



Educate West Point Annual Report

September 2017 to July 2018

Background

Educate west point is a grassroots NGO in Liberia working to provide individualized educational, psychosocial and financial support to those most vulnerable youth living in the slum of West Point. EWP brings a dynamic workforce together to provide a holistic approach to youth's development. We support our beneficiaries by facilitating their return to our government school while providing them with access to basic services including healthcare, counseling, and two meals a day. We empower our students to increase their learning outcomes and develop leadership skills through the facilitation of afterschool programs which leverage peer education to increase our children's self-worth and confidence and provide extended learning opportunities to permit our students to excel despite being behind in their education. By integrating service projects into our youth's educational curriculum, we are emboldening children to become entrepreneurs and activists at an earlier age, streamlining the creation of future leaders.

To encourage a holistic approach to the family's access to education and livelihoods, during the 2018-2019 school year we intend to enroll those young children in supported households into an Early Childhood Development Centre to provide them a safe space for learning and development of social skills. This strategy will allow a household-based commitment to education while providing room for our beneficiary's care givers to focus on their livelihood activities, supported by EWP to develop business plans to expand their existing income generation mechanisms with a small cash injection.

Assessment

An assessment was conducted in West Point of selected beneficiaries' households to identify common themes in conditions of households in Liberia in terms of access to education, livelihoods, and perceptions of the education sector and general condition of the living environment of West Point in order to guide our programming. Interesting initial results of the assessment included:

- 90% of our beneficiaries eat 2 meals a day.
- 90% of households stated that they do not have any savings at the end of the month (and almost the same 90% are in debt to someone)
- over 50% of parents are already engaging their children in some form of afterschool program in order to keep them busy and out of trouble. These generally are costing the parents about 5 USD per month
- Main challenges in the community identified were hygiene/sanitation and access to educations
- 70% of parents lacked a formal education
- The full results of the assessment may be observed in annex 1 to this report.

Back to School

Organized in September 2017, EWP was able to return 9 students to school through our sponsorship program. These children are additionally provided with two meals a day and access to healthcare, alleviating financial constraints on their caregivers. Our protection monitor serves as a resource for counseling of our youth and parents alike to ensure our child’s success, both in school and in society.

These 9 children were selected based on household vulnerability, ranking at minimum 3 vulnerability criteria, including child out of

school, high number of dependents, low-income household, minimally educated caregivers, and exposure to one or more human rights violation such as child labor or lack of access to basic needs. Children additionally are targeted aged 8 to 12 years old as this is statistically when children are most likely to drop out. These 9 students were supported with uniforms, school materials, tuition costs, PE clothes, access to healthcare, psychosocial support and 2 meals a day with a 5 year committed sponsorship. Upon taking of placement tests, our beneficiaries spanned grade levels from 1st to 6th grade.

On average, beneficiaries spent 2 years out of school due to lack of financial support to attend school, many of which lost these means due to loss of care giver’s or livelihoods during the Ebola outbreak. Caregivers were unanimously found to have full intentions to send their children to school but simply due to one reason or another had lost all means to do so.

All 9 of our students are suspected to graduate at the end of the school year, despite being out of school for two years. On average, students started the year in the high 70’s percentile and ended the school year with an 84% average.



Figure 2: Some of EWP’s first sponsored students on the first day of school, September 2018

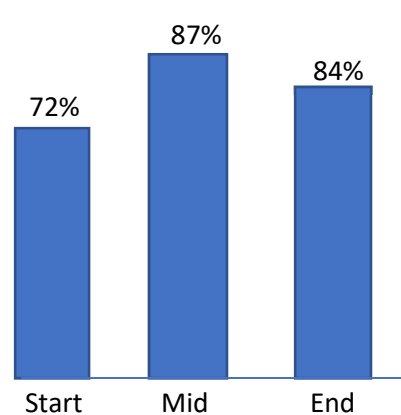


Figure 1: Total BTS students average final grades in key subject areas

Extended Learning Afterschool Program

An afterschool program was organized and launched in February 2018 to allow beneficiaries to have access to extended learning opportunities to improve learning outcomes. The afterschool program is



Figure 3 EWP ASP Facilitator reviews mathematics with BTS students

held Monday through Friday for 2 hours each day, and focus on the key subject areas of English, Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The Afterschool program facilitator drafts lessons direct from the students' notes during the first hour, facilitating peer-led education giving students and opportunity to reiterate what they have learned to their fellow classmates. During the second hour, common "core-lessons" are instructed by the facilitator in key subject areas that address common gaps in understanding across the various grade levels.

In addition, various personal development qualities are evaluated each quarter, including self-confidence, communication, and leadership skills. These characteristics are assessed and elaborated by the facilitator with the students in order to acknowledge individual strengths and to develop weakness. Utilizing the peer-education model has proven an effective means to give student's and opportunity to improve these skills when speaking in front of the class and expressing their understanding of various subject matters in their own words.

In addition, various personal development qualities are evaluated

Summer Extended Learning and Leadership Program

The summer after school program was schedule for 4 days a week from Mid May 2018 to August 2018 following the below schedule:

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:00-9:30 Recreation	9:00-9:30 Recreation	9:00-9:30 Recreation	9:00-9:30 Recreation
9:30-11 Extended Learning	9:30-11 Extended Learning	9:30-11 Extended Learning	9:30-11 Extended Learning
11-11:30 Snack	11-11:30 Snack	11-11:30 Snack	11-11:30 Snack
11:30-2 Leadership Curriculum	11:30-2 Computer Training	11:30-2 Leadership Curriculum	11:30-2 Computer Training

The extended learning followed that of the same strategy of the afterschool program during the school year, utilized as a means to give students and opportunity for personal development through peer education whilst simultaneously addressing gaps in their general education from being out of school. Opportunities for educational field trips will also be organized during this time, to allow students to conceptualize their lessons and gain general exposure to other learning opportunities.



Figure 4: EWPs first field trip: Libassa Ecolodge where students enjoyed some recreational swimming lessons and toured the animal sanctuary to learn about environmental conversation and importance of sanitation

The leadership curriculum was drafted from various public resources and adapted to the Liberian context, targeting adolescents in areas lacking access to basic education. The curriculum is designed to provide youth with essential skills to be a leader among their family, peer group and community. It touches on key subject areas that will use contextualized examples to empower youth to tackle challenges faced in their day to day lives.

Each leadership session follows the same format:

- 1.) Opening question presented to the group in a circle. Everyone gives a response
- 2.) Warm up exercise
- 3.) Lesson Delivery
- 4.) Debrief: breakdown discussion of the key message to be taken from the activity.
- 5.) Close

The schedule is as follows:

- Week 1: Communication 101, Active Listening 1, Active Listening 2
- Week 2: Working as a Team, 1 and 2
- Week 3: Speaking and Presenting, 1 and 2
- Week 4: Speaking and Presenting, 3 and 4
- Week 5: Leadership 101, 1 and 2
- Week 6: Leadership 3 and Service Project Planning
- Week 7: Service Project Development, Mobilization
- Week 8: Discussing Gender, Discussing Health
- Week 9: Service Project Delivery
- Week 10: Self Image and Empowerment, Goal Setting



The summer program is ongoing to date, with a total of 25 students in attendance; 9 students on the current scholarship program, 7 students who are now sponsored for the upcoming school year, and an additional 10 students pending scholarship on a 'wait list' for the 2018-2019 school year.

The baseline evaluation of student's progress in the afterschool program showed students on average were performing below average in core subject areas, specifically in mathematics and writing. Concerning personal development qualities, students scored low across the board in Self Confidence, with slightly better marks in Communication and Leadership skills. The most significant improvements were observed in Leadership skills upon further evaluation, with the majority of students ranking average during the second assessment.

Vision 2018-2019

EWP seeks to expand programs in 2018, increasing our engagement with our families, partner school, and community at large while extended our reach to more children in need. A total of 25 students will benefit from the prescribed back to school program. Children of our supported families will be provided with a safe space to play, grow and develop via an ECD center while their siblings attend regular school, targeting 50 children. A total of 30 students will be provided extended opportunities to learn through Afterschool Programs and Computer Training. Our parents will be engaged in their child's education, both in school and in the home, as well as empowered to maximize extra income saved from EWP services, and development of income generation activities through business training and cash injections. Finally, our community will benefit from service impact projects and social awareness outreach, led by our youth, to improve the overall safety, health and general well-being of West Pointers through additional afterschool program activities.

The total costs for enrollment of one household into EWP program is \$450 USD. Once a household has been deemed to fall within EWP beneficiary selection criteria (see annex), the child for sponsorship shall be enrolled for the following school year, with all tuition paid, school materials supplied, access to healthcare and fed two meals a day for 9 months to a total costs of \$270 USD, broken down below:

School Uniform (X2) + Shoes	\$30
Tuition (PE Uniform etc.)	\$25
School Materials (bags, stationary)	\$15
Feeding (6 month)	\$180
Healthcare Support / Admin Costs	\$20
Business Cash Injection	\$180

The remaining \$180 USD will be utilized as a one-off cash grant to the household head's income generation activity. This grant will be distributed after a business training has been provided and an individualized business plan has been drafted (2 weeks). The utilization of the funds and progress of the business will be monitored over the course of the year. Lastly, groups of 10 households who benefit from the small business grants injections will be trained and enrolled in a Village and Saving Loans scheme which will allow community members to pool funds for further business development and growth in the future. This sustainable model will ensure that after the 1 year of comprehensive support to the household, families will be in the position to take over the support of their children to go to school.



Figure 5: EWP will be piloting various income generation activity support as part of their livelihood and sustainability plan, such as soap making seen above. Photo of EWP beneficiary, Mary's father.

For the 2018-2019 school year, EWP will prioritize Parent Engagement, School Improvements, Community Development, and Youth Empowerment, seeking to achieve the following results:

- *Parents are involved in the overall success of their child's progress through EWP programs and are empowered to support their children's continuity and success in their education*
- *Our partner school's capacity to provide a quality education in a supportive environment is improved*
- *The general community of West Point is engaged to increase community health, social cohesion, safety and general well-being of community members*
- *Our beneficiaries are supported in their educational endeavors and personal development, increasing learning outcomes and self-worth*

The following log frame will be utilized to guide and evaluate EWP's programs:

Parent Engagement		
<i>Parents are involved in the overall success of their child's progress through EWP programs and are empowered to support their children's continuity and success in their education</i>		
Objectives	Indicator	Progress

Parents have a basic understanding of child's rights and cease to violate them	# parents trained on COC # parents trained on Basic Human Rights	14 0
Parents are trained in individualized basic business and saving modules to utilize excess income	# parents trained in basic business # of 1 year business / saving plans developed % of income invested to child welfare % income saved % income reinvested	To be initiated August 2018
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. Provision of a Librarian, 2 hours per day, M, W, F	1 (6 carton text books)
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 # outreach campaigns	1, pending August 0
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 children's immediate access to education	# of children enrolled in primary school # of children enrolled in ECD % retention rate BTS % retention rate ECD	9 0 89% N/A

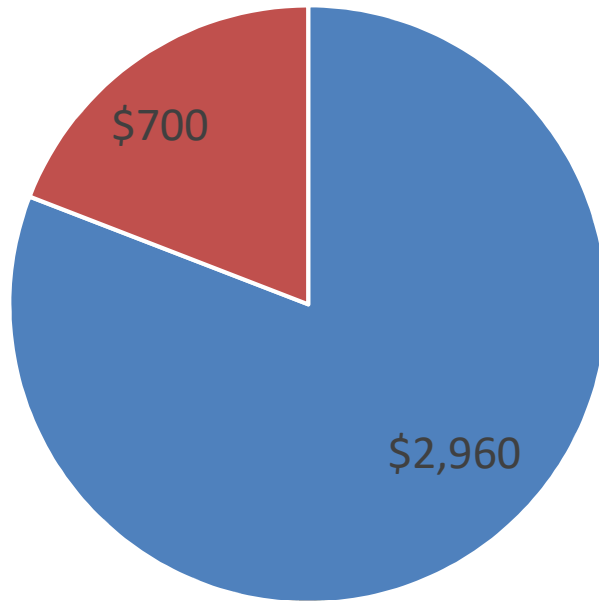


After school programs increase beneficiaries learning outcomes while providing child care for families	# of afterschool program sessions	80
	# of beneficiaries attended ASP Retention Rate	85%
	% increase, test scores, English and Math	10%

Finances

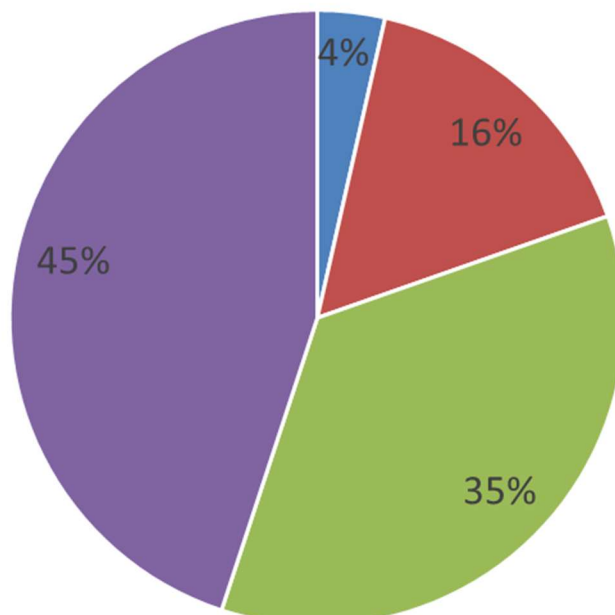
Revenue

\$9,009.00



8% Individual
92% Corporate
Individual: \$8309
Corporate: \$700

Operating Costs



4% After School Program
16% General & Administrative
35% Start-Up Costs
45% Back to School

These numbers are audited but subject to Educate West Point Incorporated Board of Director's approval. We at EWP INC. are proud stewards of our gifts.