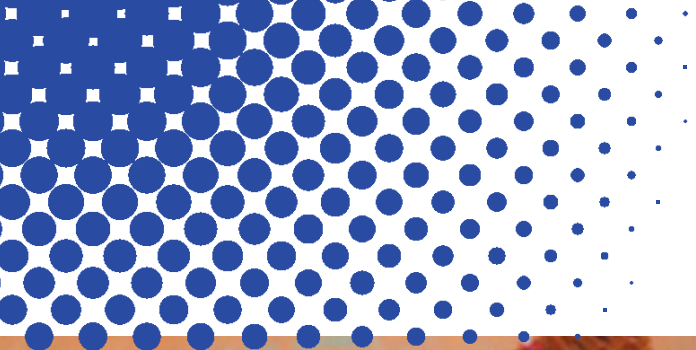




2024 ANNUAL REPORT

...educationforall





TEAM LIPACE

EDUCATION FOR ALL





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ABOUT US

"LIPACE, an accredited non-profit, uses data-driven approaches to empower students, teachers, and rural communities in Liberia. By closing performance gaps, improving student achievement, and enhancing livelihood outcomes, we address critical challenges in Liberia's education system. We believe education is the foundation for realizing one's full potential and contributing in service to others."



OUR APPROACH

We believe in the power of empiricism, leveraging verifiable school data, stakeholder engagement, targeted capacity-building, and effective management practices.



OUR MISSION

We empower schools and communities through data-driven programs to boost student achievement and enhance livelihood outcomes for all.



OUR VISION

We envision a society where quality education and improved educational and livelihood outcomes are accessible to all, regardless of background, social status, or location.

OUR THEORIES OF CHANGE



Access to quality education for all children, regardless of background or location, drives lasting social change.



Building student self-worth and esteem reduces performance gaps and fosters achievement.



Expanding educational opportunities for females through retention-focused programs reduces poverty and improves household livelihoods.



Empowerment is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them.

OUR EXPERTISE

Foundational Skills Development (Literacy & Numeracy)

1

Educational Research and Program Evaluation

2

Strategic Policy Advocacy

3

Monitoring and Evaluation

4

Community Mobilization and Engagement

5

6

Youth Livelihood and Economic Empowerment Programs

7

School System Support and Capacity Building

8

Curriculum Design and Implementation

9

Capacity Building and Training

10

Gender and Social Inclusion



“Empowerment
is not what we do
for people; it is
what we do **with**
them”



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



”

“We may not be where we want to be, but from where we are, our aspirations for the future now come into clearer view, filled with possibilities.”

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the achievements we've realized together at LIPACE. This year marked a period of significant growth and resilience, underscored by the steadfast support of our partners and the enduring commitment of our communities. Together, we have upheld our mission to create a future where quality education and livelihood opportunities are within reach for all Liberians.

Through programs like Second Chance, which fosters foundational literacy and numeracy to provide children with a renewed opportunity for education, we've witnessed out-of-school children embrace their potential and take courageous steps toward brighter futures. In partnership with the USAID Youth Advance program, youth across our communities are not only gaining essential skills but are also achieving financial independence through small business ventures, which support their families and create lasting change. These initiatives are reminders that true empowerment comes from collaboration, where each person has a role in shaping their future.

In 2024, our policy advocacy with the Ministry of Education led to the historic launch of Liberia's National Policy on Teacher Licensing and School Accreditation. This is not just a policy - it is a pathway toward improved educational quality across our country. As we continue this journey, we are reminded that true change is both strategic and collaborative.

The success of these initiatives reflects not only the dedication of our team but also the invaluable partnership of those who believe in our mission. Your unwavering support has enabled us to remain resilient and innovative, navigating challenges with purpose and optimism. You have championed the values of localization, ensuring our voices are heard and our work's impact is sustained.

As we look forward to 2025 and beyond, we remain committed to this journey of transformation, with education and livelihoods at the core of our work. We are excited about the next year, which has been dubbed the LIPACE Year of Sustainability. It is our hope that this will shape intentional efforts around sustainability beyond grants and ensure we have the tools needed to sustain systemic change. Together, we will continue to plant the seeds of change and nurture the potential of every community we serve. Thank you for standing with us.

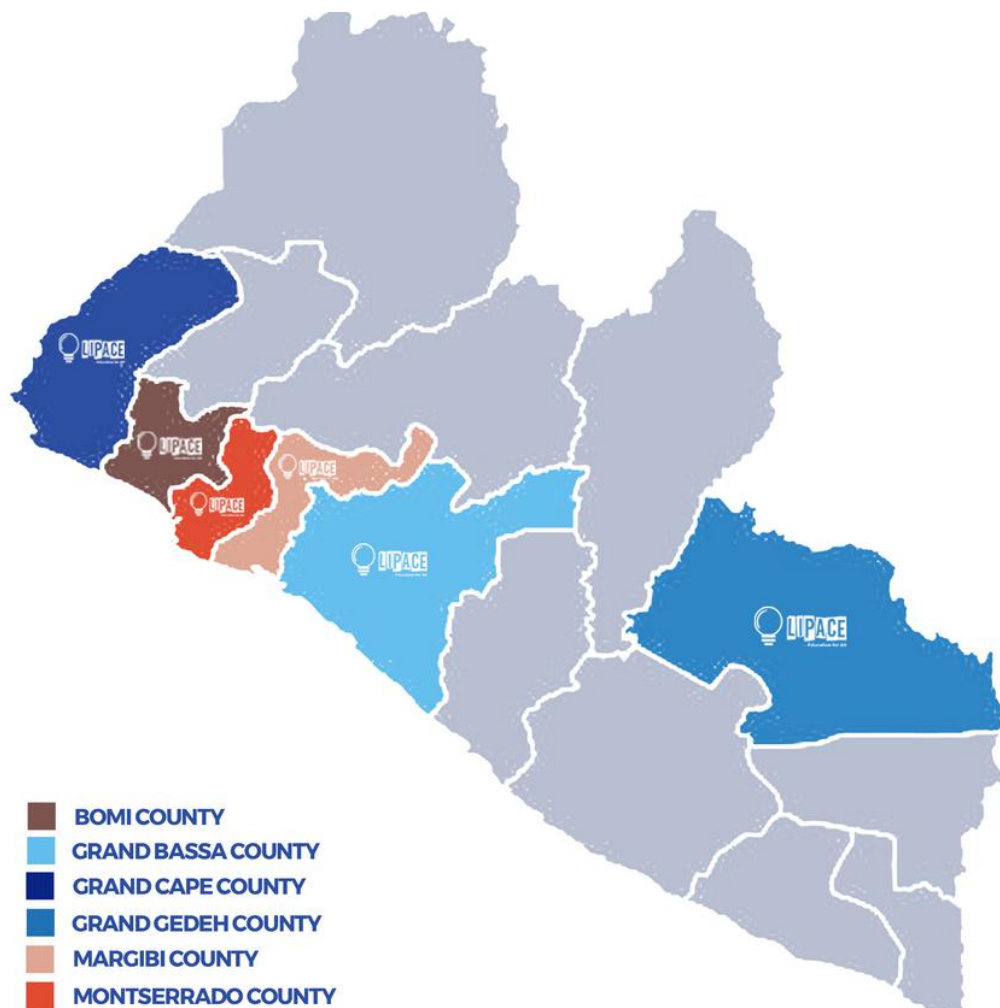
Thank you for standing with us.

Warm regards,

Benjamin M. Freeman Jr.
Executive Director, LIPACE

2024 PROGRAM REACH

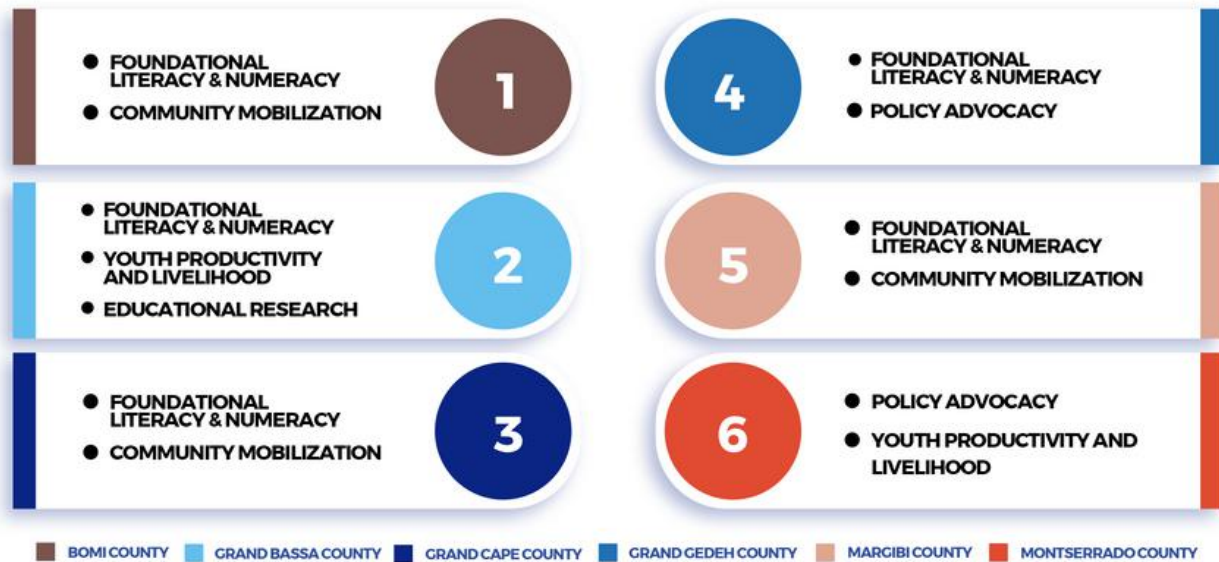
LIPACE operates across six counties, bringing impactful educational and livelihood programs to diverse regions.



GLOBAL REACH:

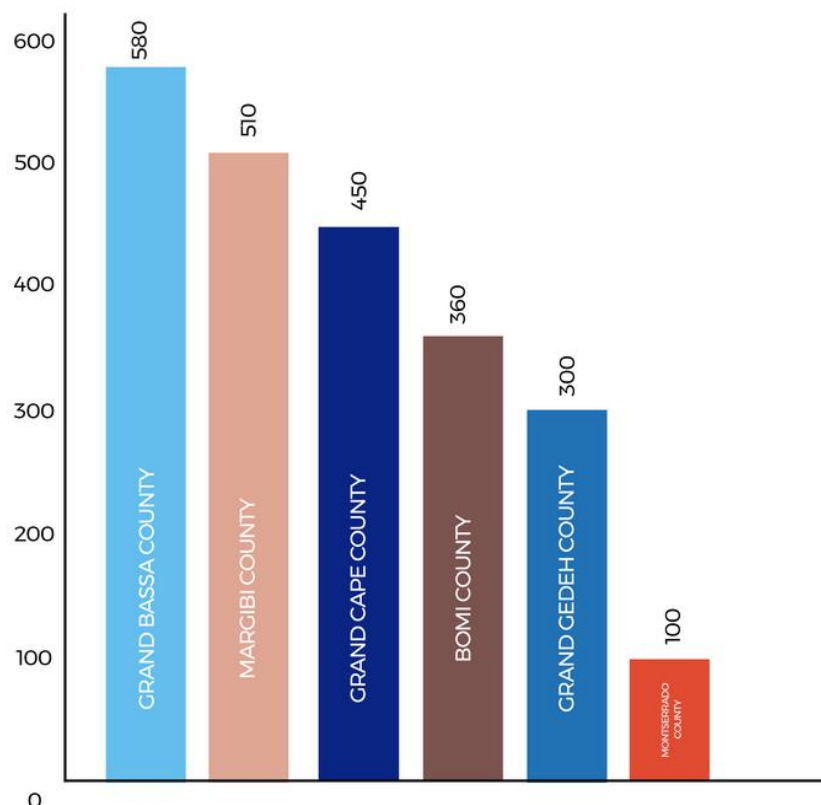
In 2024, LIPACE expanded beyond Liberia with its first international programmatic event held in Kigali, Rwanda, marking a milestone in our journey to broaden educational impact across borders.

TYPE OF WORK BY COUNTY



SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF BENEFICIARIES

In 2024, LIPACE reached communities across Liberia, improving educational and livelihood outcomes for beneficiaries in all six counties.



2024 LIPACE BY NUMBERS



1907

out-of-school children re-enrolled and transitioned to public schools.

70

facilitators trained for out-of-school curriculum delivery.



40

public schools supported for new school year readiness

3254

parents participated in Parental Engagement Groups, led by parents.



192

youths (ages 15–35) gained foundational literacy & numeracy, and business skills.

2024 LIPACE BY NUMBERS



188

individuals gained specialized skills to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

72

new businesses launched with acquired specialized skills.



178

youths (18-35) accessed contraceptive and mental health services at peer-led health fairs.

42

women accessed first-time banking through Diaconia Bank Liberia.



4

women-led savings and loan groups formed with Plan International and EDC support.

2024 LIPACE BY NUMBERS



34

Liberian students in Rwanda participated in LIPACE Contingency Pool Fund Seminar Dialogue.

6

Youth researchers trained for implementation research using Research2Change approach

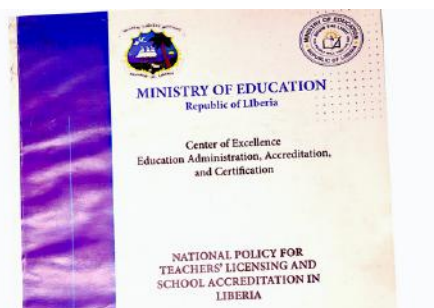


1

New partner, Book Aid International, joined to promote reading in schools.

1

Successful policy advocacy led to the launch of the Teacher Licensing and School Accreditation Policy.



KEY PUBLICATIONS

01

DESK REVIEW

Insights on access to and utilization of the National Curriculum.

02

IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH FINDINGS

Analysis on addressing declining attendance rates among learners in the USAID Youth Advance program.

FEATURED PROGRAM PROJECTS

SECOND CHANCE

Donor Partner: Luminos Fund

The Second Chance program accelerates learning for out-of-school children (ages 8–14), covering three years of curriculum in just ten months to help them re-enter school at an age-appropriate level. With support from the Luminos Fund, LIPACE successfully transitioned 1,907 out-of-school children across 48 rural communities in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Grand Gedeh. The program has demonstrated its transformative impact, boosting basic literacy and foundational skills. By the end of the program year, students read an average of 31 words per minute, up from just three (3) words per minute at the start. This underscores that every child has the potential to learn and thrive when given the opportunity. 1907 out-of-school children re-enrolled and transitioned to public schools.

USAID YOUTH ADVANCE

Donor Partner: Education Development Center (Fixed Award Grant)

The USAID Youth Advance (UYA) Activity is a five-year initiative (2021–2026) funded by USAID which seeks to strengthen foundational education, employment skills, and creates an environment for improved youth productivity. With EDC's support, LIPACE as a Youth Serving Organization (YSLO) recruited 232 youth across 8 sites in Montserrado and Grand Bassa, and 192 youth completed the Work Ready Now and Basic Literacy curriculum. Participants developed specialized skills in hairdressing, interior decoration, pastry, and soap making, with 42 women opening their first savings accounts through Diaconia Bank to manage funds from newly established small businesses. The Youth Advance program underscores that empowering economic livelihoods is a collaborative journey undertaken with the youth themselves.

IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH

Donor Partner: Education Development Center

With funding support from EDC and technical guidance from IREX and Talking Drum Studio, LIPACE conducted an implementation research using a youth-inclusive approach. This research provides real-time insights to inform evidence-based decisions and future program improvements. Eight youth researchers were trained to analyze factors affecting training attendance, interview a total of 82 program participants. Findings enabled LIPACE to adapt the program design, adding non-monetary incentives and parallel skills training to better support learners engagement.

POLICY ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT

Building on the EU-funded Supporting Effective Advocacy in Liberia program, LIPACE has continued its advocacy with the Ministry of Education to operationalize the Center of Excellence for Teacher Licensing, Certification, and School Accreditation, as outlined in the 2011 Education Reform Act. This advocacy achieved a major milestone with the Ministry's launch of the National Policy for Teachers' Licensing and School Accreditation in Liberia. This policy lays the groundwork for a structured licensing system, marking a historic advancement in Liberia's education sector.



"Developing policies without a plan for implementation is like planting a tree that bears no fruit. This policy marks only the beginning; now, we must work together to cultivate quality education by investing in our teachers and ensuring this licensing policy becomes a true opportunity for growth."

Special Remarks - Benjamin M. Freeman Jr., Executive Director, LIPACE at the Launch of the National Policy for Teachers' Licensing and School Accreditation in Liberia

OTHER PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF READING (PROCURE)

Donor Partner: Book Aid International

In partnership with Book Aid International, LIPACE is launching the PROCURE project in Grand Cape Mount to foster a culture of reading by establishing four school-based libraries. Book Aid International will donate approximately 10,000 books from UK publishers, benefiting over 1,950 children and training at least 25 teachers and volunteer librarians. The outcomes and insights from this project will guide future initiatives as we continue designing with a community-centered approach.

CONTINGENCY POOL FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The LIPACE Contingency Pool Fund Seminar, held in Kigali, Rwanda, engaged Liberian students in identifying challenges and solutions for sustaining their higher education. In partnership with the Liberian Association in Rwanda (LIBCOR), the seminar emphasized LIPACE's philosophy—"Empowerment is not what we do for people, but what we do with people." A post-seminar report will guide the design of this fund, echoing the students' voices.

Cooper Johnson



SECOND CHANCE ALUMNI:

A Journey of Perseverance

Cooper Johnson, a determined 17-year-old, began his educational journey in 2019 through the Second Chance (SC) program. At just 12 years old, Cooper entered the program with limited educational experience, having only reached 1st grade before joining. Cooper's hard work and commitment enabled him to progress to 4th grade by the end of the program.

Now in the 8th grade, Cooper is an inspiring example of perseverance. His journey highlights the transformative power of the SC program in empowering out-of-school children with the foundational skills needed to thrive. Cooper's story is a testament to the impact of educational opportunities that open doors to brighter futures and new possibilities.

Deddeh Kerkulah



UYA BENEFICIARY:

From Laborer to Entrepreneur

Before joining the USAID Youth Advance (UYA) program, Deddeh worked as a laborer in a wood production company in rural Montserrado, struggling with low literacy and often going unpaid. “We would labor all day with no pay,” she recalls, “so I just decided to sit down, but the program gave me hope.”

Through UYA, Deddeh’s literacy improved, and she gained valuable insights into job readiness, personal health, and hygiene. Most importantly, the Grow Livelihood component taught her soap-making, which she now produces and sells, contributing financially to her family. “Each time I produce, I can sell and get more than I spend. Now, I’m my own boss,” she proudly shares.

Balancing her studies with household duties was challenging, but Deddeh’s commitment saw her become a peer leader, inspiring others with her dedication. Her story reflects the power of livelihood skills in transforming lives and fostering self-reliance.

Marthaline Gibson



UYA BENEFICIARY:

Gaining Financial Independence

Marthaline, a mother of four from a zero-literacy background, once struggled to make ends meet, selling fire coal on borrowed capital. “I only knew my name, but couldn’t spell or recognize it,” she recalls.

Through the USAID Youth Advance (UYA) program, Marthaline learned soap-making, gaining literacy skills and financial independence. Now, as an entrepreneur, she proudly says, “I’m my own boss and can handle my own money.” With support from LIPACE and Diaconia MDI Bank, Marthaline opened her first savings account. “I used to eat what I earned, but now I can save in the bank,” she explains.

Her resilience has allowed her to reinvest savings, grow her business, and support her family—becoming their sole provider when her husband lost his job. Marthaline’s story exemplifies the empowering impact of financial access, fostering independence, personal growth, and a sustainable livelihood.

Koko S. Johnson



SECOND CHANCE FACILITATOR:

Inspiring the Next Generation

Koko Sando Johnson began school at age 12, delayed by his family's limited resources until his father found work. He recalls his first day with mixed emotions—laughter and teasing from classmates but also an unshakable joy and pride. Each morning, he walked to school beside his father, motivated by a deep desire to learn.

After graduating high school in 2017, Koko's father encouraged him to pursue an apprenticeship as a mechanic. Yet, Koko felt unfulfilled and knew his true calling lay elsewhere. When he heard about the Second Chance (SC) program, which offered training to teach out-of-school children, he felt he'd found his purpose. "There would have been no better way to help people who were just like me," he shared.

For four years, Koko served as a dedicated facilitator in various communities across Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties, including Maher Bridge, Sawmill, Bowen, Markpouma, and Tehr. His most cherished moments came from watching his former students excel. One student, Ellen Korboi, entered the program as a non-entrant with no prior schooling. Today, she's a thriving 9th-grade student, a testament to Koko's impact and dedication.

Recently promoted to Project Assistant, Koko now provides coaching and monitoring support to other facilitators, passing on the knowledge he's gained. "Though I am not an active facilitator, the support from my supervisors at LIPACE has helped me grow, and now I can support other facilitators in their journey."

Koko's story reflects the heart of the work we do at LIPACE: a commitment to uplifting others, sharing knowledge, and creating opportunities for future generations. His journey from student to facilitator and coach underscores the transformative power of education and the value of dedicated community leaders.

PARTNERSHIPS

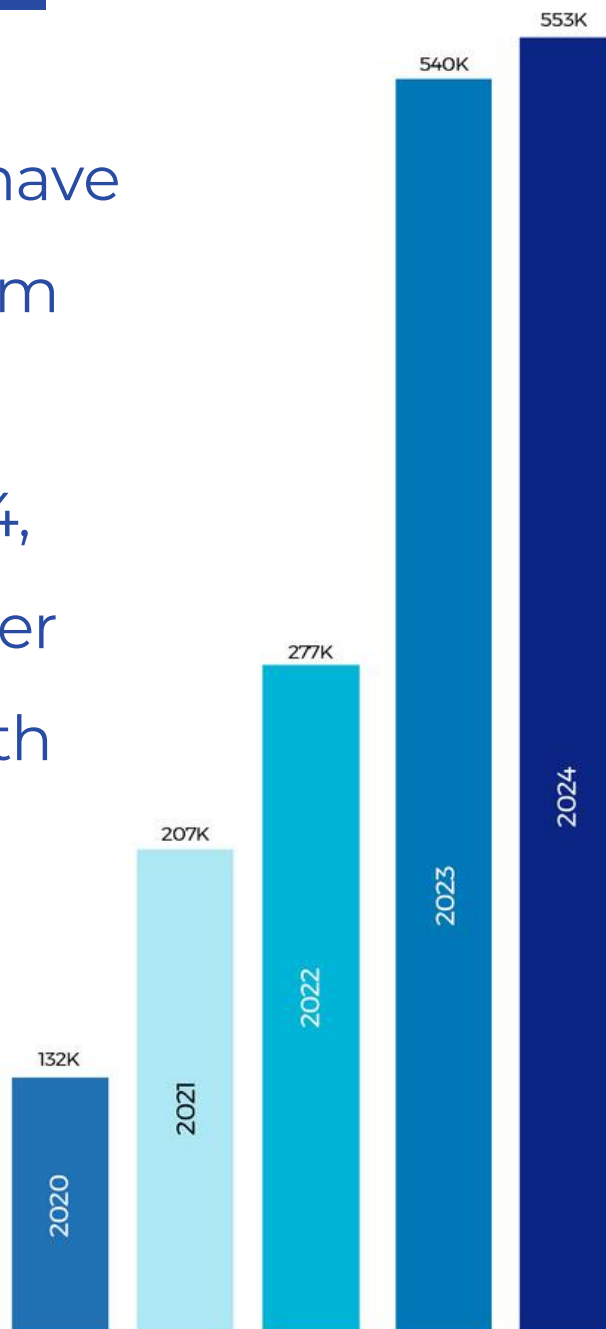
2024 was a remarkable year for everyone at LIPACE, made possible by the invaluable support of our partners—those who believe deeply in our mission and vision. Your commitment has enabled us to stay resilient, delivering hope through quality education amid unprecedented challenges. You embody the true values of localization, amplifying our voices and ensuring the lasting impact of our work.



PROGRAM EXPENSE GROWTH (IN \$ THOUSAND)



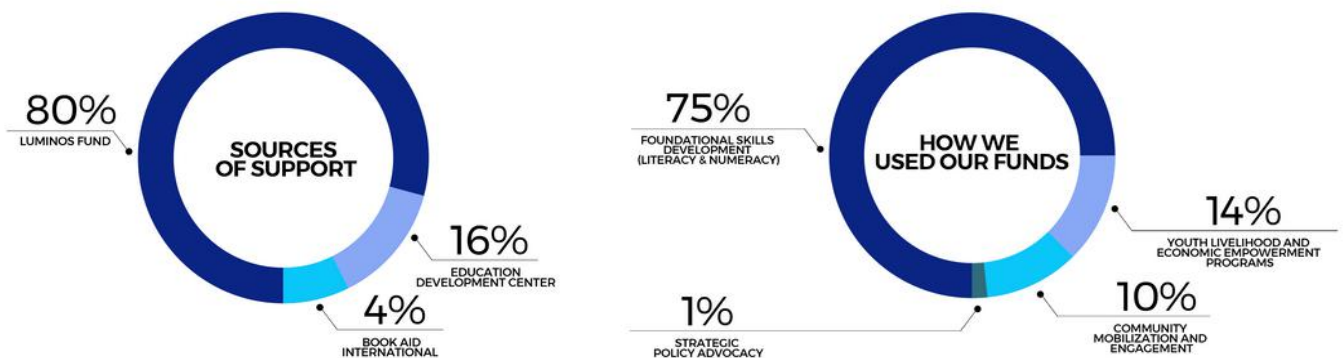
We are proud to have **increased** program expenses by 318% from 2020 to 2024, allowing for greater impact and growth over time.



LIPACE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 - AUGUST 31, 2024)

INCOME	Total US\$ 2024	Total US\$ 2023
Balance B/F as of September 1, 2023	167,997	10,284
Funds Receipt - Grants	553,804	697,806
Total Funds Received	750,945	708,090
EXPENDITURE	Total US\$ 2024	Total US\$ 2023
Direct Program/ Project Expenses	497,479	490,240
Administrative Expenses	56,325	49,853
Total Expenditure	553,804	540,093
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures	197,141	167,997
Balance of Funds at the end of the period	197,141	167,997

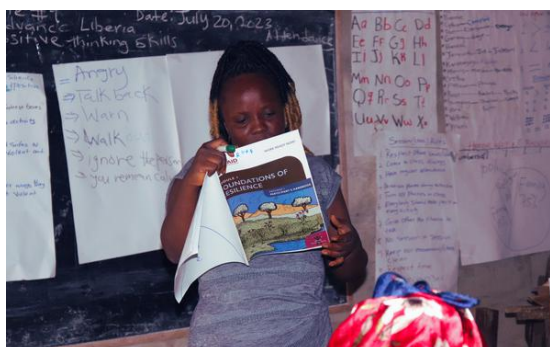
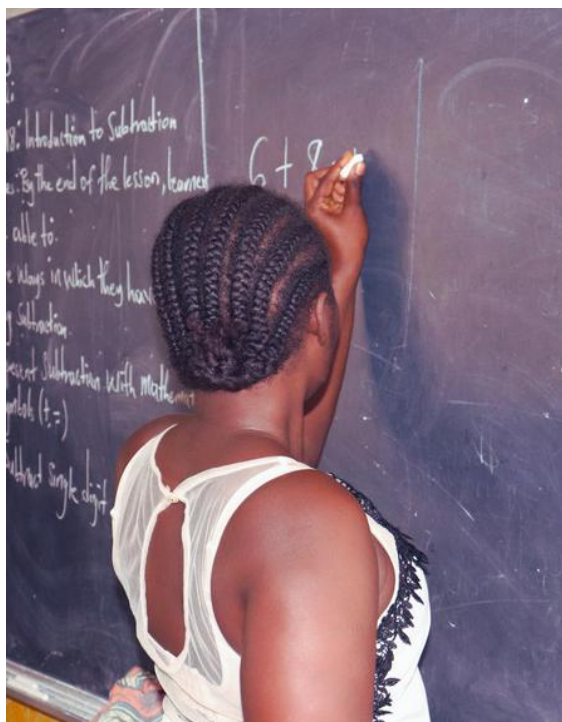
FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE



GALLERY



GALLERY



GALLERY





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