

All as one



All As One – a Dubai-based charity that helps children in Sierra Leone – hosted a gala dinner last week to raise funds for the cause. *Time Out* listened to an address given by Sia

Koroma – the first lady of Sierra Leone – whose husband Ernest Bai Koroma was elected president last November. Known in her homeland as the 'Mother of the Nation', she

announced that her mission in Dubai is to raise awareness and funds for her country's children.

Sierra Leone is recovering after a brutal 10-year civil war, which ended in 2002 but left the country with no infrastructure to support the needs of the 15 per cent of children left orphaned,' she said.

'The African state is ranked bottom of 177 countries in the UN Human Development Index and has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world: one in four children do not live beyond five years and one in six pregnant women die,' she added.

Sia, a former nurse, spoke of her recent visit to the slums of Freetown to meet 43 children currently being cared for at an orphanage. Almost everything there – from clothes, bedding, educational materials and food – is paid for through donations. So, we urge you alongside Sia Koroma to do your bit and donate just a few dirhams to a worthy cause.

'I am hoping the kind hearts of Dubai will share in my plight to help not just the orphanage but the many children it saves from poverty,' she said as she completed her address. *All As One has a non-profit office in the UAE, licensed through Dubai International Humanitarian City. If you want to donate go to www.allasone.com.*