



Liberia



MANDATE

In Liberia, Handicap International's aim is to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people (including people with disabilities), especially by facilitating their access to quality services.

SITUATION

According to the population census performed in Liberia in 2008, people with disabilities represent 16% of the country's total population. They are often marginalised and discriminated against. The causes of disability are often poorly understood and distorted by traditional beliefs, particularly witchcraft, which plays an important role in Liberia. These beliefs lead to the rejection and stigmatisation of people with disabilities, who find it hard to access the education system, the jobs market and health services. Their specific needs have been even less answered since the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, which hit the country during spring 2014 and has significantly mobilized the country's health services. After a respite that had led the WHO to declare Liberia Ebola-free in May 2015, 3 new outbreaks have occurred and whilst Liberia is now Ebola free the risk of future outbreaks remains present in the country.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International launched its operations in Liberia in 2000 when it set up a rehabilitation centre in Monrovia to meet the physiotherapy and orthopaedic care needs of people with disabilities and the victims of the civil war in Liberia. Since then, Handicap International's presence in the country was not interrupted and Handicap International has continued to work towards meeting the needs of children and persons with a disability



STAFF

- Total national staff employed: 7
- Total expatriates employed: 1

KEY FACTS

Human development index (HDI)*	177 th /188 classified countries
Life expectancy*	58.6
Gross National Income per capita *	805 US \$ per year
Population**	4,2 million
Surface area**	111,370 sq. km

Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified: 26 July 2012
Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)	Signed: 3 December 2008
Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)	Ratified: 23 December 1999

*Human Development Report 2015

** UNSD 2015

Current projects 2016



Inclusive education: Promoting the full participation of children with disabilities through education (APPEHL)

Regional project run in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Benin, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Benin and Guinea-Bissau

GOAL

Promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in the existing education system.

Handicap International's project fosters the development of civil society and its close involvement in advancing the rights of children with disabilities and the building of a more inclusive and diverse society.

METHOD

To achieve its aims, the project trains teachers in educational techniques adapted to the learning difficulties of children with disabilities to ensure they are taught more effectively in classrooms. The personalised social support of children with disabilities helps build synergies between families and schools. Handicap International has been conducting inclusive education actions since 2008. The length of this project has enabled staff at the Ministry of Education to expand their knowledge of the issues surrounding the education of children with disabilities, such as the need for specific teacher training modules adapted to the situation in Liberia and educational assistance from teachers in classrooms.

BENEFICIARIES

- Disabled children and their families;
- Local organisations for and of people with disabilities;
- National federations of Disabled People Organisations;
- Ministry of Education;
- Decentralised public services;
- Local and community operators.

PARTNERS

- National Union of Organisations for the Disabled
- Ministry of Education/Department of Special Education

LOCATION

Counties of Montserrado, Margibi and Bomi.

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>Agence française de Développement</p> 		
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