

Advocacy
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The good news in Sierra Leone is that Ebola is gone and Peace Corps is back.

Karen Swails has left as Peace Corps Director in Sierra Leone and has been replaced by Lonny Born who is Associate Director.

A group of Peace Corps Response Volunteers left the country recently. They had worked in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), as specialists and teacher trainers. The training for Response Volunteers is about a week. They arrived in March and were in the country for three months.

A new group of Response Volunteers is in the country now. They will be there for 11 months. Two are math and science specialists and seven are literacy teacher trainers. 15 full time volunteers are in the country and are training right now. They will be working in the area of secondary English education after their three months of training.

Kristin Caspar has left Peace Corps Washington as Sierra Leone desk officer and has been replaced by Katie Gehron.

Peace Corps is hoping to expand the number of volunteers in the future and is hoping to have volunteers in the health sector by January. They will work in nutrition, WASH and malaria. They are recruiting for a much larger volunteer class next summer which would include math, English and science teachers and health volunteers.

As always it is important for our members to contact their Senators and Representatives encouraging them to support a robust Peace Corps budget. Peace Corps is always working on a slim budget and expansion of future programs always depends on money available. Please contact your Senators and Representatives and tell them of the impact of Peace Corps on your life and your community and that Peace Corps is one of the biggest bargains in the foreign affairs budget.

FoSL is concerned that USAID does not have an office in Freetown. Right now all work is done through the USAID office in Conakry and having a Freetown office would improve function and efficiency. A cross sectoral USAID West Africa regional program based in Accra is called West Africa Biodiversity in Climate Change. They recently opened a Freetown office. Their focus is on community development, forest conservation, coastal cities and anti trafficking of animals. USAID is focused primarily on the health sector, agriculture, nutrition and agriculture-business with a slight amount on good governance. A high priority for us is to get a separate USAID office in Freetown.