



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Policy, Progress, and Purpose:

**A 360° Year
of Impact Education,
Our Future**

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Letter from the Executive Director

A New Chapter: From Community Impact to National Influence

If our first decade was about building the foundation, 2025 was the year we began to reshape the house. When we started KEEP Liberia in 2014 as a temporary response to a crisis, we dreamed of a day when literacy and social justice would be woven into the very fabric of our nation.

This year, we moved significantly closer to that reality.

In a historic milestone, the Ministry of Education mandated KEEP Liberia to lead the development of the first-ever **National Student Handbook**. This was a 360° journey of inclusion- one where we traveled across the country to ensure that the voices of students, teachers, and parents weren't just heard, but were embedded into national policy. For us, this isn't just a document; it is a tool for justice, defining rights and responsibilities for every child in Liberia. It proves that when we advocate for literacy, we are advocating for the dignity, choice, and freedom that come with a well-ordered and equitable education system.

Despite a climate of significant funding shifts, our resolve to reach the "last mile" never wavered. This year, we stepped boldly into the South East, establishing new Reading Rooms in **Grand Kru and River Gee**.

This expansion brings our national footprint to **14 counties**, with 46 Reading Rooms established since our inception. We stood in communities like Grand Kru, where schools founded over 60 years ago received their very first libraries.

Brenda Moore

Executive Director

Seeing those students' faces reminds us why we do this: because a child's location should never determine their right to learn.

Our work continues to be a blend of the "big and bold" and the "personal and poetic." From launching our latest children's book, Korpo's Swimming Challenge, to creating "Teacher Lounges" that honor our educators, we remain committed to a culture of quality and continuous learning.

None of this- the policy wins, the 14-county reach, or the thousands of books in hands- would be possible without our strategic partners, corporate sponsors, and the tireless KEEP team. You have stood by us as we transitioned from a community organization to a national partner in reform.

As we look toward 2026, we have one county left to reach: **Sinoe**.

We invite you to stay with us as we complete the map, ensuring that no child is left in the dark and that every story in Liberia has a place to be told.

With gratitude and determination,



National Footprint Visualization

Our Foundation: Purpose & Principles



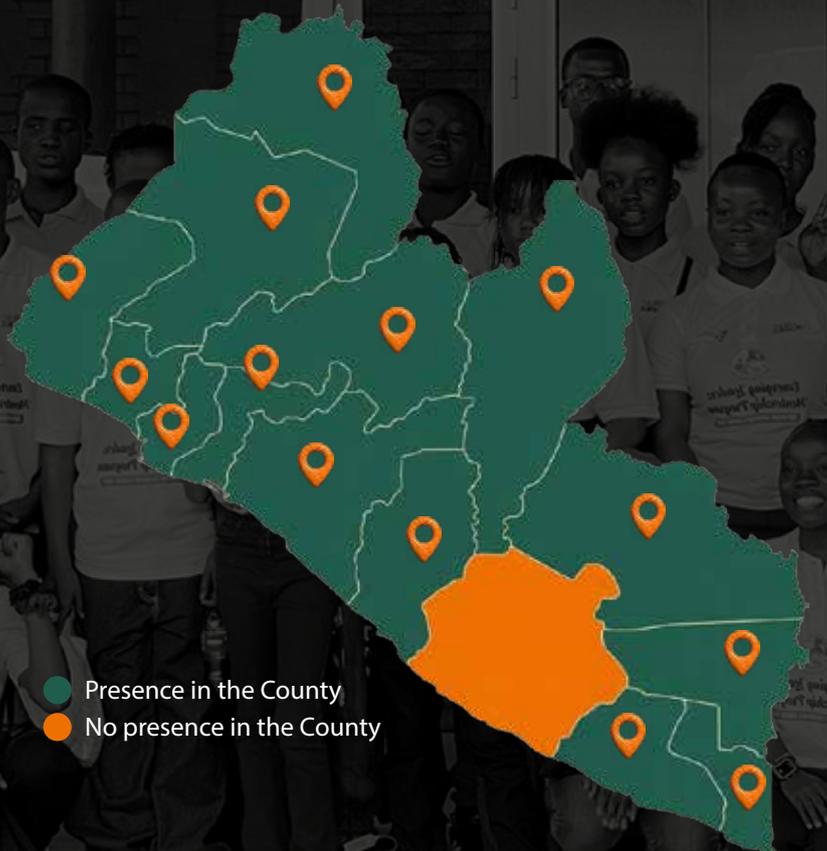
Our Vision: We envision a Liberia where over 90% of the population is literate and empowered, thriving in a society void of negative social norms.



Our Core Values: Our mission is not just about what we do, but how we do it. We are anchored by a culture of honesty, integrity, and accountability, ensuring every resource is managed with the highest transparency. Our work is fueled by hard work and teamwork, while a commitment to quality and continuous learning allows us to innovate and grow. By embracing creativity and a deep respect for diversity, we ensure that our programs remain inclusive and impactful for every child we serve.



Our Mission: To turn this vision into reality, KEEP operates as a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting social justice and equity. We partner with community members and national stakeholders to deliver impactful programs in education, advocacy, and economic empowerment.



2025 Summary Impact In Numbers

Visits To Our Reading Rooms 2025:

820

Books Donated 2025:

2,424

Out Of School Students Transition:

980

Digital Literacy Training Participants:

58



Pillar 1

Promoting Literacy



Figure 1 Before

Figure 2 After

Big Dreams, Bold Footprints

2025 was a year of big, bold dreams that refused to be dampened by funding challenges. We kicked off the year partnering with the Monrovia Lions Club to sponsor a new Reading Room in Montserrado, and just a month later, we stepped boldly into South Eastern Liberia to begin work on four new Reading Rooms in Grand Kru and River Gee.

This expansion has pushed our national footprint to 14 counties. Due to logistical challenges, we couldn't complete the @ rooms for River Gee, however, we anticipate completing those rooms by the end of January 2026.

With only one "uncharted" county left- Sinoe- we are on the cusp of a historic milestone. Since 2016, KEEP Liberia has created 46 Reading Rooms, proving that no distance is too far when it comes to a child's right to read.

A Story 64 Years in the Making

On October 30, 2025, the atmosphere in Grand Kru was electric as we dedicated two joyful, literacy-filled spaces at George Toe Washington School and J. Blamo Toe Elementary & Junior High. Surrounded by beaming students, cheering parents, and local leaders, we celebrated a shared dream realized. We even added a special touch: a "Teacher's Lounge" at the sites-a cozy space for our educators to rest, reflect, and recharge.

The impact was immediate. At George Toe Washington (founded in 1963), the new Reading Room revitalized a long-dormant library space. Enrollment has already surged from 276 to 329 students, all of whom now have access to **1,296 books**. Meanwhile, J. Blamo Toe (founded in 1961) received the **very first library in its history**, a game-changer equipped with 931 books and seating for 48 eager readers.

To our partners: thank you for helping us turn these pages. You aren't just building rooms; you are rewriting the future for communities that have waited decades for this moment. We look forward to ringing in the new year by opening our doors in River Gee and finally setting our sights on Sinoe to complete the map.



Second Chance Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)

In continuation of our strategic partnership with the Luminos Fund, KEEP implemented the Second Chance Accelerated Learning Program with 37 trained teachers across communities in Gbarpolu and Montserrado Counties. For the 2024/2025 academic year, 1,225 out-of-school children were enrolled in the program.

After months of intensive accelerated instruction and close classroom support, 980 learners successfully transitioned into 18 public schools and 2 private schools. This transition rate reflects the strength of the Luminos model and KEEP's growing expertise in delivering high-quality catch-up education in Liberia.

The Luminos Second Chance program is a 10-month accelerated learning initiative designed to help out-of-school children master

the first three years of primary school and reintegrate into mainstream classrooms. Through a joyful, activity-based, child-centered curriculum, students build foundational literacy, numeracy, and learning-to-learn skills.

Globally, more than 90% of graduates transition into government schools and remain enrolled at higher rates than their peers.

KEEP's partnership with the Luminos Fund aligns strongly with our shared commitment to expanding access to quality education for vulnerable children. This collaboration continues to strengthen KEEP's technical capacity in accelerated learning, foundational literacy, and community-driven education delivery - positioning us as a growing leader in alternative education pathways in Liberia.

Launch of Korpo's Swimming Challenge



We celebrated the launch of *Korpo's Swimming Challenge*, the newest addition to our collection

of home-grown children's stories. Written to resonate with the everyday lives of Liberian children, the book follows the journey of a young girl named Korpo as she faces her fears and discovers her inner strength. By centering a relatable Liberian protagonist, we are giving our students the rare and powerful experience of seeing their own lives reflected on the pages of a book, which is essential for building both reading confidence and a sense of pride.

The launch of *Korpo's Swimming Challenge* is part of our broader commitment to producing high-quality Liberian literature that bridges the gap between basic literacy and a true love for reading. Beyond the story itself, the book serves as a tool for empowerment, encouraging children to tackle their own "swimming challenges"- whatever they may be- with courage and persistence.

We are thrilled to see Korpo's story already making waves in our reading rooms, proving once again that when children have access to stories that speak their language and share their culture, they don't just learn to read; they learn to dream.



Figure 3 Vivacious Victoria

Story of Impact: Victoria Graduation

Possible Titles: Ten Years, One Vision: How KEEP's Local Roots Helped Victoria Rise

Ten Years Strong: How Long-Term Commitment Transformed Victoria's Future

Born blind and raised by visually impaired parents in Nimba County, Liberia, Victoria Maizee embodies the resilience that KEEP has championed over the past ten years. Despite the barriers before her, she excelled academically, maintaining strong grades throughout high school and setting the stage for her remarkable journey.

KEEP Liberia first connected with Victoria in 2015 through the Destined Kids Assistance Program. Since then, she has become a cherished member of the KEEP family. At the Liberia School of the Blind, she mastered Braille and essential life skills, laying the foundation for her future success.

In 2022, Victoria graduated from high school and immediately enrolled at LICOSSES Teachers College with KEEP's support. While pursuing her degree, she interned at KEEP's head office, contributing as Office Support- taking minutes, coordinating meetings, assisting with program activities, and leading engagements with girls' and young women's groups. She also became proficient in computer use, expanding her ability to advocate and work independently.

A passionate voice for young people with visual disabilities, Victoria champions inclusive education and equal opportunities for girls across Liberia.

In February 2025, she achieved a historic milestone: earning her Bachelor's Degree in Teacher Education, becoming the first in her family to complete college.

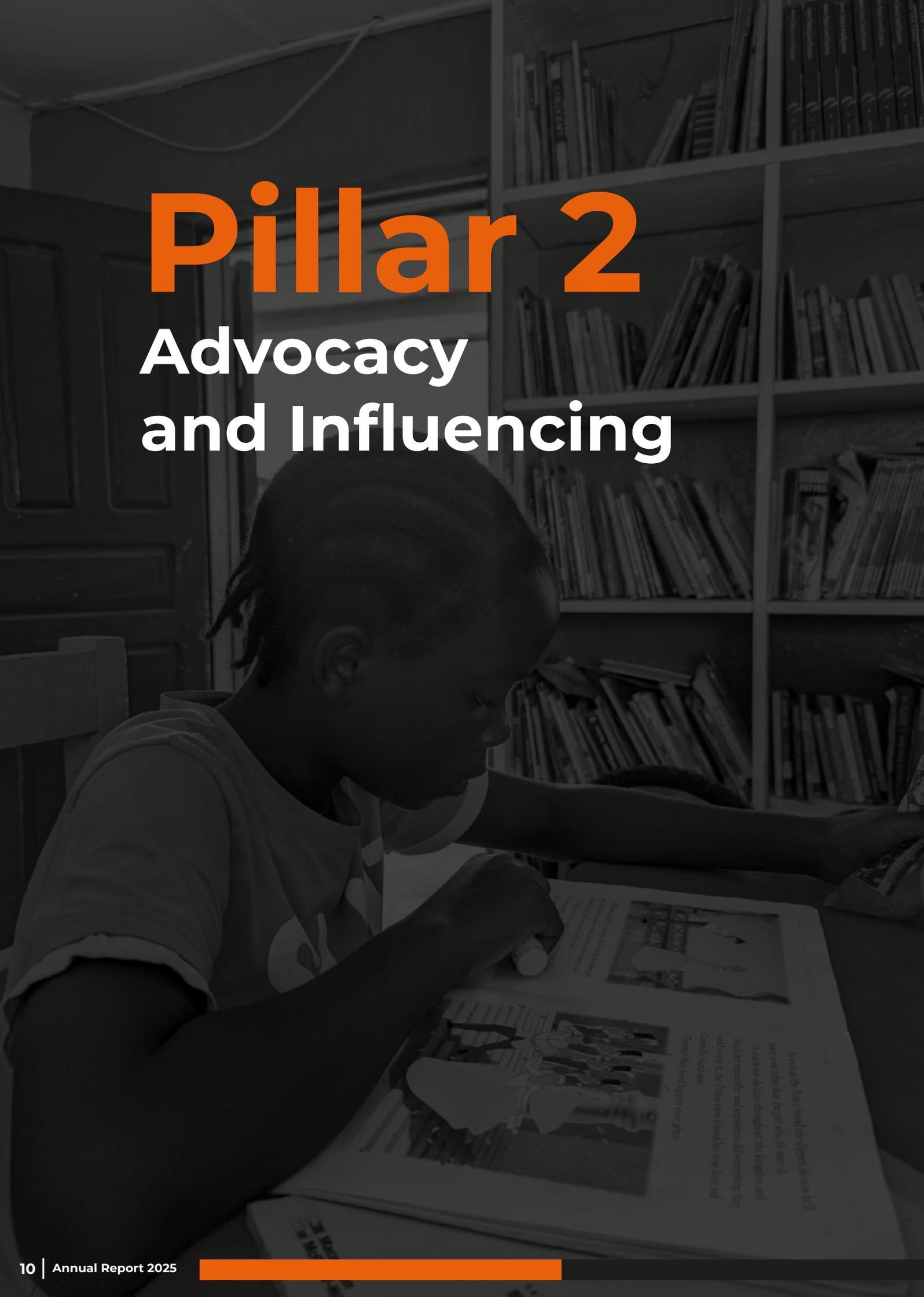
Victoria now dreams of continuing her work as an educator and advocate—and one day pursuing a degree in Law to strengthen her fight for an inclusive education system.

Victoria now works with KEEP Liberia full time as Programs Assistant.

Victoria's journey embodies resilience, possibility, and the transformative power of support. We are incredibly proud of her.

Pillar 2

Advocacy and Influencing





Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program

This year, we dared to picture a Liberia filled with the kind of leaders we dream of - leaders who inspire, who serve, who show up with purpose. And because we believe leadership is something you grow into, KEEP Liberia, in partnership with Girls For Change (GFC), launched the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Fellowship (ELMF).

The ELMF is an activity-rich, hands-on mentorship journey designed to help adolescent youth stretch their voices and sharpen their skills. Our Fellows dove into public speaking, leadership, teamwork, financial literacy, civic education, and community impact work- learning in ways that felt real, practical, and empowering.

We met twice a month, and the learning didn't stay indoors. Our Fellows went on field trips that opened their minds, deepened their connection to nature, and strengthened their bonds with one another. To ground their growth in real-world experience, ten Fellows completed one-month internships across various business institutions, gaining exposure that will stay with them for years.

As the months went by, we saw the transformation unfold as voices grew stronger. Confidence took root and teamwork became natural. Networking no longer felt intimidating. It was beautiful to witness.

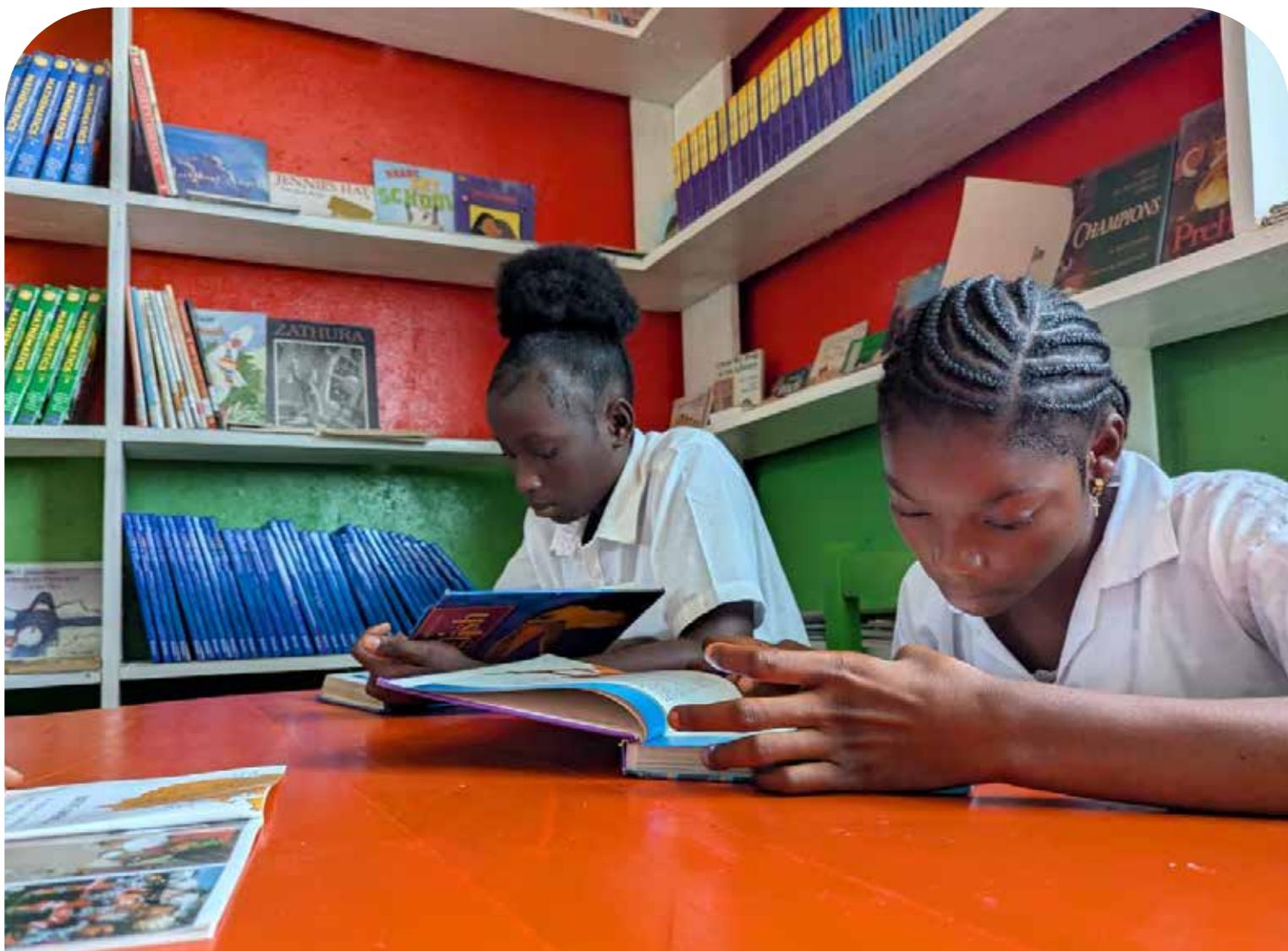
Standing beside them were seven Peer Mentors- all college students who brought energy, guidance, and heart to the program. They supported planning, coaching, and facilitation while also growing through their own mentoring sessions.

The Fellowship spans two years, and we're excited for what Year 2 will bring for our inaugural cohort. We're equally thrilled to welcome Cohort 2 in March 2026 as we expand the program into rural Liberia.

At KEEP Liberia, we stopped waiting for "future leaders." We chose to build them now. Because leadership isn't inherited- it's nurtured through mentorship, opportunity, and belief.

Emerging Leaders- Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders, Today.





Policy and influencing

The Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP) is a national initiative advancing women's economic independence, leadership, and overall well being through targeted skills development, strengthened community support systems, and expanded livelihood opportunities.

Under LWEP's Component 2B, KEEP Liberia worked to address the harmful social norms and economic barriers that continue to limit girls' access to education. Although community resistance, limited institutional commitment, and resource constraints often slow progress, KEEP's distribution of scholastic materials created a structured platform for engagement with local and national authorities, parents, and students. This intervention directly supported academic retention and performance while fostering a more gender inclusive learning environment.

Through this initiative, KEEP Liberia provided essential scholastic and hygiene materials to students from Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh counties. As part of strategies to support reenrolment in schools, students were provided uniforms, shoes, educational supplies and tuition.

A major gain has been seeing how parents and education stakeholders engaged in meaningful discussions on the importance of inclusive education, the role of scholastic support in reducing dropout rates, and the need for sustained community engagement. Throughout the process, KEEP prioritized gender responsive content and equitable allocation, reinforcing LWEP's core values of empowerment, transparency, and educational equity.

National Policies Formulation

This year, KEEP Liberia reached a historic milestone when the Ministry of Education mandated us to lead the development of three major national policies, including the first-ever **National Student Handbook**. This was far more than a technical exercise for us; it was a true strategic alliance that allowed us to apply our "360° approach" to national policy. Over months of intense consultations, we moved beyond the office and into the field to sit down with everyone—from the National Teachers and Principals Associations to student representatives, PTAs, and local leaders. This ensured that grassroots perspectives were woven into the very fabric of the final document. It is a proud moment of inclusive reform where we listened, integrated feedback, and are now returning a policy to schools that truly reflects their reality.

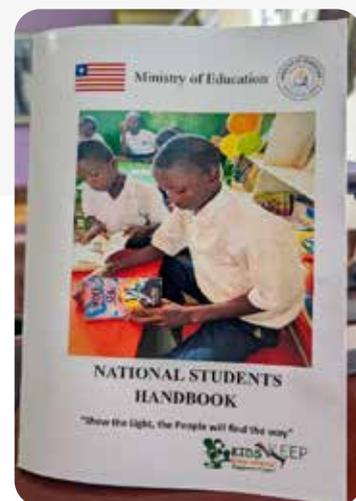
The Handbook is a game-changer for the Liberian school system, clearly defining students' rights

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Figure 4 KEEP Liberia Team Poses with MoE Student Personnel Services Team At Formal Signing Meeting



Story of Impact: Jamestina

Jamestina is a bright 10-year-old with strong skills in Biology, Physics, and Math. She represents one of the clearest success stories from Year 1 of the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program.

She began the program extremely shy, barely audible when speaking, and afraid of public engagement. Over several months, she participated in practical exercises focused on voice projection, teamwork, networking, and confidence-building.

Her transformation was remarkable. She became one of the most vocal members of the cohort. She served as co-Mistress of Ceremony at formal events, ran for cohort leadership, and was elected Secretary General.

Beyond academics, she enjoys dancing and quizzing, and she dreams of becoming a Medical Doctor. Her dedication and enthusiasm continue to grow.

We are proud of her progress and excited to see her development in Year 2.

Go Jamestina.





Pillar 3

Economic Livelihood Enhancement



Story of Impact: Madam Mamakor Fahnbulleh: Casting New Nets of Opportunity

In the quiet fishing community of Tosor, Grand Cape Mount, Madam Mamakor Fahnbulleh stands as a reminder of how resilience, opportunity, and community support can reshape a family's future. A devoted wife and mother of nine, she has always carried the weight of providing for her household with determination and grace. Her journey into fishing began with a bold step: investing L\$38,000 in a canoe, despite having limited resources and no safety net.

Every day, she pushed herself to make that investment count, determined to create a better life for her children.

Her turning point came when she joined the Kambassa meaning "God's Grace" in the vai language- Village Savings and Loan Association supported by KEEP Liberia. Through the group, she accessed credit for the first time in her life. With that loan, she purchased two fishing nets valued at US\$50, immediately increasing her catch and strengthening her small business.

As her confidence grew, so did her enterprise. Madam Fahnbulleh acquired a fish dryer, allowing her not only to preserve her harvest but also to add value and earn more from each day's work. Later, she received L\$22,000 from her group savings, which she reinvested into her operations, ensuring her business remained stable and productive throughout the fishing season.

The most powerful milestone came from her own success. Using her dividend earnings, Madam Fahnbulleh proudly purchased a second canoe - a symbol of how far she had come and how much further she intends to go. What began as a struggle to make ends meet has grown into a thriving fishing enterprise that now offers her family greater security and hope.

Today, Madam Fahnbulleh is not just a fisherwoman. She is a business owner, a role model in her community, and a testament to what women can achieve when given access to financial tools, training, and a supportive network. Her story reflects the heart of KEEP Liberia's work: empowering women to build sustainable livelihoods, strengthen their families, and transform their communities from within.



Partnerships

New Partnerships:



Liberia Bank For Development & Investment (LBDI)

We are honored to welcome the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) as a valued corporate partner in our work to strengthen literacy across Liberia. This year, LBDI made a generous donation to support our operations and purchased 100 copies of Korpo's Swimming Challenge, placing these books directly into the hands of 100 children. Their support is an investment in stronger readers, stronger communities, and a stronger future for Liberian youth. By uplifting stories written by Liberians for Liberian students, LBDI demonstrates a clear commitment to national literature and to expanding literacy opportunities across the country. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and belief in the potential of our children.



Irish Embassy

This year, we were incredibly excited to forge a new partnership with the Irish Embassy in Monrovia. The collaboration has been hands-on from the start, with Ambassador Considine joining us at our Reading Rooms for read-aloud sessions that truly inspired the children. Beyond the reading sessions, the Embassy's generosity shone through a donation of Braille books and our joint celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the School of the Blind. They also stepped up to sponsor the expansion of our storytelling sessions, allowing us to reach more children across additional television stations. We are grateful for this strategic partnership and warmly welcome the Irish Embassy as part of our growing community of #KEEPers.

Investing in Future Leaders: Our 2025 Internship Partners

We extend our sincere gratitude to the visionary organizations that welcomed **12 Emerging Leaders Fellows** as interns this year. By providing professional mentorship and hands-on experience, these partners played a vital role in bridging the gap between potential and practice.

International Bank Liberia (IB), MWETANA Corporation, Vibrant Builders Construction Company, John F. Kennedy Medical Center (Oncology & Neurosurgical Units), Heritage Law Firm

Thank you for opening your doors and helping us nurture Liberia's next generation of professionals.



Partners & Contributors



Dan McNaughton Foundation



Individual Donors

1. Individual Donations

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67. Dennis Jah

Message from the Board Chair



As we close the doors on 2025, I am filled with immense pride in the resilience and strategic growth KEEP Liberia has displayed. This year was not without its hurdles; the global funding landscape shifted significantly, requiring our leadership to navigate new complexities with limited resources. Yet, it is in these moments that the true strength of our governance and the clarity of our mission shine brightest.

The Board of Directors is particularly pleased to see KEEP's transition from a direct-service provider to a key player in national policy. Leading the development of the National Student Handbook is a landmark achievement that cements our role as a technical partner to the state. We have also remained steadfast in our commitment to the "last mile," expanding our footprint into the South East to ensure that children in Grand Kru and River Gee are not left behind.

Our focus for the coming year is clear: sustainability and completion. We are determined to reach the final uncharted county, Sinoe, to complete our national map. More importantly, we are focused on strengthening the institutional systems that will ensure KEEP Liberia thrives for decades to come.

To our partners, donors, and the dedicated KEEP team—thank you for your unwavering trust. You are the reason we continue to turn pages and transform lives. Together, we are building a more literate, equitable, and empowered Liberia.

Dr. Romelle Horton

Chairperson, Board of Directors KEEP Liberia



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