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LIBERIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND VOICE INITIATIVE (LAVI)

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The Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI) is designed to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships to advocate for and monitor policy and accountability reforms. LAVI focuses on developing a portfolio of initiatives with the potential for cumulative impact around issues that have the greatest potential for positive change and are responsive to locally defined priorities. In particular, LAVI works to:

- Increase organizational capacity of targeted civil society actors (including professional associations, trade associations, private sector, and others) to participate in issue-based reforms;
- Support constitutional and legislative reforms to promote more transparent, accountable, and effective public sector governance.

Current Activities

- Drafting and promotion of the County Social Development Fund (CSDF) stand-alone bill, which will sustain achievements of the 2018/2019 Budget Law amendments to increase citizen participation in the use of public resources in their communities.
- “More for Education” campaign team engaging education stakeholders including county and district education officers through town hall meetings, policy dialogues, and presentation of research findings and recommendations.

- Providing capacity development support to the Ministry of Education to efforts to improve school monitoring by county and district education officers.
- Support all 36 of Liberia's Communities Forestry Management Bodies to promote citizens' participation in community forestry governance

Accomplishments to Date:

- Supported amendments the CSDF law to give citizens and local authorities more control over CSDF management and promote transparent and accountable use of the CSDF.
- Provided support for campaign to ensure at least 20 percent of the national budget is allocated for education.
- Identified and trained staffs of eighteen small businesses, including consulting firms, and non-governmental organizations, to provide key services—accounting, logistics, IT services, etc.—for stakeholders in the development sector.
- Helped the Election Coordinating Committee prepare and submit electoral reform package to the Liberian House of Representatives designed to support constitutional amendments to strengthen the autonomy of the National Elections Commission, increase the number of women competing for office, and increase transparency of the voter roll.
- Launched the LAVI Learning Lab, a co-working space, technology hub, and online community dedicated to information-sharing and collaborative problem solving to promote issue-based reform.

Planned Outcomes

- Influence legislation to increase government accountability, transparency, and responsiveness around issues such as the CSDF, education, electoral reform, among others;
- Increased number of civil society actors, networks, and coalitions engaged in advocacy;
- Increased number of civil society actors representing marginalized constituencies trying to affect government policy or conducting government oversight;
- Increased number of civil society actors showing improved organizational performance; and
- Improved level of responsiveness and effectiveness of capacity development service providers.