

# Advancing Youth Project

## Project Overview

The USAID Advancing Youth Project is providing increased access to quality Alternative Basic Education (ABE) Services, social and leadership development, and livelihoods for Liberian youth and young adults, aged 13–35 who are unschooled or out of school, and who have no or marginal literacy and numeracy skills. Advancing Youth works closely with the Ministry of Education and community-based organizations to build their capacity to manage a system and programs that provide youth with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

## Activities to date

- Developing and training facilitators to deliver three levels of ABE curriculum
- Partnering with Stella Maris Polytechnic (St. John's Teachers College) to develop and offer first ever introductory credit bearing course for ABE facilitators;
- Implementing Institutional Capacity Assessments with the Ministry of Education (centralized and decentralized level) to improve on the program implementation and systems development;
- Developing Program Quality Standards to support registration and accreditation of ABE service providers;
- Providing youth with work-based learning opportunities, skills, and entrepreneurship training ;
- Forming youth clubs and local alliances to support youth education, leadership and enhanced livelihoods
- Developing private industry to help improve staff capabilities and to place learners into professional internships



*An Alternative Basic Education (ABE) learner practicing his reading skills*

## SNAPSHOT

**Life of Project:** 2012-2017

**Initial Target:** 16,000 learners

**Focus Counties:** Bong, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Nimba, Margibi, Lofa

**Goal:** Increase access to quality Alternative Basic Education services, social and leadership development, and livelihoods for out-of-school youth

## Implementing Partners:

YMCA Liberia

Liberian Youth Network (LIYONET)

National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL)

Liberian Initiative for Development Services (LIDS)

Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD)

## Accomplishments To Date

- Developed Program Quality Standards for Alternative Basic Education
- Enrolled more than 22,902 learners, of whom 70% are women, in 153 communities
- Finalized three levels of ABE curricula to include science, social studies, literacy, numeracy, life skills, work readiness, and agro-enterprise skills
- Enhanced learner achievements through the use of appropriate information and communication technologies, such as Interactive Audio Instruction and mobile learning through the use of cell phones (mLearning)
- Delivered basic skills training—in topics such as soap making, food preservation, snail rearing, and basket weaving— to youth to improve livelihoods
- Supported 147 school Alternative Basic Education Committees
- Procured and distributed over 342,600 textbooks, including learner workbooks, facilitator manuals and supplementary reading materials
- Established youth clubs with elected officers of whom 74% are women
- Trained 1,026 ABE facilitators and more than 295 ABE administrators in pedagogical, psychosocial and ABE content
- Rolled out Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI) literacy program in 144 sites to support Level 1 learners
- Partnered with institutions such as the Liberian Opportunities Industrialization Centre (LOIC), UNIDO and Grand Bassa Community College to offer skills training to learners in areas such as auto mechanics, tailoring, plumbing, and welding
- Facilitated Mobile Money and direct bank deposits for payment of administrator and facilitator stipends at all sites
- Facilitated Village Savings and Loans (VSLA) groups in 110 communities

- Reached approximately 1,350 learners and 2,100 community members with information about family planning through Healthy Actions
- Partnered with private sector companies including APM Terminals, Humming Bird and ArcelorMittal to offer on the job ABE classes to workers
- Implemented youth and community summits (national and county levels) to foster civic engagement and youth leadership
- Implemented Learning Agenda to address key questions related to systems development and sustainability of integrated ABE programs
- Conducted community transition meetings to inform long term sustainability for ABE at the community level

## Planned Outcomes

- Work with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders to implement Program Quality Standards for the ABE system
- Livelihood opportunities for learners will be expanded through the provision of skills training, internships, and Village Savings and Loan associations
- Leadership and small business development opportunities will be provided through the formation of youth clubs and enterprise groups
- Regular in-service training for ABE administrators and facilitators will be provided to help support the delivery content and manage programs at the site level
- Strategies for sustainability through active involvement of ABE service providers, private sector and community stakeholders will be built

### Contact:

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