

Help Educate Future Leaders in Liberia



Summary

The quality of a society's future leaders – in government, business, communities and families – determines its capacity for survival. Africa's future leaders are today's children and youth, and Liberia is not an exception. Children are the key actors in shaping the ideas and tools that will define how we will achieve equitable sustainable development for the global future. Many families and schools in Liberia do not have the needed school resources to ensure that the children receive a quality education. This Project will reinforce and boost education by providing the badly-needed supporting structure and resources. This will include the provision of scholarships, uniforms, school supplies, school furniture, classrooms and other targeted support.

Challenge

The Liberian education system is emerging from a prolonged and brutally destructive period of civil unrest. Liberia is significantly behind most other countries in the African region in nearly all education statistics. After 14 years of civil war, which resulted in the destruction of much of the country's trained workforce, the country is still in the process of rebuilding its educational system. This had led to dire situations such as barren classrooms and run-down school facilities which are not conducive to learning. The environment in many classrooms is insufficient and disabling. The schools are not able to support the development of progressive mindsets and exemplary leadership that Liberia and the world needs. Due to a lack of means, some children do not attend school at all. 84% percent of the population lives below the international poverty line (1.25 U.S. dollars/day), notably in rural areas (UN, 2013).

Solution

Project goal: provision of a strong and enriched education through schools in Liberia, with a focus on rural schools. The project activities include providing the supporting infrastructure and resources to ensure a quality education. This includes the provision of school furniture, scholarships, books and school supplies, uniforms, building repair, new classrooms, teacher salary supplements etc. This support will enable an ideal educational experience. In order for Liberia's children to become the innovators of tomorrow, investments are needed beginning with early childhood development. Early care and cognitive development is directly linked to the creation of a productive workforce and will only occur if investments are made in quality education systems that encourage creativity and leadership.

Long-Term Impact

Underprivileged children will get a decent education - transforming their lives and providing opportunities for growth, and contribution to national development. By upgrading the quality of education offered in schools, we will be helping to transform communities and the entire nation. Investing in child development is critical for human development and we cannot talk about economic growth without talking about healthy and literate communities. Transforming the country's educational system will indeed deal with closing the gap between rural, urban and peri-urban schools, so that the entire system is brought into the 21st century with better innovation, curriculum, evaluation, achievement and performance. This will produce leaders to stir the ship of state in the future.



Resources

<http://www.developafrica.org>

[UNICEF Statistics - Liberia](#)

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/LBR>

http://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/AfricaChildren_Future_leaders_innovation_conference_report.pdf

<https://www.usaid.gov/liberia/education>

<http://www.theperspective.org/2015/0427201501.php>



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Empowering lives in Africa so that they can better themselves, their communities and their nations

Develop Africa was established in 2006 and is a 501c3 non-profit organization is working to establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa. Develop Africa was birthed out of the vision that human resource development is the key to improving nation building capacity in Africa. Develop Africa is involved in a range of programs in Africa supporting education, microfinance and small businesses, job skills / leadership development training etc.

Through training, scholarship, investment and partnerships Develop Africa is helping to develop Africa's people through the promotion of transformational education, resource development, investment training and strategic empowerment. Our premise is based on the notion that in order to change one's personal, national or organizational status there must necessarily be a "change in the thinking and processing pattern of the mind."

We envision an African continent fully developed in terms of its human and resource capacity, free from poverty; ignorance, and civil conflict and where the poorest and most vulnerable people become "leaders" and effectively manage their national resources.

We are involved in the following targeted activities:

- care for orphans
- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms, Personal Protective Equipment for health workers etc.

Examples of specific activity: We provide -

- job skills training
- microfinance / micro-lending and small business training
- scholarships
- books, school and teaching supplies
- basic computer training and computers
- mosquito nets, vitamin supplements, start up tool kits (such as sewing machines), school uniforms etc.

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Liberia- Full Country Profile available at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia>

Liberia ⁱ/laɪˈbɪriə/, officially the **Republic of Liberia**, is a country on the West African coast. Liberia means "Land of the Free" in Latin.^[7] It is bordered by Sierra Leone to its west, Guinea to its north and Ivory Coast to its east. It covers an area of 111,369 square kilometres (43,000 sq mi) and has a population of 4,503,000 people.^[3] English is the official language and over 20 indigenous languages are spoken, representing the numerous tribes who make up more than 95% of the population.

Forests on the coastline are composed mostly of salt-tolerant mangrove trees, while the more sparsely populated inland has forests opening onto a plateau of drier grasslands. The climate is equatorial, with significant rainfall during the May–October rainy season and harsh harmattan winds the remainder of the year. Liberia possesses about forty percent of the remaining Upper Guinean rainforest. It was an important producer of rubber in the early 20th century.

The Republic of Liberia began as a settlement of the American Colonization Society (ACS), who believed blacks would face better chances for freedom in Africa than in the United States.^[8] The country declared its independence on July 26, 1847. The U.S. did not recognize Liberia's independence until during the American Civil War on February 5, 1862. Between January 7, 1822, and the American Civil War, more than 15,000 freed and free-born black Americans, who faced legislated limits in the U.S, and 3,198 Afro-Caribbeans, relocated to the settlement.^[9] The black American settlers carried their culture with them to Liberia. The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after those of the U.S. On January 3, 1848 Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a wealthy, free-born black American from Virginia who settled in Liberia, was elected as Liberia's first president after the people proclaimed independence.^[9]

Liberia is the only African republic to have self-proclaimed independence without gaining independence through revolt from any other nation, being Africa's first and oldest modern republic. Liberia maintained and kept its independence during the European colonial era. During World War II, Liberia supported the United States war efforts against Germany and in turn the U.S. invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia to help its war effort, which also aided the country in modernizing and improving its major air transportation facilities. In addition, President William Tubman encouraged economic changes. Internationally, Liberia was a founding member of The League of Nations, United Nations and the Organisation of African

Unity. Political tensions from the rule of William R. Tolbert resulted in a military coup in 1980 that overthrew his leadership soon after his death, marking the beginning of years-long political instability. Five years of military rule by the People's Redemption Council and five years of civilian rule by the National Democratic Party of Liberia were followed by the First and Second Liberian Civil Wars. These resulted in the deaths and displacement of more than half a million people and devastated Liberia's economy. A peace agreement in 2003 led to democratic elections in 2005. Recovery proceeds but about 85% of the population live below the international poverty line.

Liberia's economic and political stability was threatened in the 2010s by an Ebola virus epidemic; it originated in Guinea in December 2013, entered Liberia in March 2014, and was declared officially ended on May 8, 2015.