



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.

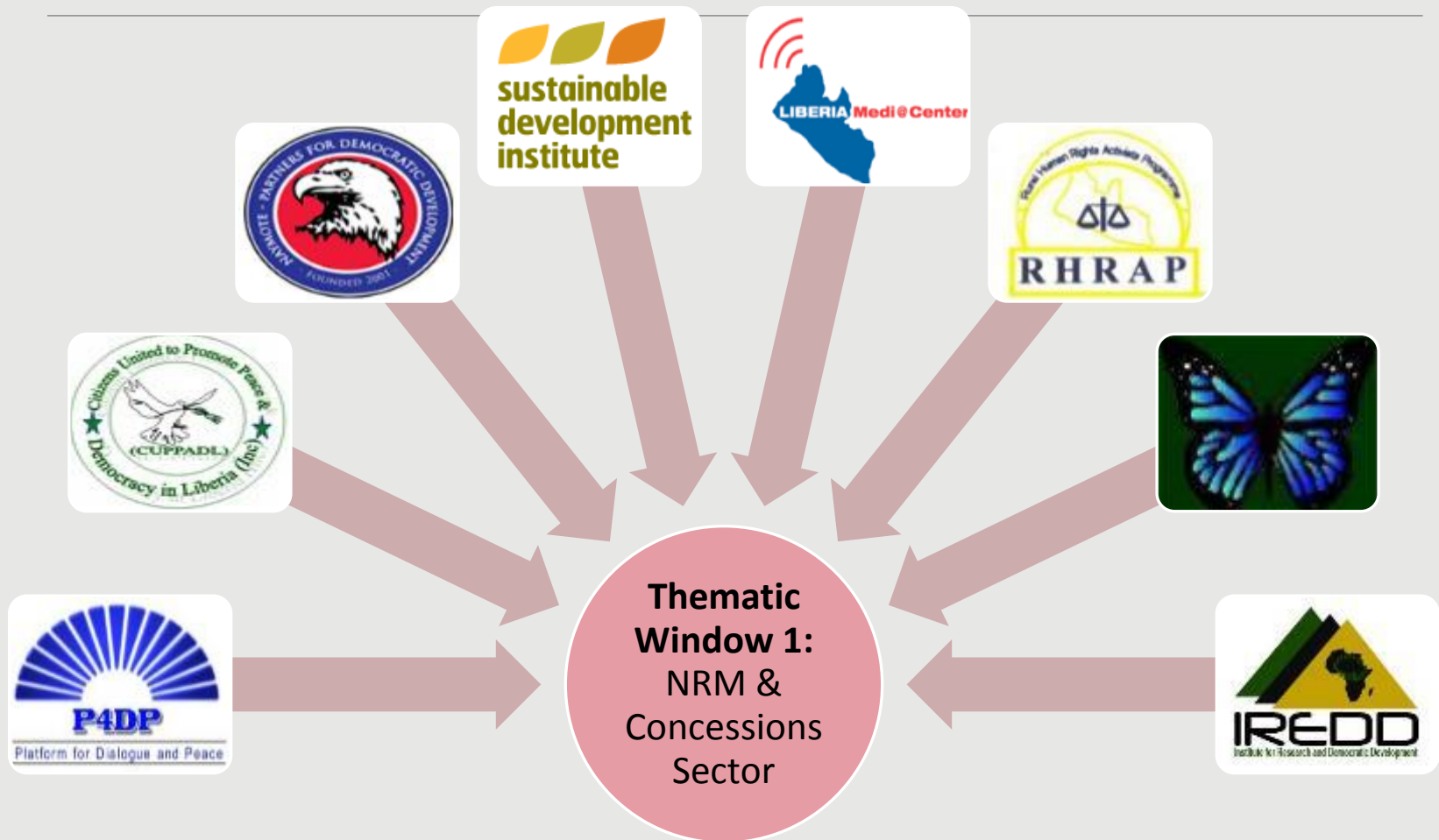
- Natural Resource Management (2016)
- Education (2017)
- Electoral Reform (2018)



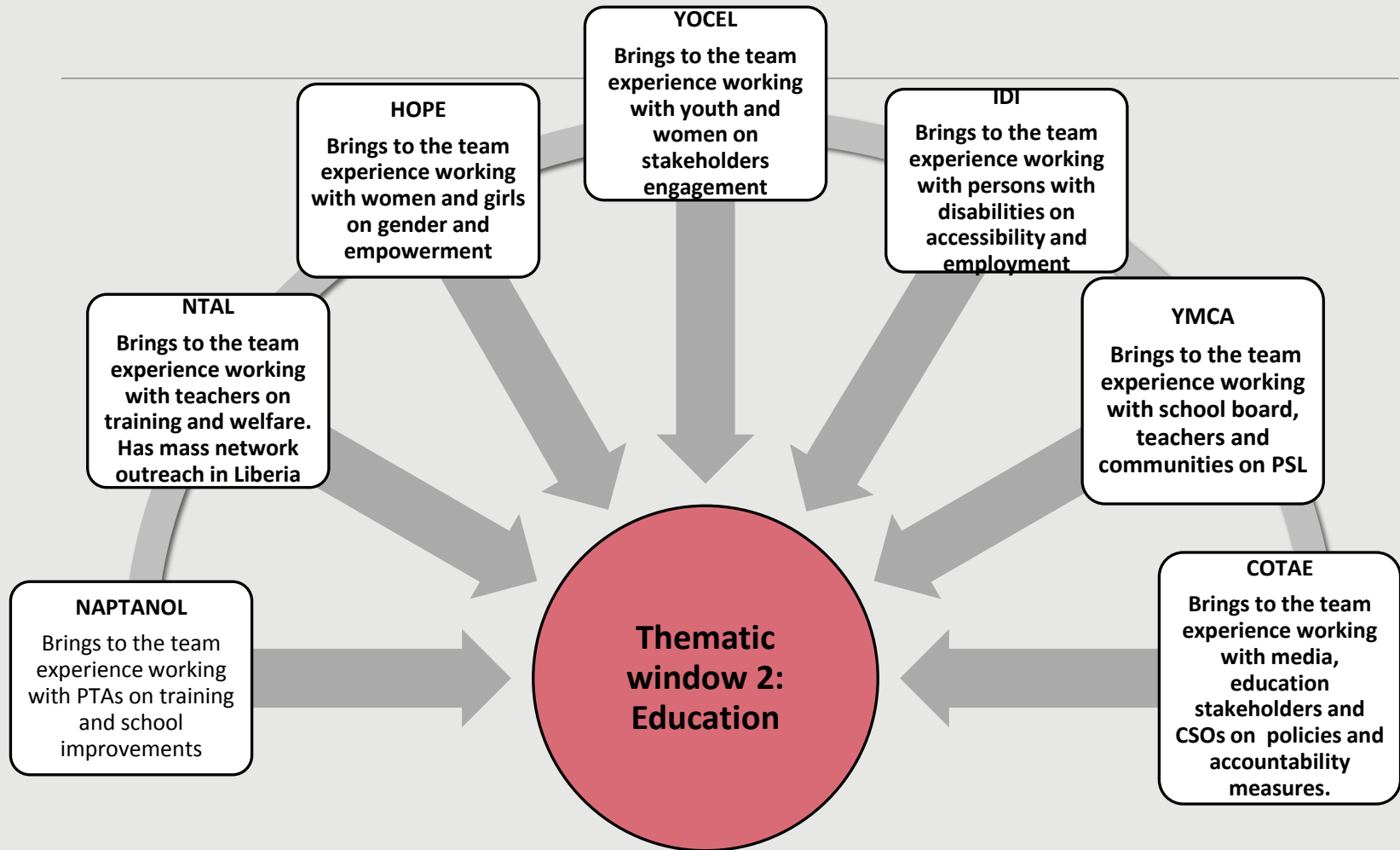
Project objectives

- 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



More 4 Education



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.

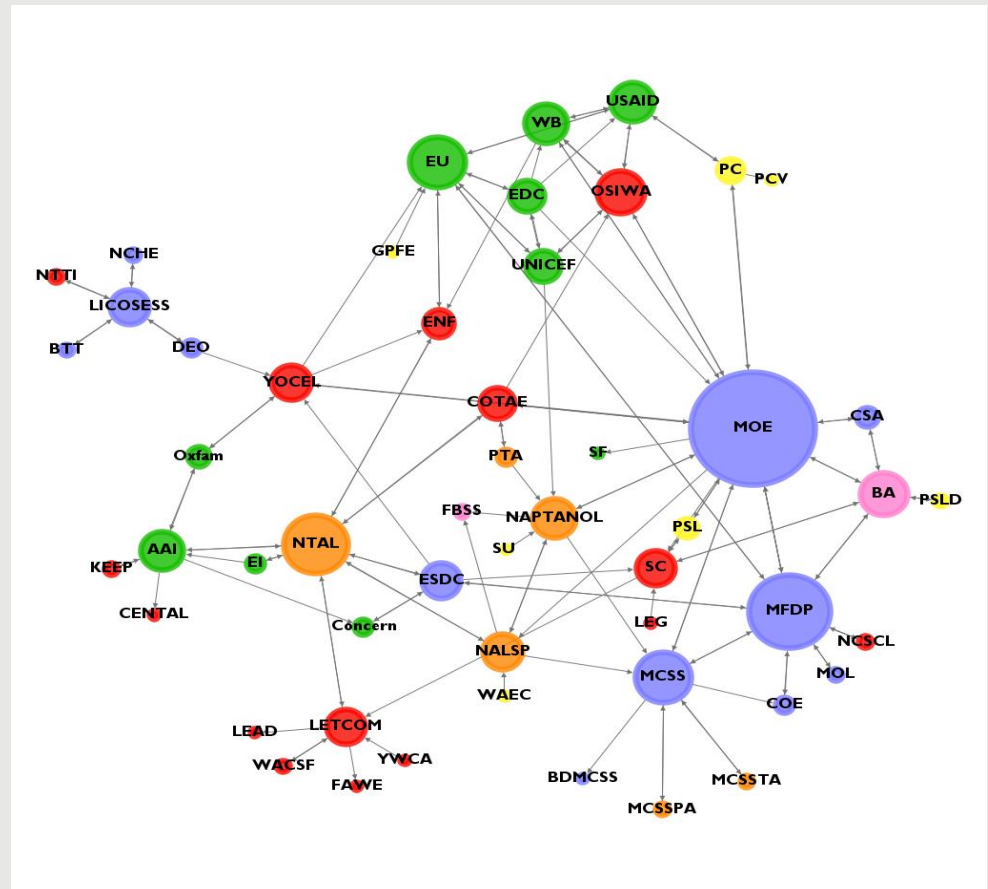
Snowballing method will to identify other key informants

116 KIIs conducted

1c. Social Network Analysis

- Education sector SNA
- Identifies who is a stakeholder, areas of influence, and level of influence

■ Civil Society Organization	(28.85%)
■ Government	(23.08%)
■ International Organization	(19.23%)
■ Other	(13.46%)
■ Association	(11.54%)
■ Private Entity	(3.85%)



2a. Creating the Issue - Awareness Raising

Poor Management of Bong County Development Funds Impedes Development



Key

I pledge to support the county social inhabitants of my

Name EDRI

Position A

Signature _____

Electoral District (I



Garwodor, River Cess

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



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



Education policy

- 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!