors in Sierra Leone. UNFF has established close working relationship with these partners in order to aid the effectiveness of our programs. Furthermore, in the past few months, we have been invited to attend meetings and seminars with them. During our “Ebola Sensitization Workshop”, developed for our beneficiaries, UNFF worked closely with Amnet, donated handouts that were used to teach preventative measures against the Ebola virus.

Program Timeline

Below is the timeline that describes how and when we reached our most important goals.

Timeline with Project goals/tasks			
Year	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
2013	Registered the organization with institutions responsible for children.	Find the most vulnerable girls in slum areas.	Do thorough cross check with community elders to identify the right people.

<p>2014</p>	<p>Find buildings at King Tom and Kissy for the project where tutoring session will be held.</p> <p>Prepare their uniforms and all the materials needed to start the project. Find business and skills training organizations to train the supported mothers.</p> <p>Ebola crisis put a stop to the advancement of the project.</p>	<p>Prepare the list of girls to be supported. Open school at King Tom and after two (2) month open the school at Kissy for tutoring session.</p> <p>Basic business profile and skills training plans documented from all sponsored mothers.</p>	<p>Design a uniform style for the girls.</p> <p>Make arrangements for the enrollment of girls into primary schools.</p>
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Personal Stories

Mary William who is one of the beneficiaries lives in the King Tom dumpsite and has 5 children. She is very thankful for the program. For a very long time she has struggled to feed her children and find a reasonable place to live because of her low earnings. For now, the burden of feeding her household has been lifted off of her shoulders. She is now able to use her earning to find a suitable living situation. As a result of UNFF Sierra Leone, she no longer lives in the dumpsite. She now rents a single room where she and her kids now live.



Mary Williams in front of where used to live with her children.



Thanks to UNFF Sierra Leone, Mammy Fatmata, an old woman and her granddaughter, can now go to bed with something in their stomachs. Before the intervention of UNFF Sierra Leone, she and her granddaughter used to go to bed on empty stomachs. Now, they have enough to eat and her granddaughter has been relieved of excessive work wastepicking from the dumpsite. Now, she spends her days in school and she is one of the potential girls that will be enrolling in the school system this academic year.

Challenges

One of the greatest challenges we are faced with is getting the girls out of the dumpsite completely. The difficulty stems from the fact that their mothers and siblings are still wastepicking in order to make ends meet for the entire family. Wastepicking is their only form of generating income and sustaining their current lives. But if the mothers are engaged in other endeavors like income generating businesses and

engaged in a skills training program, rather than waste-picking, we will witness more success in removing the girls from the dumpsites, completely.

The women and children are very appreciative of the program especially in the area of educational aid given to them, which was the least in their scale of preference. Previously they did not see education as a way out. The mothers saw their daughters as a helping hand in waste-picking. The more hands in waste-picking, the more the families earning would increase. The mothers have now begun to see the importance of education. They would like to see their daughters leave the dumpsite and find another means of survival rather than waste-picking.

Another significant challenge the organization is facing is the Bridge School accommodations for the girls to conduct tutoring lessons. UNFF Sierra Leone is looking into the possibility of acquiring land to purchase and build a suitable building structure that will help us reach our efforts in obtaining the Millennium Development Goals in Sierra Leone.

Zambia

The Unforgotten Fund (UNFF) Zambia Chapter commenced operations in 2010. The mission of the chapter is to improve the lives of the unemployed, undernourished children and their mothers, who live in dumpsites or inhabit the neighboring dwellings (slum areas). The UNFF Zambia Chapter specifically targets wastepickers living in the Chingwere District as well as several orphanages throughout Zambia. UNFF aids these vulnerable groups with:

- An education program, which includes enrollment in the Mapalo Trust School.
- A microloan component that involves business-training classes for the mothers and startup capital for them to create small businesses.
- A nutrition program that includes the preparation of two meals a day for the children in the education program and one meal for their mothers and other family members.
- Capital water projects to provide clean and safe drinking water to many communities, particularly orphanages.

Status of Wastepickers in Zambia

68% of Zambians live below the national poverty line and unemployment is widespread. Due to its dependence on the mining industry, the Zambian economy suffered greatly from the 2009 economic depression. Furthermore, the HIV epidemic, while in decline in Zambia, still has an estimated prevalence rate of 13.5% among adults.

These socio-economic conditions affect all genders and age groups, but they disproportionately affect women and youth. Many disenfranchised families turn to wastepicking at dump sites as a source of employment (in recycling) and, dangerously, for food.

Working and living Conditions of waste pickers

The working and living conditions of wastepickers are unhygienic and dangerous. At dumpsites wastepickers are often exposed to raw sewage and toxic chemicals while they scavenge recyclable

materials to sell and food to eat. This exposure can cause disease and injury. Families that rely on wastepicking are impoverished, malnourished, and vulnerable. Malnutrition is an underlying factor in over half of childhood deaths. Many children who eat food from the dumpsites suffer diarrheal diseases, which can cause death.

Housing is another danger in at the dumpsites in Zambia. One-room houses are often poorly constructed and lack access to toilets, running water, or electricity. Overall these conditions are dreadful. Childhood mortality is very high; and malnourishment and truancy has a major impact on the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of the surviving children.

Site selection

The UNFF program in Zambia is designed to benefit the people of the Chingwere District by giving the children an education and by providing their mothers a way to earn a sustainable income, decreasing their dependence on wastepicking at the dumpsites.



Project staff

Project Manager, Rebecca Machiya, leads the UNFF team in Zambia, along with field coordinator, Kangwa Chewe (pictured).

Beneficiaries selection

The Unforgotten began providing aid to vulnerable mothers and children in Chingwere in 2010 to mothers and children that were surviving as wastepickers. UNFF was able to identify these families after partnering with Bwafwano, a community-based organization that had been in the area for over six years.

In 2014, the Lusungu Children's Home in Chingola, near the northern border with Congo, was selected as the beneficiary of a capital water project. Mercy Kids, another Non-Governmental Organization active in Zambia, brought the UNFF's attention to Lusungu Children's Home's years of dedication to sheltering at risk children.

Country Office Accomplishments

Education program

The education program is principally focused on the U.N.'s Millennium goal to achieve universal primary education. In 4 years, the education program has grown from 6 to now 28 fully enrolled children. These children are supported with school tuition fees, school supplies, and meals. The success of the program relies on several key components:

- The school-feeding program, which was started due to the high incidence of children fainting and begging from other children. Providing meals helps the children concentrate and perform in school while alleviating the financial burden on the families.
- Tuition costs are covered for enrolled children. Additionally, UNFF pays for extra tutoring at times to help the children who are struggling in class. This has enabled them to keep up with their counterparts.

- A family meals program provides each beneficiary family with 25kg of maize meal on a monthly basis. This program has helped alleviate food shortages in homes where mothers struggle to provide their children a single meal per day.

Women's Empowerment

The education program is designed to last 5 years, after which the families and children will provide for themselves. To facilitate this process, the mothers are empowered to become self-reliant through microloans and business training. They graduate with the ability to support their children's secondary education needs.

At the suggestion of the women, UNFF is in the process of implementing a long-term agriculture project. In 2014, UNFF purchased a 50m x 20m plot of land to be cultivated and maintained by the women. The plans for this land include erecting a pigsty and a chicken run. Pork and poultry products are highly lucrative in Zambia. Eventually the women will rear a minimum of 200 chickens at a time as well as maintain one male pig and three female pigs, which will reproduce piglets for sale. The rest of the land will be used for growing vegetables and other produce that the women can eat as well as sell at for profit in local markets.

The charity was able to enlist the help of an Agriculture specialist, Mr. Shawa, who is employed by the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Shawa has vast experience in training communities and has been a tremendous help to the women.

Even with the assistance, the women have developed a self-help attitude. With the help and guidance of the project assistant Kangwa, they have raised a "rainy day" fund for times of difficulty. Initially, the goal was to help pay for funerals and health issues, but it has grown and is a major source of support for the women's families. From their own resources the women each contribute K10 a month. Through their own savings the women have been able to accomplish several things including:

- Buying school uniforms for their children. In the past UNFF had purchased uniforms for the children.
- Purchasing cooking utensils to be used for the school feeding program where the mothers themselves cook for their children. At the onset of the project, UNFF had purchased these items.
- Provided for health and funeral expenses faced by members of the group.

UNFF strives to empower a self-reliant attitude amongst the women, which will last indefinitely. The women benefit from taking on these responsibilities and taking care of their own families.

Water project

In 2014, the Lusungu Children's home was selected for a capital water project. The project will deliver a borehole, water tank, and pumping in order to provide clean and safe drinking water to the nearly 100 children at the orphanage.

Partnerships and stakeholders

The UNFF Zambia Chapter works with several local partners, including:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Community Development
- Kabanana Orphanage
- Lusungu Children's Home
- Bwafwano organization

Personal Stories



Beatrice

Beatrice Mwangala has two children in the UNFF program, Imakando Stenge and Mwangala Stenge. She is married with seven children, five of whom are now going to school. Her husband is not formally employed and usually digs latrine pits for neighbors for about \$20USD, which he splits with a partner. In a good month he manages to dig about 3 latrines, so money is tight. In fact, they have been completely unable to send their youngest child to school due to lack of funds.

Beatrice Mwangala and her family have been on the UNFF program since March 2011. Previously they lived in a house made out of plastics, which was continuously infested with rats and mosquitoes. Inside the house they had made a demarcation for the parents bedroom and the rest of the family slept in the other room. During the rainy season the family would spend sleepless nights putting buckets/dishes in leaking areas. The children continuously suffered from colds and diarrhea, and the family was never able to provide three meals a day.

Family House before sponsorship



Toilet/Bathroom



Imakando and Mwangala used to spend most of their time in the dumpsite area where they would pick items of value like toys as well as food stuffs, which they would take home for the family to cook and consume. Stomach upsets and diarrhea were common.

*Mwangala**Imakando*

After an assessment UNFF picked this family as one of its beneficiaries. Mwangala and Imakando were enrolled in a private school and UNFF began providing a 25kg bag of maize meal every month to the family. Furthermore, Beatrice received entrepreneurship training and a K300 loan (\$60 USD). After receiving this loan, Beatrice put a stall outside her home and started selling vegetables and charcoal. With this business she was able to earn K10 (\$2) a day. This income, along with the monthly maize meal, is a tremendous contribution to the well-being of the family.

*The first vegetable stall**Beatrice eventually upgraded her outside stall to a small grocery shop.*

Beatrice has done well and managed to repay back approximately 70% of her loan. Today Beatrice is a happy mother who plans to expand her business in her next loan cycle. She wants to order reed mats, rice and fish from Mongu for resell in Lusaka. She has managed to send her son to Mapalo Trust School to redo his Grade 9 and hopes to send her other children once she raises enough finances.

Challenges

UNFF Zambia has several challenges in accomplishing its charter.

- Removing families completely from the dumpsite is difficult. The dumpsites offer an immediate means of income, so the UNFF must continue to advocate the benefits of education. This will also require a generation of successful graduates from the program.
- There is a long waiting list of children to be enrolled. The UNFF has budgetary constraints and is unable to take on board every needy child and family.
- Weaning children and families off aid completely is a major challenge. The U.N. Millennial Goal only extends through primary school, and these children need and want to attend secondary school and eventually college. The UNFF must partner with other NGOs as well as succeed in enabling the women to pay for the children’s secondary schooling.

Expenses in 2014

2014 EXPENSES			
CATEGORIES/PROJECTS	BREAKDOWN	AMT KWACHA	AMT DOLLAR (@K6.3/\$)
ADMIN	Talk time/internet connection	350.00	58.33
CHILDREN	Mealie Meal	17,488.00	2,914.67
	Tuition	1,960.00	326.67
	School Feeding	5,859.80	976.63
	Cooking Fee	3,120.00	520.00
	Training/agric	602.00	100.33
	School Fees	19,530.00	3,255.00
STAFF COMPENSATION	Kangwa Quarterly	15,600.00	2,600.00
FUEL	Fuel	3,900.00	650.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		68,409.80	11,401.63

Goals for 2015

One of the immediate goals for UNFF Zambia is to expand the program to include 2 more children. Perhaps more importantly, the chapter must lay the foundation to scale the education program. In 2015 UNFF Zambia will enroll more children and look for ways to grow the infrastructure of the program. Most importantly, to enable the women and their families to become self-sufficient, we will complete site improvements for the agricultural project – terrace the field, construct the pigsty and chicken coop and drill a borehole. In addition, the women will continue to receive training in horticulture and animal husbandry.

Another immediate goal in 2015 is to complete the capital water project at the Lusungu Children’s Home. As of May, the borehole has been drilled. Now the plumbing and water tank need to be completed.

For More Information

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