

Fund for Sierra Leone's war-hit orphan children

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ALL As One, a non-profit organisation based in Dubai Aid and Humanitarian City, launched a child welfare project for war-affected, orphaned children in Sierra Leone with a fundraising campaign to collect Dhs1.5 million.

These funds will allow All As One to build a compound that will house a new and larger orphanage, a new school, providing education not only to the orphanage but also to the children from the local

community, as well as a medical centre that focuses on maternity and infant care, saving the lives of thousands of women and children a year in Sierra Leone.

Director of All As One Matthew Morgan-Jones said the donations will support the day to day operations of the All As One Orphanage and make possible the establishment of a new orphanage housing over 130 children, a new school, related educational programmes as well as a medical centre.

"Providing these facili-

ties, we can make a positive difference in the lives of the many orphaned and abandoned children in Freetown, Sierra Leone," he said.

All As One was founded in 1997 and it aims to provide rehabilitation and education for war-affected, orphaned and destitute children in Sierra Leone. Currently, it houses and cares for over 75 children at the moment.

"We appeal to the people in the UAE to open their hearts to the children in Sierra Leone and donate funds which make a dif-

ference in their lives. Previous private and corporate donations have provided great support and we hope to collect more funds for the programmes so essential to those children," he added.

Awareness

Speaking on the occasion, CEO of Dubai Aid and Humanitarian City Barbara Castek said All As One has been working in a highly efficient manner to create awareness for one of the "forgotten" emergencies. It provides a detailed

breakdown of how donated funds are deployed in order to assure any donor that the money is indeed allocated to medical and educational assistance for orphans.

During more than a decade of civil war, 4.7 million citizens of the western African nation of Sierra Leone were displaced and tens of thousands more were killed, tortured and forcefully amputated. Sierra Leone is ranked as one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world according to United Nations statistics.

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