

FOUNDATION FOR ADVOCACY AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT



Project Background

As Covid-19, science and technology has taken the world by storm and the need to help to become self-employed through relevant and economic skill trainings, it has drawn on us at FFALD to tackle this problem by training our beneficiaries who are mostly vulnerable students / youths in I.C.T and basic literacy programs. By this way, we will succeed in alleviating the suffering of these youths who will be capacitated in computer and literacy trainings that will make them become economically useful and educated citizens in the country. FFALD works to promote the human rights and education of vulnerable people in the country.

PROBLEM STATEMENT AND THE NEED FOR THIS PROJECT.

In Sierra Leone, Vocational Skills training had been lying dormant over the past several decades. Not many youths were interested in vocational skill training and this has contributed to the growing unemployment situation in the country as most youths depend on white color (office) jobs. Many vulnerable youths who lack support and encouragements have been left parading the streets without any form of skills to provide earnings for themselves. Moreover, their educational level is negligible since most of them stopped in lower classes in the primary school or have never been to formal school. Their lack of education and skills training has hampered their progress in the society where there is now a growing demand for students / youths trained in I.C.T especially computer and basic literacy programs. Due to their lack of skills, most of them especially vulnerable girls are left with no other alternative but to make ends meet through prostitution which makes them susceptible to the dreaded HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

There is a great lack of access to modern communication techniques among young people. They also lack valued social innovative characters and leadership skills which are essential elements in the post-war human resource development of Sierra Leone and job creation as well. There is also lack of social innovative motivations among young people to explore their potentials in designing programs that would tend to create job for them and others.

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Our assessment shows that:

- There a great proportion of students/youths who lack computer skills.
- At least 80% of students / youths today in this country did not acquire requisite computer skills, mostly; basic computer user skills.
- Lack of Social Innovation mobilization among young people, which would stimulate them towards employment and effectively implement their God- given talents.
- Lack of previous leadership abilities and adaptability to modern managerial competencies.
- No idea to new electronic communication techniques, to exchange information, transfer files and access data efficiently.
- Lack of access to local and international opportunities, insufficient access to resources and information.

This project is of essence to our beneficiaries, given that most people's services today, in order to attain quality productivity, greater efficiency, improved working procedures and services, both government and private organizations require the use of computer systems to withstand the many challenges posed by today's information management systems, and also as most employers require trained and capable employee.

The goals of this project are;

1. Increase students / youths learning and performance while using the Laptops for academic research and learning.
2. Increase the opportunities for students / youths to attain employment by providing IT and multi-media training, as well as programs to develop their entrepreneurship and other business skills.
3. Develop students / youths empowerment and leadership potential by providing I.T.C. training and youth programs to facilitate interaction and communication.
4. Create entrepreneurial opportunities for youth to generate income by utilizing the computer, multi-media or business skills that they have acquired through this ICT programs.

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What are you going to do with the Laptops?

Specifically, the project will undertake the following:

- To embark on training of our beneficiaries including teachers, students / youths in basic computer and I.C.T. skills to undertake academic research, learning and other multi-media skills on student exchange programs.

- To build the capacity of FFALD to replicate this program thereafter.

Justification: What are the problems which the project will address?

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and computer skills in Sierra Leone are limited. The country's youth, whose formal education was disrupted by civil conflict, ebola and covid-19 of recent, continue to face a widening digital divide. This lack of IT and internet capabilities, which are critical in many professions, holds back young people from gaining formal employment.

Through the project, we anticipate addressing these problems by building the computer and multi-media skills of youth in Sierra Leone, thus increasing their opportunities for employment and empowerment. FFALD has already played a large role in reaching out to disadvantaged youth through technological means and the support of a virtual community. Over the past five years, our educational programs have expanded to include additional computer classes and multi-media training, in addition to ongoing leadership and life-skills training.

How many Teachers and Pupils do you have?

As an organization, we have five (5) teachers and over two hundred (200) beneficiaries as pupils.

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How do you plan to train your teachers?

The training will take place at our FFALD office in Freetown. We will start with 10 lap tops. The project has the capacity to train twenty (20) people at a given time; ten (10) in a morning session and ten (10) in the afternoon.

1. Training of teachers in computer software applications and the internet

The teachers will be training on the following;

- Microsoft Office programs (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access)
- Internet skills including research, blogging and web design
- Desktop publishing programs such as Publisher and Paintbrush

2. Providing students / youths programs to support the development of leadership, communication and other business skills.

- Weekly debates and roundtables on a variety of subjects to develop public speaking and communication skills.
- Web-based discussion forum through our online platforms and partners to promote written communication and an international exchange of perspectives
- Empowerment of young women through the Girls' Club initiatives.

Through this program, FFALD will offer youth development programs in addition to computer and internet training. These programs will help students / youths gain self-confidence and acquire skills to help them attain formal employment, pursue higher education, or start their own businesses.

How will you maintain the Laptops?

FFALD, through its management will assign the program staff with the responsibility to maintain the laptops by keeping track of every process throughout the project, using appropriate measures such as log book or time sheet. By ensuring that they are used for the intended purpose and maintenance will be done when necessary. It will be used in a dedicated room in our office which is convenient with electricity light and security.

See Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ffald.org

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