

Destiny Village, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Slum Solutions



Home Leone is relocating the poorest and most vulnerable from horrific slums to new communities



This innovative plan helps those with the least. The urgency to relocate those living in shack communities, threatened by flood and fire, where illness pervades and death comes early, has never been more compelling.

Home Leone's pilot "Destiny" village relocates over 2,000 people on its 22 acre site, with 6 foundational elements to ensure sustainability:

- **Employment and skills** – by offering employment participants are enabled to contribute to society in a sustainable manner
- **Education** – by building primary, secondary and vocational training schools the village and community equips and empowers the next generation
- **Low-cost homes** – 344 homes, designed with slum dwellers, deliver culturally appropriate living at affordable prices in a rent-to-buy scheme
- **Healthcare** – Local facilities, a health savings scheme, and a partnership with a local hospital and other care providers
- **Water and Waste Management** – Drinkable water delivered to homes and a water bagging factory bringing jobs. Together with our effective waste management, children and adult's health is better
- **Power** – Connecting to the local NPA power grid and supplemented by solar and generators, providing a core component of village living.

Our social justice and training programmes make the best use of the new facilities.

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries on earth. Dependent on budget support from the international community, less than 2% of the population have paid employment and over 60% earn less than £1.50 per day. An EU report stated Freetown (the capital) alone, needs 280,000 homes. 20% of people sleep with more than 10 in a room and 94% have no flush toilets. People live in fear that they will lose their shelter.

Home Leone's strategy stems from 14 years' experience of building low cost homes in 6 developing nations and raising nearly £2 million of inward social infrastructure investment. The strategy draws on 4 years of in-depth study of local slum dwellers needs and the nation's opportunities and constraints. The impact is profound.

Our Approach

With so much need, many ask how we choose participants. Over 2 years we have partnered the Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP), the trade association of slum dwellers. They helped us design the application process and continue to guide our approach. This resulted in a community led solution, balancing opportunity, motivation, skills and needs.

The selection includes participation in core training and skills modules. As someone once said, we seek to *"take the slum out of the individual as well as the individual out of the slum."* Personal growth and enabling each one to make the most of the opportunity is core. Already Home Leone has interviewed hundreds of families.



Upper site plan



Middle site plan

Lower site plan



An enduring solution

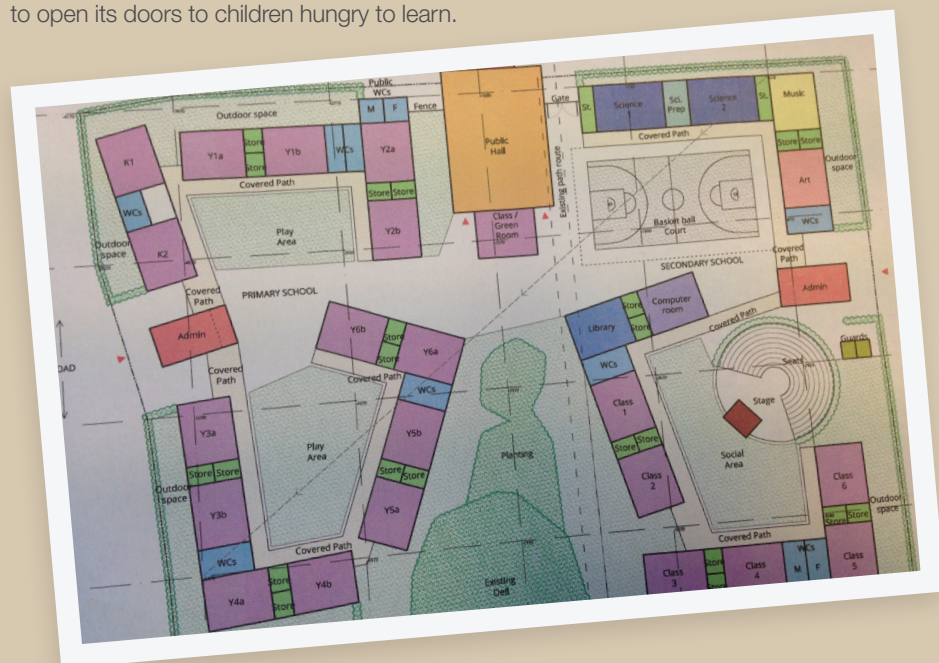
This community-led initiative develops innovative eco-friendly solutions with waste management, recycling, water and power. The first 8 homes, warehousing, shops, stores, a bridge to the main road and water source refurbishment are already built. Other homes, the business park and social infrastructure can be multiplied quickly, subject to sufficient funding.

The business park is key to village sustainability. By investing initially in businesses we know will work (e.g. brick making, garage services, and water manufacturing) and then diversifying where there are clear gaps in the market (e.g. wood treatment, chicken farms and trailers), lasting jobs are created. Discussions with local agriculture businesses may also provide jobs.

The school (below) is designed, with equipment waiting and just needs building to open its doors to children hungry to learn.

Think for a moment how much your home costs to build? Home Leone builds **each home for less than £5,000 (\$6,250)**. Built in blocks of 8, each house has a parlour, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, toilet and shower, together with an allotment to grow food. Tenants pay 64% of the direct cost or 50% of the full cost over a 7-20 year period in a rent to buy scheme. Each person over 15 years old contributes 4 hours a week of community service.

Even these low-cost homes are not affordable to slum dwellers and therefore depend on a charitable or government subsidy. Rent is set at £14 (\$17) per month, being 20% of the minimum wage. This enables families to eat, pay school fees and contribute to a village health and social fund, offering a dignified way of life.



Procurement enables cost effective development. In 2017, 2 UK schools moved in to new premises costing over £30 million. From the old buildings, volunteers stripped doors, windows, classrooms and kitchen equipment. They loaded several shipping containers with high value items that would otherwise have gone to landfill. This is recycling on an international scale and is highly effective in ensuring our charity delivers the best value for money.

Companies are offering unwanted stocks and making key donations. From tooling to solar panels, football kit to medical supplies, building materials to cash.

Healthcare – Home Leone is looking deeper at its health initiatives, beyond the village clinic that will be open to the wider

community (about 10,000 people) providing primary health care and dentistry. Provision of a care home and partnerships with a local hospital, hospice and mental health facility will provide a holistic approach.

The Sierra Leonean Government

Sierra Leone has not had a clear housing strategy, nor been able to allocate resources to low cost and social housing initiatives.

Home Leone has developed its relocation plan with input from across the nation's leaders. The Vice President, Presidents Chief of Staff and Presidential nominees have all visited. Using words such as "inspirational" and "impressive," they recognise the key contribution Home Leone is making.



Sierra Leone's Vice-President reviews the plans

Home Leone

Home Leone enables businesses to send staff teams as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and personal development programmes.

By hosting teams in Sierra Leone and other countries, we help organisations deliver powerful outcomes. Clear wins are demonstrated for the individual, the company and the overseas community:

- Staff want to “give something back.”
In a safe environment, they will be directly challenged as “emotional risk” results in personal development, embedding that change in the workplace. Bespoke coaching and personal growth can also be part of such a trip.
- Staff want to work for socially aware employers. These week- long trips enhance recruitment and staff retention, providing positive publicity. Suppliers and customers are inspired by your company doing “real CSR.” Links to your sector and expertise can also enhance effectiveness.
- The children and families in the slum communities that we serve, will never be the same again.

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Home Leone is advised by Turley, a leading Planning & Design Consultancy, as part of it's CSR commitment

turley.co.uk



So many participants say:

“I thought I was going to help – but they gave me so much more.”

We can also provide trips for churches, community groups and schools. Get in touch at info@homeleone.org and explore the opportunity with us today.

Donations

If you would like to contribute to Home Leone's work our bank details are as follows:

Account Name	Home Leone
Sort Code	05-02-00
Account number	29855482

If you are a tax payer please will you gift aid that donation to give us 25% more at no cost to you. Ideally please let us know of your gift at info@homeleone.org.



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