



INVESTING IN PEOPLE: EDUCATION

Decades of poor governance and civil war interrupted and devastated Liberia's formal public education system and created a tremendous need for informal, accelerated learning opportunities for ex-combatant and noncombatant youth and young adults. An estimated 40 % of the population can read and write. Major USAID investments in education averaging over \$20 million per year, including assistance from the US President's Africa Education Initiative and International Education Initiative, are increasing school enrollments and improving the quality of education through sector planning and restructuring, teacher training to replenish the depleted ranks of qualified teachers, and the provision of needed equipment, material and infrastructure rehabilitation.

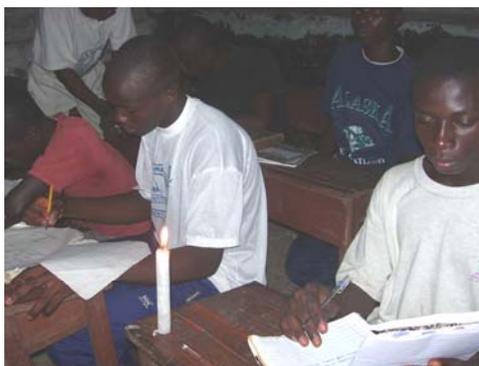
EDUCATION SYSTEM CHALLENGES: QUALIFIED TEACHERS, FINANCING, MANAGEMENT CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Teacher compensation as salaries are currently too low to attract and maintain skilled individuals within the system
- Financial resources and government revenues to pay for critical sector improvements (e.g. buildings, staff training, and materials)
- Decentralization in order to effectively provide free basic education to the more than 800,000 children of primary school age throughout Liberia's 15 counties
- Management capacity development to improve overall management of the education system. In addition, management and supervision systems must be rebuilt to support effective organizational management, communication, and accountability.

USAID EDUCATION SECTOR PROGRAMS

USAID support is filling gaps in human resource capacity, as many professionals have not benefited from advanced training and skills development in more than 15 years. In 2008, capacity-building support is extending to tertiary level institutions. USAID provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to enhance the institution's monitoring and evaluation capabilities.

EDUCATION PROGRAM	
FY2008 ESTIMATES	US\$ (MILLIONS)
Basic Education	19,631,631
Higher Education	295,000



ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM PLUS (ALP) condenses the usual six years of primary education into three. The program is geared toward some 67,000 over-aged or out-of-school youth who have missed the opportunity to participate in formal schooling and also integrates life skills, such as parenting classes (integrated with child care), conflict resolution and civic education. In addition, ALP has a significant community mobilization component to create and engage local parent/teacher associations (PTAs), and through service learning encourage program graduates to conduct community development projects adding the "plus" to the learning program.

THE LIBERIA TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM (LTTP) upgrades institutional and staff capacity of the University of Liberia and rural teacher training colleges, develops enhanced standards for teacher accreditation, and institutes competency-based criteria to evaluate the skills of current and future teachers. Teachers are trained in new child-focused methodologies and student monitoring techniques to improve the quality of instruction.

USAID assistance also includes the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure in the education sector through renovation of two teacher training institutes located in Kakata, Margibi County and Zorzor, Lofa County.

AMBASSADORS GIRL'S SCHOLARSHIPS (AGSP) funded through the US President's Africa Education Initiative (AEI) benefit needy children who would otherwise have to forego schooling. Recipients have school fees paid and receive uniforms, books, school supplies, raincoats and shoes, and where distance is a factor, bicycles to allow them to continue their schooling. Recipients have the support of volunteer mentors who also engage parents and communities. In 2008, boys will be eligible for the scholarship program.



ALFALIT INTERNATIONAL IN LIBERIA is a faith-based grassroots organization and movement that provides literacy education to Liberia's most needy adults in underserved areas and urban communities across five counties where illiteracy is prevalent. Alfalit receives funding from the US President's Africa Education Initiative. Currently close to 6,000 adults are enrolled in literacy classes.

MILLION BOOK MARCH FOR LITERACY is a books-for-school libraries program funded by the US Presidents' Africa Education Initiative that delivers 1 million new and used books to 1700 school libraries across Liberia and training teachers at those schools in library management.

Key Partners in FY 2008

- Government of Liberia: Ministry of Education
- University of Liberia

Projects:

- Academy for Education Development (AED) with partners International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Mississippi Consortium for International Development : Liberia Teacher Training Program(LTTP)
- Creative Associates International: Accelerated Learning Program plus(ALPP) and Learning Resource Centers(LRC)
- World Education and partners Children Assistance Program (Monsterrado county) and DEN_L (Bong County) : Ambassador's Girl's Scholarship Program (AGSP), President's Africa Education Initiative (AEI)
- Books for Africa and Visions in Action: Million Book Distribution and Library training, President's Africa Education Initiative (AEI)
- Alfalit International/Liberia: Adult literacy, President's Africa Education Initiative (AEI)