



*“I learn from the Law+You program that every child has the right to a better education.”*

*“I learned that despite my age, I have rights before the law.”*

*Child Steps International is committed to solving some of the world's biggest problems faced by its most vulnerable citizens.*

With our current programmatic focus on the Republic of Liberia, we engage communities and partners in areas of child and family well-being, including:

1. Research
2. Education
3. Child Welfare
4. Awareness, Empowerment & Advocacy
5. Strengthening Families and Communities
6. Creating Entrepreneurial and Leadership Opportunities

We partner with local and international stakeholders, inviting all who are willing to work collaboratively for lasting solutions.

Child Steps International is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in the United States and an accredited nonprofit in Liberia.

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[childstepsinternational.org](http://childstepsinternational.org)

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## Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the lives of children and their families who have been affected by war, poverty, and discrimination. We accomplish this by assisting communities in the development and strengthening of innovative, progressive and effective services, which protect children's rights and give families the opportunity to be prosperous, healthy and safe in the place they call home.

## Solving the Problem

Civic education is a way to empower children to know and protect their own rights. In Liberia, children still face the dangers of the worst forms of child labor, child abuse and child sexual exploitation. Positively engaging a generation of young people in the justice system, within a short educational window, is essential for protecting the rights of children, as well as instilling in them a sense of their own responsibility to create a lasting peace in Liberia.

## The Program

### **LAW+YOU: Rights & Responsibilities of the Liberian Citizen**

This project brings civics, human rights and justice system education to children throughout Liberia. It gives teachers, community leaders and even students the tools and training to promote the principles of good citizenship in both classrooms and informal settings.

The goal of the program is to give children a civic voice, enabling them to become their own advocates and understand their responsibilities as citizens. This will also promote peace by giving young Liberians the tools to understand how to access the legal system when they have grievances, instead of resorting to violence.

We are working directly in our local communities with groups like market women, out of school aged children, adults and religious organizations to teach the Law + You curriculum in the informal setting.

## Outcomes

This past school year, the pilot program involved 2500 students. In 2015, we will serve over 30,000 students with this curriculum.

Due to the popularity of the curriculum, our biggest challenges are 1) providing enough books for each student to have their own, so they can take them home to share the knowledge in their communities; and 2) training teachers who are eager to educate children, their families and other citizens about how to work within the system to solve real problems, including public health crises like Ebola.