



Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project 2007 – 2011

Letter VII

April 2010

Dear Presidents of all SI/E Unions and Single Clubs

As you all know our 4-year international project was launched at the Convention in July 2007, the project supports women and children in extreme poverty in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

All Soroptimists in the world have the possibility to participate in the project, and fortunately also many SI/E Unions and Clubs are already involved and have contributed. I thank everyone who is working for the project and I urge the rest of you to get involved, there is still time.

The aim is to collect 2.000.000 US Dollars = 1.000.000 Pounds (£) which again is the equivalent of: 1.394.000 €.

Until now 534.000 £ = 611.231,00 € have been collected, so we are a little over half way.

Out of this SI/E has donated 82.800,00 €. Wonderful and thank you, but as you can see SI/E is still a little behind and I am sure that we all want to make the result for SI/E even better.

To encourage you all here is a message from the SI leader of Project Sierra:

" The fundraising and advocacy activities of Soroptimist members around the world are making a big difference to the lives of women and children in Sierra Leone, but the impact of this project is far wider and greater, so thank you again for all your support."

Please extend enormous thanks to Federation Presidents and members. I do hope the successes and lots of recent news and info is encouraging yet more activity!

Thanks so much" Alison Sutherland, SI Quadrennial Project Liaison 2007-11

Please report to me about your activities until now and tell me about your future plans for your involvement in our SI project. Please let me hear from you before May 15th. Clubs had activities for the project like: wellness evening, Yoga lessons, dinners with Sierra Leone food, fashion shows, garage sales and walks for Sierra, lectures about the country and many more. Get more inspiration from the [www. projectsierra.org](http://www.projectsierra.org).

I have just had some lovely postcards printed to be sold for the project, I will bring some for the Governors Meeting and hope to sell some. If any of you would like to have a pdf file to print cards from, just let me know.

A Study Tour took place in January with two participants from SI/E. Both have sent very fine, inspiring and heart warming reports, here are cuts:

...“We were explained how HANCI helps the “needy children”, the smaller “pikins” get a uniform and off to school, next come those who receive tutoring in for example., boys: carpentry, blacksmith, farmer, girls: cooking, sewing, hairdressing, cosmetology, tailoring, gara-tie dying, soap making. Teenage mothers have a Drop-In Centre where they can leave the baby during the day. Of course in every centre healthcare is very important, they all seem to have a nurse.

..... It seems to me that Hanci is making a pretty good job. Education and preparing them to be independent and self-supporting is definitely working. We visited in Bo families back together in their community and self sufficient thanks to the programs of Hanci in Bo.

Hanci is only working with Sierra Leoneans, some paid, some benevolent. *They do fantastic work, their enthusiasm has to be seen and told to all Soroptimists. Every penny we sent is really worth it. Hanci and SI share the same vision and the same passion to educate women and children, because they will make the difference in the future”*

Evelyne Caron, SIE Belgium, club Gent-Scaldilys

..... “Travelling through many countries in Africa and Asia, I have checked that the international cooperation does not succeed in anything without a collaboration with the local community: this is the best way to a real and concrete cooperation and HANCI in Sierra Leone works in this way!

Family’s support, women’s business support and education are the only way to the social and economic development, and Hanci does this.

Family planning is another challenge for Sierra Leone, to take off the streets many children: and Hanci helps them.

But this country, among all these problems, offers a model of understanding between the two most important religions: Muslims and Christians live together in peace...

Now Sierra Leone is improving women’s assistance, education, empowerment (as told us the First Lady and the Ministry of Welfare and Gender) with the help of NGOs like SI and Organisations like Hanci.

I think that the challenges of Africa are also a challenge for Europe and all the world.

Hanci is helping the people to change mind and to become responsible of their future: this makes the difference! Not to give a fish but to give the fishing rod...

Hanci and SI: to share the same vision and the same passion for the people, women and children first, is a guarantee for us and we have checked this.

I think it is not easy to choose an International Project but I am sure that the best investment is on changing the future for children and girls, offering them hope and opportunities of a better life.”...

WILMA MALUCELLI, Italian Union President 2009/11

**Warmest regards and good wishes from
Lisbeth Hass, Denmark, SI/E Project Liaison**