

# Right Sharing OF WORLD RESOURCES

*“Let us then see what love can do”*

*William Penn, 17th Century Quaker*

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*God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burdens of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God's love, to work for equity through partnership with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.*

## Training – an important element for success

How much does a Right Sharing project cost? This is a question that is often asked. What the person usually means is, “How much money is given to each project that is funded?” The answer to the second question is, “Between \$4,000 and \$5,500.” However, this does not include the whole cost of an RSWR project. One important aspect of a project that people often don't consider is the cost of training. Yet training is so important that it can make the difference between the success and failure of a project.

Just think about it – if you were given a sum of money to start a small business, would you know what to do? Where would you buy your stock? How would you market your products? How would you know what government licenses and permits were needed? To compound this, imagine that you are illiterate and have never learned basic mathematics. Would your business succeed?

Recognizing the importance training has on the success of our partners, RSWR has increased the budget for training in the coming year. Because cultures are different in each of the three countries where we work, we approach training a little differently in each one. In India, we work through local NGOs that provide “capacity building” training for the women we support. “Capacity building” is training in basic business skills such as accounting and record-keeping, marketing, and quality control. This support gives our women beneficiaries in India a strong start. In Kenya, our Field Representative gives our project partners basic capacity building training before the funds are disbursed to each group. In addition, many of the women's groups seek training from the Kenyan government's Department of Social Services. However, since there are few Kenyan NGOs to offer support, the women's groups are basically on their own. RSWR is currently seeking how to provide more training support in Kenya.

In this article, we will introduce our RSWR trainer in Sierra Leone, Ahmed Muckson Sesay, and highlight the training there.

Mr. Sesay is the Director of Organization for Peace, Reconciliation and Development Sierra Leone (OPARDSL), which he founded in 1999 to work to end the rebel war. OPARDSL facilitated the December 8, 2000, meeting between rebels and the United Nations Mission in Sierra

*Women in the Disadvantaged Women Initiative Association in Sierra Leone role play problems that could cause their businesses to fail.*

*Continued on page 2*





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Christina Koroma of War Ravaged Women Initiatives for Poverty Reduction interviews a local cassava seller.

Leone. This was a turning point in the peace process, which eventually resulted in sustainable peace in Sierra Leone. Today, the organization runs poverty reduction programs for rural women and youth, including capacity building training, micro-credit projects, and providing access to education to the impoverished. One of their current projects is educational programs to discourage teenage pregnancy. In addition, Mr. Sesay also runs a school to train rural youths in computer skills so that they can get good jobs and escape the poverty cycle of the rural communities.

In the midst of all these activities, Mr. Sesay also provides training for RSWR project partners. Each cycle, he travels to remote villages to instruct all the beneficiaries of each new RSWR project in how to successfully run a business, keep their account books, save money, repay their loans on time, and support each other as part of a self-help group. He works with support staff who speak the local language, so that the women will be able to understand the information he is offering. His training is experiential. It includes field trips to interview local successful small business owners, and role-playing issues such as the importance of record-keeping

and the dangers of misusing loans. The role-playing also helps participants realize the need to work together as a united group so they are able to accomplish their task with greater success. Since early 2015, he has also incorporated a unit on Ebola management and control strategies into all of his training sessions.

The recipients of this training in Sierra Leone tell us that no other development group has offered such a useful training in the small rural villages. Often, the local chiefs and elders ask permission to participate in the training too. Here are two stories we have received from past RSWR project partners about the importance of training to the success of their businesses.

**AMIE KABIA IS A MEMBER OF DUHAJ MICRO-CREDIT COOPERATIVE IN SIERRA LEONE, WHICH RECEIVED AN RSWR GRANT IN JULY 2014.**

Amie Kabia, who is pouring the palm oil at the front of this photo, is a widow with seven children. She was unable to send them to school because of their wretched living situation. They were fetching wood to make a living, which paid less than a dollar a day. Amie had previously received small loans on three different occasions from the DMCC group funds, before they received the RSWR grant. She was unable to repay her initial loans and was about to be thrown out of the organization. However, she was given another chance when the group received the RSWR grant. Before her RSWR loan, Amie received training on micro-credit and business management from Mr. Sesay. Now she is repaying her loan, saving money, and able to send three of her children to school.



**MEMUNATU THOMAS IS A MEMBER OF KATIMPI VULNERABLE GROUP IN SIERRA LEONE, WHICH RECEIVED A GRANT FROM RSWR IN 2014.**

Mrs. Memunatu Thomas was a refugee in Gambia for years. When she returned to Sierra Leone in 2004, she joined Katimpi Vulnerable Group and received a small loan from the KVG group funds. At that time she was illiterate and knew nothing about micro-credit and even the production of KVG goods. She was unable to repay her initial KVG loan.

However in 2014, she received a loan from the RSWR fund along with training in micro-credit and business management. After this additional training and encouragement, she has now become very skilled in the production of country clothes, local mats, and raffia bags (the products that the KVG group makes). She now has a thriving business and is the breadwinner of her family.



# Remembering Roland Kreager

Roland Kreager, General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources from 1992 to 2011, died on May 28, 2016. During his tenure with RSWR, he led the organization to become an independent non-profit working in the U.S., India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Through Roland's efforts toward economic justice, thousands of women and families in the developing world were able to earn a more equitable income. We are deeply grateful for the love, leadership, care and compassion that Roland shared with all of us. Letters remembering Roland have come pouring into the RSWR office from all over the world. We share a few of them with you here:



*Roland Kreager WAS Right Sharing of World Resources to many NGO leaders in Southern India. Many of the NGOs were so small and had so little credibility that no one would respond to their requests ... except for Roland Kreager with RSWR. Roland built strong relationships with our project partners in Tamil Nadu, in Kenya, and in Sierra Leone, largely because he respected them and they knew it.*

— Linnea Wang  
founding and current Board member

*Roland embodied and embraced the priority of partnership in the way RSWR created and sustained relationships. As he traveled in the ministry, he modeled a sense of mutuality and equality by taking on the posture of a learner and coming with the expectation that he (and North American Quakers) had as much to receive as to give.*

*Roland consistently reminded the RSWR board and larger Quaker community that the work can and must be rooted in our*

*experience of God. More than creating self-help groups in a variety of countries or providing educational materials promoting simplicity and sustainability, RSWR was meant to be an avenue of expression for God's love and light in the world. Sometimes, in the midst of the inevitable organizational and financial details facing the RSWR board, Roland's personal presence and reminders helpfully refocused us on our spiritual purpose.*

— Colin Saxton  
former Board member and current  
General Secretary of Friends United Meeting

*I express my deepest condolences to the family, friends, kith and kin, colleagues and staff of RSWR due to the death of Mr. ROLAND KREAGER, former General Secretary, RSWR.... He toured all over Tamilnadu, encouraged women and NGOs here, and ... through them RSWR reached and supported these women all over Tamilnadu. I will remember him for his wonderful work and contribution to the development of women and their families.*

— C Tamilselvan  
Consultant, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India

*I am truly disturbed to hear about the sad event in the history of RSWR, the loss of our dear friend and partner in grass-roots development, Roland Kreager, former General Secretary. I came in contact with Roland in 1994. It was a time when Sierra Leone was plunged into deep madness (Rebel war, 1991- 2002). Roland and I were in constant communications, from my side sharing the untold brutality and sufferings of poor, weak, innocent and defenseless civilians, especially women and children, in the hands of all the warring factions. And from his side expressing his desire for RSWR to expand their activities into Sierra Leone to help alleviate the sufferings of our people. That dream has today become a reality. Roland finally came to visit Sierra Leone in late December 2008, where we had our first face-to- face contact.*

*Roland has been a tremendous friend to me and the grass-roots women in Sierra Leone.... Our hopes and prayers go to the bereaved family, relatives and friends. Surely his work shall always be remembered. May his soul rest in perfect peace.*

— Ahmed Muckson Sesay  
RSWR trainer in Sierra Leone

## RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES

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*Return Service Requested*

### *Impact Generations!*

Help a woman in India, Kenya or Sierra Leone have a life-changing experience! There are many ways to donate to Right Sharing.

Send used postage stamps  
Sponsor a project  
Share a simple meal or  
Simplify Life Sale  
Give in memory or honor of someone

Visit [www.rswr.org/donors](http://www.rswr.org/donors)  
for more ideas!

### *Garage Sale Spirituality*

How could anyone find spirituality in garage sales? Think about the junk, the mess, the work, the dust! Yet a garage sale can provide a real opportunity for spiritual experience and meaningful growth.

Perhaps you have been troubled by your own excessive material possessions. Perhaps your meeting/church would like to find a way to do more outreach giving. Let these seeds of awareness germinate into ideas, plans, and action.

Planning for a **Simplify Life Sale** brings with it clear awareness of the excess stuff pervading our culture, overflowing from our closets. Clarity and spaciousness are created when unneeded items are removed. This physical sense is a little like losing that extra 10 pounds. You feel lighter with less stuff weighing you down. You feel en-lightened, with less to burden your spirit.

And, as our spirits are unburdened, there is a triple opportunity for doing good in the world:



- **Locally** – What is unneeded stuff to me could be just what another person in my town truly needs.
- **Environmentally** – A Simplify Life Sale recycles many items that would otherwise end up in the landfill.
- **Internationally** – We are all aware of the inequity of the distribution of wealth in this world. By sending the proceeds from a Simplify Life Sale to Right Sharing of World Resources, you can transfer some of that wealth into a life-changing opportunity for women in the developing world.

**PLAN YOUR SIMPLIFY LIFE SALE TODAY!**

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Look for materials about planning your garage sale on our website:

[www.rswr.org/education/garage-sale-spirituality/](http://www.rswr.org/education/garage-sale-spirituality/)

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