SEL programs increase academic performance up to 11%¹

BETTERING A NATION’S YOUTH AND FUTURE

On Christmas day, young Bessack’s wild lifestyle landed her in prison. Like many youth, Bessack was not equipped to handle challenges such as peer pressure, an unstable home life, and bullying. What should have been a carefree time of life for Bessack was anything but carefree.

Helping teachers develop youngsters with skills to manage emotions, build positive relationships, and be responsible is what Lions Quest, Lions Clubs International Foundation’s signature social and emotional learning (SEL) program, is all about. It’s also the program expanding in Cameroon with a US$100,000 LCIF grant.

Since 2014, Lions Quest has grown steadily in Cameroon and remains active in 98 percent of its schools that have introduced it. To date, thousands of students have benefitted. With immediate positive outcomes in mind, and a view to the future, Cameroon’s Ministry of Social Affairs, which oversees schools for high-risk youth, adopted Lions Quest into its official curriculum; the Ministry of Education, overseeing all public schools, is piloting official adoption.

“I used to be full of hate, in a gang, use drugs, and steal,” said Bessack. “By attending Lions Quest, I was able to change my life.”
For the Children

17 million.

That's the number of new, well-trained teachers Sub-Saharan Africa will need in the next decade to meet the needs of a growing youth population. Those educators will be critical to stemming these stark realities:

60% of frequent consumers of drugs in Cameroon are young people.

12,000 people under age 15 consume narcotic drugs.

28 million adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa are out-of-school.

4 million girls will never receive formal education in Sub-Saharan Africa.

THAT'S AFRICA. GLOBALLY, THE SITUATION LOOKS LIKE THIS:

1 in 3 students reports being cyberbullied; 20% report skipping school because of it or violence.

2 in 3 students in 160 countries worry about violence in and around schools.

Reading scores and bullying are directly correlated.

Schools with positive school climate practices like Lions Quest have lower rates of absenteeism and bullying.

Lions Club International Foundation

LCIF and Lions Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

World renowned Harvard University found students participating in Lions Quest reported improved perceptions of school climate, and physical and emotional safety. For 35 years+, LCIF has funded Lions Quest globally. Our commitment to cultivating capable and healthy young people continues.


LCIF is the grant-making body empowering Lions to create greater impact in their communities and around the world. The vast majority of funding LCIF receives is from Lions; one hundred percent of every donation supports Lions service through LCIF grants and programs.

Youth is just one cause area supported by LCIF and Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service. With financial support from Lions and clubs worldwide, Campaign 100 is empowering Lions to increase service impact in vision, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts; fight the global epidemic of diabetes; and make important progress in expanded cause areas of childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment.