Friends of Guinea
2014 Activity Report

2014 was a year of growth and transition for Friends of Guinea (FOG). After a couple of years of struggling with much turnover in our leadership, FOG secured 3 additional officers – giving us vitally-needed human resources to update our website, expand our social media presence, and begin to revamp our membership and communication practices. For example, FOG recruited a Guinea Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) early in 2014 to blog for FOG – thus providing a much needed voice from the field to update our membership. This became even more important as Guinea found itself in the world’s spotlight due to the tragic outbreak of the Ebola Virus.

FOG responded to this crisis by joining forces with Friends of Sierra Leone and Friends of Liberia on the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) – sponsored Ebola Relief Fund. FOG recruited recently-COSed Guinea PCVs (volunteers who have recently ended their Peace Corps service) to represent FOG on the steering committee. These individuals provided essential contacts, field experience, and French language skills to help review and select aid groups in Guinea to receive funding. FOG also donated $500.00 to the fund, and encouraged participation from its membership via social media and other communications. In addition, FOG wrote a letter of support to the people of Guinea, in both French and English, which was distributed via social media as well as in Guinea via the assistance of the Peace Corps Office in Conakry.

Earlier in the year, FOG donated $150.00 to Books for Africa, a PCV–sponsored project. Even without PCVs in country currently, 28,000 books in French arrived in Conakry during February 2015 and will be distributed to community libraries throughout the country.

FOG is greatly looking to 2015, and the New Year has already brought us a presence on Facebook, the revival of our newsletter, and a marked increase in our membership, surpassing 200 members as of December 2014 and plans to continue growth in 2015.

Prepared by Teresa Pope, Friends of Guinea Communications & Advocacy Officer, February 24, 2015