



2017 Education Annual Report

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Child Sponsorship

WHI donors support 2,047 children in ten countries. Child sponsorship utilizes multiple program areas to complement one another and act as a comprehensive response to poverty. The encouragement of a sponsor affirms that each child has been created in the image of God, has been named, and has a story worthy of being heard! Not only does WHI keep children in school through sponsorship, WHI sponsorship impacts children in powerful ways through education, nutritious food, clean water, disaster relief, healthcare, freedom from slavery and prevention of exploitation of children for sex, forced labor and early marriage.

Sierra Leone

Enable The Children

Enable the Children (ETC), is a team of local and international staff who provide physical therapy and occupational therapy, care, and support services to approximately 700 children living with disabilities in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Staff visit patients in their homes and teach families and caregivers how to support children with disabilities using play, developmental positioning, and feeding support. This allows families the opportunity to learn to provide at-home care and treatment to children in a manner that is sustainable in their everyday lives. ETC also provides support for the family unit as they learn to look after the child and provide a loving, nurturing home life. Additionally, ETC's school sponsorship initiative provides support to a small number of students in the form of school fees, which affords for

World Hope International believes that a quality education for all children is the key to transforming communities and reducing poverty, suffering, and injustice worldwide. WHI's education programs include those that are part of the child sponsorship program as well as independent education projects in Sierra Leone, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Azerbaijan.

these children the otherwise unlikely opportunity to attend school. ETC also provides small-business start-up grants to families who have had to change their pattern of work to allow for care to be provided for the child at home. Finally, the program works with local carpenters, tailors, and technicians to provide specialized equipment for patients including specially-designed chairs, standing frames, leg gaiters (to support standing and walking), drop-foot supports, and wheelchairs to patients in need.

In 2017, WHI trained a rehabilitation therapist, four rehabilitation therapy assistants in home-based therapy and exercises for children with disabilities, three Family Support Group volunteers in psychosocial support (including the creation of specialist support groups), and one Pastoral Support Worker to focus on community networking and psychosocial support. These trainings help manage and support therapy in their home environments with their family.

Additionally, 170 specialized pieces of therapy equipment, 70 scholarships and 24 small business start-up grants were provided along with 1,531 home visits to provide therapy and material assistance so that children with disabilities are able to reach their full potential and have a good quality of life. To strengthen the family support network—so that families with children with disabilities will be supported and encouraged by surrounding communities—313 local leaders were sensitized and 61 Family Support Groups were performed.

Early Childhood Development

The community-based early childhood development (ECD) project is a joint mission of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Sierra Leone, UNICEF, and WHI. WHI is working within ten under-resourced communities in Bombali District. Country-wide estimates have indicated that only 10% of children in Sierra Leone are enrolled in pre-primary school or nursery programs. Parents do not understand the value of preschool programs, and preschool programs do not exist in most low-resource communities. Parents also do not know how to prepare children for school at home. As a result, upon entering primary school, a large number of children lack essential school readiness skills. This might be why one in four children does not





Adamsay lives in Mabolleh, one of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) program communities in Bombali District. At age 25, she is married with two young children. Unfortunately, she was only able to finish Level 3 of Junior Secondary School due to lack of funds.

When the ECD center was introduced in her community, she began volunteering with the youth group to help mobilize her community. “I fell in love with the idea of good early childhood development and felt I had to do more,” Adamsay shared. She became one of the volunteer community-based ECD workers.

Adamsay has emerged as one of the leading mobilizers in the community. She wakes up very early every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings to prepare the center for the day’s activities, fetch water, and clean before going back home to do her chores. While she is walking to the ECD center, she encourages caregivers to prepare their children to be sent to the center.

visits, and focus group discussions. In addition, 803 caregivers (305 male and 498 female) were informed of support available through the ECD program.

A total of 1,765 young children are registered at the 17 ECD centers. When the children arrive, they are separated into two groups: 0-2 years and 3-5 years. The younger children engage in positive, nurturing interactions with their caregivers. This helps to develop the children’s sensory-motor, cognitive, language, social and emotional skills. The older children are engaged in different types of play. In addition to the toys provided by UNICEF, 163 caregivers (90 female and 73 male) participated in making toys out of local and recycled materials within the community. Four workshops and fairs were conducted each month. All the participants were excited to use their creativity to make a toy for the children. Additionally, 400 vulnerable children in 200 disadvantaged households were visited as part of the home visit.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia & Herzegovina, WHI exists to spread hope and transform communities primarily through education and community development. WHI desires to see lives and societies transformed through the power of Jesus Christ, as we promote justice and share faith, hope, and love in our community. This is accomplished through small cooperative projects, seminars and workshops, the Education Resource Center, the Learning to Learn program, and ongoing education classes.

complete primary school in Sierra Leone. The goal of the early childhood development project is for 10,000 children under five-years-old to participate in early stimulation or early learning activities at specialized community centers and through home visits. WHI also intends to educate 2,000 caregivers of child under five about early childhood development and good child reading skills, while helping them gain access to early childhood development centers.

In 2017, 17 ECD structures (14 makeshifts constructed and 3 pre-existing buildings rehabilitated) were completed for children to attend three times a week. Each center has a management committee to ensure the centers are maintained and well run. WHI conducted community and district level trainings for 51 volunteer ECD workers, 170 Mother Support Groups and the ECD Management Committee in all the ten pilot communities covering topics focused on the ECD themes, center-based activities, home

Learning to Learn

The Learning to Learn program in Bosnia and Herzegovina provides personalized encouragement and support for primary school students who have learning disabilities. Local schools offer adequate programs for students, but there is little to no attention given to students who have learning disabilities. These students quickly fall behind their classmates and are often unable to complete even their basic school work, such as reading, writing, and mathematics. In 2017, WHI worked with four teachers to provide one-on-one tutoring to 34 students tailoring the sessions to their individual needs. Additionally, WHI worked with a speech therapist to provide individualized focus to 20 elementary-age students who have speech difficulties or mental impairments.

Adults with Special Needs

WHI works with a local teacher to offer a bi-weekly workshop for adults with special needs and learning disabilities who often have difficulties with communication. These workshops provide structured activity time, an opportunity for social interaction, and a safe place where they are encouraged and celebrated. Our main goal is to make everyone feel worthy, loved, supported and empowered, which is currently lacking towards those with special needs in the community. The crafts they make in the workshop are sold, and the group uses the money to go out to coffee or pizza. Most recently, the group made advent candles for Christmas season and sold out! They used the proceeds to have a Christmas party.



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Emma is a 6-year-old girl who struggles with managing her emotions and behavior. At the beginning, she was very unhappy and did not want to share her feelings by speaking. Instead, she would become silent and withdrawn and often cry for no reason. During the tutoring session, she works with another student her age to develop her social skills with her peers. After a few months, Emma is showing great effort in completing each task without tears and is beginning to verbally communicate her feelings. Her mother is very happy with the progress that she is seeing in her daughter.



Azerbaijan

In Murovdagh, Azerbaijan, the population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has grown from 250 to 650 families since 2000 as a result of the conflict with Armenia. In order to facilitate the growing number of children, WHI constructed two new classrooms for 60 kindergarten students to attend, with a capacity to reach up to 100 children. Additionally, WHI partnered with Kids Around the World to provide a playground surrounded by a fence and gate for security. An opening ceremony was celebrated with teachers, students and WHI in attendance.





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