



Medical Assistance

Sierra Leone

ACTION ON SPECIALIST CARE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

Medical Assistance Sierra Leone supports access to health care and urgent medical treatment for communities and individuals in Sierra Leone.

The organisation works with others to raise awareness of the key health and development issues facing communities in Sierra Leone – and to generate interest and support in meeting the health needs of the country.

Working with local partners in the government health service and with a range of local NGOs, Medical Assistance Sierra Leone supports training for health workers, awareness-raising around health issues, and provides a range of medication and equipment to under-resourced services.

1. INTRODUCTION

The reporting year 2021 to 2022 was one in which we worked on strengthening and maintaining our epilepsy support work, ensuring medical supplies to the clinics despite the rise in the cost of medication. We took our collaboration with the Sierra Leone Association of People with Albinism to the next level, securing some significant funding for capacity-building, awareness-raising, and a pilot skin clinic from Pro-Victimis Foundation (PVF).

We are delighted at this support for the albinism work: over 80% of people with albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa will die from skin cancer between the age of 30 and 40 years (UN 2015). These deaths are entirely preventable with greater awareness, sun protection and access to skin care.

The report below details MASL activities from October 2021 to September 2022.

2. SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY IN SIERRA LEONE

MASL continued to work with partners on increasing the numbers of people accessing epilepsy treatment, and advocacy and support to those experiencing isolation and discrimination as a result of the condition.

We are prioritising maintaining the clinic and medication supplies as the core service, and delivering training, awareness-raising and support groups when resources allow. We were delighted to receive a grant from the Bart Caulker Foundation this year to support health worker training, medication and supplies. Project Consultant Neurologist Dr Lisk has identified two trainee medical doctors who are interested in neurology, and we will use some of these funds to help them with their final rotations so that they may apply for neurology-specific training.

We continue to support patients with six epilepsy drugs. We fundraise for and ship all of these drugs from the UK, except one - Roweepra. We are enormously grateful for our partnership with the Row Foundation who annually donate cartons of Roweepra (levetiracetam); this quality generic drug has helped to manage seizures in patients who were not responding to the other drugs.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022



2. SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM

There is very little support for the practical health problems faced by those with albinism in Sierra Leone, and multiple local beliefs surrounding the condition mean that the community experiences profound stigma and discrimination.

We have been working with the Sierra Leone Association of People With Albinism since 2019 on sunscreen support, medical treatment and awareness-raising. We were delighted to end this reporting year with news of a grant from Pro-Victimis Foundation. Our two year project, entitled 'Creating Community and Promoting Rights: Living a full and safe life With Albinism in Sierra Leone', aims to directly improve the health status and life opportunities of 1050 people with albinism in Sierra Leone through the promotion and facilitation of access to:

- sun protection
- skin cancer treatment
- a supportive community of peers

These activities will take place alongside targeted awareness-raising work to address stigma. This will include a Teacher's Guide and we are once again grateful to Michael Duff (duff.tv) for taking photos of SLAPWA members in school settings earlier in 2022 in preparation for this important booklet.

3.1 SHIPPING OF DONATED SUNSCREEN

Our partnership with sunscreen company Altruist Sunscreen continued and this year we were very pleased to be offered further supplies of sunscreen free of charge for the Sierra Leone Association of Persons with Albinism. We fundraised to cover the costs of their shipment to Sierra Leone and these were distributed at 'Living Safely With Albinism' forums at locations across the country. The free sunscreen not only saves lives but brings people together to share experiences and create community; SLAPWA is developing a detailed understanding of the lives of its members which is informing its work.

3.2 PILOT DERMATOLOGY CLINIC

Dr Bitika Atika, a dermatologist working at a private hospital in Freetown, has continued to work with SLAPWA to voluntarily run skin screening clinics. We look forward to building on this work this year with the purchase of an electrocautery machine with the PVF project and securing a dedicated clinic space in SLAPWA's offices.

We continue to raise funds separately for the necessary and urgent surgeries for patients who are identified at the clinic. Surgical options only are available in Sierra Leone currently.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022



4. OTHER INITIATIVES

After last year's donation of a paediatric bronchoscope from Karl Storz, German manufacturer of bronchoscopes, we used the funds from our online fundraising page to buy vital spares to ensure the bronchoscope is always available and in use at the Connaught Hospital. These items were delivered to Dr Kabineh at the Connaught Hospital in 2022; the picture below was taken after the successful removal of a foreign object from the lung of a five year old child using the equipment.

We have continued to offer some financial support to the mother of triplets who found herself alone with the babies immediately after birth. This includes renting accommodation so that they remain close to the hospital until the triplets are older.

5. FUNDRAISING

We are very grateful to all those who have supported us this year with in-kind donations and fundraising. Over 11,000 people rely on the epilepsy medication that we purchase and ship to Sierra Leone. Apart from the donated medication from the Row Foundation,

FUNDRAISING

we do not have a grant for these costs and the funds are generated from individual donations, cake sales and through other creative methods. We would be very grateful for donations to support this essential expenditure, as well as any support for the cancer surgeries for Persons with Albinism. Like many organisations in the voluntary sector we have seen a decline in donations as a result of COVID.

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to run a marathon, hold a cake sale or organise a fundraising event for Medical Assistance Sierra Leone. We can help with publicity, materials and other support required.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported our work this year.

Medical Assistance Sierra Leone,
31 Grove Hill, Emmer Green,
Reading RG4 8PN

mail@masierraleone.org.uk
www.masierraleone.org.uk



Medical Assistance
Sierra Leone

ACTION ON SPECIALIST CARE



Registered Charity Number: 1105330



Medical Assistance

Sierra Leone

Action on maternal & child health and specialist care

	1st Oct 2021 - 30th Sep 2022			last year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts & Payments				
Receipts				
Donations	12,010	0	12,010	14,119
Row Foundation	0	694	694	2,854
Bart Caulker Foundation	0	9,500	9,500	
Souter Trust	0	3,000	3,000	
Pro-Victimis Foundation	0	52,500	52,500	11,749
interest	5	0	5	
other				20,291
Total receipts	12,015	65,694	77,709	49,013
Payments				
Albinism project	1,040	377	1,417	3,886
Clinic costs & nurse sponsorship	3,937	0	3,937	
Epilepsy support	11,622	7,431	19,052	52,442
Fundraising & UK admin	250	6	256	1,164
Other costs	375	0	375	791
Total payments	17,223	7,813	25,036	58,283
Net receipts/(payments)	(5,208)	57,881	52,673	(9,270)
Cash funds at last year end	9,289	0	9,289	18,559
add net receipts/(payments) (above)	(5,208)	57,881	52,673	(9,270)
Cash funds at this year end.	4,081	57,881	61,962	9,289

Statement of assets & liabilities at the year end.

Cash funds		
Current account	61,962	9,289

Signature of Trustee

27 Jul 2023

Sarah Snow

27-Jul-23

RFH
27/7/23

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Medical Assistance Sierra Leone

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2022
Charity number 1105330

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

 27/7/2023

Name: Richard Arnold ACA (ICAEW membership no. 7374835)
Address: Unit 6, Bulldog House, London Rd, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9EU
Date: 27th July 2023