

S4LA continues to provide a monthly budget for essentials not provided by the government, and for the maintenance and replacement of vital equipment.

Mallam continues to mentor and encourage the community as they meet the challenges on their way to self-managing their development. Fittingly, they refer to their children now attending secondary school as their 'shining lights'. They are grateful for the help they have received at every step and they acknowledge Mallam as the Father of Yiben.



Top Left: Yiben leaders, Chief Bangalie and wife Serah, the Mammy Queen.
Top Right: Young Mum, Sallay brings little Mallam (named for their local champion) to Under 5s clinic.
Above: Nurse Adama provides a pre-natal check-up for Mum-to-be, Marie.



Advancing access to basic healthcare for communities in Sierra Leone
Reg. Charity CH 2722 * ABN 73 323743 642 * www.set4life.org.au

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SET4LIFE Australia was established in April, 2015 to support Yiben and the surrounding communities in a remote area of Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries with among the lowest life expectancy and highest maternal and infant mortality in the world.

Our goal is to support access to services that will improve health outcomes for all, with a focus on maternal and reproductive care and children's health. Community goals, partnerships, capacity building and sustainability are the basis of the project.

In-country Manager, Minkailu Bantama (Mallam), works with community leaders to prioritise the needs and organise the work required. He oversees our contribution and ensures accountability for the use of funds.

Our work is completely voluntary and every dollar donated goes directly to support the provision of facilities and services.

SET4LIFE Australia is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ABN: 73323743642) and donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Sponsor us, fundraise or make a monthly donation.
Your generosity will improve and save lives.

Donate via our website with Paypal or by direct deposit
to our Auswide Bank Account in Gympie.

SET4LIFE Australia
BSB 645-646 A/c 106419056

For more information, please visit our website:
www.set4life.org.au, email info@set4life.org.au
or phone 0488774950



HEALTHCARE for YIBEN



Kayiben (the village of Yiben, pronounced 'Ee-ben') lies south-east of Fadugu in the Koinadugu District of Sierra Leone, one of the poorest areas in the country. The village consists of approximately 40 traditional mud-brick houses and is surrounded by numerous smaller villages with a combined population of more than 1000.

The people of these communities are subsistence farmers relying entirely on the seasons and hard work to survive. They are disadvantaged by isolation and poverty and have lacked access to basic services. They want their children to have a better life and know that education and modern healthcare are the keys.

Thanks to the friendship and dedication of a local visionary Minkailu Bantama (Mallam), and with funding from friends in the UK and Australia, the Yiben community built a school to bring education and opportunity to their children. The school serves a number of other villages and places Yiben as a 'hub' for the area.

With access to education achieved, healthcare became Yiben's priority. Now they have built a government-standard healthcare facility so they can access safe birthing facilities, maternal and child services, free national health programs and basic treatments for common ailments.



Recently appointed a chief in his own community near Fadugu, Mallam has strived for education and healthcare for the people of this remote area since 2006. Working closely with Yiben's Chief Bangalie and Mammy Queen Serah, Mallam has brought their dreams of a school and health clinic to reality. It's an inspiring story!



Top: Mallam (Left) and the tiny schoolroom in 2011. Above: Their new school opened in 2012 and now averages 50+ students with 4 teachers. (Photo 2017)



Above: Yiben's Maternal and Child Health Post was opened in Sept, 2017 and fully serviced in Jan 2019. S4LA continues to improve the facilities and support the basic services.

SET4LIFE Australia

SET4LIFE Australia is a small fundraising charity based in the regional Queensland city of Gympie. Our members began working with Mallam to support the development of the Yiben School in 2011. We were involved in the establishment of the UK-based charity Set4Life in 2013, and in 2015 our group registered Set4Life Australia (S4LA) to increase our fund-raising capacity.

Since then, Set4Life UK has continued to support the school while S4LA has funded health facilities and advocated for services under the national health system. With Mallam's management and the community's labour, work began on their clinic in 2016. Permanent services commenced in January 2019 with basic provisions and two national nurses who speak the local language.

S4LA has also funded a large motor boat that provides river access much of the way from Fadugu for 6-7 months of the year, along with nurses' quarters and a clean-water well for the clinic.

Gympie's connection with Yiben resulted when hometown nurse and midwife, Amy Coates volunteered her skills in Sierra Leone in 2009. She worked there over several years in different areas of health development and her mum Jude, a Gympie teacher, visited her twice. The relationship with Mallam and Yiben began in 2011, when Jude spent a week in the remote community helping in their fledgling school. Inspired by the DIY ambitions of the village, and Mallam's capacity and compassion, Jude and friends formed a support team.

Amy now works for World Health Org. in Geneva and brings to the team her passion for health development and her wealth of connections and experience in Sierra Leone.

Below: S4LA members, Karen, Amy and Jude were welcomed by the community for the opening of the clinic building in Sept 2017.

