



## Liberia

Dr. Joseph D.Z. Korto  
**Minister of Education**



*Dr. Joseph D.Z. Korto was born in Barpa, Nimba County, Liberia and has led a distinguished career in the educational fields in Liberia and internationally. He was an educator in Liberia prior to his coming to the United States where he received his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. Dr. Korto has worked for a number of educational establishments in the U.S.A and now he continue his contribution to the redevelopment and revitalization of his country. Since January 2006, he has been serving as Minister, Ministry of Education of Liberia.*

### **Inclusive Education: the case of Liberia**

Liberia is a country currently recovering from nearly three decades of dysfunctional governance culminating in a 14-year civil war that ended in 2003. The civil war resulted in massive destruction of educational infrastructure facilities, displacement of the population and general disruption of teaching and learning environment. A whole generation of youth missed out on primary education opportunity with some having been active combatants. As other nations have been travelling the road to achieving MDGs on education, Liberia has been struggling to rehabilitate its educational infrastructure to bring same to pre-war situation, while also addressing the need for expansion to allow for increased demand and reducing the number of untrained teachers accounting for 60%.

In the midst of all these, the government is faced with the reality of a large number of youth excluded from learning because they were either too old to attend regular school or too poor to afford school fees. This group potentially presented a threat to the fragile peace the country now enjoys. To address the first problem of over aged youth, the Ministry of Education (MOE) introduced an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) that reduces the six-year primary education to three. Classes are normally conducted in the afternoon by regular teacher. Pupils who are successful at the end of their ALP can join Junior Secondary level.

To address the problem of exclusion due to lack of fees, the government implemented the 'Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FACPEL)' policy beginning 2006 by providing public schools with funds to cater for the needs of all children at primary level. The effect has been a massive increase in enrolment further stretching the limited physical facilities. The government has responded by allocating the largest share of its annual budget to the Ministry of Education which is supported by an equally impressive input by the donor community.