



Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) Liberia

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SHIFSD Organizational Profile



VSLA Training in Grand Cape Mount County

1. **Name of NGO:** Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD - Liberia), Inc.
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3. **Date of establishment:** The Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) registered with the Government of Liberia on May 30, 2005 as a national non-profit and non-governmental organization. Originally, SHIFSD was established in the Central Region of Ghana by a group of Liberian Refugees on November 11, 2000. Upon repatriation to Liberia in August 2008, the organization is now headquartered in Johnsonville, Monrovia, Liberia. It is duly accredited (MPEA/NGO/AC#0369) in Liberia.

4. **Strategy & structure:**

Vision: SHIFSD envisage a society free of illiteracy and poverty

Mission: SHIFSD exists to alleviate poverty through access to alternative sources of education and entrepreneurship.

Core Values: In pursuit of the above vision and mission statements, SHIFSD is committed at all times to the following core values:

| CORE VALUES | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Integrity | When we are faced with challenges, we will communicate them to participating communities and donors in a timely manner. |
| Justice | We will treat all staff members and stakeholders in a respectful, fair and honest manner. |
| Transparency and Accountability | We will remain open in the management of programs and become answerable to the participating communities, donors and partners. |
| Participation | We value consensus building and shared leadership |
| Diversity | We will strive to accommodate and respect people of diverse backgrounds and affiliations |

Overview of our programs and projects:

The nature of our programs/projects and day-to-day decisions are informed by our vision, mission and core values. Our current strategic pillars of intervention are as follows:

Climate Smart Agriculture: The focus of this pillar is to identify innovative means of investing in climate smart agriculture.

Theory of Change: If communities invest in climate smart agriculture, the environment will be protected.

Education and livelihood skills: This pillar focuses on the provision of livelihood skills for young people and access to microfinance by women to improve their livelihood.

Theory of Change: If young people are literate, have marketable skills and women have access to loans, their livelihood will improve.

Financial Sustainability: This pillar comprises two themes: Investment in agriculture and entrepreneurship.

Theory of Change: If investment is made in social enterprise development, it will create the opportunity for institutional financial sustainability.

What we do and how:

SHIFSD's work aims at encouraging community development by promoting alternative Basic Education, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs); Entrepreneurship, and other sources of sustainable livelihoods. Our projects are implemented on an integrated basis for the purpose of harnessing synergy.

Geographical Location:

Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount Counties and the southeastern counties.

6. Human resources:

Our day-to-day operation is being overseen by a seven member Board of Directors from an array of professional backgrounds. SHIFSD currently has a total of 52 full time staff members of which 23 are part time basic education & vocational skills facilitators amongst others. The management team comprises of Executive Director, Program Officer, Finance, Project coordinators, and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. The team is headed by the executive director.

7. Financial resources (i.e. cash and in-kind donations):

SHIFSD's present donors and/or partners include: Education Development Center (EDC), Democracy International (DI), All We Can/Y-Care International, and Stichting INITIAT. The organization is also a network member of Liberia National NGO Network (LINNK), the reactivated Adult Literacy Actors Forum, and the New Africa Research Development Agency (NARDA). Its registration with the Liberia Civil Society Network is in process. SHIFSD is as well a member of the Liberia Reflect Practitioners Network (Pamoja Liberia) which is a member of a regional body called Pamoja Education.

8. Who does the NGO receive technical support from?

SHIFSD receives technical support from All We Can/Y Care International, Stichting INITIAT, Roots Empowerment Finance Ltd and others.

9. Target beneficiaries: disadvantaged young adults between ages 18-35, children and people with disabilities.

10. Who do we partner with? SHIFSD seeks out and partners with local and international organizations, academic institutions with which it shares similar vision and mission.

11. Our current and most recent activities and interventions

- From May, 2022 to present, SHIFSD provided basic literacy, numeracy, Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) and soft skills to over 200 youth in 6 communities under the USAID Youth Advance Activity. **USAID Youth Advance** is a five-year program (2021-2026) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) in partnership with Plan International and Resonance Global.
- With support from Democracy International (DI) through The Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA), SHIFSD is working in a consortium with Women Empowerment for Self-Employment (WE4SELF) to implement the Women's leadership Grant in cluster 2 (Maryland, River Gee, Grand Kru and Sinoe Counties). The Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA) is a five-year USAID-funded project designed to help Liberia overcome challenges facing its

developing democracy by fostering inclusive, sustainable democratic & political development.

- 2019 to 2021 and with support from ZOA under the European Union Partnership Program, SHIFSD provided training support to 200 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) groups with beneficiaries of over 5,000 mostly women in 100 communities of Bomi, Cape Mount and Margibi Counties to help farmers and other community members to improve their livelihood through access to loan from FSLA/CSLA groups' savings

- 2018 to 2021 SHIFSD worked in partnership with ZOA and Turing Foundation to provide Agro Business and Entrepreneurial Training to 65 young people, especially women in Montserrado, Bomi, Margibi and Nimba Counties.

- SHIFSD also worked in partnership with Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) to provide adult literacy and Small Business Management Training to over 200 adults, especially women in 4 communities of Gbarpolu County.

- As part of social enterprise initiatives, SHIFSD is providing technical, vocational skills training and academic programs to young people through its Elementary and Junior High School located at the SHIFSD's Multipurpose Youth Training Center in the township of Johnsonville.

Adult Literacy Training in Gbarpolu County

