



CAPACITY STATEMENT

LIPACE is an accredited non-governmental, non-profit organization with a purpose of using data-driven approaches to enable students, teachers, and rural communities see their tireless efforts lead to increased students' achievement and improved livelihood outcomes. **We work to reduce the performance gap and increase students' achievement as the way forward in addressing the decline of Liberia's educational system.** LIPACE values and promotes education as a foundation and a means to attaining full potential for one's life and service to others. Over the last five years, LIPACE has worked in six (6) counties across Liberia and our programs have directly benefited more than 30,000 students, teachers, youths, including vulnerable women & girls. **LIPACE contributes towards the development of the NGO sector as a whole by supporting the exchange of and sharing information and experience through active involvement with the Liberia NGO Network (LINNK), the Education NGO Forum (ENF), and the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL).**

Our Approach

We believe in the power of empiricism and leverage verifiable school data, stakeholder engagements, capacity building trainings and effective management routines. **Our expertise includes educational research, literacy and numeracy skills, policy advocacy, monitoring & evaluation, community mobilization, livelihood programming, and school system support services.**

Our Mission

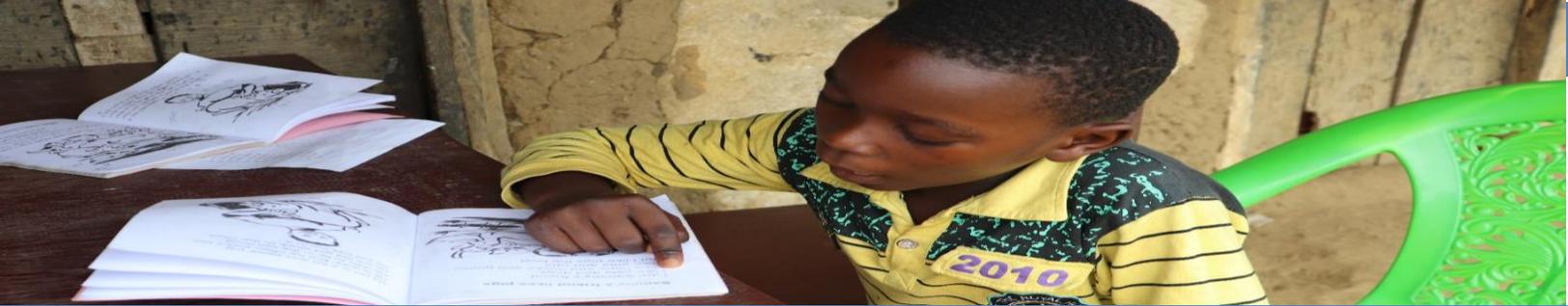
We empower schools and communities using data-driven programs to increase students' achievement and improved livelihood outcomes for all.

Our Vision

We envision a society with quality education and improved educational and livelihood outcomes for all irrespective of backgrounds, social status, and location.

Our Governance

LIPACE is led by an Executive Director, with oversight from a Senior Advisory Board. Our current staff represents a stratum of passionate, impact-driven, and youthful exuberance.



Our Theories of Change

- *Ensuring that all children irrespective of background, social status, and location have access to quality education is one of the most effective guarantors of social change.*
- *Deepening and increasing self-worth and esteem of students is leverage for reducing the performance gap.*
- *Increasing opportunity for females through quality education and school support programs that promote retention is a tool in reducing poverty and impacting household livelihood*
- *Increasing students' and teacher's achievement is not something we do for them; it is something we do with them.*

What We Do Differently

Prioritize Local Solutions

At the very beginning – program design, we prioritize an inclusive and diversified program structure by collaborating with locals to integrate significant cultural, linguistic, and operational contents to all aspects of projects we implement. ***By working with people from the communities, our projects provide opportunities for locals to participate in problem solving, tap into the rich expertise of locals whose understanding of their problems are usually unmatched, and play a leading role in building local communities that value literacy and empowerment of next generation of leaders.***

Girls Education - Women and Girls as a part of our Mission

LIPACE recognizes that, in our local contexts, like many other places around the world, women and girls have magnified vulnerabilities and little influence in contributing to the decisions that really affect them. ***We don't only give attention to women and girls; we simply recognize that their needs and strengths are different from those of men and boys.*** So, for most projects we implement, we are keen on aligning the actual needs of women and girls to programmatic interventions, so that specific issues connected to school retention and self-empowerment are addressed. ***By doing this, we strengthen the most vulnerable segment of society, improve socioeconomic outcomes, and foster collaboration with their male counterparts.***

Innovation

From developing post-war Liberia's First Study Guide; WAEC in Review, as a tool to increase students' achievement on the national exams, to implementing a unique, proven, and tested approach for reducing the number of Out-of-School children in Liberia, LIPACE is truly leading through innovation. ***Our innovation has attracted funding and partnership from various donors and partners spanning across the Luminos Fund, International Literacy Association, Peace Corps, Ministry of Education, Mercy Corps International, Kvinna Till Kvinna, and the Open Society of West Africa (OSIWA).***



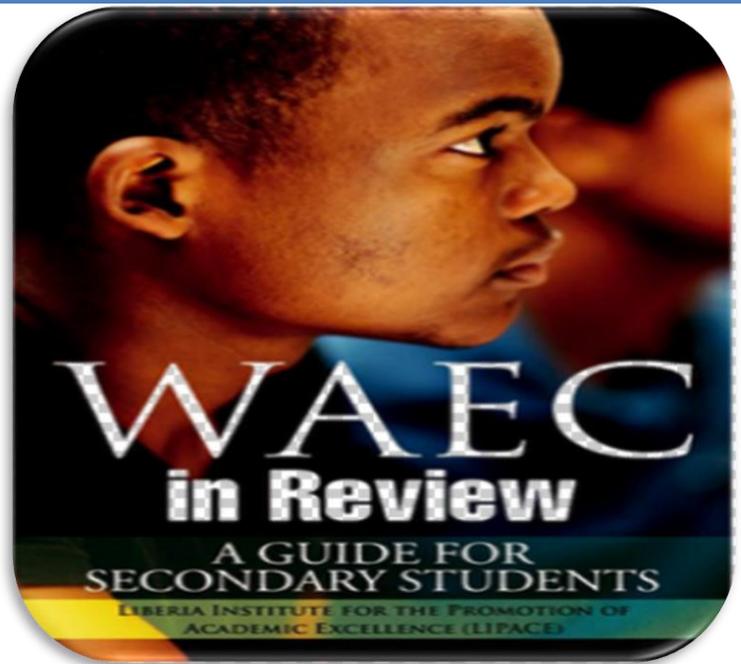
Core Project Competencies and Impacts

Exams in Review

All secondary students in Liberia, who wish to pursue university enrolment, must pass the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (WASSCE), which is administered annually by the West Africa Examinations Council (WAEC). **Sadly, more than half the number of students sitting the exam in Liberia fails every year.** Using critical research and data-driven skills, LIPACE successfully produced post-war Liberia's First Study Guide – WAEC in Review, as a tool to increase students' achievement on the national exams.

With funding of US\$20,000 from the Ann Pelham Foundation in 2015, LIPACE published and provided access of the guide to 3,000 students and teachers through our Exams in Review project. **At the end of the pilot, the number of students who successfully passed the exam more than doubled from the national passing average of 34% in the base period to 77% in 2015.**

With partnership from Empowerment Squared, a Canadian-based charity, LIPACE launched post-war Liberia's First Independent Call Center in 2018, as a platform for sharing information, and responding rapidly to problems and challenges encountered during the conduct of the inaugural WASSCE exam. **During the exam, the Center received a total of 1,287 calls from students, parents, teachers, and school administrators. LIPACE has worked with four local organizations to develop a peer review loop with the examination body for progressive improvement in the conduct of the exam.**



Teachers Development

Our Teachers Development Workshop Series has **successfully trained 300 teachers in the last four years with the tools needed to improve their effectiveness and quality of teaching through the use of data,** as recipe for increasing students' achievement.

To date, **LIPACE has successfully trained more than 100 Peace Corps Volunteers in successfully understanding the nature and context of the national exams prior to placements.**

The inclusive and participatory model of these trainings continue to espouse our core theories of change - **that increasing students' and teachers' achievement is not something we do for them; it is something we do with them.**



Second Chance Program (Formerly Speed Schools)

LIPACE currently implement the 2018 WISE Award Winning Second Chance Program in Liberia. The Second Chance program is a **unique accelerated learning program that gives out-of-school children (8yrs – 14yrs) the chance to cover three years' of curriculum in just ten months and enable them to join the formal school with students their age.**

With donor support from Luminos Fund, **LIPACE has managed a combined funding portfolio of US\$450,000 (2016 – present) and have successfully transitioned more than 2,800 out-of-school children across 78 rural communities in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu counties. Approximately 42% of these transitioned children are female; many of whom either dropout or have never been to school due to entrenched patriarchal practices which prioritizes the education of the boy child to that of the girl child.**

The Second Chance program is not only ensuring we provide access to education, but helping us experience firsthand the **amazing impacts of putting local communities at the heart of educational solutions.**

Through Parental Engagement Groups (PEG), we **have worked with more than 1,500 parents, many of whom are illiterate, to impress upon them an appreciation for the value of education.**

Girls Education - Women and Girls Focus Programs

LIPACE Commitment to girls' education is evident through the implementation of programs that addresses the magnified vulnerabilities of adolescent girls. Through initiatives such as the **Women & Girls Social Change Program**, LIPACE provides women & girls with valuable skills in leadership & accountability, conflict mitigation, grassroots organizing, and reproductive health & rights. With a combined funding of **US\$20,000 (2016 – 2017) from the US Embassy in Liberia, LIPACE trained 150 women and girls across three counties and empowered them with the courage and power to act for social change in their schools and communities as a tool for reducing the achievement gap.**

As we seek to address the specific needs of women and girls, LIPACE in partnership with the Kids Educational Engagement Project (KEEP – Partner Lead) with combined funding of **US\$70,000 is currently implementing the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention in Schools (SEAP) program.** LIPACE is working with five public schools in Bomi and training duty bearers to effectively tackle SGBV where it matters most – schools.

The SEAP programs espouse LIPACE commitment to increasing girls' retention by addressing barriers to girls' education such as sexual gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy through the development of school-specific SGBV referral pathway, and the development of SGBV school improvement plans.



School System Support

Driven by a social purpose to create a pathway for **institutional sustainability beyond donor funding**, the school system support program works with youths, vulnerable women and girls, and rural schools in the provision of much-needed and marketable skills, tools, and services at affordable cost.

With access to a clerical hub equipped with modern printers, photocopiers, and scanners, we meet the evolving needs of rural schools at a very affordable cost. **In July 2019, LIPACE successfully completed a market-based survey intended to understand the skills and livelihood needs of marginalized women, girls, and youths in Bomi County.**

As an outcome of the pilot research, LIPACE is currently building synergies with corporate institution to deliver a **unique vocational school model for marginalized women, girls, and youths as a pathway for improved livelihood.** The vocational school is expected to launch a complementary cooperative scheme as an opportunity to ensure graduates utilize the skills learned and can generate income as part of the program design. **The vocational school is expected to roll-out its first training cycle as of June 1, 2021 with specific programs tailored to the needs of adolescent girls and marginalized women in Bomi County.**

If anything, this highlights LIPACE believe that empowerment is not something we do for people, but something we do with them.

Educational Research and Capacity Building

Our dedicated Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team assesses impacts and ensures continuous improvement of projects led by local partners in the role as external evaluators. Over the last three years, LIPACE has worked with the Liberia Reads! Program, an organization committed to promoting effective reading strategies, as an independent external evaluator, to conduct baseline and end-line assessments using the USAID approved EGRA assessment tools.

Our MEL team **has worked with 20 secondary schools to analyze exam scores and conduct focus groups discussion** with students as a pathway to improving teacher's competency and setting SMART school goals aimed at improving students' achievement.

In August 2019, LIPACE was successfully vetted and selected as one of **11 CSOs in a cohort for the implementation of a Supporting Effective Advocacy in Liberia (SEAL) multi-year (2019 – 2023) project.** With **funding support of US\$60,000** from the **European Union (EU)** and implemented in partnership with **Mercy Corps and Kvinna Till Kvinna**, LIPACE is enhancing institutional capacity for improved delivery of program outcomes through the implementation of an annual Organization Capacity Index (OCI) plan.

Awards & Recognition

2013: *Global Startup Youth selects LIPACE to represent Liberia at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Malaysia 2013; a gathering of policy leaders, and entrepreneurs to share information and ideas to create a globally scale entrepreneur eco-system.*

2014: *Mandela Washington Fellowship program selects LIPACE Executive Director to its inaugural class of the Mandela Washington Fellowship program including a professional development internship at Education Delivery Institute (EDI) based in Washington DC, USA. The experiences, insights, and network gained from this fellowship continue to shape the positive impacts of LIPACE as an organization.*

2015: *International Literacy Association named LIPACE Executive Director to its inaugural 30 under 30 lists of global literacy leaders. The list recognizes 30 outstanding leaders less than 30 years that are changing the world through cutting edge literacy innovations.*

2017: *Salvation Army Secretariat School System recognizes LIPACE for the successful pilot of post-war Liberia's first study guide – WAEC in Review in all secretariat schools across the country. The secretariat schools combined produced their highest aggregate pass rate in five years.*

Our Partners

- Ministry of Education - Liberia
- West African Examinations Council (WAEC)
- Luminos Fund Inc.
- Mercy Corps International
- Kvinna Till Kvinna
- Open Society of West Africa (OSIWA)
- US Embassy – Monrovia
- Liberia Reads!
- Peace Corps - Liberia
- Lonestar Cell MTN
- Ann Pelham Foundation (USA)
- International Literacy Association (USA)

Organization Facts

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