

Empower Youths Through Computer Skills Training



Summary

Computer literacy is important because most companies and organizations perform daily duties in an increasingly digitized manner. Employees that are comfortably and confidently able to master many computer programs are highly desired. To develop computer literacy or enhance skill-sets, basic computer courses and software tutorials are key to bolstering marketable skills. Imagine not knowing how to use a computer! Many youths simply do not know how to use a computer and are 100% computer illiterate. This project changes this by providing basic computer training to children and youths in Sierra Leone. Proficiency in computers is a requirement for success in today's technology-driven, business environment. We are working to ensure that they receive this training and are fully equipped for success.

Challenge

Thousands of at-risk youths and young adults in Sierra Leone have never used a computer. Computer training is typically available at commercial institutions / schools, at a price that is beyond their reach. They do not have free access to computers or computer training. Through our training, youths become better qualified and are able to obtain jobs that they were previously unqualified for. This project helps bridge the Digital Divide and levels the playing field.

Solution

This project provides a learning environment with access to computer equipment, office applications and the Internet. Youths and young adults gain the needed computer skills for success. They are now able to secure better jobs. This training is in high demand and very relevant. Project also covers the cost of specialized / advanced computer training at other

institutions. Naturally, being able to use a computer will put youths at a distinct advantage when they apply for jobs. Not only can computer literacy make them more desirable to employers for office jobs, it may allow them to find ways to work from home if they have a reliable Internet connection.

Long-Term Impact

The project offers new opportunities for youths and young adults to become computer literate. They are now viable and competitive in the market place. They progress in their careers and rise above poverty. They contribute to national development. Computer technology is advancing faster than ever before, and it's very easy to be left behind if you don't take the time to become at least semi-literate when it comes to computers. The communication technology they use now will most likely be very different from what they will be using in five years, but it will still provide them with a solid foundation of computer literacy that will serve them for years to come. Knowing how to properly use a computer and navigate the digital terrain will help them to keep life organized and streamlined. Mobile media devices are becoming increasingly popular, reinforcing the need for computer illiterates to be trained. Computers have changed almost every facet of daily life, and one can be sure that their presence is to become even more ubiquitous. Thus, gaining computer literacy will help these young people prepare for the future.



Resources

[SIERRA LEONE: "An idle mind is a devil's workshop"](#)

[UN Human Development Report - Sierra Leone](#)

[UN Country Information - Sierra Leone](#)

[VIDEO - Empowering young adults](#)

<https://www.esoftload.info/5-reasons-world-computer-literacy-critical>

<https://www.reference.com/technology/computer-literacy-important-41b7e6807117ac98>



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YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/developafrica>

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
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- scholarships
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Sierra Leone- Full Country Profile available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Leone

Sierra Leone (ˈsiːrɪˈeərə liˈoʊni, -liˈoʊn/^[5]), officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone**, is a country in [West Africa](#). It is bordered by [Guinea](#) on the north, [Liberia](#) in the south-east, and the [Atlantic Ocean](#) in the south-west. Sierra Leone has a [tropical climate](#), with a diverse environment ranging from [savannah](#) to [rainforests](#). Sierra Leone has a total area of 71,740 km² (27,699 sq mi)^[6] and a population of 7,075,641 (based on 2015 national census).^[1] Sierra Leone is divided into four geographical regions: the [Northern Province](#), [Eastern Province](#), [Southern Province](#) and the [Western Area](#), which are subdivided into [fourteen districts](#). [Freetown](#) is the capital, largest city and its economic and political centre. [Bo](#) is the second largest city. The other major cities are [Kenema](#), [Makeni](#), and [Koidu Town](#).

About sixteen [ethnic groups](#) inhabit Sierra Leone, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the [Temne](#) and the [Mende people](#). The Temne are predominantly found in the north of the country, while the Mende are predominant in the south-east. Although English is the [official language](#) spoken at schools and government administration, the [Krio language](#) is the most widely spoken language across Sierra Leone and is spoken by 97% of the country's population. The Krio language unites all the different ethnic groups in the country, especially in their trade and social interaction with each other.

Sierra Leone is a predominantly [Muslim](#) country,^{[7][8][9]} though with an influential [Christian](#) minority.^[10] Sierra Leone is regarded as one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. Muslims and Christians collaborate and interact with each other peacefully. Religious violence is very rare in the country.

Sierra Leone has relied on mining, especially [diamonds](#), for its economic base. It is also among the largest producers of [titanium](#) and [bauxite](#), a major producer of [gold](#), and has one of the world's largest deposits of [rutile](#). Sierra Leone is home to the third-largest natural harbour in the world. Despite exploitation of this natural wealth, 70% of its people live in [poverty](#).^[11]

Sierra Leone became independent in 1961. [Government corruption](#) and mismanagement of the country's natural resources contributed to the [Sierra Leone Civil War](#) (1991 to 2002), which for more than a decade devastated the country. This proxy war left more than 50,000 people dead, much of the country's infrastructure destroyed, and over two million people displaced as [refugees](#) in neighbouring countries.

More recently, the [2014 Ebola outbreak](#) overburdened the weak healthcare infrastructure, leading to more deaths from medical neglect than Ebola itself. It created a [humanitarian crisis](#) situation and a negative spiral of weaker economic growth. The country has an extremely low [life expectancy](#) at 57.8 years.^[10]

Sierra Leone is a member of many international organisations, including the [United Nations](#), the [African Union](#), the [Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), the [Mano River Union](#), the [Commonwealth of Nations](#), the [African Development Bank](#), and the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](#).