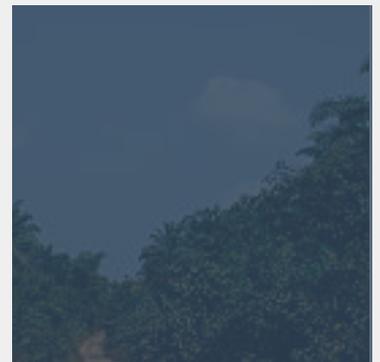




Friends of Liberia

Small Grants

2025

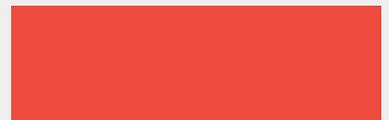


The Small Grants Committee



Friends of Liberia is a volunteer-run, U.S.-based nonprofit founded by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Liberia, alongside others who share a deep commitment to giving back to the country.

Friends of Liberia's Small Grants Committee provides funding up to \$3,000 USD and capacity-strengthening support to grassroots and local Liberian nonprofits, with a strong emphasis on projects that are identified and shaped by the communities they serve. Beyond grantmaking, the committee seeks to foster learning, reflection, and connection among Liberian organizations.



Funding Ecosystem

The current funding ecosystem in Liberia underwent significant strain following major cuts to U.S. foreign assistance in 2025, particularly from USAID, which historically supported critical sectors like health, education, and governance. The impact on Liberia has been profound: USAID previously funded nearly half of the national health budget, supporting HIV treatment, malaria prevention, and primary care. In education, USAID funding for school feeding programs and system strengthening has been suspended, affecting tens of thousands of children. The Ministry of Finance has confirmed at least \$51 million in development funding has been cut so far, with over 10,000 jobs at risk.

Despite the immediate challenges, the funding crisis presents an opportunity for international partners to step up in new and meaningful ways. **Friends of Liberia’s Small Grants Program is playing a vital role in helping to fill emerging gaps by providing flexible, community-driven funding directly to local organizations.** By prioritizing local leadership and adaptability, Friends of Liberia is contributing to a more resilient and self-reliant development ecosystem—one that empowers Liberians to respond to their communities' most urgent needs and build a more sustainable future from the ground up.



Inside the Small Grants Program: What We Fund

Applications can be submitted any time of the year and are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The Small Grants Committee recommends a project for funding during the quarterly FOL Board meetings.

Funding Priorities: The Friends of Liberia Small Grants Committee prioritizes community-led initiatives designed and implemented by local Liberian non-profit organizations, with particular emphasis on those operating in rural and underserved areas. Priority is given to projects that demonstrate strong community ownership and participation, have clear and feasible goals, and show potential for lasting benefit beyond the grant period. The Committee also values initiatives that promote equity, inclusion, and community resilience, especially for marginalized or vulnerable groups, and that are led by organizations with a credible track record of community engagement.

All projects must have a defined budget of \$3,000 USD or less, include committed funding from other sources, verifiable in-kind resources and demonstrate how the funds will directly support the successful implementation of the community initiative.

Activities and Budget Items the Committee Does Not Fund: The Committee does not fund projects operated for private financial gain, those that are primarily religious or political in nature, or one-time events without lasting impact. In addition, the Committee does not support nondescript administrative costs, consultant fees, loan repayment or debt servicing, fundraising activities, the purchase of motorbikes, vehicles, or large machinery, or gifts, prizes, or giveaways.

Budget items not to exceed 15%:

- Salaries or stipends for staff, volunteers, or leadership
- Per diems, travel allowances, or personal reimbursements

All budgets must be itemized and clearly linked to the implementation of the proposed project. Budgets that include ineligible costs will be returned for revision or may result in the application being disqualified.

Given a recent increase in AI-generated proposals, the committee developed the following AI policy for all Small Grant applications to be implemented in 2026.

AI Policy

We recognize that applicants may use digital tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), to support proposal preparation. The Small Grants Program allows limited, responsible use of AI, while prioritizing authentic, community-driven project design and organizational ownership.

Applicants may use AI tools in a supporting role only, including for presentation. Any AI use must be limited and reviewed by the applicant to ensure accuracy and alignment with local context.

AI tools may not be used to:

- Identify or design the proposed project or intervention
- Generate core project ideas, activities, objectives, or outcomes
- Develop budget items and costs, timelines, or implementation plans
- Create monitoring, evaluation, or reporting frameworks
- Replace meaningful human review and organizational decision-making

Applications that rely heavily on AI-generated content without clear human oversight will not be considered.



How We Review and Select Applications

To ensure a fair and thoughtful review process, the Small Grants Committee follows a structured system for evaluating all incoming applications.

Initial Screening: Each application is reviewed to make sure it is complete, includes all required documents, and meets our basic eligibility criteria. If an application is found incomplete the applicant is contacted and provided alternative ways to submit the required attachments.

Evaluator Assignment: Two committee members are assigned to independently review each eligible application.

Application Review: Committee members receive the applications and supporting materials about 1 week before our meeting. Each evaluator scores their assigned applications using a standardized Evaluation Form and Rubric.

Each application is reviewed using clear, consistent criteria (Appendix 1) designed to promote transparency and fairness. These include:

- Need – How urgent and relevant is the issue being addressed?
- Reach – Does the project include rural or underserved communities?
- Organizational Capacity – Has the organization demonstrated it can follow through on its plans?
- Budget – Is the budget clear, accurate, and well-aligned with the proposed work?
- Sustainability – Can the project continue after our funding ends?
- Impact – What difference will the project make, and how will we know?
- Overall Strength – A general assessment of the proposal's potential and readiness.

Group Discussion: The committee meets to discuss the top applications in detail. During this meeting, the team raises questions, clarifies information, and works toward a shared decision about which projects to recommend for funding.

Board Review and Approval: Once the committee reaches consensus, we submit our funding recommendations to Friends of Liberia's Board for final approval.

Grant Disbursement: After approval, we notify the selected grantee(s), send an official award letter, and process the wire transfer of funds.

Strengthening Our Grantmaking Approach

Over the past few years, the Small Grants Committee has made several key improvements to strengthen transparency, accountability, and support for applicants and grantees. These include the introduction of (1) a three-phase monitoring and evaluation package to track project progress and outcomes, (2) the launch of virtual “office hours” for anyone to connect directly with committee members, and (3) the provision of tailored written feedback along with optional one-on-one virtual sessions for applicants after each funding cycle.

Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

We have developed three (3) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) templates to be completed at three (3) key stages of a funded project. These requirements are designed to enhance data collection, reporting, and analysis processes, thereby improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of FOL funded projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Template – *After funds from FOL are received*
This template is used at the beginning of the project to outline the project's goals, objectives, expected outcomes, indicators, and data collection methods. This template serves as the foundation for monitoring and evaluating the project's progress and impact.

Monitoring Template – *Mid-point of the project*

The Monitoring Template is used to assess the progress made towards achieving the project objectives. This template helps identify any challenges, deviations from the plan, and necessary adjustments to ensure the project stays on track.

Evaluation Template – *After project is completed*

The Evaluation Template is completed at the end of the project to assess the overall effectiveness and impact of the project. It provides a comprehensive review of what was achieved, lessons learned, and recommendations for future projects.

This year we developed and shared a video overview of our M&E requirements with grantees as part of their reporting requirements package along with optional synchronous sessions with committee members for support. The video overview can be found [here](#).

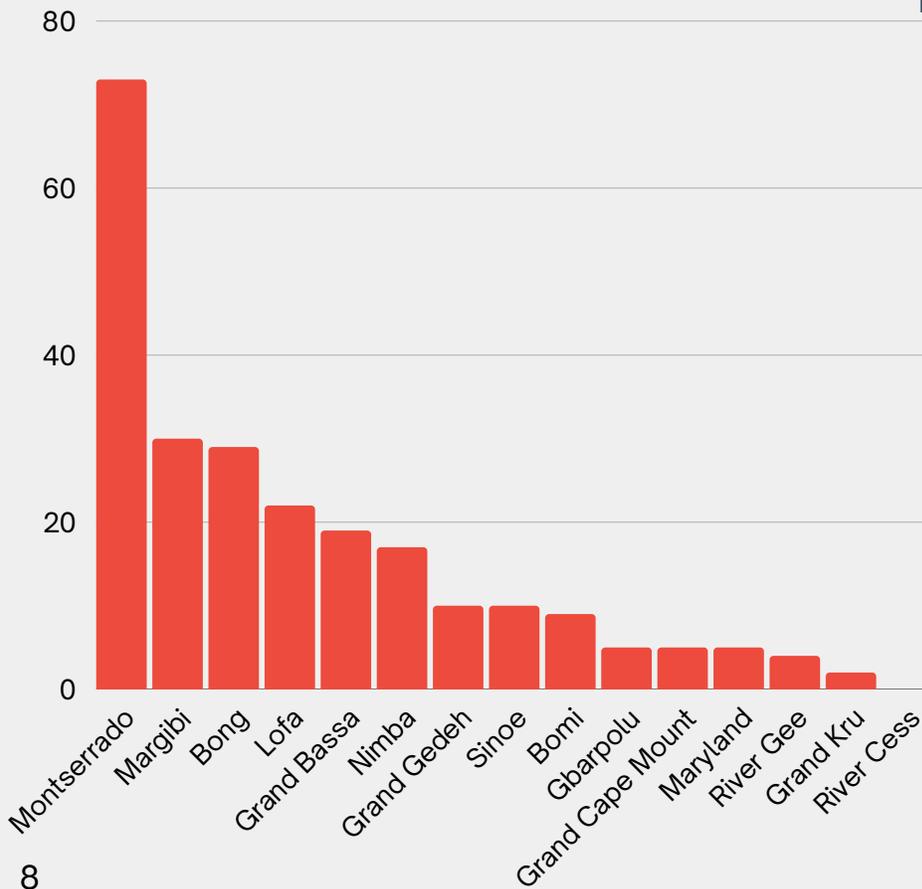
2025 Grant Applications

In 2025 we received 172 applications (Q1: 35; Q2: 30; Q3: 62; Q4: 45) for a Small Grant. Of these, 51 applicants (30%) had applied for a Friends of Liberia (FOL) small grant before, and 12 had been previous recipients of funding. 121 applications were from new applicants, adding to our network of non-profits supporting Liberian communities.

31% of applications were missing attachments, these applicants are contacted individually and asked to share the required attachments. **This left 118 applications that were reviewed by our committee.** There was a 12.7% acceptance rate for applications in 2025.

The average project cost was \$3,018.21, with an average of about 750 expected beneficiaries per project.

of Applications by County



Projects Proposed by Sector*

Education	112
Economic Empowerment	62
Health	49
Social Services	35

*some projects span multiple sectors and many are self-described through the "other" option

2025 Grantees

over **\$25,000** spent

15 projects across **6** counties

reaching over **30,000**

community members,
primary school students,
women,
motorbike riders,
patients

Quarter 1

Menstrual and Reproductive Health Education

Our Children Future



Montserrado County

This project equipped **76 adolescent girls ages 9–18** in Fahneh Public School and the surrounding community with a one-year supply of reusable menstrual hygiene kits, comprehensive education on reproductive health, and tools to improve school attendance and self-esteem. After the program, 100% of the girls reported improved menstrual hygiene practices, greater confidence, and active participation in school—with zero recorded absences due to menstruation in the first month post-training.



The average knowledge score of participants increased from 56.8% at baseline to 87%, reflecting a 30 percentage point gain in understanding of reproductive health. The project also challenged harmful taboos, enabling open conversations about menstruation, even with boys, and inspired participants to share knowledge within their communities. Girls reported improved hygiene routines, peer-to-peer education, and a sense of dignity and empowerment. This project marks a meaningful step toward menstrual equity, improved adolescent health, and educational continuity for girls in rural Liberia.

“ I was using old cloth because could not afford sanitary pad every month sometimes it even use to give me infection but I tell FOL and OCF thanks for giving us this menstrual Pads that will last long with us. I am happy that I have the kits and the knowledge. ”

- A student from Fahneh Public School



Quarter 1

Deep Well Water Hand Pump

HELP Foundation Incorporated



Montserrado County

This project significantly improved **access to clean water for over 1,200 individuals, including 850 students, 23 teachers,** and hundreds of community residents. What began as an effort to provide clean, safe drinking water quickly became a catalyst for broader social transformation within the community. Prior to the installation of the hand pump, students and families relied on distant and often contaminated water sources, resulting in frequent illnesses, missed school days, and added burdens on women and children who spent hours fetching water.



Following the project’s implementation, the community experienced a **60% decrease in waterborne diseases, a 45% reduction in time spent collecting water, and a 30% increase in school attendance.**

Community members also described the project as a turning point. In addition to improved access to water, the project strengthened community cohesion. An unanticipated yet powerful outcome was the rise of informal water user groups and voluntary cleanup days around the pump site. These initiatives revealed a newfound sense of ownership, unity, and civic responsibility. The formation of a Water Management Committee and the training of school staff and students in maintenance further solidified the project’s sustainability.

“ Since the hand pump was installed, cases of diarrhea and absenteeism have dropped significantly. ”

- School Principal



Quarter 2

Community Peacebuilding and Civic Engagement Initiative



Montserrado County

TCOLLAB

This project successfully strengthened local capacity for conflict resolution and inclusive civic participation by training **30 youth and women** as Peace Ambassadors and engaging more than **100 community members** through two large civic forums. Over four participatory workshops, trainees demonstrated a **14.6-point average increase in peace building and civic knowledge**. These engagements equipped participants with foundational skills and perspectives essential for peace building and civic involvement. The combination of strengthened knowledge, improved analytical capacity, and increased readiness for community action positions participants to contribute more effectively to local decision making and conflict prevention processes.



Community forums further reinforced dialogue between **residents, elders, women leaders, youth, and local authorities**, fostering trust and promoting women’s and young people’s inclusion in local governance. The project also initiated the formation of a **Community Peace Committee** to sustain mediation efforts beyond the grant period. Overall, the initiative improved communication, strengthened leadership skills, empowered underrepresented groups, and laid the foundation for long-term, community-led peace and civic engagement in Point 4.

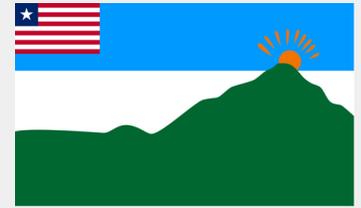
“Hearing women speak today gives me hope. They should sit at the decision table.”

—Honorable Robert B. Teah, Governor of New Kru Town



Quarter 2

Educating Motorcycle Riders on Road Safety, Traffic Rules, and Signs



Grand Gedeh County

Greater Life Foundation

This project responded to rising motorcycle-related accidents through a coordinated package of training, gear distribution, stakeholder engagement, and public awareness activities. The project trained **65 motorcycle riders across three (3) districts**, exceeding the original target of 60, with post-test results showing a **70% improvement in road safety knowledge and practices** compared to baseline assessments.



Follow-up monitoring indicated **85% compliance in helmet and reflective vest use** after distributing **60 helmets and 60 reflective vests**, while community and law enforcement reports cited a **70% reduction in minor motorcycle-related accidents during the three-month implementation period**.

Additionally, **85% of participants demonstrated improved understanding of traffic rules**, and **four (4) radio broadcasts reached an estimated 10,500 community members**, reinforcing safer riding behaviors beyond direct beneficiaries. The project also strengthened collaboration among **21 stakeholders**, including **police, motorcycle unions, and community leaders**, contributing to improved compliance with traffic laws, reduced rider-police confrontations, and the formation of peer-led safety groups, demonstrating meaningful and measurable gains in road safety and community well-being.

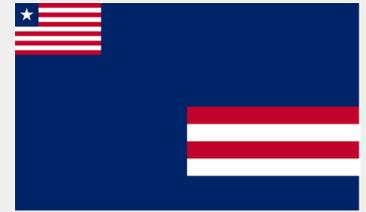
“ This project gave our youth a new direction. They now see riding as a profession that requires discipline. ”

– Aaron Safa Weah, Motorcycle Union Regional President, Zwedru



Quarter 2

Safe Sanitation for Safer Schools in Rural Grand Bassa



Grand Bassa County

Girls Initiative for Restoration of Livelihoods (GIRLS-Liberia)

In 2023/2024 with funding from USAID/Liberia, GIRLS-Liberia via DAI Global implemented a school-based SGBV (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence) prevention project across 15 high-risk schools in Grand Bassa County. The project established 15 SGBV clubs and conducted a needs assessment to identify the main drivers of school-based violence. In response to the needs assessment findings, GIRLS-Liberia advocated for improved WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) conditions and successfully engaged USAID’s Countywide Sanitation Activity, implemented by PSI, which resulted in GIRLS-Liberia securing a stock of SATO (Safe Toilet) toilets. However, **given the closure of USAID from Liberia, GIRLS-Liberia sought funding to transport, install, and promote the proper use of these toilets across 10 of the most vulnerable schools** identified in the needs assessment.

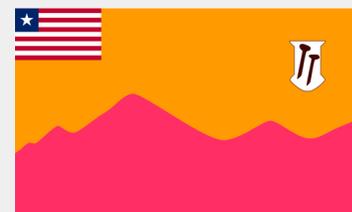


GIRLS-Liberia successfully installed **50 gender-sensitive SATO toilets** across these **10 rural schools** and promoted safer learning spaces, improved girls’ attendance and retention, and supported a more equitable and inclusive education system. **639 female students** were reached as well as **104 school staff**. Across the targeted schools, girls expressed renewed confidence, comfort, and motivation to attend school consistently following the installation of safe and hygienic toilets. **Community members and parents** noted a renewed sense of pride in school facilities and greater awareness of the importance of sanitation for children’s safety and education. **School administrators and principals** reported a significant reduction in open defecation within and around school compounds, leading to cleaner, healthier, and more welcoming learning spaces.



Quarter 2

From Empty Shelves to Empowered Minds: A Textbook Project for Shankpallai Community School



Bong County

Girls For Excellent Performance

This project successfully established a functional school library at Shankpallai Community School equipped with **200 new textbooks** across core subject areas. The school now has a centralized space for learning, supporting reading culture, and independent study impacting **100 students** and school staff. Administrators and students received hands-on training on library use, including book handling, borrowing systems, and study habits.



Students in Grades 3–6 showed an **increase in reading time** during and after school hours. Administrators reported that the **library is used an average of 4 times per week** by different classes. Teachers reported **increased access to reference materials** that support lessons, quizzes, and assignments. Teachers also reported a noticeable **improvement in homework completion**, as students now borrow books to study at home. The school community expressed a renewed sense of pride and ownership of the library.

This school library establishes a sustainable learning resource that will continue to benefit generations of students at Shankpallai Community School. Over time, improved access to textbooks is expected to contribute to **stronger literacy, numeracy, and subject mastery**, as students develop consistent study habits and greater academic confidence. The project also fostered a culture of reading, accountability, and **shared ownership within the school community**, increasing the likelihood that the library will be protected, used regularly, and expanded in the future. This work positions the school to deliver higher-quality education and reduce long-standing resource gaps, creating lasting educational impact.



Quarter 2

Public Toilets for Maternity Waiting Home and Clinic – *in progress*



Montserrado County

Dignity : Liberia

Beginning in 2020 Dignity : Liberia purchased a 6-acre plot in Todee Junction, Montserrado County and began building a maternity waiting home, a dedicated fistula clinic and a fistula home. FOL contributed to the waiting home in 2023 by funding the purchase and installation of **17 doors (10 screened and 7 solid) and screening materials** that enhanced ventilation and privacy across the facility, including patient rooms, the porch, and support spaces like bathrooms and the kitchen.



Dignity: Liberia’s current project includes adding **two (2) public restrooms to the clinic**. This ongoing work will equip these restrooms with **one flushing toilet and sink each**. These restrooms will serve **men, women, and children visiting family or waiting for completion of surgery**. This will allow for privacy, dignity, and comfort for patrons of the clinic.

This project is expected to conclude in **June 2026**.



Quarter 3

Replace Imani House Clinic Roof

Imani House Inc.

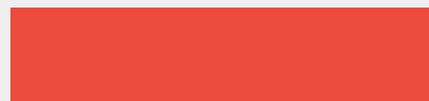


Montserrat County

The Roof Replacement for Imani House Inc. Clinic project, implemented by Imani House, Inc. was carried out to address critical infrastructure challenges at a community health clinic in Brewerville, Liberia. The project **replaced a severely leaking roof** that had compromised **patient safety, staff working conditions**, and the **clinic's ability to operate effectively** during the six-month rainy season. With the new roof in place, the clinic can now provide **affordable healthcare services in a safe, clean, and dignified environment to an estimated 12,000–14,000 patients annually**.

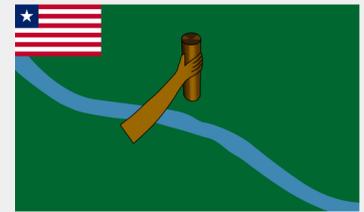


The project fully achieved its objective within a short timeframe, despite weather-related challenges, through strong collaboration among **clinic staff, contractors**, and **community members**. Observations from staff and patients highlighted **improved focus on service delivery, increased patient trust, and pride in the clinic's improved physical condition**. Community leadership engagement and positive patient testimonies further underscored the project's importance, demonstrating how targeted infrastructure investments can have an immediate and lasting effect on healthcare access, quality, and community confidence in local health services.



Quarter 3

Creating an Enabling Society for Visually Impaired Children and Youth through Braille Education and Skills in Lofa County – *in progress*



Lofa County

Lofa United Blind Association of Liberia

This project aims to empower **15 visually impaired youth** by providing comprehensive **Braille literacy training, mobility skills, and life-skills development**. Through activities such as **community outreach, stakeholder engagement, procurement of Braille learning materials, and intensive Braille classes**, the project prepares participants to **read and write Braille, navigate their homes and communities using white canes, handle currency, translate audio lessons into written Braille**, and integrate into formal academic settings alongside their non-disabled peers. In addition to literacy training, the project includes **awareness campaigns** to promote inclusion and reduce stigma, as well as monitoring and evaluation to track progress and document outcomes. This initiative ultimately seeks to **increase independence, confidence, and social inclusion for visually impaired youth**, while breaking down barriers of discrimination and opening pathways to education and future employment.



This project is expected to conclude in **September 2026**.

Project Title:
Creating an Enabling Society for Visually Impaired Children and Youth through Braille Education and Skills in Lofa County.

With support through FOL Small grants program.

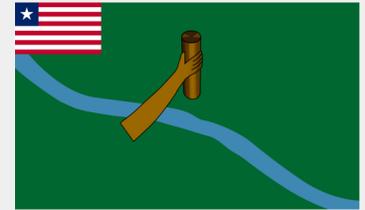
Voinjama City
 Lofa County-Liberia

LUBAL
 Lofa United Blind Association of Liberia

Friends of Liberia

Quarter 3

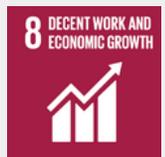
Reviving Cassava for Prosperity – *in progress*



Lofa County

Voinjama District Women Organization for Peace and Development (VODWOPED)

This project aims to strengthen the livelihoods of **200 women and youth farmers** in Zozomai Town, Lofa County. The project focuses on **improving cassava production and processing** by providing farmers with **high-quality planting materials, essential tools, and hands-on agricultural training**. Through activities such as establishing demonstration plots, conducting capacity-building sessions, distributing improved cassava cuttings, providing equipment, and forming processing groups, the project seeks to **increase yields, enhance agricultural and cassava processing skills, and expand market opportunities** for participants. A **revolving fund** and **market linkage efforts** further support sustainability and long-term cooperative growth. Ultimately, the project strives to **boost household income, strengthen food security, and empower women and youth farmers** to build more resilient and prosperous livelihoods.



This project is expected to conclude in August **2026**.

REVIVING CASSAVA FOR PROSPERITY

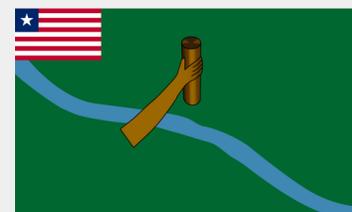
NOVEMBER 1, 2025 – AUGUST 31, 2026
ZUZOMAI TOWN, VOINJAMA DISTRICT, LOFA COUNTY

FRIENDS OF LIBERIA SMALL GRANT

VODWOPED
COOPERATIVE

Quarter 3

Education Empowerment in Rural Liberia by Building Improvement and Learning Materials



Lofa County

MARVIE FOUNDATION

This project aimed to transform the learning environment at Bulor Primary School in Lofa County through infrastructure rehabilitation and the provision of learning resources. The project directly benefited **286 students and 5 teachers**, addressing long-standing safety, sanitation, and resource gaps that had negatively affected attendance, learning outcomes, and community confidence in the school.



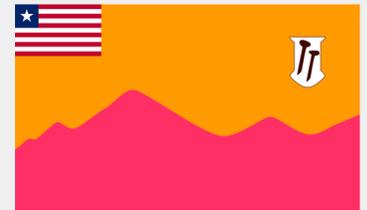
Two (2) school buildings were renovated to meet safety standards, **five (5) classrooms were upgraded**, and **six (6) latrines were rehabilitated** to full functionality, significantly improving hygiene and reducing health risks. A **new library** was established and stocked with over **70 types of learning materials**, expanding access to books for grades 1–6. Following these improvements, **student attendance increased from 75% to 95%**, **participation in class activities reached 85%**, student advancement rates improved with over **65 students progressing to the next academic level**.

The project generated profound shifts in student motivation, teacher morale, and community engagement. Parents expressed relief and pride in sending their children to a cleaner, safer school with functional latrines and improved facilities. Community leaders highlighted strengthened ownership and cohesion, with Bulor Primary School becoming a symbol of progress and hope. **Families who had previously transferred their children elsewhere began returning, and the school is now recognized locally as having the best library in the district.**



Quarter 3

Construction of Chairs, Desks, and Tables for Administrative Staff, Teachers, & Students



Bong County

Arthur B. Francis Seven-Day Adventist Elementary, Junior & Senior High School

This project constructed and installed **120 durable chairs, 20 4-seat desks**, and tables for **3 administrative staff, 12 teachers, and 215 students** at Arthur B. Francis Seventh-Day Adventist Elementary, Junior and Senior High School. The project significantly **improved classroom seating capacity**, eliminated the need for students to sit on the floor or use broken furniture, and provided functional office furniture for staff. As a result, the **overall learning and working environment became safer, more organized, and more conducive to teaching and learning.**



Students experienced **improved comfort, better classroom organization, and increased engagement.** Teachers noted fewer distractions during lessons, while all school members expressed excitement and pride in using new furniture. Administrative staff reported improved efficiency due to having proper office desks and tables.

The team shared in their final report that they learned “strong community involvement greatly enhances project success and ownership and engaging local artisans not only reduced costs but also ensured timely repairs and long-term sustainability.”

“Before, some children sat on the floor. Now everyone has a chair, and the classroom feels like a real learning place.”

-Moses Banda (Principal)



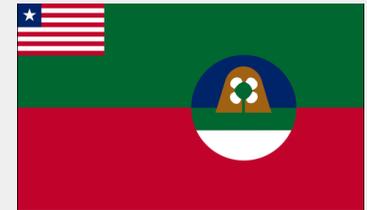
Quarter 4

Liberia Trauma Relief Program – *in progress*

Foundation for Research, Education and Empowerment (FREE Liberia)



Montserrado County



Margibi County

This project aims to expand trauma relief through clustered trainings that promote psychosocial healing, strengthen resilience, and build community networks of support—helping Liberians, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, recover from trauma and contribute positively to peace, unity, and development.



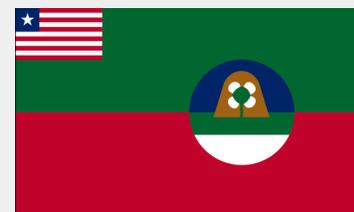
Specifically this project will (1) Deliver trauma-healing clustered trainings to at least **500 beneficiaries across Montserrado and Margibi counties**. (2) Equip participants with practical coping skills for stress, anxiety, and trauma management. (3) Build the capacity of local trainers, youth leaders, teachers, and women’s groups to facilitate trauma-informed sessions. (4) Strengthen empathy, nonviolence, and responsible citizenship through reflective dialogue and shared learning. (5) Establish and strengthen community peer-support networks for sustained healing and resilience.

It is expected that by the end of the clustered trainings 150 beneficiaries will have direct experience with psychosocial support and trauma relief. Additionally, participants will have Increased resilience, coping skills, and hope and at least 20 new local trauma champions will be identified to sustain community healing. There will be greater community awareness and openness around trauma and mental health care.

This project is expected to conclude in **May 2026**.

Quarter 4

Building Brighter Futures: Community Education Support for Vulnerable Children – *in progress*



Margibi County

Billion Dreamers Inc.

This education initiative in Duazon and surrounding communities of Margibi County will provide **school kits, scholarships** for vulnerable children, focused **after-school literacy and numeracy tutoring**, and **teacher/parent engagement** sessions to **increase enrollment, retention, and foundational learning outcomes** for approximately **120 primary-school children** over 6 months. Activities will be implemented with community volunteers, local teachers, and Billion Dreamers staff. Results will be monitored using baseline/endline literacy checks and school attendance tracking.



The planned project activities include paying school fees and providing financial assistance to students in need, and providing essential educational materials, such as notebooks, stationery, and uniforms through “school kits.” In addition, teacher training programs will be included to improve the quality of education along with community outreach programs to raise awareness about the importance of education.

It is expected that by the end of the project there will be an **increase in school attendance among participating children by at least 20%** within 6 months. Additionally, the project will **improve basic literacy and numeracy skills with at least 60% of participating children showing measurable improvements** through a simple endline assessment. The project will also strengthen community ownership by establishing and activating **3 parent-teacher committees** to support and sustain the program after grant completion.

This project is expected to conclude in **August 2026**.

Quarter 4

Community Driven Sanitation Support for Rural Montserrado: Enhancing Access to Quee Toilets and Promoting Open Defecation Free (ODF) Communities – *in progress*



Montserrado County



Sustainable Africa Research Alliance (SARA)

This project seeks to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions in four rural communities in Montserrado County by increasing access to safe sanitation facilities, strengthening local capacity, and promoting sustainable open defecation-free (ODF) practices. It will support **100 vulnerable households**—particularly low-income families, elderly residents, and women-headed households—to install Quee toilets in existing or damaged pit latrines, directly improving sanitation for approximately **300 people**. The project adopts a community-driven and participatory approach, engaging local leaders, health committees, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) actors to transparently select beneficiaries and foster community ownership.

To build local capacity and ensure sustainability, **eight (8) community-based artisans will be trained** in **Quee toilet installation, basic plumbing, maintenance and hygiene promotion**, enabling them to support installations during the project and provide ongoing services afterward. In parallel, the project will conduct **eight (8) community hygiene and ODF awareness sessions** to promote handwashing, toilet maintenance, and the health benefits of eliminating open defecation.

To sustain results beyond the project period, **four (4) community WASH advocacy teams** will be established, composed of local leaders, trained artisans, and health volunteers. These teams will monitor sanitation practices and promote continued hygiene behavior change. Overall, the project is expected to **reduce open defecation, lower the risk of waterborne diseases, improve environmental sanitation, and indirectly benefit up to 10,000 people** through increased awareness, healthier practices, and strengthened community-led sanitation systems.

This project is expected to conclude in **July 2026**.

Additional Initiatives

Newsletter

In 2025 the Small Grants program launched a quarterly newsletter to strengthen communication and connection among Liberian non-profit organizations that have applied for funding. Over the course of the year, the newsletter was distributed to **190 organizations**. Two (2) editions were published, sharing **program announcements, application feedback, capacity-building opportunities, and project spotlights**. The newsletter serves as a key platform for **information sharing and peer connection**, contributing to increased engagement and a more connected community of Liberian civil society organizations.

[August 2025 Newsletter](#)

[November 2025 Newsletter](#)

[February 2026 Newsletter](#)

WhatsApp Community

We also established a WhatsApp Community to strengthen communication, peer learning, and connection among Liberian non-profit organizations engaged with the program. The community includes **52 members**. Throughout the year, the platform was used to share **timely announcements, grant progress, resources and discussion**. The WhatsApp Community provided an accessible, low-bandwidth space for real-time information sharing and mutual support, contributing to increased engagement and a stronger sense of connection among Liberian non-profit stakeholders.

Looking Ahead

2026 Training Series

Our 2026 Training Series is an exciting opportunity for Liberian non-profit stakeholders to build practical and relevant skills that directly strengthen their work and impact. Shaped by participants' own priorities and needs, the series equips organizations with hands-on tools to design, implement, monitor, and report on community-based projects in ways that are effective, accountable, and realistic for low-resource settings. The series goes beyond project skills to support long-term organizational strength, building confidence in leadership, improving core systems such as financial management and governance, and strengthening documentation and team practices. Through dynamic peer learning, mentorship, and collaboration, participants will connect with one another, share knowledge, and grow as leaders within their organizations and communities. Grounded in locally led, community-centered practice, the 2026 Training Series fosters a vibrant network of Liberian non-profit stakeholders committed to ethical, responsive, and lasting change.

Sessions include:

- Community-Led Project Design: From Needs to Solutions
- From Ideas to Action: Planning Projects for Results
- Showing Results: Tracking Progress and Impact
- Learning and Accountability: Translating Data into Insights
- Making Every Dollar Count: Financial Skills for Strong Non-Profits
- Growing Your Organization: Leadership, Visibility, and Impact

Strengthening Partnerships

In 2026 we are seeking to partner with other international non-profits and foundations working to further Liberia's development to unlock additional funding opportunities and shared resources. Through strategic collaboration, the Small Grants Committee will seek to co-fund community-led initiatives, align complementary expertise, and reduce duplication of efforts across the sector. These partnerships will enable us to support a greater number of locally driven projects, deepen technical assistance to grantees, and foster a more coordinated, sustainable approach to community development in Liberia.

How We Do It

The impact of Friends of Liberia’s Small Grants Program is only possible because of the generous support of our donors. These donations are used to fund non-profit organizations in Liberia to implement thoughtful, community-driven projects. FOL and the Small Grants Program are completely volunteer-run, so all donations are used to fund these projects. With each donation, we are not only funding individual projects—we are investing in the long-term capacity and self-reliance of Liberia’s local development ecosystem.

With increased support, we can expand the reach of our program to fund more promising projects, offer deeper resources and guidance to applicants, and build stronger networks among Liberian non-profits. Together, we can continue to foster sustainable, community-led development and empower Liberian changemakers to shape their own future and create a more sustainable self-reliant development ecosystem in Liberia.

Your Gift Helps Us:

- Fund more locally driven projects across Liberia
- Provide technical support and mentorship to grassroots organizations
- Strengthen networks of non-profits and change-makers in Liberia
- Build a more sustainable, self-reliant development ecosystem

Make a difference today.

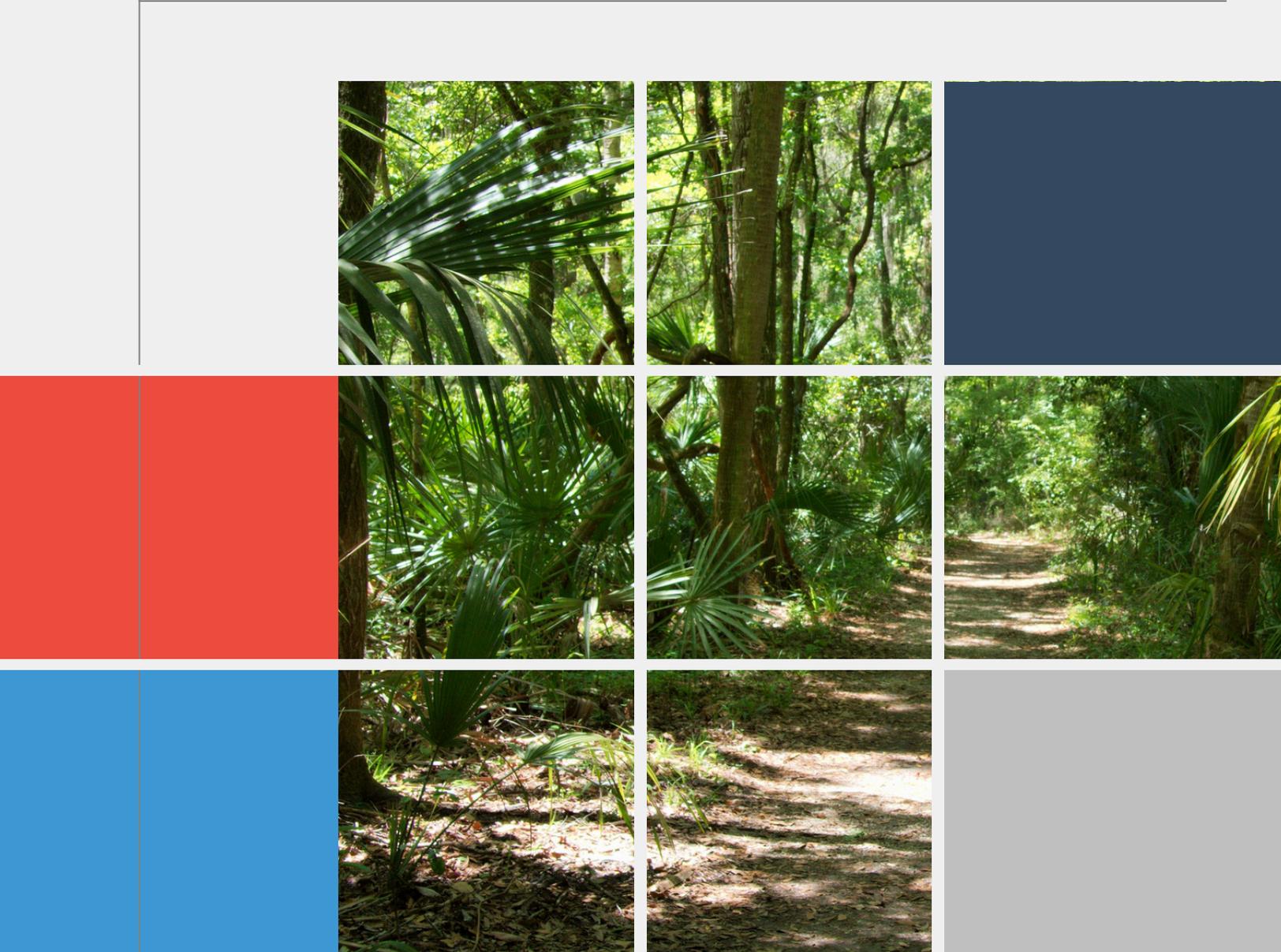


We also welcome volunteers to join the Small Grants Committee and contribute to our meaningful work reviewing grant applications, creating and sharing resources for applicants and awardees, and building a network of Liberian non-profit stakeholders.

Appendix 1: Evaluation Rubric

Topic	Definition	1	2	3	4	5
Need	“Need” refers to the project’s ability to respond to current and pressing needs of Liberians. Evaluators should utilize their knowledge of Liberia to judge this paired with the organization’s ability to highlight the needs for this project in the application materials.	The project shows a complete lack of understanding of local needs, and the application materials provide no evidence of consideration for the needs of local Liberians and the project’s target population.	The project’s understanding of local needs is limited, and the application materials do not adequately demonstrate efforts to assess and understand the needs of local Liberians and the project’s target population..	The project partially addresses local needs but lacks in-depth understanding of the specific context. The application materials show some efforts to identify needs but lack thorough engagement with stakeholders.	The project shows a good understanding of local needs, but there could be more comprehensive research and engagement with local communities and the project’s target population identified in the application materials.	The project demonstrates a deep understanding of the specific and current needs of Liberians, considering socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors. The application materials provide detailed evidence of consultations with local communities and stakeholders.
Reach	“Reach” refers to the project’s ability to respond to the needs of underserved communities in Liberia such as women, children, elderly, people with disabilities. Evaluators should consider the geographic location of the project for this rating (rural communities).	The project ignores the needs of underserved groups, and the application materials provide no evidence of planning to reach these communities, especially in rural areas.	The project’s consideration of underserved groups is minimal, and the application materials do not adequately address how these groups will be included, especially in rural areas.	The project mentions underserved groups but lacks a clear and comprehensive strategy for their inclusion. The application materials could provide more information on how these groups will be reached in rural communities.	The project acknowledges the importance of inclusivity and geographic diversity and provides strategies for reaching underserved communities, but there could be more specific and detailed plans outlined in the application materials.	The project demonstrates a comprehensive and intentional approach to targeting and addressing the needs of underserved communities in Liberia, including women, children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. The project demonstrates a well-adapted approach to meet the specific challenges of rural communities in Liberia. The application materials provide detailed strategies and methods for effectively reaching and engaging with these communities.
Organization’s track record	“Track record” refers to the history or known reputation of the organization implementing the project. This may be through word of mouth, contacting references, published reviews found online, previous recipient of FOL small grant, the inclusion of summaries, impact and/or data of previously implemented projects in the application and/or the evaluator’s opinion based on the application materials shared.	The organization lacks a track record of successful project implementations. No references, reviews, or summaries of previous projects in the application materials.	The organization’s track record is questionable in terms of consistency and reliability, with few references and unclear success history. Limited summaries of previous project impact and data in the application materials.	The organization has a decent track record, with mixed references and evidence of moderate success. Some summaries of previous projects’ impact and data are present in the application materials.	The organization has a strong track record, with positive references and some evidence of successful project implementations. Previous projects are mentioned with summaries of impact and data in the application materials. The organization has shown some adaptability and learning from previous experiences.	The organization has an outstanding track record of successfully implementing similar projects. Strong references and evidence of past successes support this reliability, with detailed summaries and data in the application materials. Application materials also highlight examples of how the organization improved projects based on feedback and data.
Budget	Question 13: The budget is a required element of the application materials. The evaluator must judge the budget based on clarity, organization, and accuracy, all in relation to the proposed project.	The budget is highly inaccurate, with numerous significant discrepancies in calculations or figures. The budget’s lack of accuracy raises serious doubts about its viability and alignment with the project. The budget is poorly organized and lacks a logical structure.	The budget’s accuracy is questionable, with several noticeable discrepancies in calculations or figures. These discrepancies raise concerns about the budget’s reliability and alignment with the project. The budget’s organization is subpar, with several sections lacking clear categorization or order. The budget lacks clarity in some areas, with several expenses or funding sources requiring better explanations.	The budget contains several inaccuracies or discrepancies in calculations or figures, which may slightly impact the overall alignment between the budget and the project. The budget is reasonably organized, though some sections may lack clear categorization or logical order. Minor improvements could enhance its overall coherence. The budget is generally clear, but some expenses or funding sources lack detailed explanations. Minor inconsistencies or ambiguities may be present, but they do not significantly hinder understanding.	The budget is mostly accurate, with some minor discrepancies in calculations. These discrepancies do not significantly affect the overall alignment between the budget and the project. The budget is well-organized, with expenses and funding sources arranged in a coherent manner. Some categories or line items could be better structured for improved clarity. Some line items may benefit from additional clarity or detail, but overall alignment with the project is evident.	The budget is clear, easy to understand and organized. All expenses and funding sources are transparently presented, with detailed explanations for each line item. Categories are clearly defined, and comprehensible. The budget aligns with the project’s scope and goals. The budget is meticulously accurate, with all calculations and figures precisely reflecting the proposed project’s needs.

Sustainability	<p>“Sustainability” refers to the ability of the project and the project’s impact to be maintained after implementation and without funding from Friends of Liberia.</p>	<p>The project lacks a clear plan for sustainability, and there are no evident strategies for sustaining activities and impact without ongoing funding from Friends of Liberia. The project does not prioritize capacity building or institutional strengthening, and there are no evident strategies for ensuring that local stakeholders can continue project activities after funding ends. There are no strategies in place for fostering community ownership or continued engagement in the project’s sustainability.</p>	<p>The project’s plan for sustainability is limited in scope and lacks clear strategies for maintaining activities and impact. The plan is vague or insufficiently developed. The project’s community engagement is limited, and there is a lack of clear strategies for fostering community ownership and maintaining engagement after the project’s completion. The project’s focus on capacity building and institutional strengthening is limited.</p>	<p>The project’s plan for sustainability is present, but it lacks comprehensive strategies for maintaining activities and impact without external funding. The project plan lacks comprehensive strategies for ensuring that local stakeholders are adequately equipped to continue project activities. The project involves communities to some degree but lacks comprehensive strategies for ensuring sustained community ownership and engagement beyond the project’s duration.</p>	<p>The project has a plan for sustainability, but some aspects may need further elaboration or detail. The project includes efforts to build local capacity and strengthen institutions, though there may be room for more specific details in the plan. The application materials show a commitment to transferring skills and resources. Community ownership is evident to a certain extent, and there are indications of mechanisms for ongoing engagement.</p>	<p>The project demonstrates a comprehensive and well-defined plan for sustainability. The project prioritizes building local capacity and strengthening institutions to manage and continue project activities after funding ends. A detailed plan outlines how skills and resources will be transferred to local stakeholders. The project actively involves local communities in project design, implementation, and decision-making. Communities demonstrate a strong sense of ownership and commitment to the project’s sustainability, and mechanisms for continued engagement are outlined.</p>
Impact	<p>“Impact” refers to the outcome of the project’s implementation on the intended and unintended, direct and indirect beneficiaries of the intervention. Evaluators must judge the anticipated impact of the project as it is described in the application materials.</p>	<p>The project’s impact goals are unclear and vague, and the application materials do not provide any coherent description of the anticipated outcomes. The project’s impact goals lack any mention of a measurement and evaluation plan, and the application materials do not address how impact will be assessed.</p>	<p>The project’s impact goals lack clarity and specificity, making it difficult to fully understand the intended outcomes from the application materials. The project’s impact goals lack a clear measurement and evaluation plan, and the application materials do not provide sufficient information on how impact will be assessed.</p>	<p>The project’s impact goals are generally clear, but there might be some lack of specificity or detail in the application materials, which could lead to potential ambiguity. The project’s impact goals have a basic measurement and evaluation plan, with some indicators and methods mentioned in the application materials, though further elaboration is needed.</p>	<p>The project’s impact goals are clear and well-described, though there might be minor areas where additional specificity or detail could enhance understanding. The project’s impact goals are supported by a measurement and evaluation plan, though there might be room for further detail or clarity in the application materials.</p>	<p>The project’s impact goals are exceptionally clear, specific, and well-defined in the application materials. The anticipated outcomes are detailed, realistic, and aligned with the project’s objectives. The project’s impact goals are accompanied by a comprehensive measurement and evaluation plan, outlining indicators, data collection methods, and tools. The application materials show a robust strategy for assessing impact.</p>
Overall	<p>The overall rating of the project is a summative rating determined by the evaluator that will be used to compare all projects, generally. Note: in addition to this a summative rating will be calculated based on the ratings for each category.</p>	<p>The project lacks fundamental elements, such as clear goals, planning, and alignment with beneficiaries’ needs. The project has critical gaps, inaccuracies, or inconsistencies that undermine its feasibility, impact, and sustainability. The project’s chances of success are extremely low, and it is unlikely to achieve meaningful outcomes.</p>	<p>The project has some elements in place, but there are substantial gaps in planning, alignment, or feasibility. There are notable deficiencies that could hinder the project’s effectiveness or sustainability. The project’s potential for positive impact is limited due to unresolved issues.</p>	<p>The project generally meets basic requirements, with goals, planning, and alignment present, though improvements are needed. The project demonstrates some positive aspects but lacks substantial innovation or comprehensive strategies. The project could achieve reasonable outcomes but may not excel due to limited innovation or strategic depth.</p>	<p>The project exhibits clear goals, planning, and alignment, with few significant gaps or inconsistencies. The project has solid elements, with innovative approaches or well-developed strategies. The project is likely to achieve meaningful impact, with clear pathways for success and sustainability.</p>	<p>The project excels in all aspects, with clear, specific, and innovative goals, comprehensive planning, and perfect alignment with beneficiaries’ needs. The project showcases remarkable innovation, comprehensive strategies, and a well-defined path to success. The project is poised for significant and sustainable impact, with exceptional strategies and alignment with goals.</p>



Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the donors, volunteers, and partners who make the Friends of Liberia Small Grants Program possible. Your belief in locally led change and your continued support allow us to empower grassroots leaders who are building a stronger, more resilient Liberia. Together, we are planting the seeds for long-term impact one project, one community at a time.

 smallgrants@fol.org

 <https://fol.org/programs/small-grants/>