



Project Sierra – A Family And A Future Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project 2007-2011

Project Sierra Film Script

Caption: Women and children often suffer most from the horrific legacy of war.

Caption: Sierra Leone

Interview: "During the war the soldiers came and gathered us together and told me and my older sister that they were taking us to Mattru. We didn't know they were rebels in disguise. Just before we left for Mattru they opened fire on us, killing my sister and her husband plus their 7 children. They killed them all."

Caption: From 1991 to 2002, the small west African country of Sierra Leone was ravaged by a brutal civil war.

Voice Over (V/O)

More than decade of war has left deep wounds in Sierra Leone's society. 50,000 people were killed and more than half the population were left homeless. Women and girls were subjected to horrific abuses, while boys were recruited as child soldiers and forced to commit terrible atrocities.

Caption: Today, people are trying to rebuild their shattered lives

V/O

Soroptimist International has forged a four-year partnership with *Hope and Homes for Children* to transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable women and children in Sierra Leone.

Caption: During the war, girls as young as eight were abducted and forced to live as wives

Interview: "I was captured by a soldier and later got pregnant. When I had the baby I didn't want

the child. I wanted to kill this child because the suffering was too much."

V/O

Today sexual violence and exploitation is still commonplace and has contributed to further increases in teenage pregnancy. In some families, the stigma of an illegitimate child is so great that many young mothers are cast out and are left raising their children in extreme poverty, with no support.

Caption: Thousands of children are living alone on the streets

V/O

Poverty and abuse forces children, some as young as six, to feel that they have no choice but to leave home and live on the streets. Unaccustomed to such a harsh way of life, these children are extremely vulnerable and frequently exploited.

Caption: Sierra Leone is one of the poorest nations on earth

V/O

Across Sierra Leone families face a constant struggle just to survive. The legacy of war has put intolerable pressure on day to day life, leaving many unable to provide for their most basic needs.

Families in this situation are at risk of breaking down completely, leaving children alone and defenceless.

Caption: With your help, we can give these women and children hope for the future

V/O

Project Sierra is your chance to help these women and children face their futures with renewed hope and confidence

Project Sierra will provide women and children with their basic right to healthcare, education and safe and secure housing.

Guidance and support will help them to plan for the long term. Small business and income generation initiatives will put these families on the road to independence while giving them the chance to make their own choices about their future.

By strengthening families, Project Sierra will ensure that more children will grow up in a safe and caring environment. This will give them the opportunity to fulfil their potential and so empower them to contribute positively to the future of their family, their community and their nation.

Interview: "I want my children to grow up to be doctors and lawyers, to help the country, so that what happened will never happen again."

V/O

Through Project Sierra *you* can make a real and lasting difference to the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in the world. By acting now, you will help shape and define the future of generations yet to come.

Caption: Support Project Sierra and make a real and lasting difference

www.projectSierra.org