



EDUCATION

BETTER EDUCATED LIBERIANS

Liberia is still in the process of rebuilding its educational system after a prolonged and destructive civil unrest which was compounded by the Ebola Viral Disease outbreak. Although there have been some improvements in the system, Liberia is significantly behind most other African countries in nearly all education statistics. For instance, the Percentage of Gross Enrollment Rate for Pre-primary is 40.6% and 44.8% for Primary, while the Net Enrollment Rate is 44 % for Primary. Overage enrollment is also high; the majority of Grade 2 learners are aged 10 or older, 40% of children enrolled in primary are 12 or above.

USAID, in concert with other donors, works with the Ministry of Education (MOE) to address education challenges related to access, quality of instruction, and improved governance of the education system.

USAID's education programs continue to focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning (especially in early grade reading), increasing equitable access to safe learning opportunities for all learners including students with disabilities, girls, and youth who missed out on education due to the war and a weak education system.

USAID is helping to improve the quality of curricula, teaching and management staff, instructional and learning resources, and the policy environment essential to providing basic education services and tertiary access to all Liberians.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ACCELERATED LEARNING FOR OVERAGE & OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

The **Accelerated Quality Education (AQE)** program is implementing an Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) for students aged 8-15 to address the problem of over-age, out-of-school children. AQE is helping the Ministry of Education to institutionalize an ALP regulatory framework and prepare students to transition into the formal education system. AQE is a four year program, which targets 48,000 out-of-school children and provides access to quality education for them. It is being implemented in 260 identified ALP sites across the six USAID-focused counties. In addition to providing access, the implementation of this project will lead to an institutionalized ALP regulatory framework that will enable learners to transition to formal school. Approximately 780 teachers will be provided professional development opportunities to improve quality instruction that will lead to the acquisition of equivalent primary school competencies for learners.

EARLY GRADE READING SUPPORT

USAID is currently implementing **Read Liberia**, an early grade reading activity for grades one and two students, and plans to pilot test emergent literacy skills for students in public kindergarten schools in six targeted counties in Liberia. The goal of this activity is to ensure that after two years of schooling, grades one and two public primary school students will read and understand grade level text in English and pre-primary students will develop the oral vocabulary lexicon required for emergent literacy skills. Approximately 5,400 public school kindergarten learners will be reached in two years and 172,800 grades one and two public primary school students will benefit from the activity over a five-year period.

ADOLESCENT GIRLS EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORT

Through its **Learning Links** Activity, USAID is addressing girls' diverse psychosocial needs and providing access to education in an innovative, safe, and rigorously monitored learning environment. Over a three-year period, the Learning Links Project will combine a cadre of 360 tutor-mentors, the MOE's ABE curriculum, SMS based evaluations, and micro-incentives to create and provide access to an alternative, flexible learning environment for 2,500 teen girls who have left school due to pregnancy. The Program's activities will train 360 numerate and literate women to serve as tutor-mentors for the Liberian Ministry of Education's Alternative Basic Education Curriculum and connect them to these girls who have dropped out of school. Through these trained tutor-mentors, the girls will develop literacy and numeracy skills at a pace comparable to their in-school peers thereby reducing literacy and numeracy deficiencies and transitioning to formal school.

CROSS SECTORAL COLLABORATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

The objective of the **Sustainable High Impact Infrastructure for Education and Agriculture (SHINE)** activity is to increase access to tertiary education and improve the learning environment. Empirical evidence indicates that there is a direct relationship between school infrastructure and educational performance, and that investments in educational infrastructure contribute to improved quality of education.

The **SHINE activity** is co-funded by the USAID offices of Education, Economic Growth and the Democracy and Governance, and managed in close coordination with the respective GOL institutions. SHINE is implementing the following vertical infrastructures: expansion and renovation of the Library, new construction of 5 staff Housing Units (3 each, two bedrooms and 2 each, one bedroom) both at the Cuttington University in Bong County, the expansion/renovation the Engineering Building at the University of Liberia and new construction of Annexes at community colleges in Lofa, Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties are also underway.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

In support of USAID's education development objectives to provide basic education and access to all learners, including those with disabilities; USAID - Education partnered with the Ministry of Education to construct new facilities at the School for the Blind located in Virginia, Montserrado County.

The **School for the Blind** provides education for students with visual disabilities, offering kindergarten and Grades 1-6. The School is a public residential school, funded by the Government of Liberia. Tuition and boarding are completely free. The construction and design of the girl-friendly dormitory has eased overcrowding in the current dormitory facilities and supports and ensures girls' safety. The new construction includes: a four-bedroom girls' dormitory with new wooden furniture, with bathroom facilities included in the building, two self-contained apartments for female staff who are supervising the girls' dormitory, new Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) systems including rehabilitation of the existing water distribution system to increase quality and quantity of water available to reach the newly constructed buildings and a septic tank.

THE PRESIDENT'S YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

USAID supports the **President's Young Professional Program (PYPP)** of Liberia through funds allocated to the Mission from the Global Development Lab for Public - Private Partnerships and the Economic Growth Team. The overall goal of this program is to strengthen the capacity of the Liberian Civil Service. The program currently supports 20 fellows whom have been placed in 11 GOL Ministries and Agencies.

The PYPP of Liberia is a two year fellowship program that recruits and places young University Graduates in Government of Liberia (GOL) ministries. The young professionals receive mentorship and training throughout their fellowship. This activity is managed by the USAID Education Team.