

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.

SIERRA LEONE –

Cultivating Seeds

How do the seeds planted with our partners in Sierra Leone grow and touch people's lives?



In January I visited Sierra Leone in sub-Saharan Africa to learn how those seeds are tended and grow. Right Sharing Field Representative Sallian Sankoh accompanied me, as I witnessed first-hand RSWR projects in a land recovering from civil war and a recent Ebola outbreak.

Right Sharing grants plant seeds of encouragement for women to enter into the work of self-empowerment in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and southern India. In Sierra Leone, RSWR projects reach throughout the country to include many places where no other NGO is willing to go because of remote locations and lack of facilities.

The marginalized women with whom we partner are smart, hard working, and tenacious. They may be marginalized because of class, economic or social situation such as widowhood, or geographical isolation. Together, they become a strong community.

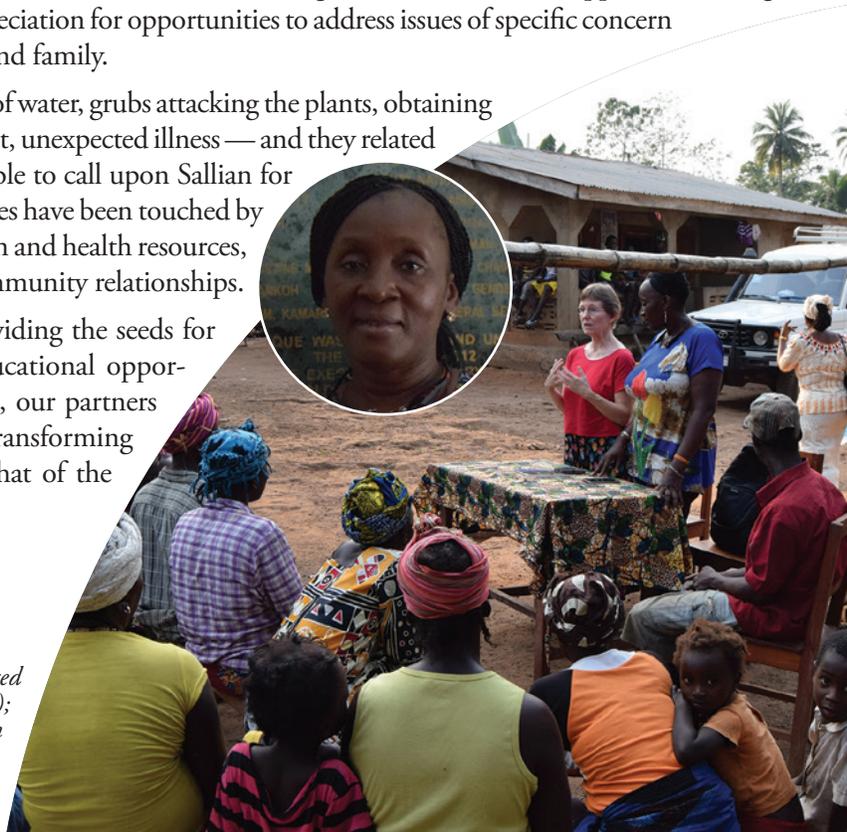
After visiting 18 projects and hundreds of women, it was difficult to choose only a few stories to share with you. I heard tales of how the RSWR seed money and the presence of Sallian facilitated invaluable opportunities for women to have open conversations and learn together. In addition to support in learning business skills, women expressed appreciation for opportunities to address issues of specific concern to them, such as health, education, and family.

They spoke of challenges — lack of water, grubs attacking the plants, obtaining land, saving when there was little profit, unexpected illness — and they related how they have benefitted by being able to call upon Sallian for essential advice and training. Their lives have been touched by increased incomes, access to education and health resources, and greater respect in family and community relationships.

Thank you for your part in providing the seeds for these women to nourish. With educational opportunities, affirmation, and seed funds, our partners become exponentially effective in transforming the quality of their own lives and that of the community around them.

With God's abundant love,
Jacqueline Stillwell
RSWR General Secretary

Jackie with elder of Tepetok Disadvantaged Group (top); Sallian Sankoh (inset); Jackie and Sallian join Sierra Leone women to create community and partnership.



Sierra Leone...

SOME HISTORY OF SIERRA LEONE

Here is some information about Sierra Leone to help contextualize this newsletter:

Sierra Leone is located in West Africa. The country, which is approximately the size of South Carolina, has a population of around six million. RSWR has been working in Sierra Leone since 1996, and we have projects in every corner of the country.

The country was engaged in a Civil War from 1991 until 2002. There is a strong cultural desire to live in harmony, and the country has been at peace for the last 15 years.

The majority of the country is Muslim, followed by Christians. Muslims and Christians freely intermarry, and both cultures may be respected within the same home.

Sierra Leone is rich in many minerals, including diamonds, gold, and iron. International mining corporations export raw materials, with Sierra Leone seeing little of the profit. Mining is more prevalent in the North of the country.

From May 2014 until March 2016, Sierra Leone went through an Ebola epidemic that resulted in almost 4,000 deaths. The country experienced an almost two-year quarantine involving school and business closures to try to contain the illness. Crops failed when agricultural workers were quarantined and kept from their land. The country has been working hard to recover from the effects of the epidemic and quarantine in order to find solid footing again.



Beneficiaries and children TCDO



Benduqua, an ebola survivor TCDO

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS IN SIERRA LEONE

In 2016, RSWR funded 11 projects in Sierra Leone, benefitting 381 women starting small businesses. In the regions we serve, we partner with local groups of women who have been organizing to build community and save money. Here are the stories of three of the groups

Jackie visited while in Sierra Leone:

TEWOH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Tewoh Community Development Organization (TCDO) works in two communities that were badly hit by the Ebola virus in 2014. Twenty-six people in the two communities died, and the village was quarantined for almost two years. The survivors were left with few resources and much work to do, with many women widowed and many children orphaned. The women in the group make bread and soap to sell in smaller nearby markets. Once a week the women rise at 3 AM to walk to a larger central market to sell their goods. While there, they also buy goods to resell in the local markets.

Benduqua is a member of Tewoh Community Development Organization and an Ebola survivor. She lost her husband and six children to the disease, and then was quarantined alone in her house. With the loan from Right Sharing, she was able to start over. She now makes a living making and selling soap with the other women. Membership in the organization has been a way for her to heal emotionally and spiritually from the trauma and loss she experienced.



Women preparing fish for smoking GCDF



Fishing boats GCDF

to great use in the village. The women purchase fish, which they then smoke and sell at markets. The women have more than doubled their income since receiving the grant. There has been such success that the NGO has been inundated with requests for help from women in nearby areas! The NGO recently received a second RSWR grant to expand its assistance to a group of women in a nearby village.

GONDAMA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Gondama Community Development Foundation (GCDF) is located in Sulima, at the southwest tip of the country. The border with Liberia is to the South, the Atlantic Ocean is to the West, and the Moa River is to the North, cutting Sulima off from the rest of the country. Sulima suffered greatly during the Civil War; many of the inhabitants fled or were killed. Since the war's end in 2002, people have begun returning; however, those who had businesses prior to the war had since lost everything. Because of the location along the Moa River, the traditional occupation of the village is fishmongering.

The NGO received its first RSWR grant in January 2016, and it has been put

FOURABAY MARKET WOMEN ASSOCIATION

Fourabay Market Women Association (FMWA), which began in 2010, is located in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. Collectively, the women buy rice, sugar, flour, and palm oil wholesale, and then resell the goods from individual stalls in the local market. Prior to receiving a RSWR grant in 2016, the group was successfully lending money to women, but the loans were so small they weren't able to be of much assistance. The RSWR grant has made a significant difference in the lives of the women, who are now able to support their families with their stalls.

Zina Kamara is a member of the Fourabay Market Women Association.



Zina Kamara FMWA rice and oil

She grew up selling rice in the market with her mother, and she now sells several different types of rice and also bottles of palm oil. Her husband is retired and has a small pension, so her work is necessary to support the family, including four children. The RSWR grant has enabled her to make enough money to send all four of them to school.

THE POWER OF ENOUGH – THREE QUERIES

The following queries give opportunity for reflection on that which is important, nourishing, and life-giving. They are also an invitation to consider that which is limiting or burdensome, and to seek the balance that is "enough."

1. What do you need in your life? What is essential for you?
2. What is security? Does money mean security? Why or why not?
3. How can you balance your use of time, energy, and 'things' to free yourself to do God's work, and to contribute to right order in our world?

If you would like to experience a more in-depth workshop on this topic led by RSWR General Secretary Jackie Stillwell, one will be offered at the upcoming FUM Triennial and at the FGC Gathering in July. For more details, contact rswr@rswr.org.



FMWA collective storage

RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES

101 Quaker Hill Drive
Richmond, IN 47374

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to Earl Walker (Quaker Missions West), 650 Harrison Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711. Every stamp you send is a gift, empowering women and their communities.

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www.goodsearch.com – for all your internet searches and purchases. When you designate Right Sharing of World Resources, all your activities will contribute to the transformative work of RSWR with no cost to you.

LIKE AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK –

www.facebook.com

[RightSharingofWorldResources/](https://www.facebook.com/RightSharingofWorldResources/) – to let those in your social network know about the work of Right Sharing, and why it matters to you. Our page has photos, our mission, and how to donate.



From the RSWR archives...



The founding Board of RSWR. Back row, from left: Susan Lee Barton, Bob Barns, Patricia Kutzner, Neil Snarr, Roland Kreager (then-General Secretary). Front row: Colin Saxton (then-Clerk), Linnea Wang, Mary Eagleson

In 1999, Right Sharing transitioned from being a committee of Friends World Committee for Consultation to an independent Quaker non-profit. This meant that RSWR needed a Board of Trustees to assist with the mission and work. These faithful Friends stepped up to be the founding Board of RSWR! We are so grateful for the service of all those who have served as Board members in Right Sharing's history.

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES projects contributions are tax-deductible in the USA as allowable by law. RSWR is a 501(c)(3) organization; our tax identification number (EIN) is 31-1636209.

Right Sharing of World Resources is celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2017!

For more information about this milestone and to find out about opportunities to celebrate, visit www.rswr.org/celebrate.

SHARE A MEMORY!

Do you have a photo, story, or other memento from the last 50 years of RSWR's work? Board members are collecting RSWR history from donors to include in our celebrations and Summer newsletter.

To share your piece of RSWR history, please contact Board member Mary Eagleson at 914.328.7943 or mleagleson@aol.com

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Celebrating
50 years
of partnership