

Right to Play: 'Play for the advancement of quality education' (MYG014.15)

Summary of Year 2 Report

Project objectives

- 1,080 teachers trained and supported in the use of child-centred methodologies to support improvements in children's educational outcomes
- Systems established to improve the educational equality between girls and boys
- Improved capacity among 160 schools to create and maintain emotionally and physically safe learning environments for girls and boys

Project status

This project aims to improve the delivery of education for 28,000 vulnerable and marginalised children aged 2 to 15 across four counties of Liberia. At the end of Year 2, the project has continued to be successful and has improved equality between boys and girls. 11,436 children (4,895 female) were reached by the project in Year 2 in 31 schools across 3 counties in Liberia, representing an increase of 2,600 on Year 1. Teacher and 'master trainers' training has begun and is laying the foundation for future sustainability of the activities.

The primary donor of this project is Global Affairs Canada, which has decided to focus its funding provision on Ghana, Mozambique and Rwanda. For the final year of the project, the charity has therefore requested that the Isle of Man Government authorises a transfer of Year 3 activities from Liberia to Ghana, where the benefits of the activities will be sustained post-Isle of Man funding through the continued support of Global Affairs Canada.

Activities in the reporting period

The activities which took place in Liberia during the first two years of the project have been very successful. During Year 2, 11,436 children participated in play-based games twice a week. The intention of the games is to help children understand issues around gender equality in education. All participating schools receiving sports equipment such as balls, pumps, stopwatches, cones, ropes, nets and whistles as well as teaching aids such as flip charts, coloured cards, markers, pens and pencils.

A ten-day Training of Trainers workshop was held to train 40 master trainers. These trainers are now able to facilitate project activities as well as continue project activities post-funding. 80 children received training to become Junior Leaders, who support teachers and coaches in the delivery of various play-based learning activities and games.

40 Child Rights Clubs were established with 10 children in each club. The clubs received training and information needed to address education barriers and access child protection services in their communities. Nine training sessions were undertaken with school administrators, head teachers and some members of Parent Teacher Associations. These sessions covered play-based learning and positive child development.

Changes to planned activities for Year 3

As outlined above, the charity has submitted a request for authorisation to transfer the third year of activities and funding from Liberia to Ghana. This is because the primary financial supporter of the project, Global Affairs Canada, has decided to focus its resources on a smaller number of countries for a longer period of time. The charity began activities in Ghana in 2015, at the same time as the Liberia activities commenced. The third year funding can therefore be transferred to Ghana without any significant modification of project activities.

Additionally, the continued support of Global Affairs Canada in Ghana after the Isle of Man's support ends ensures the continued sustainability of the benefits delivered by the project.

While Ghana (139th) is ranked higher on the UN Human Development Index than Liberia (177th), the education sector in Ghana is beset with numerous challenges. 60% of 6-year-old children in rural areas are not in school, and school completion rates in northern Ghana are the lowest in the country. While the activities are transferring to a different location, they remain within the project's objectives.

The activities that have taken place in Liberia during the first two years of the project have delivered significant benefits and are sustainable in themselves due to the 'training of trainers' that has taken place, meaning that the transfer of funding to Ghana does not leave Liberia 'in the lurch'.

Budget

The Isle of Man's funding of £98,911 has been fully expended in the year without any significant deviation from the original budget. The wider changes to the project have not affected total budget for Year 3.