



# Annual Report 2021



ER.COTT



## Mama Mayila's Message

Although we began 2021 with trepidation, covid still hanging over everything, we ended the year with a brand new permanent home for Mama Mayila's Cradle well on its way.

I was proud to attend the launch of a tree-planting programme for schools in Sanda Magbolontor with our delivery partners Society 4 Climate Change Communications.

But my personal highlight of the year came in August helping to dig the first foundation for our new home blessed by our pastor and local imam.



Although lockdowns and pandemic restrictions on in-country travel continued through the first few months of 2021 impacting our mission, we were still able to deliver a ton of rice to the 48 children living in our kinship fostering programme in Moa Wharf.

And we supported the children living with disabilities in Mahanaim House for eight months of the year thanks to uncle Ian and Aunty Marenka while also giving two other orphanages a Christmas to remember with food and Christmas treats!

*Mayila*

### **Mama Mayila's Cradle**

Our interim care service for vulnerable children takes referrals only from the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs.

Our new home will have 24 permanent bed spaces when fully opened with a further 16 temporary bed spaces available to the Ministry in case of emergencies, such as 2017's tragic mudslide.

Each of the children's bedrooms has its own bathroom with WC, double shower and double basins to help maintain gender separation. As well as enjoying regular trips to the beach all the children in Mama Mayila's Cradle interim care centre take part in football training with former Leone All Stars player Lawson.

Mercy left us after nearly six years in our care resettled with biological family and Sid's adoption from our legacy programme went through smoothly and he's now with his forever family receiving the medical treatment that he needs in the United States.

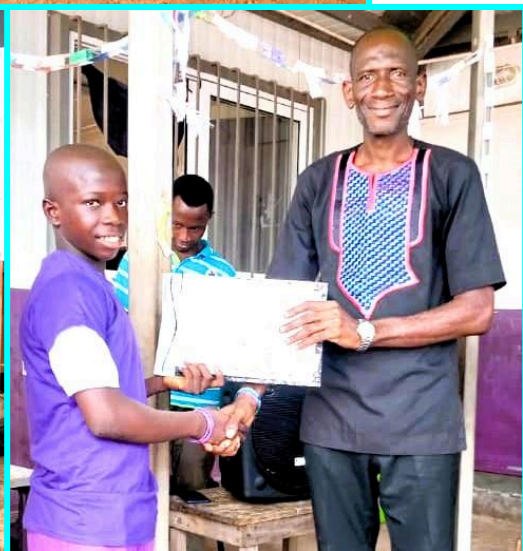




The Children love celebrating world days particularly Day of the African Child where children all over the continent are the centre of attention for the day. At Hope we try to make children the centre of attention every day with plenty of celebrations for birthdays, academic or sporting success, as well as Easter and Christmas.

Aunty Zainab and all the care-givers all received refresher child protection training, as well as training in family reunification.

The children continue to thrive studying a modern curriculum at Rising Academy but Alex did himself proud coming first in every subject in his class for the second year running and being named student of the year at Rising Academy!





## Moa Wharf Kinship Foster Care

A ton of rice for Moa Wharf was delivered to the 55 vulnerable children supported in our kinship foster care programme, living with biological families after being orphaned by Ebola or coping with a disability and with a resident coordinator to help address any issues that arise straightaway.

Our programme has been running since the height of the Ebola pandemic back in 2015 successfully reuniting more than 30 children orphaned by Ebola with biological family, ten children, originally from Moa Wharf, were adopted internationally keeping siblings together.





## Support for Interim Care

Since we began our mission we have made a virtue of always sharing any success we have with our colleagues in the interim care sector, orphanages that receive no grants or income from the government.

### *Mahanaim House*

And in 2021 thanks to the generosity of uncle Ian in the UK and Aunty Marenka in the Netherlands we supported the children living with disabilities at Mahanaim House for eight months with rice and palm oil, personal care items and treats for these resilient children.



Mahanaim House is the only dedicated facility in the western area for children living with disabilities. Managed by the esteemed Madam Melrose, herself disabled and daughter, Mahanaim House was purpose built in the 1990s with a grant from the UK charity, Cheshire Trust. But the building is now in disrepair and a new home being provided by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs.

And with donors continuing support we were able to distribute rice, palm oil and other store cupboard essentials, such as laundry soap and toothpaste for two other orphanages providing a much needed boost in time for Easter and Christmas, helping 95 vulnerable children in interim care.

### *Initiatives for Women and Girls Empowerment*

Initiatives for Women and Girls Empowerment, established after the Ebola pandemic by Aunty Margaret with funding from UK charity Comic Relief which continues to support.



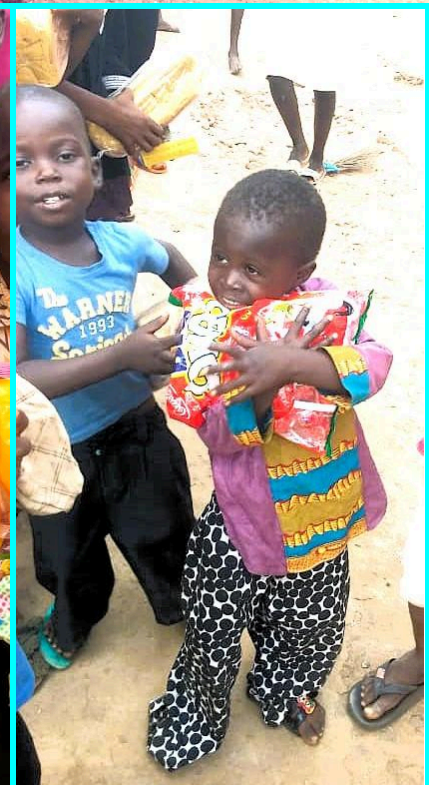


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## *Network for Children in Need*

Network for Children in Need, run by the indomitable Mrs Kamara and dedicated son, Jim Gbappy, received funding for UK charity, Children in Need to help them through the Ebola pandemic and now cares for 75 vulnerable children.

In 2021 Hope kids, Miss Mya and Alex helped deliver a total of 650 kilo of rice and gari and 240 litres of palm oil to our colleagues in the interim care sector.





## Hub Projects

The innovative 'Trees for Sanda Schools' project entered its second year, providing fruit and tree saplings for participating schools in Sands Magbolontor Chiefdom.

Eight schools planted a mix of cashew and banana saplings in their grounds or on community land, with pupils learning how to plant the saplings with enough natural fertilizers to help them establish and thrive and then take care of them through the year.

We were also able to support the Polio Challenge Association with contributions towards their administration costs helping the team to continue campaigning for disability rights.





## **A New Home for Mama Mayila's Cradle**

Land was viewed in February and surveyed in April. The site is located in the buffer zone to the internationally protected peninsula area and surrounded on three sides by mountains covered with pristine ancient forest and with wide open views to the west of the Atlantic ocean so a sympathetic design was essential. The children all drew their ideal home and single storey plan, stepped in three places to work with the contours of the land and minimize disruption to the stone and with plenty of trees to be replanted to mask the buildings' presence and help it blend into the beautiful surroundings.

The land was cleared and the first foundation laid in a special ceremony in August attended by Mama Mayila, the local Headman for the Chiefdom, with blessings from our pastor and local imam.

We hope to make the build as sustainable as possible with timber for the project being sourced from Hope Sakuma farm; river sand in stead of beach sand; reusing stone from the foundation dig and although cement is essential for the foundations, cement use is being minimized by making hydraform clay bricks on site - using 80% less cement - reducing transportation costs and emissions.



Windows and doors with modern safety glass were shipped in May from the UK and the forty foot container maneuvered into place in June just in time for the shipment to arrive in July, providing somewhere safe to store the bounty, tools and construction materials, as well as security accommodation for the site.



Foundations were dug by hand by the hardworking A-team July through September, during the rainy season, with iron rod for pillars cemented in and the first layers of the foundations' cement blocks laid in place.



October, through November the building team construct what looks like a labyrinth of walls carefully interlocked for stability. Because of the steep slope the original design is stepped to provide three level-access sections, each level with bedrooms, living areas, bathrooms and direct access to the outside.

Then the team backfill the foundations with the ironstone and granite from the digging of the foundations before screeding the floors to let them weather in.

And in late November construction began on the walls made with bricks made on site from local clay and river sand. The rear section and half the middle section was completed as the year drew to a close.

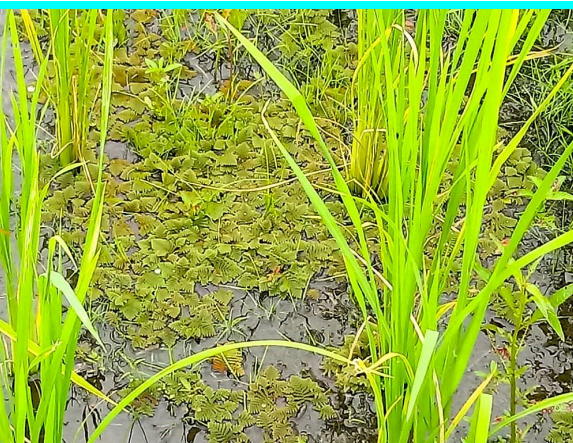


As the foundations were laid and through to the year end the team made all the cement blocks for the foundations on site from locally produced cement, reducing international transportation costs and emissions, local river sand reducing the environmental harm from beach sand mining and reusing granite and iron stone as ballstone for the foundations cement and block mix.

Two hydraform brick making machines were purchased to make all the bricks for the build using local red clay and river sand and weathered during the rainy season before drying as the sun came out.

The new build project aims to be as sustainable as possible with timber for the roof joists and carpentry commissioned from Hope Sakuma farm in Sanda Magbolontor helping to reduce the builds' environmental impact.





## Hope Sakuma Farm

The demonstration farm continues to focus on developing the rice-azolla and cassava value chains.

### *Rice Value Chain*

The farm's rice paddies, fertilized by azolla, ducks and tilapia continue to produce solid results with 3.2 tons of rice produced from just twenty paddies planted June to October with a mix of three and four month nerica L-19 rice. And in 2021 the farm provided two-thirds of the Foundations' rice needs for interim care and foster care programmes.



Hope Sakuma was proud to continue providing 'hands-on' agricultural lessons for students from Sendugu primary school at key stages of the cropping cycle.



## *Cassava Value Chain*

With three well-established cassava farms the Hope Sakuma team make food use of their first class cassava grater, first peeling and washing before pressing.

Then the fine steel pan toasts the grated cassava before sieving into 24 fifty kilo bags from 6 sessions.

1.2 tons of gari was produced by the farm in 2021.

## Under Construction

Hope Sakuma added to the farms' assets over the year finishing construction of the new store; a bakery and a water well.

The year started with completion of a new store to store tools and produce safely. Testing the potential contractor for the orphanage build, construction was neat and professional and most importantly on time and budget!

Construction of a bakery completed in May, rather larger than anticipated! But unfortunately the master baker selected for the project fell ill shortly after.

The digging of a much needed water well will help ease watering of peppers and fruit tree saplings in the dry season.

