

APRIL 2020

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY TEACH FOR LIBERIA



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BIGGER THAN CORONAVIRUS

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds each of you all safe and well as I know these are uncertain times all around.

On March 16, 2020, the Liberian National Public Health Institute alerted the public of the first case of Coronavirus Disease within Liberia. The following day, the relevant ministries made the decision to close schools, and we, at Teach For Liberia, began putting a plan into action. We immediately decided to ensure that TFL would be a place that our partners and community members could engage for accurate, timely information on the virus' spread, containment, and mitigation. We've leveraged our social media platforms and network of fellows to communicate public health messages, safety tips, and updates on school closures. We've partnered with the Ministry and entities like the Education NGO Forum, USAID, and the World Bank, amongst others, to serve on the Education in Emergencies Working Group to ensure ongoing instruction of students, school feeding, and the reintroduction of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) protocols. Additionally, we have provided direct support to the Ministry through the introduction and subsequent adoption of virtual meeting platforms employed by our core team that has given them the means to communicate seamlessly with donors and implementing agencies alike during this critical time. As for our fellows, we have compiled continuous learning packets to keep them engaged while they strategize on additional ways to support their placement communities.

Teach For Liberia is consciously working to broaden our reach through innovative ways, despite the Coronavirus pandemic. We are aware that there is still much to learn about the virus and we welcome your support as we engage our communities to strengthen our response. Have an idea, feedback, or want to make a contribution? Reach out to us at info@teachforliberia.org. Want to help financially? Your tax-deductible donations are welcome [here](#).

We hope that you and your loved ones continue to be safe and focus on staying healthy both mentally and physically.

Onwards and upwards,



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ONWARD. UPWARD. TOGETHER.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

Teach For Liberia's primary focus for 2020 is GROWTH: growth within the organization, around Liberia, and socially among an aspiring generation of leaders. Internally, we are expanding and strengthening our team! In the last quarter we have enlisted Head of Programs, [Ms. Elaine Saba](#), Head of Recruitment, Selection & Marketing, [Shari Raji](#), and [Roddae Bethell](#) as our Development & Administrative Associate. Additionally, Joseph Lawson is our newly minted Recruitment Associate. In terms of expansion, TFL is focused on not only expanding our impact in schools in Bomi and Montserrado but also establishing new partnerships with schools in Grand Bassa and Margibi counties. A number of these placements will be in schools supported by our partners at the Kids Educational Engagement Project (KEEP). KEEP supports 15 reading rooms throughout Liberia. These reading rooms are resource centers equipped with literacy materials as well as learning aids, computers, and textbooks. TFL is eager to pair our transformational teachers with the requisite resources that KEEP's centers provide; ensuring that students have both the instruction and learning materials necessary to fully maximize their potential.



PROFUTURO PARTNERSHIP

This month, Teach For Liberia signed a partnership with the Profuturo Foundation, a Spanish education program launched in 2016 by Telefónica Foundation and “La Caixa” Foundation, whose mission is to narrow the education gap in the world by providing quality digital education for children in vulnerable environments in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

The aim of this specific partnership is to elevate the training of Africa’s top teachers and leaders by empowering them in key competencies and; thus, developing them into agents of change in their educational communities. The Partnership is a multi-country alliance that also includes Teach For Spain, Teach For Nigeria, and Teach For Tanzania.

It seeks to train 15,100 teachers at two levels: LEVEL 1 will include 604 fellows of the Teach For All partners in the 3 countries and LEVEL 2 will aim for a wider impact in numbers by the training of community teachers through digital skills training. This second level will focus on nearly 15,000 community and existing teachers by December 2020.



STORIES OF IMPACT

Our Fellows are currently impacting 1,600 young lives across Liberia. They have elected to impact children’s lives both in and out of the classroom. Here’s our favorite story of impact this month.

In a rural Liberian town, two of our fellows noticed a young girl of school age always wandering around the community and never in school. One day, they asked her why she wasn’t enrolled and if she wanted to attend. She answered in a personal narrative of her young life:

She was “adopted” by two different women with the promise of being sent to school in Monrovia. Sadly, none of them followed through. The first woman fell ill and was no longer able to fulfill her promise. The second woman never intended to do so. She instead, used this young girl as part of sex trading. As a result of this, the girl had two children by the age of eighteen with seemingly no hope of going back to school.

Her life would have remained at a standstill, if it were not for our fellows. After hearing this heartbreaking story, they promised to buy her school supplies if she promised to go to school. This time, the promises made were fulfilled by a TFL fellow. This young woman’s life has made a turn in a positive direction and we are very proud of our fellow’s engagement in their communities.



RECRUITMENT SEASON

Teach For Liberia 2020 Fellowship is **STILL** open!

Our intensive Leadership Development Fellowship is once again recruiting for Liberia's promising future leaders who want to make a difference in their own lives and those of young children all across the country. Despite uncertainty around current school closures, TFL is boldly moving forward to recruit our second class of 65 teacher fellows. As whole countries move to digital learning, online platforms, and radio programming, it is clear that the leadership and dynamism displayed and cultivated by our fellows is just what we need at this moment. With the propensity of the outbreak to change the educational landscape, we wholly believe that Liberia's most promising emerging leaders are **STILL** best equipped to engage our most critical challenges.

In an effort to diversify the teaching workforce with more gender parity, we have also focused on strengthening relationships with young women who are positive influencers in the Liberian community such as: Brahm Dorko - Legal Assistant at CMB Law Group, Emily Kennedy - Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Royda Urey - Co-founder of The Vantage Group. These three women are each blazing trails in their respective fields while also being positive role models, and sharing the work that we do at TFL. All young Liberian women need to know that they are smart, powerful, and can achieve any goal they set for their future. We are proud that we are creating the opportunity for this movement in the lives of young Liberian women and eager to grow our programming in this more equitable direction.

Know a young college graduate who might be a great fit for the fellowship? Invite them to apply [here](https://teachforliberia.org) or visit teachforliberia.org for more info! Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.