



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

**Project Name: Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project – II
(IPFMRP-II)**



CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTE

**To Strengthening Civil Society Organizations for Effective Advocacy of EITI
Impact Monitoring-Phase II**

October 2022

Background

Liberia became an EITI candidate country in 2007, and in 2009 through an Act of the Liberian Legislature, evolved as a multi-stakeholder autonomous entity to pursue the below general objective:

To ensure that all benefits due the Government and people of Liberia on account of the exploration/exploitation of mineral and other resources of the Country are: 1) verifiably paid or provided, 2) duly accounted for, and 3) prudently utilized for the benefit of all Liberians and based on equity and sustainability. In defining the scope of the LEITI, the Government designated four sectors-the oil, mining, agriculture, and forestry sectors, for EITI implementation.

However, since its ascendancy to the EITI arrangement, LEITI has made and continues to make significant strides to bolstering revenue collection in the extractive sector from 29 million United States dollars in FY07/08 to 185 million in FY 2012/13, indicating a 537.93 percent raise. Liberia is also the first EITI-compliant Country in Africa. EITI member countries, 56, are obliged to implement a set of principles encapsulated in a standard that ensure transparency around countries' oil, gas and mineral resources. The latest is 2019 standard approved in Paris in June 2019, emphasizing civil society empowerment for efficient natural resource governance.

In February 2022, the LEITI, with support from the African Development Bank, executed the training of vetted county-based civil society organizations in accord with the new EITI Standard (2019 Standard) and on the vital role the civil society can play in the EITI process. These CSOs received training on and around understanding the 2019 standard and social development funds. The CSOs got trained in the promotion of extensive community outreach aimed at assessing the implementation of social contributions from companies and at the same time measuring their impacts and outcomes of these contributions. And they were also trained on establishing and strengthening the county-level CSO-LEITI partnership that tracks, monitors, and reports on outputs and results of SDF use. The pieces of training were conducted at two venues- phase one in Grand Bassa County, comprised of CSOs from nine counties (Gbarpolu, Bomi, Cape Mount, Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Lofa, Rivercess, and Grand Bassa). At the same time, the Southeastern Counties (Maryland, Rivergee, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, and Sinoe) along Nimba had theirs in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. In both pieces of training, the CSOs, through two separate resolutions, pledged to enhance the work of LEITI by embedding EITI activities through their programs and activities. The LEITI, on the other hand, promised to seek out and provide grant opportunities for CSOs to harness. Thirty-six CSOs participated in the two training exercises.

Goals

Sometime in June 2019, the EITI adopted a new standard in Paris, France, known as the 2019 Standard, emphasizing strengthening civil society due to its advocacy role in the tripartite arrangement. In the recent validation assessment on Liberia, the EITI validation team observed that although civil society has a free space in Liberia, little has been done to enhance their capacities beyond the multi-stakeholder arrangement. Thus, to strengthen its outreach and enhance CSOs' capacity, the LEITI will, under phase two of the AfDB grant, provide a space for

these CSOs to access mini-grants to execute activities relative to the training received and the resolution signed. The mini-grant will be issued based on criteria set by the LEITI and the Project Management Unit at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. All County base CSOs will be allowed to access the fund through a competitive bidding process. The targeted number of CSOs is set at twenty (20).

Objectives

The empowerment grant will have the following objectives:

- Enhance CSO's capacity to monitor, track and report on the social development funds
- Promote community outreach activities on issues relative to the extractive sector
- Promote dialogue and peaceful co-existence between and among communities and concessionaires
- Expand the scope of public participation in the EITI process
- More profound and better understanding among rural communities of the workings of the LEITI.

Expected outcomes

- It will increase awareness and visibility of LEITI activities amongst various demographics.
- Increased public knowledge and participation in the EITI implementation activities
- Increased fact-based dialogues and information sharing
- Decentralized EITI scope

Scope of Work

In lieu of the supra objectives, the selected CSOs will perform the following:

- Develop a two-week workplan (duration of activity) that clearly defines and supports LEITI's communication strategy on information expansion on its 12th report, the contract matrix and other EITI instruments including current status of County Social Development Fund.
- Conduct community forum(s) with stakeholders on the above-mentioned instruments
- Document vital recommendations from these forums for the betterment and furtherance of the LEITI-CSOs collaborations and engagements

Develop a detailed report including the participants listing, activity details, recommendation and challenges and submit to the LEITI Secretariat three days after implementation of activity.

Coordination Reporting Mechanism

This activity will be undertaken in close collaboration with the LEITI. The CSO(s) will be expected to report directly to LEITI, consistent with the terms and conditions of the sub-grant agreement.

Project Duration and Size of the Grant

The selected CSOs will have to execute and report their various activities within two weeks after signing unto the grant agreement. The activity will affect all the fifteen counties in Liberia. The grant must not exceed Five Thousand United States Dollars per CSO.

Qualification and Experience Requirements

In order to apply for the grant, applicants or organizations must meet the following requirements:

- Must be legally registered with relevant government authorities and must have been in operation for more than a year in the Country;
- Must be recognized by local community leaders and must work through registered organizations, if it is Community Based Organization;
- Must have adequate financial and administrative capacity to report for the grant it has received;
- Must have proven track record of successfully implementing similar projects and have at least one representative and an office or a sub-office in region of proposed intervention;
- Must not be affiliated with any political party or organization;
- Submit samples of your past work: activity reports, etc.
- CSO must have a history of performing similar task in any of the fifteen counties the project will be implemented.
- Must Do No Harm Approach to Activity

Instruction for Preparing the Concept Note

The concept note must provide solid information on the background of the organization and the activities it intends to undertake as well as its objectives and expected outputs. The concept note must not exceed four pages (A4 size) and should follow the sequence as indicated below:

- Background of the organization including relevant experience,
- Brief description of problem and ways forward
- Objectives
- Key activities

- Outcomes
- Cost

Further information can also be obtained at the below listed address, during office hours 9:00 to 17:00 hour GMT.

Concept notes must be delivered in either hard or electronic copies to the address below (in person, or by email) by 17:00 hour GMT by **October 28, 2022** to:

Project Management Unit

Attn: Vee-Musa Fofana, Project Manager

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