The Problem

Years of war and corruption have eroded Liberian citizens’ trust in government institutions. This lack of civic engagement, combined with a 75% illiteracy rate, affects all aspects of life. Most recently, the impact has been manifested through the defiance of precautionary information about Ebola, leading to continued high rates of infection and death.

Civic education is a way to empower children to know and protect their own rights. In Liberia, children still face the dangers of the worst forms of child labor, child abuse and child sexual exploitation. Positively engaging a generation of young people in the justice system, within a short educational window, is essential for protecting the rights of children, as well as instilling in them a sense of their own responsibility to create a lasting peace in Liberia.

The Program

LAW+YOU: Rights & Responsibilities of the Liberian Citizen

This project brings civics, human rights and justice system education to children throughout Liberia. It gives teachers the tools and training for interactive teaching.

The goal of the program is to give children a civic voice, enabling them to become their own advocates and understand their responsibilities as citizens. This will also promote peace by giving young Liberians the tools to understand how to access the legal system when they have grievances, instead of resorting to violence.

In addition, the program promotes “best practices” for professional development of social studies teachers so they can meet the needs of the Liberian youth.

This past school year, the pilot program involved 2500 students. Once school reopens in Liberia this curriculum will be launch to over 30,000 young people.

The Challenge

Our biggest challenges are:

1. Providing enough books for the students (most were forced to share books last year)

2. Training teachers who are eager to educate children, their families and other citizens about how to work within the system to solve real problems, including public health crises like Ebola.

Child Steps International is committed to solving some of the world’s biggest problems faced by its most vulnerable citizens.

With our current programmatic focus on the Republic of Liberia, we engage communities and partners in areas of child and family well-being, including:

1. Research
2. Education
3. Child Welfare
4. Awareness, Empowerment & Advocacy
5. Strengthening Families and Communities
6. Creating Entrepreneurial and Leadership Opportunities

We partner with local and international stakeholders, inviting all who are willing to work collaboratively for lasting solutions.

Child Steps International is a certified 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the United States and an accredited nonprofit in Liberia.

Donate or get more information at childstepsinternational.org