

Country Context Report - Liberia

General Country Information

Africa Education Initiative Program Activities

Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program
Innovative Activities

Primary Language(s)

English: Official

There are 20 indigenous languages of which a few are written and used in correspondence.

Sources

The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/li.html>
US Africa.Org; (2005); Consultancy and Special Projects Africa Liberia; <http://us-africa.tripod.com/liberia.html>

Population

	Total	Male	Female
Total	3,390,635	1,680,326	1,710,309
Under 14	1,473,185	742,508	730,677

Sources

The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/li.html>

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Ministry of Education

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USAID Website: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/

Basic Education General Information

Breadth of Basic Education Activities

Length of Primary School Cycle: 6 Years

Sources

Center for Global Education; (2005); Liberia Education System - <http://www.lmu.edu/globaled/wwcu/background/lr.rtf>

Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education is provided.

The Government's policy as contained in the Medium-Term Plan (MTP)(2001-2006) states Liberia is committed to ensuring that all children receive a sound pre-first or early childhood education which is essential to their development.

Sources

wildaf-ao - <http://www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/IMG/pdf/LIBERIA-English-2.pdf>

National Curriculum

A national curriculum exists.

One of the reasons the quality of education is poor in Liberia is due to an outdated curriculum. The design of the curricula is centralized and has basically remained unchanged for years.

Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%202022-12-03.doc

National Exams - At what level are national exams written?

1. Junior Secondary Level - West African Examination Council (WAEC) Certificate
2. Senior Secondary Level - West African Examination Council (WAEC) Certificate

Sources

Center for Global Education; (2005); Liberia Education System - <http://www.lmu.edu/globaled/wwcu/background/lr.rtf>

What are the key basic education challenges?

1. The 14 year civil war left schools devastated, pupils killed and displaced, and communities destroyed. The challenge is to re-build schools, and to disarm, demobilize, rehabilitate and re-integrate Children Associated with the Fighting Forces (CAFF).
2. There are limited financial resources to support CAFF returning to schools to receive basic education, health services and to resume a normal childhood. There is a need for US\$6 million to educate 400,000 children and train 13,000 teachers. And, US\$8 million is required to re-integrate 15,000 CAFF children. On February 2, 2005, 4,000 former Liberian combatants were expelled from secondary schools because there was no money left in the rehabilitation fund to pay for their tuition.
3. Education remains desperately under funded. Liberian children are awaiting to return to the classroom, but without funding to support the education program this will be impossible. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working with the Ministry of Education, with other United Nations agencies including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and with non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to rebuild the education system, but the challenges are vast. Immediate funding would provide education supplies, instructional materials and equipment for students, teachers, schools and learning spaces in areas of the country that are only recently accessible.
4. There is a high prevalence of sexual and gender based violence among children, particularly against girls in Liberian schools.

Sources

Reuters Foundation AlertNet; (2005); Liberia: UN finds money to send expelled former combatants back to school; <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/2373bce46701df42sbc92842e7926ed1.htm>
UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>

Is primary education 'free' (legally)?

Free primary education is provided.

Education is compulsory for six to 16 year olds including all of primary and junior secondary levels and the first year of senior secondary schooling. In 2003 primary education was made free and compulsory for all children within the framework of Universal Primary Education (UPE).

Sources

Center for Global Education; (2005); Liberia Education System - <http://www.lmu.edu/globaled/wwcu/background/lr.rtf>

What are the barriers to student access and participation in basic education?

1. Lack of school buildings and infrastructure
2. Sexual and gender violence among children, particularly against girls
3. A devastated economy: Post-war unemployment is astonishingly high, and consequently, the majority of the population live in poverty. Girls` labor is needed for family survival.
4. Cultural practices: High drop-out rates are due, in part, to teenage pregnancy, early marriage, or traditional practices.
5. Children`s poor health and inadequate health care: Malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections are rife, therefore girls and boys are often too sick to attend school. 70% of rural areas have no access to safe drinking water, and only 105 physicians served the 2.6 million population in 1999.
6. Inadequate curriculum and teaching: There is dire shortage of core textbooks and instructional materials. The curriculum lacks life skills development, teachers use didactic teaching methods, and the education system is biased in favor of males both socially and academically.
7. Poorly trained teaching force: Even though 80% of the teaching force is trained, only 33% are female, so there are few educated role models for girls.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

In what ways is the education system addressing the needs of marginalized groups? Are there special schools?

Special schools exist.

1. A three-year, US\$1.5 million program to assist vulnerable children was recently started with funding from the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. War victims funds are being used to assist disabled children.

Sources

USAID; (2005); Budget - Liberia; <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2005/afr/lr.html>

What is the stage of development of the education system?

About one million children are still out of school due to 14 years of civil war. As of April 30, 2004, 7,275 School-in-a-Box kits have been distributed within eight accessible counties, providing educational supplies for a total of 582,000 children. More than 800 quick intervention kit-bags have been distributed in three newly accessible counties where schools are re-opening, providing learning materials for an additional 40,000 children. Trained teams from the Ministry of Education and NGOs, working with county and district education officers, have assessed schools in nine counties, providing critical information for the Rapid Assessment of Learning Spaces (RALS) database. The assessment continues to expand in more counties as safe access becomes possible. Planning staff at both the Ministries of Planning and Education are being trained to manage and maintain the RALS database.

More than 7,200 teachers have now returned to their schools with knowledge acquired from the orientation workshops and with skills in Rapid Educational Response, emphasizing numeracy, literacy, sports and recreation, psychological and counselling principles, music and drama education. An estimated 13,000 teachers are still waiting to go through the two-day orientation workshop.

Sources

UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>

Primary School Enrollment by Year and Grade

Year	Grade	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
2001	Total	794,337	458,697	335,640		
2000	Total	238,318	136,623	101,695		
1999	Total	507,192	292,208	214,984		
1998	Total	289,883	173,446	116,437		

Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -

http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%2022-12-03.doc

Are there alternatives to traditional schools?

1. The UNICEF-Supported Art Education Project called Child Art Liberia offers classes on Saturdays and Sundays for CAFF. The children get an opportunity to draw under the encouragement and guidance of a professional Liberian artist. It is believed this process enhances children's education, confidence, self-discovery, discipline, perseverance, and creativity. One of the children said: "I want to draw pictures of people shooting and people killing and homes burning and people running away scared. It is important to draw these things because then people will understand that the war here is too bad and they will know what is happening in my country."
2. Accelerated Learning, Vocational Skills, Apprenticeships, and Life Skills Training Non-Formal Education Projects supported by UNICEF.

Sources

UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>

How is the country addressing HIV/AIDS issues?

1. The West Africa Regional Program has provided funding for a small HIV/AIDS information program.
2. The use of soccer superstar, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, and child of Liberia, George Weah, to promote HIV/AIDS education.

Sources

USAID; (2005); Budget - Liberia; <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2005/afr/lr.html>

Are there political conflicts and what is the impact of these conflicts on education?

Except for the two years from 1997 to 1999, Liberia was in a constant state of conflict from 1989 until the Accra Peace Accords were signed on August 18, 2003. Over 250,000 people, most of them civilian non-combatants, have lost their lives in the civil war. More than 1.3 million have been displaced, including hundreds of thousands who fled the country. Abductions, torture, rape and other human rights abuses have taken place on a massive scale. It is estimated that at least one in ten children may have been recruited into militias at one time or another. A similar percentage has been traumatized by seeing their families and friends murdered and raped.

The 14 years of civil war that ended in August 2003 disrupted, destroyed and displaced schools and pupils. School buildings and infrastructure have been destroyed. Pupils have been displaced into refugee camps. The Back-To-School campaign has enabled over 60,000 students to return to school, bringing a sense of stability and hope to many urban and rural communities across the country. Significant donor support is now urgently needed to ensure that the remaining estimated 400,000 children also have the chance to go to school, and that all children can stay in school once enrolled.

Sources

UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>
USAID; (2005); Budget - Liberia; <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2005/afr/lr.html>

Are there on-going, recently completed projects relating to the following areas?

Teacher Training

1. Two-Day Rapid Educational Response Workshop emphasizes numeracy, literacy, sports and recreation, psychological and counselling principles, music and drama. It has trained 7,200 teachers and 13,000 are awaiting instruction.

Sources

reliefweb_Humanitarian Situation - <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/VBOL-6AQFH5?OpenDocument>
UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>

Girls' Education

Liberia's 14 year civil conflict officially came to an end in August 2003, but the devastating impact of the war and continued fighting only served to prolong the post-conflict transition. Large scale displacement has increased the vulnerability of women and girls, and most skilled Liberians have fled the country. Liberia must deal with the sensitivities of war, ongoing instability, the polarization of its people, and limited human resources. Improving girls' education in this context is a major challenge: The rate of female literacy in the country is 37% and primary girls' net enrollment is 65%. Over half of all school-age children are not in school. Poverty, unemployment, and high debt levels hamper the country's capacity to recover and meet the educational needs of girls and boys.

Girls' education remains a central priority in addressing gender disparities pervasive throughout the Liberian education system. Working with the Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE), UNICEF is supporting the development of a "Girls News Magazine" produced and managed by young girls. Additionally, a weekly radio broadcast program has been established by UNICEF in collaboration with six local radio stations. The radio program called "Facts for Life" will broadcast news and recorded program items relating to girls health, nutrition and child protection on a weekly basis.

As part of the African Girls' Education Initiative, UNICEF together with its partners and the Government are involved in the following:

- Formulating a policy framework and plan of action for girls' education in Liberia
- Expanding access and increasing equity in both formal and non-formal education
- Developing gender sensitive training materials and resources
- Establishing Centres of Excellence for girls in selected schools
- Establishing 34 girls' clubs at school level and developing, producing, printing and distributing 500 UNICEF/FAWE training manuals for girls' clubs and peer educators
- Training of a cadre of instructors in life skills, interactive radio instruction, and girls' education: 200 females acquired life skills, vocational skills, HIV/AIDS information and peer education; 30 females have been trained in psychosocial counselling; 150 girls trained in art of trauma healing; and 42 in the "old art of quilting"
- Establishing and training Parent Teacher Associations at school/community levels
- Providing scholarships for 30 girls to attend school
- Expanding access to early childhood education for 2,000 children, with a focus on girls.

UNICEF in partnership with the Government, and other organizations has accomplished the following:

- Produced a situation analysis study on "Impact of Underdevelopment, Debt, and War on Liberia's Children" that contains relevant data to be used in reconstruction and planning efforts
- Prepared an initial Convention on the Rights of the Child Report to the UN International Committee, a National Plan of Action Framework and Implementation Guidelines
- Is beginning to take advantage of the vibrancy of NGOs and communities that have resources to be tapped during this transition
- 3,300 girls enrolled in the 3 levels of an Accelerated Learning Programme.

In the next several years, UNICEF will work with the Government to do the following in support of rebuilding the nation and improving the status and condition of girls and women:

- Create a Technical Training and Assistance Network to facilitate policy development, research, and advocacy efforts in girls' education
- Implement an Accelerated Learning Programme for basic education of girls ages 10-18 affected by the war, such as teenage mothers and "rebel wives" forced to marry soldiers; and develop parallel gender awareness training for boys
- Strengthen the participation of Parents Teacher Association in girls' education
- Train more female teachers
- Establish more Centres of Excellence for girls in selected schools
- Train girls in life skills.

Sources

UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>
UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

Encouraging the Participation of Local Communities in Education

About a dozen residents of the United Methodist Church's Wesley Manor Retirement Community (Indiana, U.S.) are building desks for students in Liberia, where schools have been looted during civil wars. The work is part of Operation Classroom, a United Methodist program to help rebuild schools in Liberia and Sierra Leone, two countries that have experienced civil wars in recent years.

Sources

Worldwide Faith News; (2005); Retirees in Indiana help rebuild schools in Liberia; <http://www.wfn.org/2005/01/msg00248.html>

What is the status of Muslim education?

20% of the population are Muslim, (40% is Christian and another 40% is indigenous beliefs).

Sources

The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/li.html>

Additional Basic Education General Information

Donor Information

Japan - 2004

US\$ 3,639,510

Humanitarian and education assistance to children and women

Swedish International Development Age (SIDA) - 2004

US\$ 1,558,441

Humanitarian and education assistance for children and women

UNICEF - 2005

US\$ 12,502,000

Education

UNICEF - 2005

US\$ 6,595,000

Child Protection

United States Agency for International Development - 2005

US\$ 1,500,000

Assistance to vulnerable children

United States Agency for International Development - 2000

US\$ 740,000

Basic Education

US BPRM - 2004

US\$ 2,400,000

Humanitarian and education assistance to children and women

Sources

UNICEF Emergency Updates; (2005); UNICEF Humanitarian Action - Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/emerg>
UNICEF_humanitarian action Summary for 2005 - http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/liberia_summary2005.pdf
UNICEF_humanitarianaction - http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/liberia_summary2005.pdf
USAID_policy_budgets - <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2005/afr/lr.html>
globalmarch - <http://www.globalmarch.org/education-campaign/education>

Teacher Training

Number of Teachers by Level

Level	Number
Secondary (1)	22,255
Primary (2)	64,056

(1) - FY 1998 - 2001

(2) - FY 1998 - 2001

Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%202022-12-03.doc

Number of Primary Teachers by Gender

Total	Male	Female
64,056	52,401	11,655

FY 1998 - 2001

Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%202022-12-03.doc

Percentage of Primary Teachers Certified to Teach

Certified: 35 %

FY 1999

Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%202022-12-03.doc

Pupil/Teacher Ratio

Level	Total	Urban	Rural
Total	39:1		

Pupil-Teacher ratio for pre-primary schooling is 36:1 and for secondary is 17:1.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

What are the barriers to teacher sufficiency?

- Low salaries
- Late payments of salaries
- Classrooms filled beyond capacity
- Educators sometimes have to make a considerable effort to locate textbooks and other teaching aids.

Sources

Africa_News_Update - <http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/5579.html>

What is the design of pre-service teacher training programs?

Each tertiary institution sets its own standards. Degree granting institutions are chartered by the National Legislature. Each has a separate Board of Trustees or Directors appointed under the terms of its charter. Institutions of higher education are under the authority of the Ministry of Education, the National Commission on Higher Education and the Board of Trustees.

Sources

Center for Global Education; (2005); Liberia Education System - <http://www.lmu.edu/globaled/wwwcu/background/lr.rtf>

Number of Teacher Training Institutions. Names and Addresses of Prominent Institutions

General

Number of Institutions: 5

1. Cuttington University College
2. University of Liberia
3. Kakata Rural Training Institute (KRTTI)
4. Zorzor Teacher Training Institute(ZTTI)
5. Webbo Rural Teacher Training Institute (WTTI)

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Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%2022-12-03.doc
Uscis_National Teacher`s Assoc. - <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/documentation/LBR99002.htm>

Minimum Requirements for Teacher Training Recruitment

General

To enroll for teacher training, students must possess the WAEC Senior Certificate.

1. Primary school teachers are trained at upper secondary level at a Teacher Training Institute. Courses last for three years and lead to a Primary Teachers Certificate or Grade C Teaching Certificate.
2. A Grade B Teaching Certificate is required to teach in Junior High Schools. Secondary-school teachers are trained at the Teachers` College of the University of Liberia, the Department of Education at Cuttington University College and William V. S. Tubman Teachers College. Courses last for four years and lead to a Bachelor`s Degree in Education.
3. They may also follow a two-year course leading to a Grade A Teaching Certificate if they already hold a degree in another subject.
4. A Master`s Degree is required to teach in Colleges of Education, together with a teaching qualification.
5. University teachers must hold a Doctorate.

Sources

Center for Global Education; (2005); Liberia Education System - <http://www.lmu.edu/globaled/wwwcu/background/lr.rtf>

Are alternative routes to teacher certification available?

Alternative routes for teacher training exist.

Non-university level post-secondary education consists of two-year courses offered by junior colleges leading to the award of an Associate Degree. Several colleges also offer middle-level technical training and Liberal Arts Education.

Sources

Center for Global Education; (2005); Liberia Education System - <http://www.lmu.edu/globaled/wwwcu/background/lr.rtf>

Girls' Education

What are the primary reasons for girls' low enrollment and completion rates?

- Post-war unemployment is astonishingly high, and consequently the majority of the population live in poverty. Girls' labor is needed for family survival.
- High drop out rates are due, in part, to teenage pregnancy, early marriage, or traditional practices.
- Children's poor health and inadequate health care. Malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections are rife, therefore girls and boys are often too sick to attend school. 70% of rural areas have no access to safe drinking water, and only 105 physicians served the 2.6 million population in 1999.
- There is a dire shortage of core textbooks and instructional materials. The curriculum lacks life skills development, teachers use didactic teaching methods, and the education system is biased in favour of males both socially and academically.
- Even though 80% of the teaching force is trained, only 33% are female, so there are few educated role models for girls.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

What is the policy on pregnancy?

For Girls

1. In 2004 government was looking at incentives to ensure that parents keep their daughters in school, and that girls who fall pregnant are given the chance to resume their education.
2. UNICEF through Liberia's Support to War Affected Youth (SWAY) provides life skills and early childhood development classes. Young mothers learn how to comfort their babies, how to clean garbage around their houses, and how to keep their hands and babies clean to avoid germs.

Sources

Africa News Update - <http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/5579.html>

UNICEF; (2005); At A Glance: Liberia; http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/liberia_statistics.html

Is there evidence of curriculum revision?

General

As part of the African Girls' Education Initiative, UNICEF together with its partners and the Government are involved in formulating a policy framework and plan of action for girls' education, expanding access and increasing equity in both formal and non-formal education.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

Innovative teaching practices

As part of the African Girls' Education Initiative 34 girls' clubs at school level are being established and developing, producing, printing and distributing 500 UNICEF/FAWE training manuals for girls' clubs and peer educators.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

Remove gender bias from textbooks

As part of the African Girls' Education Initiative gender sensitive training materials and resources are being developed.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

Relevance to the world of HIV/AIDS

As part of the African Girls' Education Initiative a cadre of instructors are being trained in HIV/AIDS information and peer education.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

What are the reforms most likely to stimulate the enrollment and persistence of girls in school?

In the next several years, UNICEF will work with the Government to do the following in support of rebuilding the nation and improving the status and condition of girls and women:

- Create a Technical Training and Assistance Network to facilitate policy development, research, and advocacy efforts in girls' education
- Implement an Accelerated Learning Programme for basic education of girls ages 10-18 affected by the war, such as teenage mothers and "rebel wives" forced to marry soldiers and develop parallel gender awareness training for boys
- Strengthen the participation of Parents Teacher Association in girls' education
- Train more female teachers
- Establish more Centres of Excellence for girls in selected schools
- Train girls in life skills.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

Is there evidence of reforms to reduce the cost of schooling?

Evidence of reforms to reduce the cost of schooling exist.

UNICEF provides scholarships for girls to attend school. In 2003, it provided 30 such scholarships.

Sources

UNICEF; (2005); Girls Education in Liberia; <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index.html>

Textbooks and Other Learning Materials

Are textbooks free?

Textbooks and other learning material are very scarce, and classrooms have few textbooks available for the students.

Sources

Contribution to the Needs Assessment -
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/liberia/infocentre/donors/doc/Confab_doc/Draft%20Needs%20Assessment%20Note%202022-12-03.doc

Description of Transportation Systems and Projected Improvements

There are 7,000 telephones (2001 estimate), 2,000 mobile telephones, 790,000 radios, 2 Internet Service Providers, 1,000 Internet Users, 490 km railways, 10,600 km highways, 5 ports and harbors, 1,449 merchant ships, and 53 airports.

Sources

The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/li.html>

Community Participation in Basic Education

In what ways is the community involved in basic education?

Paying fees

Parents are still required to pay school fees and buy uniforms for their children, expenses which many struggle to meet.

Sources

Africa_News_Update - <http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/5579.html>

Are NGOs and civil society involved in education? What role do they play? Who are they?

NGOs and civil society are involved in education.

1. Back-To-School Campaign

As part of the Back-To-School campaign of the Ministry of Education, UNICEF provides water and sanitation support to schools. UNICEF-supported partners have provided 240 schools with water and/or latrines with hand washing facilities since December 2003. These facilities are benefiting a total of 96,000 students in schools located in Montserrado, Bassa, Margibi and Bong counties. By August 2004 an additional 260 schools will be outfitted with adequate water and sanitation facilities, benefiting approximately 105,000 more children. Funding from the United Kingdom will support the provision of water and sanitation facilities in 350 schools in newly accessible counties of Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Cape Mount and Bomi.

2. The Liberian Education Assistance Project (LEAP)

LEAP revived the tradition of teacher training in which many FOL members participated as Peace Corps volunteers. For three years the Friends of Liberia sent teacher trainers to Liberia. The trainers were returned former Peace Corps teachers that brought a wealth of passion and enthusiasm during the summers of 1999, 2000, and 2001. This team conducted the first successful primary teacher workshops in the country in many years.

The summer of 2002 greeted the teacher trainers with a rebel incursion in the area where they had planned to teach. The program had to be called off that year. In November of 2002, two of the LEAP trainers, Stephanie Vickers, and Joan Hamilton returned to Liberia to evaluate the success of the program. They found dedicated teachers continuing to apply the knowledge they had learned in the workshops. The LEAP initiative has supported the creation of the LEAP Extension Team (LET), a Liberian teacher-run NGO that will sustain the LEAP training concepts.

3. Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA)

ADRA provide food and non-food items to schools within the country. With the assistance of other donors, they also provide subsidies to schools that are badly in need of material assistance such as textbooks and repair materials.

4. Acres of Hope Liberia, Inc.

Acres of Hope Liberia, Inc. is committed to improving educational opportunities for Liberia's children. Acres of Hope donated machetes for the men in each village to clear the land. They have built schoolhouses made from local materials. Along with the involvement of leaders in each village, teachers have been chosen from the local area and are ready to begin teaching. Because the villagers do not have the resources to purchase paper, books, pencils etc., Acres of Hope will be supplying the materials needed and providing support to the teachers. In addition to the monetary needs for teacher salaries, Acres of Hope is requesting donations of school supplies for every student and teacher on an on going basis. The goal is to eventually help each village to become self-sufficient.

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Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA)

George Badio

Acres of Hope

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thenest@cheqnet.net

Sources

Acres of Hope - http://www.acresofhope.com/liberia_schools.htm
Friends of Liberia - <http://www.fol.org/leap/>

Impact of HIV/AIDS on Basic Education

How is HIV/AIDS affecting the supply and quality of education, the number of teachers dying each year of HIV/AIDS and the educational management's ability to plan long-term?

Number of Teachers Dying each Year of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate is 5.9%, there are 100,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. There were 7,200 HIV/AIDS deaths (estimated in 2003).

Sources

The World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/li.html>