LINKS for Play

A sustainable network of Liberian and Sierra Leonean play + learn centers for young children and community empowerment.

INPUTS

COMMUNITY-LEVEL

- Community campaign to describe and promote benefits of early learning
- EFECT-related training on income-generation activities for families.
- ECE center construction, including WASH facilities
- Learning resources (mats, toys, radio/MP3 players

ENTREPRENEUR-LEVEL

- Coaching/mentoring training for Street Child staff
- Training for aspiring ECE staff, including ECE center management and learning through play pedagogy
- Financial training and support through Opportunity EduFinance's program

NATIONAL-LEVEL

Consultation with Ministries of Education to review existing ECE curriculum and refine LINKS for Play curriculum

OUTPUTS

COMMUNITY-LEVEL

- 1,728 ECE centers/3,456 classrooms are active and operational and have the support of community contributions
- ECE centers are safe, secure and in community-selected locations
- ~30% of centers follow entrepreneurship model
- ~70% of centers are community-owned and operated

ENTREPRENEUR-LEVEL

- 2,000 women entrepreneurs have the business skills, pedagogical knowledge and confidence to oversee an ECE center foused on learning through play
- 4,000 caregivers have the skills to support an early learning classroom
- 518 Opportunity International loans to women entrepreneurs

SYSTEMS-LEVEL

 Interactive audio-based curriculum focused on learning and play and aligned with national priorities <u>and</u> community values; includes 100 3-minute episodes that reflect and are coproduced by community members/users

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

CHILDREN

- 86,400 4- to 6-year-old children engaged in safe, secure and stimulating early childhood care and education
- Participating children thrive developmentally, acquiring social-emotional, physical, cognitive and self-regulatory skills
- Participating children better prepared for and more likely to engage in primary education

COMMUNITIES/FAMILIES

- >1000 communities have increased awareness of the value of early childhood education
- Families gain access to affordable early care and education and have developed financial knowledge and practices for sustaining their children's enrollment
- Throughout participating communities, parents have positive, productive relationships with their children

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

- 1800 women entrepreneurs have increased ability to own and operate high-quality ECE centers, each with ~2 classrooms, serving 25 children each
- Young women have increased confidence and financial stability

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

CHILDREN

 All children ages 4 to 6 in Liberia and Sierra Leone have access to inclusive, individualised early learning through play leading to increased access, achievement, and attainment in primary education.

COMMUNITIES

 All communities have established a selfsustaining support system that connects early learning to formal education, improving financial, educational and health outcomes

YOUNG WOMEN

 Young women throughout Liberia and Sierra Leone understand that joining the growing network of early learning centers is a viable pathway to economic independence as well as community leadership

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

- The educational systems in both countries flourish as a result of the dual expansion to:
 - 1. include early learning; and
 - 2. increase shared community ownership

RESEARCH

- Use of formative research/adaptive management
- Periodic monitoring to track progress against incremental benchmarks and provide data to inform agile adjustments of strategy and operations
- Collaborative research designed with government and community partners to explore targeted questions to inform both program expansion and similar efforts in other countries