

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT

ON

LEITI 9TH, 10TH and 11TH SUMMARY REPORTS DISSEMINATION

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| <p>Locations: (Region One) Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties</p> | <p>Host: LEITI Secretariat</p> | <p>Date: 10 to 17, SEPT 2021</p> |
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Introduction

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) commenced activities of Liberia's 9th, 10th and 11th EITI Reports dissemination for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. With the above information, the LEITI 9th, 10th and 11th reports dissemination for Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties commenced on September 11th, 2021 with Grand Cape Mount County being the first county in the Western Region One to experience the dissemination and followed by Bomi and Gbarpolu Counties. The "Region One" dissemination was supervised by Sector Analyst Melvin S. Harris who was aided by three other persons; a MSG member, the Administrative Manager and a journalist.

Purpose of Dissemination

The LEITI 9th, 10th and 11th Reports dissemination is aimed at sharing findings gathered from payments received from the extractive sectors and the usage of revenues generated from that sectors during the period under review and providing institutions, citizens and concessionaires the platform to address issues concerning revenues collection and distribution, social contributions made and challenges faced during the reporting period and also devising ways to satisfied these highlighted issues.

Summary of 9th, 10th and 11th LEITI Summary Reports Dissemination Activities

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) in consultation with the MSG started its nation-wide dissemination activities for the LEITI 9th, 10th and 11th Summary Report. The activities were categorized by region and each region was headed by a well knowledgeable member of the LEITI Secretariat who served as the Lead Facilitator for each region.

The awareness meetings (Dissemination) that started on the 11th of September 2021 in Region one (Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties) was aimed at sharing findings gathered from payments received from the extractive sectors and the usage of revenues generated from that sectors during the

period under review, accommodated a huge number of participants including locals and traditional leaders who questioned number of issues concerning the extractive sectors, the questions ranged from extraction of natural resources to signed concessions between the Government of Liberia and companies in the extractive sectors.

Presentations of the Summary Reports and Contract Matrix

The 9th, 10th and 11th Summary Reports was disseminated in the three counties that fall under "REGION ONE", each of the three counties has three scheduled locations for the dissemination meetings and our team was able to host a successful meeting in each of the locations in the three counties. Industries Sector Analyst **Melvin Harris** of the Technical Department served as the lead facilitator and presenter of the dissemination workshops held in that region; he presented on a number of topics in relation to the 9th, 10th and 11th Summary reports and the **Simplified Contract Matrix**, however, the simplified contract matrix was only presented in two of the three counties (**Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties**).

For his part, **Emmanuel K. White** of our staff also was an essential member of the team that facilitated the workshop in the region. Mr. White worked effectively with the team leader in making sure local media institutions and administrators lend their supports in making sure the 9th, 10th and 11th reports dissemination was a success in that region.

The **Beneficial Ownership Disclosure** that now plays a pivotal role in the LEITI process was also highlighted by Mr. Ekema Witherspoon of **Multi-stake holders Steering Group (MSG)**. Mr. Witherspoon spoke on the "Beneficiary Ownership Disclosure" benefits to the economy and the country at large, adding that it helps to mitigate the risks of not knowing who actually fund the extraction of our natural resources and to what end, following our presentations, there were two hours of **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** allotted for each presentation. Below are the locations where the dissemination meetings were held and names of "Region One Team Members".

1. Grand Cape Mount County

Robertsport City

Sinje

Weaju

2. Bomi County

Tubmanburg City

Clay

Gbah-Jeh keh

3. Gbarpolu County

Bopolu City

Gbarma

Monakwelleh

Region One Team Members

- ✓ Melvin S. Harris-----LEITI Staff
- ✓ Emmanuel K. White-----LEITI Staff
- ✓ Ekema Witherspoon-----MSG Member
- ✓ ***** Journalist

Successes

The "Region One" team had a high success rate as we were able to reach all our scheduled locations in time and smoothly throughout the tour, we experienced warm welcome from citizens, religious and traditional leaders and local administrators

Failures

The team experienced no failure as it relates to the dissemination processes in that region.

Facilitation Halls and Lodging

The 9th, 10th and 11th Summary Reports budget never captured hall rental, but however, the Counties local administrators was gracious enough to host all of our meetings in local public facilities (schools or Administrative Buildings). The team lodged in local guest houses in the region.

The Media

Upon entry into the counties, we approached local media institutions in airing our programs for at least an hour, we were afforded interviews in respect to materials presented (**Summary Report and Contract Matrix**)

Conclusion

The 9th, 10th and 11th Reports awareness meetings brought together Local leaders, women and men auxiliaries groups, traditional leaders, Muslim and Christian communities, Youth and Student groups to discuss and highlight issues relating to the extractive sectors, each of the participants received copies of presentation materials (9th, 10th and 11th summary reports and the simplified contract matrix) for an interactive discussions. The discussions brought to light fascinating questions that meet desirable answers, however the issue of social contributions was the most highlighted topic and the team allocated adequate time to address said topic satisfactorily. We left every meeting with topics being digested and addressed properly and with a reawakening spirits of the extractive sectors.

Key Findings

- ✓ *The local citizens and concessions affected communities has little or no knowledge concerning the benefits of the concession agreement between the government and concession company*
- ✓ *Local leaders don't seek the interest of residents in concession affected areas adequately*
- ✓ *Ethical employment policies are not practice in most concession affected areas in the region*
- ✓ *There are little or no employment of females in most extractive concession companies in that region*

- ✓ *There are allege unlawful mining activities carryout in the region*
- ✓ *Information relating LEITI in the region is on a los scale*

Recommendations

- ✓ *The empowerment of LEITI focal persons in the region as to effect and increase the knowledge about activities of LEITI*
- ✓ *Heads of concession companies, staffs of LRA and MME should form part of the dissemination team to address questions that fall under their respective institutions*
- ✓ *The LEITI focal persons in the region should be empowered to carryout long term awareness before scheduled meetings*
- ✓ *The dissemination the a revised CONTRACT MATRIX must be carryout in the region*
- ✓ *LEITI reports dissemination should be annually carryout as the increase the impact of LEITI's activities*
- ✓ *LEITI should make the monitoring of the Social In-kind contribution part of their activities*