**Early Childhood Program (ECP) Portfolio Review, 3rd October 2014**

**Liberia: (Re) building the Early Childhood System**

**Grants/Contracts Summary List**

**TOTAL FOR ALL LIBERIA GRANTS AND CONTRACTS 2008-2013: $1,060,272**

1. **Organisational grants total: $544,959**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grant | Organisation/individual | Project Title/description | Period | Amount |
| Save the Children Liberia (OR2012-01269) | Save the Children Liberia | Early Childhood Care and Development. To increase access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) services in three poor rural areas by strengthening 2 pilot community based ECD services and establishing a 3rd, in partnership with the Ministry of Education. Documented learning from the pilots will inform expansion of ECD services nationally. | Jan 2013 - May 2014 | **$110,821** |
| Bank Street College of Education (OR2013-07754) | Bank Street College of Education | The study tour, which is tentatively scheduled for 6 – 26 November, is being designed in co-operation with Bank Street, the Ministry of Education in Liberia, OSIWA and ECP. The tour team will have an intensive ECD immersion experience in NYC and Washington, DC (attending classes, seminars with consultants and faculty, program visits). Meetings will be arranged with ECP Board members and all participants will attend the highly influential NAEYC (National Association of the Education of Young Children) conference, November 20-23. | Sep 2013 - Dec 2013 | **$49,896** |
| Bank Street College of Education (OR2012-01098) | Bank Street College of Education | Bank Street College of Education and OSF partnership work with Liberian Ministry of Education.Institutional support for the newly emerging early childhood development higher education sector in Liberia; technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in Liberia to develop evaluation tools to facilitate implementation of the new National Early Childhood Development Policy. | Dec 2012 - Jan 2014 | **$104,194** |
| W.V.S. Tubman University (OR2011-21619) | W.V.S. Tubman University | To establish a Faculty of Early Childhood Development (with demonstration and resource centers) at Tubman University | Dec 2011 - ongoing | **$70,318** |
| Save the Children Liberia (OR2011-21618) | Save the Children Liberia | **Early Childhood Centers/2012.** The project aims to continue the development of two pilot early childhood centers for more than 100 young children (aged 2years to 5 years) and their families in rural counties in Liberia. Using initial OSF support provided last year, one center was established in Tuzon, Grand Gedeh and the other in Botata, Bong County | Dec 2011 - Dec 2012 | **$74,872** |
| Save the Children Liberia (OR2010-19036) | Save the Children Liberia | **Early Childhood Centers.** To establish 2 multi-sectoral early childhood centers in rural communities in Liberia: one in Bong county and the other in Grand Gedeh. The centers will be models of best practice and will inform the development of the national early childhood system in Liberia | Dec 2010 - Dec 2011 | **$113,220** |
| Grant to pilot site | Children’s Assistance Program | ECD support to CAP – renovation and staff stipends | 2013, 2011, 2010 | **$7524** |
| Grant to pilot site | Waterside | ECD Waterside stipends | 2013 | **$540** |
| Grant to pilot site | Waterside | ECD Waterside renovation & resources | 2012 | **$6,178** |
| Materials Support to Ministry of Education | ECD Unit at MoE | ECD Unit at MoE renovation and resources | 2010 | **$7,396** |

1. **Organisational/individual contracts for technical assistance/activities. Total contracts: $371,553**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contract Number | Organisation/Individual | Project Title/description | Period | Amount |
| Faith Lamb-Parker (80006991) | Faith Lamb-Parker | Technical Assistance to Early Childhood Program**.** To continue on-going technical assistance to the ECE Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Government of Liberia, by leading the development and delivery of specified areas of work (see below) in co-operation with other consultants and partners identified by the Early Childhood Program and OSIWA. | Apr 2013 - Apr 2014 | **$46,891** |
| Barbara Ferguson Kamara (80006561) | Barbara Ferguson Kamara | To provide technical assistance to the ECD Unit of the MoE. Supporting the MoE to achieve its goals through the provision of technical inputs to develop and boost the early childhood sector. | Nov 2012 – Dec 2013 | **$57,492** |
| Jo-Anne Manswell Butty (80005951) | Jo-Anne Manswell Butty | Jo-Anne Butty - Liberia; supporting the MoE to achieve its goals through the provision of technical inputs regarding child assessment. | Jul 2012 - Jul 2013 | **$6,920** |
| Laura Altman (80005815) | Laura Altman | Laura Altman - assisting FLP and BK.Laura will be providing administrative assistance to ECP's work in Liberia and will be building on work carried out in 2011. | Jun 2012 - Jun 2013 | **$3,125** |
| Abigail Wendell (80005810) | Abigail Wendell | Abigail Wendell. ECP is developing Liberian ECDCEAP materials and Abigail's assistance with the design and layout is vital. | May - 2012 - Jun 2012 | **$3,430** |
| Virginia Casper (80005789) | Virginia Casper | Virginia Casper- to facilitate Liberian Higher Education council working group.To attend a meeting of the Liberian Higher Education council working group on early childhood and meetings with the ECE Unit of the Ministry of Education, Liberia. | May 2012 - May 2012 | **$5,993** |
| Elise Berkman (80005699) | Elise Berkman | Elise Berkman- Liberia. Elise will be contributing to ECPs work in Liberia through editing key documents. | Apr 2012 - Jun 2012 | **$3,375** |
| Faith Lamb-Parker (80005666) | Faith Lamb-Parker | Faith Lamb-Parker- Liberia.Faith is one of the lead technical consultants for ECP's work in Liberia and will be building on work carried out in 2010 and 2011. | Apr 2012 - Apr 2013 | **$54,791** |
| Natalia Sofiy (80005333) | Natalia Sofiy | Natalia Sofiy. Natalia will contribute to our goal of adapting the SbS methodology to Liberia and will provide technıcal assıstance to ınstıtutıons of hıgher educatıon. | Jan 2012 - Dec 2012 | **$6,592** |
| OSIWA consultants seconded to MoE | Individuals (Jamesetta Ross Diggs, Maive Bombo) | ECD consultants payment | 2013, 2012 | **$40,000** |
| Conference implementation | MoE | ECD National Conference expenses (venue hire etc) | 2013 | **$21,361** |
| Training and workshop implementation | ECD Training of Trainers | ECD TOT expenses | 2013 | **$15,124** |
| ECP Study Tour Expenses | Master Trainers | ECD Study tours to South Africa and the US and de-briefing expenses | 2013, 2012 | **$7,903** |
| Training and workshop implementation | ECDCEAP Production and Workshop | ECDCEAP Production and Workshop expenses | 2012 | **$6,151** |
| Salary supplements | ECD Unit at MoE Liberia (Yukhiko Amnon, Nada Ajami Tondo, Dweh Miller) | ECD Unit at MoE staff payment | 2012, 2011, 2010 | **$30,200** |
| Training and workshop implementation | MoE | ECD Ground transportation expenses | 2012, 2011, 2010 | **$2,422** |
| Training and workshop implementation | MoE | ECD Conferences and meetings expenses | 2012, 2010 | **$6,698** |
| Training and workshop implementation | MoE | ECD Policy Planning in Liberia (payments for consultants, travel and workshop costs to produce three situation studies) | 2008 | **$53,082** |

1. **Scholarships. Total scholarships: $93,898**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scholarship Name | Organisation/Individual | Project Title/description | Period | Amount |
| ECP Scholarships | Yukhiko Amnon, Roseline Sherman, Kao Bawoo | ECDVU and associated costs | 2011, 2009 | **$93,898** |

1. **Admin. Total admin: $49,862**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Expense Type | Organisation/Individual | Project Title/description | Period | Amount |
| ECP Liberia Admin Expenses | ECP | ECP’s team visits accommodation/ travel/ meeting costs/admin costs to OSIWA | 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 | **$49,862** |

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Liberia timeline: Main OSF activities & selected national events** | |
|  | **OSF Early Childhood events** | **National events ( source BBC)** |
| **2007-**  **08** | * 2007: Early Childhood Program (ECP) makes first visit to Liberia * ECP/OSIWA hosts 2 day national seminar on ECD context and policy development * ECP/OSIWA commissions 3 part situation analysis led by international consultant team and local researchers | * UN Security Council lifts its ban on Liberian diamond exports. The ban was imposed in 2001 to stem the flow of "blood diamonds", which helped to fund the civil war. * UN urges Liberia to outlaw trial by ordeal * Start of Charles Taylor's war crimes trial in The Hague, where he stands accused of instigating atrocities in Sierra Leone * Supreme Court rules that the president can appoint local mayors because the government cannot afford to hold municipal elections. * Liberia conducts its first census since 1984 |
| **2009** | * MoE with ECP initiates a National ECD Policy Planning Committee to begin policy development process * ECP contributes to ECD chapter in 10 year Education Sector Plan * ECP/OSIWA identify 3 civil servants (2 from the MoE/1 from the Ministry of Health) for scholarships for ECD distance learning post-graduate courses * ECP Supports participation of Liberian delegation to All Africa ECD conference convened by ADEA (Africa Development Education Association) | * UN Security Council votes to extend mandate of UN forces in Liberia (UNMIL) into 2010 to help with 2011 elections * President Johnson Sirleaf admits to Truth and Reconciliation Commission that she mistakenly backed ex-President Charles Taylor when he launched the 14-year civil war in 1989 |
| **2010** | * ECP/OSIWA works with MoE to include ECD in applications for EFA-FTI funding * ECP supplements salaries of 3 senior posts in the ECD Unit at the MoE * ECP appoints international technical assistance/consultant team * Consultants with MoE staff draft first 4 level national ECD training framework * Consultants with MoE staff draft first community awareness and parenting training * ECP/OSIWA provides grants to Save the Children and local NGO group for development of ECD community pilots | * The 19-nation Paris Club of creditor countries pardon $1.2bn worth of debt owed by Liberia * President Johnson Sirleaf dismisses cabinet, reportedly to start with a ''clean slate'' * New Minister of Education appointed & Education Reform Act in place (based on Education Sector Plan) |
| **2011** | * ECP/OSIWA awards grant to Tubman University to develop an ECD faculty * ECP supports national pilot (in 9 communities) of community and parent training & subsequently finalises materials * Basic skills training drafted * ECP continues input into development of national ECD policy * ECP funds 3 week study tour to South Africa for MoE staff and Master Trainers | * President Johnson Sirleaf awarded Nobel Peace Prize * Presidential elections. President Johnson Sirleaf wins re-election. Her main rival boycotts the second round * EFA-FTI funding agreed for Liberia ($40million for 3 years, of which $1million for ECD) |
| **2012** | * National ECD policy finalised * ECP/OSIWA grant agreed for a pilot site at Waterside Market * Basic skills training materials piloted * National ECD training program begins with Master Trainers delivering training | * Ex-president Charles Taylor is found guilty of war crimes for aiding and directing rebels in Sierra Leone. He is sentenced to 50 years in jail, to be served in Britain. * President suspends forestry chief and launches probe into recent timber deals amid concerns of widespread fraud * New Minister of Education appointed |
| **2013** | * ECP funds, with UNICEF, first national early childhood development conference – attended by 600 people * Study tour to US for ECD technical experts from the Ministry of Education and other agencies * Quality assessment tool for ECD (GROE) piloted by MoE with support from consultants * First higher education and ECD meeting convened * National early childhood curriculum finalised * ECD training cascaded around the country | * UN Refugee Agency completes a programme that helped more than 155 000 Liberians return home, hailing it as evidence of the return of peace after the civil war |
| **2014** | * National training framework revised * Supporting materials and teacher training materials disseminated via training * Meetings continue with higher education working group to develop ECD courses * New cohort of scholarships for ECD distance learning course to be selected * Grant awarded to We-Care for children’s book development and critical thinking training | * July - Liberia announces emergency measures to combat spread of outbreak of Ebola virus. Schools are closed * World Bank warns that the Ebola outbreak could have a catastrophic effect on the economies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone |

**Key facts: Liberia**



**People:**

* 4 million population of which approximately 43% under the age of 14
* 650,000 children under the age of five
* 80% of the population live below the poverty line
* 85% of population unemployed
* Average life expectancy 58 years of age
* 60% approximately of population literate (of which 22% are women)

**Families/children**

* 38% of all women under the age of 18 have a child
* Only 46% of women received skilled care during delivery
* Liberia is the 8th most dangerous place to give birth to a child (maternal mortality of 770 deaths per 100,000 births)
* 78 per 1000 children die before their 1st birthdays
* Under five mortality rate is 103 per 1000 children
* Average of 5 children per family
* 20% of all children are underweight

**Early Childhood Development/ Education:**

* 2,849 schools in Liberia of which 2,544 have some provision for young children (only 168 schools have access to electricity and 0.5% have access to a computer)
* 25,606 teachers in Liberia of which 6,276 have some responsibility for young children
* 288,539 children are enrolled in early childhood provision
* Average teacher: student ratio of 1:46 (many individual classrooms have higher ratios)
* 39% of early childhood teachers have any form of training
* Only 2.8% of GDP expended on education (144th lowest in the world)

Sources: CIA, 2014; WHO, 2011; UNICEF, 2013; UNFPA, 2011; GoL/MoHSW, 2010

**Bio sheet of main early childhood actors – Liberia**

***Liberian Ministry of Education Staff***

**Felicia Sackey Doe-Sumah**



Felicia Sackey Doe-Sumahis a Liberian educator who began as a teacher, then a Supervisor, a Head Teacher and then joined the Ministry of Education as the Assistant Minister for Secondary Education, later for Basic and Secondary Education and currently is the Assistant Minister for the Bureau of Early Childhood Education. Felicia has also taught at the William V. S. Tubman Teachers College, University of Liberia and the Stella Maris Polytechnic University. She is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Felicia is a United Methodist and the Co-Chair Person of the General Board of Education of the Liberia Annual United Methodist Conference. Felicia was active in the founding of professional education organizations like the Forum for African Women Educationists-Liberia Chapter (FAWE) and the Women Educators Association of Liberia (WEAL).

**Yukhiko D’Lovette Amnon**



Yukhiko D’Lovette Amnon lives in Paynesville, Montserrado County and works with the Bureau of Early Childhood Education, Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia. She is an educator and has a passion for early childhood development programs. She developed an interest in Early Childhood Education shortly after the civil war in Liberia, when she was asked to teach in the post-war preparatory school program. She has worked as a teacher in pre -school and lower basic classes, served as an administrator, adviser in the establishment of pre-schools and facilitator in the training of pre-school teachers, caregivers and administrators. Her degree in Primary Education is from the University of Liberia, and she has a post-graduate degree in ECD from the Early Childhood Virtual University. She has led the development of the Liberia National Inter-Sectorial Early Childhood Development Policy, Early Childhood Development Community Education Awareness Program, Liberia National Early Childhood Development Curriculum, the April 2013 first national early childhood conference and a number of early childhood resource materials for Liberia and Africa. Presently, she serves as the country representative for the World Forum, and is an affiliate member of ISSA and OMEP Liberia. She is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

***OSIWA/ECP Consultants***

**Jamesetta Ross Diggs**



Jamesetta Ross Diggs lives in Paynesville City, near Monrovia, Liberia and works as an Early Childhood Development consultant at the Open Society Initiative for West Africa assigned with the Ministry of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Education. She is certified as a Master Trainer to provide ECD services in Liberia. Previously she worked in preschools with children from multi-cultured backgrounds, served as trainer of teachers with Concern Worldwide and USAID funded Project CESLY (Core Education Skills for Liberian Youth). She worked with the USAID Advancing Youth Project as Alternative Basic Education Coordinator and Literacy for Work Curriculum writer. From her passion to serve, she is a donor and advisor to EDY Foundation for Children in Liberia because she believes in the development of the whole child. She is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

**Maive Whisnant Bombo**



Maive Whisnant Bombolives in Monrovia, Liberia. She works for the Open Society Initative of West Africa (OSIWA) in partnership with the Bureau of Early Childhood Education, Ministry of Education. She serves as Master Trainer for the Early Childhood Development Community Education and Awareness Program (ECDCEAP) where she works with parents, teachers and communities.

***External OSF consultants***

**Barbara Ferguson Kamara**



Barbara Ferguson Kamara is a consultant with Open Society Foundation’s Early Childhood Program, mentoring and coaching the early childhood team for the Liberian Ministry of Education. Barbara has extensive experience in early childhood policy formulation and implementation, program development and demonstration at the state and federal government as well as private sector levels, having lead the US National Head Start Program during the Carter administration, established the Washington D.C. Office of Early Childhood Development in the Government of the District of Columbia and served on the Advisory Committee for Goal One: Children are Ready for School, which was chaired by then Governor Bill Clinton.

Barbara holds an MSc in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College New York and was a Senior Fellow at the Centre on Health and Education at Georgetown University from 2008 to 2010. Barbara has received more than 160 awards for her work in early childhood, the church and volunteerism including the Franklin H. Williams Peace Corps Award for Outstanding Community Service in 2012, the United Planning Organization Special Recognition Award, Pillar of Faith from the Howard University School of Divinity and the UCC Friends of Howard and the 40th Anniversary 1969 Dudley- N C A&T Revolt Revisited – Leadership in 2009.

**Faith Lamb Parker**

Inline image 1

Faith Lamb-Parker is a Senior Research Scientist at Bank Street College of Education. She directs the National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness, one of six centers that develop materials and trainings for the Early Head Start/Head Start and child care and education communities. She works internationally in South Africa, Bangladesh, and Liberia using a community-based co-construction model to develop and implement early childhood and family programs. Prior to 2010, Dr. Lamb-Parker was Assistant Clinical Professor of Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, where she conducted research/evaluation, taught infant/child development, and directed their international practicum program. Recent publications focus on international issues related to young children and families. Dr. Lamb-Parker received her PhD in clinical psychology from the New School for Social Research and a MS in early childhood development from City College, NYC.

Open Society Foundations Early Childhood Program

(re) building the Early Childhood System 2007 – 2014: Publications and press coverage

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Republic of Liberia Early Childhood Development Pilot Program Profile.* (July 2014) Liberian ECD Technical Work Group. Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Open Society Foundations, London | |
| *DRAFT #8 Republic of Liberia Early Childhood Development National Training Framework.* (January 2014) Ministry of Education Bureau of Early Childhood Education in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations/OSIWA, London and Bank Street College of Education, New York | |
|  | ***LIBERIAN U.S. STUDY TOUR REPORT, November 6 to 26, 2013, Creating “World-Class” Early Childhood Educators for Liberia.*** (2013): Casper, V., Kamara, B.F., Lamb-Parker, F. Bank Street College of Education, New York in collaboration with the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC and Open Society Foundations, London  ***Early Childhood Study Tour Symposium, “Creating World Class Early Childhood Educators for Liberia: The Vision, The Challenges, The Opportunities for Partnerships and Collaboration”*** (November 2013). The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations/Open Society Initiative for West Africa, Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the University of the District of Columbia, Bank Street College and Friends of Liberia. Washington, DC |
| *First Liberian National Early Childhood Development Conference Higher Education Symposium, Creating World Class Early Childhood Educators for Liberia: The Multiple Roles of Institutions of Higher Education Report.* (2013). Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia, Monrovia; Open Society Foundations, London | |
|  | **Global Ratings of Environments: GROE for Liberia** (2013)**,** Casper, V., Lamb-Parker, F., Hayes, M., Bank Street College of Education for the Ministry of Education, Liberia  ***Global Ratings of Environments: GROE for Liberia: Instruction Manual*** (2013)**,** Casper, V., Lamb-Parker, F., Hayes, M., Bank Street College of Education for the Ministry of Education, Liberia |
|  | ***ECD Curriculum Early Child Development Curriculum 2- to 6-Year-Olds.*** Ministry of Education/Early Childhood Education (July 2013). Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Bank Street College of Education, New York; Open Society Foundations, London & OSIWA |
|  | ***Eighth OMEP Africa Regional Conference and the First Liberian National Early Childhood Development Conference Communique and Declaration.***(2013) Amnon, Y. D., Kamara, BF. Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; Open Society Foundations, London |
|  | ***Liberia National Inter-Sectoral Policy on Early Childhood Development.*** (2012) Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia, Monrovia; supported by World Bank; Open Society Foundations, London |
|  | ***Early Childhood Development Skills Based Training Education Program.*** *(2012).* Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; in collaboration with Bank Street College of Education, New York; Open Society Foundations, London & OSIWA |
|  | ***Early Child Development Community Education & Awareness Program Curriculum and Photocards.*** *(2011).* Lamb-Parker, F., Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Bank Street College of Education, New York; Open Society Foundations, London & OSIWA  ***Early Child Development Community Education & Awareness Program Brochure.***(2012) Amnon, Y. D., Ajami-Tondo., N. Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by supported by Bank Street College of Education, New York; Open Society Foundations, London & OSIWA |
|  | ***Early Child Development Community Education & Awareness Program Field Test Guidebook.*** (2011) Lamb-Parker, F., Kamara, B. F., Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Bank Street College of Education, New York; Open Society Foundations, London |
|  | ***Bureau of Early Childhood Education Brochure and Annual Calendar*.** (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014). Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia supported by Open Society Foundations, London |
|  | ***Study on Resources for Early Childhood Development,*** (2008) Kiazolu, M. Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Open Society Foundations, London |
|  | ***Child Family Needs Assessment.***(2008)Hyde, K A.L, Koon, T.G. Twala. M.P., Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Open Society Foundations, London |
|  | ***Early Childhood Development in Liberia A Policy Analysis*** (2008), Allison, H.D., Dixon, P., Vargas-Baron, E. (2008) Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia; supported by Open Society Foundations, London |

P**ress coverage**

1. Link to video about a community based ECD initiative ‘Waterside Market’ in Monrovia

<https://vimeo.com/99080151>

passwords: ecp

1. **Voices piece:** President Johnson Sirleaf Backs Early Childhood Development in Liberia

June 4, 2013 by [Tina Hyder](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/people/tina-hyder) [Early Childhood Program](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/programs/early-childhood-program)



<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/president-johnson-sirleaf-backs-early-childhood-development-liberia>