

Grant Period:

Organization: Books For Africa

Contact Name: Carole Patrikakos

Title: Manager of Grants

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Grant Period: 10/16/12-10/16/2013

Award Amount: \$49,200

Grant Number: 2012739

Unloading a container at the
Sierra Leone Book Trust warehouse.



Parents, teachers and pupils receiving books at Baptist Secondary School, Kassarie, Kambia District, North Western Sierra Leone.

- **Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.**

Four sea containers were shipped from the Books For Africa warehouse in Atlanta, Georgia, USA to The Sierra Leone Book Trust (SALBOT) in Freetown, Sierra Leone from the period of December 2012 to September 2013 (please see four enclosed shipping document cover pages). Each container carried approximately 22,000 primary, secondary, and post-secondary books. The containers were transported to the SALBOT warehouse for sorting by Mr. Sallieu Turay, Director. Mr. Turay sorted the books and made them available to over 180 institutions across Sierra Leone that have the facilities and human resources necessary to make the books available for on-going use.

The books were targeted for three categories of recipients:

- 1) **Universities-** Sierra Leone has three principal universities: Fourah Bay College, founded in 1827 (the oldest university in West Africa), University of Makeni (established initially in September 2005 as The Fatima Institute, the college was granted university status in August 2009, and assumed the name University of Makeni, and Njala University in Bo District. Books to support the curriculums of these institutions were solicited by Professor Dick Simpson of the University of Illinois, Chicago, and shipped to the BFA warehouse for inclusion in all four containers.
- 2) **School for Salone sites and rural schools (www.schoolsforsalone.org)** - The Sierra Leone Civil War resulted in the destruction of 1,270 primary schools, and in 2001, 67% of all school-age children were out of school. The situation has improved considerably since then with primary school enrolment doubling between 2001 and 2005 and the reconstruction of many schools since the end of the war (Wang, Lianqin (2007). *Education in Sierra Leone: Present Challenges, Future Opportunities*. World Bank Publications. p. 1 and 3).

Schools for Salone (SFS) is a charity based in Washington, U.S.A., with a mission of building schools and providing teacher and librarian training. Since 2005, Schools for Salone has built 15 primary school buildings and 2 secondary school libraries. SFS focuses on building schools in rural villages that are highly motivated to educate their children and that offer a high degree of participation in the construction and the maintenance of their schools. SFS first partnered with BFA in 2009, which started BFA's relationship with the Sierra Leone Book Trust, to whom BFA has now shipped eight containers of books.

- 3) **U.S. Peace Corps (www.peacecorps.gov/learn/wherepc/africa/sierraleone)** – Primary education is free and compulsory in government-sponsored public schools, but a shortage of schools and teachers has made it impossible for all children to enroll in school. The U.S. Peace Corps pulled out of Sierra Leone in 1994, reentering in 2010. Currently 91 Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) serve in Sierra Leone, working in the education sector. The volunteers teach in rural schools where the government does not have sufficient teachers. The volunteers go to Freetown every few months, where they retrieve their boxes at the Peace Corps office to truck back to their schools.

- **What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?**

The major barrier to distributing books throughout the country is the condition of the roads and the price of gas. Given these travel barriers, in some cases boxes were received in the SALBOT warehouse for sites that were not able to send someone to come pick them up right away. Mr. Turay has limited warehouse space that needs to be cleared out before he can accept the next container. The Peace Corps office intervened by sending their truck to take the boxes earmarked for PCVs until they could get into Freetown. Professor Dick Simpson of Chicago intervened by wiring funds to Mr. Turay ahead of each container arrival so that he had gas money to bring boxes to the recipients.

In the future, Professor Simpson will be fundraising to supplement the shipping charges of each container so that Mr. Turay is supplied with funds towards the distribution.

- **Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.**

After receiving the Gimbel Grant, BFA learned that Ms. Valerie Staats, Former Director of the International Book Bank, had been reassigned from Peace Corps Director in Cape Verde to Peace Corps Country Director, Sierra Leone. Ms. Staats coordinated a wonderful book distribution ceremony, including Mr. Turay and the Ambassador of the U.S. to Sierra Leone. Ms. Staats serves as a Books For Africa Ambassador Circle member and delivered photos of the ceremony (please see enclosed).

An additional positive outcome is that Mr. Turay's reputation has been elevated throughout the country as the "bearer of books", and he is being sought out by school directors, as demonstrated by this recent appeal:

From: Mallam O. (Sankoh Foundation) <osman.sankoh@sankohfoundation.org>
To: sierrabookt@yahoo.com
Cc: Mohamed K Kamara <mkkamara@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:33 PM
Subject: Introducing the Warima Public Library

Dear Mr. Sallieu,

We have heard of your work and the assistance your Trust gives to schools and libraries. We are pleased to let you know that we have funded the construction of a public library in our village of Warima, 11 miles from Masiaka on the Masiaka-Mile 91 trunk road.

We are now looking for books for the library and were directed to you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Mallam O. & J., Sankoh Foundation

- **Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.**

The shipment of four containers over the last year has maintained Sierra Leone as a high priority on our shipping schedule. BFA and SFS have a mission of delivering one million books to Sierra Leone, in order to populate schools across the country that aim to enroll the estimated 2.5 million youth. Overall, the effect of this grant has delivered books to more than 180 schools and universities that had little or no books.

Providing books to under resourced schools helps offset educational costs for families that do not have reading material to supplement their children's school lessons. The provision of a variety of reading material also helps retains students who did not before have a "reading culture" that encouraged them to pursue their interests and attain a higher education. Although the number of children in primary education has greatly doubled between 2001 and 2005, in 2010, there were still over 281,100 school-aged children not in primary school (UNESCO). Continuing to provide books to support rural teachers with large classes and to attract and entertain students is BFA's top priority in Sierra Leone.

Demand for books remains high in Sierra Leone, as demonstrated from this recent appeal:

From: sahr yillia [mailto:child.rescuemission@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 1:13 PM
To: Carole
Subject: REQUEST for ASSISTANCE

Dear Sir/Madam.

On behalf of the CHILD RESCUE MISSION CRM WEST AFRICA, a non-governmental organization whose mission is to rescue underprivileged children from extreme poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition in Sierra Leone, where this category of young persons are still trying to recover from the negative consequences of the brutal armed conflict which engulfed this nation in West Africa.



We write to kindly request your assistance towards the education of these underprivileged children whose parents are poor and living just on 1 dollar a day. We will appreciate any form of assistance either in the form of materials or any other forms possible.

Please attached here are photos of the children in the community school we are seeking support for which now has a total population of 164 pupils.

Sincerely Yours

Sahr Yillia, Director CRM WEST AFRICA

- **Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.**

Please see the attached letters and photos from the book recipients that describe the impact the books are having on their students.

An additional impact to BFA is that it attracted attention to BFA's goal of shipping one million books to Sierra Leone, and made it easy for many individuals to participate, from a Sierra Leonean in Iowa who collected books, to corporate and civic service groups that sorted and boxed in our warehouse. Just this month, a group of high school students from an affluent Minneapolis suburb came in to discuss fundraising for a container project, and they decided to bag groceries for tips at their supermarket to send the next container to Sierra Leone! This on-going, million book goal makes it easy for everyone to give what they can, be it a book, their effort in the warehouse, or a container sponsorship.

- **Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).**

Books For Africa Expense	Amount of Gimbel funds applied
container 1 shipping and customs/ clearance	\$12,300
container 2 shipping and customs/ clearance	\$12,300
container 3 shipping and customs/ clearance	\$12,300
container 4 shipping and customs/ clearance	\$12,300
TOTAL	\$49,200

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.

Please return the completed form to:

Celia Cudiamat, Executive Vice President of Grants & Programs
 3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
 Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net