



Naymote Partners for Democratic Development



End of Project Report - June 2020

Name of Project	Community Action Platform Against COVID-19
Donor	Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Implementer	Naymote Partners for Democratic Development
Start and End Date	May 1 st , 2020 – June 15, 2020
Cost of Project	LD \$2,050,805.00 (LD1.2m OSIWA) and LD850,805.00 NED)
Project Location	Montserrado County, Liberia
Report By	Eddie Jarwolo, Executive Director, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development
Report Submitted To	Massa Crayton, Country Officer, OSIWA Liberia and Kaley Fulton, Program Officer, NED
Reporting Period	May 1 st – June 10, 2020

1. Project Deliverables

COVID19 shocked the world and caught most countries unprepared including Liberia. At the inception of the coronavirus pandemic in Liberia, resources were not initially available; there were denial and misinformation in communities about the virus including limited understanding about its signs, symptoms, and effects. With limited information about preventive measures and increasing confirmed cases, there was an urgent need for an innovative action.

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development drawing its experience from Ebola, quickly mobilized local communities, and engaged them through 45 locally based organizations to help respond to the fight. NAYMOTE with approval from two of its partners, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and National Endowment for Democracy (NED) redirected an ongoing project funds and initiated the “Community Action Platform Against **COVID19**” project, a community-driven social mobilization and innovative program to prepare communities to adequately help combat **COVID19**.

The project had two outcomes all built around awareness creation and mobilizing community resilience anchored on experience and available information on the virus. The month-long project was implemented across the 17 electoral districts in Montserrado County and ended on June 15, 2020. Total of LD \$2,050,805.00 was used to support this initiative.

The project had two outcomes, all built around awareness creation and mobilizing community resilience anchored on experience. As a result of the project, *‘there is an increased awareness in communities about the virus, project communities are observing preventive measures, some citizens are considering voluntary testing and in general, the level of denial is reducing due to our engagements with them. Project communities have openly engaged and appreciated the project especially its partnership framework and innovation for the efforts and health messages disseminated to keep their communities safe and well as they participate in activities and provide their voices ; sharing their experiences during discussions’*.

During the implementation of the **Community Action Platform Against COVID-19**, the institution used innovative grassroots approaches and mobilized 225 affected and vulnerable communities to respond to the COVID19 pandemic in Liberia. 45 Community-Based Organizations and network groups across Montserrado County were supported to conduct robust social mobilization activities, their engagements reached and educated **52,243 citizens, comprising of (23,712 males, and 28,531 females including 2% people living with disabilities)**, across all 17 electoral districts in Montserrado County.

The project targeted and supported people living with disabilities organizations, women groups, youth groups, community-based organizations, local media outlets and local government administration. With increasing confirmed cases, there was an urgent need for an innovative action. NAYMOTE having Ebola Experience, quickly mobilized local communities, and engaged them through locally based organizations.

As of June 13, 2020, Liberia total confirmed cases have reached 458, total deaths 32; recovered cases 219, and active cases 207. These cases were mostly transmitted through communities. The two hotspots counties are Montserrado with 385 confirmed cases, and Margibi with 30 confirmed cases followed by Grand Bassa (9); Nimba (12) and Gbarpolu (7).

Realizing the power of technology to reach many people and reinforce engagements, the institution hired 15 volunteers and reactivated its call center at the institution’s head office in Monrovia which disseminated COVID19 awareness information to thousands of citizens via phone calls, using the institution contact database of over 12,000 citizens across the country. A WhatsApp chatroom was established for information sharing and is continually active as the 45 organizations are engaged and sharing information.

Objective	To support innovative and creative projects that contribute to responding to the eradication of COVID-19 in Montserrado County
Outcomes	Citizens are educated about COVID19 preventive measures, signs, symptoms, and provided regular updates about COVID19 status to stay safe, Citizens are discussing the importance of the project in communities across the project locations.

2. Project Success

The Project successfully implemented planned activities on time, budget and with the intended quality anticipated during the planning stage. As such, the following graphs and tables provide a graphical summary of the successes of the project.

Figure I: Project Achievements in figures



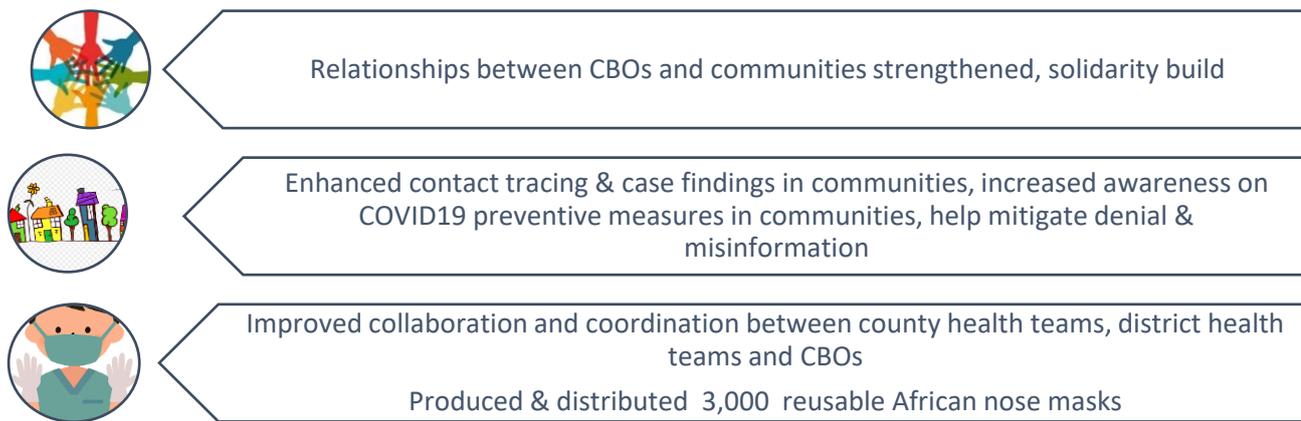


Figure II: % number of Persons Living with Disability engaged and benefited from the Project.



Figure III: Demographic distribution of beneficiaries

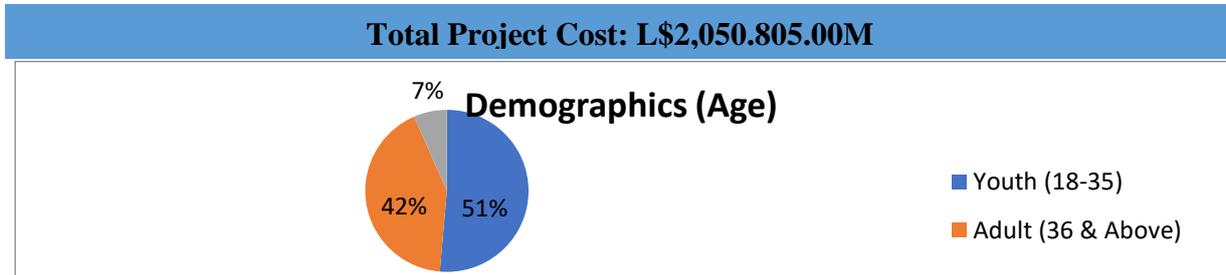


Figure IV: Project Beneficiaries Reached in Summary

IMPACT/ OUTCOME					
Total Project Cost	Total Beneficiaries Reached	Youth 18-35	Adults 36-Above	Children 6-17	Persons Living with Disabilities
Total Project Cost: L\$2,050.805.00M	Total: 52,243	26,841	21,963	3,439	2% of those reached were people with disabilities
	Males: 23,712				
	Females: 28,531				

3. Lessons Learned

The project used strategic processes in delivering actions and interventions built on past and tested engagements through collaboration with local structures, multimedia (TV, phone call, Zoom), house to house engagement through volunteers, local level engagements (working with Community Based Inclusive organizations) and direct funding mechanisms.

The project applied, documented, and integrated national and globally approved messages by entities responsible for the fight against COVID-19. In addition, close linkages, follow up, and direct engagement with stakeholders helped the project to reduce risks associated with duplication, competition, and unexpected outcomes. As part of the above processes serving as facilitators of the interventions, the following lessons were learned:

1. Active Community participation resulted into activities planned to be implemented on time and at locations selected
2. A holistic, inclusive social mobilization in 17 electoral/political districts used existing data base, reached out to local leaders, and created a space for community participation and inputs through community meetings and dialogues which in turn provided the space for community acceptance with no confrontation and violence.
3. Direct Phone calls to citizens who are part of Naymote's network (database) provided them with COVID-19 messages, and linking them to health authorities through the established national hotline 4455 resulted into community confidence, cemented active engagement and largely was responsible for the alleviation of fear.
4. The Procurement and distribution of face masks locally produced by women's organizations resulted into two folds: increased income in the local market and communities saw NAYMOTE as a true partner to trust and work with.
5. TV, Zoom discussions, Social media awareness using flyers, written messages and posters, contributed to more awareness in local communities

4. Tools Used to Measure the Project Results and Impact

The project used existing tools to ensure the success of the project. There was an active involvement of the Senior Management and their commitment was decisive for the success of the project. The project benefitted from a high level of participation from local community leaders at all stages. All tasks were conducted in a stepwise manner starting with initial proposals, consultation with communities leading to final agreement and a shared understanding of what was required especially with local Community Based Organizations. The project applied mixed methodologies for impact including experience drawn from the 2014 Ebola intervention using the following tools:

1. Work plans and schedule – the project started on time when it was most needed and ended as scheduled with prospect of a new project to continue the gains,
2. Most of the activities were implemented using best practices, tested strategies (EBOLA experience) timely tracking and reporting,
3. The project cost less but the impact became huge, support needed actions with value for money and promoted community resilience,
4. The donor is satisfied, communities have openly appreciated the project through dialogues, case studies and open informal engagements,
5. All planned activities were implemented using approved guidelines from the health authorities.

5. Project Recommendation

1. The Community Action Platform Against COVID-19 Project has proven that active community engagements are possible in Liberia. As such, the present momentum from this project should be galvanized for recovery.
2. Women and disable organizations in Liberia will need a centralized support system that empowers local structures and organization for this marginalized group especially the rural poor and government recovery programs should allocate funding for national and county-based organizations to lead community engagement and processes which must be tangible especially for economic progress beyond 2020.

6. Project Summary (Financial Component)

Total of LD \$2,050,805.00 was used to support this initiative; LD \$1,666,605.00 was direct support given to 45 CBOs to lead social mobilization engagements and call center while LD \$366,380.00 was towards media engagements and printing of 45 COVID19 awareness banners and LD \$17,820.00 towards production of face masks. This is the final report of the project. **(Exchange Rate: US\$1.00 to LS198.00)**

Link to project photos <https://www.flickr.com/photos/155616786@N07/sets/72157714512286471/>

Link to stories about the project <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-naymote-disburses-11-6m-for-covid-19-response-to-cbos-and-others/> https://libpedia.info/naymote-firing-on-all-cylinders-to-defeat-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR2C45SjArHTGo4Nazd_QNoppXVUQ36W0HRRy1q8i9fasAMo3EEHB2i9Q5s




Pic3: COVID19 volunteers embarking upon community engagement awareness in communities

Pic4: Community volunteers in action, community mobilization and awareness on COVID19