



OVERVIEW OF Liberia

Overview of Liberia



YEAR OF
1847

INDEPENDENCE

POPULATION
4,092,310
MILLION

80%
Population
BELOW
poverty line

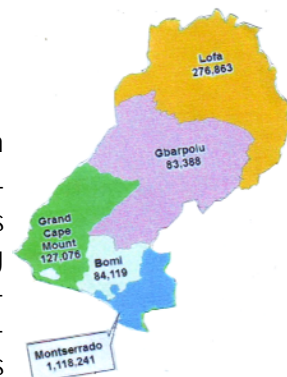
Languages English is the official language spoken in Liberia. 'Liberian English' or the local pidgin is spoken by almost every Liberian. Liberia comprises of some 20 ethnic language groups. Sixteen of these languages are spoken in various counties. Kpelle, Bassa, Gio, Kru, Mano and Lorma are ethnic languages predominantly spoken.

Under-five Mortality Rate: 75 per 1,000 live births. Liberia ranks 32 in the world.

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2013: 0.412 (ranked 175 out of 187, indicating low human development).

Brief History of ChildFund in Liberia

ChildFund began its work in Liberia in 2003, and since then has focused on community rehabilitation and reintegration of war affected women and children, and returning internally displaced persons and refugees. With its programs in about 300 communities in 6 counties at the time, ChildFund Liberia is reaching 614,783 people, of which 260,650 are children. ChildFund Liberia's efforts to address the root causes of child poverty are based on a deep organizational understanding of the operational and cultural context in Liberia. The impact of its work over the last 11 years is visible. It has good standing and reputation with donors, and recognized competency in addressing child vulnerability.



Brief Program Overview



Interim Child Care Center for Ebola Response



Hand washing to prevent Ebola



The Queen of the ECD Center

ChildFund began its operations in Liberia in 2003. ChildFund Liberia provides child development services in the areas of child protection, early childhood development, malaria prevention and control for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under age five, maternal child health, support to primary schools in rural communities, and training of teachers, school administration and management. ChildFund in Liberia currently reaches over 300,000 participants in six counties: Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Cape Mount, Lofa, and Montserrado. ChildFund currently has 58 staff; 16 operational staff and 42 program staff.

In FY14, ChildFund Liberia and ChildFund Sierra Leone formally integrated into one consolidated management with the Liberia Office becoming a program office. This has widened the scope of operations between the two countries. It was also ChildFund first case of integrating two national offices in the ChildFund West and Central Africa Region, to implement an alternative presence.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, ChildFund Liberia experienced a transition in reorganizing and restructuring its programming in order to foster the work of ChildFund. At that time, the NO vigorously reengaged partners in networking and partnering with government agencies, UN agencies, other local and international NGOs and community groups by increasing ChildFund's visibility and profile in Liberia.

The NO reviewed and strengthened every aspect of the organization: program issues, procurement, fuel management, financial practices and procedures, and staff retention for optimal performance in the delivery of projects.

In order to fortify its programming in the country and raise its visibility and profile, ChildFund shared its reorganization and efficiency measures (the strengthening of ChildFund Liberia's organizational practices and procedures) with the National Advisory Board members who are representatives in key government ministries and agencies.

Further, ChildFund managed a series of projects during FY14, including:

- The Global Fund Round 10 for the prevention and control of Malaria in Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount and Lofa Counties;
- The Lofa Educational project - to strengthen the management and administration of primary schools;
- The pilot phase of Shine A Light in Klay, Bomi County;
- Livelihood supports to youth and youth adults;
- Gift-in-Kind donations; and
- The rehabilitation of juveniles in contact and conflict with the law.

2014 Program Achievements



A young Liberian child



*Anne Goddard's
visit to an ECD Center*



*Children at PARLER ses-
sion*

Healthy and Secure Infants

ChildFund successfully completed phase one of the Global Fund Round 10 for Malaria prevention and control. We trained and mentored 675 community health workers, i.e., general community health volunteers (gCHVs) and Trained Traditional Midwives (TTM) in the area of community health mobilization and sensitization, and interpersonal communication on malaria prevention and control.

ChildFund, along with members of the legislative caucus for each operational county, created awareness exercises and meetings on malaria prevention and control. Serving as influential figures in their counties, members of the Caucus added a very significant support to the awareness exercise. Also, ChildFund coordinated the distribution of over 200,000 mosquito nets to pregnant women and lactating mothers as well as children under five.

Educated and Confident children

ChildFund conducted in-service training for teachers in 12 schools in the Zorzor district, Lofa County. The in-service training upgraded teachers' skills and improved the learning environment for 2,500 children from grades 1 to 3. Further, ChildFund organized training for 83 teachers who participated in a cluster-based arrangement.

Key topics included child protection and development, pedagogy, school-related gender-based violence, Early Grade Math Assessment and Early Grade Reading Assessment, among others. Through the District Education Office in Zorzor, three facilitators from the Zorzor Rural Teacher Training Institute supported ChildFund teacher trainers in the teachers' training sessions. ChildFund Liberia used the Liberia Teacher Training Program curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education.

ChildFund held a consultative meeting with 10 traditional leaders to support actions that promote girls education and to halt the wave of initiating children into traditional practices for the purpose of female cutting. This practice is commonly carried out during the vacation period. Representatives from local government, the Ministry of Education, Gender and Development, and Internal Affairs, facilitated the meeting.

ChildFund successfully piloted the Shine-A-Light project in Klay, Bomi County. The project identified and trained 20 local support staff: 8 mentors, 8 teachers and 4 members of the Parents Teacher Association who currently work with 200 students, 100 boys and 100 girls in Klay Town and the Sime Darby Concession area. The Project established age appropriate clubs for female and male students. The females named their club United Girls for Progress (UGFP) while the males named their club Future Leaders.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)



Youth Livelihoods



Meeting with community leaders



Anne Goddard with students of the Felecia Mission School

The project enabled participating students to engage in intellectual debates on gender-related issues, conflict resolution in schools and communities, and other life skills activities.

Skilled and Involved Youth and Young Adults

ChildFund provided a \$500USD loan to 11 women to run a profitable and a sustainable small business which provided income to meet the basic needs of their families. The women successfully repaid their loan on three installments at 15% interest rate on a regular and agreed interval stipulated in the loan agreement.

Three of the loan recipients engaged in petty trade while the remaining eight women are operating a 'pull fund loan' where they use their loan jointly under the leadership of the Gbonkuma Women's Association to buy 50 kilogram paddy bags of rice from small farm holders at the cost of \$20USD, and the Gbonkuma Women's Association in turn sells to WFP at the cost of \$23USD. The \$3.00USD profit allows the women to repay their loans and make it revolving for others.

Gift-in- Kind Donations: TOMS Shoes

On September 9, 2013, "TOMS Family" visited ChildFund Liberia and toured some field locations in Montserrado County where TOMS Shoes are being distributed to boys and girls, ages 2–17 years. The parents of Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS Shoes, Mr. Mark Mycoskie and Mrs. Pam Mycoskie were taken through a summary presentation of policy and procedures in requesting and distributing TOMS Shoes at ChildFund's Office in Liberia.

The Mycoskies took part in the distribution of 960 pairs of TOM Shoes donated to the N.V. Massaquoi Public School located in West Point, with a school population of over 800 students. Mrs. Mycoskie was excited by children receiving the shoes, "You like the shoes, give me a five?" Mrs. Mycoskies asked a girl while fitting her with shoes.

West Point is a slum community and home to approximately 75,000 people. It is one of Monrovia's most densely populated neighborhoods, and environmental degradation has gradually caused part of the settlement to erode into the ocean. Endemic problems include overpopulation and diseases such as tuberculosis.

TOMS Giving and ChildFund's operation in the country are in link with ChildFund's strategic directions, and supportive to its Core Programs (health, education, youth, child protection/ Early Childhood Development). Since 2011, our partnership with TOMS Giving has increased ChildFund's visibility in the country: government line ministries, county authorities. Further, community members, including women and children, have embraced the work ChildFund is doing in their communities.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)



Gifts-in-Kind distribution



Students with textbook donation



*Ebola Liberia Airlift of
15,000 lbs. of emergency
medical supplies*

TOMS Giving donated three consignments or shipments as follows:

- 35,125 pairs of various sizes of TOMS Shoes benefiting 35,125 young people (17,332 female, 17,793 male), ages 2-17 years.
- 19,668 pairs in various sizes of Tiny Canvas, Youth canvas, Women & Men canvas benefiting 19,668 young people, ages 2-17 years.
- 87,570 pairs in various sizes benefiting 87,570 young people (44,873 female, 42,697 male), ages 2-17 years.

ChildFund Liberia Gifts-In-Kind Program reached out and contributed to the attainment of its core program areas: (a) Care and Development of Infants and Young children; (b) Quality Learning Opportunities and Enhancing Achievements in Basic Education; and (c) Leadership and Livelihood Skills for youth in both developmental and emergency environments.

Juvenile Rehabilitation

The ChildFund Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has reunified over 118 children with their families, since its establishment in 2009. The Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, before its closure, provided legal representation, psychosocial support, life skills activities, family tracing and reunification for children who came in contact and in conflict with the law as well as other social issues affecting children – only male children were referred to the center while female children were referred to THINK, Inc.

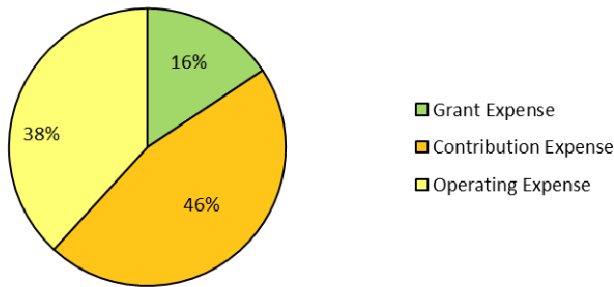
In FY14, the center successfully traced and reunified 20 children with their families. Among the children reunified were Amoson, 11 and Joe, 13. Both lived at the center for 3 years and 6 months.

Amoson was rejected by his parents on grounds that he was involved in the practice of witchcraft. After 3 years and 6 months of care and support to Amoson at the center, followed by supportive counseling along with his family and the community where his parents live. His parents and the community dwellers finally agreed to accept him back home (in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County).

Joe, too, was reunified with his parents in Division 11, Varney Camp, Harbel, Margibi County. ChildFund staff members, along with seconded staff of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, traced the parents of Joe and reunified him with his parents.

Financial Report

**Liberia Total FY14 Expenses:
\$2,551,364**



Liberia FY14

Grant Expense	399,461	16%
Contribution Expense	1,177,557	46%
Operating Expense	974,346	38%
Total Expense	2,551,364	100%

ChildFund Alliance: Contributions: During FY13, ChildFund Liberia received \$880 in contributions for its projects and programs from ChildFund Deutschland.

Free From Violence Campaign

ChildFund Liberia participated in the formulation of the Free Charter by children participating in ChildFund programs (Free Charters: Children's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda). This effort was organized by ChildFund Alliance in order to put forth the views of Children for the post-2015 development agenda.

ChildFund Liberia conducted a consultation session with 40 children (17 boys and 23 girls) between the ages of 10–16 years, on the post-2015 priorities for world leaders to put forward during their discussions about the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The children had group sessions to discuss which priorities should remain the same or be added. They believe that priority 1 *"There should be plenty of food for everyone to have enough"* should remain the same as well as priority 7 *"People take care of the environment: jungles and forests, oceans and rivers, etc."*

The children also want world leaders to add the *'Provision of job opportunities for parents to help support their families'* as a priority in the SDGs.

"I know my parents are taking good care of me. What about other children out there? I see and hear bad news about children all the time on the television and radio. I sometimes wonder if world leaders know about them," – a female age 12 explained during the consultation.



At the end of the consultation, the Children elected two representatives who wrote the Free Charter for the children of Liberia.

Challenges

As one of three grant-funded countries, ChildFund Liberia was stretched in terms of project implementation. As a result, limited resources and staff transitions led the office to make several adjustments, including consolidating office space while still maintaining its presence and programming in Gbarpolu, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount. Most grants had a very short duration, totaling less than \$400,000.00 USD.

The National Office and its National Advisory Board members continue to bolster ChildFund's reputation and thought leadership in Liberia. Since 2003, ChildFund has been one of the leading child protection agencies in the country, implementing many successful projects which bring hope to war-affected women and children.