



Stepping into a brighter future...

Summer Appeal

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for supporting Stepping Stones Nigeria and, through us, the children of the Niger Delta. Together we have helped turn around the lives of literally hundreds of children. We have given abused, vulnerable and disadvantaged children the chance of a good education and we have begun to train teachers in the best ways of teaching reading and writing.

Here's a small glimpse of what we have already achieved:

- Establishing the Stepping Stones Model School (SSMS) and providing scholarships for children who are vulnerable to being accused of witchcraft so they can access a good education at both SSMS and Bebor Model School;
- Training and resourcing 773 government primary schools in the use of the fast track reading scheme, Jolly Phonics;
- Delivering much-needed help to hundreds of children who are still on the streets;
- Successfully lobbying the Akwa Ibom State Government to enact the Child Rights Act; and
- Building the capacity of our Nigerian partners to litigate the first successful prosecutions of child rights abusers in the new child-friendly Family Court in Cross River State.

But there is still much to do

Thousands more children need our help. There is a need for dozens more schools. There are many others eager to receive support from Stepping Stones Nigeria to help protect children, prosecute child rights abusers and raise literacy standards.

Through the promotion of our work in two TV documentaries, we raised awareness of the issue of child witchcraft accusations both in the UK and internationally. People across the globe generously gave us their money and time to help us deliver solutions that improve the lives of children. In the age of 24 hour rolling news, keeping the issue alive is a challenge for all of us.

Times are hard for all charities, particularly small ones like ours. We have had to scale back our work in the Niger Delta as funds are becoming harder to secure. That's why we need the help of our loyal supporters, without whom we would never have been able to do the vast majority of what we have achieved so far.

You already do a lot – even the smallest regular donation enables us to do more. That's why we're asking you if you could do a little more to help us move forward in this challenging environment.

How you can help

Run your own event

Why not host a fundraising Nigerian dinner party, cooking Nigerian dishes in return for a £10-£50 donation per guest? Or ask your local pub if you can run a weekly pub quiz, where half the entrance money goes to Stepping Stones Nigeria? Or, you could get sponsorship from your friends and family to do a run, climb a mountain, quit smoking, lose weight or reach a personal target. Our fundraising pack at <http://bit.ly/ssnfundraise> supplies many more ideas and some parameters for planning events.

Engage your workplace

Workplaces provide great opportunities for raising funds. You could suggest a dress down for a pound day, or bring a cake into work and sell off the slices. If you work in office supplies, transport, computing or technology, could your workplace consider making an in-kind donation to our office in Lancaster? Such donations free up our funds so we can spend more on projects in Nigeria. Or what about payroll giving? If you think your workplace is interested, we could send you information, speak to your colleagues via skype or conference call, or even come to the office if it is affordable.

Engage your local school

Do you have kids at school or are you any other way connected to your local school? We are seeking schools to partner with our two model schools in Nigeria, through conducting regular fundraising activities and sharing experiences. If you think your local school might be interested in this, let us know and we can get in touch with them to make it happen.

Spread the word

You've been giving to us, what about inspiring others to do the same? Be proud of what you've done – tell your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues, and let them know how important this money is to helping real children in Nigeria. Why not forward this email directly to anyone you think might be interested?

Sell something on ebay

Did you know that you can donate the proceeds for anything you sell on Ebay to Stepping Stones Nigeria? When you fill out your seller form you'll have the opportunity to donate from 10% to 100% to charity – just choose Stepping Stones Nigeria.

Become a community fundraiser

We are establishing a new volunteer community of fundraisers who run regular events in their local area. It might be a monthly poetry slam or a gig, a quarterly car boot sale, an annual dance or a one-off wine tasting. If you're willing to run a few events a year and get some hands-on experience in fundraising for a charity that touches the lives of real children, get in touch and enjoy support from our Fundraising Officer and the staff team. You could even get together with friends and set up your own group.

Consider giving more

We are so grateful for your support, but we have to ask. If there's any way you can increase your giving either permanently or temporarily, you would be helping us to continue supporting children in the Niger Delta.

What your money could provide

£5 a month for a year ensures that 24 children are taught how to read and write, thus changing their lives forever.

£30 covers the costs of sending a child who is vulnerable to being accused of witchcraft to school for one term, complete with uniforms, books and stationery.

£80 meets the costs of documenting, investigating and reporting to police a case of child rights abuse.

£250 provides pro-bono legal support to an abused child, including detailed documentation of their case, court and police liaison costs, and other costs and fees.

£500 pays the annual salary of a trained counsellor to help abused children come to terms with the trauma they have suffered.

£20,000 covers the full costs of our Niger Delta Child Rights Watch project for three months, including the documentation, investigation and reporting of at least 40 cases of abuse, legal support to the children, training and mentoring of Nigerian partners and all associated project management, including rigorous financial monitoring.

Once again thanks for all your support for an issue which you feel passionately about.

Together we can help more children step into a brighter future.

Yours,

The SSN Team

