

Peace Education in Sierra Leone: Working in post-conflict situation

Holding hands with the community, bringing a happy return

In 2002-2005, CCI Australia managed two highly successful Peace Education projects in Sierra Leone in Western Africa:

- > development of the *Sierra Leone Peace Education Kit*
- > The *Sierra Leone Peace Education Kit Evaluation and Trial Implementation* project.

The projects, initiated and funded by the World Bank, involved the development of Peace Education materials for use in P-9 classrooms in Sierra Leone, and subsequent training of teachers and mentors to use the curriculum materials in 90 schools across Sierra Leone.

The projects featured innovative working partnerships between local and international agencies, and provided a case study of how schools can work with the community to contribute to a national peace-building effort.

Initiative

Some of the key elements of the projects included:

- > consultation and relationship building with in-country partners
- > linking local peace initiatives with international agencies
- > using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to assist in the conduct of projects across national borders
- > designing culturally appropriate Peace Education activities
- > helping teachers to use student-centred and interactive teaching methodologies
- > capacity building through coaching and mentoring
- > using evaluation, monitoring and follow-up strategies that are consistent with peace values
- > crafting local efforts into organised systems.

The *Peace Education Kit* was printed and made available to teachers in trial schools. Mentors were trained by CCI Australia consultants who in turn visited 90 schools across Sierra Leone and supported teachers to use the kit in Arts, English and Social Studies, and Health and Physical Education classes.

An independent evaluation of the use of the kit in trial schools found that there was an overwhelmingly positive perception of the usefulness of the materials. The projects demonstrated that structured Peace Education activities in schools can be a powerful means of rebuilding civil society, even when the damage caused by war is appalling.



CCI Australia collaborated with Plan Sierra Leone, an International NGO in these projects. The projects have been highly regarded by many donors and civil society groups across the world, and have been considered as one of the best practice initiatives in the area of Peace and Conflict. CCI Australia's partnership with the Sierra Leone government, schools and communities have featured in various international forums and journals.

Replication of these projects in other post-conflict conditions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are being contemplated by several donors.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact:

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