



NEWSLETTER

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EU visits Project Sites

What are the impressions of the EU delegation after visiting 5 VOICE Project sites in Bomi and Nimba Counties?

Stories of Impact

What are beneficiaries saying about AIFO Liberia interventions?

50 Receives Decent Work

Training in Lofa Conty

CAD-L project officer explains about why decent work training is being conducted for 50 stakeholders in Lofa County, northern Liberia.

EU Visits VOICE Project Sites

A high-power delegation of the European Union (EU) in Liberia has paid a monitoring visit to 5 project communities of the Voices for Inclusion and Civil Society Empowerment (VOICE) Project in Bomi and Nimba Counties. The delegation comprised of Mr. Jyrki Tornii, head of governance and Madam Lorpu Scott, education project coordinator. VOICE is funded the the EU Mission in Liberia.

On January 27, 2023, they travelled to Tubmanburg, Bomi County and interacted with beneficiaries of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and deaf trainees of the VOICE Project at the Oscar Romero School of the Deaf (ORS). They discussed with deaf trainees by asking questions about what they have learnt during the course of the training and received feedback through a sign language interpreter.

Between January 30 and February 3, 2023, the delegation visited Saclepea, Ganta, Sanniquellie and Zorgowee Project sites in Nimba County and held discussions with both primary and secondary beneficiaries.

"I am impressed with what I have seen and heard in all of the communities. However, Zorgowee community is the best", Madam Lorpu Scott said while marking a closing remark.



Jyrki (front) & Lorpu (back) at ORS in Tubmanburg

Stories of Impact

Shailay K. Meazoe is a professional nurse aid. She was involved in vehicle accident on December 8, 2004. She lost one of her legs, spent 4 months at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Monrovia. Upon her returned home, Zorgowee, Nimba County, she disassociated with members of the community due to shame. She narrates that she mostly stayed indoor for more than 2 years. In 2013, she attended an AIFO Liberia event that awaken her to accept her disability condition.



"I used to have fear to interact with a lawmaker but the VOICE Project advocacy training has helped me to become fearless. Last year, I engaged the the siting lawmaker of our district and he gave us 1 bag of caustic soda and 5,000 Liberian Dollars as contribution to our disabled association", Shailay K. Meazoe, Zorgowee Community.



Shailay explains impact of VOICE advocacy training





50 Receives Decent Work Training in Lofa Conty

50 stakeholders from diversified backgrounds including government, private sector, trade unions, law enforcement agencies, CSOs and persons with disabilities have received 4 days of practical training and awareness on Decent Work for people with disabilities in Lofa County. The training was held in Voinjama from February 6-9, 2023 under the theme “decent work for persons with disability: myths, truths, realities and the role of employers in ensuring decent work opportunities for PWDs” and it is a major intervention of the Coordinated Action on disability in Liberia.

Podzimek, K. (2014) asserts that in Liberia, people with disabilities are often stigmatized and excluded from opportunities for economic prosperity and they face difficulties in every aspect of their lives, from receiving basic education to finding a job.

The training helped to dispel the myths that persons with disabilities are unable to work. The participants pledged to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in their communities' activities.

“I’m going out to erase that negative mindset of looking down on people living with disabilities and I will serve as one of the advocates for them”, Marian Quoi, Reporter-Voice of Lofa.



Partial view of excited participants after training

CAD-L Completes First Annual Review

The first Coordinated Action on Disability in Liberia, CAD-L, annual review meeting has been held at AIFO Office in Monrovia. The meeting, which was conducted on February 14, 2023, brought together representatives of implementing organizations, as well as the Swedish Embassy in Monrovia, the donor organization.

Speaking on behalf of the Embassy, head of development cooperation, Mr. Johan Romare said, "I am happy that this is now a coordinated action involving all stakeholder organizations. The conditions of persons with disabilities in Liberia will change and it will be possible because they are taking actions to change their own conditions", he concluded.

In furtherance, Amb. Daintowon Domah Paye-Bayee, executive director of the National Commission on Disabilities, stated that 'persons with disabilities sincerely see CAD-L as a project that is contributing to their economic independence'.

Results and spendings of year 1 and projections about year 2 were reviewed and decisions about next steps made at the meeting which was chaired by Laura Todescato, AIFO Liberia Chief of Party.



Johan Romare looks on during results presentation

Upcoming Events

- VOICE project to release final evaluation report
- CAD-L project to complete recruitment for 20 PWD Start-ups



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