



THE NIAPELE PROJECT

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## Working with community leaders...

*Established in 2007, The Niapele Project's mission is to promote sustainable strategies for the empowerment of vulnerable children, through the development of community-based initiatives.*

*The Niapele Project aims to have direct, meaningful impact: we achieve this by working in partnership with communities, assisting them to fulfill the needs they have identified, through the development and implementation of initiatives that aim to create the necessary conditions for children to move beyond mere survival and thrive.*

We work with community leaders who have a vision for socio-economic and human development in their community, and who demonstrate a true commitment to their cause. By giving them the means to achieve their goals, we offer the support necessary for these community-led processes to succeed.

## ...to improve the lives of vulnerable children

Because of our size, we offer great flexibility to our partners - each partnership is elaborated based on carefully evaluated needs, and benefits from constant dialogue, communication and feedback.

We tailor our services to the needs of each partner organization - we recognize that each grassroots initiative is defined by the vision of its leaders, and our support is adapted for each partnership.

The Niapele Project first established its partnerships with Liberian community based organization in exile in Ghana, and is assisting partner organizations in their transition home and in their reintegration efforts. Since we began working in Liberia in 2008, we continue to develop productive working relationships with Liberian civil society organizations that address the needs of vulnerable children, women and the formerly displaced.



## Think local, act local: strengthening communities

*The Niapele Project engages in innovative partnerships with local community leaders and grassroots organizations who share our values and vision of a sustainable future for vulnerable children.*

We work with local leaders in order to strengthen the fabric of communities, an essential element of a vibrant and open civil society. The services provided by local organizations are indispensable in places where government capacity is limited; in addition, by assisting the local leadership in developing a sustainable approach to community work, The Niapele Project contributes to the overall vitality of the communities in which we operate.

We aim to provide our partners with multidimensional support - helping them to develop long term strategies for sustainability and independence, assist them in strengthening their organizational capacity through the provision of skills and management training, expertise and advice, as well as vital financial support.

When working on reintegration efforts in home countries, The Niapele Project engages with local government, as well as local and international NGOs working in areas of reintegration, poverty reduction, and post conflict development.

### ***Social Responsibility***

Because we believe in holistic, sustainable solutions, The Niapele Project strives to integrate social and environmental standards into our work - through our initiatives, we encourage women's empowerment, local ownership and leadership, as well as environmentally sound practices.

All our initiatives are staffed with local employees - mostly women - and we strive to make use of local expertise, services and products whenever possible, in order to ensure that our work benefits the community at large.



## Current Initiatives

### School Nutrition Initiative

During the 2007/2008 school year, The Niapele Project, in collaboration with Vision Awake Africa for Development, provided daily meals at the Carolyn A. Miller School to over 600 vulnerable children- primarily unaccompanied minors - in the Buduburam refugee settlement. Since September 2009, we are working with the same partners - this time in Monrovia - to provide meals made from locally grown food to hundreds of vulnerable children.

The School Nutrition Initiative relies on local expertise and resources:

- Food is purchased from Malaya, a women's agricultural co-op in the Bong Mines area of Liberia.
- A nutritionist from the University of Liberia oversees meal composition and carries out the monitoring and evaluation of the program.
- The program aims to educate the Carolyn Miller community on healthy nutrition practices through

workshops and educational campaigns.

- The School Nutrition Initiative provides salaried, full time employment to three to four women, and encourages economic development by relying on local agricultural products, expertise and resources.

### The Happy Family Center

Based in Monrovia, the Happy Family Center for Disabled Children (HapFam) is a unique community-based effort to provide support and assistance for children with disabilities and their families, all the while promoting greater acceptance and inclusion of children with disabilities in the community.

HapFam is the Liberian extension of the refugee-run Harmony Children's Center, based in the Buduburam refugee settlement.

HapFam provides appropriate learning and support for children who are not currently catered to in the national public school system, while reaching out to families and communities of children with special needs. Some of these children will be able to make the transition and integrate in a regular school, while others' achievements may be more limited based on abilities and disabilities. However, all will have

the opportunity to participate in society and break the cycle of marginalization that typically affects them.

### Media and Advocacy

The Niapele Project believes that a brighter future for young generations depend on the ability of individuals to be informed and engaged citizens. We aim to share knowledge and best practices with partner and similar organizations, and support initiatives that encourage active and responsible citizenship.

*The Niapele Project is an official partner of the Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, and is committed to the Liberian government's Poverty Reduction Strategy and their vision of social, economic and political development for the country.*



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The Niapele Project is a 501 (c) (3) charity in the United States and a registered NGO in Liberia