

# BRIDGE-U: Applying Research for a Healthy Liberia (BRIDGE-U: Liberia)



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Bringing Research to Impact for Development, Global Engagement, and Utilization (BRIDGE-U): Liberia advances Liberia's national development goals in health and health sciences education.

## OVERVIEW

BRIDGE-U: Applying Research for a Healthy Liberia is a \$15 million, five-year partnership (2021-2026) between the USAID Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub's Research Division and several partners (*see the full list of partners to the right*). The partnership is based in Liberia at the University of Liberia College of Health Sciences, the country's leading higher education institution in the fields of health and medicine. BRIDGE-U: Liberia is helping to advance the University as a globally recognized leader in research utilization, meaningfully connecting academics with policymaking, innovation, and clinical practice.

The BRIDGE-U: Liberia project is:

- Advancing research utilization in health and health sciences education for improved health outcomes;
- Building research utilization skills among Liberia's current and future health sciences students, faculty, clinicians, policymakers, and entrepreneurs;
- Promoting the use of experiential learning, offering evidence-based simulation training to health sciences students and practicing clinicians;
- Generating new knowledge about how to most effectively translate and utilize research to achieve development goals; and
- Developing and embedding effective systems to strengthen institutional capacity for continued professional development and financial independence, targeting University of Liberia's College of Health Sciences and health professions' regulatory boards of Liberia.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



University of Liberia's  
College of Health Sciences



Yale University



Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center



iLab Liberia



Consortia for Improving  
Medicine with Innovation  
and Technology



Liberian Ministry of Health



National Public Health  
Institute of Liberia



Liberia College of  
Physicians and Surgeons

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## AREAS OF WORK

This project is part of USAID’s Bringing Research to Impact for Development, Global Engagement, and Utilization (BRIDGE-U) program, which builds partnerships between higher education institutions in the United States and USAID partner countries. Its aim is to strengthen the pipeline of local researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners skilled in facilitating research utilization, and to build a knowledge base for how to effectively advance the use of evidence to create development impact.



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### Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation (CTLI)

Embedded at University of Liberia College of Health Sciences, CTLI is the core institution of BRIDGE-U: Liberia and serves as a public-private-academic hub for research utilization, interprofessional training, innovation, and knowledge generation in Liberia.

CTLI houses multiple activities including:

- A certificate program in evidence-based health policy for current policymakers;
- An Experiential Learning and Assessment Lab offering clinical simulation training to students and practicing clinicians;
- Faculty development trainings in pedagogy, mentorship, team-based and case-based learning strategies;
- Camp xSEL (*more information to the right*);
- Faculty-student teams conducting research on how to translate research outputs into impact while building research utilization skills; and
- Innovation programs to identify, cultivate, and support entrepreneurs in developing commercial applications for research.

### Spotlight: Camp xSEL (Excellence in Science Education for Liberia)

Camp xSEL is an annual intensive science camp program for secondary school students. In 2021, the camp was piloted with incoming pre-med and pre-clinical students at University of Liberia College of Health Sciences. It provides students pursuing a career in the health sciences with the tools, skills, and attributes that will help them excel in their careers. The Camp xSEL curriculum is designed to break the boundaries of conventional educational practices, emphasizing:

- Inquiry-based Learning – students are encouraged to engage with the learning material critically.
- Data-driven Critical Thinking – students gain the skills to acquire data themselves and see how it is created and analyzed on an empirical basis.
- Relational and Holistic Concept Understanding – students learn to draw connections between different concepts and fields because science is interdisciplinary.
- Soft-skill Building – students master communication, empathy, cooperation, and other soft skills to succeed in a human-centered service.