



# 2016 Annual Report

Village Improvement Project Inc.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In its second full year of operation, Village Improvement Project Inc. continues to build a strong foundation in delivering services to marginalized citizens in rural Liberia. Thanks to supporters like you, 2016 marked a critical year in expanding our program services (and particularly our solar lanterns program), further building out field operations in Liberia and credentialing our organization and our work in the global philanthropic community.

Our 2016 highlights include:

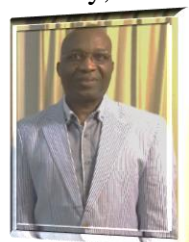
- 336 additional families received zero-cost solar lanterns not only providing financial relief but also sustainable lighting
- Completion of cook stoves pilot program has led to significant learnings towards the future of our social enterprise initiatives
- Highway town-limit signs have quite literally put these towns on the map, and we've setup a telecommunications feedback loop for future development
- Recognized as a top-ranked organization on GlobalGiving.org, VIP earned 'Superstar' status, a coveted designation earned by only high-functioning non-profits
- Expanded our field operations in Liberia to enable the organization to scale to further increase its impact throughout the country

Along the way, Village Improvement Project Inc. has also helped distribute clothes and shoes for men, women and children across 4 villages. This was a direct result of fulfilling an immediate need in the villages where our volunteers are actively seeking feedback from villagers not only on the immediate impact of our program services but also on their future needs.

Additionally, in March 2016, Village Improvement Project Inc. partnered with deWellop, a European NGO, to build a new water well and repair an existing water well for a village within our network further fulfilling our mission of enhancing the quality of life for village communities in rural Liberia through service and education.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Donors, Supporters, Partners and Board of Directors for making 2016 a banner year for Village Improvement Project Inc. Having laid a strong foundation for our program services, we are excited at the opportunity to increase our outreach across Liberian villages and serve as the catalyst for unlocking the potential of village communities in 2017 and beyond. Thank you for being a part of this movement and mission.

Sincerely,



Dr. LeRoy Z. Boikai, President and Founder

## VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ECOSYSTEM

Village Improvement Inc.'s (VIP) core program services include Solar Lanterns, Road Signs and Cook Stoves. Along the way, we collaborate with other NGOs, village leaders, and local government professionals on ancillary and one-time services such as our Ebola relief efforts, water well development and restoration services with deWellop and clothing donations.

### SOLAR LANTERN PROGRAM

14 towns and villages in Montserrado and Bomi Counties have now received solar lanterns. Till date, a total of 529 families (4,523 residents) have bright solar lanterns capable of charging mobile phones. In 2016, another 336 families received solar lanterns.



Also, in December, a VIP volunteer from Columbus, Ohio conducted a field survey for us while visiting Liberia. Joseph Sawo met with VIP's Country Director, Ms. Miatta Johnson, at VIP's office and they arranged a visit to one village that has received lanterns. In Korma, Joseph met with residents and had them to describe their experiences using the zero-cost lanterns they received. One male speaker spoke about the financial relief of no longer going to the market to purchase flashlight batteries or candles. A young lady who spoke on behalf of the youth and women expressed thanks for the lanterns because they can conduct their small-scale market business into the night with adequate lighting at no cost.

### ROAD SIGNS PROGRAM

Highway town-limit signs have been well received by residents. They create a sense of pride by providing visibility to these townships.



More towns will receive signs in the future from Village Improvement Project, Inc. We continue to work with local governmental authorities on understanding infrastructure development projects.

### COOK STOVE PROGRAM

Traditional cooking methods in Liberia using firewood and coal can have major negative impacts on air quality, personal health and the environment. In the last two years, VIP has had the goal of introducing rocket stoves as an alternative to using coal pot and biomass three-stone open pit fire for cooking. And we are looking to scale the program in 2017 based on the feedback we have received through our 2016 pilot program.



At the end of 2016, we shipped a welding machine with accessories to begin fabricating some rocket stoves for more field testing and distribution. Funds raised in 2017 will allow us to hire the services of an expert welder, purchase raw materials, distribute cook stoves, and conduct impact studies.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH

2016 was a foundational year in scaling our operations to fulfil our vision to serve as the catalyst in unlocking the full potential of Liberian villagers. This meant ~40% investment in recruiting and setting up Liberian operations under Ms. Miatta Johnson, VIP Country Director.

	<b>Actual 2016</b>
<b>Revenue, contributions and support</b>	
Individual, Business Contributions	\$412
GlobalGiving Crowdfunding	\$13,531
<b>Total revenue, contributions and support</b>	<b>\$13,943</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
NGO Registration-Liberia	\$520
Liberian Contract Services	\$3111
Tech/Online Contract Services	\$694
Liberian Office Expenses	\$2,426
Postal, Mailing, Phone & Website	\$849
Solar Lanterns Purchase	\$3,190
Shipping Lanterns to Liberia	\$3,604
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$14,379</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$(451)</b>

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### LIBERIA

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### SUPPORT VIP

Please consider making a tax-deductible investment to help us reach our goals of reducing energy poverty in Liberia. Your support is critical to the completion of our ongoing projects. We will gladly keep you updated regarding our progress and the impact of your investment.

- Make an online [donation](#)
- Sign up for our [e-newsletter](#)

For more information, visit:

[www.vipinc.org](http://www.vipinc.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/liberianvillages>  
<https://twitter.com/VilImprovement>

### CONTACT VIP

USA

Village Improvement Project, Inc.