



# Develop Africa, Inc. Annual Report

January 1 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006



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## Message from Develop Africa President:

*Dear Develop Africa Family,*

*Warm Greetings,*

It was truly tremendous, heart-warming and most fulfilling to see and hear the expressions of gratitude from the children and youths who are beneficiaries of our scholarship and training programs. (This experience happened during our trip to Africa - December 2006 and January 2007). Our hearts warmed to see how much we were appreciated. We **all** as family together made this positive difference happen. Because of your generous support and confidence we were able to do this.

On behalf of the Board, our deepest gratitude goes to you, our faithful volunteers, supporters, individual, organization and business partners. **Without you** all this would **not** have been possible. Your personal involvement, financial contributions and words of encouragement, etc. have all truly contributed to change and provided momentum.

As you read this annual report, you will relive highlights of our work and see examples of how your gifts and donations are being used to change lives. Our goal is continually to empower and develop the potential of Africa's most valuable resource: people.

The possibilities for contributing to meaningful change have never been greater. "The future is now" and it is full of opportunities to change lives, destinies and nations.

Let's continue to change the world together!

Cordially,

*Sylvester Renner*

President

## At a Glance: 2006 Accomplishments / Progress:

- ❖ Provided free training in basic computer applications and web design to organizations / youth groups in Sierra Leone and the Gambia
- ❖ Provided book and tuition scholarships for several students in Sierra Leone and The Gambia
- ❖ Provided free technology consulting services / training to NGO / non-profits in Sierra Leone and The Gambia
- ❖ Assisted local NGO / non-profit in developing website
- ❖ Established a volunteer recognition program to recognize the support and efforts of volunteers
- ❖ Partnered in several development projects / initiatives with local and international non-profits / NGOs and companies including the following: Ethiopian Education Endeavors, YEDEM, iEARN, KWT Radio
- ❖ Received donations in kind and cash from a number of individuals, organizations and business such as Dell, Inc, Gap, Inc, Gifts in Kind International, Office Depot etc.
- ❖ Updated our website: [www.developafrica.org](http://www.developafrica.org) to offer more information and interactivity
- ❖ Worked with AidMatrix as a pilot group in developing a new portal ([www.Aidconnect.org](http://www.Aidconnect.org))
- ❖ Collected thousands of books towards our *Million Book and Dime Project*.

Thank you  
Danke  
Xie xie  
Khawp khun  
Yum boric  
Salamat  
Mahalo  
Juspa  
Spacibo  
Arigato  
Obrigada

With your help all this was possible!

# People - Making A Difference and Making History!



## Board Members

Sylvester Renner  
George Naholi  
Janet Tucker  
Dr. Henry Antkiewicz

Dr. Samuel Obaki  
Dr. Jasmine Renner  
Daniel and Erica Sesay

## Country Coordinators

- Responsible for development and operational activities in each country.

Janet Tucker – Sierra Leone  
Matthias and Ayeisha George – The Gambia  
Orock Thomas – Cameroon  
Levi Naholi - Kenya

## Volunteers

In 2006, Develop Africa was a **100% Volunteer-run organization**. Without the tireless help of our volunteers, Develop Africa would not be where it is today. To all our volunteers, the Board says a big “thank you”.

## Supporters

To all friends, co-workers, associates, group and family members, businesses, organizations and individuals who believe in this vision, the Board expresses our profound gratitude and appreciation.

**To all - the emerging leaders of Africa, who we are privileged to serve, extend their gratitude**



Photo: **The "Potential-Full" Faces of the Next Generation**

*"Education is the movement from darkness to light."*

*-Allan Bloom*

These are the **faces of the next generation**. They are the radiant, excited faces of children in a primary (Kindergarten – Grade 12) school in Freetown, Sierra Leone. A team from *Develop Africa* was warmly greeted by these enthusiastic, full-of-life children during an end-of-year, Christmas party held at the school.

**Take a second look at their faces and expressions:**

What do you see as you look at this picture?

As the team of *Develop Africa*, experienced the pleasure of their company and this party, and as we look at this picture today, we see children full of hope and joy. We see tremendous potential. We see the future generation, in its native, undeveloped form. We see the opportunity to transform their lives and shape their destinies.

What kind of lives will these children live tomorrow? What does the future hold for them? **What kinds of opportunities are available for their development? What facilities are in place to foster their growth and**

## development into leaders who will shape the destinies of their nations?

The dismal truth in many parts of Africa today is that simply put, there is a **scarcity of resources and opportunities**. The environment is simply not conducive for the optimal growth and development of children and youth into responsible leaders who will guide their own lives and nations into a fulfilled destiny. The social structure that ensures that all children will have guaranteed access to education, regardless of family income level or location, is inadequate and in many instances absent. Many children drop out of school because of poverty. Thousands of promising youths, who are able to successfully complete college, are unemployed or unable to find meaningful employment. This dismal situation is partly responsible for the on-going "**brain drain**" in Africa.

A **brain drain** or **human capital flight** is an emigration of trained and talented individuals ("human capital") to other nations or jurisdictions, due to conflicts, lack of opportunity, or health hazards where they are living.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain\\_drain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_drain)

### Africa Trip - Study Observations

In December 2006 / January 2007, a team from Develop Africa visited 3 nations – **Nigeria, Sierra Leone** and **The Gambia**. Overwhelmingly, the response to our visit was very positive. We were welcomed with open arms and very warmly received.



The team had many formal and informal meetings / discussions / interactions with a wide range of people including school and government officials, business owners, non-profit organization / NGO partners, students, recent college graduates, religious leaders etc. As part of the trip, the team conducted informal surveys / interviews with the following goals:

1. Analyze the current environment and situation first-hand
2. Observe the opportunities and challenges. Assess the needs
3. Ask specific questions to determine exactly what type of assistance people really desire
4. Listen and learn

**Summary:**

**"We need more and better resources and opportunities".**

In each country, the requests were consistent. Overwhelming, the response from the people we met was that they wanted empowerment and opportunities. They bemoaned the lack of a supporting, enabling structure, (usually provided by the government), in the form of education assistance, business support, job stimulation etc. They all wanted to be successful in their own way and had dreams of how to get there.

The people we met were full of potential and had great ideas on how to address the problem of poverty and change mindsets / thinking patterns. They also had varying comments about the impact that traditional aid organizations are making in Africa.

The African governments have not been successful in catering for the needs and development of its people. The people of the African continent are clearly not benefiting from the resources of these nations. The foreign aid that is actually reaching the average person is inadequate. They were interested in empowering assistance that would enable them to better direct their lives.

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Education is the single most powerful means to improve the quality of life... the single most powerful weapon against poverty and intolerance. Education builds a culture of peace ... it empowers human beings, both young and adult, to be effective in their chosen sphere of activity ... education in its essence, opens doors to both personal and social development.

*-Federico Mayor,*

*Address at the Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education  
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26 April 1999*

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**Develop Africa's 2006 Project Summary:**

*Develop Africa's* **Education for Empowerment** initiative focuses on **empowering children and youth**, providing resources and an environment that will foster their development.

# Education For Empowerment

Promise of Hope Scholarship

Basic Computer Training

## The Promise of Hope Scholarship

### Project Synopsis / Background:

*Develop Africa, Inc.* believes that education is a **key component in bringing real and lasting change** in Africa.

Unfortunately, many children and youths in Africa do **not** have continuous access to optimal and affordable educational opportunities. We have heard stories of many, willing students who have had to quit without completing high or secondary education and vocational or tertiary educational, because of inadequate funds.



Towards this end, one of the goals of *Develop Africa* is to **create opportunities for promising and deserving African children and youth** through the provision of scholarships.

The "Promise of Hope" Scholarship Program was established to **provide assistance and increase educational opportunities and access to youths who lack the economic power to afford tuition fees and costs.**

### ***Promise of Hope Scholarship Update – Freetown, Sierra Leone***

*Develop Africa* awarded 8 (eight) tuition scholarships to deserving children in Sierra Leone. The scholarship award ceremony took place at the UMC Primary School in George Brook, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The occasion was graced by the parents, friends, teachers, staff of the school and the recipients of the scholarship award. Highlights of the award ceremony included:

- ◆ Opening Remarks and Vision - Dr. Jasmine Renner, Director of Development
- ◆ Keynote Speech - Mr. Sylvester Renner, President
- ◆ Presentation of Certificates and Closing Remarks - Mrs. Janet Tucker, Coordinator for *Develop Africa*, Sierra Leone
- ◆ Closing Comments - Mrs. Nancy Showers, Headmistress (Principal) of UMC primary school
- ◆ Vote of thanks - Mustapha Koroma (Scholarship recipient)





Group Photo: Scholarship Recipients, Parents, Teachers, Friends, Develop Africa Staff



**In Their Own Words...**

Vote of Thanks by Mustapha Koroma (Scholarship Recipient) at the Promise of Hope Scholarship Award Ceremony, Freetown, Sierra Leone:

*"Thank you Develop Africa for this opportunity. We are very grateful.*

*Currently, nobody is assisting us and we appreciate this".*

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of *Develop Africa Inc.* is to facilitate and establish meaningful and sustainable development in Africa through capacity building, empowerment and transformational education.

*Develop Africa, Inc.* was birthed out of the vision that **human resource development** is the key to **improving nation-building capacity** in Africa.

### **In Their Own Words...**

Comments by Headmistress (Principal) Mrs. Nancy Showers at the Promise of Hope Scholarship Award Ceremony, Freetown, Sierra Leone:

*"...Thank you Develop Africa sponsors and donors for bringing hope to these scholarship recipients and investing into their future... The funds you have invested in these children will not be in vain. Be assured that the children will make good use of the scholarship funds.*

*... If we had taken proper care of children in Sierra Leone, we would not have had the devastating civil war. This Scholarship program will make a definite difference in their lives."*



## **Worthy of Note:**

**Winds of Change:** The winds of sensitivity and consciousness to social change are spreading. In 2006, thousands of individuals and businesses worldwide donated generously towards alleviating poverty, disasters, diseases etc. We observed the dramatic involvement and financial donations of well-known businessmen. These businessmen gave significant amounts to charity and purposed to invest their lives in effecting change.

We anticipate that this trend will continue and increase. There is an increasing desire to “make this world a better place”. People are aware more then ever before that they can make a difference. They want to do something.

Africa is increasingly on the national and global agenda. In the years to come, individuals and nations will be increasingly evaluated by their posture towards and demonstrated commitment to Africa’s development. The future is now!

***Promise of Hope Scholarship Update – Wellingara, The Gambia***

In December 2006, *Develop Africa* presented an award of 3 (three) Promise of Hope Scholarships to students at the Omega Training Institute, a secretarial and computer training institute in Wellingara, The Gambia. The scholarship awards (presented by Dr. Jasmine Renner, Director of Development) were received by Mrs. Ayeisha George (Owner of the Institute) on behalf of the three recipient students at the institute's facilities in Wellingara.



The institute is directly contributing to the educational goals of the Gambian government by providing quality education at the tertiary level. Wellingara is located about several miles outside Banjul, the capital city of The Gambia.

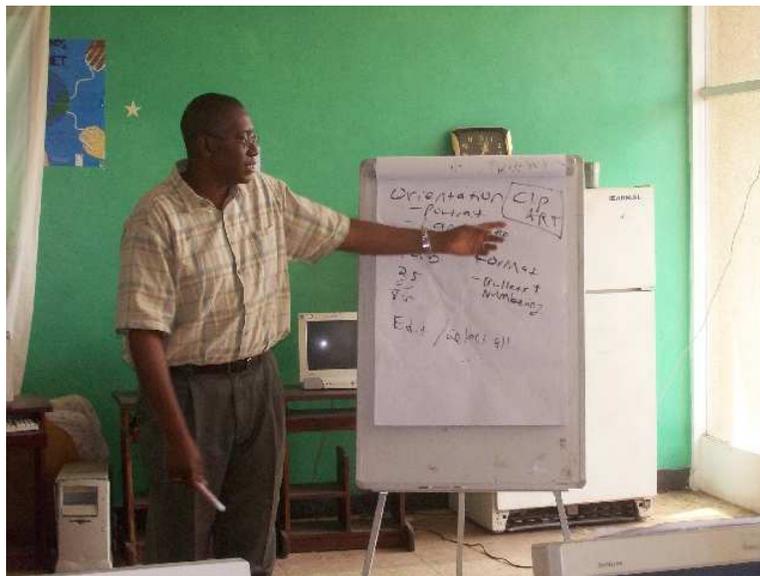
## Basic Computer Training

### Project Synopsis / Background:

#### Problem:

The current training and facilities in traditional schools and colleges has simply **not caught up with the information age**. Tragically, this training does **not** adequately prepare graduates for job positions / careers and businesses in this technology age.

In many African Nations, 30% to 50% of the population is under the age of 15. Within the school and college system, **there are often no facilities** for children and youth **to learn how to use computers or to get any form of computer training**. At graduation, the majority of students have never used a computer, let alone received any basic training or education in "Information Age" skills. Inexperience with computer technology narrows the market and incredibly limits the opportunities available to these students at graduation.



Unlike in the Developed World where there is increasing, free, regular access to computers in schools, public libraries etc, such facilities do **not** exist in many developing countries. Consequently, students who wish to acquire the "required skills" as stipulated in job applications have no recourse but to enroll in and pay for additional training in "computer schools" at competitive prices. The practical, financial barriers are tremendous and such training is often inaccessible to those who can barely make ends meet.

### **Our Response:**

In an effort to contributing to addressing this situation and dire need, *Develop Africa*, has launched a 2-pronged strategy. The goal of this strategy is to empower individuals for success and productivity.

1. Provide the necessary **Basic Computer Training**
2. Provide the **technological facilities to support on-going training and professional development.**

As a first step, in December 2006 and January 2007, *Develop Africa* offered its first training sessions. *Develop Africa* is also planning towards establishing its first center that will support on-going training.



## **Basic Computer Training Sessions**

### **Freetown, Sierra Leone:**

The Develop Africa team offered 4 (four) days of training to 2 groups in Freetown. For both training sessions, Develop Africa rented a projector, provided fuel for the generator, training materials etc.



International Education and Resource Network  
of Sierra Leone

### **2 Days Training:**

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel

International Education and Resource Network  
(iEARN) of Sierra Leone

Web: <http://www.earnsierraleone.org>



Photo: iEARN Training - Excel Formulas



**In Their Own Words...**

"I am very happy to be a part of this training and I have gained much from this training. It's really been beneficial to me as a secondary school student. I have really been looking for this opportunity to have access to this free training. Now I can proudly say that I am computer literate. I can now use the computer on my own. This program has helped me so much".

Participant comment after **Basic Computer Training Session** offered in Freetown, Sierra Leone

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2 Days Training:

- Introduction to computers
- Basic and Advanced Microsoft Word Training
- Training on web design



Youth Empowerment for Development Ministries (YEDEM):

Web: <http://www.yedem.org/>



YEDEM participants at training session



Group Photo: YEDEM training participants, Develop Africa Team and other IEARN team members

"The foundation of every state  
is the education of its youth."

*-Diogenes*

## Web Site Development and Support

Putting together a website can be a daunting and next-to-impossible task. With this in mind, *Develop Africa*, through the help of its volunteers, decided to assist local non-profits with putting together and updating organization websites.

The first website development we facilitated was that of a youth organization called *Youth Empowerment for Development Ministries (YEDEM)*

Web: <http://yedem.org/>



**Youth Empowerment for Development Ministries**

**Membership is Open to All!**

Youth Empowerment for Development Ministries (YEDEM) International is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation and focuses as its target beneficiaries Children and Youths with special emphasis on the girl child, ex-combatants (children and youths), unskilled, unemployed and underdeveloped youths.

We hope to see the establishment of YEDEM all over the world. In this light, we are looking out for Volunteers - young people with strong leadership experience who can set up a YEDEM Chapter in their Countries.

If you are interested in Volunteering your time in setting up a Chapter in your country, please contact our office: Sulayman S. Murray, Founder & General

- Home
- About Founder
- Activities
- Aims and Objectives
- Affiliations
- Background and Mission
- Contact Us
- Country Networks
- Join Us
- Leaders
- Links
- Members
- Photos
- Projects and Events
- Resources

One of *Develop Africa's* volunteers was instrumental in putting together this website. This volunteer was one of the recipients of ***Develop Africa's 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award***. On-going training and support is being provided with the goal of ensuring that the organization will be able to maintain and update its website.

## How You Can Help

### Volunteer:

- ☑ Volunteer and help us change lives! Everyone can do this - independent of your location - in one way or the other. Local and Virtual volunteer opportunities are listed on our website.
- ☑ Raise funds as an Individual or a group. We will provide suggestions of activities / ways you can assist us in raising support.
- ☑ We welcome your suggestions on creative things we could do together.

### Invest:

- ☑ Start a donation campaign: At work, at home, at school and in your various groups. Encourage friends, family co-workers, and church members etc. to get involved. Start a focus / support group etc.
- ☑ Donate Gifts in Kind: A list of our current needs is available on our website. The donation of your car, computer etc. is tax-deductible.
- ☑ Online: Go to [www.developafrica.org](http://www.developafrica.org) and:
  - Sign up for monthly / recurring donations
  - Make a one-time donation
  - Browse through our [Donation Directory](#) to direct your donation

**"What I know for sure is that what you give comes back to you."  
- Oprah Winfrey**

web: [www.DevelopAfrica.org](http://www.DevelopAfrica.org) ::: email - [info@developafrica.org](mailto:info@developafrica.org)