

Schools for
SALONE

2014 Annual Report



photo by Martha Neuman

Schools for Salone
January 2015
www.schoolsforsalone.org

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been. With your generous support we continued to make a profound impact on the villages we work with in Sierra Leone. Ebola swept in and spread devastation across the country, traumatizing yet again, a country and her people who were still recovering from a brutal civil war. When I was in Sierra Leone in April 2014, there was little talk of Ebola. Businesses were booming, roads were better, solar powered streetlights were everywhere, electricity was frequent in the major cities, and there was food enough for everyone.



photo by Schools for Salone

Ebola affected everything - and everyone. With Joseph and Programme for Children's guidance we were able to respond quickly and effectively to the crisis as it unfolded - and as it continues to unfold. There are reports that Ebola will continue to be with us for much of 2015. With the funds we have received for Ebola relief, we supplied countless bars of soap, sanitation supplies and buckets to our partner villages - and beyond. Joseph and his team delivered hundreds of bags of rice to the north, south and western areas. Together with the Sierra Leone Book Trust, over 850 radios along with school supplies were distributed. In response to recent news that the small village of Kaila outside Bo had lost 35 people to Ebola, leaving 52 orphans, our team delivered 40 bags of rice, 15 radios, sleeping mats and blankets, school supplies and sanitation materials. Despite the ongoing crisis, our team completed construction our 16th school in Gumbeh in southern Sierra Leone, installed solar power in the Sembehun Primary School, and began construction in December on a school in the village of Bendu in southern Sierra Leone.

In 2015 our goals are to provide support to our school communities as needed to persevere through the Ebola crisis, complete the construction of the Bendu Primary School, work with communities to make needed school repairs, provide support to Kaila to recover from the trauma of Ebola and to keep the 52 orphaned children in the village, begin construction on Phase 1 of the Kei Kamara/Mike Lahoud School in East End, Freetown, and increase our impact on education quality and girl's education through collaborative efforts with The Learning Foundation and other partners in Sierra Leone.

The response to our "Protecting Education, Ensuring Health Campaign" has been overwhelming. We plan to upgrade water and sanitation at all of our schools by building improved latrines and installing rainwater collection systems and hand washing stations. As part of this campaign, we will continue to respond quickly to our school community needs during this crisis and support nearby quarantined villages with food and sanitation and hygiene supplies as needed.

We and our partners, Programme for Children in Sierra Leone, are stronger than ever. We are determined to not let our dreams fade. We will continue to build on our accomplishments and empower Sierra Leoneans to persevere through this crisis and come out on the other side stronger and more resilient than before.

My sincere gratitude for ALL your support in 2014. Warm wishes for a new year filled with precious moments with the family and friends that you love, good health and enough food to fill your bellies.

Peace, Good Health and Rice to All!

Cindy

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About Schools for Salone

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to build schools and support education in Sierra Leone, West Africa. We seek to revitalize communities, empower children and teachers, and ultimately improve socioeconomic conditions for families, communities and future generations.

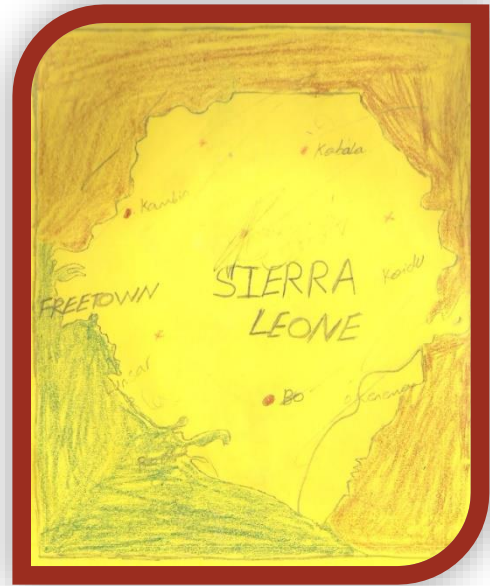
The long-term vision of Sfs is “providing enhanced access to more effective education through a network of partner schools.” Through opportunities that only an education can provide, we strive to break the cycle of poverty in Sierra Leone, one school at a time.

Our Background

Schools for Salone (Sfs) is a Seattle based non-profit organization committed to helping Sierra Leoneans build schools and improve educational opportunities for children and their families in impoverished communities in Sierra Leone. Since 2004, we have partnered with local representatives to build 16 schools, 2 libraries, numerous water wells, and provided support for thousands of children.

Our Sierra Leonean partners, Programme for Children (PFC) identify the poorest villages and communities in remote or neglected areas, and oversee the purchase of appropriate building materials. Our skilled and trustworthy on-site contractor manages the construction and ensures our schools are built on time, on budget and in accordance with government standards. Our selection of and relationship with each host community ensures local commitment, ownership and on-going stewardship of each school.

We are guided by the principles of local ownership, targeting aid to those most in need, and trusting local wisdom. We also believe that the essence of helping is empowering Sierra Leoneans to help themselves. We share Sierra Leoneans’ belief that, even in the midst of poverty, education is the key to a better future. We also work to promote the third Peace Corps goal: to help Americans understand the people and culture of Sierra Leone and to promote world peace through friendship.



drawing by Balla Tarawalie

Financial Information

Primary Funding Sources

Our major sources of income for 2014 included: the Seattle Foundation GiveBIG in May; our 6th annual San Francisco event in July; our 4th annual Seattle Anniversary Dinner in November; and our end-of-year appeal. We also received several grants this year to support our education and Ebola relief efforts in our partner communities.

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	
Total Current Assets	308,979.71
TOTAL ASSETS	308,979.71
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Current Liabilities	202.89
Total Liabilities	202.89
Equity	
Temporarily Restricted Funds	
Total Activities	19,414.99
Total Schools	63,563.87
Total Temporarily Restricted Funds	82,978.86
Unrestricted Fund Balance	98,990.11
Net Income	126,807.85
Total Equity	308,776.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	308,979.71

Revenue Sources 2014

NPCA Ebola Relief Fund Grant: Schools for Salone received \$3,000 from the National Peace Corps Association Ebola Relief Fund. SfS used these funds to purchase and distribute radios to students. These radios are facilitating student access to the Ministry of Education's nationally broadcasted Education Radio Programme while schools are closed due to the Ebola outbreak.

McPherson Grant: Schools for Salone received \$115,000 from the McPherson Family Foundation for our general efforts to grow as an organization and to support our operations in Sierra Leone. We have sent \$15,000 of the grant money to construct a small, three classroom school in Bendu. \$25,000 will be used for the first phase of the Kei Kamara/Mike Lahoud Primary School. This generous grant has helped to strengthen our organizational capacity and increase our program capabilities in Sierra Leone, especially in the areas of girl's education and improving education quality.

NorCal Grant: Schools for Salone received \$1,650 from the Northern California Peace Corps Association for the Reading Sierra Leone Book Distribution Project. This project is in collaboration with PEN - Sierra Leone and CODE, who produce and provide locally written and illustrated books for a variety of reading levels. We will use these funds to purchase and distribute these books to our schools in Sierra Leone when schools reopen.

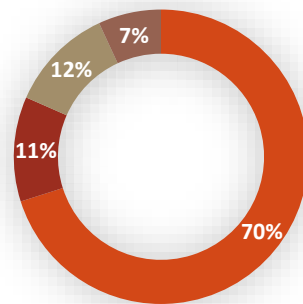
CRPCA Grant: Schools for Salone received \$2,200 from the Columbia River Peace Corps Association to help fund the installation of a solar power system at our school in Sembahun. These solar panels provide evening light, expanding the hours of use for studying, evening classes, and community meetings. As Joseph Lamin, Executive Director of PFC said, "This project is one of the best ones we have undertaken to improve our schools."

Private Donations: The Schultz Family Foundation has contributed \$10,000 in emergency Ebola funds as well as a \$10,000 match for our Seattle Anniversary Dinner for our Protecting Education, Ensuring Health Campaign. Professor Dick Simpson donated \$10,000 for radios and batteries for all of our school communities and other vulnerable villages to increase access to the nationally broadcasted education program.

Seattle Anniversary Dinner: Our 4th Annual Seattle Anniversary Dinner was held on November 13th and was a huge success! We enjoyed traditional drumming and dancing as well as wonderful and inspiring words from Bidemi Carrol and Kei Kamara. Through the generosity of our guests, and the \$10,000 match from the Schultz Family Foundation, we brought in over \$75,000 on November 13th to launch our 8 month, \$200,000 **Protecting Education, Ensuring Health** Campaign.

San Francisco Benefit: Our 6th Annual Benefit for Schools for Salone event was held at El Rio in San Francisco on June 19th, 2014. It was attended by over 300 people including Executive Director Cindy Nofziger and former board chair Bob Heavner. The festive event was filled with dancing from live music provided by PMS with Tom Jonesing, and Pangea Futbol Club. There were also raffle drawings, a silent auction, and sumptuous African food provided by Bissap Baobab. In all, the event raised over \$12,000.

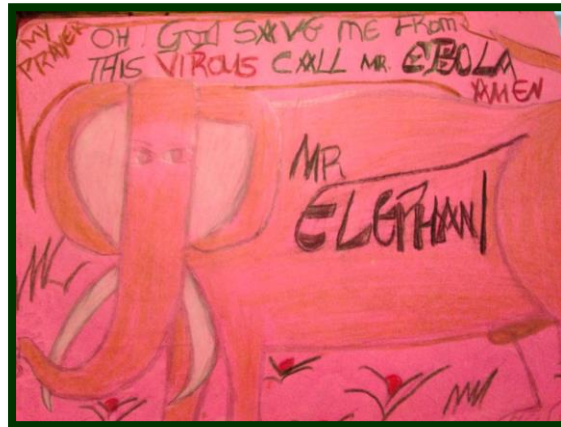
SfS 2014 Revenue Sources



■ grants ■ donations ■ Anniversary Dinner Seattle ■ SFS Benefit San Francisco

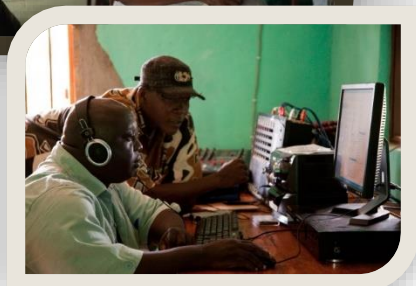
Ebola Relief Efforts

For much of 2014, Schools for Salone focused a significant portion of our efforts on providing support for Ebola relief by distributing rice and sanitation supplies, radios and learning materials to support national education efforts. The communities in which we work are disproportionately at risk in the current Ebola crisis. Families have no buffer against crises like they are currently facing, and incredibly susceptible to compounding devastation caused lack of access to adequate healthcare including food insecurity, lack of education opportunities. To date, there are no suspected cases of Ebola in any of the villages where Schools for Salone schools are located. One of our teachers living about three miles away from our school in Sembahun did contract Ebola. Fortunately, prompt action by his family helped to save his life. Our in-country partner, Joseph Lamin, reports that the communities are being diligent about hand washing and following the practices of the health and sanitation messages.



drawing by Balla Tarawalie

Education is inextricably linked to health, clean water and good sanitation/hygiene. Good health is inextricably linked to education. We are determined to improve access to and quality of education in our communities and improve the quality of water and sanitation - key to fighting not only Ebola, but the many other diseases that plague these vulnerable communities. Below are specific actions that Schools for Salone took in 2014. We received a total of \$48,663 to fight Ebola and so far have spent \$38,471 on the following activities:



top photo by Wellbody Alliance

bottom photo by The Foundation for West Africa

Health Education: Our team in Sierra Leone participated in a meeting in early June with other NGOs to join the coordinated efforts to disseminate Ministry of Health flyers and health education materials. Schools for Salone helped fund infection control training on the front lines by Wellbody Alliance from UC San Francisco and their team. We also worked with The Foundation for West Africa to support community radio in Sierra Leone during this Ebola crisis. Community radio is one of the most effective ways to disseminate up to date and correct information about the outbreak and health education efforts, especially during this time of crisis.

Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies: Our team has worked hard over the last few months to provide sanitation and hygiene supplies to our school communities. With the significant funds we have received directly for Ebola relief, we have supplied 50 liters of chlorine, 36 boxes of Dettol, 100 hand sanitizers, 25 cartons of soap, 5 infrared thermometers and 200 hand washing buckets to our partner villages and beyond.

Radios and School Supplies: Together with the Sierra Leone Book Trust, PFC has distributed 850 radios along with 25 battery cartons, 30 cartons of exercise books, 30 packets of ballpoint pens and 30 packets of pencils to the north, south and western area communities. Joseph is working with Sallieu Turray of the Sierra Leone Book Trust to distribute these radios.

Rice and Food: With the economy virtually shut down, food prices more than doubling, and inflation skyrocketing as a result of the outbreak, SfS and PFC have used funds to purchase 340 bags of rice, 6 bags of onions, 6 cartons of fish, 10 bags of salt, and 10 cartons of cooking oil rubbers to distribute to student and teacher families at our school communities and other vulnerable communities.

Work for Food Program: As the crisis has evolved throughout 2014, we have been able to respond quickly and efficiently to the direct life sustaining needs of communities, like Kaila, a small village about 8 miles from Bo that lost 35 people, leaving 52 orphaned children. With a special appeal by the Shultz Family Foundation, we have raised funds to make it possible for these children to remain in their community and establish a "Work for Food" Program aimed at providing seed rice to replenish their farms that were destroyed by birds while the village was under quarantine. We also provided over 40 bags of rice, 15 radios, school supplies, sanitation materials, sleeping mats and blankets.



photo by Programme for Children



photo by Programme for Children



photo by Programme for Children

Schools

This year, Schools for Salone completed one school, started construction on another, and finalized the paperwork for a third. Below are the details for each.



photo by Kei Kamara

Kei Kamara/Mike Lahoud Primary School: Kei Kamara (Columbus Crew) and Mike Lahoud (Philadelphia Union), the two Major League Soccer players born in Sierra Leone, have joined forces to build the Kei Kamara/Mike Lahoud Primary School. This school will be headed by Mamusu Tarawali. She is one of our star teachers we have been working with for many years, featured in the documentary, *Brownstones to Red Dirt*. This school will focus on providing access to disadvantaged children in Allentown, Eastend Freetown. Our plan is to commence construction of Phase 1 in February 2015.



photo by Programme for Children

Gbumbeh: This year we completed the construction of our 16th school. In the midst of the most horrific Ebola outbreak ever, our team in Sierra Leone has successfully completed this school in the village of Gbumbeh north of Bo, about a mile off the Bo-Yele Road from Dambala. The village also worked diligently to assist with the construction. In addition to the new building, we provided new furniture for the school, and with a generous grant from an anonymous donor, we will be installing a second solar power system in Gbumbeh as soon as conditions on the ground will allow it. These solar panels will make it possible to hold evening literacy classes and extend library hours.



photo by Programme for Children

Bendu: Schools for Salone recently began construction on our 17th school, a 3 classroom school in the village of Bendu, at the junction from the main road to the Kpakuma School. This is a place where our PFC team has had to often leave things for Kpakuma as the road is often impassable.

Currently, the walls are up and construction is progressing.

Special Projects

Student Scholarships: In 2014, Schools for Salone provided \$13,500 in scholarships to 59 children attending our partner schools. These scholarships provide funding for uniforms, supplies, and stipends for the students' families. Although schools were not in session for much of 2014, we continued to supply the scholarship funds to our students to help support their families in the midst of the Ebola crisis.

Sembehun Solar Panel System: This year Schools for Salone completed the Sembehun School Solar Panel Project with help from the Columbia River Peace Corps Association. This is our first solar panel installation project. It was installed efficiently and successfully, and was well received in the community. As, our in-country partner and Executive Director of Programme for Children in Sierra Leone, Joseph Lamin stated, "This is one of the most attractive projects we have ever done. People are coming from different places to see and how it could be done in their schools and villages." These new solar panels provide power and light for the school well into the evening. This newly available evening light will make this community's evening classes easier and make it possible for the school to become more self-sustaining by allowing income generation through cell phone charging stations. Overall, this project has been an incredible triumph and an inspiration for Schools for Salone and the communities in which we work.



photo by Programme for Children

"This is one of the most attractive projects we have ever done. People are coming from different places to see and how it could be done in their schools and villages"

-Joseph Lamin, Programme for Children

In addition to installing the solar panels, Schools for Salone made renovations and upgrades in security to the smaller building at the Sembehun Primary School where we installed the solar panels. Joseph Lamin and the community receiving the solar panels recommended this addition to the project so that one of the teachers and their family could live at the school to increase security of the new solar panel system and the school itself.

The Learning Foundation Partnership: This year Schools for Salone established a partnership with The Learning Foundation in Sierra Leone to provide reading programs in schools and libraries to improve literacy and learning engagement. The Learning Foundation works with students, teachers, librarians, and specifically girls in junior secondary school. These programs target girls and low performing students to narrow the gap in achievement and retention. The Learning Foundation was founded by Bidemi Carrol, who was the keynote speaker at our Seattle Anniversary Dinner in November.

Reading Sierra Leone: Schools for Salone received grant funding from the Northern California Peace Corps Association to purchase locally written, illustrated, and



produced Sierra Leonean stories at a variety of reading levels. Once it is safe to proceed, Schools for Salone will purchase and distribute the books to our partner schools – and provide training to teachers in how to use the books effectively.

Protecting Education, Ensuring Health Campaign: Over the next 8 months, our plan is to raise an additional \$100,000, for a total of \$200,000, to work with our partner communities to improve hygiene and sanitation. We want to improve access to clean water, especially through rainwater collection projects; upgrade septic systems and improve latrines; upgrade and increase sanitation supplies and hand washing stands in all facilities; and create a more distinct health education module with new materials and teacher training.

Rainwater Collection Systems Evaluations: This year, our Executive Director, Cindy Nofziger, traveled to Sierra Leone with Michael Zylstra, another former Peace Corps Volunteer from Sierra Leone and part of Bank on Rain, another Seattle based non-profit with an established record in Sierra Leone. Together Cindy, Michael and PFC evaluated schools for prospective rainwater collection systems. These systems will improve the wellbeing of the villages and provide a much needed source for clean water.

Looking to 2015

Over the next year our team will:

1. Continue to provide support for our school villages as needed during this crisis - Ebola is raging right now in the north, in the district where 3 of our schools are located.
2. Work with communities to make some needed school repairs.
3. Complete the construction of Bendu School.
4. Provide support as needed to Kaila for "Work for Food" and to keep the orphaned children in the village.
5. Begin construction in February on Phase 1 of the Kei Kamara/Mike Lahoud Primary School in the East End, Freetown.
6. Strengthen our collaboration with The Learning Foundation to develop our quality education programs that will resume when the situation in Sierra Leone stabilizes.
7. Upgrade water and sanitation facilities at all of our schools,
8. Continue to work with the community leaders in Kaila, the village devastated by Ebola by providing the support necessary to keep the 52 orphaned children with families – and to go to school once classes reopen.