

CAMP FOR PEACE LIBERIA

PARKER PAINT JUNCTION, PAYNESVILLE, LIBERIA



2018 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

FORWARD BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

After 12 months of engagement in various activities, we are overwhelmed with gratitude to God and to you, our stakeholders and partners, for the support and cooperation we received during the period under review. The task was enormous, but your support and cooperation helped to smoothen the difficulties that we endured and overcame. We wouldn't have achieved what we did during the year 2018 without your assistance.

Our work here at Camp for Peace was fun and interesting. We started as a family, and we ended as members. We put in our effort, brainpower, and minds to all that we wanted to achieve, and we achieved them according to our 2018 plan. Thanks to all of you.

As we begin the year 2019, it is my fervent hope that the goodness of God will follow us and give us the strength, motivation, aspiration, and wisdom to continue thinking positively and achieving peace, unity, and national reconciliation. Our country is in a critical period - a period of deep transition. We experienced the departure of the peacekeeping mission from Liberia after nearly fifteen years, placing security and governance in the hands of Liberians, and ushering in a new government. This is considered a double transition that worries us considering the fragility and our past history. Despite these worries, we managed to cross over to a new year.

During these transitions, we experienced issues of unemployment, youth rehabilitation and empowerment, deep and unrealistic expectations, trauma, grief, and complexity. All these placed our security in a state of fragility and require critical and careful attention. It holds all of us responsible and accountable to our country through our God-given talents, what we can contribute to developing our country. The mindset of us as a people needs to be changed from the vices that continue to hold us back in contributing to our national duty as patriotic citizens. If each of us can think of one positive thought and take one positive action each day, we can make a big difference in making our country better. Affirmative action is the way out, a positive mindset is a recipe for overcoming poverty and suffering, and sacrificing and holding together and giving everyone space will push us forward.

We are confident that 2019 will double our portion as an organization and a country. We hope to improve on all that we have started in the previous year. Our vocational school remains a priority in training disadvantaged youths as we strive to bring them into the bourgeoisie of social economic growth and transform them psychologically from metal slavery and prepare them for the task ahead. Our post-training project for our graduates remains key to sustaining our dream and philosophy.

Following is the 2018 Annual Report of Camp for Peace Liberia, which contains a summary of our activities from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

B. Abel Learwellie, Executive Director



INTRODUCTION

The Liberian conflict disrupted social structures and destroyed livelihoods and employment opportunities. A generation of youths grew up in internally displaced person camps (IDPs) amidst poverty, insecurity, and without access to reliable services. As Liberia continues to enjoy consistent peace, infrastructural development, economic recovery, and the election of a new government, many young people face the challenge of securing a livelihood with little or no formal education or vocational training.

Camp for Peace Liberia is committed to strengthening its outreach and support to the communities and youth it works with. This report summarizes the organization's activities from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past 12 months, but we know there is still much more work to be done. On our horizon are new programs for youths transitioning to adulthood, an increased emphasis on peaceful co-existence, rehabilitation, livelihood, and education.

We have also stepped up our efforts to provide safe spaces for youth in Liberia, such as schools and communities, where vulnerable youth receive education and psychosocial support in a safe, secure setting. Our goal is to protect young people from engaging in violence and help them regain confidence, self-esteem, life skills, and a positive outlook on the future. Our focus on the well-being and development of the young people of Liberia contributes to a more peaceful and harmonious future for them and their communities. We also promote the meaningful participation of the youths of Liberia in the decision-making processes that affect them.

CAMP FOR PEACE LIBERIA VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

We envision transformed, empowered, and sustained youths and women in Liberia.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to contribute to the transformation, education, empowerment, and sustainability of Liberian youths and women in solving Liberia's problems.

OUR CORE VALUES

We believe in the following core values:

- Hard work and commitment
- Transparency and accountability
- Protection and promotion of human rights
- Gender sensitivity
- Partnership and collaboration

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We aim to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- To reduce or eliminate violence in communities through an array of peacebuilding and educational activities.
- To instill a sense of self-reliance among Liberian youths and women.
- To help vulnerable youth and women attain knowledge and specialized skills that lead to jobs.
- To create employment opportunities for Liberian youths and women.
- To curb illiteracy and promote education among Liberian youths and women as a means of alleviating poverty.
- To help women and girls in the community, especially the underprivileged, meet social and economic needs.

ACTIVITIES OF 2018

1. ECOWAS EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM PROJECT

During the period under review, Camp for Peace Liberia collaborated with and received support from the ECOWAS Emergency Response Mechanism to organize a series of reconciliation and youth engagement dialogues under the theme "Post Elections Peace, Reconciliation and Youth Engagement," aimed at addressing the many post-election challenges faced by Liberia. These events brought together over 250 youth groups, students, community leaders, marketers, political party youth leaders, and representatives of the commercial motorcycle union of Liberia in Montserrado and Margibi counties. Participants exchanged ideas and identified a way forward for national reconciliation and development. They were also trained in different techniques to understand the role of youths in Liberia's democratic transition.



Participants of a three day peace dialogue posed for picture

GUEST HOUSE PROJECT

Camp for Peace Liberia considers sustainability crucial to the survival of any program. In 2017, CfP began construction on a five-bedroom guest house in Zorzor City, Lofa County, to cater to travelers along the route. The guest house will serve as a sustainable hub, and our aim is to build one of the best, if not the best, guest house enterprises in Lofa County by providing exceptional services.



Guest House in Zorzor, Lofa County, Liberia



Construction work on Guest House in Zorzor, Lofa County

CASSAVA PROCESSING PLANT

In continuation of our post-training activities and follow-up with our trainees, Camp for Peace Liberia, with support from its partners, constructed a Cassava Processing and Packaging Plant in Zorzor, Lofa County.

The plant, the first of its kind in Lofa, is valued at a little over \$12,000 USD and has the capacity to process 30-40 bags of cassava into high-quality products that are sold on the local market. The demand for the product is insufficient to supply the local market in Zorzor. A new strategy has been put in place to address the inadequate supply of the product by cultivating 10.5 acres of land with cassava.



Post-training participants posed for a picture during the dedication of the Zorzor Cassava Processing Plant

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2018, Camp for Peace Liberia partnered with the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs to send intern students to work with CFP Liberia during the summer to design activities for partner needs to implement. During the period under review, Miss Ai Nakashoi, a Japanese student studying at Columbia University, arrived in Liberia as a guest of Camp for Peace Liberia. While in Liberia, Ai developed a new project design and activities to attract a new resource base for Camp for Peace Liberia and revised CFP's long-term strategic plan. Miss Nakashoi is the third student from Columbia University to intern with Camp for Peace since the inception of the partnership. Miss Anika Juliann Michel and Sebastian Osorio also worked with CFP during the summer of 2017.



Ai posed with staff and volunteers at the cassava plant in Zorzor, Lofa County, Liberia

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PROJECT

Since the signing of the Freedom of Information Act in 2010 into law by the Liberian government, which gave citizens the right to request information from public officials and institutions as provided by the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia and the Universal Declaration of Human and People's Rights, citizens' participation in governance has increased transparency and access to information, specifically in the justice sector.

During the period under review, Camp for Peace Liberia entered into an agreement with the Carter Center Liberia to implement a project around the Freedom of Information Act (FOI). The project aimed to promote increased transparency and accountability and to obtain relevant information from judiciary officials aimed at improving the justice sector in Lofa County. The project mainly focused on Freedom of Information awareness, radio talk shows, public forums, meetings, debates, and panel discussions. The project also provided a platform for citizens and the general public to express their perspectives on the Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to the justice sector in Liberia.



Raising Awareness on the FOI Act in Voinjama

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:

Human Rights Day is a United Nations-observed holiday that calls on people to know and stand up for their rights, regardless of their political, social, religious backgrounds, or affiliations. As a way of joining the global celebration of the day, Camp for Peace Liberia partnered with several youth organizations to jointly celebrate the observance of the day beginning with a week-long online campaign and engagement. The campaign raised awareness on human rights issues. The celebration was climaxed with a public awareness program that created a platform for young people to get involved in the fight for the rights of people.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY:

On December 12, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the world conference of ministers responsible for youth in Lisbon, declaring August 12 to be annually observed as International Youth Day. During the period under review, Camp for Peace Liberia joined many youth-led organizations to commemorate the day under the theme "Safe spaces for Youth." On this day, people recognize the importance and hard work of the world's young people and how they have made indelible impacts on societies while addressing challenges they face such as poor health, limited learning and employment opportunities, and the struggle to easily access basic sexual and reproductive health information and services.



Participants posed for picture during the observance of International Youth Day Celebration

This day is also intended to inspire and promote strategies on how to meaningfully engage the young people of the world and assist them in contributing significantly to the growth and development of their communities, regions, and countries.

FARMER FIELD SCHOOL:

The Farmer Field School is an innovative vocational training program in General Agriculture geared towards the social transformation of underprivileged youth who are recruited from targeted communities in Zorzor and Salayea districts that may not have had any formal education. During the period under review, Camp for Peace Liberia pilot-tested this new innovation with the first batch of 25 students completing six months of intensive training in General Agriculture. The second phase of the training program is expected to commence in March 2019.



Students posed for picture during orientation

This innovative approach allows young people and other farmers to find locally adapted solutions to specific problems in general agriculture. The training is 30% theoretical while 70% is practical. The school has a chicken poultry, fish pond, and varieties of vegetable demonstration sites. The school is located on a 12.5-acre piece of land.

MICRO LOAN SCHEME:

Camp for Peace Liberia's loan scheme for past graduates is one of the essential components of post-training activities. Since the inception of the scheme, a little over one million Liberian dollars has been invested in the loan scheme to help graduates establish their own enterprises. The intent of the loan scheme is to help former graduates set up personal businesses of their own, as well as engage in individual agriculture projects.

FOREIGN TRAVELS:

During the period under review, Mr. Mechli-Zedek S.P. Dologbay, Youth Desk Coordinator of Camp for Peace Liberia, attended the 8th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, United States of America. The Forum, which was held from November 19-20, 2018, was attended by over 1000 participants from different countries across the world. The event created a platform for young peace-builders, UNAOC partners and alumni to share their works, drive sustainable approaches to conflict

and violence prevention, as well as the operationalization of the United Nations youth strategy. Mr. Dologbay served as one of the two Masters of Ceremony during the event.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation provides a vital source of information that showcases the progress of project activities and helps assess what is working and what is not. During the period under review, a series of monitoring and evaluation visits were made in the field to assess the performance, achievements, outputs, outcomes, and impact of various programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Camp for Peace Liberia accomplished several achievements during the period under review, including:

- Construction of a cassava processing and packaging plant in Zorzor, Lofa County
- Clearing and planting of 7.5 acres of land with cassava to supply the cassava processing plant
- Opening of the Farmer Field School in Salayea, Lofa County, geared towards the training of disadvantaged youths in the area of General Agriculture
- Creation of another Agriculture cooperative group in Salayea, Lofa County, and the establishment of a micro-loan scheme with an additional half a million Liberian dollars infused into the local bank for the Salayea cooperative group
- Enrollment of eight students who are children of some employees of Firestone Liberia at the Booker Washington Institute

CONCLUSION

Camp for Peace Liberia extends its deepest appreciation to its many partners for their continuous financial support. The organization is especially thankful to its intern student from Columbia University, Miss Ai Nakashoi, for the level of commitment and dedication she brought to the work of CFP during her stay in Liberia. It is worth mentioning the tremendous efforts of the staff and volunteers of CFP Liberia in making this annual report a success. Special thanks also go to the organization's many peace ambassadors across the country.

However, the organization cannot fulfill its mission without secure and sustainable funding to provide the financial resources necessary to continue its work. Camp for Peace Liberia has made great efforts over the past 12 months to access alternative sources of funding and launch new fundraising initiatives to secure long-term support for its work.

B. Abel Learwellie

Executive Director

Camp for Peace Liberia

Appendices

BOARD MEMBERS

N O	NAMES	POSITIONS
1	Mr. William Saah	Chairman
2	Mrs. Christiana Kpangba	Co-chair
3	B. Abel Learwellie	Secretary
4	Mr. Paul R. Kalama	Member

STAFF AND VOLUTEERS

NO	NAMES	POSITIONS
1	B. Abel Learwellie	Executive Director
2	Clarence G. Zowah	Program Officer
3	Melchi-zedek Dologbay	Youth Coordinator
4	S. Pedelers Craid	Field Coordinator
5	Johnson K. Koikoi	Training Supervisor
6	Ms. Alice Howard	Trainer
7	Ms. Ellen Flomo	Office Assistant
8	Ofantee Geneyania	Construction Coordinator
9	Ms. Garmai Flomo	Volunteer
10	Milton Y. Zarwu	Agriculture Coordinator

