

World Bank: Youth Opportunities in Liberia

	Implementing partner(s)	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ The World Bank
	Location	Nationwide
	Agreement period	2018-2022
	Budget total	35 000 000 SEK

Overview and objectives

This project aims to improve access to income generation opportunities for at least 15,000 targeted adolescents and young adults aged 15-35, through pre-employment, social support and household enterprises; productive public works and life skills support; and capacity and systems building for cash transfers. The intervention is co-funded with the World Bank, and Swedish focus lies with the component of the project targeting public works and life skills support; as well as project management. At least half of the direct beneficiaries of this project will be young women and girls and the intervention's total budget is 10 million USD.



Figure 1: Prince Salleh, a 2018 participant in the programme. Photo credit: World Bank

Activities

10,000 vulnerable youth from rural communities in all fifteen counties will engage in productive public works activities with an emphasis on community-level farm production. The interventions will focus on enhancing the productivity of staple crops using high quality inputs. The subcomponent will support the preparation of new land for cultivation, provision of resources to youth groups to purchase agricultural inputs, as well as agri-processing. These young men and women will be provided life skills training, basic farming tools and seedings, agricultural support, as well as labour subsidy to engage in communal farming. The Life Skills training will aim at the teaching: conflict resolution, peer community awareness on sanitation, hygiene, and health promotion to enhance the long-term benefits to rural youth participating in the productive public works program.

The second half of the Swedish focus lies in capacity and systems building with the objective to finance capacity and systems building for the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) for the implementation of household enterprise support, productive public works, and life skills training. Sweden will support the training of COCs in community organization, project identification, beneficiary selection, community Financial Management (FM) and procurement processes, knowledge exchange events, including seminars at the county, district and government levels, as well as labour market intervention training (with an emphasis on soft skills in managing youth groups) for project staff, implementing agencies, and service providers.

To date, 3,612 youth have engaged in farming activities in 128 communities nationwide. The second round of the project is targeting an additional 3,600 young Liberian men and women.