



EDUCATE WEST POINT INCORPORATED
Annual Report
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BACKGROUND

EDUCATE WEST POINT (EWP) Incorporated, is a U.S-Liberian 501©3 established in the Township of West Point, Liberia, to provide education, protection, health, psycho-social, and financial support to the most vulnerable children living in the Township of West Point and other surrounding communities. EWP brings together a dynamic workforce to provide a holistic approach to child growth and development. The beneficiaries in our programs consist of families who are identified as at risk, meeting vulnerability criteria and/or having been exposed to human rights violations. Family profiles are generally households without access to sufficient income to support their child's education, often consisting of single parent households, elderly caregivers, or parents with a large number of dependents. Through our back to school program, we support children by providing access to education, healthcare, counseling, and two meals per school day. We enhance our students' confidence in their learning abilities and develop their leadership skills through our after-school programs. Finally, EWP supports heads of households through our livelihood programs, providing them with business skills training, a village savings and loan program for access to small grants, and cash injections to support their small business.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the entire world to a standstill, but that has not stopped EWP'S progress as we have been making tremendous progress to keep students engaged with learning materials and lessons at home whilst adding staff members to our workforce to support in monitoring student's progress. EWP established the "Community Education Worker" initiative (CEW) in an effort to promote education in the homes of the students who are currently not able to attend school. While following COVID prevention measures, the program's initial launch had staff lead weekly study sessions at the students' homes to increase access to learning during the pandemic, including the caretaker who would subsequently be able to assist the student with their learning. EWP recently opened West Point's first Public Library to ensure that our direct beneficiaries and community members can benefit through research and literacy practice. On October 10, 2020, the library was launched and up to present, the library receives on average 20 persons daily from various corners of West Point.

Global Pandemic

When COVID-19 started to rage through the world, EWP had to change programming to fight the spread of the virus as social gatherings, including schools and other educational programs, were halted by the government. With the average West Pointer living with five individuals in a single room, the community is highly susceptible to viral transmission, as was observed during the Ebola outbreak in 2014. EWP decided to launch an Anti-COVID-19 Task Force to carry out



awareness campaigns in West Point and other surrounding communities in order to sensitize residents prevention and social distancing measures.

In March, the EWP Anti-COVID-19 Task Force began distributions of food and non-food items while sharing information on the virus with our program beneficiaries and community members. We built a network which incorporated over twenty-five volunteers. The EWP Anti-Coronavirus Task Force was able to identify a total of 800 households that lacked access to sufficient water, soaps, sanitizers, buckets, and disinfectant materials across the seven-zones of the Township. These households were targeted to have centralized 100 handwashing stations

established across West Point.

EWP was able to conduct assessments during the heat of the pandemic in the Township of West Point for our programs' beneficiaries and community members that were also impacted by EBOLA, Sea Erosion, and COVID to benefit from the sanitary supplies and food packages.

500 households mounting up to ~2250 individuals received food packages (3 weeks supply), sanitation kits and sensitization messaging. Besides the 100 established public handwashing stations, EWP also provided hygiene kits to 28 BTS and 60 ECD beneficiaries to support handwashing in their homes.



An assessment post distribution showed that on average 40% of community dwellers practiced handwashing in the community highlighting the need for ongoing sensitization. EWP's COVID task force continued to engage children, youth, and elders to emphasize the importance to remain vigilant and continue to apply prevention measures to the highest degree possible despite the challenges of living in the congested community with limited access to water, latrines, and general livelihoods.

As COVID continued to rage across the globe, EWP deemed it necessary to establish ways to further engage out of school learning by developing Home-Learning Lessons for our students in

the Early Childhood Development (ECD), Back-to-School (BTS), and After School Program (ASP).

COVID-19 STAY-AT HOME LEARNING PROGRAM

During the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic period, the stay-at-home lessons were prepared and given to various Staffs in order to reach out to our beneficiaries' homes and help to teach each of them on a daily basis. Every staff was mandated to tutor one student at a time for about forty-five minutes and the staff could teach five students a day. Both our facilitators and our beneficiaries wear their nose masks daily as it was pronounced by the government for the compulsory wearing of face or nose masks by every citizen.



Direct Programs

Regarding Educate West Point's Protection program, a strategy was designed to increase awareness about COVID-19, ensuring that the wellbeing and safety of our beneficiaries were monitored. A key focus of the protection program during COVID-19 was to understand the problems and needs of our beneficiaries and community dwellers and to find concrete solutions to keep them safe. In making our work more visible, community volunteers made themselves available to work with EWP to reach out to the community to educate them on COVID-19 prevention. Lastly the protection team organized a monitoring task force to do follow-up on all BTS, ASP, and ECD beneficiaries at home to track progress in the learning from home modality.

ECD, BTS, and ASP Program

Prior to the pandemic, our ECD students were learning in a safe environment before the outbreak of coronavirus resulted in the need for our ECD facilitators to take learning to the homes. Stay-At-Home lessons were prepared for all the students to enable them to stay busy and embrace a new learning atmosphere as they remained home. The lessons were compiled in consultation with the Ministry of Education Early Childhood Development (ECD) National Curriculum. Moreover, the ECD staff at EWP conducted weekly monitoring to ensure the students' parents were properly delivering lessons and to review any assignment work.

The Back to School (BTS, sponsored children to attend government school) and After School Program students were similarly supported with learning from home lesson packages coupled with thrice weekly follow up and tutoring of both the parent and the student to ensure learning was continuing and sufficient support was provided to the students. Learning assignments



included worksheets, reading assignments and quizzes. Once the Ministry of Education reopens schools, it is likely the students will remain at the same grade level from the previous year, further delaying their progression. It is possible students will be given the option to attempt to “test out” of their current year and progress on grade level. Regardless, our students will be prepared!

Livelihood Program:

To provide holistic support to our beneficiaries’ families, EWP’s Livelihood Program focused on giving business training to the heads of households to ensure they were able to maximize their profits and savings. A Village and Saving Loan Association (VSLA) was established among these beneficiaries so families may have access to microloans to expand their business. Upon graduation of the business training, families draft a business plan and are supported to procure up to 150 USD worth of materials to strengthen their business. From the previous total of 7 households to receive this support, EWP was able to increase the number of heads of households to 24, covering all of the families of our 24 BTS students. The business training covered the following topics:

- How to successfully manage a business
- Record keeping
- How to save and why saving is important
- When to re-invest in business
- Savings and loans

COVID 19 had a serious impact on the already crippled economy of Liberia. Consequently, our families consisting of micro business owners (selling fruit, water sachets, fishing) were hit hard. To secure the LVH business sustainability, 12,500 LRD (Liberian dollars, approximately 100 USD) was saved per person annually by the initial seven LVH businesswomen. As an association they were able to save a total of 87,500 LRD. The majority of the VSLA network utilized these savings in order to keep their businesses running while simultaneously putting food on the table during the climax of the outbreak.

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When things started to get worst on a daily basis with the lockdown in place and low-income being generated, all of our beneficiaries were asked to withdraw their savings to be able to improve their livelihood businesses and families. Our institution decided to convene an intensive training for our livelihood women on how to grow businesses during crisis period. Based on the training provided by EWP, the livelihood group is still maintaining their various businesses and keeping good records during this economic and health crisis.

Martina Synue
EWP-Protection Officer



In September 2019, the second group of LVH business women were trained in the business module. Upon graduation of the training and presentation of the business plan, each business owner received 150 USD worth of goods (often 50%+ of the value of the existing business).

Cash breakdown of savings per person and amount turned over businesswomen for the Sustainability Program	
Worth of goods injected	150 USD
Amount Saved per person (one year)	12,500 LRD
7 businesswomen saved (one year)	87,500 LRD
24 businesswomen saved (16 months)	137,500 LRD
Each of the LVH women received the 12,500 LRD from their savings after the period of one year.	

Progress 2020

Below is the logframe to analyze EWP's progress in 2020 against the organization's main strategic objectives, with an emphasis on: Parent Engagement, School Improvements, Community Development, and Youth Empowerment.

Parent Engagement		
<i>Parents are involved in the overall success of their child's progress through EWP programs and are empowered to support their child's continuity and success in their education</i>		
Objectives	Indicator	Progress
Parents have a basic understanding of COVID-19 and adhered to the preventive measures	# Parents trained on COVID-19	200
	# Parents trained on Basic Human Rights such as sexual assault, child labor, etc.	210
Parents are trained in individualized basic business and saving modules to utilize excess income	# Parents trained in basic business	30
	# of 1 year business / saving plans developed	24
	% of income invested to child welfare	25%
	% income saved	10%
	% income sustained	100%
School Improvements		
<i>Our partner school's capacity to provide a quality education in a supportive environment is improved</i>		
Objectives	Indicator	Progress

<i>Schools are supported with basic resources to empower students and teachers</i>	# of in-kind donations provided to the school for basic materials: Desks, books, etc.	5%
	Provision of a Librarian, 2 hours per day, M, T, W, T, F & S.	2%
Objectives	Indicator	Progress
Community Development		
<i>The general community of West Point is engaged to increase community health, social cohesion, safety, and general well-being of community members</i>		
Beneficiary designed and led social impact projects improve the social fabric and general environment of West Point	# service projects designed/implemented (COVID-19 Community Awareness) and Sanitation Program (Cleaning up)	4-months
	# outreach campaigns	4
Objectives	Indicator	Progress
Youth Empowerment		
<i>Our beneficiaries are supported in their educational endeavors and personal development, increasing learning outcomes and self-worth</i>		
Households are provided holistic support to their child's immediate access to education	# of children enrolled in primary school	24
	# of children enrolled in ECD	79
	% retention rate BTS	100%
	% retention rate ECD	70%
After school programs increase beneficiaries learning outcomes while providing child-care for families	# of afterschool program sessions	100
	# of beneficiaries attended ASP Retention Rate	84%
	% increase, test scores, English	46%
After school programs increase beneficiaries learning outcomes while providing child-care for familie	% increase, test scores, Math	38%

The Cova Project

The Cova Project is an Australian charity and partner to EWP, dedicated to supporting women and girls with access to “Flow-Cups”, reusable feminine hygiene products that can be washed and reused. The Cova project targets vulnerable women and girls who may not have access or the ability to afford feminine hygiene products, often causing a barrier to go to school and or live a normal, dignified life



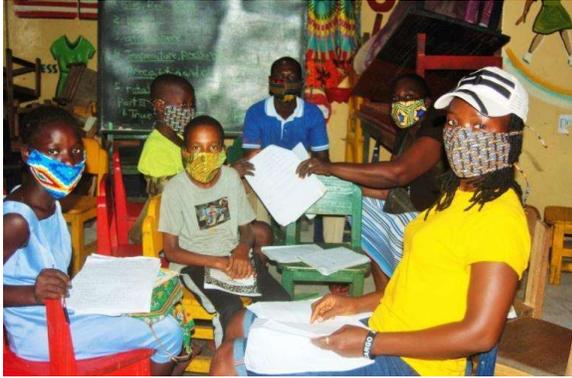
In 2019, Cova, in collaboration with EWP, trained and distributed 300 Flow-Cups to girls and women living in West Point.

This year, EWP recruited two field educators and a First Aid nurse facilitator trained by the COVA team during their visit in March 2020, when they brought with them an additional 1,000 menstrual cups for EWP to distribute.

The COVA Team, along with Educate West Point in collaboration with a local organization Public Health Care Solution (PHCS), celebrated World Menstrual Day on the 28th day of May 2020. The EWP/COVA TEAM worked alongside PHCS to reach out to young women and school-going girls in the slum communities of Chicken Soup Factory and Battery Factory for them to have access to the Flow-Cup. During the celebration day, over one hundred and fifty Flow-Cups were distributed after training was conducted with the beneficiaries on the use of the cup. At the moment, the COVA TEAM is conducting analysis of the cups’ usage through beneficiaries' feedback surveys collected by EWP.

Cova cups users average breakdown	
School Girls	60%
Women	25%
Amount of Trainings conducted	38
Total Cups Distributed	896

In 2021, EWP, in collaboration with COVA, will extend our efforts in nearby communities. The project will cover two additional slum communities of Montserrado County (PHP and Soniewen Communities).



Students gather for study class in the After School Program



A Community Education Worker meets with an Early Childhood Student to review her lessons, ensuring learning continues even from home



A student takes advantage of tutoring opportunities offered in the Educate West Point Public Library



Women meet with a COVA facilitator to give feedback on their experience with the flow cups