



2015 Annual Report





A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Friends,

You and I have much to celebrate as we look back on 2015 - 10 years of our important, transformational work in Sierra Leone. This year, in addition to the many other accomplishments you will read about in our annual report, we expanded to three new villages, helped prevent the spread of Ebola to 7,000 people, and trained 36 new volunteer leaders.

OneVillage Partners has never been stronger, nor has our commitment to sustainable, community-led development been more urgent. The need is great. Over six million people live in Sierra Leone, one of the world's most resource-poor countries, so we must continue to bring focus and resources to these critical issues. As the only organization of our kind in eastern Sierra Leone, villages and chiefdoms across the country have expressed overwhelming demand for our unique empowerment model. With our world-class Board of Directors, mission-focused staff, and your vital support, OVP is poised for rapid growth and to take on our most ambitious impact goals yet.

In 2016, we look forward to implementing our new three year strategic plan, which has us expanding to 27 villages totaling 32,400 people in Sierra Leone and developing a more refined program model with demonstrated impact. We are also look forward to working with you to reach and partner with thousands of new villagers because our top priority is always the success of our village friends.

I hope you enjoy reading our 2015 annual report and seeing the impact you made last year, as well as over the past 10 years. We are strong because of you.

We are thankful for your dedication and look forward to our continued partnership to transform communities – OneVillage at a time.

Warmly,

Jeff Hall
Board Chair



Jeff Hall thanks the guests for attending the 2015 Partner Breakfast and for continuing to support OVP.

OUR VISION, MISSION, AND MODEL

Our Vision: We envision a future of engaged and thriving communities throughout rural Africa.

Our Mission: OVP inspires and equips rural villagers to transform their lives and communities.



Our Model

Rather than imposing a project or program on a village, OVP's model (shown below) aims to catalyze collective action and help communities themselves take charge of their own development. The results of this model have been transformational for **over 14,000 people** in one of the world's least developed countries, Sierra Leone.



Pujehun - A Model Example

One of the first villages to benefit from the OVP approach, Pujehun, exemplifies how the different components of the OVP model work together to create sustainable solutions. Continue reading to see how the community engaged in the model to achieve their "graduation" status. Along the way you will read about the many additional successes the villages we partner with had in 2015.



Sustainable, Relevant Community Solutions

Sustainable, Relevant Community Solutions

OVP supports communities by working with them through the process of understanding, planning, and implementing projects with technical assistance that meet their priorities.

Pujehun

During the Ebola outbreak, the community was quarantined, and people were prohibited from visiting their farms during critical planting times causing concerns about food security. Through the process and with financial support from OVP, the community started a highly successful, self-managed rice loan program (*pictured above*) that ensures every community member will have seed rice to plant and a way to feed their family for years to come. After their harvest they were able to repay the seed rice loan plus interest and so they have more than enough to plant again next season. **They achieved their target goal of 100 percent of villagers with have access to seed rice loans to bolster harvest.**

2015 Highlights

Worked to drastically reduce diarrheal disease and **provide 100 percent access to sanitation for 3,500 villagers** by:

- Constructing **114** sanitation facilities (*pictured right*)
- Constructing **116** clean kitchens (*pictured bottom*)
- Delivering house to house education on sanitation and hygiene and mobilizing school groups to present education to their peers
- Working with village teams to set monitoring, maintenance, and sustainability plans for their new community assets

Helped prevent the spread of Ebola to over 7,000 people in Ebola's epicenter by:

- Constructing **6** "Health Houses" for isolating the sick and improving the local health infrastructure



Empowered Local Change Agents

Through OVP's unique curriculum, volunteer leaders and "change agents" learn skills to mobilize their communities, such as analysis, planning, group facilitation, budgeting, and project design. Change agents often start new projects on their own.

Pujehun

During the Ebola outbreak, Sao Allieu (*pictured right*), an OVP-trained change agent in the village of Pujehun, worked daily to educate his fellow villagers about the disease and how it spreads. Initially few community members believed what he had to say, but soon his hard work paid off.



Empowered
Local Change
Agents

Along with other trained leaders, Sao is now highly respected in his community and is even called upon by chiefs and senior community members in handling critical situations dealing with health. OVP has also hired Sao on a short-term contract to assist on village evaluations.



2015 Highlights

Trained **36** change agents in community planning and mobilization for sustainability

Helped prevent the spread of Ebola to over **7,000** people in Ebola's epicenter by:

- Supporting **30** community health workers to educate communities on how to prevent the spread of Ebola through house to house visits and public role plays
- Supporting a network of village leaders and community health workers to proactively plan for Ebola prevention, containment, and the long-term effects of the disease on local health, economies, and psychosocial development

New Opportunities for Women

Research shows that empowering women is essential to economic development in resource-poor contexts, especially in places like Sierra Leone, where women are traditionally left out of familial and communal decision-making.

Pujehun

Comfort Jusu (*pictured left*) is a young mother who has participated in OVP's women's empowerment programming for several years. Reflecting on both Pujehun and her personal involvement with OVP, Comfort shared, ***"There is now a greater change in treating us [women] by the men. They now consider us in any community arrangements. There are so many of us who can now speak more in this community whether in community meetings or anywhere we go to represent Pujehun. The men are now working hand in glove with us while our community is developing."***



New
Opportunities
for Women

2015 Highlights

Improved the financial literacy and social standing of women in rural Sierra Leone:

- Creating an innovative new curriculum and picture-based materials
- Beginning pilot program for **98** women in three villages





Thriving, Self-Reliant Communities

OVP's model is based on the belief that thriving, self-reliant communities must take charge of their own development in order to achieve sustainable improvement. Villagers learn how to manage new community assets and plan for the future. They also report a greater sense of unity and ability to accomplish common goals.

Pujehun

After 10 years of partnership with OVP, Pujehun has access to clean water and sanitation, improved schools, better farming techniques, and new businesses. Women work together with men. Leaders manage a community fund and various community assets on their own. A Village Development Committee oversees multiple locally-run projects. Given this progress, Pujehun now holds the status of an OVP "heritage village" or graduate community.



Thriving,
Self-Reliant
Communities



FINANCIALS

2015 Statement of Activities

REVENUE

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS	2015 Actuals
Individual contributions	\$383,325
Foundation and corporate grants	\$98,929
Business contributions	\$67,300
Other income	\$389
REVENUE TOTAL	\$549,943

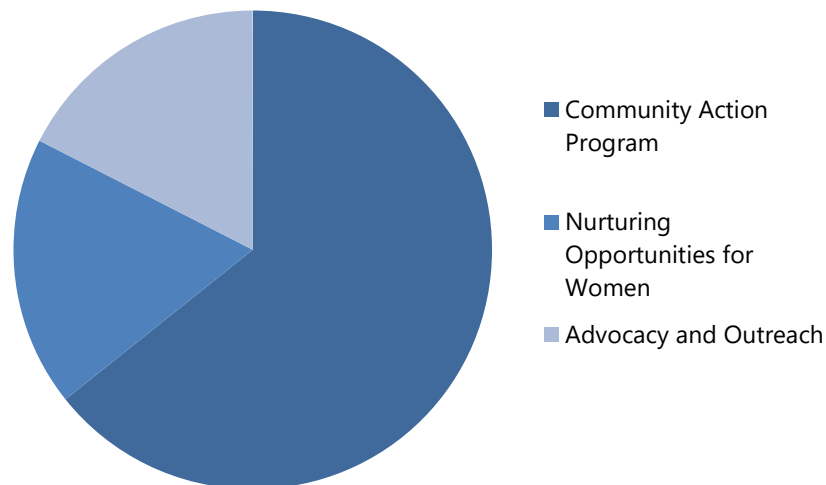
EXPENSES

Administration	\$38,181
Fundraising	\$90,244
Programs	\$306,512
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES TOTAL	\$434,937

OPERATING RESERVE **\$115,006**



Expenses by Program



EXTENDING OUR REACH

2016-2018 Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of OneVillage Partners have worked diligently since 2005 to develop a unique program model, expertise, resources, and a compelling vision for the future of rural communities in Sierra Leone. With strong agreement on the organization's values and a model that all stakeholders have embraced, OVP is now positioned for more aggressive growth in the coming years.

OVP Board and staff worked diligently in 2015 to create and approve our 2016-2018 strategic plan. We are committing to three primary objectives:

- **Expand to meet pressing needs reaching a total of 27 villages**
- **Test and refine the OVP model for scale**
- **Empower others to do development better**

Read more online at www.onevillagepartners.org.



4th Annual Real Estate Breakfast

For the past four years the Twin Cities real estate community has embraced OVP. They have extended their generosity from this community to those in Sierra Leone. On July 22, 2015, over 100 professionals gathered to network and to support OVP.



2nd Annual Partner Breakfast

OVP hosted our second annual Partner Breakfast on October 21, 2015. With nearly 300 guests in attendance, OVP was proud to share updates from Sierra Leone and on our programs. We were also honored to present Steve and Kathy Wellington (*pictured right*) with the 2015 Changing Lives Award for their long-term financial commitment and for always standing up for vulnerable people in Minneapolis and Sierra Leone.



Moses Senesie (*pictured bottom*), past OVP Operations and Finance Manager, shared, ***“I think what most impressed me, what was most unique, was this sense of unity in each community. Villagers are working together towards common goals. You don't always see that in Sierra Leone. I think that unity is promoted by OVP, because of how integrated into the community OVP is.”***



MOHAMED LEADS WITH A “COOL HEART”

Mohamed Koroma is a 36-year-old teacher in Gbeka. He is also father to three girls and the husband of Fudia Mohamed. In this past year, Mohamed was selected by OVP and his community to be a volunteer change agent. He had a long history of community service, but because of his quiet and reserved nature, he was more accustomed to working as a helper than a leader.



During training, it became clear that Mohamed was an exceptionally capable volunteer. He played a major part in the great success of the initial community meetings in Gbeka. By the time the community was voting for their priority project of reducing the spread of diarrheal illnesses among children, Mohamed was beginning to embrace the responsibilities of a leader.

Mohamed continued to excel as the community designed their latrine project, but he was becoming impatient with those in the group who were not progressing at the same speed. As his frustration grew, Community Project Coordinator Brima Lansana paused the session to ask the group about the key qualities of a good facilitator. As they talked, Mohamed realized that in addition to his great passion, he needed to have a “cool heart.” He immediately apologized to the rest of the group and promised to work on becoming more patient in all aspects of his life.

Mohamed learned to maintain his cool so he could be a role model in his own home as well as in the community. “Before joining the OVP training, I would fight with my wife [Fudia] a lot. When I went through the training and learned about aspects of good leadership like being an active listener, I realized I had stopped shouting. Our relationship has improved since then.”

Fudia has grown and advanced her skills as well. “My wife is in the NOW program and she is learning to manage our finances better. With what I’ve learned about budgeting too, we are managing our own small shop better. And it’s developing gradually.”

Recently Mohamed was asked to take on the role of co-facilitator and is now assisting in the expansion of OVP’s program to new communities. During the training of new volunteer change agents in Yandohun, Mohamed said, “I want to use myself as an example.” He talked about the qualities they want to develop as facilitators and eventually as community leaders, explaining why the process has been so meaningful for him. “I was one of the most hot-tempered of all change agents in Gbeka. But trust me: today, I’m okay. So I encourage you to do this.”



Mohamed was one of 36 change agents who found their voice this year as they worked with OneVillage Partners. He continues to apply lessons learned with OVP in all aspects of his life.

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\$10,000+

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**Denotes gifts given through Family
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Lynn Davis
Joseph Green, Secretary
Jeff Hall, Chair
Paul Johnson
Rebecca Johnson
Michael Kithcart
Malvin Moore
Carol Truesdell
Alex Ware

OVP Staff Leadership

Sierra Leone-Based Leadership

Jennifer Artibello, Country Director
Abdulai Bah, Finance and Operations Manager
Chad McCordic, Community Projects Manager
Sheku M Gassimu, Community Projects Coordinator
Muje Josephine Belmoh, Community Projects Coordinator
Brima Lansana, Community Projects Coordinator
Ernest Hindo Aruna, Community Projects Coordinator
Josephine M Sellu, NOW Program Coordinator
Adriene J. Saidu, NOW Program Coordinator
Foday A Sesay, NOW Program Coordinator
Yusuf Johnny, Senior Logistics Officer

US-Based Staff

Dana Altendorf, Director of Development and Communications
Tanya Battista, Director of Finance and Operations
Deborah Greebon, Executive Director



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