

**For ALL FRIENDS OF LIBERIA**

**From the Education Working Group of FRIENDS OF LIBERIA  
www.fol.org**

It is hoped FOL's Liberia Literacy Landscape Paper will assist other organizations engaged in Liberia literacy develop useful partnerships and alliances, reduce the duplication of effort, and design a program for maximum impact and sustainability. The Education Working Group encourages readers of this landscape paper to share with us any Liberia literacy organizations not included in this paper.

**LIBERIA LITERACY LANDSCAPE PAPER 2018  
Literacy NGO's and Organizations  
Non-Profit Literacy in Liberia  
and  
LIBERIA LITERACY PROGRAMS' MAP, 2018  
A companion to the paper, showing by county the location of  
Liberia literacy programs**

**MAP LINK:**

**<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1eTnM1WH7HUQvAYIG68VuuAypESM&ll=6.457538198483924%2C-9.282415249999985&z=8>**

**FAMILY LITERACY**

***"Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. These children are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, or drop out."***  
*ProLiteracy International*

**ADULT LITERACY CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING**

***"Health. Gender equality. Poverty. Every important social issue is impacted by low literacy. When individuals learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, lower health care costs, find and keep sustainable employment, and ultimately change their lives."***  
*ProLiteracy International*

**ALFALIT INTERNATIONAL-LIBERIA, INC., 2018**

**WEBSITE:** <http://english.alfalit.org/country/#country.liberia>

**DESCRIPTION:**

Alfalit, faith-based nonprofit organization has been operational in Liberia since 2006. In the past it has offered programs in literacy, basic education, preschool, health, nutrition and community development. Alfalit's primary mission is to teach illiterate youths and older adults basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** Montserrado, Bomi, Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Bong Counties

**CONTACTS:**

LIBERIA

Rev. Emmanuel Giddings, Executive Director

Rev. Jerome Williams, Training Coordinator

Alfalit International-Liberia, Inc.

Tubman Blvd.—Congo Town

Monrovia, Liberia

E-mail: [egiddings@alfalitliberia.org](mailto:egiddings@alfalitliberia.org)

Tel: +231 88 655 0988

U.S.A.

Christopher Albano, Ed.D.

Education Director

[Chris@alfalit.org](mailto:Chris@alfalit.org)

Alfalit International, Inc.

3026 NW 79 Avenue

Doral, Florida 33122

(305) 597-9077 Ext. #228

**LITERACY PROGRAMS:**

Presently in Liberia, Alfalit runs basic education and literacy and job skills programs. In 2016, Alfalit had over 200 teachers and facilitators education more than 700 students. In May 2016 forty-four new teachers were recruited and trained specifically to work with adults on literacy skills. Alfalit Liberia operates 81 literacy centers.

**FUNDING PARTNERS:**

Alfalit's financial support comes from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID,) private foundations and individual donors. USAID has been a most important partner in helping Alfalit to accomplish significant gains in education through two Cooperative Agreements with USAID, which granted Alfalit \$5.49 million between 2002 and 2007, and \$10.49 million between 2006 and 2014. Alfalit Liberia received a \$100,000 grant from the McCall McBain Foundation. In recognition of the success achieved, the foundation extended its grant to provide \$550,000 over the next two years. Alfalit has received significant funds from non-profit organizations and foundations such as the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund, World Vision, Rotary Clubs, The Angolan Lutheran Church, and The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR.)

**EFFICACY:**

Alfalit has afforded literacy to over 80,000 Liberians, is cost effective, and can teach a student to read and write for \$117. The Alfalit program takes an illiterate student through a third grade level of education within 9-12 months, depending on the student.

**CANADIAN ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATION (CODE), 2018**

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.code.ngo>

**DESCRIPTION:**

CODE supports a network of partner organizations to design, deliver and evaluate quality literacy programs. A Canadian NGO with 57 years of experience, CODE supports literacy and learning through professional development workshops for teachers and librarians, support for libraries, and donations of books. Through CODE local authors, illustrators, editors and publishers produce children's publications in local languages. CODE and the WE-CARE Foundation, Inc. work together to provide professional development training and support for teachers as well as high quality, locally produced books for children.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATION:** *Monrovia, Montserrado County*

**CONTACTS:**

CANADA

Canadian Organization for Development Through Education  
321 Chapel Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1N 7Z2 Canada

General Inquiries

Email: [codehq@codecan.org](mailto:codehq@codecan.org)

1-800-661-2633

Tel. 613-232-3569

Fax: 613-232-7435

**PARTNER IN LIBERIA:** WE-CARE Foundation, Inc.

**LITERACY PROGRAMS:**

Professional development training and support for teachers, and locally produced books for children.

**EFFICACY:**

CODE's goal is to train 810 educators in reading and writing instruction by 2020. CODE and the We-Care Foundation provide professional development training and support for teachers as well as locally produced books for children.

In 2015-16:

-54 schools selected for program implementation

-439 titles, 49,576 books to be delivered

-112 teachers re-trained

**MAJOR DONORS FOR CODE International (from CODE's 2015-16 Report Card):**

Code receives financial support from the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (55%) and Foundations (18%), Individuals (14%), Corporations (11%), Associations (1%)

## **FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE (FLI), 2018**

**WEBSITE:** <http://fol.org/programs/literacy-initiative/>

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) is an early childhood development program grounded in the belief that learning begins at home and that parents are a child's first teachers. FLI's goal is to help parents prepare their pre-school children for success in school and in life, and to empower parents by giving them the tools, skills and confidence they need to successfully work with their children in the home.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** West Point and Upper Caldwell Township, Monrovia, Montserrado County; Duazon, Margibi County

### **CONTACTS:**

#### LIBERIA

WE-CARE Foundation, Inc.

Carey/Gurley Streets

P. O. Box 1072

E-mail: [we-care@we-carefoundation.org](mailto:we-care@we-carefoundation.org);

Cell: (+231) 777024251/777511175/880512730

Monrovia, Liberia

#### U.S.A

Don Drach, Co-Chair, Education Working Group [dondrach@gmail.com](mailto:dondrach@gmail.com)

Mary Gemignani, Co-Chair, Education Working Group [mkgemignani@gmail.com](mailto:mkgemignani@gmail.com)

Miriam Westheimer, Director, *HIPPY* International [mwestheimer@hotmail.com](mailto:mwestheimer@hotmail.com)

### **PARTNERS:**

FLI is a partnership with Friends of Liberia (FOL), Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY-International), and WE-CARE Foundation, working closely with the Liberian Ministry of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Education.

### **FLI METHODOLOGY**

FLI uses the HIPPY approach to early learning, which is an evidence-based home instruction based on the beliefs that every child can learn and every parent wants what is best for his or her child. The HIPPY model contains four essential features designed to provide optimum support and services to families:

1. Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to strengthen the child's cognitive and early literacy skills, social/emotional and physical development
2. Easy-to-use educational activity packets and storybooks for parent and child to use at home
3. Weekly home visits and group meetings to teach parents how to teach their child, extending over a two- or three-year period
4. Home visitors, hired from within the community, trained and supervised by professional coordinator.

### **PILOT IMPLEMENTATION**

The initial year 1 pilot was conducted from November 2015 – October 2016 in with sixty families in three communities. Home visitors were hired by WE-CARE and FOL, and trained by HIPPY International's director. The home visitors worked in teams of two to visit 20 families each for one hour weekly for 30 weeks. Participating parents and caregivers in turn worked with their children for 15 to 20 minutes a day.

### **EFFICACY:**

A rigorous evaluation was conducted that included pre/post testing using the Bracken School Readiness Assessment. Test results showed that majority of children showed significant progress as a result of the Family Literacy Initiative. Further formative evaluation showed that the initiative was effectively implemented and should continue to a second year. For November 2016 – October 2017, FLI has expanded to 120 families in the same three communities, hired and trained an additional six home visitors, and has been included in the Ministry of Education's five-year sectoral plan and its early childhood plan. Full evaluation reports are available from FOL.

### **MAJOR DONORS:**

Friends of Liberia Board of Directors, Friends of Liberia individual members, The Rolander Foundation, The International Foundation, The Open Society Foundations, as well as substantial in-kind professional services contributions from FOL members and HIPPIY staff.

### **IMANI HOUSE, INC., 2018**

**Website:** <http://imanihouse.org/liberia-new>

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Imani House is an international charity for children and families that has been working in Liberia since 1989. It gives hope to thousands every day in Liberia. The lives of many mothers and children have been saved through the integral medical care at Imani House's clinic near the capital of Monrovia. That just scratches the surface of what Imani House does. Imani House helps 17,000 Liberian mothers and children a year.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS: Adult Literacy only:** *Open air Duala Market, Indoor-Rally-Time Market and St. Mary's School, Montserrado County*

#### **CONTACT:**

##### LIBERIA

Twe Farm, Monrovia, Liberia

Phone: 231-88025-4110

##### U.S.A

Bisi Ideraabdullah, Executive Director

Email: [imani@imanihouse.org](mailto:imani@imanihouse.org)

76A Fifth Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11217

Phone: (718) 638-2059 Cell (347) 210-8026

#### **MISSION:**

Building women's literacy skills and self-reliance is at the core of Imani House's mission.

#### **LIBERIA PROGRAMS:**

All of the programs offered by Imani House, Inc. in Liberia have been registered with Ministries of Planning and Health and Education within the Government of Liberia.

- The Health Clinic in Jahtonondo Town, Brewerville which delivers low-cost, comprehensive health services north of Monrovia
- Vocational Training offers literacy students additional training in useful skills such as sewing.
- Adult Education serves a mostly female population through three literacy sites in or near major markets. The Imani House Liberia Adult Education provides free reading, writing, civics, and math classes each year for over 190 Market Women who attend literacy classes four days a week. Classes are held in or adjacent to some of the largest markets in Monrovia.  
---Imani House plans to expand its literacy programs throughout Liberia as resources become available.
- Teen HIV/Pregnancy Prevention Peer Education Project

#### **FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERS IN KIND:**

46% Government, 7% Foundation, 8% Individual Donors, 23% In-Kind Contributions.

#### **EFFICACY: *Functional Adult Literacy***

- Imani House Liberia provides free reading, writing, civics and math classes each year to over 200 Market Women who attend Imani House's free literacy classes four days a week.

## **KIDS' EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (KEEP)**

**WEBSITE:** [www.keeplib.org](http://www.keeplib.org)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

KEEP is a national charity founded in 2014. The organization's core objective is to improve the reading skills of young learners by promoting reading literacy and establishing reading centers in rural areas of Liberia that are often overlooked and under-served.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** Montserrado, Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu, Lofa County

### **CONTACTS:**

#### Liberia

Brenda Brewer Moore, Founder and Executive Director

moore.brenda@gmail.com

Owen Kolleh, County Coordinator in Gbarpolu

Phone: 231 886624310

Jajjah Mawolo Compound

Rehab Road Paynesville Monrovia

Tel: 231886510731/231777510731

Email: info@keeplib.org

### **WHAT KEEP DOES:**

- Provides skills training to young girls whose education is cut short at primary levels due to the lack of formal schools beyond sixth grade in their.
- Provides computer literacy training and advocates for better social services and service delivery from education sector of the MOE.
- Reading is not a core subject for many schools, thus the approach of KEEP has been to ensure teachers adopt strategies to ensure student access to books and reading.
- Provides teacher training geared toward encouraging teachers to incorporate more teaching techniques to improve students' reading skills.
- In the last four years KEEP has founded four reading centers, or Reading Rooms as they are called, in county schools.
- KEEP is actively involved in establishing libraries in each of the counties where it works.

### **FUNDING PARTNERS:**

- Primarily, KEEP has been raising funds to support its programs through fundraising dinners, GOFUNDME campaigns, and corporate donations.
- **KEEP** has partnered with INGOS like Action Aid International in Liberia which places the rights, needs, and participation of women at the center of their work and with Open Society Institute in West Africa (OSIWA), both for assistance with overhead costs and working with Massa S. Crayton, OSIWA and Lakshmi Subramani, AAL.

### **EFFICACY:**

- KEEP has trained more than 25 teachers from seven schools in the past year (2017)
- KEEP works in 54 communities in three counties.
- Its core work is in 6 communities which directly impacts more than 4,000 school children and 150 teachers.

## **LIBERIA READS!/LIBERIA READS! ASSOCIATION OF LITERACY EDUCATORS (ALE), 2018**

### **WEBSITE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Association-of-Literacy-Educators-Liberia-515191948647463/?fref=nf>

### **DESCRIPTION:**

*Liberia Reads!* is a primary-grade literacy project sponsored by the Florida-based nonprofit, The Children's Reading Center, Inc. (CRC). The project was developed by the CRC Executive Director, Dr. Geri Melosh, a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia ('72) who holds a Ph.D. in Instruction and Curriculum and is currently an elementary school principal.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** *Monrovia, Montserrado County; Bong County; Margibi County*

### **CONTACTS:**

#### LIBERIA

Lyn Gray, Liberia Country Director

Email: lynhowellgray@gmail.com

Tel: 231 886 540538

#### U.S.A.

Geri Melosh, Children's Reading Center Director

Email: gmelosh@hotmail.com

Tel: 1-386-325-0963

Henry Wolokolie, President of ALE

Email: hwolokolie@gmail.com

Tel: 231 886 666668

**MISSION:** *Liberia Reads!* literacy project is two-fold and is aligned with the mission of CRC:

- To provide intensive literacy training (i.e., teaching teachers to teach reading) to primary-level Liberian teachers (grades K-3)
- To provide all the necessary reading books, classroom libraries along with training to locally produce affordable reading manipulatives and curricular materials to support each trained teacher grades K-3.
- To provide training and materials for Liberia Reads To Learn, a set of multileveled, differentiated reading labs consisting of 75 topics across six reading levels for a total of 450 stand alone passages. Currently being used for 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, LRL passages include topics in the life sciences, the earth and physical sciences, Liberian social studies, world social studies and literature, all aligned with the MOE curriculum.

**LITERACY PROGRAM:** 2009-2017 The LR! curriculum was developed by Dr. Melosh and is a West African reading curriculum containing three blocks: *Guided Reading Block*, *Working with Words Block* and *Self Selected Reading Block*, which are taught consecutively over a period of 120 minutes daily. Location of *Liberia Reads to Learn* differentiated reading kit in Monrovia: E.J Hunter Memorial School, Fiamah; in Bong County: Lyn Gray in Goll Farm community, Jorquellie District.

**FUNDING:** *Liberia Reads!* is funded by the Children's Reading Center in Palatka, Florida and private donations. It has had small grants from the International Literacy Association and in-kind assistance from Stella Maris Polytechnic in Monrovia. In 2011, teachers trained in *Liberia Reads!* formed a local organization called Liberia Reads! Association of Literacy Educators (ALE). This organization is registered as a Liberian NGO and has an affiliation with the International Literacy Association (ILA) in United States. The primary objective of ALE is to promote national literacy through the development of a group of professional teachers who are dedicated to increasing Liberian teacher capacity to teach reading. The focus is on early childhood literacy development.

**EFFICACY:** *Liberia Reads to Learn* reading kits are designed to accommodate the reading needs of students in classroom with as many as 75 students. The program is intended as a supplemental reading program and not as a substitute for the primary curricula in the classrooms mandated by the MoE. Trained government and independent schoolteachers and Peace Corps Volunteers are currently using the LRL. It reaches 750

students/year in *Liberia Reads!* classrooms, 5,000-7,000 in government schools trained by the Liberia Teacher Training Program (LTTP), and potentially 14,000/year in schools hosting Peace Corps Volunteers.

## **NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF LIBERIA (NAEAL), 2018**

**FACEBOOK WEBSITE:** [https://www.facebook.com/pg/infonaeal/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/infonaeal/about/?ref=page_internal)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Founded in June 1977 by a group of young Liberian educators interested in promoting literacy in Liberia. NAEAL operates several programs. The NGO aims to empower people through adult education and literacy in order to sustain community development, empowerment, advocacy and is geared to eliminating, if not totally, eradicating poverty in the Liberian society.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** *Almost all of 15 counties (Working counties not available)*

### **CONTACT:**

#### LIBERIA

Desterlyn Allen, Executive Director @ [naeal.executive.director@gmail.com](mailto:naeal.executive.director@gmail.com)

Tel: +231 88 659 1634

Siafa Morris, Adult Literacy Coordinator

Email: [naealliteracy@yahoo.com](mailto:naealliteracy@yahoo.com)

Rehab Road Zuba Town, Paynesville 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

Tel: +231 88 820 0281

### **MISSION:**

To promote functional literacy in sustaining community development that leads to social transformation.

### **LIBERIA PROGRAMS**

- Adult Education
- Networking and Adult Literacy Resource Development
- Training for Institutional Capacity Building: Private job training company that employs 75 people

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS**

- The adult literacy programs work in partnership with communities and their representatives.
- NAEAL develops and uses its own literacy materials to facilitate adult learning at the community level.
- The learning approach is a combination of REFLECT methodology, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), and Participatory Adult Learning Principles (PALP).

### **EXECUTION OF PROGRAMS**

- NAEAL works with and coordinates activities with the Government of Liberia through the MoE and national and international organizations working to reduce literacy in Liberia.

### **EFFICACY:**

- Two-thirds of our beneficiaries have been vulnerable and economically changed men, women and children.

## **PAJOMA LIBERIA, REFLECT Network, 2018**

***Pamoja* is a Kiswahili word meaning *together*. "EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE. WORLDWIDE. LIFELONG."**

**EMAIL: [pamojaliberia@gmail.com](mailto:pamojaliberia@gmail.com)**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Pamoja Liberia was founded in 2010 to foster solidarity among **REFLECT** and literacy practitioners at different levels in Liberia. Pamoja is a duly registered and accredited network of local NGOs. Pamoja Liberia is an affiliate of Pamoja West Africa

**What is REFLECT?** [www.reflect-action.org/what](http://www.reflect-action.org/what) REFLECT is an empowering approach using the goals' aspirations of the Freirean philosophy, using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools/graphics like maps, calendars, matrices and diagrams. These graphics are based on the environment within which the literacy project is being conducted. Discussions emanate from the graphics, which help participants to analyze their situation leading to action to solve the problem identified. Reading and writing is then based on the graphics. REFLECT started in 1993 in Latin America in response to past failures in literacy campaigns throughout the world. West African members are many.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATION:** *Johnsonville Township, Montserrado County*

### **CONTACTS:**

#### LIBERIA

Jeremiah Burgess, Executive Director

[jburgess@shifsd.org](mailto:jburgess@shifsd.org)

Phone: +231-(0)88 68 74 950/770024082

### **MISSION:**

Pamoja Liberia's mission is to advocate and enhance people's participation in community development and social transformation through REFLECT and literacy, including other participatory rural appraisal tools for lifelong learning.

### **LIBERIA MEMBERSHIP**

Pamoja's Network has our active membership organizations:

- Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD)
- National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL)
- Liberia Study group and Community Empowerment (LSGCE)
- People Empowerment Program (PEP)

Pamoja coordinates activities of member organizations through meetings, experience sharing and training.

### **DONORS:**

DVV International (in English, Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association), Action Aid International-Liberia, Pamoja West Africa, and Save The Children

**PEACE CORPS RESPONSE, 2018 *Short term. High impact. Experience required.***

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/is-pwace-corpsright-for-me/peace-corps-response/>

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Peace Corps Response sends experienced professionals to undertake short-term, high impact service assignments in communities around the world. They bring valuable skills and experiences to projects in places where they are needed the most. Positions are open to returned Volunteers, or those with significant professional or technical experience.

**CONTACT:**

U.S.A.

Email: [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov)

Tel: 202-692-2250

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS:**

- High-Impact, 3-12 Month Assignments
- Short-term assignments for Returned Volunteers provide targeted assistance in places where they are most needed.

**PEACE CORPS RESPONSE IN LIBERIA: LITERACY**

**WEBSITE:** <http://peacecorps.gov/liberia/projects>

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** *Tubmanburg, Bomi County and Kakata, Margibi County.*

**CONTACT:**

LIBERIA: *See WE-CARE FOUNDATION, INC. in this document.*

The WE-CARE FOUNDATION, INC., MONROVIA has been assigned two Peace Corps Response Volunteers who are working directly with WE-CARE'S school-based literacy program, "Reading Liberia." They assist with:

- Training and monitoring teachers
- Assessing students' reading skills and how to improve them
- Working with the school libraries established by WE-CARE in all of its 31 project schools
- Analyzing assessment data in order to inform the program and move forward

**PROLITERACY International, 2018 “Teach an adult to read. Inspire the world to change.”**

**WEBSITE:** <http://proliteracy.org/What-We-Do/Programs-Projects/International/Liberia>

**DESCRIPTION:**

ProLiteracy has empowered adults through literacy for more than 60 years. It promotes adult literacy through content development, programs, and advocacy. Their goal is to help literacy programs increase the quantity and quality of services provided. Their vision is for every adult to have the ability to fulfill his or her life through literacy.

**International Programs:** Today, ProLiteracy is active in 20 countries, Liberia being one of them, working with a network of grassroots partner programs. Partners are non-literacy entities such as health organizations, human rights agencies, or community libraries. They provide training, capacity building, and grants to support literacy instruction in combination with teaching skills to address socio-economic issues impacting the targeted community. By increasing literacy, ProLiteracy and its international partners have worked to reduce poverty, improve health care and advance human rights.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATION:** Barnersville Township, Monrovia, Montserrado County

**Bisi, are there more literacy locations? If so, please name them, provide location, and list county**

**CONTACT:**

U.S.A.

Imani House International (IHI)

Bisi Iderabdullah, Executive Director

[imani@imanihouse.org](mailto:imani@imanihouse.org)

ProLiteracy

Email: [info@proliteracy.org](mailto:info@proliteracy.org)

Phone: 315-422-9121 Toll Free: 1-888-528-2224 Fax: 315-422-6369 Hours: 9-5 (EST)

104 Marcellus Street

Syracuse, NY 13204

**PARTNER IN LIBERIA: Imani House International (IHI)**

**PROGRAMS IN LIBERIA:**

Imani House International

- A community-based clinic services women and their families outside of Monrovia in Barnersville offering medical care and health literacy classes. IHI sees 17,000 patients per year. Because of this, IHI has integrated health education along with instruction and grants in small business development. Learners receive National Ministry of Education certification for completion if IHI courses.
- **Market Women:**

IHI serves impoverished adults, many of whom were displaced by or suffered severe losses from the civil war. 90% of the learners are women who dropped out of school to make a subsistence living selling goods in the marketplace. The women represent various ethnic groups--Bassa, Grebo, Kru, Kissi, Vai, Kpelle, Loma, Krahn, and Gola--but all face similar challenges related to lack of access to resources. Market women work in squalid conditions, where their children, whom they care for while they work face danger and disease. IHI literacy classes cover reading, writing, math, science, social studies, with particular emphasis on issues related to daily life.

The majority of market women learners speak the local language of their ethnic group. Some of them do speak English. A primary goal of IHI courses is to help learners actively build self-confidence and leadership to confront social and political realities that threaten their dignity and human rights.
- **Pilot Project 2017-2020:** IHI has partnered with ProLiteracy International to create *The Liberian Women's Health Manual*. This is a pilot project that will bring health, nutrition and sanitation education to over 500 women and teenage girls in four rural communities and one high school. As the manual nears completion they will train health educators and begin the three year project.
- **African Women's Literacy and Economic Empowerment:** ProLiteracy is working with three African

**PROLITERACY INTERNATIONAL, page 2**

NGOs over the next two years on a health literacy project that focuses on integrating health education into basic literacy programs designed to address the specific needs of women. They will work with partners in Liberia, South Africa and Rwanda to help them develop instructional content that teaches literacy within the context of local needs, resources, and culture. The project will reach 1500 women in 20 impoverished communities without access to to education or health services.

**EFFICACY IN LIBERIA: 2017**

Adult learners being reached: 146 total:139 women and 7 men

Literacy Classes and communities: 5

## **ROSETTA STEPS LITERACY CENTER, 2018**

### **NO WEBSITE**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

“The Rosetta Steps Education Foundation was founded in honor of the late Rosetta Benson Harris, a teacher, mother, and mentor who herself grew up in New Kru Town, a slum community of Liberia.” Rosetta Steps operates a learning resource center in one of the most impoverished communities in Liberia. It has created a fun, interactive, albeit intense, learning environment and formulated learning programs that aid in the development of essential skills in reading, mathematics and comprehension through multiple programs and learning curricula.

Subjects taught at the center are phonics, English, reading, spelling, math, verbal reasoning, physical education, drawing and coloring and writing the alphabet. All programs are designed with one goal in mind: Improving functional literacy in under-served communities and families.

Rosetta Steps’ students (47 in 2017) are supported by scholarships, parent fees and donors. In addition, it also operates an adult learning resource center for building literacy.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATION:** New Kru Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia

### **CONTACT:**

#### LIBERIA

Ms. Ama Harris, Executive Director

Email: [info@rosettasteps.org](mailto:info@rosettasteps.org)

New Kru Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia 1000

**MISSION:** At Rosetta Steps we work to fill the literacy gap in poor and high-risk neighborhoods through the implementation of robust literacy programs in a supportive learning environment.

**ADMINISTRATION and STAFF:** Two professional teachers from Licoses Training Center, one principal/teacher, one vice principal/teacher, and three full-time teachers and support staff

### **PROGRAMS:**

- The Early Learning Foundation School, Kindergarten to Grade 2 (7:45 a.m.-1:30 pm) aims to reach children at the earliest stage of the formal education process, providing the basics for strong reading skills. International standard reading and writing materials are used with emphasis on activities promoting retention and interaction. Classrooms are equipped with TVs to enhance visual learning. Each student is registered to IXL.com, an interactive reasoning and quantitative skills learning website. (IXL is an “Interactive, Adaptive, Learning” membership in the U.S. and provides a “Comprehensive K-12 Curriculum.” Classes are taught in English, and include math, reading, literature, art and reasoning. Encouraged is the “I do,” “We do,” and “You do” concept of learning. Having adopted a flexible payment structure that allows daily income earners to make daily payments towards the school fees, Rosetta Steps has seen a spike in enrollment of children.
- Pilot Program: Read To Succeed, is an after-school program designed to increase the chances of students from other schools to succeed in primary and secondary schools by teaching phonics, verbal, and quantitative reasoning through interactive training methodologies. The program utilizes the Early Grade Reading Assessment program, EGRA, which was introduced by in Liberia in 2008. The program also teaches phonics, incorporating materials from Hooked on Phonics, IXL.
- Adult Literacy and Accelerated Learning: This program provides basic literacy skills--reading, writing and small business skills--to adults with little or no experience, as a means of empowering them and building self-confidence.
- Learn To Earn: Cognizant of the role adolescents and adults play in community building, Rosetta Steps Learn to Earn program teaches core literacy skills for employment and economic opportunity. It understands the gap that exists between literacy and small business practices. Rosetta Steps has designed a program which teaches basic reading and writing skills along with parenting skills and the

## **ROSETTA STEPS LITERACY CENTER, Page 2**

livelihood skills of food, nutrition, civic responsibility, family planning, and computer literacy.

### **DONORS:**

EXXON Mobil, National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), National Social Security Corporation of Liberia (NASSCORP), TOTAL Liberia, Inc.

### **EFFICACY:**

- Rosetta Steps Learning Center will graduate 180 students sometime between late 2017 or early 2018.
- The founder of Rosetta Steps, Ms. Ama Harris also notes that not only do these programs and their presence in these communities target basic literacy, they serve as a bridge through which organizations, individuals and corporations can assist the inhabitants of low income communities.

## **SELF-HELP INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SHIFSD) 2018**

**WEBSITE:** [www.w.shifsd.org](http://www.w.shifsd.org)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) was registered with the Government of Liberia on May 30, 2005 as a national non-profit and non-governmental organization. Originally, SHIFSD was established in the central region of Ghana by a group of Liberia refugees on November 11, 2000. Upon repatriation to Liberia in August 2008, the organization was headquartered in Monrovia.

Adult literacy is at the heart of SHIFSD's operations.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** Functional Adult Literacy: *Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa and in the southeastern part of Liberia: Boley Community, Sinoe Road, and Grand Gedeh*

### **CONTACTS:**

#### LIBERIA

Jeremiah T. Burgess

Email: [jburgess@shifsd.org](mailto:jburgess@shifsd.org)

Postal Address: C/O P. O. Box 1164 Monrovia, Liberia

Mobile: +231 (0) 886-874-950, (0)770024082, (0)886601416, (0)776245132

Headquarters: SHIFSD Institute Campus, Joe Town, Johnsonville, Montserrado County

**PARTNERS IN ADULT LITERACY:** Stitching INITIAT, Pamoja Liberia and Universal Hope Initiative. SHIFSD is also a member of two networks, New Africa Research and Development Agency (NARDA).

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

SHIFSD exists to reduce poverty through access to Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) and Entrepreneurship. SHIFSD believes that through ensuring access to FAL and Entrepreneurship, SHIFSD contributes to the fight against poverty, human rights' violations, gender disparity and the lack of resources which breed poverty and conflicts.

### **FUNCTIONAL ADULT LITERACY:**

FAL is designed for marginalized youth and adults who missed out on formal education. It addresses the literacy, numeracy and livelihood needs of these youth and adults.

- A maximum of 25 learners/students are placed in a study circle or class.
- Depending on the size of the community, 1 or 2 study circles are established in each targeted community.
- Each study circle is managed by a Community Literacy Facilitator who is selected by the community leaders in collaboration with SHIFSD.
- In addition to the regular computer literacy training at the SHIFSD Institute for Enterprise and Job Training, commonly known as the BRIDGE, the school administration had made computer literacy a cross-cutting course including Life Skills and Personal Development for all trainees enrolled for 2017.

**DONORS:** ZOA International, Liberia Foundation, Turing Foundation, Norwegian Human Rights Fund

**EFFICACY:** Functional Adult Literacy only

Between 2011 and 2015 SHIFSD has provided FAL for 2000 adults in three counties, including Montserrado, Bong and Margibi. Most of the beneficiaries started at zero level and are now able to write their own names. Some read and write simple sentences and perform basic calculations.

*Please note: The server has not been found for the SMWF 2018 edition of the landscape paper. There has been no response to the email address provided in the 2017 edition of the Paper. We require help with making official contact.*

**SUSTAINABLE MARKET WOMEN'S FUND (SMWF), 2017 "Strengthening the women who strengthen the world." *The outcome of Ebola was that the focus on literacy training by SMWF needed to expand.***

**CURRENTLY NO WEBSITE**

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Sustainable Market Women's Fund is an international, independent, charitable organization committed to restoring the livelihoods of Liberian market women and women farmers, as investing in them means investing in Liberia's future. Market women are the backbone of their nation's economy, as well as providers of nutrition for the population. Nearly 75% of Liberian women work in the informal sector, conducting 85% of agricultural marketing and trading.

An estimated 76% of Liberians live below the poverty line and more than half the population is estimated to live in extreme poverty. Only 15% of Liberians are engaged in formal employment.

Few markets offer healthy work environments. Women sell in the open air or under fragile shelters. For many, profits are not enough to pay for their children's education and essential health care such as immunization and de-worming.

For most market women the only credit available is that which they themselves organize in informal "su-su" groups – the round-robin credit facilities that illustrate their entrepreneurial potential even if they are generally small and highly undercapitalized. Adult literacy and entrepreneurial training as well as availability of credit can strengthen their capacities to create successful, sustainable businesses for themselves, their families and their country.

**LIBERIA MARKET LOCATIONS PROVIDING ADULT LITERACY: Clara Town, Waterside, Logan Town and Paynesville in Montserrado County, Totota in Bong County, Gbarpolu (Popolu area) in Lofa, and Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.**

**Markets:** Barnesville, Bopolu, Clara Town, Duala, ELWA, Ganta, Gbah, Gbarnga, Harbel, Jorkpen Town (Nancy P. Doe), Logan Town, Omega, Paynesville, Rally Time, Redemption Day, Saclepea, Totota, Unification, Voinjama, Waterside, Zogolemai, ZorZor, Zwedru

**CONTACTS: *Currently no official contact for SMWF.***

LIBERIA

Former Email: smwfliberia@smwf.org

**LITERACY PROJECT:**

A significant factor that is responsible for the continued hardship being faced by most of the women of Liberia, especially the market women, is their inability to read and write. SMWF is committed to assisting market women through literacy and business skills development training and village savings and loans' programs. The Alfalit DEN-L (Alfaden) program, with funding from UNIFEM, is currently working in 11 markets to help more than 20,000 women make a better living so they contribute to Liberia's growth and development.

Twenty-seven literacy facilitators were trained in Paulo Freire (REFLECT method) and Laubach method (Pro-Literacy).

**EFFICACY:**

The SMWF provides direct services to at least 13,000 women traders in Liberia.

**WE-CARE FOUNDATION, INC., 2018 “Strengthening Liberia’s education sector”**

**WEBSITE:** <http://we-carefoundation.org>

**DESCRIPTION:**

The WE-CARE Foundation was established in 1992 and incorporated in 1994 as a local non-profit educational organization to sensitize the public in rebuilding on firm humane principle, the education sector, which was destroyed in the Liberian civil war. It is committed to strengthening the education sector in Liberia through; 1) the provision of quality reading materials and creative training; 2) improving the teaching skills of grade1-6 teachers, librarians and school administrators; and 3) the overall promotion of literacy through thoughtful and child-centered ways. Today, WE-CARE trains teachers, teacher educators, writers, publishers, and produces engaging and relevant books for schools and the reading public.

**LIBERIA WORKING LOCATIONS:** *Central Monrovia, Montserrado County, Bomi and Margibi Counties; For the Family Literacy Initiative (FLI): West Point and Upper Caldwell, Montserrado County and Duazon, Margibi County*

**CONTACT:**

LIBERIA

T. Michael Weah, Executive Director

Email: [wcarelib@yahoo.com](mailto:wcarelib@yahoo.com)

WE-CARE Foundation, Inc. (WE-CARE Library) Carey/Gurley Streets P.O. Box 1072 Monrovia, Liberia

Cell: 231-88b-512-730/231-777-024-251

**PARTNERS:**

CODE (Canadian Organization through Development for Education), RWCT International Consortium, (Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Consortium), OSF (Open Society Foundation) IBB (International Book Bank), ILA (International Literacy Association), FOL (Friends of Liberia), and HIPPIY International (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)

**GOALS:**

WE-CARE aims to foster a love of books and reading based on the truism: Reading children become reading adults, and reading adults become informed citizens that can make sound decisions that affect their social and economic development.

**PROGRAMS:**

- WE-CARE Library
- Reading Liberia 20/20
- Critical Thinking Liberia (CT-L)
- Friends of Liberia Family Literacy Initiative (FLI): The Family Literacy Initiative is an early childhood development program grounded in the belief that learning begins at home and that parents are a child’s first teachers. FLI’s goal is to help parents prepare their preschool children for success in school and life, and to empower parents by giving them the tools, skills and confidence they need to successfully work with their children in the home.
- Story Hour For Kids
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)

**AFFILIATES:** Critical Thinking International, Inc., each child counts Foundation, International Book Bank.

International Literacy Association., Liberia Association of Writers, Liberia Library Association (LILA), Open Society Foundation, RWCT International Consortium

**EFFICACY:**

*All of WE-CARE services are free.*

<http://we-carefoundation.org/our-news-2>

