

Press Release 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## **Bridge given top rating by Liberian Ministry of Education and awarded 43 more schools**

The Liberian Ministry of Education has announced that Bridge is to be allocated an additional 43 schools in Liberia for year two of Partnership Schools for Liberia (PSL). The total number of public schools for Bridge in year two of PSL will be 68.

Bridge and two other PSL providers were acknowledged as demonstrating 'significant quality of implementation and ability to scale' by the Liberian Ministry of Education.

**Marcus Wleh, Head of Bridge in Liberia**, said: "This is good news for the children of Liberia, as we want as many as possible to benefit from the PSL program. We are proud that the Liberian government has recognised the significant impact that Bridge has made during the PSL first pilot year.

"We are utterly focussed on delivering learning gains for children in our classroom and the A rating by the Liberian government acknowledges our success. We have measured clear acceleration of learning for pupils with Bridge so far and are confident this will continue.

"Education reform is always challenging but the Liberian government has been determined to improve the education outcomes of its children and we are delighted to be a partner in that endeavour and look forward to the progress we can continue to make together."

**Liberian Education Minister, George Werner**, added: "We are committed to ensuring that PSL remains a child-centric, evidence-based, and performance-driven program. We will be working with our partners over the coming weeks to ensure that independent monitoring and evaluation continues to be a cornerstone of the program in Year 2 and beyond."

The allocation will mean that hundreds of children in Liberia will be able to join high performing schools, for free, managed by Bridge.

The Liberian Ministry of Education says PSL will expand and focus on the South East of Liberia, which has the [worst enrolment rates](#) for the country. Year two will see a total of 200 schools in the programme, an increase of over 90% from year one. Liberia has a total of approximately 2,800 primary schools.

The school operator rating was based on the following criteria set by the Ministry of Education:

- Improved teacher attendance
- Assessment of extent of intervention
- Capacity to scale as demonstrated by scale internationally
- Effective tracking of student assessment
- Learning gains

Bridge is confident that the significant learning gains achieved by pupils in Kenya will be replicated in Liberia.

**END**

#### **Notes to Editors**

To see the Liberia MOE details on year two, please visit <http://moe.gov.lr/news/>

All PSL operators extra allocations for year two:

- BRAC: 13 new schools in 2017 (33 total schools)
- Bridge: 43 new schools in 2017 (68 total schools)
- LIYONET: 2 new schools in 2017 (6 total schools)
- More Than Me: 12 new schools in 2017 (18 total schools)
- Omega: 2 new schools in 2017 (19 total schools)
- Street Child: 11 new schools in 2017 (23 total schools)
- Stella Maris: 2 new schools in 2017 (6 total schools)
- Rising Academies: 24 new schools in 2017 (29 total schools)

To Read more about Bridge PSL please visit:

<http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com/countries/liberia/>

#### **Further Information**

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#### **About Bridge**

Bridge believes every child has the right to high quality education and works in partnership with governments, communities, parents and teachers to deliver education to over 100,000 children in underserved communities across Africa and Asia.

Bridge leverages in-depth teacher training and support, advanced lesson plans and wireless technology to provide pupils with a meaningful and life-changing education.

Globally, there is an education crisis. Around 263 million children and young people are not in school and the number of primary school aged children not in school is increasing. Bridge is committed to helping tackle this through a data driven, evidence based approach that delivers strong schools and a great education for all.

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