



***United States Mission Sierra Leone***  
Public Affairs Office

**Press Release**

Freetown

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**The United States Embassy in Sierra Leone highlights lessons learned from Ebola Recovery in Conference  
“Building Back Better: Sierra Leone’s Path to Sustainable Development”**

On Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Maria E. Brewer, provided opening remarks to a one-day “Building Back Better” conference at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown.

The “Building Back Better” conference was organized by USAID in partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone and engaged more than 100 local, national and international partners, donors, the private sector, and high-level government officials including key remarks from Minister of State I, Mohamed Gibril Sesay, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The conference highlighted USAID’s development gains and examined lessons learned from Ebola recovery activities across five sectors—health, agriculture, food security, governance and engaging the private sector. These align with five of Sierra Leone’s seven priority areas of focus. Ambassador Brewer said, “The U.S. Government provided approximately \$300 million to support the Ebola emergency response in Sierra Leone in 2014-2015, and invested an additional \$300 million in the country’s post-Ebola recovery and long-term development with demonstrable results across all sectors -health system strengthening, restoring health services, governance, food security, and improving the technological capacity in the country.”

The program also included a close-out ceremony of USAID’s Food for Peace project. Overall the results of less than 2 years of implementation are encouraging and include: over \$2 million in food assistance; approximately 29,000 people benefiting from inland fish farming; 305 health facilities renovated serving over 2 million people; more than 300 savings groups organized among 9,000 women; and over 200 female aspirants, across all political parties, supported to vie for public office.

June 30, 2017 marked the official ending of President Ernest Bai Koroma’s 24-month Post-Ebola Recovery Plan that began in 2015. The United States Government, through United States

Agency for International Development (USAID) and in partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone, remains committed to building resilience against future crises and fostering sustainable development and prosperity.

While there has been respectable progress, more work must be done. The United States Government, in partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone, is committed to taking this effort forward and developing innovative solutions that leads to sustained development.

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