



Liberia Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative

Final Report of the Project

E-CLUB 2017



Submitted to:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn, Germany
Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia

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1.0 Background

The E-Club project was conceived as part of the LEITI Communication and Outreach Strategy aimed at promoting increased public awareness of the LEITI process. The project was particularly designed to enable the youth to contribute to public debates and dialogues on the management of Liberia's extractive resources through series of activities including peer to peer learning, On Campus Speaker Series, Debates, All Schools Speaker Series, field trips etc. This year's activities were inspired by the outcome of similar events organized by the LEITI in 2013 with funding from the GIZ. The passion demonstrated by students from the ten schools that participated, then, motivated the LEITI to request additional funding from the GIZ in order to build on the progress made. The current activities involved 15 high schools in Monrovia and its environs that are participating in our Extractive Club (e-Club) Program.

1.1 Peer to Peer

In January 2016, the Peer-to-peer activity started with the 15 schools under the Extractive Club. Clubs members met on their respective campuses and discussed emerging issues and concerns relating to the extractive sectors. These forums allowed the students to express views on and made inputs to discussions in the public sphere around transparent and accountable resource management. Each school decided on its own execution of programs befitting the day including what topic to discuss. The activity targeted only the members of the E-clubs across the 15 schools. A total of one hundred fifty (150) students participated in the activity.

1.2 Inception Workshop

Experience from the peer to peer events involving 15 partner institutions revealed the process was marred by poor financial management practices on the part of participating high schools. Most schools fell short of timely submission of financial and narrative reports, a situation that resulted into multiple engagements with school coordinators. For example, Ricks Institute did not submit a complete report until late April 2016. Gaining from this experience and as a way of improving on future engagements, an inception workshop was organized to enhance financial and operational skills of the high school coordinators who were primarily responsible for handling disbursements to individual schools. The workshop brought together all 15 coordinators to a daylong workshop on financial reporting using the GIZ format.

Momo Vampelt of GIZ facilitated the workshop and was graced by Christopher Buchberger of the GIZ and Myer W. Saye, Sr., Deputy Head of Secretariat at the LEITI.



GIZ's Momo Vampelt leading a session with the E-Club Schools' coordinators at the LEITI Secretariat

1.2 ON CAMPUS SPEAKER SERIES

The on campus speaker series seeks to deepen the understanding of students in selected thematic areas of natural resource management through face-to-face interaction with experts and practitioners in the sectors. It series presents a unique opportunity for experts to present the what, how and why of the extractive sectors and provides students the opportunity to seek clarifications as much as possible. Working together with the coordinators of the E-Club schools, thought provocative topics along the lines of extractive sectors governance were developed and presented to students on their various campuses by selected experts. Prior to the exercise, defined topics were given to participating schools and the provision made for individual schools to select suitable topic of interest to its students. Initially, all 15 schools expressed interest and confirmed their willingness to participate. This was reinforced by submission of plans and dates for execution of the programs. Unfortunately, only ten of the schools were able to hold befitting programs. The remaining five did not work within the stipulated period even though a grace period of two weeks was allowed. A record 935 students participated in this exercise and with expert's presentation, were made to appreciate varying topics. See annex 2

Kofi Ireland of the United Nations Mission In Liberia (UNMIL) speaking to students of the J.J Roberts United Methodist School in Monrovia



Deputy Head of Secretariat, Myer W. Saye Sr. addressing students of the Bethesda Christian Mission School on Roberts field High way



The following schools participated:

| NO | SCHOOL |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | St. Mary Catholic School |
| 2 | Isaac A. Davids Sr. Memorial School |
| 3 | St. Teresa Convent Catholic School |
| 4 | Bethesda Mission School |

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 5 | Paynesville Community School |
| 6 | J.J Roberts United Methodist School |
| 7 | Len Millar High School |
| 8 | Ricks Institute |
| 9 | Haywood Mission School |
| 10 | Jimmy Jolocon High School |

1.3 DEBATE AND ALL SCHOOLS SPEAKER SERIES

Inter high school debates and other inter-school competitions are traditional practices in Liberia’s education system, aimed at promoting competition in general knowledge, encouraging research and cultivating the culture of studies, eloquence, and presentations, as pupils. Leveraging this tradition and in tandem with LEITI’s mandate of extensive public outreach, the inter high school debate was conceived to ignite students’ interests in natural resource governance, deepen their knowledge in extractive sectors management in Liberia and the world, and to create a situation whereby pupils serve as ambassadors of LEITI in their respective communities.

On March 4th2017 the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) and the Devine Events Management and Consultancy Int’l (DEMAC) signed an MOU for the implementation of the 2017 edition of its regular National High Schools debate and speaker series which took place on the 30th and 31st of March involving ten (10) high Schools within Montserrado. The two day event was held at the Len Millar High School auditorium and brought together about five hundred (500) young people from the participating Schools.

1.3.1 Trainings

With the introduction of Devine Events Management and Consultancy Int’l (DEMAC), LEITI’s implementing partner of the 2017 E-clubs high school debate, new methodologies and practices were introduced to the normal debate style. In the spirit of enhancing understanding of the debate teams in relations to new methodologies and practices, strengthening the preparedness of all teams as well as bringing all stakeholders on par with their respective roles and responsibilities, two separate trainings were organized and conducted. The trainings targeted coaches of the debate teams on one hand and moderators of the debates on another. The coaches’ training took place at the YMCA and was attended by 12 of the 15 school coaches along with a representative from LEITI. Mr. Morris Kamara, Jr., Program Director/DEMAC, facilitated the training. Unlike the coaches training, the moderators training and rehearsal sessions lasted for two days. It prepared moderators to take on the stage with professionalism and neutrality. The total of twenty (20) moderators attended the training of which eight (8) were selected to serve said purpose.

1.3.2 2017 E-clubs High school Debate Games (Days 1– March 30th 2017)

Day one of the 2017 E-club inter high school debate began with an opening ceremony at about 9:30am and was characterized by opening remarks from LEITI, GIZ, and DEMAC. The totals of six (6) games were played on day one of the tournament with the opening match between St. Mary High school and the G.W. Gibson High School.

1.3.3 Day Two (March 31, 2017)

Day two of the event began with the first Simi final match between the St. Mary and G.W. Gibson High Schools since they both fell in the best loser category after which the debate took a break to welcome in the 2017 Speaker series. Hon. Augustus Zayzay served as the presenter for the 2017 speaker series and there was also time for questions and answers. Minister Zayzay spoke on the topic: **How to Make Our Natural Resources Work for All**. There were also six (6) games played on this day taking us to the final game of the 2017 E-Club debate between the Bethesda Mission school system and J.J. Roberts United Methodist school and they resolved on the proposition that states: *“Liberia’s Resources, Blessing or Curse”*? Bethesda Mission argued the affirmative while J.J. Roberts argued the Negative.

Bethesda Mission who eliminated her opponent with a score of 65.75 points took the first place and J.J. Robert came second with 61.25 points making the Bethesda Mission School System Champions of the 2017 LEITI E-Club High School Debate Tournament.

The presentation of trophies and medals for the first and second place winners was done by representatives of the three organizations which include; LEITI, GIZ, and DEMAC. There were also certificates presented to all team members of each participating School.

Bethesda Mission school system lead presenter Student **Derris Beyan** also walked away with the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for the 2017 LEITI E-clubs debate tournament.



Bethesda Christian Mission School won the 2017 E-Club debate Competition



Derris Beyan of Bethesda was the Most Valuable Player of the competition

1.3.4 Participating Schools

The chart below indicates the number of schools that participated in the 2017 e-club debate tournament, schools that attended and schools that didn't.

| NO | SCHOOL NAME | COMMENT |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | G. W. Gibson High School | Attended |
| 2 | St. Mary Catholic High School | Attended |
| 3 | Isaac A. David Sr. High School | Attended |
| 4 | J. J. Roberts High School | Attended (second Place winner) |
| 5 | Williams V. S. Tubman High School | Attended |
| 6 | Jimmy Jolocon High School | Attended |
| 7 | Caver Mission Academy | Did not attend |
| 8 | St. Theresa Convent High School | Attended but did not participate |
| 9 | Haywood Mission Institute | Attended |
| 10 | B. W. Harris Episcopal High School | Did not attend |
| 11 | Bethesda Mission | Attended (Champion/ first place winner) |
| 12 | Risk Institute | Did not attend |
| 13 | Harbel Multilateral | Did not attend |
| 14 | Paynesville Community School | Attended |
| 15 | Len Miller High School | Attended |

Of the fifteen (15) schools that were expected to participate in this tournament only ten (10) showed up while the other five (5) did not. DEMAC received valid excuse from two of the five schools that abstain from the process, while the other three (3) assured DEMAC of their participation but stayed out eventually.

1.4 Essay Competition

The Essay competition was initially planned to be jointly executed along with the All Schools Speaker Series and the Debate in March 2017 but due to pleads from most of the schools, it was differed to a date after the debate. According to the schools, holding the debate and Essay together would have been too much load on the students as active participants were all members of the E-Clubs' debate teams across the schools. So, in May, 2017, the Competition kicked off with the distribution of the evaluation criteria and guideline as well as topic (See annex 1).

The students were given one month to develop an essay on the topic: How to Make Our Natural Resource Work for All. At the end of the period, there were only five entries three of which came from the St. Teresa Convent, one from the G.W Gibson and the other from Jimmy Jolocon High School.

A committee headed by Wynston Benda-Henries of the Rice and Rights Foundation evaluated the essays and came up with Beneta Johnson of the St. Teresa Convent as the winner of the Essay Competition. Beneta is a 12th grade student at the St. Teresa Convent but was in the 11th grade when she participated. The other four entries, two were disqualified for plagiarism and the other two did not follow the guideline.

As planned, the essay should have been published in at least one of the local dailies and a book prize given. But the LEITI hierarchy decided to publish the Essay in its Newsletter and then buy her a set of 12th grade text books. These were presented to her along with a certificate on the St. Teresa Convent Campus in the presence of the School's administration on September 11, 2017. Every expense here was assumed by the LEITI Secretariat.



Student Beneta Johnson receiving her prize and certificate from Cedrick Kpadeh, LEITI's Communications and Outreach Officer

1.5 FINANCE

Below is a summary of amount expended versus total budget allotment for each activity

| NO | ACTIVITY | TOTAL ALLOTMENT | TOTAL EXPENDED | BALANCE |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Inception Workshop | 330.00 | 330.00 | 00.00 |
| 2 | Peer-to Peer | 4500.00 | 4217.00 | 283.00 |
| 3 | On Campus Speaker Series | 7500.00 | 4895.00 | 2605.00 |
| 4 | Debate and All Schools Speaker Series | 14995.00 | 13095.00 | 1760.00 |
| 5 | Essay competition | 1266.00 | 00.00 | 1266.00 |
| 6 | Total | 28,591 | 22,537 | 5,914 |

Annex 1

Evaluation Criteria for essay competition

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) with support from the German Government through the GIZ will conduct an essay competition among the 15 partner schools. The essay competition marks final round of activities under the Extractive Club (E-Club) program. This year's essay competition will be held under the theme: **Keeping Them Alert for Transparency.**

The topic for the competition is: **'HOW TO MAKE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES WORK FOR ALL'**

Applicants will be graded on the following criteria:

- **Argument:** The applicant knows what he/she wants to say and why he/she wants to say it. It goes beyond pointing out comparisons to using them to change the reader's vision.
- **Organization:** Whether every paragraph supports the main argument in a coherent way, and clear transitions point out why each new paragraph follows the previous one.
- **Evidence:** Concrete examples from texts support general points about how those texts work. The paper provides the source and significance of each piece of evidence.
Mechanics: The paper uses correct spelling and punctuation. In short, it generally exhibits a good command of academic prose.
- **Relevance:** it directly leads to a logical conclusion

Grading (above 70%)

Winning essays will typically demonstrate excellence in the following:

- Accurate integration of a wide range of material and resources
- High level of critical analysis and independent judgment

- Quality of arguments in response to the topic
- Sources fully and accurately identified
- Originality of exposition or treatment in addition to incorporating all of the elements required of all essays (above)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must be members of the e-clubs
- Essays must be between 2-5 pages long (single line spacing, font size 12, Times New Roman)
- Submissions must be the unaided work of applicants

Applicants must be at least a tenth grader

Application must indicate name, age and school on the top left hand corner of entry

The competition will be opened to all members of the e-clubs that are eligible

To submit an entry:

All applicants must have their entries delivered at the LEITI Secretariat, Old Budget Bureau Building, Redemption Road, Monrovia.

The deadline for submission is: May 26, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Annex 2

List of Schools, topics discussed and presenters during the execution of the On Campus Speaker Series

| NO | SCHOOLS | TOPIC DISCUSSED | PRESENTERS |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | St. Mary Catholic School | Essence of Labor Unions in the Extractive Sector | Assistant Labour Minister/Republic of Liberia Prince Korvah |
| 2 | Isaac A. Davids Sr. Memorial School | LEITI Role in the fight Against Corruption | LEITI Communications/Outreach Officer Cedrick Kpadeh |
| 3 | St. Teresa Convent Catholic School | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | UNMIL's Kofi Ireland |
| 4 | Bethesda Mission School | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | LEITI DHOS Myer W. Saye |
| 5 | Paynesville Community School | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | LEITI Communications/Outreach Officer Cedrick Kpadeh |
| 6 | J.J Roberts United Methodist School | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | UNMIL's Kofi Ireland |
| 7 | Len Millar High School | How Can Young People Help to Promote Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Sector | LEITI Communications/Outreach Officer Cedrick Kpadeh |
| 8 | Ricks Institute | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | UNMIL's Kofi Ireland |
| 9 | Haywood Mission School | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | LEITI Technical Officer, Sarnyenneh Dickson |
| 10 | Jimmy Jolocon | LEITI Role in the Fight Against Corruption in Liberia | LEITI Communications/Outreach Officer Cedrick Kpadeh |