

Information about becoming a Right Sharing of World Resources partner in SIERRA LEONE

Right Sharing of World Resources offers training, support, and financial grants to small, grassroots women's groups that do not have access to other adequate support and funding. In Sierra Leone, RSWR offers two different programs:

PREPARING THE SOIL— Independent women self-help groups in Sierra Leone are invited to apply for a FREE training program with the RSWR Sierra Leone Country Coordinators. Training, a savings plan, and effective group management are essential ingredients for the success of a group. The Sierra Leone RSWR Country Coordinators will help groups develop an effective leadership structure, group management practices, and a group savings plan. The women's groups will also be trained in best business practices and revolving loan funds.

PLANTING THE SEEDS -- Groups that have completed the RSWR PREPARING THE SOIL program are eligible to apply for a financial grant of up to US \$6,500. Unfortunately grant funds are limited, so some groups that apply may not be chosen to participate. Groups that are chosen for the **PLANTING THE SEEDS** program and receive a grant will establish a **revolving loan fund** for their group. This fund is to make loans to members of the group so that they can begin or expand a small business or farming operation. Borrowers are expected to pay back their loans to the group, with a reasonable interest rate. This allows the group to loan funds to others. The money will continue to be recycled and the revolving loan fund will hopefully grow over time.

PLANTING THE SEEDS is a 3-year RSWR partnership program that includes technical training and supportive monitoring for three years following the receipt of the grant. After 18 months, partner groups can apply for another grant of up to \$3,000 to expand and enhance their project.

The need is great and Right Sharing's capacity is limited. There are not sufficient funds for everyone to be accepted into these programs. Not all groups will be accepted.

If your group is interested in becoming a RSWR partner, please fill out the attached application to begin the training program and send it to: sierraleone-applications@rswr.org.

Application to participate in the RSWR Training Program

(10 groups per year will be chosen to participate in this program, based on the attached RSWR criteria. Unfortunately, Right Sharing's capacity is limited. There are not sufficient funds for everyone to be accepted into the program. Not all groups will be accepted).

Name of Group:

Contact person and her position in group:

Location (so that the RSWR Country Coordinators can visit the group):

Phone:

Email:

Date registered:

Number of active members:

Please give information about the members of your group that you think is important. This could include the number of children and other family members they are supporting; special strengths they have and challenges they are facing. You should include information on the present economic status of members and how they are making a living right now.

Describe the group organization. Who are the officers and how are they chosen? Is the group affiliated with any other organization? How often does the group meet together?

Purpose of group. Why did you form this group?

Present activities: What are you doing to help yourselves now?

Trainings your group has received or workshops you have attended:

What other specific areas would you like RSWR to cover in training your group?

Any other information that RSWR should know about your group:

**Criteria for a group to be eligible to apply to Right Sharing of World Resources
SIERRA LEONE
approved by RSWR Board on April 18, 2020**

1. Project is located in RSWR geographic project area. In Sierra Leone, the RSWR program covers the entire country.
2. Women's self-help groups were formed no more than 20 years ago.
3. Leaders and all members of the Women's Groups must be women.
4. Project is for women only. We expect the women themselves to be wholly in charge of the projects without involvement of outside persons, including the management of the bank account.
5. Proposal should include a clear description of the Women's Self-Help Group. Include, size and makeup of group, history, current activities and current economic circumstances.
6. For effective group dynamics, we recommend a group size of 20-35. However, different groups have different organizational structures, so please explain your group structure if your group is larger than 35.
7. Indication that the group is able to receive and use money as intended. In Sierra Leone, we must see the group's end-of-year financial report. The group must also be registered with the government and have a bank account with three members of the group as signatories.
8. Group has little or no access to other resources. Annual group income is less than \$4,000 USD.

Below are other considerations which the Board considers favorable, but they are not determining criteria:

- A. Groups which have applied before and not been funded but have continued to work on their training and group structure are attractive to RSWR.
- B. RSWR regards diversity in ethnic and/or religious affiliation as positive.