

U.S. Charge d’Affaires, Alyson Grunder and Team Visit U.S. Government Funded Projects in Bong and Nimba Counties

This week, the Charge d’Affaires, a.i., Alyson Grunder, traveled to Nimba and Bong Counties where she visited several USAID beneficiary institutions and delivered opening remarks at the Government of Liberia Joint Education Sector Review (JESR) held on Monday November 18 in Ganta, Nimba County.

The JESR is an annual event at which the Ministry of Education assesses challenges and opportunities in the education sector and sets forth broad plans to improve the sector in the coming year. In her remarks, Charge Grunder said the U.S. Government has a vested interest in an improved Liberian education sector—one that can produce Liberians with the skills to help the US Embassy successfully fulfill its mission in Liberia and, more importantly, contribute to the development of Liberia.



The Charge d’Affaires of the United States Embassy in Monrovia, Alyson Grunder making remarks at the Government of Liberia Joint Education Sector Review

While in Ganta, Charge Grunder and her team, which included the Acting USAID/Mission Director, Rebekah Eubanks, visited the local offices of Mitigating Local Disputes in Liberia (MLDL). MLD, which receives funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL),

works to promote peaceful resolutions of community disputes in four fragile counties: Nimba, Lofa, Bong, and Grand Gedeh.



Charge Grunder (far right with maroon dress) and USAID/Liberia Acting Mission Director, Rebekah Eubanks (5th from left with black top) pose for a photo with staff of the INL- funded Mitigating Local Disputes in Liberia office in Ganta, Nimba County

The team also inspected two major streets in Ganta, which were paved with USAID support. Nimba County Superintendent Dohr Cooper who was present for the inspection, said the new streets have eased travel constraints in Ganta.

During her stops in Bong County, Charge Grunder and her team and visited Radio Gbarnga, Cuttington University, and Phebe Hospital. Radio Gbarnga is supported by the USAID-funded Liberia Media Development Program. Cuttington has benefited from support provided under the USAID Sustainable High Impact Infrastructure for Education and Agriculture (SHINE) Project. Thanks to that support, the Cuttington's Library was renovated and extended. Five housing units for the University's staff and faculty were also constructed on its Suakoko campus in Bong County.

During her tour of Phebe Hospital, Charge Grunder received a briefing on the hospital and its operations from the Medical Director, Dr. Jefferson Sibley. He informed the Charge about some constraints the hospital faces, including the challenge of “keeping the lights on.” In particular, he said the Hospital must foot the cost of procuring an average of 1,688 gallons of fuel monthly to operate generators that produce electricity 24 hours a day.



Charge d’Affaires Grunder and USAID/Liberia Acting Mission Director, Eubanks listening with rapt attention as a staff of Phebe Hospital explain some of the challenges in “keeping the lights on” at the hospital

The good news is that the Hospital may soon not have to incur the monthly fuel expense as it will be one of the beneficiaries of the USAID funded Ganta-Gbarnga Grid Extension Project, which is expected to be completed in early 2020, and will provide reliable and affordable electricity to 2,700 households, as well as several commercial enterprises, and various institutions in the Suakoko area, including Phebe and Cuttington.