Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI)

Coalitions for Change: Demand-Drive Policy Reform
Project Overview

The goal of the Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative or LAVI is to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships to advocate for and monitor accountability and policy reforms in Liberia.

- Natural Resource Management (2016)
- Education (2017)
- Electoral Reform (2018)
Project objectives

- Increased horizontal and vertical linkages among actors engaged in similar issues;
- Increased organizational capacity of targeted CSOs to participate in issue-based reforms;
- On-going capacity development services available on local market; and
- Learning and methodologies shared and applied by other development actors.
Theme-based Coalitions – NRM Coalition

Thematic
Window 1:
NRM &
Concessions
Sector

Sustainable Development Institute
Liberia Media Center
RHRAP
P4DP
CUPPDL
IREDD
More 4 Education

Thematic window 2: Education

- **HOPE**
  - Brings to the team experience working with youth and women on gender and empowerment

- **NTAL**
  - Brings to the team experience working with teachers on training and welfare. Has mass network outreach in Liberia

- **NAPTANOL**
  - Brings to the team experience working with PTAs on training and school improvements

- **YOCEL**
  - Brings to the team experience working with youth and women on stakeholders engagement

- **IDI**
  - Brings to the team experience working with persons with disabilities on accessibility and employment

- **YMCA**
  - Brings to the team experience working with school board, teachers and communities on PSL

- **COTAE**
  - Brings to the team experience working with media, education stakeholders and CSOs on policies and accountability measures.
Implementation Context

• 2018 transfer of political power and new government
• Role of President/GOL/Legislature/CSOs
• Desire for change (reforms and increasing the revenue)
• Low civic engagement and participation
• Government and institutional corruption
• Low human capacity
Policy Reform Phases

1. Building the case
2. Defining the issue
3. Influencing decision-makers
4. Implementation and monitoring
1. Building the case

a) Political Economy Analysis (PEA)
b) Participatory Research
c) Social Network Analysis (SNA)
1a. Political Economy Analysis

- Provides guidance and political context for focus and impact
- Iterative PEAs in Natural Resource Management and Education sectors assist in identifying:
  - First level root causes and second level symptoms
  - Realistic targeted areas for policy reform
  - Opportunities for LAVI programming
1b. Participatory Research

- Defines local priorities, informs adaptation of project design

**Mobile Surveys**
To quantify the perspectives of local communities on their involvement in the management of the CSDF and to determine the extent to which the CSDF impacts their lives
- **1,459** respondents

**Focus Group Discussions**
Semi-structured and based on a pre-developed set of guiding questions and principles
- Separate FGDs for CSOs, men, and women
- **90 FGDs conducted/900 participants**

**Key Informant Interview**
To get in-depth information from key stakeholders on the process, policies that govern the management of CSDFs.
- **Snowballing method will to identify other key informants**
- **116 KIs conducted**
1c. Social Network Analysis

- Education sector SNA
- Identifies who is a stakeholder, areas of influence, and level of influence
2a. Creating the issue - Awareness Raising

Poor Management of Bong County Development Impedes Development

**Bong County** - After taking over a failed state and a country with a history of bad governance, the Sirleaf-led administration introduced the county and social development funds, a model considered as a way to take development to the people, but over the years it has yielded less than satisfactory results.
2b. Creating the issue - Advocacy

- Collaborative
- Evidence-based
- Strategic
- Adaptive
3. Strategies for Influencing Decision Makers

- Pledge cards
- Candidate debates/cooperation w/ Internews
- Relationship building
- Identifying allies
- Participation/inclusion in policy reform
4. Monitoring and Impact

Amendments to Budget Law, Section 9

- County Social Development Funds (200K for each county + Social Development Fund, up to 1 mil per county)
- CSO monitors the process for the first time
- Documentation for CSDF projects to be in compliance with the Public Procurement and Concession Act,
- Selection of delegates strengthened
- County meetings publicly advertised
LAVI supported formation of “More-for-Education” National Advocacy Team – a group of seven (7) organizations. The group of seven collaborated on the implementation of an advocacy campaign in the 15 counties of Liberia, advocating to increase the national budget allocation to the education sector to 20%, and support for the implementation of the Education Reform Act (ERA) 2011;

The allotment for education in the national budget increased from 14% of fiscal year 2017/2018 to 15% in fiscal 2018/2019 as a result of LAVI’s support through the “More for Education Campaign”;

LAVI expanded its work to the county level targeting specific county-focused education interventions and provided grants to partners.
Other fiscal alternatives

- Enforcing Section 9.1a of the Education Reform Law of 2011
- Airport tax percentage
- Real estate tax percentage
- Excise tax percentage
- Portion of CSDF
Thank you!