



LOCAL EMPOWERMENT FOR GOVERNMENT INCLUSION AND TRANSPARENCY (LEGIT) ACTIVITY

March 2016 - September 2023 | Implementer: DAI

The purpose of Local Empowerment for Government Inclusion and Transparency (LEGIT) Activity is to increase the accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of subnational government resources in Liberia.

LEGIT is currently providing support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and Governance Commission (GC) as they lead, monitor, and coordinate the implementation of the Government of Liberia's decentralization agenda and implementation of the recently passed Local Government Act.

The activity is also strengthening Bong, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh county administrations, and Gbarnga, Gompa, and Zwedru city corporations, to be more capable, transparent, and responsive to citizens. This is being accomplished through grants, training, technical assistance, and targeted coaching for government and civil society partners.

Current Activities

The four objectives described below focus LEGIT's activities at the national and sub-national levels, engaging both government and civil society partners.

Increasing capacity of Government of Liberia institutions to make incremental and sustained progress in the implementation of the National Policy on Decentralization of Local Governance, and the recently passed Local Government Act, by:

- Supporting development of policies, standard operating procedures, handbooks, along with other practical tools for government and civil society; and
- Strengthening how the government monitors, coordinates, and assesses decentralization efforts.

Improving performance and strengthening capacity of county administrations to coordinate and provide oversight of Government of Liberia activities across sectors by:

- Supporting counties to coordinate the delivery of essential public services that are responsive to local needs; and
- Strengthening citizen engagement with counties regarding planning, budgeting, implementing, and monitoring.

Strengthening the capacity of cities to manage revenues and deliver key services by:

- Increasing revenue collection and improving management of funds by city governments; and
- Enhancing citizen participation and inclusion in planning, delivery, and evaluation of services.

Increasing citizen representation in planning and decision-making regarding delivery in counties and cities by:

- Providing trainings on social accountability techniques to monitor municipal service delivery; and
- Improving citizen awareness about decentralization.

Accomplishments to Date

- Administrative boundary maps for Gbarnga, Gompa, and Zwedru cities;
- Service charters signed by county administrations and citizens in partner counties that focus on setting service-delivery standards;
- Capacity and training needs assessments of national and local partners, along with performance improvement roadmaps, to identify capacity-building priority areas;
- Civil society grants to increase awareness on about decentralization and citizen engagement;
- City and county in-kind grants to efforts in five cities to improve solid waste management;
- Financial management standard operating procedures for cities to improve civic engagement, increase internally generated revenues, and establish transparent and responsive local budgeting;
- Local government administration standard operating procedures for counties to strengthen local decision-making, focusing on transparency, accountability, and community empowerment; and
- Standard operating procedures and updated policies for MIA and GC lead in the implementation of the Government of Liberia's decentralization agenda and the recently passed Local Government Act.