

AMERICA DONATES TO AFRICA

Training To Build Businesses Fulfills President Obama's Promise

Washington, D.C. Nov 18, 2010.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Cisco and World Learning today announced a new collaboration to promote local entrepreneurs, workforce development and economic growth in developing countries.

The collaboration will work through the Cisco Entrepreneur Institute and Cisco Networking Academy-programs that provide entrepreneurship and information and communications technology (ICT) education, mentoring networks, and technology resources-to help individuals develop and manage successful businesses.

The partnership is one of the key initiatives to grow out of President Obama's 2009 speech in Cairo, in which he vowed to deepen United States engagement with Muslim-majority countries to foster economic growth, promote civil society and provide new economic opportunities for United States business and investors-a promise that has since expanded to include other developing nations.

With an aim to train more than 2,500 students over the next 2 years, improve local businesses, raise local incomes and help grow local economies, USAID is giving US\$1 million in seed funding through World Learning to encourage the creation of new Cisco Entrepreneur Institutes and Networking Academy programs in up to 10 countries. USAID Missions will be invited to partner with local Cisco offices to fund country or customized initiatives, such as curriculum enhancement, scholarships, or initiatives that target underserved populations, including youth, women and disabled persons. A part of the funding could be used to translate and localize training content to ensure it meets local business laws and regulations.

Through this partnership, USAID will utilize Cisco's investments in the Entrepreneur Institute and the Networking Academy, as well as World Learning's two decades of experience supporting institutional capacity development worldwide to expand and deepen the economic and social impact of entrepreneurship and business development.

President Obama's Promise For Health Help in Kenya Fulfilled

Nairobi, Kenya Nov 8, 2010.

To improve the health of Kenyans in the western region of the country, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded a comprehensive health service delivery project to the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). The project, APHIAplus, builds upon USAID/Kenya's country-wide health service support

project known as the AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance II (APHIA II). PATH and its partners will implement the APHIAplus project in Western and Nyanza Provinces from Jan 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2015 and work closely with the Government of Kenya and many non-government agencies.

PATH's five-year award is valued at USD143 million and is one of several region-specific health projects that USAID/Kenya plans to award in the near future. The APHIAplus program is one part of USAID/Kenya's comprehensive health strategy that is valued at USD1.5 billion over five years. It is one of USAID's largest health investments and is an important part of President Barack Obama's Global Health Initiative – a 6-year, USD63 billion support to international health.

USAID has been working in Kenya for more than 50 years. USAID/Kenya is working with the Government of Kenya, civil society groups and the private sector to advance democracy and the rule of law, to improve health and education services, and to modernize and grow the economy so that Kenya's wealth is shared by more.

Edited by SJ Dodgson BSc(Hons), PhD

Dr Dodgson publishes MJoTA, <http://mjota.org> and directs the MJoTA Institute of Medical Writing, <http://medical-writinginstitute.us>.

Amuloma Development Foundation Executive Director, Mrs Zainab Wai-Lansana has a vision for a healthy and prosperous Sierra Leone.

The rate of women and children dying in childbirth in Sierra Leone is the highest in the world.

Miss Zain invites you to donate to health and education in Pendembu. In 2010, MJoTA came along and witnessed her donation of 99 boxes and 6 barrels of 1,000 books, 2 computers, medical supplies; your donations will erect the library building turn 40 acres of swamp-land into income-generating rice paddies, and turn on the light in Pendembu.

Donate hope to create jobs in Pendembu in the devastation of the civil war (1990-2001) that killed Miss Zain's relatives and friends.

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Sierra Leone Empowerment

**Executive Director
Zainab Wai**




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RECENT UPDATES

Africa Education Initiative: Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program Replaces Child Labor with Homework in Liberia

December 21, 2007.

Montserrado County, Liberia

Beatrice Roberts has an intense gaze for a 6th grader and stands erect at the podium of a small church next to her school in the Soul Clinic community of Paynesville, a rural suburb of Liberia's capital, Monrovia. She speaks words of thanks for the Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program, part of President Bush's \$600 million, nine-year Africa Education Initiative (AEI) run by USAID.

In front of the packed congregation U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth and Acting USAID Mission Director Rick Scott presented 37 girls with scholarships, backpacks stuffed with school supplies, and an enthusiastic handshake, a moment captured in a snapshot that each girl will also receive. Also looking on as Beatrice speaks are the principal of her school-the Maggie Lampkins Institute-Soul Clinic community leaders, the managers of the scholarship program, the media, classmates, the other scholarship recipients and their families, and perhaps most important of all for Beatrice, her grandmother.



When you meet Phebe Joe Roberts you understand where her granddaughter gets the intense gaze and stoic pose. She is raising eight grandchildren as their parents-her children-were all lost to the 14-year war that ended a few years ago. The education system and the entire country is rebuilding from ruin, as is her family. She breaks rocks to make a living. Beatrice used to help out by selling charcoal. The case of the Roberts family is typical of others in the audience, there to see their girls receive scholarships on this day.

In Liberia, in 2008 1,070 girls, like Beatrice at risk of dropping out of school, receive scholarships to cover school fees, textbooks, copybooks, backpacks, uniforms, shoes, pencils, and pens. Also at the awards ceremony, Ambassador Booth announced that, partly due to overwhelming demand from communities and local government, for the first time 619 boys will be eligible to receive scholarships this year.

Students in 19 schools, largely public, participate in the program. For girls who have more than an hour's walk to school, the scholarships provide bicycles. Boston-based World Education manages the program for USAID's Africa Bureau with local partners Children Assistance Program Inc. in Montserrado County and Development Education Network-Liberia in Bong County.

Since the program began in the 2004-2005 school year, a total of 2,642 scholarships have been awarded to primary school girls in these two counties. The scholarships are awarded competitively by a board consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Education and Gender and Development, USAID, UNICEF, NGO partners, community leaders, teachers, and health workers. Students from very poor households or those who are disabled, orphaned, or affected by HIV/AIDS are invited to go through the application, interview, and screening process.

If they are selected, the children no longer have to worry about going to and staying in school. As Beatrice tells an inquiring visitor after the ceremony, "I don't have to get up in the dark and sell coal anymore." Her classmate and co-awardee, Jasmine Yarziah, eagerly chimes in. "I'm so glad I don't have to pick and sell potato greens anymore to get the school fees. I had to walk all that way before going to school." Asked what she liked best about the program Beatrice shyly grins for the first time and says, "The uniform." For her it is not only a source

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of school pride, but also personal dignity, "I don't get kicked out of school anymore for not paying the fee or not having the supplies." While

they appear to be 11 and 12, Beatrice is 15 and Jasmine is 16, and making up for the lost years of education.

Poster board signs prepared by the students with guidance from the teachers surround the speakers at the event: "Thanks to the U.S. government through USAID. God bless you"; "Long live Ambassador Booth and delegation"; "Education is better than silver or gold." A more spontaneous expression of the children's excitement at the visitors and the awards erupts after a group photo outside their school, too small to accommodate the day's crowd, as they sing multiple rounds of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!" to the American delegation. It is the Friday before Christmas and the New Year looks promising to the girls, their families, and the community of Soul Clinic.

Professor Susanna J Dodgson BSc(Hons), PhD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Project to Care for Vulnerable Liberian Children

WASHINGTON (November 8, 2010) -- World Learning and Save the Children UK are pleased to announce a new joint project in Liberia that will build the capacity of families and communities to educate and protect an estimated 50,000 vulnerable children. The \$4 million project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, and administered by World Learning.

The four-year project will support child protection systems and enhance the ability of communities, families, and relatives to care for children who were previously living in foster care facilities or have no home. The project will address issues such as the increasing number of vulnerable children in Liberia since the civil war and the strain this increase places on existing child support systems that already lack funding and other essential resources. The end goal is to create community-based solutions to these problems that will be sustainable over the long term.

Save the Children UK will work with its Liberian partner organizations to address the causes of vulnerability and family separation, responding to immediate protection concerns. The project will work in 12 districts in six counties in Liberia to increase children's access to services such as education and health care. The project also seeks to reintegrate children back into homes, either with existing family members or in their communities.

World Learning has worked in Liberia since February implementing the Liberia Grants Solicitation and Management Project, of which the new child protection initiative is a part. Under the umbrella project, World Learning will administer multiple grants over the next five years to address gaps in the Liberian health care system and strengthen nongovernmental organizations working in this sector.

World Learning has more than 70 years of experience in operating international education and development programs. Its experience includes providing grants for health-related projects and conducting capacity-building training in dozens of countries including Ethiopia and Angola. In addition, World Learning has conducted successful projects in HIV/AIDS prevention, support for orphans, vulnerable children and other at-risk youth.



Left, Liberians living in the United States gather for an investment conference convened by Hon Stanley Straughter in Philadelphia, June 2009. Mr Straughter (below) is the honorary Consul for Guinea and the Convener of the Mayor's Commission of African and Caribbean Affairs in Philadelphia.

