



Feeding Programme 2017/2018 Academic Year Final Report

The Magbenteh Community Boarding School was established by the Swiss-Sierra Leone Development Foundation (SSLDF) in October 2016 for Ebola affected children and those from the most deprived surrounding communities.

For the 2017/2018 academic year, the implementation of a feeding programme was secured for the period February to July 2018 through funding by Aurora Foundation and ASSEDA. The enrolled 186 students and 10 staff were provided with 2 nutritious meals per day, 5 days per week.

Prior to the programme, many children were regularly becoming sick, and the combination of only eating once per day resulted in a difficult start to the second term of the 2017/2018 academic year in the area of health. The children were struggling with their concentration spans and their guardians were unable to provide money to buy snacks at school.

The SSLDF Education Officer and the two cooks ensured the menu was well balanced in terms of nourishment. They also made sure that as little oil as possible was used, to help with digestion and to contain the nutritional value of the protein elements rather than 'over cooking.'

The following menu was provided:

Day of the week	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Pap/sugar/lime	Rice/ cassava leaf/ fish
Tuesday	Bread/mayonnaise/eggs/onion/pepper	Rice/beans/fish
Wednesday	Porridge/ banana	Rice with groundnut soup and chicken
Thursday	Bread/mayonnaise/eggs/onion/pepper	Rice/cassava leaf/fish
Friday	Pap/sugar/lime	Rice/beans/fish

Evaluation:

SSLDF is extremely grateful to Aurora Foundation for their generous support of the Magbenteh Community Boarding School feeding programme, providing breakfast and lunch on 3 out of the 5 days.

Providing the students and staff 2 meals per day has made a considerable difference, not only mentally but also physically. The increase in energy, concentration and general attitude of the students has improved phenomenally. The feeding programme also encouraged the students to learn more health and hygiene, with compulsory hand-washing before eating as well as washing their cutlery and bowl when they had finished. It also provided a level of independence and ownership with their own bowls and spoons.

During the third term of the 2017/2018 academic year, all students were assessed on their levels of malnutrition by the Magbenteh Community Hospital medical team. Areas assessed included the following: weights; height; oedema; middle upper arm circumference (MUAC). These assessments will be repeated at the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year in order to clearly see the impact and vital need for the continuation of the feeding programme.



Swiss-Sierra Leone Development Foundation
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