

HELPING ALL WE CAN...ONE AT A TIME.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Deanna Wallace
AAO Executive Director

As most of you are now aware, Freetown has been hit with flooding and mudslides of devastating proportion. With each hour, new info comes in, and each report is worse than the last.

First and foremost, we want to let you know that all of our kids are safe at the moment, and, for that, we are profoundly thankful. At the time of this writing, it is being reported that **105 children are among the more than 300 people who have perished, and at least 600 are still missing**. It is almost unfathomable to grasp this loss, especially in a country that has already endured a bloody civil war, deadly cholera and Ebola outbreaks.

While we are relieved that the Children's Center is still standing, the troubles have only just begun for us and for the country of Sierra Leone. **John James**, the head of communications for Unicef in Sierra Leone, says, *"The potential for infectious diseases like cholera is our biggest concern. The water infrastructure has taken a big hit, and the dirty water that swept through the city, and the potential for further undiscovered corpses, heightens the risk, particularly for children."* And we are still at the beginning of the rainy season, so there is potential for more flooding to come.

→ The toll on the community will be immense — so many have been left without homes or any other possessions, not to mention the emotional aftermath of losing family members. Prices for everything will skyrocket, and we are existing on fumes, as it is. **We NEED to be a safe haven for the kids in our care, and, for that, we rely on you**. There is also no doubt that the local children who've just lost their parents could benefit from our help, and extra funds would allow us to assist as much as possible.

All we can do is ask for you to give as freely as you're able, and to share our need with as many people as you can find who will listen. We pray for the country of Sierra Leone, and mourn with them. Thank you for your help.

Thanks to our first time donors in July 2017:

Cordolita Klumper - Eleni Savvidou

Thanks to those who gave over \$500 in July 2017:

Chris Briers - Yvonne Katter

And thank you to our regular monthly supporters, who make our work possible!