

## AAPF ACTIVITY START-UP BRIEF (9 March 2013)



National Youth Service Program for Peace and Development

December 2011 – March 2013



**Background:** Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Accra at the end of 2003 and the inauguration of the Sirleaf Government in January 2006, Liberia has embarked on an agenda of peace building and development. Currently, it is critically important to ensure that poverty-reduction and development strategies are integrated and complemented by peace-building and reconciliation interventions.

Liberia's future will be determined by harnessing the energy and creativity of its young people and ensuring that they are directed towards reconciliation, sustained peace and national development. This will require concentrated attention and enormous investment in youth and adolescents to focus substantively on addressing the lack of educational opportunities, lack of access to health services, limited livelihood and career opportunities, and the human security risks they face.

**Objective:** In response to the immediate needs outlined above, the project aims to address a number of key issues related to youth that will have a catalytic effect at the local level and nationwide with regard to peace building, reconciliation and achieving development goals.

The primary focus of the program is to train and build the capacity of Liberian youth as National Volunteers (NVs) in the areas of education, primary healthcare services and agriculture techniques.

**Expected outcomes:** The main outcomes will include:

- 150 qualified National Youth Service Program Volunteers will be trained in peace building, leadership and service delivery.
- 1 000 additional 'at-risk' youth will be trained in sustainable agricultural projects, linkages to markets, business skills for livelihoods in agriculture, small and medium enterprise or entrepreneurial activities.
- 18 conflict-prone communities in six counties will be identified and an additional 2 000 youth will be trained in peace building and leadership skills by NVs.
- 10 youth centres will be equipped and operational to deliver comprehensive youth services, recreation and outreach in six counties.
- Baseline, endline and qualitative data collection systems will be developed to capture change in perceptions, attitudes and behaviour.



**Relevance to AAPF objectives:** The activity will help to build relationships between the Government of Liberia and the Australian Government.

**Activity description:** The activity will facilitate positive change in the following areas:

- National reconciliation and peace building: Pilot projects have shown that Peace-building and Leadership training developed and implemented by UNICEF and partners in Liberia have produced comprehensive reconciliation at multiple levels and a reduction in violence – particularly against women – at the community level.
- Development and service delivery: Pilot projects show that NVs fill a large gap in the shortage of human resources in education and health facilities, while simultaneously gaining on-the-job training for future careers.
- Youth centres will function as activity-based learning, recreation and employment resource centres.
- Data collection, monitoring and evaluation will be conducted.

<b>Activity Number:</b>	160/01
<b>Date approved:</b>	06/06/2012
<b>Date commenced:</b>	01/07/2012
<b>Date completed:</b>	30/06/2013
<b>Implementation partner/s:</b>	UNICEF, Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; ACDI/VOCA (NGO) and SPARK (NGO).
<b>Total cost:</b>	AUD650 000
■ <b>AusAID:</b>	AUD650 000