



JSF 2023 THEME:
Empowering Girls for
Greater Gender
Equality, & Economic Development

2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Jewel Starfish foundation (JSF) was established in 2000. Since then the organization has been expanding continuously in order to ensure the promotion of education, leadership and empowerment of Females in Liberia and on the Continent.

Today JSF is one of the leading Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in Liberia, which champions Education, Mentoring and Sexual and Reproductive Health of under privileged girls. With consistent support to over 3,000 females every year through its programs, JSF programs for the year under review also included skills training (ICT, QUILT MAKING, BEAD and ACCESSORIES and COSMETOLOGY); psychosocial support, leadership, mentoring, awareness on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), social protection and inclusion.

JSF has earned the enviable recognition as an impactful institution of repute and is now considered a trusted partner in Liberia for helping fulfill the UNSDG's. JSF has established solid networks and partnerships with many organizations which hold similar vision for rapid Social Transformation; all geared towards accelerating the growth and development of Females.

We are proud to report that during this period under review, the Foundation has provided support to a record 3000 plus beneficiaries both locally and internationally. We note that all of this could not have been possible without the consistent support of sponsors and donors who made our agenda their commitment. We remain grateful to this core of Businesses, Organizations, Institutions and Individuals who help us **KEEP OUR PROMISES TO OUR BENEFICIARIES.**



This strong support has culminated in the payments of about:
\$169,000.00 USD

Our scholarship program at the local level covers the fifteen (15) counties in Liberia; and at the international level in China, Ghana, Malawi and Sierra Leone; working to make sure we remain on course in full support of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) of the Liberian Government.

The table below illustrates JSF 2022/2023 Scholarship Program across her partner schools:

COUNTIES	Total # of Students	# of Public Schools	# of Private Schools	Total # of Schools	Amount Paid USD	Amount Balance USD
BOMI	155	5	0	5	\$3,660.00	\$0.00
BONG	200	10	13	23	\$12,530.00	\$0.00
GBARPOLU	120	5	0	5	\$2,985.00	\$0.00
GRAND BASSA	100	5	0	5	\$5,680.00	\$0.00
GRAND CAPE MOUNT	125	6	1	7	\$3,830.00	\$0.00
GRAND GEDEH	151	10	0	10	\$4,065.00	\$0.00
GRAND KRU	205	3	0	3	\$3,830.00	\$0.00
LOFA	111	6	0	6	\$2,105.00	\$0.00
MARGIBI	175	2	2	4	\$2,170.00	\$0.00
MARYLAND	240	4	0	4	\$4,845.00	\$0.00
MONTSERRADO	235	4	31	35	\$21,185.00	\$0.00
NIMBA	101	3	4	7	\$4,785.00	\$0.00
RIVER CESS	200	2	1	3	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
RIVER GEE	175	7	0	7	\$4,165.00	\$0.00
SINOE	220	6	0	6	\$4,735.00	\$0.00
Colleges (Semester 1&2)	98	5	16	20	\$70,000.00	\$0.00
Ghana	31	1	0	1	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Malawi	15	1	0	1	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Sierra Leone	18	1	0	1	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
China	1	1	0	1	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	2676	87	68	155	\$169,570.00	\$0.00

SANITARY PADS BANK

As girls enter puberty their experience of sexual and gender based violence, school dropout, and early marriage starts to increase. Besides, there are range of challenges that compromise their chances of completing school or their sexual and reproductive health. These challenges can be even further complicated by girls' feelings of shame about their bodies, in particular about menstruation, or their lack of sanitary products to help them manage menstruation.

After an assessment conducted by the JSF Monitoring Team, which prioritized the performance and causes of dropout, especially, in female, it was reported that adolescent girls' risk of school dropout and reproductive health (RH) challenges may be exacerbated by girls' attitudes toward their bodies and inability to manage their menstruation. During the course of the academic year 2022-2023, JSF assessed the effects of sanitary pad distribution and RH education on girls in secondary schools from grade 7th to 12th. The intervention has improved beneficiaries' knowledge about menstruation and sexual and reproductive health, and schools' statistic have shown immerse improvement in girls' retention during the first semester of the year under review. The RH education and Sanitary Pad distribution showed that addressing girls' menstrual health challenges are important, but are better positioned as part of comprehensive sexuality education programs in addressing stigma and shame associated with menstruation, access to menstrual products, inequitable gender norms and sexual and reproductive health knowledge gaps.

JSF in collaboration with other institutions continue to set up **Sanitary Pads banks** in major schools around the 13 counties already visited to provide basic menstrual hygiene products and RH education for our beneficiaries; this strategy will continue to improve retention rates by reducing the fear of shame girls face due to their inability to properly manage their menstrual health.

Pictorial of RH Education & Establishment of Sanitary Pad Bank



LOOKING AHEAD

With a robust 2022/2023 academic year, our Foundation anticipates a slight Increase in the number of beneficiaries for the coming academic year (2023-2024). In anticipation of same the Foundation embarked on a nationwide field assessment to ascertain the impact of our social interventions; to complete our task to set up sanitary pad banks at our partner schools and to better prepare ahead of the new academic year.

Out of the 15 counties, 13 were visited, covering more than 140 partner schools. The JSF Monitoring Team prioritized its evaluation component in order to ensure that all funds made had been properly accounted for; to see first-hand the capabilities of the County Coordinators and to check on the performance of beneficiaries amongst others.

The Findings from the assessment has helped developed the **JSF 2023-2024 Scholarship Tuition** table below:

COUNTIES	2023 -2024 ACADEMIC YEAR		
	Total # of Students	Total # of Schools	AMOUNT IN USD
BOMI	155	5	\$4,330.00
BONG	230	30	\$13,330.00
GBARPOLU	150	5	\$3,465.00
GRAND BASSA	175	7	\$6,665.00
GRAND CAPE MOUNT	125	7	\$5,000.00
GRAND GEDEH	151	10	\$4,665.00
GRAND KRU	305	4	\$5,860.00
LOFA	200	6	\$3,665.00
MARGIBI	175	5	\$3,000.00
MARYLAND	240	5	\$5,465.00
MONTSERRADO	235	35	\$22,000.00
NIMBA	120	7	\$5,000.00
RIVER CESS	200	4	\$3,000.00
RIVER GEE	210	7	\$5,000.00
SINOE	220	8	\$5,000.00
Colleges - Liberia	150	25	\$80,000.00
Ghana	31	1	\$6,000.00
Malawi	15	1	\$3,000.00
Sierra Leone	18	1	\$5,000.00
China	1	1	\$3,000.00
TOTAL	3106	174	\$192,445.00

As we end this period under review we wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of our contributors for their support to education, especially for females. As a result of your support, we have been able to meet our goals by empowering beneficiaries with the necessary tools needed to be successful in the 21st century.

*It is our prayer and hope that you will remain consistent in your support as we continue to work towards **UNSDG**s.*

We are very honored and blessed to have you and your family as our sponsors. Thank you again for your generous support as we look forward to working with you.

*Thank
You*



