



## PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Two Year Report  
2021-2023



*Distributing school materials - Sep 2021-2022 Academic Year  
(From left: Some of our beneficiaries in Bo)*

# WHERE IS SIERRA LEONE?

## Did you know?

Population (2023): 8.8 million

[Australia (2021): 26.6 million]

Human Development Ranking (2021): 181/191

[Australia (2021): 5/191]

Life Expectancy (2021): 60.1

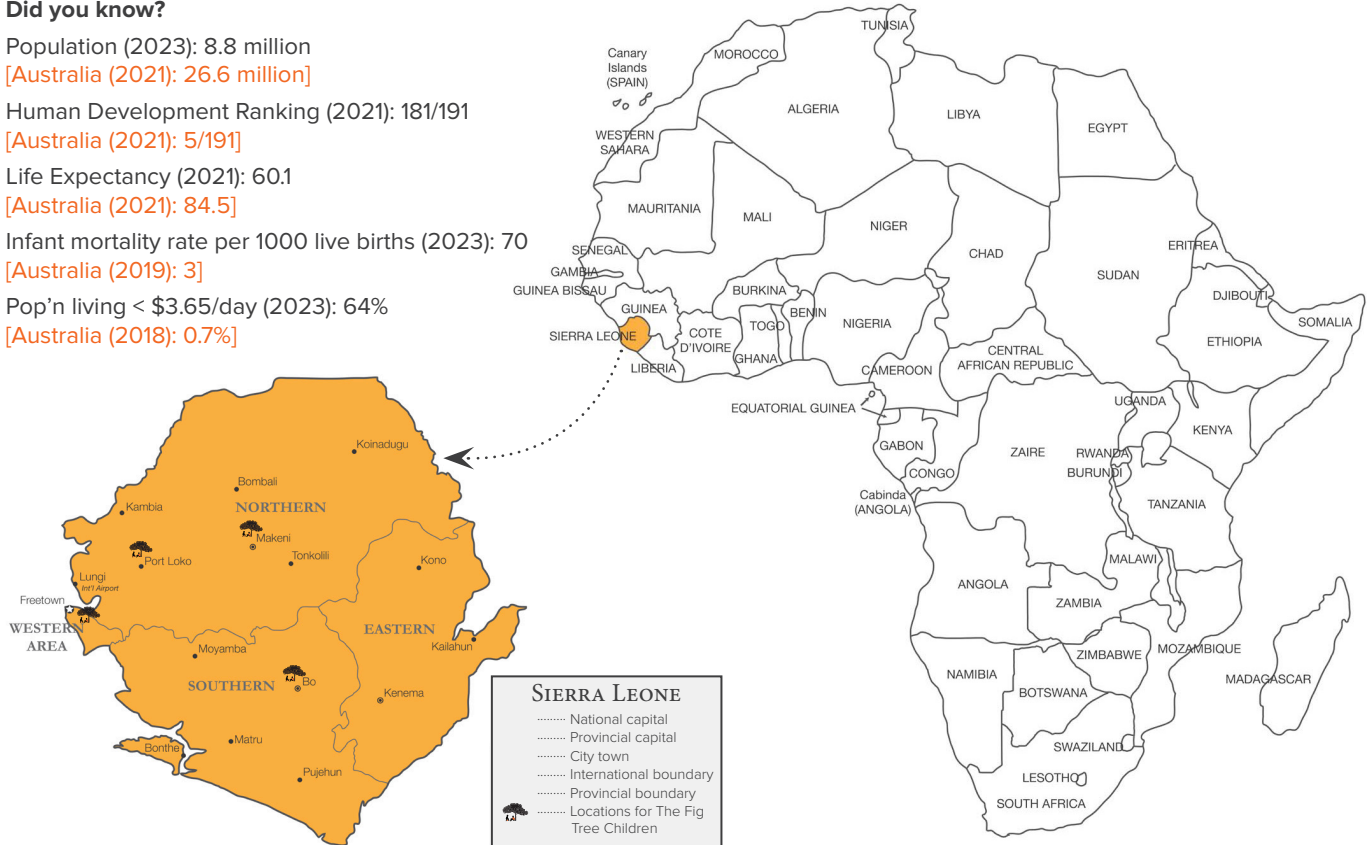
[Australia (2021): 84.5]

Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births (2023): 70

[Australia (2019): 3]

Pop'n living < \$3.65/day (2023): 64%

[Australia (2018): 0.7%]





*September 2022: Humu\* receiving school materials*

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## Our Mission:

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To give opportunities to orphaned and vulnerable children and youth in Sierra Leone.

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First of all, thank you all for your continued support. It has been even more critical to have your help over the last two years as Sierra Leone has strived to recover from the impact of Covid and the ensuing financial crisis that has put enormous pressure on the Sierra Leone economy.

#### **Addressing inflation and cost of living pressures:**

Sierra Leone demonstrated resilience in managing the Covid-19 outbreak better than many other countries (with only 126 reported Covid deaths up to 2023). In part, this was through using the experience they gained when battling the Ebola crisis of a few years earlier (Ref 1). However, the current post-Covid financial climate, made even tougher by the Ukraine war, and the effect on global supply chains, is disproportionately affecting Sierra Leone's economy. Year-on-year inflation is currently over 35% (Ref 2) and food inflation hit an all-time high of 63% in Aug 2023. The price of a kg of rice – a staple food in Sierra Leone - rose by 41%.

On your behalf we increased monthly payments to carers and also managed to pay school, college and university fees which had inevitably increased as a result of inflation. We ran very successful campaigns which once again raised funds which Aminata and Massah used to buy clothes and hygiene items to distribute - have a look at the photos, later in this report, to see the reception we received.

#### **Extending support towards self-sufficiency:**

Several of the older children, having completed their education, are now transitioning into adulthood. With the agreement of their sponsors, we've extended our support to help them pursue further education to help them secure employment.

Our aim is to empower these young people towards self-sufficiency before they exit the Fig Tree Children programme. More details on their pathways are provided later in this report.

It's wonderful to reflect on the changes to these young people's lives your support has enabled and the opportunities this support will now open up for them.

Our Sierra Leone team continued to visit carers and children, and liaised with schools and colleges, particularly at exam time and fee-paying time – as well as continuing to monitor well-being of children and their carers, providing extra guidance and assistance when needed.

*Ref 1: J. Infect, Jul 5, 2016; Ref 2: data.worldbank.org, Oct 27, 2023*

### Reflecting on Impact:

I'm sure you rarely think about the impact your support is having; whether you're making a one-off donation, supporting one of our fund-raising events or making regular donations as a sponsor. I'd ask you to stop and think for a moment about what your contribution - however small you think it may have been - has done.

A child who would otherwise have continued labouring on the streets, has now been to school, learned to read and to write alongside other children, doing things we take for granted – opportunities have opened!

As a result of your contributions eighty-five children and young people have been able to attend schools, colleges and universities and you have provided over 60,000 days of support for their carers during 2021-23 (around 197,000 days of support since the Fig Tree Children started in 2015).

Without your support and that of our partners, none of our achievements would have been possible. We are grateful for your generosity and the carers and children want us to pass on their huge, "Thankyou".

Warm regards,  
Jeremy



*Jane Shakespeare (Founder and CEO) with husband, Jeremy Davies (President) celebrating Jane's birthday, Dec 21 2022*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *(by Reverend Fr. Peter Alpha Konteh):*

Dear friends and supporters,

Greetings from Sierra Leone! We are thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of The Fig Tree Programme in our 2021-2023 Two Year Report. It has been a time of tremendous impact and growth, and we are excited to highlight some of the key accomplishments:

**Educational Support:** We proudly supported 78 school-going children with the payment of school fees, in addition to providing assistance to 7 university students, ensuring access to quality education for all in Sierra Leone.

**Academic Success:** We are overjoyed to announce that one of the older girls in our programme graduated with a diploma in banking and finance from Unimtech, a testament to the transformative power of education in our local community.

**University Preparation:** Four of our children successfully met the requirements for university admission, demonstrating our commitment to fostering academic excellence and opportunity right here in Sierra Leone.



*Reverend Fr. Peter Konteh*

**Holiday Assistance:** During the festive season, we distributed Christmas parcels, including clothing, sanitary pads, and toiletries, to all 85 of our children, spreading joy and warmth during the holiday season in the heart of Sierra Leone.

**Educational Material Support:** To equip our children for success, we provided essential school materials such as books, bags, uniforms, shoes, pens, and pencils for each school year, directly impacting the education of Sierra Leonean children.

**Recreational Activity:** We had the pleasure of organising two unforgettable trips for all 85 children to the River No. 2 beach for Christmas 2021 and Easter 2023, creating cherished memories and moments of joy right here in Sierra Leone.

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Together, we have made a meaningful difference in the lives of children in Sierra Leone, and we look forward to continuing this journey of impact and empowerment in our local community.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Reverend Fr. Peter Alpha Konteh  
Technical Board Advisor  
The Fig Tree Children



*Reverend Fr. Peter Konteh*

## THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The Fig Tree Children is a DGR Registered Charity - a not-for-profit organisation - with its focus areas of intervention designed to have a life changing impact on the lives of vulnerable children and youth. The beneficiaries include Children/Youths (boys and girls) of school going and tertiary education age. The thematic areas of intervention are:

No	Activity portfolio	Beneficiaries
1	Educational support, Payment of tuition upfront to different educational institutions for 85 children, distribution of learning and school materials, including payment of tertiary education - currently for 7 youth.	Eighty-five (85) children and youth in Bo, Kenema, Allen Town, Newton, Waterloo, Goderich, Makeni and Lakka respectively.
2	Primary health care, provision of clothing, provision of rain wear, bedding, mattresses, daily need items and payment of house rent for a few people.	85 children and youth.
3	Payment of Monthly Allowances of 340 New Leones (increased from 150 NL) for every child on the programme.	85 children and youth and their carers.
4	Recreational activities for the children (e.g. Christmas and Easter Parties).	85 children and youth.

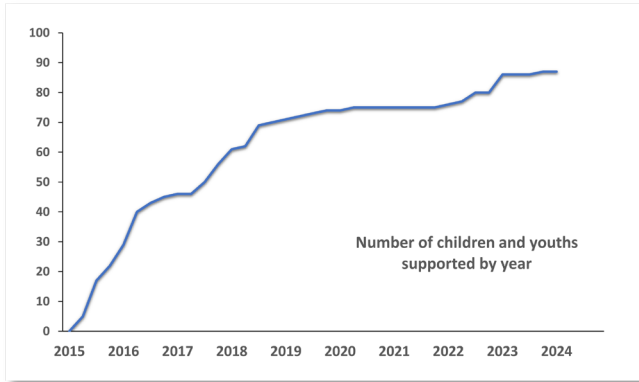


Above: Musu\* (sponsored since April 2016) with Aminata (programme manager) receiving school materials in Sep 2021 for the 2021-22 Academic Year.



## CHILD WELLBEING REPORTS: A HOLISTIC APPROACH

We have continued to very carefully control increasing the number of children being supported during these two years. For us to reach out to more children is a big step. Because of you, our generous donors, we have been giving holistic support to the eighty five children and youth who are already in our programme. Aminata and Massah continue to undertake individual wellbeing assessments for each child every month, as well as making regular visits to their schools (twenty in total). We have continued to develop our holistic approach to support, seeking to consider the circumstances of each child and their carer – delivered directly to the points of need.



*Massah giving a clothing and hygiene parcel to Esther\* Christmas 2022*

## ABOUT US:

The Fig Tree Children is a Brisbane based charity established by Jane Shakespeare in support of the work of Reverend Father Peter Konteh (Father of Priests and Director of Caritas, Freetown) in Sierra Leone. The aim is to provide opportunities to orphaned and vulnerable children and youth. Jane first met Fr. Peter in February 2006 when she visited St. Mary's Children's Home, a home he established in 1999 in response to the number of orphans created by the country's devastating ten-year civil war.

Many children suffered unspeakable horrors at the hands of rebels and were left to die in the streets. There was a desperate need for safe havens for children to rebuild their lives physically, emotionally and spiritually and Fr. Peter's home, St. Mary's in Bo, offered this outreach of love and support. In 2014, the Ebola virus was responsible for creating even more orphans on the streets of

Sierra Leone and as a result providing homes for thousands of additional children once again became critical.

Fr. Peter was transferred to Freetown from St. Mary's in Bo and has continued his work with orphaned children and youth there. He has built another children's home at River No.2 caring for twenty six orphaned children. The Fig Tree Children is working in partnership with Caritas Freetown to provide support for children identified as being in most need.

Our Sponsor Programme helps support the carers of these children with a monthly allowance, paid to them directly, by paying the child's school fees directly to the school and by providing each of the children with school materials. At the end of June 2023, because of our Fig Tree sponsors and donors, we are directly supporting eighty five children and youth.

*Right: Massah (left) and Jane (centre) with some of the children and their carers from the Fig Tree programme.*





## TEAM SIERRA LEONE 2021-2023



**REV. FR. PETER KONTEH**  
Technical Advisor

*Director of Caritas Sierra Leone and also the President of Priests in Sierra Leone. Fr. Peter helped Jane develop the team in Sierra Leone and is influential in how the charity is run there. Nothing happens without his say so.*



**AMINATA KPAGOI**  
In-Country Programme Manager

*The Fig Tree Children's Programme Manager. Aminata brings valuable experience to our team on the ground; a professional, energetic, and enthusiastic team leader. Our children adore her.*



**MASSAH NABIEU**  
Assistant Programme Manager

*Skilled in programme coordination and management. Massah brings valuable experience in human rights, business, youth advocacy, and health safety to our team. Our children adore Massah too.*



**THERESA KAMARA**  
Accountant/Treasurer

*Accountant for Caritas Freetown, Theresa oversees a number of Caritas partner's projects, one of them being The Fig Tree Children. She's professional, diligent, keeps records and sends reports twice yearly.*



**ALFRED SANKOH**  
Photographer/Videographer

*Alfred's keen eye for photography and proficiency in videography add significant value to the Fig Tree team, enriching our visual storytelling capabilities.*



**ISHMEAL CHARLES**  
Board Member

*Programme Manager for Healey IRF and Caritas-Freetown. Charles is a great mentor and motivator. His experience and professionalism working with large groups of volunteers is extremely valuable.*



**GRACE JONES**  
Board Member / HR

*Grace is a highly experienced administrator, manager and workshop facilitator. Grace brings skills in business development, change management and microfinance to TFTC's Sierra Leone Management Team.*



**DR. ROBERT MOIKOWA**  
Board Member

*Dr Robert Moikowa heads the Service Delivery and Performance Management Directorate for all Government Departments, Agencies and State-owned Enterprises in Sierra Leone. His experience makes him a valuable advisor to TFTC.*



**SAMUEL KONTEH**  
Board Member

*Barrister-at-Law and Solicitor of the Superior Courts of Judicature of the Republic of Sierra Leone, currently practising as Managing Partner (MP)/Head of Chambers (HOC) of Sisay and Associates Law Firm, Eyatunde Chambers.*



THE FIG TREE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME WOULDN'T EXIST IF IT WASN'T FOR OUR VOLUNTEER SIERRA LEONE BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF (AMINATA AND MASSAH) AND PART TIME STAFF (THERESA AND ALFRED). THEIR SUPPORT, SOUND ADVICE, COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION IS INVALUABLE.

## TEAM AUSTRALIA 2021-2023



### JANE SHAKESPEARE

Founder & Fundraising

*An overwhelming desire to want to do something more to help orphaned & vulnerable children in Sierra Leone (after visiting in 2006) led Jane to start The Fig Tree Children. Divides her time between TFTC and TFTGS.*



### JEREMY DAVIES

President

*Jeremy has wide business experience gained from his years in senior corporate roles. Jane vouches that without Jeremy's cheerleading, expertise, compassion and sound advice, the charity would not exist.*



### ISOBELLE TORRALBA

Board Member & Events

*Involved in the Financial Services sector for over 30 years. Isobelle's drive and experience supporting a range of charitable work makes her a critical member of our team.*



### NIRVANI NAIDU

Treasurer/Bookkeeper

*Nirvani brings extensive experience in public practice accounting, with more than 10 years of accountancy and bookkeeping experience, as well as a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy).*



### JAMIE SIMMONITE

Board Member

*Being a member of The Fig Tree Children Board gives Jamie the opportunity to channel his strengths of Business, Relationships and ICT toward a greater cause.*



### DR GREGOR H. MEWS

Advisor

*Greg developed a genuine curiosity to figure out what makes people feel cosy and comfortable in different environments around the globe. He is helping us to develop a 'Pathway to Employment' programme.*



### ANITA MCGONIGLE

Human Resources Advisor

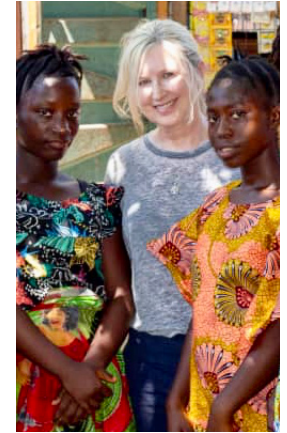
*Oct 2021 - Nov 2022*  
*Anita was sadly only with us for a year but her skills in fostering relationships, her enthusiastic energy and coming up with great ideas was very much welcomed. We were sad to lose her.*



### JAILENE SANTANA

Sustainable Development

*Aug 2020 - Dec 2021*  
*Jailene's experience in International Environmental Studies, inspired by her desire to see a world in which poverty and unmet needs no longer exist brought valuable skills to our Team.*



OUR AUSTRALIAN TEAM ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS - WITHOUT THEIR EXPERTISE, ENTHUSIASM, CHEERLEADING AND SOUND ADVICE WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RAISE THE AWARENESS AND FUNDS NEEDED TO FUND OUR PROGRAMME.



## MAINTAINING INCREASED SUPPORT:

Throughout 2021-2023, we prioritised cost containment efforts, as highlighted in the Financial Summary Section on page 21. The global rise in living expenses, exacerbated by the challenges of the Covid era, has particularly impacted disadvantaged regions. Acknowledging this, and because our donors increasing monthly contributions, we augmented our monthly support to caregivers by 1.26 times starting from July 2023. This increase was warmly received. Your increased contributions also enabled us to provide vital emergency interventions, including medical services, medication, and accommodation, when urgently required.



*Above: Massah and Aminata with Grace\* and her mum (carer).  
Left: Aminata with two of the youth in our programme, Abdul\* and Adiatu\* on a monthly monitoring visit.*

## EDUCATING CHILDREN:

At the end of June 2023, there were fifty five children in school (one for the first time), one not yet started school, seven in Tertiary education, ten awaiting their WASSCE results, six awaiting their BECE results, one has graduated and is looking for work, three are waiting to enter university. All of the children, except one, passed their exams and will move up into their next academic school year; the individual who failed will repeat the year. We paid school fees and provided school materials for all of the children in August and September 2022 and 2023.



Salay\* after being given her school materials in Sep 2022



Grace\* in school and making progress. We are very proud of how well the children are all doing.



## CAMPAIGNS:

### CHRISTMAS DAY OUT AT RIVER NO. 2 BEACH 2021:

During Christmas 2021, with your help, because of your donations to our campaign, we were able to organise a special outing to the beach for all the children in the Fig Tree programme and those from St. Mary's Children's Home. Each child received breakfast and lunch, creating cherished memories throughout the day. These outings are wonderful for fostering a sense of community and belonging among the children. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this joyful experience possible. It wouldn't have happened without you.







## CAMPAIGNS:

### CHRISTMAS 2022: CLOTHING & HYGIENE PARCELS

During Christmas 2022, because of our donors, we provided all the children in our programme with a clothing and hygiene parcel. Thank you for your generosity for allowing us to make this happen.



## CAMPAIGNS:

### EASTER DAY OUT AT RIVER NO. 2 BEACH 2023:

In celebration of Easter 2023, with your help, because of your donations to our campaign, we were able to organise a special outing, inviting all the children in the Fig Tree programme as well as those from St. Mary's Children's Home to spend a day at the beach. Each child enjoyed breakfast and lunch during the excursion. This trip marked a joyful return to the beach after a hiatus of sixteen months. We extend our gratitude to all who contributed to making this memorable day possible. Your generosity means the world to these children.



## SANITARY PADS:

Our ongoing sanitary pad campaign remains impactful, ensuring girls in Sierra Leone receive a year's supply of pads with each donation through our website. In an area where menstruation often leads to missed school days due to limited access to hygiene products, our initiative strives to maintain girls' attendance during their periods. While we currently distribute disposable pads, our goal is to introduce EcoJC Pads' reusable options, promoting sustainability, and empowering girls with choice, provided they have access to necessary hygiene facilities.



## EVENTS: CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Events such as 'Christmas in July' contribute to our fundraising efforts for The Fig Tree Children. With your help, because of your monthly sponsorship and donations, we ensure consistent financial support for our programme in Sierra Leone. Operational costs, including salaries, travel, and office expenses, are covered by profits from our Brisbane fundraising; events like Fashion Shows, lunches and Movie Nights, as well as donations from The Fig Tree Gift Shop. Our July 2021 'Christmas in July' event at Method to the Madness in Kenmore raised **\$3,420**, thanks to the generosity of attendees and our amazing performers from left: Tiffany Davison, Lara Dee, Flynn Donaldson and Harry Kidd.



A vibrant, tropical-themed poster for a Christmas event. At the top, a red banner says 'JOIN US FOR'. Below it, the word 'CHRISTMAS' is written in large, bold, red letters. Underneath, 'in July at' is written in a white, cursive font. A black circle contains the text 'method to the madness' in white cursive. The central illustration features a reindeer with a garland around its neck, a Santa Claus character wearing sunglasses and holding a surfboard, a beach ball, and a candy cane. A date box on the left says '10 JULY 2021'. Below that, it says 'IN SUPPORT OF:'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'The Fig Tree Children' featuring a tree and two figures, and a red ribbon graphic. To the right, it says 'BOOK TICKETS:' followed by a QR code. At the bottom, a red box says 'MUSIC BY' followed by 'TIFFANY DAVISON | LARA DEE | HARRY KIDD'. The very bottom line of text reads '6:30PM - 10:30PM | \$85 ADMISSION | INCL. MUSIC, FOOD, FUN &amp; A COCKTAIL' and a URL 'HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BRFX' is at the bottom right.

## EVENTS: 'ELVIS' MOVIE NIGHT

On June 25th 2022, we organised a movie night to see the wonderful 'Elvis' movie which was shot on the Gold Coast. This was made even more special because one of the audience members, Tilly Oddy-Black, was in the movie and we had great fun shouting out 'there she is!' every time we spotted her.

The Elvis movie night raised **\$2,535** (including donations of \$1,050).



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

- Charl Morkel Real Estate: **\$2,500**
- Rotary Australia: **\$877.91** towards starting a 'sewing reusable sanitary pads' project.
- The University of the Sunshine Coast donated the proceeds (**\$810**) from the sales of a talk that our advisor Dr. Greg Mews did at their NEXt Forum about 'Transforming Public Space'.
- Boucher Restaurant, Graceville: **\$500**.
- Excite Media & Wyton Transport: **\$600 each** towards the purchase of a laptop for Abdul\* who is studying IT and a mobile phone for HR Student, Alusine\* who needs to be able to access his WhatsApp study groups.
- Lume Marketing for their ongoing level of child sponsorship support - six children during Jul 1 2021- Jun 30 23.

- For YE June 30 2022 and 2023, donations towards our campaigns also totalled **\$3,384** and **\$5,823** respectively.  
*The days out to the beach, provision of food, clothing, hygiene parcels, sanitary pads and other essential items are made achievable through the generous contributions to our campaigns. These donations enable us to offer comprehensive support, greatly impacting the lives of those in our programme.*
- Our Ambassador programme is a regular monthly donation to help us with our ongoing programme costs. For YE June 30 2022 and 2023, donations towards our Ambassador programme totalled **\$1,530** and **\$1,630** respectively.
- Goodwill Wine donate every time someone buys wine from them through [this link](#). For YE June 30 2022 and 2023, they donated **\$620** and **\$33** respectively.

## THE FIG TREE GIFT SHOP:

In response to not being able to hold fundraising events, in February 2021, Jane (our CEO) started a social enterprise, The Fig Tree Gift Shop. During 2021-2023, Jane increased the number of products she sells at markets and online. Her products are sourced from other social enterprises, small businesses, and in some cases, the artisans themselves. This helps support their businesses too. Jane [promotes her suppliers](#) and donates 50% of the profits to The Fig Tree Children.

Details about these beautiful products and the artisans who are behind making them can be seen at [www.thefigtreegiftshop.com.au](http://www.thefigtreegiftshop.com.au). The shop can also be found on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook: @thefigtreegiftshop.



Below are just a handful of the stunning and one-of-a-kind products available in the shop's collection. You can place orders for these items at [thefigtreegiftshop.com.au](http://thefigtreegiftshop.com.au). For more information, please reach out to [jane@thefigtreegiftshop.com.au](mailto:jane@thefigtreegiftshop.com.au).



Left: Jane at a Diverse Business Showcase at [Herbert Smith Freehills](#), a large International Law Firm in Brisbane's CBD.

In September 2022, The Fig Tree Gift Shop was verified as a social enterprise with Good Market and SEWF after being approved by Social Traders. Each of these organisations are made up of a network of people and organisations trying to create a better world. It's great to be involved and we're very proud that we are.



At the start of 2023, The Fig Tree Gift Shop was also one of twelve organisations accepted into Impact Boom's Accelerator programme. This led to Jane presenting The Fig Tree Gift Shop and The Fig Tree Children's story to an audience of 200 people at their pitch evening in Brisbane. This was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness for The Fig Tree Children.



## DEVELOPING OUR STRATEGY:

### 1) Enhance and develop TFTC's Social Media Presence:

Actions taken:

We have improved our presence on Instagram and Facebook which are social media channels best aligned with TFTC's current and aspirational demographics. More needs to be done to expand TFTC network to potential new donors and sponsors. We are also using The Fig Tree Gift Shop as a means to raise awareness and attract more support for The Fig Tree Children.

### 2) Identify and apply for Grants:

Actions Taken:

The Fig Tree Gift Shop was accepted into Impact Boom's accelerator programme which led to Jane presenting the story of The Fig Tree Gift Shop and The Fig Tree Children at a showcase in front of an audience of circa 200 people.

Much of Australia's overseas aid is focused in the Pacific and South East Asia which makes it challenging to find grants in Australia for a West African cause.

### 3) Identify and develop relationships with Corporate Partners:

Actions Taken:

Developing a Corporate Partnership is still something we want to pursue but have not actively progressed during these two years. The development of a successful corporate partnership

was considered to be a long term goal, with a time Horizon of 3-5yrs. The Fig Tree Gift Shop is reaching out to corporations who might be interested in providing 'for purpose' gifts for their employees and customers.

### 4) Create an on-line shop and develop Social Enterprise opportunities:

Actions Taken:

Jane started The Fig Tree Gift Shop in February 2021 (see p. 17 above). This has been successful so far and has the potential to raise worthwhile funds for TFTC. Jane would like to learn more how to sell online. Her challenge has been finding the time to do this.

### 5) Other:

What happens to children after school?

More of the children in our programme are reaching school leaving age. A few are already progressing to further education and skills development programmes, a fantastic achievement. For others, the way forward is less clear and employment opportunities are scarce. To better understand how we can help with this complex problem we have been seeking advice and learning from groups on the ground in Sierra Leone who are already tackling these issues.

We have opened discussions with Dreamtown, a Danish organisation who work with disadvantaged communities to create Youth Dream Centres designed to enhance wellbeing and provide opportunities and safe spaces for local communities to develop skills and perhaps small businesses. Luckily, one of the key



advisors to the Dreamtown Programme is Dr Greg Mews from QUT's Urban Design Group who is now advising us how we can compliment and perhaps further develop the foundations established by the Youth Dream Centres.

Jane travelled to Sierra Leone in October 2022 with Dr Greg Mews and met with Nina Ottosen from Dreamtown. Jane and Massah also attended their workshops and were able to see first-hand the work they are doing to help improve the communities of those living in slum areas. Jane also arranged for two of the older youth in the Fig Tree programme to attend the workshops. We're grateful to Urban Design Group, Dreamtown and Youth Dream Centre for giving us this valuable opportunity.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

For the YE June 2023, 89.6% of the funds spent from funds raised through events, donations, sponsorship and campaigns goes directly to supporting our programme, children and their carers in Sierra Leone. At the moment our management team in Brisbane and our Fig Tree Board in Sierra Leone work are volunteers. Our only full-time employees are our in-Country Programme Manager Aminata Kpagoi and Programme Assistant, Massah Nabieu. We also pay a monthly stipend to our Financial Administrator, Theresa Kamara (thanks to Caritas for making Theresa's time available), and costs as incurred for a driver and, Alfred Sankoh who we hire to take videos and photographs for us.

In addition, we have a small office in Freetown which has been made available to us by Caritas. There are costs incurred for telecommunications, transport (fuel), occasional accommodation and meals when visiting the families living further afield (Bo, Kenema, Makeni, etc).

All of our reports can be accessed via our website: <https://www.thefigtreechildren.org/reports/> and through the ACNC.



PROFIT & LOSS		
The Fig Tree Children		
For the years ended 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023		
Account	2023	2022
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Donations	5,471.56	6,122.12
Goodwill Wines	33.00	620.00
Other Revenue	6,360.15	0.00
Shop	3,103.00	4,035.70
Sponsorship Revenue	45,570.17	44,109.82
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>60,537.88</b>	<b>54,887.64</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>60,537.88</b>	<b>54,887.64</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Ambassador Programme	1,630.00	1,530.00
Campaign Income	5,823.47	3,383.93
Fundraising Events Income	5.00	8,664.59
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>7,458.47</b>	<b>13,578.52</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Advertising	308.30	310.13
Bank Fees	73.64	(59.95)
Consulting & Accounting	1,980.00	1,120.00
Depreciation	0.00	36.40
Donation Expense	60,323.63	53,129.91
Fundraising Costs	442.18	6,421.62
General Expenses	950.40	0.00
Networking	120.00	0.00
Paypal Fees	498.31	304.73
Postage	153.00	152.00
Stripe Fees	223.84	213.71
Subscriptions	1,764.84	2,008.36
Training	55.00	0.00
Travel - International	404.09	1,184.96
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>67,297.23</b>	<b>64,821.87</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>699.12</b>	<b>3,644.29</b>

## WOMEN OF SIERRA LEONE:

In Taylol village, Kambia Sierra Leone, Fatmata shoulders a heavy load of dried rice stems from last season's harvest. With her family's help, they transport bags of these stems to cover their vast, newly plowed field, spanning over 50 football fields in size.

The journey stretches over 2 kilometers, starting at sunrise and pausing only at noon. Despite fasting, they press on until 4:00 PM, when they break their fast and rest briefly. The women, responsible for food preparation, do not join the afternoon shift.

Their goal: to cover the field before mid-May, in anticipation of the first rains. Once the task is complete, they ignite the dried stems, praying for rain. The heavy downpours typically arrive by mid-May, washing the minerals and vitamins from the burnt stems into the already fertile soil. Now begins the planting of this year's rice, utilising the naturally fertilised soil.

In this traditional method passed down through generations, no chemical fertilisers or pesticides are used. Known locally as "kontry res," this organic rice is highly valued for its health benefits, being 100% organic and naturally enriched by the land.

*Photograph © Issam ElSammad*



*© Issam ElSammad*



PO Box 736  
Paddington  
Queensland 4064  
Australia

Tel: +61 431 895 733

E-mail: [admin@thefigtreechildren.org](mailto:admin@thefigtreechildren.org)

Website: [www.thefigtreechildren.org](http://www.thefigtreechildren.org)

*The Fig Tree Children is an unincorporated entity and holds Deductible Gift Recipient [DGR] status, meaning it is entitled to receive income tax deductible gifts and tax-deductible contributions*

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*\* Pseudonyms are used for all of the children in our programme*

*Left: Adama\*, Sep 2022 ready for 2022-2023 school year*