

Summary of Open Society Institute (OSI) and Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) Projects in Liberia

Liberia Educational Trust (LET): Liberia's leader envisioned the Liberian Education Trust as a way of harnessing support from Americans for Liberia's educational needs. The Liberian Education Trust (LET) was established by the request and with the full support of then President-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The charitable trust's purpose is to support the restoration of basic education in post-war recovery Liberia. The trust is established because the needs in Liberia are too massive to be addressed solely through internal funds. The nation's vibrant economy and infrastructure has been demolished, and rebuilding it is a top priority. The children who represent the nation's future are many and the need is urgent. LET has been established to help educate and nurture Liberian youth. Basic education services need to be put in place; schools need to be built; and teachers need to be trained. To that end, LET will make small and medium sized grants to Liberian community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to:

- Rebuild and refurbish schools by cost-sharing with local communities;
- Provide scholarships and stipends for school fees and supplies; teacher training and upgrading with special attention to helping girls enter and stay in school and helping female teachers enter the ranks of a historically all-male profession.
- Reprint and distribute low-cost teaching and learning materials;
- Support the re-establishment of parent teacher associations (PTAs);
- Support accelerated learning programs for older war-affected youth whose schooling was interrupted or delayed by the war.

LET will give priority to communities which self-organize and promote community participation in building basic education capacity and to communities in the southeastern part of the country where the devastation of the war has been greatest. Many ex-combatants came from this area.

The Open Society Institute provided an amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to help LET to achieve the following goals:

- i. To build or rebuild 50 schools per year
- ii. To provide training or skill enhancement for 500 teachers per year
- iii. To provide scholarships for 5000 students per year.

Name of Organisation: Center for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia Law School
Amount: \$20,000.00

The Open Society Institute provided a \$20,000 grant to support the participation of an activist from Liberia in the Human Rights and Advocacy Program beginning in September 2006. The fellow interacted with OSI and a partner organizations while in New York and is now back in Liberia working with an OSIWA grantee.

Name of Organization: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia

Amount: \$279,000.00

The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) awarded the Liberia Truth Reconciliation Commission a grant in the amount of US\$279,606.00 for the TRC Capacity Building and Empowerment project. The grant was awarded to help build the institutional capacity and facilitate the work of the TRC by bolstering their ICT capacity and providing support for training, and consultations to be held within and out Liberia. The specific activities supported under this grant include:

- To establish a TRC Database Server with internet links
- To hold 60 consultative and sensitization (Public Outreach) meetings in the 15 counties of Liberia and in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ghana
- To train 100 Statement Takers, Investigators and Coders and related staffs

Open Society Institute Funding

Following a visit to Monrovia, Liberia by the Director of the Network Women's Program, a grant of \$10,000 was given to the Commission to hold four (4) zonal workshops and fifteen (15) town hall meetings for women throughout the country. These workshops and town hall meetings were organized to educate and empower women to participate in the TRC process. This in collaboration with other critical national and international stakeholders will lead to the formulation of a TRC Gender Policy. A Gender Consultant hired by the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) assisted in the zonal workshops and town hall meetings funded by the Network Women's Program. The consultations of these meetings will feed into the Gender Policy of the Commission.

Name of organization: Liberia Civil Society Coalition for the Truth and Reconciliation

Project Title: Supporting the Transitional Working Group to work on the TRC

Amount: \$36,000.00

Project Objectives:

- i. To establish a coordinating organ/structure of TJWG to oversee and supervise the efforts of various civil society organizations actively engaged in the TRC process in Liberia.
- ii. Undertake public education and awareness raising initiatives around the work and operation of the TRC in the country.
- iii. To monitor and report on the TRC and its related activities.
- iv. Provide technical support to civil society organizations to learn from the experiences of other countries that have gone through the transitional justice process so as to be informed of the work and process.

Name of organization: National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia

Project Title: Increased Citizens Participation in the Democratic Process Through Grassroots Empowerment

Amount: \$200,000.00

Objectives

- i. To hold series of grassroots consultations on the ongoing electoral process in relation to government's planned decentralization program;
- ii. To get local people to understand the trends, implications and timing of these political and democratic processes;
- iii. To secure the support and active involvement of local grassroots populations in the pending chieftaincy and municipal elections;
- iv. To promote popular citizens participation in the decision making process;
- v. To promote democracy and good governance in Liberia's post conflict reconstruction, development and peace building.

Name of organization: Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE) in collaboration with the Civil Society Coalition for the Consolidation of Democracy

Project Title: Post-conflict democracy Strengthening and Consolidation

Amount: \$200,000.00

This project is meant to build the capacity of civil society to enable them to effectively monitor the implementation of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as a mechanism for the consolidation of democracy in war torn Liberia. Civil Society (CSOs) will closely monitor the CPA at various levels:

- i. Constitutional and electoral reform process
- ii. National budget, transparency and accountability
- iii. Human rights and transitional auspice building reforms and peace building
- iv. Good governance

The major objectives of the project include:

- i. To collaborate and cooperate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- ii. Undertake measures aimed at Constitutional Reform specifically related to the devolution of power
- iii. Educate civil society leaders and the larger public on economic justice issues including the cancellation of Liberia's \$ 3.7 billion debt it owes the Breton Woods institutions and other donor countries.
- iv. Mainstream gender and youth issues in the public policy processes
- v. Cooperate with Government of Liberia on its policy of zero tolerance for corruption

Name of Organization: The International Center for Media Studies and Development in West Africa (INCEMSADWA)

Project Title: Prevention of domestic violence and education

Amount: \$45,860.00

The purpose of this project is to address the serious effects of widespread domestic violence against women and girls in the southeastern Liberia counties of Grand Kru, River-Gee and Maryland which host a population of over 1,500,000. The project is intended to educate the society on the rights of women and girl children and will help to

address the deteriorating violence against women, children and girls in the various communities, towns, districts and cities

Name of organization: Liberia Community Radio Network

Project Title: Consolidation, Strengthening and Capacity Building

Amount: \$ 50,000.00

The project aims to consolidate the projects that OSIWA has been supporting in the community radio sector. Over the past years, OSIWA has purchased equip in order to support new and existing community radios in Liberia. OSIWA has also supported the formation of a community radio network, LICORNET.

- i. To build their capacity to deliver good and relevant content to the community
- ii. To network nationally and sub-regionally
- iii. To provide better service to their member stations and foster internal democracy within their structure
- iv. To build its capacity to drive the community radios towards collectively identified objectives
- v. To act as reliable and accountable intermediary with OSIWA

Name of organization: Mass Communication Department, University of Liberia

Project Title: Procurement of Broadcast equipment and essential accessories for the department.

Amount: \$72,500.00

The project is to make Mass Communication program more functional. It aims at providing training inside and outside of our classrooms with broadcast and print equipment, for students to engage in practical sessions under our departmental staff supervision.

Project Objectives:

- i. Strengthening of Mass Communication Department by providing for infrastructural needs
- ii. Institutional support

Project Activities:

- i. Purchasing of radio broadcast equipments for the department
- ii. Networking or cabling
- iii. Purchasing of computer equipments
- iv. Purchasing of used vehicles

Organizations: Government of Nigeria, NGO Espoir FANCI in Cote d'Ivoire, PAP Liberia, Government of Sierra Leone

Project: Enhancing the HIV/AIDS Response among armed forces in the Sub-region

Amount: \$155,430.00

This is a regional project with Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The regional project aims at enhancing the response to HIV/AIDS in the sub region by identifying and addressing the armed forces as a bridge of contamination between populations at risk and the general population.

The project aims to sensitize armed forces on behavioral change, use of condoms, human rights respect, and the importance of psychological support, care and treatment. Prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs through peer education and VCT as means of inducing behavioral change among armed forces.
Support the decentralization and coordination of activities

The Liberian component of the project will conduct 5 days of training of trainers with each battalion. Liberia will hold 11 days of training of peer educators and provide VCT in every targeted battalion.

Name of Organization: Liberia National Law Enforcement Association (LINLEA). OSJI is working with LINLEA to develop an effective agenda for civil society participation in Liberia's security sector reform program. In December 2005, they brought together member-organizations of the National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations of Liberia (NACCSOL), security officers, representatives of international institutions and other stakeholders at a two-day workshop to discuss what effective role civil society organizations and the citizens can play in enhancing the SSR process.

Name of Organization: SWAA International
Project Title: Community-based project for the Reduction of Gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS impact in conflict areas in West Africa.
Amount: \$ 200,000.00

The project aims at advocating for policies to eradicate gender-based violence and concomitant spread of HIV in conflict situations. It also seeks to mobilize women, girls (especially rape victims) and children in conflict situation to access HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support and impact mitigation services.

Name of Organisation: Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE)
Amount: \$100,000.00

The grant provided institutional support for the procurement of office space and basic equipments to facilitate the revitalization of the organization's work following the vandalization of the organization's premises during the peak of the crisis.

Name of Organisation: Governance Reform Commission
Amount: \$100,000.00

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Accra, the institution was formed to promote principles of good governance in post-war Liberia.

Name of Institution: International Center for Media Studies in West Africa

Amount: \$40,000.00

The main scope of this project was to prepare programs that will reach the hinterland to promote peace, reconciliation and respect for human rights.

Name of Organisation: Prisoners Assistance Program

Amount: \$23,565.00

The project was designed to strengthen the organization's capacity to provide protection for individuals that were believed to be illegally arrested or denied the due process of the law.

Name of Organization: Media Foundation for West Africa:

Amount: \$2,800.00

The grant was part of an assistance programme for journalists in exile in Ghana. OSIWA also provided resources to facilitate the return of the journalists to Liberia at an appropriate time.

Name of Organisation: Women's Aid Incorporated

Amount: \$ 50,900

OSIWA funding to the organization facilitated the rehabilitation of the skills training center where displaced women and girls were being taught skills that would enhance their independence.

Name of Organisation: Center for the Promotion of Democracy in Liberia

Amount: \$5,330.00

OSIWA funding helped the organization to purchase basic equipments for the organization's office immediately after the war in Monrovia.

Name of Organisation: Liberia Watch for Human Rights

Amount: \$35,000.00

The project was aimed at raising public participation on human rights promotion and protection.