



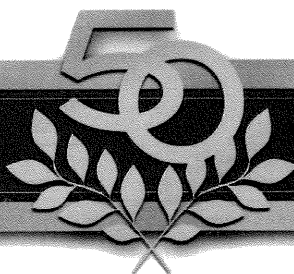
FRIENDS OF SIERRA LEONE (FOSL)

VISIT TO PEACE CORPS

JULY 19, 2011

- 2:00 Arrival at Peace Corps*
- 2:15 Presentation and Panel Discussion with PCVs*
- 3:30 Refreshments*
- 4:00 Picture taking*
- 4:15 Tour of Office*
- 5:00 Depart for Embassy Reception*

PEACE CORPS



ANNIVERSARY



PEACE CORPS SIERRA LEONE BRIEFING PAPER

COUNTRY DATA

U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone (designee).....Michael Owen
Deputy Chief of Mission/Charge' d'Affaires.....Mitchell Benedict
Sierra Leone Ambassador to the US.....H. E. Bockari K. Stevens
Peace Corps Country Co-Directors.....Gale Metcalf and Joel Wallach
Peace Corps Staff.....US Staff: 5; Sierra Leonean Staff: 24; Total Staff: 29
Trainee Input Dates.....June, 2010/June, 2011/June, 2012

	<u>FY10</u>	<u>FY11</u>	<u>FY12</u>
Volunteers	37	82	90
Trainee Input		49	42

PROGRAM OVERVIEW-HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The first group of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) arrived in Sierra Leone in 1962, a little over a year after independence from Great Britain. In the following 32 years, until 1994, Peace Corps/Sierra Leone averaged 60-70 PCVs per year, and fielded more than 3,400 Volunteers.

Throughout the 1960s, the primary programming emphasis was in the education sector. Volunteers were teaching math, science, and home economics, with some vocational educators in the secondary schools. Additionally, Peace Corps/Sierra Leone recruited teacher trainers. During the 1970s Peace Corps expanded into the agriculture and health fields.

In the health sector, Volunteers initially worked on health education and rural water supply and sanitation projects. The health project eventually expanded to include the training of maternal and child health care personnel. Volunteers in the agriculture sector worked primarily on rice production, fish farming, wildlife preservation areas, and agricultural resource management.

The early 1990s saw the emergence of a rebel force intent on overthrowing the government. Less than one week after a successful April 1992 *coup d'état* toppled President Momoh's government, Peace Corps/Sierra Leone ceased operations. The program reopened in August 1992 with 24 of the 82 evacuated Volunteers reinstated in health, agriculture and education projects. However, continued instability in Sierra Leone, coupled with the ongoing war in neighboring Liberia, severely limited Peace Corps' ability to function effectively and guarantee the Volunteers' safety. Peace Corps ceased operations completely in October, 1994.

With the cessation of hostilities, Peace Corps began receiving requests from numerous groups and individuals to return to Sierra Leone with a full Peace Corps Program. Such groups included Sierra Leonean government officials, host country nationals, the Friends of Sierra Leone, U.S.

Congressional members, as well as the American Ambassador to Sierra Leone and the President and Vice President of Sierra Leone.

In 2002, 2003, and 2007, Peace Corps completed three Re-Entry Assessments for Sierra Leone, focusing on safety, security and medical issues as well as possible areas for programming. In June, 2009 Peace Corps officials met in Washington with Vice President Samuel Sam-Sumana and decided that the time was right for Peace Corps to re-establish a program in Sierra Leone. In November, 2009, a Country Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the U.S. government was signed. The first group of returning Trainees arrived in Sierra Leone in June, 2010; the second group in June, 2011.

Volunteers currently are posted at schools in eleven districts throughout Sierra Leone primarily located in small towns and villages in the interior of the country. As teachers of English, Science and Mathematics in junior and senior secondary schools they work to promote the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology's (MEST) goal of improving the quality of education. They also coach and mentor teachers, facilitate extra-curricular activities, promote girls' enrollment in school, reproductive health, and youth development. Volunteers also work to strengthen local schools by promoting partnerships and networks between the school, community, and other organizations and develop school infrastructure.

D. PEACE CORPS USDH STAFF

Country Co-Directors.....	Gale Metcalf and Joel Wallach
Program and Training Officer.....	Annaliese Lint
Administrative Officer.....	Thomas Nally

E. COUNTRY DESK UNIT

Country Desk Officer.....	Nicole Williams, (202) 692-2318
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Peace Corps Sierra Leone
34 Old Railway Line, Signal Hill
Freetown
Sierra Leone, West Africa

Main Phone: (232) 78 200 900

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