**Early Childhood Program (ECP) Portfolio Review, 2nd October 2014**

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

**Concept: Promoting Equity through Early Childhood Development**

**Grants/Activities Summary List**

**TOTAL BUDGET FOR ALL LIBERIA GRANTS AND ACTIVITIES 2014: $527,700**

**TOTAL BUDGET 2015: $363,270**

**A. ECP Open/intended grants**

1. Organisational grants
2. Contracts
3. Demonstration projects
4. Public Communications

**B. Other related ECP open grants/activities**

1. Capacity development: materials and networks
2. Capacity development: higher education

**C. Current grants/activities of other OSF Network Programs and National Foundations**

1. Organisational grants/support for activities with OSIWA
2. Education Support Program related grants/activities

**D. Other organisations promoting ECD in Liberia**

**A.ECP Open/intended grants**

1. **Organisational grants (current): Total grants: $246,795 (including grant with ESP)**

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| **Grant** | **Organisation** | **Project Title/description** | **Period** | **Amount** |
| We-Care Foundation  (in compliance) | We-Care Foundation | Development of activities to promote early literacy through book development and extension of reading and writing for critical thinking training through the teacher training colleges to educators working in kindergartens. | September 2014 –September 2017 | **$183,940**  (joint grant with Education Support Program  $139,728 from ECP & $44,212 from ESP) |
| Ministry of Education  (via BA to OSIWA) | Ministry of Education | To Ministry of Education for national training workshops for a minimum of 150 education officers and early childhood teachers . | July 2014 – December 2014 | **$62,855** |

1. **Contracts for technical assistance (current): Total contracts: $260,403**

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| **Contract Number** | **Organisation/Individual** | **Project Title/description** | **Period** | **Amount** |
| Bank Street College of Education (90003572) | Bank Street College of Education | Technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to produce the national children’s curriculum and national training framework plus a range of courses including at undergraduate level to be delivered by Liberian higher education (H.E.) institutions. | Apr 2014 - Apr 2015 | **$181,153** |
| Barbara Ferguson Kamara (80008109) | Barbara Ferguson Kamara | To build capacity within the Early Childhood Bureau, Ministry of Education to implement the national early childhood policy with emphasis on planning the national training programme and roll-out of the curriculum. | Mar 2014 - Mar 2015 | **$59,250** |
| Jamesetta Ross Diggs (via OSIWA) | Jamesetta Ross Diggs | To work on secondment to the Ministry of Education to develop practice in selected pilot sites in public and community based early childhood centres and to contribute to the national training program. | Jan 2014 – Dec 2014 | **$10,500** |
| Maeve Bombo (via OSIWA) | Maeve Bombo | To work on secondment to the Ministry of Education to develop practice in selected pilot sites in public and community based early childhood centres and to contribute to the national training program. | Jan 2014 – Dec 2014 | **$9,500** |

1. **Demonstration projects demonstrating child-centered practice (pending). Total demonstration projects: $26,260   
   (these activities are delayed because of the Ebola epidemic)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contract Number** | **Organisation** | **Project Title/description** | **Period** | **Amount** |
| Via OSIWA | Children’s Assistance Program | Development of pilot classrooms in a center operated by a CSO | Jan 2014 – December2014 | **$3,220** |
| Via OSIWA | Waterside Marketer’s Association | Development of pilot classrooms in community market in West Point | Jan 2014 – July 2015 | **$7,720** |
| Via OSIWA | JCN Howard | Development of pilot classrooms in a public school | August 2014 – July 2015 | **$5,136** |
| Via OSIWA | JW Pearson | Development of pilot classrooms in a public school | August 2014 – July 2015 | **$5,540** |
| Via OSIWA | BW Payne | Development of pilot classrooms in a public school | August 2014 – July 2015 | **$4,643** |

1. **Public communications**

* Multi-media short film about early childhood development in Liberia (release 22 September 2014)
* Brochure about early childhood development in Liberia (release 22 September 2014)
* Press coverage of study tour to US (December 2013)
* Voices piece on OSF web-site June 2013: ‘President Johnson Sirleaf Backs Early Childhood Development in Liberia’
* Press coverage of first international early childhood conference in Liberia (April 2013)

**B. Other related ECP grants/activities**

1. **Capacity Development: materials and networks**

ECP is supporting development of new methodological materials outlining child-centred approaches to programming for young children, for use in low resourced settings, with a specific focus on the African context. A long-term member of the Liberian Ministry of Education’s early childhood bureau (Assistant Minister Yukhiko Amnon) has been participating in the working group with other early childhood practitioners drawn from Southern and East Africa. Once completed, the materials will be made available for adaptation and use in Liberia.

1. **Capacity development: higher education**

ECP aims to strengthen the academic base for early childhood development through engagement with selected higher education institutions in Africa. Not only will the experience of engaging with the higher education system in Liberia inform partnership development elsewhere, but the Liberia initiative will form an integral part of the overall programme of work in higher education.

1. **Peru**

ECP’s work in Liberia represents the second half of ECP’s work in this Concept: **Promoting Equity Through Early Childhood Development**. Both the Peru and Liberia projects directly engage governments in technical projects to reform their national early childhood systems. In Peru the work as focused on assisting the Ministry of Social Inclusion (MIDIS) in improving and scaling up national child care services for children of the poorest working parents.

**C. Grants/activities of other OSF Network Programs and National Foundations**

1. **OSIWA activities/grants/support for related ECP activities**

The OSIWA office in Monrovia is hosting the **Big Belly Business** project, including two full time and two part-time staff). **Big Belly Business** is a Liberian adaptation of the ***What to Expect When You’re Expecting*** initiative, aimed at educating new parents. With funding of approximately $500,000 for two years from the US State Department, administered by OSIWA on behalf of Big Belly Business Liberia, **Big Belly Business** will disseminate its training model across Liberia, building on the partnerships already developed by the Early Childhood Program, OSIWA and the Ministry of Education in Liberia. The project will fill a much needed gap in services for parents of children under the age of two. The synergy between the two initiatives will be reinforced as the two part-time **Big Belly Business** trainers are also employed by OSIWA to work with the Ministry of Education to run early childhood training and provide technical support to several early childhood pilot sites.

1. **Grants/activities of other network programs**

The Education Support Program continues to fund four education consultants who advise the planning department of the Ministry of Education and assist with the education reform process. The consultants are available to provide both formal and informal advice to the Early Childhood Bureau and to support ECP’s work as needed.

**D. Other major organisation promoting ECD in Liberia**

**UNICEF**: UNICEF did not prioritise early childhood development for some years and in fact hampered progress by ignoring kindergarten classes and focusing on grades one and up in basic education. With a change of the UNICEF team responsible for education, a new more co-operative relationship is emerging. For instance, UNICEF has partly funded the roll-out of national training to disseminate the new early childhood curriculum, which was developed by Ministry of Education staff and a wider working group, with technical advice from ECP consultants, and co-funded the national early childhood conference in 2013.

**The World Bank**: The World Bank Global Partnership on Education (GPE) funding to the Ministry of Education includes support to build eight community based early childhood centres in rural areas in Liberia. The Ministry programs at these centers will be based on the curriculum and experience generated from the pilot sites supported by ECP.

**Save the Children**: With funding from ECP, Save the Children initiated three community based ECD centres in rural areas, created linkages with primary schools and trained local government education authorities. On the basis of this successful project, Save the Children has raised funds from other donors to open additional centres.

**ELMA Philanthropies**: Liberia is a potential country of interest for a new joint initiative between ECP and the ELMA education team.