



Progress Report  
Brighter Horizons  
2017/2018



Update on Brighter Horizons Project in Sierra Leone: The X-Prostitution project, The Inclusion-for-All project and the Special talented kids project.

## The X-Prostitution Project:

The X-Prostitution Project is developing as planned. The girls in our programme are doing great progress. We still have 10 girls in the project but 2 girls have been changed. Sia and Fatmata have finished the programme now. They are done with their educations as a hairdresser and tailor and have been getting jobs in locals boutiques. They are adult women now, and after having them in the program for some years, they have reached a point, where they can take care of themselves. Their places in the programme have been filled by two teenage girls, thirteen years old Mabinty and fourteen years old Sara. They both lived in the slum of Kroo Bay and were working as teenage prostitutes. They were thrown out of their homes and had nobody to take care of them, so the only way of survival was to sell themselves to men. When we spotted them in Kroo Bay, they were in very bad shape both mentally and physically, living in a small room in the slum, with 4 other teenage prostitutes. They are both smart girls, ready to and motivated to change their lives and get an education in order to change their fate.

Now they live in a different environment, with our foster mom Marie and are enroled in school. The school year starts up again in mid-September. If you want to know more about Mabinty and Sara go to our Facebook page [Brighter Horizons Project](#), where we have a very touching film about Mabinty.

All the other girls are doing progressing as mentioned above. We are very happy that Isata is starting college in September. She will be studying to become a social worker, because she wants to help girls like herself, who have been living a hard life, without any help from family and society. Margaret has joined the programme at the same

time as Isata. She will be starting SS4 which means that she can be starting college next academic year.

Mariama, Janet and Kadiatu, all have one year left of their education as hairdressers. After that, they should be capable of providing for themselves, so we can take new girls in.

The last three girls in our project, Elisabeth, Isatu and Anita are all in school and is progressing as expected.



One of the challenges we have had in the project is that some of the oldest girls in our program are adult women now. Mariama is 21, Isata is 22 and Margaret is 23. It has been difficult for them in the house for the last year. Living with the younger and not as mature girls have been distracting and created some tensions. For that reason, we have found and rented small apartments for the three girls, so they can be a lot more independent. Marie is still monitoring them, and a lot of times they are coming to the house, and have dinner with Marie and the other girls. We continue to pay them a monthly amount for food and pocket money and we still pay for their education.



## Inclusion-for-All Programme:

We owe Vidal Koroma, our manager in the disable programme, great thanks. He has been absolutely fantastic in taking care of all the disabled people in the programme. He has a very big heart for each single disable person in Brighter Horizons, and through his love and passion for them, they are loyal both to him and to our project. The disabled people in our programme has become role-models for thousand of disable people in Sierra Leone. They are touring around the country and participate in various football tournaments all over Sierra Leone. They play against able-bodied teams. Even though they all have serious disabilities like Polio, amputated arm and legs, they can still compete with players without any disability. Their slogan is "Disability is not inability" and as they say, whatever the able-bodied people can do, they can do as well and even better.

At the moment, we have 21 disabled people in the house, but we are going to make some changes based on Vidal's recommendation. Some of the older guys in the programme will get their own place. We will get a new house for 8 of the guys who are 25+yo, and we will take some young disabled boys in the age from 12-15 into the house.

Most of the guys leaving the disable house are done with their skill education, which means that they can more or less take care of themselves now. We, in Brighter Horizons, will pay their rent for the first 2 years, but they can maintain their daily life themselves, which will keep our expenses on the disable program to more or less the same level as usual.

The new boys coming into the house, have all different background and disability such as Mohamed Kamara, the newest boy we just

took in. Mohamed Kamara is 12 years old. He was living in the province, approximately one hour away from our disable house in Waterloo. Every day he and his brother were climbing to the top of the Mango trees collecting Mangos that their mother could sell at the market. One day when he was in the top of a tree, the branch broke and he fell more than 5 meters down. He was kind of lucky because he only broke his arm. During the night he started to have a lot of pain in the arm, and instead of taking the boy to a medical doctor, his mother took him to a traditional doctor. The native doctor put a very strong homemade 'medicine' in his arm, wrapped it with a bandage and told the boy and his mother to keep it on for the next 4 days. After two days the pain was a lot worse and the arm was starting to smell. They hurried to the nearest hospital and the doctor had no doubt. If Mohamed should have a chance to survive, they had to cut off his arm. And so they did.



The mother brought Mohamed back home, but she could not provide for him when he was no longer capable of working. Even though they live more than one hour away from our disable house she had heard about it, and she took Mohamed to our house. Pleading Vidal to take him in. So Vidal did and now we are doing all we can, to give Mohamed a new change in life. He will start at school in September when the schools are reopening.

Now, when the older guys are moving out, many of the young boys we are taking into the house have similar life stories as Mohamed. They have no social system to take care of the disabled people in Sierra Leone, so all the teenage kids and the grown-ups in our house would be in serious trouble without us.

## The special talented kids:

Our program for the talented kids is progressing as planned as well. All the kids did well at their exams this summer and just to mention Mary, she is now nr. 1 in her class, out of 52 kids. During this summer, they have all been attending summer school, to give them an even better possibility for succeeding with their education. Their families are very grateful for the support and opportunity we are giving to both the kids and their families.

