

## January 16, 2018 Sierra Leone Travel Team Update

The construction team is moving very quickly and has nearly completed the walls for the cesspit and the toilet facility. Here's the whole update from Herb:

*Tom had good interviews with a good cross section of stakeholders. We are starting to see Patterns in the concerns and strengths. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the visualization process. Herb began interviews at the school with teachers, students and administrators.*

*Jose also collected data for third charge controller and continued his evaluation of the school maintenance practices. He also provided the water test strips to Alexis.*

*Allison and Emilia recorded interviews at the school including an interview with mr Sengeh and also the hospital work site. The walls of the toilet and cesspit are nearly complete. Joan planned the plumbing and ordered a few extra parts from Freetown. Chris Verified material quantities for roofing and rebar. Amended concrete mix plan for the slabs. Jose created the world's best cesspit dipstick!*

*The Hospital solar photovoltaic system is operational and producing 100kw. They are working on running lines to the community*

The news that the solar PV system is up and running at the hospital is great fantastic. It will provide cheap, reliable, low-maintenance power for the hospital, something that has been sorely lacking. They estimated they would only need 20kw of the 100kw so they plan to sell the excess power to the community as a money making venture. The system was donated by an anonymous donor. Mechanical engineer Matt Asher led the installation. Matt is from the USA but lived in Sierra Leone for several years with his parents who are medical missionaries. He went to college in the USA and did an internship with Energy For Opportunity, a Sierra Leone solar installer that did our classroom lighting PV installation. He is there for 19 months to help the hospital with maintenance and the installation of the PV system and a water bagging system.

There was also some exciting news at the school library - computers! Jose will get the details on where they get the power for them and Herb will find out who uses them and how often. It looks like they were donated by the nearby mining company Sierra Rutile.

If you want to see the google maps of the school and hospital there are pictures and links at the end of the email. The satellite pictures don't get updated in Sierra Leone as often as they do here but you can still many of the projects at the school like the PV systems, new buildings and new roofs.

Tom

## Library Computers



The team came up with a unique way of hauling away the rock leftover from the excavation at the hospital. They employed the town crier to spread the word that the rock was available for free. The town crier is just what you think - someone walking through town, ringing a bell, and shouting out the message. We first learned about the town crier when we were trying to get the word out to the parents to attend the PTA meeting when we began our project at the school. Since paper and printing are so expensive, the school doesn't send flyers home with the students so we had to find other means. There is also a low-power, very local radio station in Matru. EWB travel team members were interviewed on air to help get the word out about the PTA meeting.

Apparently the town crier was successful as many families came to get the free rock!

Different family's piles of rocks.



## Centennial Secondary School

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Unnamed+Road,+Matru,+Sierra+Leone/@7.6134218,-12.1832211,267m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0xf05f8a0a20f0139:0x3dc44b88d608e5d4!8m2!3d7.6122514!4d-12.181805>



## Matru Hospital and the Nursing School

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Unnamed+Road,+Matru,+Sierra+Leone/@7.6054562,-12.1679685,265m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0xf05f8a0a20f0139:0x3dc44b88d608e5d4!8m2!3d7.6122514!4d-12.181805>

