



KEEP
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017

 Paynesville, Liberia
 www.keeplib.org
 www.keepliberia.com
 0777510731/0886510731

Education, Our Future



BRENDA BREWER MOORE
Founder & Executive Director

2017! WHAT A YEAR

I am pleased to report that 2017 was a successful year. Despite attending challenges, KEEP met its targets, accomplished its goals for the year, and with the growing number of assistance and support of so many amazing people, surpassed the objectives set out for 2017.

One of KEEP's core objectives is promoting a culture of reading in Liberia. In support of this valued objective, we continue to establish reading spaces for children as well as conduct regular reading activities during our weekly "reading hours".

In 2017, we established two reading rooms. We are particularly proud of these two. The first room, constructed and opened in Grand Gedeh County, is only the second of such facilities to be made available to teachers and students across the entire county.

The second room was established at the Love A Child Orphanage. The Orphanage runs a community school which caters to more than 200 students. These students, and their teachers, now have a conducive space, during and after regular classes, to read, learn and do home works.

2017 also witnessed the construction and opening of the first fully functional Community Learning Resource Center in Bopolu District, Gbarpolu County. The Resource Center now provides free

computer literacy training, vocational training, and a reading space for up to 50 students at a time.

Again, knowing the invaluable roles of teachers in the learning processes of students, in 2017, KEEP conducted its Second Annual Teachers' Training in Reading Strategies. The training brought together 22 teachers, some from as far as Grand Gedeh County.

And because play is an integral part of learning, in 2017, we also established a "play space" at the Selma Ballah Public school located in Sappema, Gbarpolu, after first surprising the students and authorities of the school, with a much-needed face-lift and renovation while the school was closed and teachers and students were away on vacation. KEEP was proud that the students and teachers returned to an improved learning space upon the reopening of schools in September.

In 2017, KEEP scaled up its life-skills training program for women and girls. The program which had initially included baking and sewing was expanded to include Tye and Dye. 105 women and girls participated in the life-skills training program during the course of the year.

All of these, and much more which you will find outlined in our report, we were proud to achieve with your support. As always, our commitment remains to do even more in 2018.

As already indicated, KEEP could not have done this without the assistance and support of its many amazing friends, partners and sponsors. We are pleased to make special mention of and thank the following individuals and institutions for their outstanding contributions:

Royal Grand Hotel, National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), the Japanese Government, Body Zone fitness Gym, ActionAid Liberia, OSIWA, Mrs. Rhonda von Balmoos, Ms. Sophie Kayemba

2017 was quite a year. But it is now behind us. As much as we are proud of what we achieved together, we know we can do even more in 2018. We aim to reach many more - to empower through education. Together, we will do it.

Thank
you

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Kids' Educational Engagement Project (KEEP) is a local non-profit organization that operates in Liberia. Our focus is to provide educational support to children in various communities across the country. Currently we work in the three counties of Montserrado, Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu.

ABOUT US

Vision

Our vision is the upliftment of Liberian children through educational empowerment regardless of social status and geographic location.

Mission

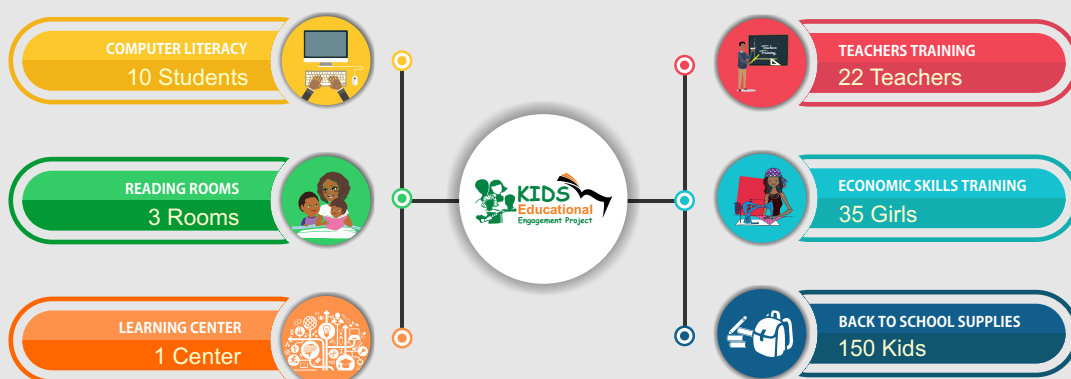
To provide various resources that would enable a better life especially through increased access to improved education and educational facilities which are community-owned, managed and sustained. KEEP seeks to promote social justice and wholesome educational development of vulnerable children and youth by strengthening their educational capacities, exposing the needy to economic life-skills, and community engagements including with parents, students, teachers, community leaders, structures and other partners.

Core Values

KEEP subscribes to the following core values:

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Creativity
- Hard work
- Teamwork
- Respect for Diversity
- Commitment to quality in delivery
- Commitment to continuous learning

KEEP 2017 CORE PROJECTS



TEACHERS TRAINING

The quality and skills of teachers in public schools in Liberia have often been called into question. In 2016, the Ministry of Education embarked upon an exercise to evaluate teachers all across the country.

The result was unimpressive and the Education Sector report of 2016 of 2016 notes that 50% of the teacher workforce has the minimum qualification required to teach at the grade they are teaching.

A majority of teachers have found themselves in the classroom teaching more in response to a need to fill increasing gaps in students to teachers ratio, a temporary stop enroute to another professional calling, or just for temporary economic survival. Most of these "teachers" have not had formal teachers' trainings. In August 2017, KEEP conducted its Second Teachers Training which lasted for 2 days. The training brought together teachers from the 3 counties in which we are currently employed namely, Montserrado, Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh.



KEEP also partnered with the Association of Liberian Literacy Educators to conduct the training. 22 teachers from five schools attended and participated. The training covered topics in phonemic awareness; how to get students to do Self-Selective Reading (SSR); using simple everyday materials to create demonstrative learning tools to not only get the kids to learn, but also pique their interests in reading; and "reading with expression" techniques that teachers could employ when reading to and with students. The lead facilitator of the workshop was Ms. Lyn Gray, the current Country Director of Liberia Reads!



Ms. Gray previously worked in Liberia in the 1970s as a Peace Corps volunteer. She returned in 2003, and has been working in various capacities in the educational sector. One of the teachers from Grand Gedeh who teaches at the Gborbo Elementary Public School, Mr. Jladee Cole indicated that he found the training quite useful and was returning with renewed vigor to teach. He said that the skills he learned, could be applied to even higher grade levels as reading presented a challenge for many students including at higher levels.

For 2018, KEEP intends to conduct the trainings on a quarterly basis to more closely monitor impacts applications, and learning outcomes.



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KEEP Establishes Reading Room in Grand Gedeh-

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The Gbokolen Community, in Cavalla District, Grand Gedeh county was a scene of excitement and joy on May 14, 2017. It was the date for the dedication of KEEP's third Reading Room.

Making remarks at the program, County Education Officer, Harrison Darwolo thanked KEEP and its team for the Reading Room and said that education is the

backbone to any developing nation. He commended KEEP for its efforts and noted that it takes an organization with a special heart to do what we continue to do across Liberia, and continues to do for economically-depressed communities and needy public schools.

Located in rural Liberia, about 12 hours drive away from Monrovia, Gboloken Elementary School caters to more than 300 students in the community where it is located. The school covers kindergarten to Grade Six.

KEEP's Reading Room is the second of its kind in Grand Gedeh County, with the first, located in Zwedru, constructed in 2000, by the American Embassy. The project was valued at U\$9,000.



Establishment of Reading Room at Love A Child Orphanage

August 24 is Flag Day in Liberia. The historic occasion is celebrated with pomp and pageantry. Students all across the country are assembled to participate in a parade and other programs to memorialize the day.

For 2017, KEEP celebrated the Liberian Flag with an added flavor. After several months of construction and preparation, KEEP dedicated its Fourth Reading Room.

The Room was opened at the Love A Child Orphanage located in Montserrado county. The orphanage also runs a community school. According to the 2016 Roster of the school, it caters to 250 students.

The Orphanage is no stranger to KEEP. Currently, and since 2014, we have continued to run a Girls'

Forum in which KEEP assists, trains and supports girls in building skills in sewing, baking and public speaking.

The Orphanage is also amongst the first locations to receive educational packets from KEEP during the height of the Ebola outbreak intended to help keep the children academically engaged while the doors of their schools were closed for health measures.

The Fourth Reading Room Project was valued at U\$3500



KEEP's First Learning Resource Center

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With funding from the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) through its partner GS-NOPEC Geophysical Company ASA (TGSN), KEEP constructed a Five-room Community Learning Resource Center on the outskirts of Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County. The LRC contains a mini library, a computer laboratory which has 10 computers, a vocational skills training room, an office and space for a one stop-shop for secretarial, copier, printing and desktop publishing services.

The center is currently the only of such facilities in the county and caters to more than 1500 inhabitants which includes students, parents and teachers, who all have access the facility at different time. Present at the formal dedication of the center were the Paramount Chief of the District, the County Education Officer, and the Superintendent. The center is one hundred percent powered by clean solar energy and is valued at U\$51,360.



Economic Life-Skills Training

6 Tye & Dye

KEEP continued and expanded its economic vocational skills training programs in 2017 and added Tye and Dye Training to its existing life-skills of sewing, baking and soap making programs.



During the course of the year, a total of 105 young women participated and we're trained across our three counties of operations.

The trainings have not only provided skills to women in rural areas but also given them the opportunity to start income generating activities.

Meet Sianeh Dardue, one of the beneficiaries of the first cycle of KEEP's first Tye and Dye Training. Sianeh is a

mother of five who lives in the Bopolu District, Gbarpolu county and earns a livelihood as a subsistence farmer. She does not have any formal education and has been looking for means to both enhance her skills, and a way to provide needed additional income to her family ensuring her children can have a better life than she has had. She heard of a skills training program that would be taking place near her community few months ago in sewing and tye-dye and immediately signed up for it.

This is not just the story of Sianeh. It is the tale of many women in rural communities. And so, the life-skills training program continues to be deeply welcomed and embraced as a lifeline to help pull them from the



cycle of poverty in which many are inescapably trapped. With little or no formal skills training, limited or no education, these women are often resigned to survive on whatever their meager farms are able to produce during the harvest season. Often times, it is never enough.

Baking



95 girls were trained in baking in Montserrado and Grand Gedeh counties from five communities. With the support of partner sponsors like

the ULOK who provided ovens, and ActionAid Liberia, KEEP was able to not only provide the training materials at no cost to the girls but also start up kits for them to have a revolving fund for their various clubs which helps them purchase new materials to practice as well as support others in the club who need educational supplies to remain in school.



Ms. Yatta Hoff, a mother of four, has graciously volunteered her time to teaching the girls how to bake. She expressed how excited she is to be imparting knowledge to the girls and indicated that baking is a passion of hers. She has used it as a source of income

for many years. She praised the enthusiasm shown by the girls during the training sessions, and said that it has motivated her to continue to volunteer to train them.

Partnerships

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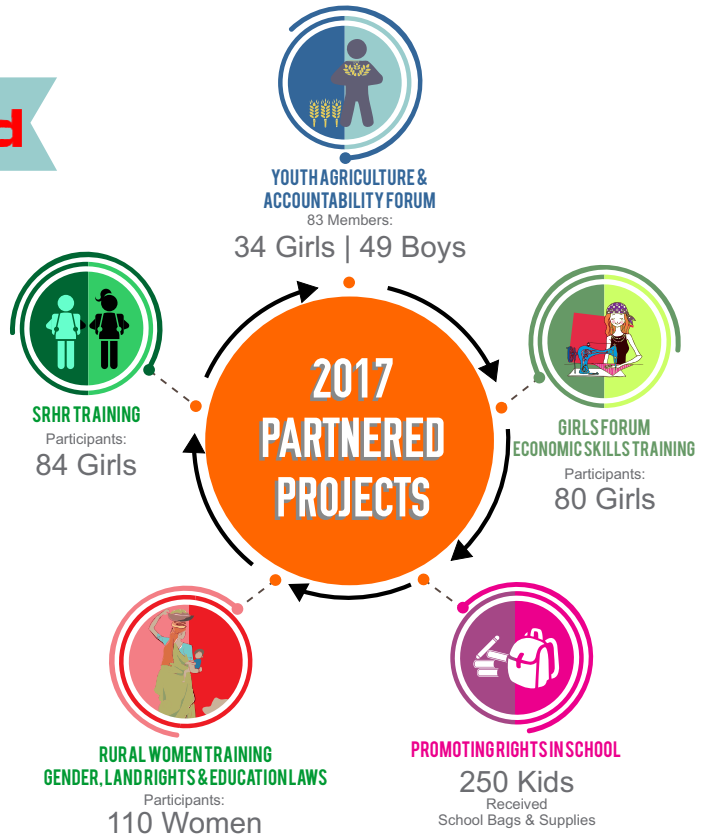


actionaid

ActionAid Liberia (AAL) and KEEP renewed their Partnership Agreement for 2017. It is focused on the implementation of several rural communities based projects. Currently, we implement for AAL in 27 communities in Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu counties.

A few of the activities completed under this partnership included the Promotion of Rights in Schools (PRS), Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Awareness, Support to Rural Women Forums, as well as the establishment and support to Youth Accountability Forums which also involves supporting small garden agriculture projects with the provision of tools, seeds and fertilizers.

As part of the partnership, AAL provides staff capacity development trainings in the areas of financial reporting, systems and control, and report writing.



Japanese Government



In furtherance of its goal to provide reading spaces, computer literacy and life-skills training for underserved communities, KEEP obtained a grant from the Japanese Government for the construction of a Second Community Learning Resource Center.

Upon completion, the Center will provide a reading space to more than 500 students in the Bopolu District as well as vocational and life-skills training.

KEEP Celebrates Day of Girl Child

KEEP celebrated the International Day for the Girl Child on October 18 at the Love A Child Orphanage Home, in the VOA Community, in Monrovia. The 2017 Celebration was under the theme: “The Power of the Adolescent Girl – Vision 2030”.



The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment as well as the fulfillment of their human rights. 60 female students from both the June Moore Public school and the Love A Child Orphanage, and 10 teachers attended the program. Activities of the celebration included drama, selections, speeches and refreshment. The celebration was concluded by the distribution of hygiene kits to the students.

Gender Strategic Social Accountability in Education

In August 2017, KEEP and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) signed a One-year Partnership Agreement for a project titled “Gender Strategic Social Accountability in Education”. The project is based in the three counties of

Keep's current operations, Grand Gedeh, Gbarpolu and Montserrado, and covers 12 communities.

Under this project, KEEP and its partner are seeking to advance positive change in the improvement of



service delivery to, and participation of women as marginalized groups who are, as yet, disproportionately affected by deficiencies in primary service delivery. This is especially and particularly true of service delivery in education at the community level.

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This accountability and advocacy project utilizes women as school monitors as well as agents of change. As part of promoting an accountable and opened society, this project is training duty-bearers in a deeper understanding of their responsibilities to their



communities. It is also training right-holders on ways of engaging the duty-bearers and leadership structures at the community, district and county levels to improve systems of delivery and accountability.

The central activity for the project revolves around the women monitors, and to date, KEEP has trained 90 of the expected 150 women who are part of the Women Action Group (WAG). The WAG does regular monitoring of the public schools in their communities. KEEP has also established 12 Integrity Clubs which has 162 members across the three counties.

Those providing educational services (duty-bearers) who have completed the training include six District Education Officers, 12 Principals, 12 Vice Principals, and 12 Registrars.

The overall goal of all these activities is to improve learning outcomes for students. Women were particularly targeted to carry out the monitoring function of this project because they are normally marginalized and left out of decision making processes, even those that relate to the welfare of their children.





Educational Supplies, Tuition Support and Play Space

Keeping with its core annual programs, KEEP distributed school supplies in August 2017 to more than 150 students in Gbarpolu County. The school supplies were donated to children in underserved communities in three communities in the Bopolu District. The supplies included book bags, pencils, sharpeners, notebooks, etc.

In 2017, as it has endeavored to do since 2014, KEEP continued its support to three dynamic young girls,

through the Destined Kids Assistance Program (DEKAP). KEEP is excited to report that Victoria, visually impaired, has been promoted to the 10th Grade, whilst Leah Holder and Helena King have been promoted to 4th and 5th Grades, respectively. Both of them lost their parents to Ebola during the 2014 Ebola outbreak. KEEP has been supporting them with tuition, educational supplies and sustenance support for their

education and wellbeing.



Figure Victoria is visually Impaired

KEEP Holds Second Annual Fundraiser and Other fundraising activities

KEEP realizes that diversification of funding stream is essential for sustainability of the organization, and as part of strategies to raise funds to support its core programs, once again organized its Second Annual Fundraising Event at the Monrovia City Hall. The event was well attended, and Mrs. Monique Cooper Liverpool, President of the Rotary Club of Monrovia, served as the Keynote Speaker.

Ms. Liverpool noted that "KEEP has brought light and joy through these reading rooms to places in dire need, such as hard-to-reach Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh Counties, and at the Love A Child Orphanage, in Montserrado County.

Also present at the event was the Hon. Felecia Doe-Somah, Assistant Minister of Education who served as

the Chief Fundraiser. She encouraged those present to support the work of KEEP as what they do is important to the overall goal of ensuring children across Liberia have access to quality education. She commended the work KEEP is doing both in Montserrado and rural Liberia. The event raised U\$17,000 in ticket and pledges. Also, on December 10, 2017, the Royal Grand Hotel supported KEEP's fundraising efforts by hosting another EAT4KEEP where 50% of all their food and drink sales on the day was donated to KEEP. We are excited and pleased to announce that we raised \$2,424.



Our continuous appreciation goes to the Royal Grand Hotel for really good corporate social responsibility programs that gives back to the community and supports a diverse number of charity initiatives.

Other activities implemented in 2017

Selma Ballah school renovation

Creation of a play space for kids

Our Challenges

Bad roads – the deplorable road conditions, especially during the rainy season, continued to pose a great challenge for work in Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh Counties. In situations requiring rapid response, it became difficult to access the field locations where we work.

Access to communication is a major challenge impeding our work in the rural counties. Telephone network service is usually down and the internet service is highly unreliable. This has caused delays in the implementation of planned activities as it becomes difficult to reach the target beneficiaries, and consequently, delays in reporting.

Finally, there is the usual strain on resources and limited organizational funding to effectively implement our strategic plan, and recruit additional staff with increased competence, experience and training.



Our Plans for 2018

In 2018, we intend to improve upon what we have built, strengthen our current partnerships and create new partnerships for the achievement of our goals. Some of our already planned initiatives include:

- 1 Scale-up our work in two new counties of Rivercess and Margibi through the establishment of Reading Rooms and at least one Resource Center.;
- 2 Conduct four teachers' trainings on reading strategies;
- 3 Train at least 50 women and girls;
- 4 Establish Reading Clubs in our partnership schools;
- 5 Expand the reading sessions;
- 6 Commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child and the Day of the African Child with befitting awareness programs;
- 7 Distribute supplies to more schools especially in under served communities;
- 8 Organize a vacation school program for students from public schools;
- 9 Complete the construction of the Small Bong Mines School in Bopolu district, Gbarpolu County

Sponsors, Donors and Partners

KEEP would not have been able to accomplish what it did in 2017 without the collective support of so many people, from all over the world. We extend thanks and appreciation to companies, individuals and organizations that donated to our work in cash, kind or by volunteering their time.

Companies & Organizations			
Fawaz Building Material	Royal Grand Hotel	Union of Liberian Organisations in the United Kingdom (ULO-UK)	Monrovia Health & Wellness Gym
Monrovia Community Mass Choir (MCMC)	City Builders Liberia	Cookshop Biz	Netlib Vocational training Institute (NVTI)
Special Thanks to the PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) family for both their monetary & volunteering support to KEEP			
Sophie Kayemba	Prince Taylor	David Mensah	Robert Smallwood
Marius Kojo Bah	Arabella Reed	Edward Gomado	Taweh Veikai
Diamond Sulonteh	Abdullah Kiadii	Courage Hodkins	Aloysius Blamoh
Zoe Omodelle	David Mensah	Moyin Afolayan	Ugochukwu Nnabuike
Temidayo Akinsere	Ayooluwa Adewumi	Jonathan Allotey Pappoe	Hilda Mahama
Roland Baah			
Volunteers			
Deddeh E. P. Supuwood	Chantal Doe	Angeline Brown	Lyn Gray
Monique Cooper Liverpool	Victoria Cooper Enchia	Sophie Kayemba	Venessa Kamara
Marius Kodjo Bah	Mae Azango	Forte Daniel	Korto Reeves Williams

In Kind Donations From Individuals And Organizations			
European Union (Eu)	Courtney Renken	Lulu Smith	Masah Sobboh
Arabella Reed	Pierre Cote	Jo –Anne Butty	George Wilson
	Reuben B. Horton	Dunia Gibson	Emzuma Koweh
Demelza Honeyborne	Wilfred Passawe	Cecelia Banto	Zianeh Kemeh Gama
Lawrina Paye	Onikie Bowen	Enrest Booth	Tenneh Farcarthy
	Jessical Fleming Crawford	Isaac Elliott	K. McClain
Jasonri Morris –Mctier	Joshua Browne	Junda Morris –Kennedy	Salekri Sayeh
Lysandra Martin	Tanya Mosley	Yassah Goba Washington	Vaanii Baker
Bushin Knuckles	Ellington Brooks	Wedlocs Wedlocs	Harry Ross
Alvina Smith Smythe	Ugo Nwoko	Ms. Piggy	Tereziana Foray Wright
Kanagasabia Udhayashankar	Massa Taylor	Emmett Watson	Sheikh Dukuly
Jamesetta Diggs	Theodora Brooks	Brenda El Koussa	Sebastian Muah
Dee Kennedy	Yuade Moore	Matu Saye	Julie Lewis
Alyce Anderson	Precious Taylor	Erika Urey	Solomon Vincent
Francis Kiazolu	Cousin Nyema	Karen Nyekoleh Mygil	Wil Freeman
Deliana Simeonova -Cook	Angeline Brown	Glendy Junius -Reeves	Pah Suku
Wayne Miller	Jonathan Jillah	B. Cee	Titus Sondoe
Emmanuel Gbedee	Dominique Johnson	Prince Johnson	Glenn Okoro
Louis Caesar Jr.	Andrew Momolue Diggs	Gyude & Lakshmi Moore	T. Nelson Williams
J .Wesley Johnson	Johan Supuwood	Jonathan Hart	Candice Eastman
Libraries For Liberia	SieaneBaki	WinifredGibson	Catherine Hayes
Tenyawa	Nekie Miller Ballah	Sophie Kayemba	Yogie Mulbah
Samuel Zonoe	Prince Parker	Marion Subah	Cornelius Poneys
Archel Bernard	Rita Stryker	Christolyn Chrizoba	Harold Golafare
Prince Flomoku	Girlta Yeayen	Massa Mamey	Pewee Flomoku
Jeanine Cooper -Class	Christopher Hayes Onanuga	Hayfron Aboayge	Mae Azango
Rhonda Von Ballmoos	Winifred Gibson	Alphonso Koffa	Mabel Tolbert
Bodyzone	Lonnie Herring	Ahmed Sirleaf	Arnold & Gaedou Stewart
Ylia & George Razzouk			

Financials

**KIDS EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (KEEP)
STATEMENT OF OPERATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

REVENUE:	2017
<u>Grant Contribution</u>	
Revenue brought forward (2016)	20,031.50
Personal Donation From Individual & Institution	44,716.16
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & OTHERS INCOME	64,747.66
 <u>LESS: EXPENDITURES</u>	
Personnel Stipend	1,505.00
Bank Charges	480.50
Insurance	210.00
Advocacy & training	1,602.00
Communication & Web Site Management	170.00
Gas/ Transportation	485.13
Advertisement & promotion	689.00
Fund Raising	6,859.70
Contractual/professional services and legal fees	1,670.00
Reading Room Project Expense	6,291.00
Bong Mines School Project	14,268.00
Office supply	900.50
Travel per diems & allowances	40.00
Repair & Maintenance	1,775.50
Contributions/tuition expense	915.08
Depreciation expense	3,507.61
Rent	1,710.00
Utility expense	311.68
Travel & local Transportation	3,487.51
Petty Cash/ Miscellenous	1,446.62
Other Direct Costs	1,470.27
Total operating expenditure	49,795.10
 Access of revenue over account	 14,952.56

Corporate Partners

IB International Bank
(Liberia) Limited



BodyZone
Fitness & Spa



**Petro
Trade**



act:onaid

OFFICE IDEAS

Lifting Global Trade
APM TERMINALS

A' AMINATA

OSIWA
Open Society Initiative for West Africa



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