

NOVEMBER 28, 2011



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH AGENCY

Lasanah A. Dukuly, Executive Director
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World Bank



Narrative and Financial Report

Project Title

**Strengthening Youth Capacity on Budget
Monitoring of County and Social
Development Funds**

GRANT ACTIVITY OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

- Youth volunteers trained in budget monitoring process
- Communities /citizens have access to fact sheet and simplified version of key developments instruments
- A considerable number of citizens understand information contained in key development instruments
- Questions on the status of development projects now being raised by citizens from an informed and knowledge-based position

GRANT CONTRIBUTION TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The World Bank grant has contributed to civic engagement for empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable people in the ways indicated below:

- It has given marginalized and vulnerable people a voice to demand their participation in the decision-making processes. As a direct result the training on budget monitoring, young people, who make up the larger part of marginalized and vulnerable, are now engaging their local leaders in their respective districts as to their right to actively participate in the process of development; they are now demanding accountability from their duty bearers (local leaders) for county and social development funds. Further, young people from the twelve political districts within Bong County are forming an umbrella organization through they can unite at one common frontline in pressing for social accountability and good governance.
- Marginalized and vulnerable people are now proactive in questioning their local leaders on development funds and other activities; in public fora, on the radio, they are speaking on the way their county and social development funds are being handled-the lack of transparency in the awarding of contracts, etc. young people are now monitoring the county and social development sectorial projects being implemented in their respective districts, demanding from their commissioners, chiefs, and even contractors on projects to account for the way they are executing these projects;
- The grant has contributed to a more sustained dialogue between marginalized and vulnerable people and their duty bearers (local leaders); young people in the districts can now be seen engaging the local leaders actively on development and other issues; on the other hand, local leaders are seeing listening to young people when it comes to development activities.
- The grant has contributed to the creation of more space for marginalized people to constantly and interactively engage their local authorities; the grant has empowered marginalized in civic engagement in that it has broadened the space within the corridor of decision-making for young people to discuss issues of common concern and more especially, issues that affect the general state of young people. It has helped make them to see themselves as active stakeholders in local governance.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Becoming a key stakeholder in budget monitoring the best-case scenario is for youths to play a direct and more proactive role in the entire budgetary process. This requires intensive strategic planning and developing relationships with duty bearers and service providers at the local, national, and international levels.
- For budget monitoring and tracking to be effectively carried out, civil society actors including the youths need to access budget information. Access remains to be possibly the major challenge to efficient budget monitoring. The unwillingness as well as lack of logistical capacity of governments to share information with the public allows for lesser compliance with principles of transparency and accountability.

CATALYST FOR FURTHERING PARTNERSHIPS

To respond appropriately to the expectations of a democratic society, CODRA understands that it is vital to work in partnership with other institutions and seeks participation of people from many walks of life and diverse backgrounds in promoting social accountability and good governance in Liberia. Toward this goal, the World Bank actively participates with civil society organizations in obtaining partnership which enhances effective democratic reforms. This effort is being propelled by grants given to both governmental and non-governmental organizations around the world.

The support to CODRA is one of such grants. In a broader sense, the grant promotes international cooperation with CODRA as a local partner. It has helped strengthen CODRA in vigorously taking on activities that lend support to international vision of a just world. The grant has enabled the World Bank and the Community Research and Development Agency (CODRA) establish an initial point of interaction. With such synergy CODRA is complementing the effort of groups and institutions already involve in the promotion of social accountability and good governance in Liberia.

CODRA has potential as well as the unflinching passion to serving humanity. It believes that this partnership could further be broadened so that attention is directed to other marginalized and vulnerable people on the demand side of the democratic paradigm. This will include forest-dependent communities, communities within mining concessions, as well as rural women and girls.

USING AND SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from the project activities are being used internally as a point of reference to inform the planning and implementation on-going projects. Staff members who were actively involved in the implementation of this project are sharing key lessons learned so as to enhance the quality of other projects CODRA is involved in. Externally CODRA is sharing these lessons with like-minded organizations in the bid to consolidate their effort to taking further advocacy actions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA) Class QuickReport June through November 2011

11:24 AM
11/28/11
Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
General Journal	06/30/2011	1	Joseph B. Dorbor	Stationery	-265.00
General Journal	07/04/2011	2	Lloyd N. Ngwayah	Mobilization	-400.00
General Journal	07/04/2011	3	Lloyd N. Ngwayah	Communication	-35.00
General Journal	07/05/2011	5	Lasanah A. Dukuly	Banner printing	-105.00
General Journal	07/16/2011	8	Rhoda S. Givlay	Catering Service and Hall Rental	-1,500.00
General Journal	07/16/2011	9	Rhoda S. Givlay	Facilitation fees	-400.00
General Journal	07/16/2011	10	Rhoda S. Givlay	Accommodation	-450.00
General Journal	07/16/2011	11	Rhoda S. Givlay	Transportation	-320.00
General Journal	07/16/2011	12	Dorothy Blah	Program Coverage	-150.00
General Journal	08/15/2011	14	Lloyd N. Ngwayah	Mentoring and coaching	-100.00
General Journal	08/15/2011	16	Dorothy Blah	Communication	-20.00
General Journal	08/15/2011	17	Rhoda S. Givlay	Communication	-20.00
General Journal	09/05/2011	18	Lloyd N. Ngwayah	Mentoring and Coaching	-75.00
General Journal	10/17/2011	19	Lasanah A. Dukuly	Mentoring and Coaching	-100.00
General Journal	10/31/2011	20	Lloyd N. Ngwayah	Mentoring and Coaching	-60.00
Total World Bank					<u>-4,000.00</u>
TOTAL					<u>-4,000.00</u>

11:13 AM
11/28/11
Accrual Basis

Community Development and Research Agency (CODRA)
Account QuickReport

All Transactions

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
1000 - Bank							
1010 - Ecobank Liberia							
Deposit	06/16/2011			Deposit	2110 - NGO Contributions (Contributions from corpor	250.00	250.00
Deposit	06/16/2011			Deposit	1610 - Grantor Funds - World Bank	4,000.00	4,250.00
General Journal	06/29/2011	4	Joseph B. Dorbor	Withdrawal	1110 - Bank Withdrawal	-1,638.00	2,612.00
Check	07/01/2011			Service Charge	2800 - Tax on Credit Interest	-0.17	2,611.83
Deposit	07/01/2011			Interest	2010 - Credit Interest (Interest received from savings	1.70	2,613.53
General Journal	07/14/2011	6	Joseph B. Dorbor	Withdrawal	1110 - Bank Withdrawal	-900.00	1,713.53
General Journal	07/16/2011	7	Joseph B. Dorbor	Withdrawal	1110 - Bank Withdrawal	-1,150.00	563.53
Check	08/01/2011			Service Charge	2800 - Tax on Credit Interest	-0.14	563.39
Deposit	08/01/2011			Interest	2010 - Credit Interest (Interest received from savings	1.35	564.74
General Journal	08/25/2011	13	Joseph B. Dorbor	Interest	1110 - Bank Withdrawal	-400.00	164.74
Total 1010 - Ecobank Liberia							<u>164.74</u>
Total 1000 - Bank							<u>164.74</u>
TOTAL							<u><u>164.74</u></u>

Annex A: Photos



Annex B: Letter of Invitation



CODRA

Working for the betterment of humanity

Gbarnga City, Bong County
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July 6, 2011

Madam Lucia Herbert
Superintendent
Bong County
Liberia

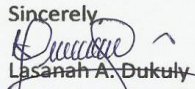
Re: **Letter of Invitation**

Dear Madam Herber:

Community Development and Research Agency writes to officially invite you to the opening session of a three day **youth capacity building on budget monitoring** workshop on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 10:15am at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Gbarnga, Bong county. The opening session will last for two hours.

The workshop is one of several activities of a project being implemented by CODRA with support from the World Bank. In line with the itinerary, the arrival of invited guests is at 10:15 with opening session convening at 10:30 am. Besides, each of the special guests will be allowed to make brief remarks; your allotted time is **fifteen minutes**. To inform your remark, we wish to give you a background of the project: The project tends to build the capacity of youths (30 persons) from twelve youth organizations in the twelve political districts within Bong County on budget monitoring of the county and social development funds; the focus of the World Bank 2011 Civil Society Fund is to voice to voiceless Liberians to increase the demand side of our governance process. That is why the theme for this year's fund is: "Promoting Youth Engagement and Participation in Good Governance and Social Accountability."

As we eagerly anticipate your presence at this opening session, we would highly appreciate it were you to send us a confirmation so that we know in advance. We send our compliments to you and yours. Thank you very kindly.

Sincerely,

Lasanah A. Dukuly
Executive Director
CODRA



CODRA

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July 11, 2011

Mr. Mark M. Marvey
Program Officer
NAYMOTE
Monrovia, Liberia

Re: **Letter of Invitation**

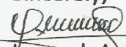
Dear Mr. Marvey:

We would like to invite you to deliver the key note address and to formally open the three days workshop on budget monitoring sponsored by the World Bank under its civil society fund. The theme of the workshop is: **"Promoting Youth Engagement and Participation in Good Governance and Social Accountability-Strengthening Youths' Capacity on Budget Monitoring of County and Social Development Funds."** We want you to speak on the topic: **Strengthening Citizens' Participation in Good Governance and Social Accountability, the Youths an Important Segment: Their Role and Responsibility.** The opening program will last for two hours; therefore, the time that has been allotted for your address is 45 minutes.

The agency will be responsible for your accommodation in Gbarnga for one day. The workshop is scheduled to take place from Thursday, July 14-Saturday, July 16; we would appreciate it were you to come on Wednesday July 13. As soon as you can give us your consent we will begin to make arrangements for your accommodation with one of the hotels here in Gbarnga. We are arranging for a special press interview with you, the superintendent, the county youth coordinator and our executive director immediately after the opening session of the workshop. All activities have been properly scheduled so that you can depart Gbarnga at 1pm after lunch.

As we look forward to hearing from you, we want to take this time to send you and yours our compliments; we highly anticipate your presence.

Sincerely,



Lasanah A. Dukuly
Executive Director



CODRA

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July 1, 2011

Mr. Danny S.N. Giwlay
Training Coordinator
Development Education Network-Liberia
Dementia Road
Gbarnga, Bong County

Re: **Facilitation**

Dear Mr. Giwlay:

We would like to hire your services to facilitate some sections at our upcoming three days workshop scheduled for the 14-16 of July this year at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Gbarnga. The workshop is around the training of thirty (30) youth volunteers in **budget monitoring of social and county development funds**.

Below are those topics that we would want you to facilitate with specific details:

- **Understanding the Public Procurement and Concession Commission law as it relates to contracts-the social and county development funds.** Specifically, concentrate on the part of the law that provides insight on the bidding process and how contracts are awarded.
- **Reporting budget findings.** Focus: How findings are captured to reflect balance and credibility.
- **REFLECT and Participatory Research related to Budget.** Focus: participants should understand how the REFLECT methodology (which is a participatory approach to adult learning and social change) can be used as aids in the analysis of prevailing situation, the budget in this case.
- **Participation in the Budget Process.** Focus: Discuss where and how does the role of civil society fit on the budget cycle.

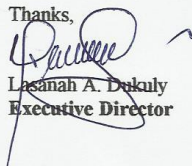
To ensure the effectiveness and the efficiency of the conduct of the workshop, the program department will be meeting with those that have been selected to present various parts at the workshop, please be present; the meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 12, 2011 at 5:30pm at CODRA's central office. Furthermore, we would appreciate it were you to inform us ahead of time if any of your presentations will include focus group discussion or hand outs that will need to be printed so that we can know and prepare accordingly. You may do your own research; however to assist you in your preparation, we have done some research on some of your presentations that you could include:

- Reporting findings, source material: Social Audit Toolkit by the Center for good Governance
- REFLECT and Participatory Research related to Budget, source material: **budget monitoring workshop** pages 13 and 14
- Participation in the Budget Process-The Role of Civil Society, source material: **civil society budget monitoring workshop** pages 4 and 5; **budget monitoring and tracking** written by Kola Giwa, Center for Constitutional Governance page 2.

We are inclosing other reference materials for further research as well as the workshop itinerary so that you can know aforesaid the day and time your parts are scheduled. If you will not be able to facilitate any of the assigned parts please inform us promptly.

As we look forward to hearing from you, we want to take this time to extend to you our compliments and sincere best wishes.

Thanks,


Leannah A. Dukuly
Executive Director



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July 2, 2011

Mr. John O. Flomo
President
Kpaai District Youth Association
Kpaai District, Bong County

Re: **Letter of Invitation**

Dear Mr. Flomo:

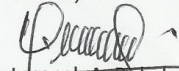
Community Development and Research Agency wishes to invite your organization to participate in a workshop on **Budget monitoring of the county and social development funds**, the workshop is part of the activities of a project which is being implemented by CODRA with the theme: **"Promoting Youth Engagement and Participation in Good Governance and Social Accountability"** sponsored by the World Bank under its Civil Society Fund for 2011.

We therefore request that your organization send two persons for this training. In order to balance the representation when it comes to gender, we would appreciate it were you to send a male and a female; we will not accept any representation that does not reflect this balance. Also, those coming to the workshop should be literate. Here are a few things that we would like you to know about the workshop:

1. The workshop will convene from July 14-16 beginning @ 7:30 am each day.
2. The venue of the workshop is the Pastoral Center on the Catholic compound in Gbarnga, Bong County, and arrival date is July 13, 2011.
3. There will be a reimbursement of transportation at the close of the workshop, it will cover the fare for both ways but only what a participant spent to come to the workshop; to ensure there are no under and over statement of the transportation fare, the agency may take into consideration the transportation fare from Gbarnga to the headquarters of the various districts.
4. The agency will not provide the participants with accommodations, those coming will have to arrange their accommodations in advance with their friends or relatives that may be living in Gbarnga, however, each participant will receive \$15.00USD at the end of the workshop.
5. The agency will be responsible to feed those attending the workshop for the three days.

If you have any reservations please speak to our program assistant, Mrs. Rhoda Giwlay on cell number 06 54 39 11. As we look forward to seeing you on the date of arrival (July 13), we want to urge you to kindly ensure that your representatives come on the arrival date as we will not encourage participants coming on the opening day of the workshop because coming on this day will affect our plans. They can call us on cell number 06 48 96 87 upon arrival. We send you our compliments.

Thanks,


Lasanah A. Dukuly
Executive Director
CODRA

Annex D: Hand Out



The purpose of this material is to provide clear information regarding the County Development Fund (CDF) and the County Social Development Fund (CSDF). The production of this fact sheet is part of a project being implemented by CODRA with funding from the World Bank under its Civil Society Fund for 2011 with the theme: Promoting Youth Engagement in Social Accountability and Good Governance.

Quick Facts

- As of now, Bong County is receiving a total of two million, three hundred thirty-three thousand United States Dollars (2,333,000.00) every year for social development.
- China Union is the highest contributor to Bong County social development fund in the tune of one million seven hundred thousand United States Dollar (1,700,000.00)
- The Government of Liberia is allotting two hundred thousand United States Dollars (200,000.00) in the national budget to Bong County for county Development.

COUNTY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

The County Development Fund (CDF) is the money the central government put in the national budget every year since 2006 for county development.

COUNTY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The county social development fund (CSDF) is the amount of money pay by concession companies operating in the county to the county for social development.

WHO ARE THE CONTRIBUTORS TO BONG COUNTY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND?

- ArcelorMittal US \$500,000.00
- BHP Billiton..... US \$133,000.00
- China Union..... US \$1,700,000.00

WHAT ARE THE PROIORITY AREAS FOR THE SOCIAL DELOPMENT FUNDS?

The fund is to be used to support projects identified by the citizens under the County Development Agenda which include health, education, infrastructure, agriculture and socio-economic projects.

WHICH COMMITTEES MANAGE THE COUNTY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND?

The County Social Development Fund (CSDF) is managed by the Dedicated Fund Committee (DFC) while the County Development Management Committee (CDMC) provides oversight for the implementation of projects through its Project Management Unit (PMU).

WHAT IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE CDMC AND DFC?

The County Development Management Committee is made up of the following:

- Bong County Legislative Caucus
- The County Superintendent
- Chairman of the Council of Chiefs of Bong County
- The Minister of Internal Affairs (chairman)
- Two prominent citizens of the county

The Dedicated Fund Committee is composed of the following:

- The Minister of Finance
- The Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs
- The Liberia Reconstruction and Development Committee (LRDC)
- The Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy (chairman)

HOW DO COMMUNITIES ACCESS THE CDF AND CSDF?

They do so by submitting project proposal to the County Development Management Committee through its local office

WHAT ARE THOSE PROJECTS THAT THE COUNTY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND CAN SUPPORT?

- Basic socio-economic needs: Education, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Public Infrastructure, including roads, bridges, public buildings, market halls, community recreational centers, police stations and similar types of public infrastructure.
- Food security and agriculture
- Micro credit
- Thematic projects linked to the PRS pillars: Gender, youth, physically challenged, etc.

HOW ARE PROJECTS AWARDED TO CONTRACTORS?

All projects approved by the dedicated Fund Committee are awarded to contractors through a competitive bidding process in line with the public procurement and concession commission law (PPCC)

HOW CAN CITIZENS OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE EXPENDITURE OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE COUNTY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND?

Citizens can use the Freedom and information (FOI) Law to obtain any information on expenditure for the County and Social Development Funds

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COUNTY NEWS

Bong

CODRA Conducts Capacity-Building Workshop for Bong Youths

A three-day capacity building workshop on budget monitoring on the county and social development funds has taken place in Gbergbe, Bong County, with a call for youths to see themselves as agents of change.

The workshop which was covered from July 14 to 16 under the theme, Promoting Youth Engagement and Participation in Good Governance and social Accountability - Strengthening Youths' Capacity on Budget Monitoring of County and Social Development Funds project, brought together 30 persons from 12 youth organizations from the 12 political wards of Bong County.

The workshop was part of activities of a project being implemented by Community Development and Research Centre (CDRC), a local

CODRA, Mr. Laseah O. Dokubo and the social audit is a new concept in Bong County and his organization intends to train a good number of groups, youths, women and community based organizations, so that in the end they can be an increase in citizens' participation in good governance and social accountability.

The demand side with Libetta's fledgling democracy is very low and the concept of social audit is about giving voice to voiceless Libettans so that they are better able to demand from their duty bearers (local leaders, accountability or how they (local leaders) manage the resources put in their care," he affirmed.

BHP, Pillars and China Union as their social development commitments. If citizens do not begin to press for proper accountability on how these funds are managed and the lifespan of these resources, Bong County will still be underdeveloped in terms of basic social services," Mr. Dokubo concluded.

Delivering the closing statement at the opening session of the workshop was the Program Officer of the National Youth Movement for Transparent Election Partners for Democratic Development (NAYMOTEP), Attorney Markey M. Marvey. In his address, Attorney Marvey said that the history of youths' involvement in Libetta's body politics and

late littles with the introduction of universal suffrage, assured in creating participation opportunities, but cultural barriers and exclusionary political practices have since limited youths' involvement."

The NAYMOTEP program officer also participated in young people are strategic for the actualization of sweeping social engagements. He however pointed out that despite the young people have a capacity deficit and need understanding of structural accountability issues. At Marvey then urged the youths to take advantage of the training so that they could be well informed in engaging their duty bearers (local leaders).

She said she believed that the workshop would help to increase citizens' participation in the governance processes at the local level. The DENL boss then used the occasion to highlight the longstanding collaboration and exist between DENL and CODRA. She told the guests that DENL had been mentoring and coaching CODRA in a long low name. DENL has provided DELTA (Development Education Leadership Teams in Africa) by CODRA and under its capacity building program for grassroots organizations. Ms. Joomar stated, "We are very glad that CODRA can reach this level by implementing for a be

Plater, chairman of the County Development Fund for Bong County.

Mr. Kobby thanked CODRA and the World Bank for such training and called on the participants to take advantage of the training as people who want to see change. He said that his institution will work with CODRA in Kerkwah with regards to some of the activities of the Millennium Village.

For his part, the chairman of the County Development Fund, Mr. Lawrence Plater, said that he was honored to be at the opening session of the training of the young people who he said would be increasing and tracking the budget of the County Development Fund with regards to the various social projects.

He told the participants that his office will be opened at all times and any documents they will be