



LOCAL EMPOWERMENT FOR GOVERNMENT INCLUSION AND TRANSPARENCY (LEGIT)

March 2016 – March 2021| Implementer: DAI

The Local Empowerment for Government Inclusion and Transparency (LEGIT) activity seeks to increase accountability, transparency, and effectiveness with respect to sub-national government resources in Liberia. LEGIT provides support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the Governance Commission (GC) as they lead, monitor, and coordinate the implementation of the Government's decentralization agenda. LEGIT also strengthens sub-national institutions in three counties (Bong, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh) and three cities (Gbarnga, Ganta and Zwedru) to be more transparent and responsive to citizens with respect to information on how public resources are used at sub-national levels.

LEGIT supports participatory decision-making approaches that improve citizen participation and monitoring of existing and future services provided at the sub-national levels. Lastly, LEGIT focuses on developing and strengthening working relationships between government and citizens.

LEGIT seeks to achieve four complementary objectives:

1. Increased capacity of Government of Liberia (GOL) institutions to make incremental and sustained progress in the implementation of the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance;
2. Improved performance and strengthened capacity of county administrations to coordinate and provide oversight of Government of Liberia activities across sectors;
3. Improved capacity of cities to manage revenues and deliver key services; and
4. Increased citizen representation in planning and decision-making of service delivery in counties and cities.

Current Activities

- Support the review of existing Standard Operating Procedures related to the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance;
- Work with MIA and GC to improve communications with county governments;
- Conduct capacity building workshops for county staff to improve existing outreach mechanisms;

- Train county administrations in planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting;
- Develop training plans, financial management handbooks/guidelines, and internal control procedures for cities to improve financial management;
- Provide support to city corporations to improve solid waste management; and
- Provide training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to educate citizens on COVID-19.

Accomplishments to date

- Completed the development of a 10-year implementation plan for the Local Government Act;
- Trained county administration staff in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting to improve performance management;
- Supported the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at the MIA;
- Established partnerships with GOL (national and local) and signed Memorandum of Cooperation between USAID and GOL for project implementation;
- Completed city mapping exercise (structures and service delivery points) in Ganta, Gbarnga and Zwedru Cities;
- Service charters signed between county administrations and citizens in Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties aimed at enhancing participation of citizens in service delivery and setting service-delivery standards;
- Facilitated the development of grant proposals by 3 counties, 3 cities, 12 CSOs and the GC for its grants, which intend to strengthen grantees improve service delivery and enhance citizens participation in governances at the national and sub-national levels; and
- Completed Political Economy Analysis, CSO Profiling, Social Inclusion and Gender Awareness Assessment to inform the implementation of project activities.

Planned Outcomes

- Increased capacity of MIA and GC to make sustained progress in the implementation of the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance;
- Improved performance and strengthened capacity of county administrations to coordinate and provide oversight of GOL activities across sectors:
 - Supporting subnational partners to deliver services that are responsive to local needs
- Improved capacity of cities to manage revenues and deliver key services:
 - Increasing revenue collection and improving management of funds by city government
- Increased citizen representation in planning and decision-making regarding service delivery in counties and cities:
 - Strengthening citizen participation and inclusion in planning, delivery, and evaluation of services
 - Improving citizen awareness about decentralization initiatives