

# BTO Report

Eight-Day Dissemination on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>  
and 11<sup>th</sup> LEITI Reports in North Central  
Liberia

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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A five-member team departed Monrovia on December 13, 2021 for North-Central Liberia (Lofa, Bong and Nimba counties) for a nationwide dissemination of LEITI's Report. As part of strengthening natural resource governance and ensuring of equitable distribution of the country's natural resources, the Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) carried an eight-day dissemination in North Central Liberia of its 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> LEITI Summary Reports. The five-man team included; Abraham Gappie, Daniel Nyankonah, Benedict A. Sannoh of the Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU), Ministry of Finance Development Planning, Ruebin A. Freeman and Team Lead J. Elijah Kai of LEITI Secretariat.

The week-long dissemination engagement brought together a total of 1,400 participants from three North-Central Cities and towns of Liberia, namely: Yekepa, Sanniquellie, Ganta in Nimba County; Bellefena, Gbarnga, Totota in Bong County and Voinjama, Foryah and, Zorzor in Lofa County, Participants were selected from across the different groups of our Liberian Society to include women groups, men, youth/students and disable community. During the eight days of interactive assembly, the LEITI'S Dissemination as stated above brought together 1,400 4×»participants, both males and females. In segregating the participants by sex, there were a total of 711 males in attendance while the female attendance was 689 in all nine locations. The engagement was sponsored by African Development Bank (AfDB) through PIU/PFMU of the MFDP. The team returned to Monrovia on December 20, 2021 after a successful dissemination.

## **II. PLANNING**

The Planning of the eight days dissemination engagement on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> LEITI's Reports Summary involved the working efforts of PIU, PFMU of the Ministry of Finance Development Planning and LEITI Secretariat. There were meetings held to review and correct plans, programs and logistics to insure a successful dissemination activity in Nimba, Bong and Lofa Counties.

The PIU, PFMU of the Ministry of Finance Development Planning took care of logistics, accommodation/logging, sitting fees for participants and perdiem for all the team members who made the trip.

## **III. REASON FOR THE ENGAGEMENT**

Part of the secretariat's work according to LEITI's Act, is to promptly publish the reports of all audits, investigations, and/or reconciliations conducted within a given period and disseminate such published reports through widely accessible media. Against this background, the Secretariat is obliged to disseminate LEITI's Reports for every fiscal period. The dissemination was aimed at conducting an eight-day interactive discussion among citizens living in concession communities and the country at large to discuss the finding in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> LEITI's Summary Reports. The dissemination provided citizens the opportunity to know about the LEITI Report and its findings from the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018, discussed and have an understanding and asked questions about the total extractive revenues collected for those periods by Government of Liberia from companies operating in the extractive sectors, The dissemination enlightened the

participants to know about the companies that contributed the highest amount of taxes during those periods, including the payment of social contributions made by some extractive companies.

#### **IV. DISSEMINATION PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. J. Elijah Kai of the LEITI Secretariat disseminated the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> LEITI's Report Summary from FY2015 to FY2018 in all designated locations. He highlighted to the participants that the reports 2015 to 2018 showed that Government of Liberia generated from extractive companies, USD 56.94 million, 47.74 million and 61.53 million in Direct Revenue for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 respectively. For Total Extractive Revenue, he informed participants that Government of Liberia generated from extractive companies USD 66.37 million, USD 53.84 million and USD 68.98 million for the period 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 separately, indicating Arcelor Mittal made the single highest contribution to Government extractive revenue, contributing 24% in FY 2015/16, 21% in FY 2016/17 and 19% in FY 2017/18. In his dissemination to the participants he also said, Social Contribution for those periods amounted to USD9.43 million, USD 6.11million and 7.45 million in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 respectively. The participants also learned from the dissemination that among four ministries and agencies (LRA, NPA, EPA and NOCAL) that collect taxes for the government from companies operating in the extractive sectors, Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) collected the highest contributions (94.33%, 91.92%, and 95.22%) for FY 2015/16, FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18 respectively.

#### **Questions from participants**

From the dissemination presented in Central North Liberia the below listed were the generic questions that were asked by participants

1. How many companies from the extractive sectors in Liberia contributed the highest amount to the revenue envelope of Liberia?
2. Are social contributions from extractive companies pay directly to county government for the benefit of concession for communities? If no, who manages it?
3. Besides a concession county, can other counties benefit from social contributions made by extractive companies in Liberia?
4. What were the percentages contribution of the extractive sectors to the budget of Liberia for the periods July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018?

#### **V. KEY FINDINGS**

There were halls provided in all nine locations of the three counties to host participants for the dissemination meeting. Although there is a reduction in the amount of COVID cases, but all health measures were put in place as advised by health authority to keep the

pandemic from spreading in Liberia. There were buckets available for hand wash at all entrances in the nine locations and hand sanitizers placed on tables that were used for signing for transportation reimbursement while participants were dressed wearing their nose masks.

## VI. ANNEX

### i. Attendance

#### Team members

1. Abraham Gappie
2. Daniel Nyankonah
3. Benedict A. Sannoh
4. Reubin A. Freeman
5. J. Elijah Kai