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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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: Liberia is a \$15 million, five-year partnership (2021-2026) between the USAID Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub's Research Division and several partner organizations. 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 advance the university as a global leader in research utilization, meaningfully connecting academics with policymaking, innovation, and clinical practice. The 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 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



African Health Innovation Centre



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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This project is part of USAID’s 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 the 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 programs in pedagogy and mentorship strategies;
- Camp xSEL (*more information to the right*);
- Health Entrepreneurship Advancement Leveraging Research courses aimed at identifying, training, and funding entrepreneurs to develop and scale innovative health solutions;
- Establishing Continuing Professional Development systems for licensed health professionals



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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 the University of Liberia College of Health Sciences. It provides students pursuing a career in the health sciences with the tools, skills, and attributes to 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 critically engage with the learning materials.
- **Data-Driven Critical Thinking** – students learn 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 to better understand how science is interdisciplinary.
- **Soft-Skills Building** – students master communication, empathy, cooperation, and other skills for human-centered service.