



**Restore Hope: Liberia**  
**2020 Annual Impact Report**  
*serving our community*

# RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA

a program of the Restore Hope Fund @ Fiscal Sponsorship Allies, Inc.

## ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FY 2020 • JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA provides relief and empowerment to the most vulnerable in post-emergency communities through an innovative integration of health, education, and economic development, creating opportunity, changing lives and building resilient communities.

### RHL'S VISION

Communities, living in absolute poverty and who've survived complex emergencies, are able to thrive, rebuild their communities and live healthy, productive and peaceful lives.



## LETTER FROM RHL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One of the most valuable gifts from my time in sub-Saharan Africa has been the gift of perspective. The fragility of life and the deep well of perseverance and resilience individuals possess are most evident in places like Liberia. The tragedies and trauma

Liberians have faced are innumerable, and the ultimate consequence has been extreme poverty. That's why the smiles we see, the rekindling of hope, the promise of opportunity always humbles me. No matter where we come from, our basic needs and our basic desires for better lives for our children are universal.

The year 2020 was enriching, as the pace of our work increased dramatically due to the rise of COVID. RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA confronted the need for emergency preparedness efforts. The richness was found in collaboration, the encouragement of colleagues, the dedication of our staff, the brilliance of the children we support, and the joint effort to make life better in this remote corner of the world. While the first half of the fiscal year progressed as usual, with kids starting school in the fall, the women weaving together several days a week, and RHL's nurse making home visits, among other activities, we dealt with the frequent challenges of programming in rural Liberia.

The second half of the fiscal year was much different. With the spread of COVID, we knew Liberia, and Kolahun specifically, couldn't withstand another deadly outbreak, after the devastation Ebola caused. The local authorities and the Kolahun Hospital came to us early in the outbreak and asked for support. We joined an emergency COVID team and collaborated closely with all stakeholders to prevent COVID from entering Kolahun District. Through our team's efforts in 2020, and an emergency grant sent to Kolahun, they initially succeeded - only identifying one case of confirmed COVID during the initial surge of the pandemic.

We have a long way to go yet, but we've made important strides towards our goals. I'm grateful for the RHL "family" and the privilege to participate in this endeavor.

In the words of RESTORE HOPE LIBERIA's team,

*Keep safe, keep serving.*

Thank you for your efforts in bringing improved health, education and opportunity to Liberia.

*Sandra*

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## LEADING THE COVID RESPONSE - In the field

### Narrative:

With the end of the Ebola Virus epidemic just four years ago, RHL braced for the worst with COVID-19. Many of the lessons learned during the Ebola epidemic have proven valuable to COVID prevention efforts, namely public health messaging and community monitoring.

RHL moved swiftly to provide an emergency grant to fund community health workers, who monitored travelers coming in and out of the district, hand washing stations set up at key locations around the district, and PPE supplies and essential medicines for Kolahun Hospital. RHL staff continued their work, expanding their duties to include coordinating COVID prevention efforts with local authorities and stakeholders and adapting their work to keep themselves and RHL beneficiaries safe.

Due to these focused community efforts, Kolahun District was spared from COVID. RHL staff continue to abide by the public health measures of social distancing and mask wearing and they continue to emphasize to the community the importance of continued diligence.

It is impossible to know the true toll of COVID on the country. Testing was extremely limited and the results too slow to make contact tracing effective. The entire country has only two ventilators. It's likely that the number of unexplained excess deaths increased over the past year.

It remains to be seen whether Liberia will see a resurgence in COVID cases, but RHL remains vigilant and continues to closely collaborate with the Hospital and local authorities to act swiftly if needed.

### PROGRAM UPDATES

This year has gifted us with many challenges. It has been a time of reflection, a time to strategize, and a time to grow new muscles to adapt to an unprecedented time. The risk of COVID stretched RHL finances, increased everyone's workload, and added an unwelcome setback to achieving RHL's goals. It was also a time

RHL staff rose to the challenge and it provided an opportunity to increase collaboration with local stakeholders, which adds an incalculable value to the impact of RHL's work.



The effects of COVID may have been most seriously felt by the children, who were forced out of school, once again. RHL adapted, and in lieu of group tutorial classes, tutors made household visits meeting with children outside, providing individual reading sessions and new materials to hand out. RHL purchased culturally relevant readers published by Liberia Reads! and distributed them to children encouraging them to continue reading despite school closures. Experts caution that many children, girls especially, will not return to school either due to socioeconomic factors or due to teenage pregnancy. RHL is working hard to ensure that is not the case with the children enrolled in the program.

Recognizing the additional hardships households were facing due to the lockdown, we increased the monthly household support to \$20 per month. RHL continued household visits, respecting social distancing and wearing face coverings, in order to continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of the children and caregivers RHL supports.

One of RHL's initiatives this year was to raise funds for essential medicines for both Kolahun Hospital and neighboring Foya-Borma Hospital. RHL decided to restrict a portion of the \$10,000 emergency COVID grant to medicine and supplies for the Kolahun Hospital and \$2,500 was sent to Foya-Borma Hospital.



This was a short term, gap response to the ever-present problem of empty pharmacy shelves at the hospitals. RHL looks forward to identifying a sustainable solution for this critical need.

While the challenges continue to increase, RHL is committed to its mission and to the Kolahun community.



### DEMONSTRATING RHL'S COMMITMENT TO KOLAHUN

- Due to major flooding in July, RHL provided financial assistance to several families whose homes became uninhabitable.
- Adult literacy classes continued twice a week pre-COVID
- Began utilizing RHL's new Vocational & Education Training Center to hold afterschool tutoring sessions for beneficiaries by RHL's 6 tutors
- Initiated COVID prevention efforts in collaboration with local stakeholders
- Adapted the tutorial program to individual tutoring sessions at home, distributing culturally relevant reading material
- Home visits by RHL's Registered Nurse continued monthly abiding by social distancing and mask wearing
- Provided a grant to Kolahun Hospital and Foya-Borma Hospital to purchase critical supplies at the onset of COVID
- RHL's 16 peer health counselors attended the COVID training for Community Health Workers

who monitored travelers in and out of the district as well as hospital staff

- In March 2020, 5 new beneficiaries from Nyokolitahun were welcomed into the program.
- Due to the socioeconomic stress caused by public health measures in response to COVID, RHL increased its household support to \$20 per month.

### RHL'S WORK IN NUMBERS

- 115 of children receiving full package of support; increased to 120
- 81 HH receiving nutritional/cash support
- 16 Peer counselors held 36 health sessions at schools across the district with a total of 2,407 adolescents attending, ranging in age from 9-25
- Peer counselors distributed 115 condoms to adolescents
- 79% of school-going beneficiaries regularly attended RHL's afterschool tutoring program
- Out of the 23 weavers who opted for a \$25 microloan, 43% have paid in full; 39% are making payments; and 17% are outstanding.
- 298 home visits were conducted this fiscal year during which a health, nutrition, and psychosocial assessment is made
- RHL continued its scholarship support to 4 students, 3 of whom are pursuing nursing and 1 of whom is pursuing computer studies

### Hear from one of RHL's beneficiaries:

What goals do you have for school?

*My goal for school is to learn well and become one of the educated persons in this country.*

What part of your day do you enjoy the most?

*I enjoy the morning hours.*

What are your responsibilities at home?

*My responsibilities are to sweeping the yard and breaking wood for cooking.*

Are there things you need? If so, what are they?

*I need money to buy clothes.*

What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

*My dream is to become an agriculturalist.*

Has there been any good or bad change in your life recently?

*Yes, mainly the support I am receiving from RHL is bringing good changes in my life.*

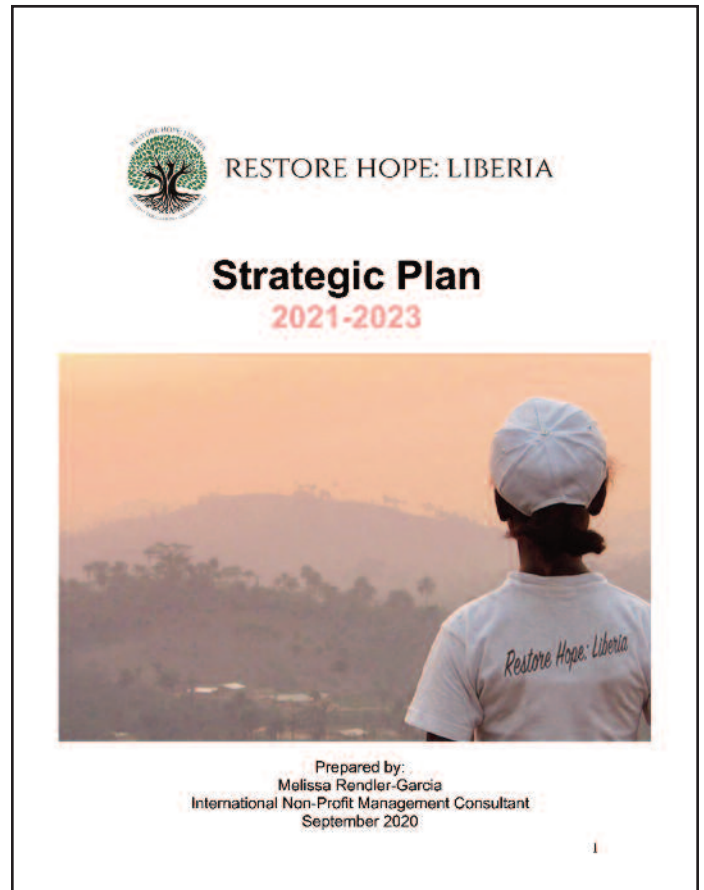


## ORGANIZATION UPDATES

RHL has been operating for five years now and we've recognized the need for a strategic plan to direct our work over the next three years. We spent May–August 2020 working in depth with a consultant to create a strategic plan. The process was tremendously valuable and insightful, and we've come away with a roadmap to guide the organization through fiscal year 2023.

**Dining for Women** has selected RHL to be one of its 2020 grantees! They will be supporting a new initiative to decrease clinical depression in women and to support women's empowerment in Kolahun. The project, **INTEGRATING MENTAL HEALTH & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN RURAL LIBERIA**, will launch in October of 2020.

In October of 2019, two Board members hosted a trip to Kolahun for three RHL donors. Despite the arduous journey from Monrovia to Kolahun, the trip provided a valuable and unforgettable experience. Time was spent reading to RHL's children and visiting the households these donors have helped support along the way. Following their visit to Kolahun, one donor, John Morris, has joined the Board and RHL received a generous grant from the **Elmo Foundation**.



**FY2020 RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA ANNUAL EXPENSES**

| <p align="center"><b>RESTORE HOPE / RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA<br/>ANNUAL EXPENSES<br/>FISCAL YEAR 2020<br/>(JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)</b></p> |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>HEALTH</b>   | <b>Expenses</b> |
| Clinical Care / Health Surveillance   | 16,177          |
| Prevention  | 50              |
| Nutrition   | 17,624          |
| Special Needs   | 610             |
| <b>Subtotal Health Program</b>  | <b>34,461</b>   |
| <b>EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING</b>   | <b>Expenses</b> |
| Vocational Training   | 6,687           |
| Primary/Secondary Education — Including school tuition, uniforms, supplies, tutorial school   | 8,414           |
| <b>Subtotal Education and Training Program</b>  | <b>15,101</b>   |
| <b>DIRECT PROGRAM SUPPORT</b>   | <b>Expenses</b> |
| Transportation  | 963             |
| Field Office and Communication  | 4,110           |
| Security  | 700             |
| Central Office Support (Monrovia)   | 5,274           |
| Human Resources — Liberia   | 36,404          |
| Consulting — Including Strategic Planning, Organizational & Program Development   | 2,850           |
| <b>Subtotal Direct Program Support</b>  | <b>50,301</b>   |
| <b>INDIRECT PROGRAM COSTS</b>   | <b>Expenses</b> |
| Administrative & Fundraising Costs — U.S.-Based   | 22,612          |
| <b>Subtotal Indirect Program Costs</b>  | <b>22,612</b>   |
|   | <b>Expenses</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>122,475</b>  |





**DONOR LIST: RHL is grateful to each and every donor - your gift powers this work**

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- Anything Is Everything
- Dining for Women
- Elmo Foundation
- Friends of Liberia
- German Embassy in Liberia - People of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Margret Gieraths-Nimene Foundation
- The Lyme School



## **RESTORE HOPE: LIBERIA**

HEALTH • EDUCATION • OPPORTUNITY

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