

Saint George Foundation (SGF) Report for December 2020 and January 2021

Introduction

Saint George Foundation (SGF) Sierra Leone is pleased to present to St George Foundation (UK) its monthly report for the period of December 2020 to January 2021. The report covers activities carried out at the Interim Care Centre (ICC) for the aforementioned period.

The report entails SGF's contribution to Child Safeguarding and its role in keeping children safe in an environment that is well protected and promotes their well-being.

It further provides information on specific activities implemented by SGF during the last two months.

Below are the key activities that were undertaken during this period of reporting.

Key Activities Undertaken During This Period.

- Children reported sick during this course of reporting
- Organising sport activity for children at the ICC
- Organisation Christmas party and Carol service for children
- Referral of a vulnerable sick child to the ICC
- Providing life skills and psychosocial first aid to children at the ICC
- Education

Children reported sick

Four children (three boys and a girl) were reported sick in December 2020. The causes of the sickness were reported to be malaria, cold, low blood pressure, and minor wounds. They were taken to the Ola Daring Government Hospital for treatment. One of these sick children was admitted for malaria parasite. He spent three days in the hospital undergoing treatment. He was discharged on the fourth day, after thorough examinations.

In January 2021 one child was reported sick of toothache and was taken to the community health center for treatment, the health clinic provided some pain killers to reduce the pain and swelling, the child is presently OK. And the child has been booked for tooth removal at the end of the month.

Organised sporting activities for children at the ICC

Sport is a physical activity that builds the mental well-being of children. The management organized sporting events for the children living at the centre to keep them physically fit, especially during this COVID-19 period. SGF organised soccer and athletics competitions for the children on 5th December and 19th December 2020, respectively.

Invitations were extended to other children, especially beneficiaries of SGF. The events created friendship and social cohesion among the children.

Organised Christmas party

The festive season starts as early as November every year. It is a great time and a magical experience for young children, as they encounter all of its wonders: the expectation of waiting and counting the days till Santa Claus's visit, the years of tradition are there too to explore.

The annual Christmas party was organised on the 25th December 2020, followed the annual new year's party on the 1st of January 2021. Both activities are organised every year for the children at the Interim Care Centre at Grafton and our past beneficiaries and the Street Children, the organisation we are currently working with across different communities in Freetown.

Referral of a vulnerable sick child to the ICC

A sick child was referred to SGF ICC in December 2020. The child in question is suffering from epilepsy but because of traditional beliefs was taken to Rogbangba village close to Freetown for traditional healing. During the process, the child was smoked with herbs. Due to suffocation, the boy fell into hot water and badly burnt. The child was taken to the hospital for treatment.

The boy is due for operation any time soon. He was abandoned by his family and SGF is playing a leading role in taking the boy for medical examination while awaiting a final report from the doctor on his health situation.

Providing life skills and psychosocial first aid to children at the ICC

In December 2020 and January 2021 SGF children at the ICC were provided with life skills (Arts and Craft). They had mentorship on how to design different colours of rags and beads in order to design slippers. The skills are needed to build the resilience in different techniques learnt during their stay. Drama and singing, dancing and mentorship are all part of the daily and monthly activities. They are also engaged in counselling, which helps relieve them from traumatized situations and transforms them into positive happy children.

Education

SGF supports five (5) children in different communities and one (1) child at the interim care center who sat and passed the Basic Education Certificate Examination (**BECE**), although some of them do not have clear passes for their schools of choice. In that regard, their caregiver is asking for some sort of assistance in order pay their entrance fees into their new schools.

