

Camp for Peace Liberia



The Issue

Liberia is in a crucial period to build its stable peace and better future. Youth, accounting for 65% of the population, are the critical actors. While the country has made positive strides since the civil war ended in 2003, youth are still considered as a major threat to peace and stability due to their violent culture affected by the civil war, grievances to the exclusion from the communities and the political decision process, and high unemployment rate. They feel excluded, discouraged, and powerless; Youth empowerment is needed now more than ever to ensure sustainable peace and development.

War Affected Youth (WAY) Program

Camp for Peace Liberia's WAY Program aims to empower youth by improving their socio-economic status. Our program has 9-month **vocational training** (agriculture, construction), **entrepreneurship training** for small- business, **trauma workshops**, and **job opportunities** after completing the program. Since 2012, more than 200 former child soldiers, ex-combatants, and other young Liberians graduated WAY Program in 8 cities in 4 counties (Zorzor, Voinjama, Tapeta, Monrovia, Totota, Gbarnga, Zwedru, and Harper). We cooperate with Lutheran Vocational Training Institute in Lofa County, Booker Washington Institute, and Firestone Agricultural Workers Union of Liberia in Margibi County.

The Impact

After the war, I went to high school at the age of 23 and then joined the agriculture program of CfP. Now I'm working with my peers in our cassava farm, supported by CfP. I'm so happy that now I can make money by my own work and send my two kids to school. My dream is to have my own farm someday.



Agriculture: Garomai Flomo

Thanks to the CfP's practical program, I cultivate cassava, make local fast food, and sell it in the market to make a living and send my daughter to school. I believe this program will help a lot of young people in Liberia. I feel strong,



and I'm willing to work very hard to expand our cassava farm.

Agriculture: Milton Zerwu

I didn't have a job for several years after high school, but the construction course enabled me to work as a civil engineer. Knowledge is power. I feel independent and happy since I can work with my skills, and more importantly, I can spread



my knowledge to other young people to empower them.

Construction: Ofanti Geniyan

Follow-Up & Monitoring

1. Follow-Up Training

Due to the illiteracy of trainees, it's one of the challenges to keep the knowledge and skills after their graduation from the WAY Program. Camp for Peace Liberia conducts follow-up training regularly to help them refresh the knowledge and maintain skills. We also have advanced training in entrepreneurship, leadership, and psychosocial development.

2. Post-Training Job Opportunities

To prevent WAY Program graduates end up returning on the streets, Camp for Peace Liberia helps them start small-scale businesses by financial and logistical assistance. A youth group who finished our agriculture course started a cassava farm and food business in Lofa County. Construction course graduates are hired by local authorities for civil engineering works.

If men can do it, ^{women} YOU can do it!

Though women carry out a majority of small-scale economic activities in rural areas, women have far less access to education and training. However, we have found that young women are quite often more engaged and enthusiastic than their male counterparts once they have a chance to improve themselves. Camp for Peace Liberia has 35% female participants in the WAY Program and keeps the effort to **recruit more female trainees**. Our motto is, "If men can do it, you (women) can do it!"

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The Issue

Youth are the critical actors for peace and development, accounting for 65% of the population. Yet, they are considered as a major threat to peace and stability due to their violent culture affected by the civil war. Excluded from the communities and decision process, youth are discouraged and frustrated. Behavioral change and youth transformation is the key to our sustainable peace.

Non-Violent & Peace Education

Over 5,000 youths have been trained since 2012 by our **workshops on non-violent conflict resolution and peace education**. They learn human rights, reconciliation, and good governance and build the skills of communication, facilitation, and trauma healing. Empowered youths facilitate dialogues and promote reconciliation and trust building in schools and communities.

Peace Camp

The Peace Camp is an annual **1-week program of human rights education** for youth from all 16 counties. It also serves as a safe place to share their thoughts and experience. Through the time to live and learn together with young fellows with various ethnicity, religion, culture, and political opinions, youth build the capacity to develop a positive relationship and cooperate with others.



The Impact

The training taught me to be tolerant with anyone regardless of status, race, creed, etc. We all have a place on the earth.

Jacob Moore

Before Camp for Peace's program, I had no idea about the feelings of others. But with this training, I learned to think about other people.

Wilson B. Kollie

Follow-Up & Monitoring

Camp for Peace Liberia regularly visits the youth groups that our program graduates launched in their schools and communities to have a follow-up training. We call them "**Peace Ambassadors**" and help them reach out to other young people, facilitate community dialogues, and build trust and relationship in the communities.

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The Issue

Liberia's literacy rate and the percentage of those who completed secondary school remain low. While education is a key factor for development, teachers and students are discouraged due to **a lack of access to learning materials**, especially in rural areas. Quality education is needed for the better future of Liberia.

Rumie Digital Library Program

Camp for Peace Liberia has distributed **600 tablet computers to 32 schools** in rural areas. Learning materials of major subjects for all grade levels including university are preloaded with these solar-powered tablets. We're working with the Rumie Initiative in Toronto.

The Impact

I can't express how grateful I am to these tablets. It is like a dream that my students can improve their academic achievement and my teachers can better prepare their lesson plans. I hope that Camp for Peace and Rumie Initiative can bring many tablets to other schools too.

Principal of Gboveh High School

Follow-Up & Monitoring

Many students discouraged from lack of textbooks and learning materials are now back to school. Camp for Peace Liberia regularly visits the schools to have the follow-up instruction on how to use tablets, especially for new students and teachers.