

**Report on the Dissemination of Liberia's 13th, 14th,
and 15th EITI Reports (Phase One)**



ZX

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 County-Specific Concerns and Feedback	4
3.0 Citizens Demand Accountability and Monitoring	6
4.0 EITI Reports Highlight Revenue Flows and Challenges	6
5.0 Land Reclamation Post-Concession in Bomi County	7
5.1 Environmental Control in Nimba County	7
5.1.2 Social Development Services	8
5.1.3 Unequal Treatment of Local Employee	9
6.0 Gender Composition in LEITI Dissemination Activities	10
7.0 Key Highlights from the Data	10
7.1 Why Gender Representation Matters	11
7.2 Media Engagement	11
7.3 Media Activities During Dissemination	11
7.4 Impact of Media Engagement	14
8.0 Key Findings	14
9.0 Recommendations	15
10.0 Way Forward	15
11.0 Conclusion	16

1.0 Introduction

On December 7, 2024, the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) launched a nationwide effort to disseminate its 13th, 14th, and 15th Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Summary Reports. This initiative reflects LEITI's commitment to fostering transparency, accountability, and local engagement in Liberia's extractive sector; by targeting ten counties, particularly those hosting significant extractive activities, the initiative aimed to make vital sectorial (Forestry, Agriculture, Mining, and Oil & Gas) information accessible and comprehensible to all stakeholders, especially local communities.

The dissemination exercise prioritized summarizing the EITI Reports into transparent, community-friendly formats. These summaries covered key aspects such as revenue disclosures, employment statistics, operational companies, contract transparency, Beneficial Ownership Disclosure, export and production data, and other critical metrics. To ensure a wide-reaching impact, Phase One of the dissemination effort spanned six counties grouped into two regions:

1. Western Region: Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu.
2. Northern Region: Bong, Lofa, and Nimba.

The interactive and participatory presentations allowed participants to raise concerns, ask questions, provide feedback, and propose actionable recommendations. The initiative received USD 60,000 in financial support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). For phase one and as agreed upon in the signed contract, GIZ made the first transfer of USD 36,000 (thirty-six thousand) to the LEITI Secretariat. Upon the comprehensive completion of phase I and GIZ certifying the first report, the second trench will be disbursed to the Secretariat.

Dissemination Teams and Structure

LEITI deployed two dedicated teams for the dissemination exercise, ensuring thorough coverage and engagement in the targeted regions:

1. Western Region Team: Led by the Deputy Head of Secretariat, Zaza Quaqua, and supported by Sector Analyst J. Elijah Kai, A Benedict Wokpeh, and Madam Cecelia Danuweli of Publish What You Pay
2. Northern Region Team: Headed by Communications and Outreach Officer Cedrick W. Kpadeh, supported by Technical Officer McDonald S. Kerl Sr., Mr. Kelvin Benson of the Liberia Timber Association, and Cynthia Freeman.

Each team conducted detailed presentations, breaking down complex data for easier understanding. Their participatory approach included interactive discussions to capture the

concerns and perspectives of local stakeholders. This process ensured that community voices were heard and documented for follow-up actions.

2.0 County-Specific Concerns and Feedback

I. Lofa and Gbarpolu Counties

Active Monitoring of Social Development Projects: Citizens stressed the need for robust mechanisms to ensure that social development projects funded by extractive revenues are effectively implemented and monitored.

Timely Dissemination of EITI Reports: Stakeholders emphasized that prompt access to these reports is crucial for **strengthening anti-corruption measures and enhancing transparency** in resource management. Citizens in Lofa and Gbarpolu urge relevant authorities to oversee social development projects more and ensure completeness.

Gbarpolu and Lofa Counties, Liberia — Citizens in Lofa and Gbarpolu Counties have called on civil society organizations (CSOs) and government actors to strengthen their oversight of projects funded through social development agreements. They also urged the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) to intensify efforts in the timely dissemination of EITI Reports to promote greater transparency and accountability in managing natural resource revenues.



Cross section of citizens at the Voinjama City Hall in Lofa County



Foya citizens in a pensive mood at the dissemination site at the Foya City Hall

They emphasize that the LEITI report is a significant tool that local communities and stakeholders can use to hold companies and their leaders accountable. The event aimed to provide communities with accessible information on the revenues generated from the extractive sector and how those revenues are allocated and used.

3.0 Citizens Demand Accountability and Monitoring

Community members in the targeted counties expressed concerns over the lack of effective monitoring of social development projects, which they believe has contributed to delays and substandard implementation. They emphasized the need for civil society groups to proactively ensure that these projects meet their intended goals and benefit local communities.

“We want to see civil society and government actors working together to monitor these projects and hold contractors accountable,” said one community member during the engagement. “The money from our natural resources must benefit the people, not just a few individuals.”

The citizens also called on LEITI to ensure that future EITI Reports are disseminated promptly and made available in easy-to-understand formats. They noted that timely access to information is critical **for fostering transparency, fighting corruption, and enabling citizens to hold stakeholders accountable.**

“LEITI’s work is crucial to ensuring transparency in how revenues from our natural resources are used,” said another participant. “But we need these reports on time to know what’s happening and demand accountability when necessary.”

4.0 EITI Reports Highlight Revenue Flows and Challenges

The summarized reports presented during the outreach highlighted key findings from Liberia’s 13th, 14th, and 15th EITI Reports. These reports provide a detailed account of revenues generated from the mining, forestry, agriculture, and oil and gas sectors and the payments made to and received by government entities. The reports also outline gaps and challenges in revenue management, project implementation, and overall governance issues facing the extractive sector.

LEITI representatives at the event reiterated their commitment to transparency and accountability. They assured citizens that efforts are underway to improve the timeliness and accessibility of future reports.

The dissemination exercise underscores the importance of collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities to ensure the effective use of revenues from natural resources. LEITI’s outreach activities aim to empower citizens with the information needed to demand better governance and advocate for sustainable community development.

As Liberia continues to implement the EITI Standard, the active involvement of all stakeholders remains essential in promoting transparency, reducing corruption, and ensuring that natural resource revenues contribute to meaningful development for all Liberians.

2. Bomi County

5.0 Land Reclamation Post-Concession in Bomi County

Residents of Bomi County emphasized the urgent need for policies ensuring that lands degraded by extractive operations are restored to arable conditions after concessions end. A poignant example of improper land reclamation is the Blue Lake, an artificial lake that resulted from unfilled mining pits left by the erstwhile Liberia Mining Company. This body of water, though visually striking, serves as a stark reminder of the long-term environmental and social consequences of unregulated mining activities. Community members shared accounts of how the degraded land has hindered agricultural activities, limited economic opportunities, and posed safety risks.

Participants called for comprehensive land reclamation frameworks that mandate concessionaires to rehabilitate mined areas before exiting. They urged the government to enforce strict monitoring and ensure compliance with these frameworks to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Additionally, they advocated for community involvement in the reclamation process to ensure that local needs and priorities are adequately addressed.

3. Nimba County

5.1 Environmental Control in Nimba County

In Nimba County, participants expressed concerns about the environmental degradation caused by extractive activities. They highlighted issues such as deforestation, water pollution, and soil erosion, which have significantly affected the region's ecosystem and the livelihoods of its inhabitants. Residents stressed the importance of holding companies accountable for implementing effective environmental control measures, such as reforestation programs, water quality monitoring, and sustainable waste management practices.

The discussions underscored the need for the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen its oversight over environmental compliance in the extractive sector. Such enhanced oversight would ensure that companies adhere to best practices and prioritize preserving the environment. Participants also recommended regular community consultations to keep residents informed and involved in decisions that impact their environment.



Citizens in Yekepa proudly sing the national anthem during the dissemination exercise.

5.1.2 Social Development Services

Across both counties, there was a shared dissatisfaction with the perceived inequity in benefits derived from extractive operations. Locals criticized concessionaires' inadequate community development initiatives, noting that promised benefits often fail to materialize or meet the communities' needs.



Bomi Citizens attending the program in Gbah Jekeh

4. Bong and Grand Cape Mount Counties

5.1.3 Unequal Treatment of Local Employees: Participants reported disparities in working conditions, wages, and living arrangements between local and foreign employees working for extractive companies. Citizens in Bong and Grand Cape Mount Counties raised grave concerns about the appalling living conditions of workers employed by local concessionaires, calling on the Government of Liberia to intensify its oversight of concession agreements.



A female resident of Gbarnga City expressed her candid opinion during the exercise.

During the engagement, citizens accused concessionaires of drafting well-written agreements but failing to adhere to the commitments outlined in these agreements. According to residents, the lack of implementation has resulted in substandard living and working conditions for local workers.

Highlighting the issue, female civil society actors termed the state of local contractors as "unacceptable." She noted that many workers lack access to basic amenities and frequently overlook labor rights. "These agreements are beautifully written, but they do not reflect reality on the ground," said the female activist.

This dissatisfaction underscores growing concerns about the socio-economic impact of the extractive industries on local communities. Citizens called for the Government of Liberia to

strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for concession agreements to ensure companies fulfill their obligations.

LEITI emphasizes that concession agreements between the Government and companies should foster equitable development, ensuring communities benefit from exploiting their natural resources. Transparency and accountability are key principles under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard, which Liberia has pledged to uphold.

During the dissemination, LEITI representatives reiterated their commitment to creating platforms for dialogue between stakeholders in the extractive sector. They also encouraged community members to continue advocating for their rights and holding duty-bearers accountable.

6.0 Gender Composition in LEITI Dissemination Activities

NO	COUNTY	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	#OF FEMALES	# OF MALES
1	Bong	420	128	292
2	Bomi	400	174	226
3	Cape Mount	600	244	356
4	Gbarpolu	600	263	337
5	Lofa	600	267	333
6	Nimba	600	352	248

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) is committed to inclusivity in its engagement efforts, ensuring that all stakeholders, regardless of gender, are represented in discussions on transparency and accountability in the extractive industries. Here’s an overview of the gender composition from recent dissemination events across six counties:

7.0 Key Highlights from the Data

- I. **Broad Participation across Counties**
LEITI’s dissemination events attracted **3,220 participants** from six counties, demonstrating a wide-reaching engagement effort.

2. **Increasing Female Participation**
1,428 women participated, accounting for **44%** of all attendees. This is a promising indication of LEITI's progress toward gender-inclusive dialogue in the extractive sector.
3. **County-by-County Analysis**
 - **Nimba** led the way in female participation, with **352 women** attending, making up **59% of attendees** in the county.
 - **Lofa** followed closely, with **267 women** (45%).
 - **Gbarpolu** recorded **263 women**, representing **44%** of participants.
 - **Cape Mount** and **Bomi** saw **244 (41%)** and **174 (43%)** female attendees, respectively.
 - **While having the lowest percentage of women at 30%, Bong** still recorded significant overall participation.
4. **Balanced Representation in Nimba**
 Nimba stands out with a near-equal male-to-female ratio, highlighting the potential for more balanced representation in future engagements.

7.1 Why Gender Representation Matters

Under EITI guidelines, achieving gender balance in stakeholder engagement ensures that all voices—especially those of historically underrepresented groups like women—are heard. Women bring unique perspectives on the impacts of extractive industries, particularly in areas like environmental stewardship, community development, and equitable resource distribution.

7.2 Media Engagement

The media remains a key partner for public engagement and plays a critical role in enhancing transparency and accountability across Liberia. In alignment with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard, which emphasizes inclusive communication and stakeholder involvement, LEITI has prioritized media engagement as an essential tool in its dissemination exercises. During the first phase of our dissemination efforts, several targeted media activities were conducted to ensure the broadest possible reach and to foster informed public dialogue on extractive industry governance.

7.3 Media Activities During Dissemination

The dissemination exercise was marked by strategic collaboration with various media outlets at the national and local levels. Our field officers engaged with local media in different counties to mobilize stakeholders and effectively disseminate key messages. This multi-channel approach included live talk shows, interviews, publications, and social media updates to ensure comprehensive coverage of the dissemination activities.

In Nimba County, for instance, the team organized a one-hour live talk show on the Voice of Nimba in Ganta City. This program was simulcast on Radio Nimba in Sanniquellie, the county's administrative seat, thereby maximizing the audience reach. The talk show provided an interactive discussion platform, allowing citizens to ask questions and better understand LEITI's objectives and the significance of extractive industry transparency.

In addition to live broadcasts, the dissemination exercise involved interviews with several prominent media institutions. These included Front Page Africa, the [New Republic Newspaper](#), Liberia News Agency, and ELBC Radio. Local radio stations such as Radio Bomi, Tamba Taikor Radio in Foya City, Voice of Gompa Radio in Nimba, Peace Radio, and Super Bongese Radio in Gbarnga City, Bong County, also played a pivotal role in amplifying LEITI's messages. These

engagements were instrumental in reaching diverse audiences across urban and rural settings, ensuring inclusivity in the dissemination process.

Media Coverage and Publications



A simulcast of an hour-long show on Voice of Nimba and Radio Nimba



Technical Officer McDonald S. Kerl explained the dissemination process in Nimba.



Communications & Outreach Officer, Cedrick Kpadeh in an interview with Peace Radio in Gbarnga, Bong County

The dissemination activities received significant media coverage, with multiple publications highlighting the importance of LEITI’s work. The New Republic Newspaper published several articles detailing the events and their outcomes, while the [Corridor Online TV](#) provided visual coverage, further expanding the reach of the messages. LEITI’s official social media pages were also actively used to share updates, photos, and key takeaways from the dissemination activities. This digital engagement strategy complemented traditional media efforts, ensuring that stakeholders who rely on online platforms were also adequately informed.

7.4 Impact of Media Engagement

The media engagements during phase one of the dissemination exercise raised public awareness about LEITI’s activities and the broader objectives of the EITI framework. By leveraging both traditional and digital media channels, LEITI was able to foster greater public participation and enhance understanding of extractive industry transparency and accountability. The inclusion of local media outlets whose messages were

tailored to specific communities made the information more relatable and impactful.

Media engagement is a cornerstone of LEITI’s public outreach strategy. The success of the first phase of the dissemination exercise underscores the value of maintaining strong partnerships with the media. LEITI will continue to build on these efforts, ensuring that media activities remain integral to promoting transparency, accountability, and informed public participation in Liberia’s extractive industries.

8.0 Key Findings

The dissemination exercise revealed the following insights:

I. Revenue Disclosures: While reports highlighted significant financial contributions from the extractive sector, local communities’ understanding of revenue allocation and usage remains limited.

2. **Employment Data:** Citizens expressed concerns over unequal employment practices and advocated for improved working conditions and equitable opportunities.
3. **Export and Production Data:** Despite considerable export volumes, participants felt that the benefits flowing back to their communities and country were insufficient, especially with the 15th Report recording 182 million in tax revenue while export value stands beyond 1.4 billion United States dollars
4. **Accountability Gaps:** To ensure companies' commitment compliance, stakeholders called for regular, timely reporting and more effective monitoring mechanisms.
5. **Regular Dissemination:** Regular dissemination is vital to the flow of information and the utilization of EITI data. LEITI needs to make significant strides in regularly disseminating these reports as they are produced to foster and ignite the necessary reactions and reforms.

9.0 Recommendations

To address the concerns raised and improve sector governance, LEITI proposes the following:

1. **Enhance Local Engagement:** Regularly organize community forums and provide simplified report summaries to improve public understanding and foster inclusive participation.
2. **Strengthen Monitoring Mechanisms:** Establish independent oversight bodies to track the implementation of social development projects and land reclamation efforts. Development of a comprehensive land reclamation policy for the country.
3. **Promote Equitable Employment Practices:** Advocate for and enforce policies that ensure equal treatment and opportunities for local and foreign employees.
4. **Timely Reporting:** Expedite the publication and dissemination of EITI Reports to maintain transparency and accountability.
5. **Enforce Environmental Safeguards:** Implement stricter environmental regulations to mitigate the adverse impacts of extractive activities on local communities.

10.0 Way Forward

Phase Two of the dissemination exercise will begin in January 2025, focusing on the remaining four counties: Margibi, River Cess, Grand Bassa, and Sinoe. This phase will incorporate lessons learned from Phase One, aiming to refine engagement strategies and address emerging issues. LEITI will continue collaborating with GIZ and other stakeholders to ensure the initiative's success.

11.0 Conclusion

The Secretariat extends her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to GIZ for this financial support to the LEITI. The dissemination of Liberia's 13th, 14th, and 15th EITI Reports is a milestone in promoting transparency and accountability in the country's extractive sector. By addressing community concerns and fostering informed dialogue, LEITI seeks to ensure that Liberia's natural resource wealth translates into sustainable benefits for all citizens.

"Transparency and accountability are the bedrock of sustainable development in the extractive sector," remarked Deputy Head of Secretariat Zaza Y. Quaqua. This initiative underscores LEITI's unwavering commitment to empowering Liberians through informed participation and robust oversight mechanisms.