

PROSPECTS II

A Youth Livelihoods Program

END OF PROGRAM RESULTS | 30 JUNE 2017

Summary of Program Achievements

The Promoting Sustainable Partnership for Economic Transformation (Prospects 2) program empowered 12,366 young Liberians to build constructive and meaningful livelihoods by equipping them with the confidence, skills and opportunities to engage with their communities and the market. The goal of the Prospects program was to contribute to poverty reduction and stability in Liberia by equipping young Liberians with the skills, information, and opportunities to find meaningful and sustainable employment or self-employment and to contribute to their communities. Young women and men came to the program with the desire for meaningful employment or self-employment and gained work readiness skills, business skills, networks, capital and access to information to make informed decisions about viable, market-driven opportunities. Mercy Corps linked young women and men to employers and financial services so they could take practical steps to effectively apply for jobs or start businesses. To support job creation and innovative solutions to labor market failures, Prospects provided financial and business advisory support to private sector firms with the potential to create sustainable employment and improve the media through which youth can learn about and access the labor market.

- › **Goal:** Young Liberians find meaningful, market-driven employment or self-employment through increased skills, self-confidence, and market opportunities.
- › **Timeframe:** 3 years' program implemented from July 1, 2014 to May 31, 2017.
- › **Location:** Bong, Grand Bassa and Montserrado Counties, Liberia.
- › **Total Budget:** US\$5,221,682.09

STRATEGIC APPROACH OF PROSPECTS PROJECTS (FIVE SUBPROGRAMS)

Psycho-social Sub-program	Employment & Entrepreneurship Sub-program	New Day Innovations for Youth Employment Sub-program	Results, Learning and Research Sub-program	Partnerships
A psycho-social approach to youth empowerment that supports self-help groups implement development plans promoting engagement with community and market.	Demand-driven provision of business skills and work-readiness training, apprenticeships and business start-up grants to youth through three Youth Opportunity Centers, TVETs, and partners.	Competitive provision of financial and business advisory support to private-sector firms piloting innovative solutions to labor market failures and/or creating youth-focused employment opportunities.	Research and studies that advance Mercy Corps and partner understanding of Liberian youth livelihoods and constraints to youth employment and self-employment.	Funding and technical support to organizations implementing youth employment initiatives. Primary partner include the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

SUMMARY OF TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

	Target	Achievement	% Target
Outcome 1: Vulnerable Liberian are better prepared for employment and self-employment through improved relationships and life skills			
Youth Engaged	3500	3548	100
Outcome 2: 7,000 Liberian youth have enhanced employability, employment and self-employment			
Youth Engaged	7000	7,305	104
Outcome 3: The Liberian private sector better responds to the market needs of young jobseekers and employers.			
Youth Engaged	10,000	8,075	81%
Outcome 4: Liberian youth are supported by partners to gain enhanced employment and self-employment.			
Cadets Engaged MOYS	200	210	100%
IT Revolution Training	500	400	80%
Outcome 5: National and international stakeholders have access to research and learnings about Liberian youth employment			
Learning Papers	10	9	90%
Research Papers	2	1	50%

HIGHLIGHTS OF LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESSES

-) Success in connecting young people to economic opportunities:
 - 601 youth entrepreneurs started small business ventures; 80% of ventures currently operational.
 - 727 youth placed in the workforce through apprenticeships; 48% offered full-time work by their host business.
-) Success in creating economic opportunities for young people:
 - 45 new jobs created for young people through the New Day Innovations for Youth Employment platform (to-date).
 - Cost to create one new job in Phase II was \$809.
-) Increased confidence level by 35%-
 - Psychosocial support and life skills trainings were integrated across service provision to youth, and an average of 68% of youth interviewed during the endline said they were more confident and felt responsible for their development, as compared to an average 32% recorded during the baseline