

# ABOUT US


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# Schools for **SALONE**



# Annual Report

2015

What

Guides

Us

### our mission

to revitalize communities, empower children and teachers, and ultimately improve socioeconomic conditions for families, communities, and future generations

### our vision

to provide enhanced access to more effective education through a network of partner schools

# Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making 2015 yet another remarkable year for Schools for Salone. This year marked a decade since opening our first school in Maforeka, Tonkolili District. Our dedicated partner in Sierra Leone, Programme for Children, has done an incredible job at expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services.

By the end of 2015, according to WHO, the scourge of Ebola, had infected 14,122 and left 3,955 dead in Sierra Leone. Because of the early, relentless dedication of our team, NONE of our school communities contracted a single case of Ebola during the year and a half crisis.

Not only did our partners help protect our school communities in 2015, they provided radios so children could continue learning via radio broadcasted lessons by the Ministry of Education. We constructed 3 new schools, a new library, installed solar, and made sure our schools had sanitation supplies and learning materials. By December, after the crisis had subsided, we were able to begin teacher training workshops.

Our goal is to keep our overhead low while increasing our service in the field, and YOU truly make this possible. Schools for Salone is stronger than ever due to our continually expanding community who come together to donate time, resources and talent in support of our important mission: increasing access to quality education in Sierra Leone.

Thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of the Schools for Salone movement. We are looking forward to much more in 2016!

Warmest regards,



Cindy

# 2015 Progress Toward Our Strategic Plan

## Enhanced access

Throughout the Ebola outbreak, we distributed health and sanitation supplies to support our school communities, including 850 radios so students could continue their education during the crisis. We also completed Mamboma library, Bendu, Kalia, and Education for All schools and added septic toilets. Once schools opened in September 2015 all our schools were repaired and ready for students, including handwashing stations at every school. In 2015 we also provided scholarships for 58 students. We continue to work on upgrading toilets and adding permanent rainwater collection handwashing stations at all our schools. This year we also laid the groundwork to start after school reading programs for girls as well as providing reproductive health education and menstruation kits to girls. In 2015 we had 2310 girls and 2225 boys enrolled in our schools.

## More effective education

We strengthened our partnerships with Sierra Leonean organizations, laying the foundation for literacy and library training for teachers and after school literacy workshops for junior secondary school girls. By December 2015, the Ebola crisis had subsided and along with the Sierra Leone Book Trust we implemented library trainings and provided books and materials to establish small school libraries in our schools. As we look to 2016, we are ready to move forward with our partners working on improving quality education in Sierra Leone: The Learning Foundation, PEN-SL, Society of Knowledge and the Sierra Leone Book Trust.

## Increasing organizational capacity

SfS leadership continues to strengthen our relationships with partner organizations, and attend conferences and workshops. In October, we were able to officially hire our graduate student intern, who has dramatically increased our organizational capacity on many levels. We have implemented systems to more effectively track data and measure impact, and improve program evaluation methods. In Sierra Leone, we are working to strengthen the capacity of our partner organizations: 1) helping Programme for Children set up regional offices in Makeni and Bo to be closer to the communities where we work 2) providing motorbikes to our volunteer coordinators in the north and south to improve their ability to reach our school communities 3) supporting The Learning Foundation to move towards implementing in early 2016 a junior secondary school girls literacy program, and literacy workshops for our schools and library training for schools around the country.

# ENHANCED ACCESS:

## construction projects



KALIA

Kalia was devastated by Ebola. During the crisis, we provided major support to the community. In 2015 we completed a new school for this community, so the children, many of whom are now orphans, have access to educational opportunities.



EDUCATION FOR ALL

The Education for All school was made possible by the generous work of Sierra Leone born professional soccer players, Kei Kamara (NE Revolution) and Michael Lahoud (NY Cosmos). Kei and Mike's partnership brought support from FIFPro and the MLS Players' union.



BENDU



GBUMBEH  
(with solar)



MAMBOMA  
(with solar)

In addition to building new schools and libraries, we made repairs to 5 schools, including some major roof damage from severe storms, repaired 6 water wells, and made improvements to several school toilets. We installed solar in the Mamboma Library and Gbumbah, Maforeka, and Robis primary schools.

In 2015 we completed 4 new schools (Gbumbah, Bendu, Kalia, Education for All) and 1 new library (Mamboma) for a total of 18 schools and 3 libraries in 21 underserved communities across Sierra Leone.

This added 800 students to our community of over 5,000.



# ENHANCED ACCESS: health initiatives



One of the major reasons girls in Sierra Leone drop out of school once they begin puberty is because they have no access to feminine hygiene products

We have teamed up with a Pacific Northwest organization that makes sustainable, reusable feminine hygiene kits for girls and made preparations to start sending kits to our schools in 2016.

Our team in Sierra Leone is preparing to launch "Uman Talk", a series of lessons for girls (and boys), teaching them about health and sex education.



This year as a response to Ebola, we prioritized building sanitation stations in our schools. We are working to install permanent rainwater collection hand washing systems at all of our schools. We improved septic toilets at 4 of our schools and built new ones at 8 schools benefitting over 1600 students. Health and education are inextricably linked, make sure schools have water and sanitation facilities to protect against disease.



We also conducted health and sanitation education in our schools and provided supplies to prevent illness and the spread of disease in our communities.

# MORE EFFECTIVE EDUCATION

“education is better than silver and gold” –student Balla Musa

Over 5,000 students and 130 teachers served



90%

## teacher training

of our teachers have received some training

Despite the ongoing Ebola crisis, this year we sponsored 9 teachers for distance learning and 46 teachers for library training. We have 130 teachers total, 32 of whom are female. Our first teacher training workshop post-Ebola was in December 2015.



## conservation education

We established a new partnership with a local organization to provide environment and conservation education to 3 of our schools in 2015, with more to come. Our partners in Sierra Leone are becoming more concerned about the effects of climate change. This year we had to repair several school roofs due to severe wind storms.



80%

## literacy development

of our primary students who take their placement exam pass

We distributed locally written and illustrated books at various reading levels as well as other learning materials to support literacy at our schools. In 2015 we served over 5000 students across Sierra Leone.

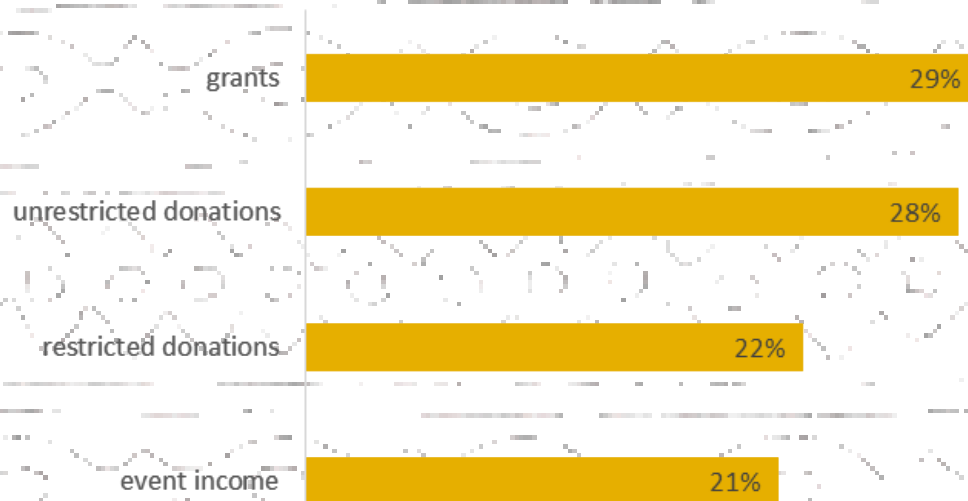
# FINANCIAL POSITION

A special thank you to the McPherson Family Foundation, the Turnstone Foundation, and the Schultz Family Foundation for their generous support. Many thanks to all of YOU who have given generously during the Seattle Foundation GiveBIG, our 6<sup>th</sup> annual San Francisco event, our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Seattle event, our end-of-year appeal, and our monthly donors.



**You are helping empower students and teachers in Sierra Leone, providing hope and making dreams come true!**

## income



## expenses



## Accomplishments in last 12 months

- Provided 340 bags of rice, 6 bags of onions, 6 cartons of fish, 10 bags of salt and 10 cartons of cooking oil to student and teacher families at height of the Ebola epidemic.
- Supplied 50 liters of chlorine, 36 boxes of Dettol, 100 hand sanitizers, 30 cartons of soap, 10 infrared thermometers and 200 handwashing buckets to partner villages and beyond.
- Provided life sustaining food supplies to quarantined village Kalia, followed by a work for food program to rebuild their farms.
- Distributed 850 radios, batteries and school supplies throughout Sierra Leone during Ebola crisis.
- Supported community radio and health education efforts on the Ebola front lines.
- Constructed 4 primary schools: Gbumbeh, Bendu, Kalia, Kei Kamara/Michael Lahoud Education for All serving over 800 students.
- Constructed a library in Mamboma, complete with solar power, benefitting 3 schools and over 500 children.
- Completed repairs to 5 schools: Masanga, Makali, Sahn Negbema, Maforeka and Junctionla, benefitting over 1000 students. Repairs included replacing termite infested doors with metal doors, painting, replacing benches and desks as needed.
- Constructed 8 new septic toilets at Gbumbeh, Bendu, Kalia, Education for All, Kandor, Buma, Lungi and Sahn Negbema. Benefitting over 1600 students.
- Repaired 6 water wells in Sembehun, Kpakuma, Lungi, Niagorehun and 2 in Kandor, benefiting over 1200 students and their communities.
- Repaired wind damaged roofs at Robis, Sahn Negbema and Kpakuma.
- Installed solar power systems in Robis, Gbumbeh and Maforeka.
- Provided sponsorships to 58 students.



## Plans for 2016

- Implement teacher training programs in library training, literacy, reading and environmental education.
- Construct handwashing stations at all our schools.
- Construct septic toilets at 6 schools.
- Construct at least 2 new schools in vetted communities.
- Implement specific programs aimed at keeping girls in school.
- Provide school supplies and learning materials as needed.
- Provide PEN-SL beginning reading books to all our schools.
- Implement village loan savings programs in 4 villages.

Give as generously as you can so together we can continue to improve access to quality education for children in Sierra Leone!