



Schools for
SALONE

ANNUAL REPORT

2016





VISION

A Sierra Leone where a good education is a normal part of every child's life



MISSION

Advancing quality education in Sierra Leone through local partnerships



6,500 students

150 teachers

20 schools

3 libraries

Our Impact

Thank you for joining hands with us
and making it all possible!



Dear Friends,

Thank you for partnering with Schools for Salone to uplift children in Sierra Leone through education.

Together we have expanded our reach to 25 communities, impacting over 6,500 children and their families. With your help, we are offering experiences that most of us take for granted: going to school, learning to read and write, using clean toilets and hand-washing sinks, and accessing feminine hygiene supplies.

In 2016 we took significant steps toward improving the quality of education in our schools. We continued to work closely with the Programme for Children-SL, whose partnership is essential for all of our efforts. We also deepened our collaborations with The Learning Foundation-SL and the Sierra Leone Book Trust, allowing us to accelerate direct teacher support in our schools. We conducted literacy assessments in five of our schools and have taken initial steps to strengthen teaching skills in ways that will address identified challenges. In addition, we have continued to work hand in hand with the Sierra Leone Book Trust to establish lending libraries in each of our schools – and stocking them with locally available books.

And, because health and education are inextricably linked, we are thrilled that all of our school and library communities now have upgraded latrines and rainwater-collection handwashing stations, which are essential for maintaining basic hygiene and combating water-borne diseases. Children cannot learn if they are not healthy, and clean water and good hygiene are vital to the health of children and their communities.

Also, with our \$60,000 grant from the U.S. Embassy, Sierra Leone for Girls Mental and Physical Health, we have significantly expanded our “Uman Talk” (Women’s Talk) Program. We have conducted sexual and reproductive health talks with girls and boys in all of our communities and distributed menstruation kits to all coming-of-age girls. We are in the process of establishing an enterprise to sew these kits in Sierra Leone and have held initial meetings in the north and south with women’s and men’s community leaders, more specifically Soweï leaders – to address the once taboo topic of female genital mutilation and cutting. Our social workers are facilitating these challenging conversations, which are helping to change attitudes and find solutions to end this practice. This is truly remarkable, and a development I never thought would happen in my lifetime.

By continuing to foster health and improve education in Sierra Leone's vulnerable communities where our team works, we can reduce the possibility that families in our communities will join the rivers of people fleeing to other places looking for “better opportunities.” Instead we are helping them to find more opportunities at home where they live.

We are immensely grateful for your partnership. Together we are stronger as we work to empower the students and teachers of Sierra Leone – providing the chance to have a better future for themselves and their families. We look forward to a productive 2017 with peace and opportunity for all. Thank you for joining with us.

Warmest regards,

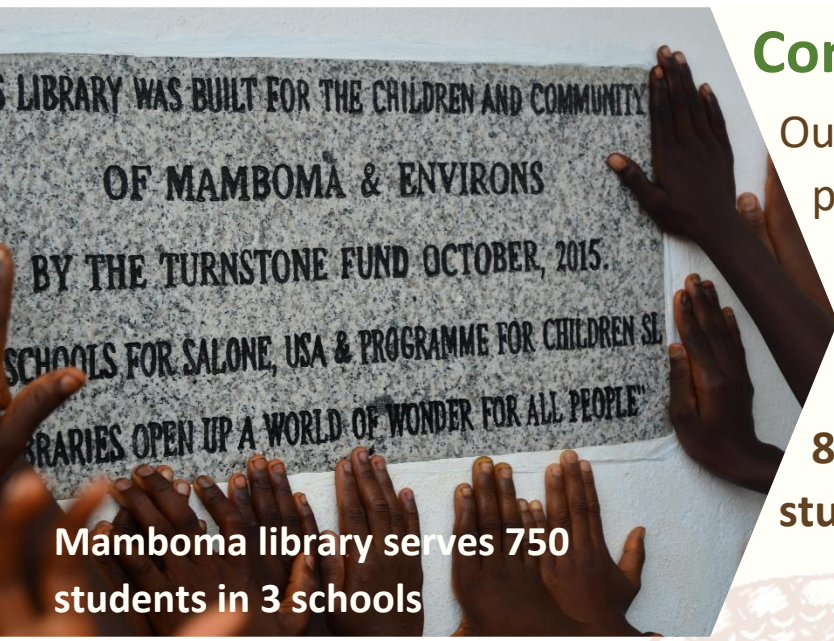


Cindy Nofziger, Executive Director



Cindy with Joseph W Lamin & John Sesay in Maforeka, where it all began

EXPANDING ACCESS



Mamboma library serves 750 students in 3 schools

Construction

Our construction projects in 2016 made education possible for **870 new students.**

- Began building a school in Kamagbegbe, a village in the far north with 120 students
- Officially opened Mamboma library in July
- Completed installation of rainwater collection handwashing stations and septic toilets in all our schools

Keeping Girls in School

Our Uman Talk program has reached over 600 girls across Sierra Leone. Now these girls better understand reproductive health and have tools to keep themselves strong and healthy so they can stay in school.

Thanks to a grant from the US Embassy Freetown, we are gathering tools and resources to sew the reusable menstruation kits in Sierra Leone.

We have also started developing relationships with women's groups to address and minimize the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting. We are thrilled to report an overwhelming positive response!



420 menstruation kits

have been delivered to girls in our schools, making it possible for them to go to school EVERY day, no matter what time of month.



57 scholarships

Supporting Student Success

- We sponsored **57 students**- 28 boys and 29 girls, making it possible for them to go to school. Some of these children have been promoted to secondary school, a huge accomplishment!

IMPROVING LEARNING

Equipping Teachers

This year we intensified our focus on education quality by scaling up our teacher training and support programs



2 teachers from every school in the north participated in literacy trainings

- Met in July with our in-country education quality partners to identify a collaborative plan to improve teaching and learning in our schools
- Partnered with The Learning Foundation (TLF) to assess student literacy levels in 5 schools and inform our strategy
- Conducted literacy trainings in the north with TLF for teachers of classes 1-3 and with PEN-SL for teachers of classes 4-6
- Sponsored 12 teachers for distance learning to become certified teachers and receive government salaries

Filling Bookshelves

➤ We partnered with the Sierra Leone Book Trust to start training teachers from each school in library management. These teachers are learning how to catalogue books and establish a lending system. As a result, children can take books home to practice reading, an opportunity they have never had before.

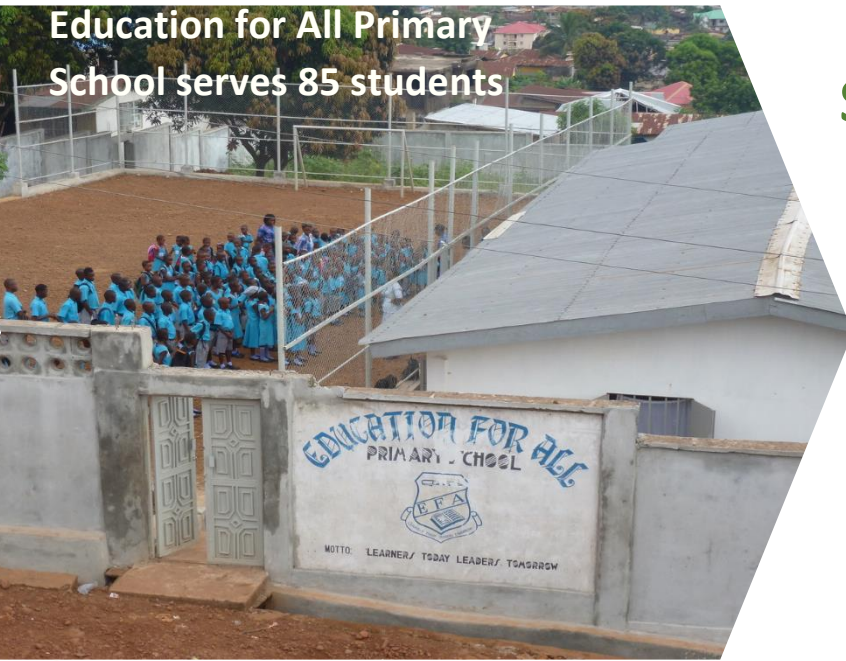
➤ To support our schools and growing library program, we distributed curriculum textbooks and sets of locally written and produced stories at a variety of reading levels to each school. We also distributed workbooks, pens, and pencils to every student in each of our schools.



Over
2,200
books

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Education for All Primary School serves 85 students



Soccer Pitch

Thanks to Kei Kamara and Mike Lahoud's FIFPro merit award, we have completed the soccer pitch at Kei and Mike's Education for All school!

Handwashing Stations & Toilets

We finished installing rainwater collection handwashing stations with septic toilets in all our schools. These facilities help our students and communities stay healthy.

100% of our schools have handwashing stations

PFC Bo Office

Our in-country partner, Programme for Children-SL, is building a field office in Bo so we can be more accessible to our school communities in the south.

The office in Bo will bring us closer to 11 of our schools and all 3 libraries



MAKING IT POSSIBLE



Programme for Children-SL

Many thanks to Joseph W Lamin and Programme for Children-SL for their steadfast commitment to helping make dreams come true for Sierra Leone's children

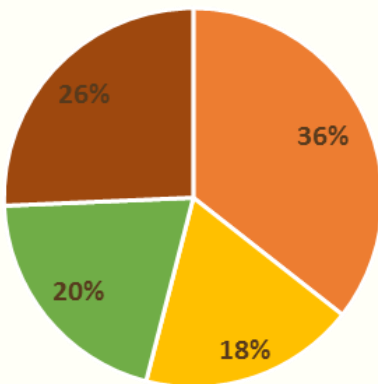


Funding

Our main sources of income in 2016 included generous funding from the McPherson Family Foundation, a grant from the US Embassy Freetown, the Schultz Family Foundation, Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG, our 7th annual San Francisco event, our 6th annual Seattle event, and our end-of-year appeal.

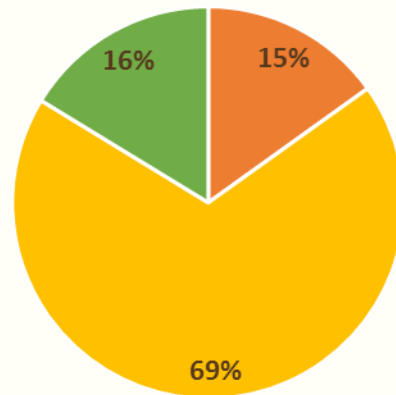
Thanks to all our wonderful supporters for making it all possible!

Income



- Grants
- Restricted Donations
- Unrestricted Donations
- Events

Expenses



- Operations
- Programs
- Events



2016 Accomplishments

- Started construction of a new school at Kamagbegbe
- Completed installation of rainwater collection handwashing stations at all our schools
- Completed the soccer pitch at Kei Kamara and Mike Lahoud's Education for All school
- Distributed learning materials to all our schools
- Conducted literacy assessments to inform literacy programs
- Conducted trainings in the north for class 4-6 teachers in collaboration with PEN-SL
- Conducted trainings in the north for class 1-3 teachers in collaboration with TLF
- Distributed 420 reusable menstruation kits to girls in our schools
- Conducted our new Uman Talk reproductive health lessons in all our schools
- Began gathering materials and setting up make reusable menstruation kits in Sierra Leone
- Provided scholarships for 57 students
- Completed and opened Mamboma library
- Conducted library management training with all our schools in collaboration with SLLB
- Supported construction of PFC office in Bo to expand our reach
- Distributed curriculum textbooks and locally written and illustrated books at a variety of reading levels to each of our schools
- Held an education quality stakeholder meeting in Freetown with other organizations working on education and literacy in Sierra Leone
- Sponsored 12 teachers for distance learning to become certified for government payroll



Looking to 2017

- Begin sewing menstruation kits in-country
- Continue presenting Uman Talk program at all our schools
- Work with women's groups in our communities to minimize FGM/C
- Reinforce and deepen literacy training for our teachers
- Provide library trainings in our schools
- Continue to provide learning materials & books to all our school communities
- Complete school in Kamagbegbe
- Build a school and water well in Walihun
- Provide upgrades and repairs to existing schools as needed
- Purchase a new program vehicle for Programme for Children-SL