

NAYMOTE PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT



2023

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## BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE



**Omolara Balogun**  
Executive Board Member  
Naymote Partners for Democratic  
Development

As we approach the close of another impactful year, we extend gratitude to our valued partners and stakeholders for your continued support, and to our dedicated staff for contributing towards achieving our mission and vision. It is with great pleasure that we share with you an update on the annual progress of our esteemed organization, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development.

Your support to Naymote has enabled us to facilitate collaboration and mobilize collective actions with like-minded organizations to drive positive change and promote a strong democratic culture; one in which citizens especially young people can openly and freely participate in decisions that affect their lives irrespective of their age, gender, religion, ethnic group, or status in the society.

At Naymote, we are proud to reiterate our dedication and commitment to strengthening and promoting positive youth and community engagement in support of democratic governance and sustainable development in Liberia and across Africa.

In 2023, we contributed to the historic elections with unprecedented voter turnout in Liberia which marked an important milestone in Liberia's democratic electoral process. As a Board, we want to congratulate President-Elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Sr on his victory and President George Manneh Weah for conceding to the election results. The shrinking of civic space, perception of civil society as anti-government, weak justice system, limited political accountability mechanisms, unconstitutional change of government, resurgent of military coups, and worsening democratic backsliding in the region are prevailing challenges that continue to hinder the operations of many civil society organizations.

Our strategic direction as an institution in advancing democratic governance, political accountability, and strong civic engagement in Liberia and the region is to explore partnerships and innovative funding models to reinforce the sustainability and expansion of our programs.

As an institution, we want to be recognized as a leading capacity-building institution advancing democratic governance and civic engagement in Liberia and across West Africa.

With innovative programs plus a skilled and committed team, we are increasing our relevance, and making a long-lasting positive impact in society. We have been able to establish an efficient management team that has access to diverse resources for its operations.

As the Board of Directors, we remain committed to ensuring that the strategic objective of the institution is achieved, that various policy documents that strengthen internal control are fully adhered to, and that accountability and value for money are promoted. We are devoted to our supervisory role and provision of timely guidance and support to the management team. To our donors and partners, we thank you for being an essential part of our journey. We look forward to your unwavering commitment and support.

We appreciate the support of our key partners who have stood by us over the years, including the Swedish International Development Cooperative Agency (SIDA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), United Nations Women, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Open Society Foundation (OSF), etc.

Thank you, and we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy 2024 in advance!



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Eddie D. Jarwolo**  
Executive Director  
Naymote Partners for Democratic  
Development

Season greetings!

On behalf of the management and staff of Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, I present compliments to you all. As we climax the year 2023, we have much to celebrate this holiday season. Two decades ago, this institution was established by student leaders and activists to advance accountable democratic governance, political accountability, and strong civic engagement in Liberia and across the continent.

It has been an amazing time collaborating with the board of directors, resilient team, partners, volunteers, alumni, and supporters to make this journey a success. We are fortunate to be in the company of such compassionate, committed, and exceptional leaders.

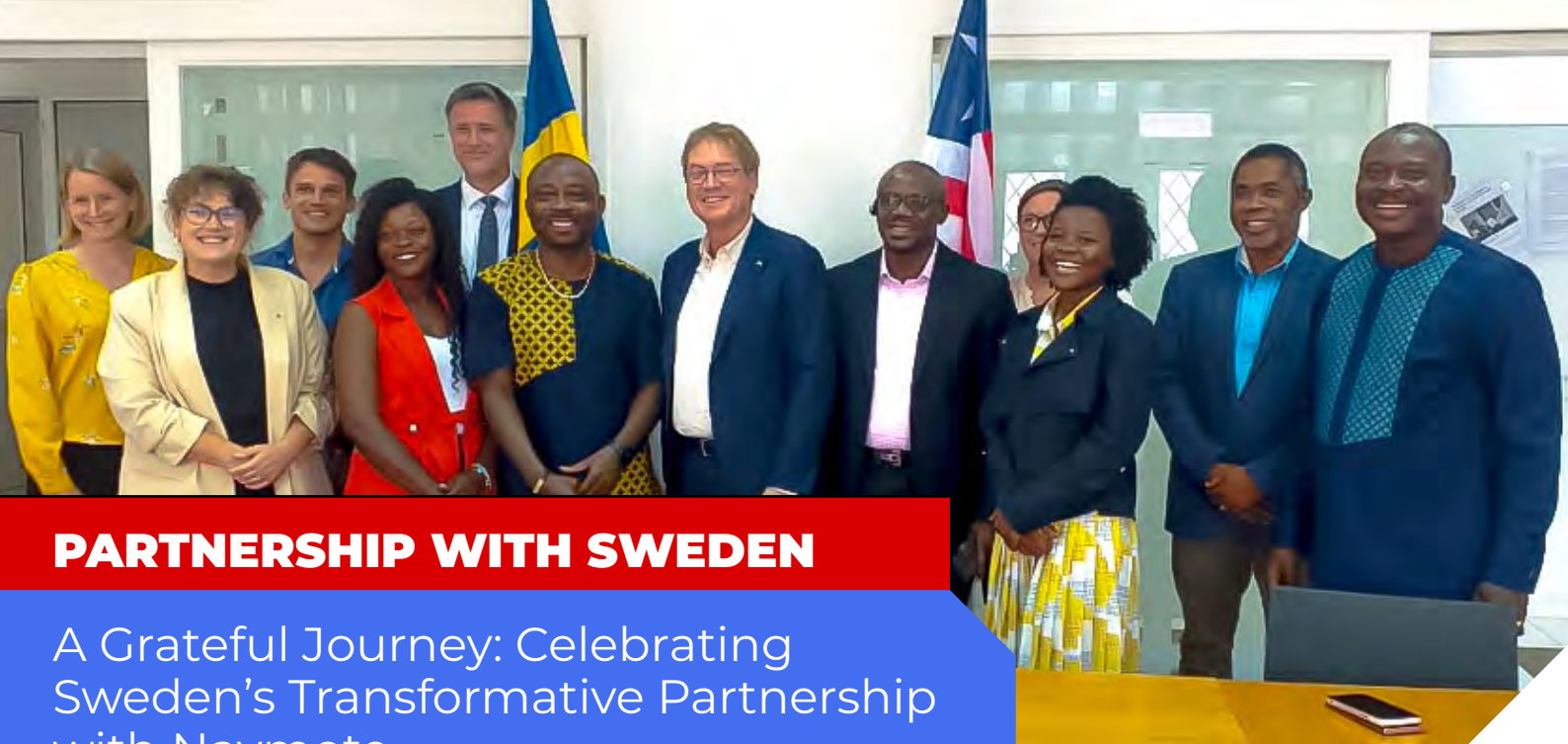
We believe that a vibrant civil society is a key ingredient for a democratic society. Our institution has played a key role in sustaining the peace and democratic gains in Liberia over the years. To highlight a few achievements, in 2016, the institution established the Young Political Leadership School (YPLS) Africa which has trained some of the most prominent young politicians in Africa and has helped to develop what is best in them; their vision, creative power and drive to make their society an inclusive, sustainable place for themselves and their generation. Over 930 young people from civil society and political parties have benefitted from this program and are playing leading roles in their communities.

In 2017, the institution established a channel for public accountability between political leaders and the citizens called the President Meter Project, (PMP). This initiative is now being used by national and international partners as a tool for political accountability in Liberia. Diplomatic missions accredited near Monrovia (including the United States Embassy, the Swedish Embassy, etc.) along with some international media outlets (including BBC and Aljazeera), and local media institutions have shown strong interest in the reports produced by the PMP and have often referenced those reports when engaging in discourses that border on political accountability in Liberia.

Liberia has made remarkable peace gains, 20 years since the conflict ended and the election of President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai and the peaceful transition from one democratically elected government to another marked an important milestone in the democratic journey of the nation. We applaud all those who played important roles during the process, including citizens who exercised their rights to vote for various elected leaders of their choice.

As we celebrate this festive season, and reconnect with our families, friends, and loved ones, we encourage all Liberians and residents to remain committed to the sustenance of peace, and resilience and join us in celebrating the successes, acknowledging the challenges, and envisioning a better future.

As we turn the page to the next chapter, Naymote remains committed to her mission. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH SWEDEN

### A Grateful Journey: Celebrating Sweden's Transformative Partnership with Naymote

In a tale woven with dedication and empowerment, Naymote and Sweden's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration.

In 2022, Sweden, recognizing the crucial link between sustainable democracy and stability, forged an unprecedented alliance, committing substantial resources to local civil society organizations. This partnership marked a pivotal shift, with Sweden's direct investment breathing life into Naymote's aspirations.

Sweden's unwavering support did not just alter the trajectory of civil society, it propelled Naymote into a pivotal role in Liberia's governance. Evolving into a national capacity-building institute, Naymote became a driving force for political accountability, civic engagement, and youth leadership across West Africa. Sweden's impact radiated as a beacon of hope, touching communities far and wide in Liberia.

Aligned with Naymote's core values, this collaboration was not just about teamwork, it was a shared expedition toward community empowerment and leadership cultivation. With Sweden's backing, Naymote implemented groundbreaking projects, educating and uplifting individuals and grassroots organizations, fostering robust local governance.

The ripple effect of this partnership was not confined to Naymote alone, it echoed in the stories of empowered individuals, the bolstered fabric of civil society, and the resilient communities touched by Sweden's support. Naymote now boasts strengthened institutional capacity, equipped with

uninterrupted power sources, solarized offices, internet connectivity, vehicles, and staff bolstering, enabling impactful, sustained interventions.

As Naymote gazes ahead, guided by democratic principles, confidence brims that Sweden's partnership will remain a cornerstone of their endeavors. Together, they envision a future where today's efforts blossom into a landscape of informed, active citizens shaping Liberia's destiny.

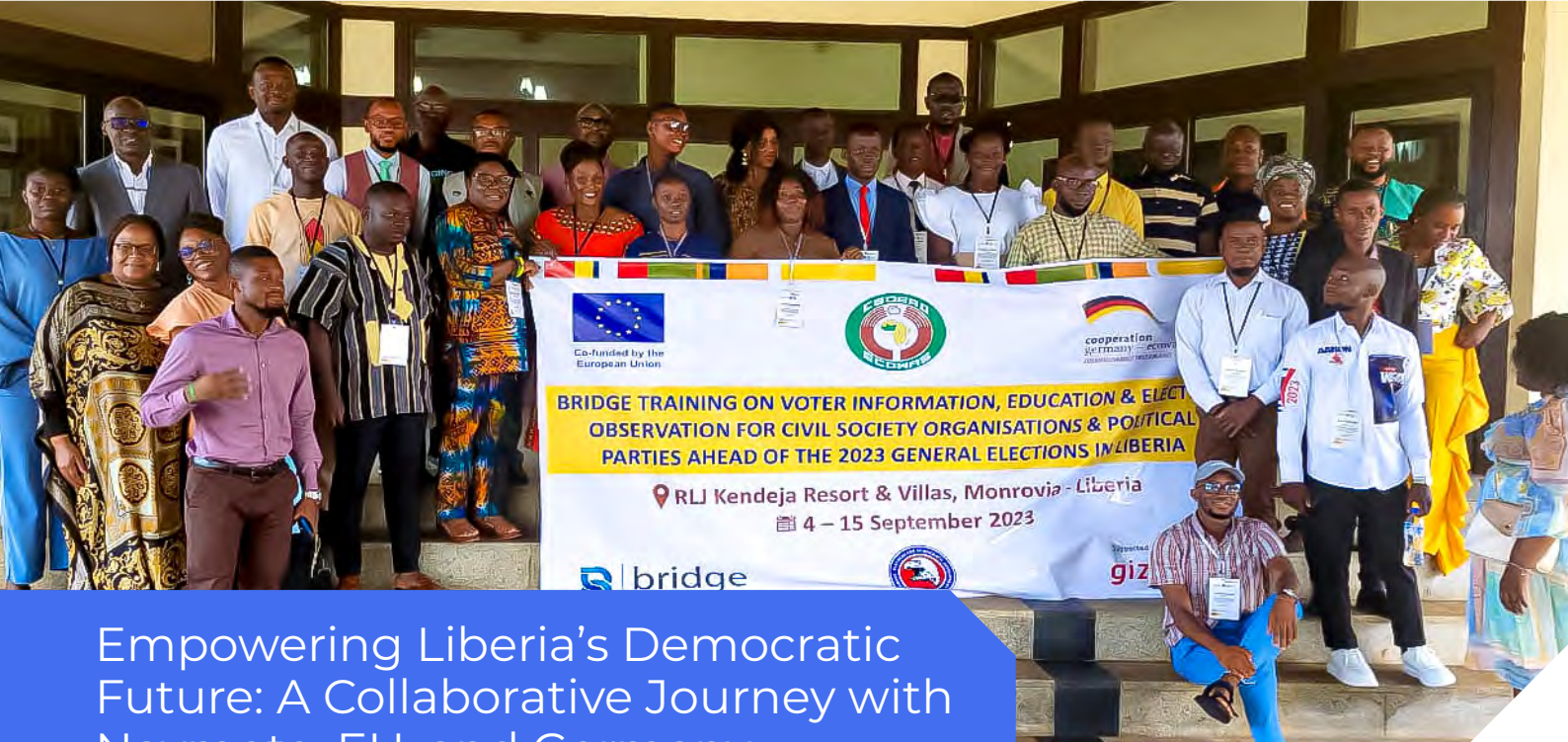
This story embodies Naymote's profound gratitude for Sweden's role as a genuine partner in the pursuit of a more democratic world. It stands as proof of what happens when organizations and nations join forces—an uplifted community destined for generations of empowerment.



# DEMOCRACY, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC SPACE







## Empowering Liberia's Democratic Future: A Collaborative Journey with Naymote, EU, and Germany

In September 2023, Liberia witnessed a historic collaboration between Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, the European Union (EU), and Germany, marking a significant stride in the nation's democratic evolution. Together, they orchestrated two transformative 10-day Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections (BRIDGE) training workshops, strategically tailored for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Political Parties.

Supported by the ECOWAS Peace & Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project, and facilitated by accomplished leaders such as Rindai Chipfunde Vava, Lead Facilitator, Eddie D. Jarwolo, Shamsudeen Aido Yusuf, Linda Adzo Dormekpor, Abu Turay, the workshops empowered 60 participants with essential knowledge in voter education, information, and election observation. Deliberate gender balance and diverse representation ensured a comprehensive understanding of electoral processes among both civil society actors and political party representatives.

The EU and Germany's strategic partnership with Naymote, fueled by the EPSAO Project, addressed critical gaps in civic awareness revealed by Afrobarometer insights. With a focus on Voter Information, Education, and Election Observation, the program complemented the efforts of the National Elections Commission (NEC), preparing stakeholders well in advance for the anticipated 2023 General Elections.

As Liberia geared up for the elections, major election

observation groups like Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) and Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON), along with youth-centric bodies, actively engaged, contributing to the success of the workshops. The EU and Germany recognized the pivotal role of informed civil society and effective political parties in ensuring the credibility and success of the electoral process.

Acknowledging the invaluable support received, Naymote expressed gratitude and leveraged the training's success for further impact. ECC and LEON embarked on cascading the knowledge to 3000 Short Term Observers (STOs), ensuring widespread dissemination of expertise and empowerment.

The EU and Germany applauded the dedication of stakeholders, recognizing their unified drive to bolster voter education and election observation. Looking back on Liberia's journey, the initiative was not just a milestone but a cornerstone paving the way toward a stronger, more resilient democratic future.

This collaborative effort, captured in the annual report, stands as a testament to the transformative power of partnership and education in shaping Liberia's democratic landscape.





## Empowering grassroots democracy advancement and Leadership



As the shadow of backsliding democracy looms over West Africa with the haunting echo of military coups, Naymote stepped forward, pioneering change through empowerment.

The Liberia Emerging Political Leaders Training of the Elections and Democracy Activity, (EDA) unfolded as a powerful narrative woven with the aspiration of 1,014 young community leaders, aged between 15 and 29. These leaders nurtured through 40 dedicated training sessions, emerged not just as individuals but as catalysts of profound transformation.

Among them, nearly half were women, adding a crucial dimension to the fabric of change. They were armed not just with knowledge but with an unyielding commitment to advocate, to lead, and to empower their communities.

The impact rippled far beyond the confines of classrooms and seminars. These democracy ambassadors became the beating heart of their neighborhoods, enacting change through initiatives that echoed the essence of inclusive governance. Their voices resonated through the corridors of decision-making, championing the principles of democracy, and shaping inclusive community

policies. They were not just students but were architects of a new era.

The crescendo of their influence crescendoed during Liberia's legislative and presidential elections. With fervor and dedication, these ambassadors orchestrated a symphony of civic engagement that reached 150,000 registered voters, painting the canvas of the country with hues of awareness. They dismantled barriers, educating citizens on the nuances of the electoral process and fueling unprecedented voter turnout, etching a new chapter in Liberian history.

The testimonials echoed the transformative power of knowledge and empowerment. Oretha Tenway, a young community leader from Margibi County, reflected on the challenges and triumphs: "The Civic Voter Education, (CVE) was a challenging exercise, but it was a great experience as we educated people on the electoral process. Thanks to Naymote for providing us with the opportunity." Isaac Foley, a young community leader from Montserrado County, spoke of a personal transformation, "Since I attended the training, my approach has changed. I am now excited about joining other youth to positively impact our community." Yet, Naymote's endeavors did not halt at training sessions.







## Naymote's Contribution to Ensuring Free, Fair and Conflict-Free 2023 Elections in Liberia: Key Highlights

Under the Advancing Democracy and Inclusive Governance in Liberia Project with support from the National Endowment for Democracy.

### Youth Elections Fellows Program Impact:

**Empowerment of Youth:** 33 young Liberians honed their political and societal acumen during a 10-week fellowship program, fostering a deeper understanding of democratic values and civic responsibilities.

**Political Party Engagement:** Many fellows assumed pivotal roles within political parties, such as Jethro Harris, who chairs the National Youth Manifesto Steering Committee and was a youth leader within the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), where he played a leading role for the CPP during the elections and Printiss T.K. Domah as campaign fellow and Chair of the Unity Party Youth Chair in Nimba County, contributed to the election of the newly elected President Joseph Nyumah Boakia, Sr etc.

**Enhanced Awareness:** Exposure to United States Black History Month and prominent figures like Kamala Harris, Clarence Thomas and Ilhan Omar broadened perspectives, enriching their understanding of democratic principles.

### National Youth Manifesto Impact:

**Youth Representation:** 75 leaders contributed to and ratified a National Youth Manifesto, reflecting the concerns of young voters. This manifesto influenced political leaders and parties, ensuring

youth-centric agendas in political campaigns and governance.

**Decentralized Engagement:** 14 counties participated in town hall meetings, fostering inclusivity and ensuring diverse voices in shaping the national agenda.

**Continued Advocacy:** A dedicated steering committee sustained awareness and campaigned for youth-oriented issues, ensuring their prominence beyond elections.

### Civic Engagement Impact

**Informing the Electorate:** Alumni of the Young Political Leadership School Africa, (YPLS Africa) engaged citizens, especially first-time voters, through educational sessions across five populous counties, empowering over 55% of registered young voters to participate knowledgeably in the electoral process.







**Community Mobilization:** Outreach in schools, marketplaces, and public spaces reached thousands, amplifying voter registration and civic responsibility awareness.

### Democracy Enhancement by Radio and Social Media Impact

**Information Dissemination:** Weekly radio talk shows on OK FM and Radio Gbarnga educated Liberians on democracy, governance, and local government matters, fostering informed citizenship.

**Social Media Leverage:** Platforms like Facebook and dedicated websites served as hubs for information dissemination, engaging over 23k followers collectively and facilitating transparency and awareness.

### Institutional Strengthening Impact

**Enhanced Governance:** Board reconstitution and policy development fortified Naymote's governance structure, promoting diverse expertise and streamlined operations.

**Operational Efficiency:** Development of policy documents and recruitment of dedicated professionals, such as a human resource officer, national gender coordinator, procurement officer and media and communication officer, optimized organizational effectiveness and accountability.

In summary, Naymote's multifaceted approach has not only empowered the youth but also orchestrated a comprehensive movement toward informed citizenship, youth representation, and institutional robustness. Their efforts have rippled through political parties, grassroots communities, and media channels, imprinting the essence of democracy and civic engagement across Liberia.







## Safeguarding Civic Space: A Collaborative Endeavor in Liberia

In June 2023, the Sinkor Palace Hotel in Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, served as the backdrop for a pivotal event – the “National Civil Society Consultative Meeting on Closing Civic Space in Liberia Ahead of the 2023 Legislative and Presidential Elections.” Co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office, and expertly coordinated by Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, this two-day conference aimed to address the challenges faced by civil society organizations in the context of a shrinking civic space.

The gathering, attended by 70 delegates from various sectors across Liberia, including heads of Civil Society Organizations, representatives from women’s groups, and organizations supporting the disabled, facilitated in-depth discussions on the current state of the country’s civic space. The thematic sections covered emerging issues, legal and regulatory frameworks, technology and new media, and strategies to counteract the shrinking civic space.

Structured around a blend of panel presentations by subject matter experts, plenary discussions encouraging open and diverse conversations, and group sessions refining narratives and perspectives, the conference provided a comprehensive platform for participants to engage fully.

Eddie D. Jarwolo, the Executive Director of Naymote, expressed gratitude to the participants, emphasizing the success of the conference. Looking ahead, he stressed the importance of ongoing engagement with partners to protect the civic space and build the



capacity of other CSOs for a unified voice. In his closing remarks, he thanked key collaborators, including the National CSO Council, ECC, LEON, and the Embassy of Germany in Liberia. Special recognition was also given to Dr. Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei, the facilitator, for his generosity and commitment to civil society.

The culmination of the conference was marked by the development and adoption of a communique by the delegates, outlining measures to safeguard civil society engagement during and after the 2023 elections. The event not only fostered collaboration among diverse stakeholders but also laid the foundation for a concerted effort to protect and expand the civic space in Liberia.

The “Safeguarding Civic Space: A Collaborative Endeavor in Liberia” conference not only served as a crucial forum for addressing challenges faced by civil society organizations but also forged partnerships and strategies essential for the protection and enhancement of civic space in the lead-up to the 2023 Legislative and Presidential Elections.

## In Honor of Carl Gershman: A Champion for Democracy

The Carl Gershman Democracy Lecture Forum is a platform created in 2019 by an Alumnus (Eddie D. Jarwolo) of the prestigious Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program in Washington DC to honor Carl Gershman's thirty-seven years of service as President of the National Endowment for Democracy who served from (1983-2021).

One thousand and five hundred, (1,500) young Liberians in politics and civil society have directly benefited from the Carl Gershman Democracy Lecture Forum. The Forum is held quarterly with diverse young people to inspire them to be committed to the principles of democracy, and understand their roles and responsibilities in a democratic society – as a sure hope to help them grow and adhere to democratic values, norms, and ideas for the common good of Liberia when they excel to leadership positions.

Several diplomats, experts, and young leaders lectured at the Forum, including the ambassador of Sweden in Liberia shared the amazing journey of the Swedish's democracy and the Sweden's drive toward



democracy, and the Ambassador of the United States of America spoke about the relationship between America and Liberia, the contributions to enhance democracy in Liberia as well as the Ambassador of the United Kingdom who spoke about the system of government, the UK role in advancing democracy in Liberia, etc.

As part of its achievement, the program facilitated inclusive discussions, transcending political and societal divides; young leaders and activists from various sectors actively contributed to the vibrant discourses; and speakers at all of the editions added depth and insight to elevate the forum's impact. The program focused on sharing insights and expertise to enhance participants' understanding of democratic principles, provided a unique space for networking and collaboration amongst emerging leaders, and motivated participants through thought-provoking discussions, inspiring them to contribute to positive societal change.

The legacy of the "Carl Gershman Democracy Lecture Forum" lies in its role as a catalyst for informed conversations and cross-sector collaboration. Looking ahead, the vision is to continue fostering a community of engaged and empowered individuals, creating a ripple effect of positive change in the realms of politics, civil society, and beyond, and making sure that the legacy of CARL lives on and his dream to defend democracy lives on.

The program is making a noteworthy impact in the lives of young people in Liberia, this is evidenced by several beneficiaries' testimonies about the program.



**The Democracy Lecture Forum has actually helped me to understand the principles of democracy and I am using the knowledge to demand more accountability and transparency from my district representative**

*Diamond George Kamu, YPLS Africa Fellow*

**The forum has taught me a lot about the principles of rule of law, human rights, and the importance of citizens' participation, and I am contributing positively to my county. I wish other young people in my county can have access to these kinds of engagements so that their minds can be transformed**

*Hilary B. T. Tailey, Grand Gedeh County*

**The Democracy Lecture Forum experience has been very inspiring, educative, and transformative. As a youth leader in my community, I no longer discuss issues unprofessionally. I'm tolerant of the opinion of others.**

*Abu Kamara, Chairman, Federation of Banjor Youth*

“  
**As a young woman, the Democracy Lecture Forum has deepened my understanding of political tolerance, rule of law and equality. It has broadened my knowledge to be a good leader and I am serving my community effectively**

*Hope Korpo Freeman, Freshman Class President, United Methodist University*  
”

“  
**This forum has changed my perspective on issues. As a result of my participation, I now engage political issues with tolerance**

*David Q. Nagbe, Spokesperson, Youth Wing, Council of Patriots.*  
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## Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: The Impactful Journey of the YPLS Africa

In the heart of Africa, where the winds of change blow strong and democracy seeks firm roots, the Young Political Leadership School Africa (YPLS Africa) stands as a beacon of hope and transformation. Since its inception in 2016, the school has been instrumental in shaping a new narrative for the continent by empowering young men and women with the skills and knowledge needed to drive positive change in their countries.

### A Legacy of Leadership:

The success stories emerging from the YPLS Africa are a testament to its commitment to nurturing a new generation of leaders. Alumni of the program have not only assumed leadership roles in civil society organizations but have also stepped onto the political stage, effecting change at both grassroots and national levels.

In the recent 2023 legislative election in Liberia, 12 YPLS Africa alumni, comprising 4 females and 8 males, boldly contested for seats, showcasing the program's impact. Beyond Liberia, the influence

of YPLS Africa resonates, with graduates winning positions such as Assistant Mayor in Namibia and securing seats in Local Assembly Election in Ghana.

### A Network of Changemakers:

The YPLS Africa is not just a training ground; it is a network of change-makers actively contributing to political and electoral activities. The alumni, now numbering 930, are involved in diverse roles, from serving as junior ministers in the Liberian Government to actively engaging in electoral and political initiatives across West Africa.

The program's commitment to gender equality is evident, with about 45% female representation of the 930 alumni. Additionally, the Women Campaign Fellows program established by alumnae, supported 80 female candidates during the 2023 election and played a crucial role in supporting and empowering women to actively participate in the democratic process.

### Beyond Borders:

YPLS Africa's impact extends beyond national borders. The program has successfully trained over 930 young leaders from nine African countries, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration. The sessions, facilitated by national and international experts, have equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to champion civic engagement, gender equality, and peace-building in their communities.







## Navigating the Halls of Democracy in Liberia

In the heart of Liberia's political landscape, the Legislative Digest embarked on a mission throughout 2022 to unravel the intricacies of the Legislature. With a commitment to transparency, openness, and accountability, our journey aimed to shed light on the inner workings of the legislative machinery.

The Legislature, a crucial pillar of governance, unfolded its story through 167 sittings in 2022. Regular sessions dominated, comprising 63%, while secret/executive sessions, special sittings, and extraordinary sessions added depth to the narrative. Public hearings, numbering 29, emerged as pivotal moments, offering a glimpse into the legislature's engagement with the public through hearings and petitions.

Legislation, the lifeblood of governance, witnessed the birth of 53 bills during the year 2022. A closer look at their origin revealed a landscape where 66% emanated from the Executive, 23% from the House of Representatives, and 11% from the Senate, shaping the legislative agenda.

### Financial Fortunes

Fiscal support to the Legislature witnessed a significant surge. The National Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 allocated a robust USD 64,383,926.00, marking a commendable 44.34% increase from the previous fiscal year. Notably, the transition to a calendar-year-based fiscal cycle symbolized a new era for financial management.

However, a shadow loomed over this financial

largesse. A staggering US\$228,666,183.00 found its way into the national budget from 2018-2022 for the Legislature, sans audits—a stark revelation of financial management in need of scrutiny.

### The Transparency Conundrum

Armed with financial backing, the Legislature faced scrutiny for its transparency. Despite generous funding, the absence of regular publications or an official website painted a picture of opacity. The assessment revealed an alarming lack of voting records, leaving citizens in the dark about their representatives' legislative decisions.

Furthermore, the oversight function appeared compromised, with ministries and agencies neglecting to submit reports since 2018. This raised questions about the Legislature's role in holding the Executive branch accountable.





### **The Catalyst: Legislative Digest's Impact**

Amidst these challenges, a glimmer of hope emerged through the Legislative Digest. The inaugural publication ignited public interest and triggered a clamor for openness in legislative proceedings. Continuous engagement and subsequent publications fueled public pressure, leading to a notable reduction in secret sessions.

In a groundbreaking move, the Liberian Senate responded to the call for accountability. Voting counts and open sessions became the norm—a positive shift in the right direction. This transformation was made possible through the Democracy Advancement Program, generously funded by Sweden.

### **The Ripple Effect**

The impact of our efforts rippled through the political landscape. Town hall meetings, utilizing reports from the President Meter and Legislative Monitoring, became platforms to inform citizens about elected officials' performance. The outcome was seismic, with over 50 members facing rejection—a testament to citizens rejecting both representatives and the status quo.

As we reflect on this transformative journey, the Legislative Digest remains committed to steering Liberia towards legislative openness, responsiveness, and accountability. The pages of this annual report echo the challenges faced, victories achieved, and the road ahead—a roadmap for a democratic future.







## Empowering Communities: Naymote's Role in Liberia's Decentralization Journey

In 2018, Liberia marked a pivotal moment in its governance history with the passage of the Local Government Act (LGA). Naymote, a dynamic institution deeply committed to the nation's progress, embraced the opportunity to actively engage in the decentralization process that followed.

Across Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, and Nimba counties, Naymote spearheaded an extensive campaign, conducting 36 town hall meetings. Traditional leaders, local government officials, health and school administrators, as well as representatives from youth and women groups, gathered to unravel the intricacies of the LGA. These sessions, attended by 1,800 local stakeholders, served as platforms for illuminating discussions on the act's mandates, the emergence of County Councils, and the potential benefits for communities.

To enhance understanding, Naymote produced 1,000 copies of a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions document and 500 booklets specifically focused on the LGA. These resources became invaluable tools, distributed strategically during town hall meetings to empower citizens with knowledge and garner their support.

Jefferson Gbaryan, the Bong County Service Center Coordinator, shared insights at one of these events. He acknowledged the significant contribution the service centres made to national revenue but pointed to challenges. These included poor coordination between government entities, limited budgetary support, and suboptimal service delivery, leading citizens to incur additional costs.

Despite challenges, Service Centers across the nation positively impacted service delivery, social cohesion,

and resource mobilization, having served over 800,000 citizens. Naymote recognised the need for collaboration with civil society to hold the government accountable, leading to a pivotal moment on July 14, 2022. The Revenue Sharing Bill, endorsed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, empowering sub-national structures to collect and retain portions of revenues generated at county level. This is a key milestone for Liberia as the country's path to sustained development must include improved delivery of services to people at the local level – in their districts and communities.

Simultaneously, the government established County Councils, a nine-member body with significant powers. Comprising representatives from Chiefs, Women's groups, Civil Society, youth groups, and People Living with Disabilities (PWDs), this council marked a new era in local governance. Naymote, having played a crucial role in advocacy and awareness, now looks ahead to ensuring the full implementation of these structures, emphasizing accountability, transparency, and value for money.

In Bong County, Naymote took a proactive step by establishing the County Accountability and Advocacy Team (CAAT). This team focuses on raising awareness about the management of the County Social Development Funds (CSDF) and actively collects citizens' feedback on the effectiveness of services at the County Service Center.

As we reflect on Naymote's journey in this decentralization narrative, it becomes clear that the institution's unwavering commitment to empowering communities has been instrumental in shaping Liberia's path towards local governance and development.





## Naymote's President Meter Project: A Five-Year Journey of Accountability and Civic Engagement

In 2017, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development embarked on a groundbreaking venture, the President Meter Project (PMP), aimed at fortifying the social contract between Liberia's elected president and its citizens. This innovative initiative stood as a beacon of hope, fostering political accountability by meticulously assessing the implementation of promises made by President George M. Weah and his party over a five-year period (2018-2022).

Throughout this journey, Naymote meticulously tracked and cataloged a total of 292 promises. However, the report card unveiled a mixed landscape: only 8% of these promises were wholeheartedly fulfilled by the government, while a substantial 31% were in the pipeline, undergoing active pursuit. This concerted effort accounted for a commendable 39% of promises showing progress. Alas, the remaining 61%—a staggering 177 promises—languished in the realm of 'Not started/not rated', with no visible government action or available status updates.

Despite these statistics, the impact of the PMP reverberated through the corridors of power and within the hearts of the Liberian populace. Citizens, armed with the insightful reports generated by the PMP, galvanized their voices, demanding greater public goods and services from the Government. This groundswell of civic engagement led to a historic allocation of an additional US\$ 26.4 million in the national budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023, specifically designated under the Special Development Services Sector to honour President Weah's pledges.

However, amidst these commendable strides, Naymote remained vigilant, refraining from affirming whether these allocated funds were effectively channelled

towards their intended purposes.

A heartening revelation emerged from the grassroots as communities engaged in diverse town hall meetings harnessed the knowledge and skills acquired through the PMP. Empowered with information, they held their leaders accountable during meetings with elected officials within their localities—a testament to the project's tangible impact on grassroots governance.

Beyond the national borders, the PMP garnered international acclaim, becoming a pivotal instrument for political accountability. Diplomatic missions, including the US Embassy and the Swedish Embassy, as well as esteemed international media outlets like BBC and Aljazeera, gravitated towards the PMP reports. These documents became pivotal references in discussions revolving around political accountability in Liberia.

The ripple effect of the PMP extended to sixteen impactful town hall meetings across five program counties—Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa. These gatherings fostered vibrant interactions among diverse stakeholders, including citizens, government representatives, political factions, civil society organisations, youth and women's groups, the media, local leaders, and individuals with disabilities. An impressive 862 participants, comprising 56% males and 44% females, actively contributed their voices across these project counties.

Naymote's President Meter Project, a catalyst for citizen empowerment and governmental transparency, stood as a testament to the power of collective engagement in upholding democratic ideals and fostering socio-political progress in Liberia.



# Media Engagement



In the midst of the series of fake news and to provide accurate and timely information, Naymote established “Democracy by Radio,” a platform that resonated across the airwaves, reaching into the homes and hearts of Liberians. Five radio stations broadcasted messages of democracy, accountability, and transparency, birthing a chorus of informed citizens. These shows were not just broadcasts; they were conduits of enlightenment, dissecting government policies, performance evaluations, and holding elected officials accountable.

These broadcasts were not merely informative, they were pivotal during the 2023 elections. They became the battleground where ideas clashed, where candidates, especially women and youth, found a voice amidst the political cacophony. Democracy by Radio stood resilient, disrupting the partisan

narratives that threatened to engulf the media landscape. It was not just a show; it was the pulse of an informed electorate, ensuring that the media remained a bastion of truth.

In a landscape where misinformation lurked, where polarization threatened to divide, Naymote stood tall, providing a lighthouse of accurate information and fostering a culture of political tolerance among the youth. Through their initiatives, they did not just nurture leaders; they fortified the very foundations of a democratic society, creating a legacy that echoes through the halls of Liberian governance.



# RESULT-DRIVEN IMPACT STORIES





## Empowering Communities for Lasting Peace: Ma. Oretha's Journey with Naymote



In the heart of Sehi-Gei Community, Nimba County, Ma. Oretha, a resilient woman with visual impairment, stands as a testament to the transformative impact of Naymote's "Peace Dividends" project. Her journey, intertwined with Naymote's initiatives, reflects the strides made in fostering peace, community cohesion, and economic empowerment.

Ma. Oretha's story began with Naymote's support, extending beyond traditional aid programs. Embracing the opportunity, she actively participated in Learning Squared's small business management training, laying the foundation for her flourishing enterprise. Naymote's presence in the community catalyzed a broader transformation, integrating Ma. Oretha into the social fabric and affirming her sense of belonging.

Naymote's approach went beyond providing aid; it fostered community integration. Empowering marginalized groups like Ma. Oretha's, the project sparked a collective movement toward lasting peace. Women and youth found their voices amplified, becoming pivotal pillars in steering their communities toward harmony.

The ripple effect of empowerment reached far and wide, thanks to Naymote's multifaceted approach—from training sessions to social cohesion dialogues and economic support, uplifting communities and nurturing an environment conducive to sustainable peace.

Ma. Oretha's journey mirrors the transformative power of initiatives focused on nurturing self-sufficiency and community engagement. Her story symbolizes the collective strides toward fostering peace, resilience, and unity in the heart of Nimba County.

Naymote's initiative built upon prior interventions, notably the "Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement" initiatives. The journey from the 2020 national conference to the recent grant period's implementation (April 8, 2022, to February 20, 2023) has been impactful, consolidating efforts for lasting change.

The project's multifaceted approach included establishing County Steering Committees, hosting town hall meetings, conducting capacity-building training for community leaders, organizing community outreach events, and empowering marginalized communities.

Community engagement and dialogues played a pivotal role, with 12 town hall meetings and 24 community outreach events directly reaching over 1,200 community residents. Media advocacy and plan dissemination amplified impact, ensuring widespread awareness and citizen engagement with the County Peace and Reconciliation Plan.

Empowering women and youth groups through economic initiatives, Naymote provided microfinance loans and training to 100 beneficiaries, catalyzing positive transformation and creating peace ambassadors within communities.

Despite challenges, including logistical issues and rising costs, Naymote's collaboration with local actors and County Steering Committees proved instrumental. The project highlighted the power of community-driven initiatives and the importance of empowering local groups, combining economic empowerment with peace education for sustainable change.

As Naymote's journey in Liberia continues, its legacy of community-driven peace initiatives serves as a blueprint for lasting change and a peaceful future. The strides made in empowering marginalized communities, fostering dialogue, and promoting social cohesion stand as a testament to the transformative power of grassroots engagement.





## Creating More Political Spaces for Women in Liberia: Naymote's Contribution

In 2022, the landscape of Liberia's legislature painted a stark picture: men comprised a staggering 91% of its members, leaving only a mere 9% representation for women. Determined to reshape this narrative, Naymote and UN Women Liberia set their sights on fervently galvanizing citizens to amplify women's presence in the Liberian Legislature.

Fast forward to the 2023 presidential and legislative elections: a monumental shift emerged. With over 2.4 million registered voters, women constituted a substantial 48% of the voting populace. A total of 1,026 candidates contested—159 of whom were women, marking 15%, while men accounted for 85%.

Amidst this transformative election, a collective contribution of Naymote and others relentless endeavors bore fruit: 9 women secured legislative seats (8 in the House of Representatives and 1 in the Senate). While seemingly modest, these victories echoed the resolute spirit of women striving to dismantle barriers.

Naymote initiated an array of innovative programs, a testament to their commitment to bolstering women's political participation. Their initiatives aimed to rally grassroots support, fortify mentorship, and empower aspiring women leaders.

Over 225 young women leaders immersed themselves in Naymote's "Promoting Inclusive Women Participation and Elimination of Violence against Women in Elections" project. Among them, two aspirants contested seats in the 2023 Legislative election within their electoral districts.

Moreover, Naymote's Women Campaign Fellows Program, engaging 25 young women leaders, became the incubator for practical skills in campaign planning and organizing. These dynamic fellows contributed actively to various initiatives, from orchestrating training for women poll watchers to curating radio shows and leveraging social media to amplify the work of female candidates.

The ripple effect spread wider as 150 young women spearheaded a campaign across Liberia's 15 counties advocating for the Violence Against Women in Elections Protocol (VAWiE PROTOCOL). Preceded by exhaustive training sessions encompassing







stakeholders like the Liberia National Police, National Elections Commission magistrates, Ministry of Gender Coordinators, traditional leaders, and others, this mobilization aimed to ensure women's safe participation in politics.

The impact resonated profoundly. Sulevee S. Momolu, a NAYMOTE mentee from Maryland County, affirmed the project's impact in educating communities: "We have learned so much about this VAWiE Protocol and we are ready to move... using media in Maryland to educate our people."

Naymote's footprint extended to massive voter turnouts across three counties, thanks to extensive civic and voter education training. First-time voters, 446 in number, were equipped with critical knowledge of their civic duties. Schools like "Our Lady of Fatima High School" engaged in proactive electoral awareness, a direct result of Naymote's two-day capacity-building training for first-time voters.

The transformative effect of Naymote's initiatives transcended electoral education. Women-led peacebuilding networks in River Gee and Maryland Counties championed community awareness programs, training 47 women in mediation, negotiation, and transformative leadership. Their actions spoke volumes—they became agents of peace in their communities.

This cascade of change was further amplified in a political advocacy dialogue where over 50 individuals pledged to safeguard women's political participation. With representatives from various sectors, discussions centered on the VAWiE Protocol, preventive measures against violence, and the collective responsibility to ensure its full implementation.

In a country where democracy's vibrancy hinges on equal opportunities, Naymote's tireless efforts, coupled with community-driven initiatives, are illuminating pathways for gender parity in Liberia's political sphere. The strides made serve as a clarion call—a call for equality, representation, and a resounding "yes" to peace, unity, and inclusive democracy.



## Empowering Liberia's Health Advocates: Naymote's Impactful Civil Society Activity

In the face of Liberia's challenging healthcare system and limited health accountability framework, Naymote has emerged as a catalyst for positive change. Through the Liberia Civil Society Activity (CSA), Naymote has been a driving force in empowering and building the capacity of nine civil society organizations (CSOs) Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL), Humanity Above Oneself Foundation (HAOSF), Volunteers United for Development (VUD), Institute for Policy Evaluation and Research (IPER), Rural Human Rights Activists Programme (RHRAP), Efficient Research and Development Institute (ERDI), Community Health Education & Social Services (CHESS), Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD) and Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO) operating in the health sector across Montserrado, Nimba, and Lofa counties.

The CSA, designed to strengthen Liberian CSOs, aims to enhance their communication with supporters, active participation in decision-making processes, and oversight of governmental actions. Naymote's comprehensive approach focuses on building the capacity of CSOs to advocate for policy reforms, policy implementation, and improved service delivery through multi-stakeholder coalitions.

Naymote's transformative initiatives have empowered health CSO partners, including organizations such as Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL), Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS-Liberia), the Institute for Policy Evaluation and Research (IPER), Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), and Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO). The capacity-building support

provided under the project enabled these partners to engage in robust advocacy efforts, addressing issues such as the Integration of Citizen Charters for Health Facility Development Committees, Drug Stock-out Mapping, and Supply-Chain Management Advocacy.

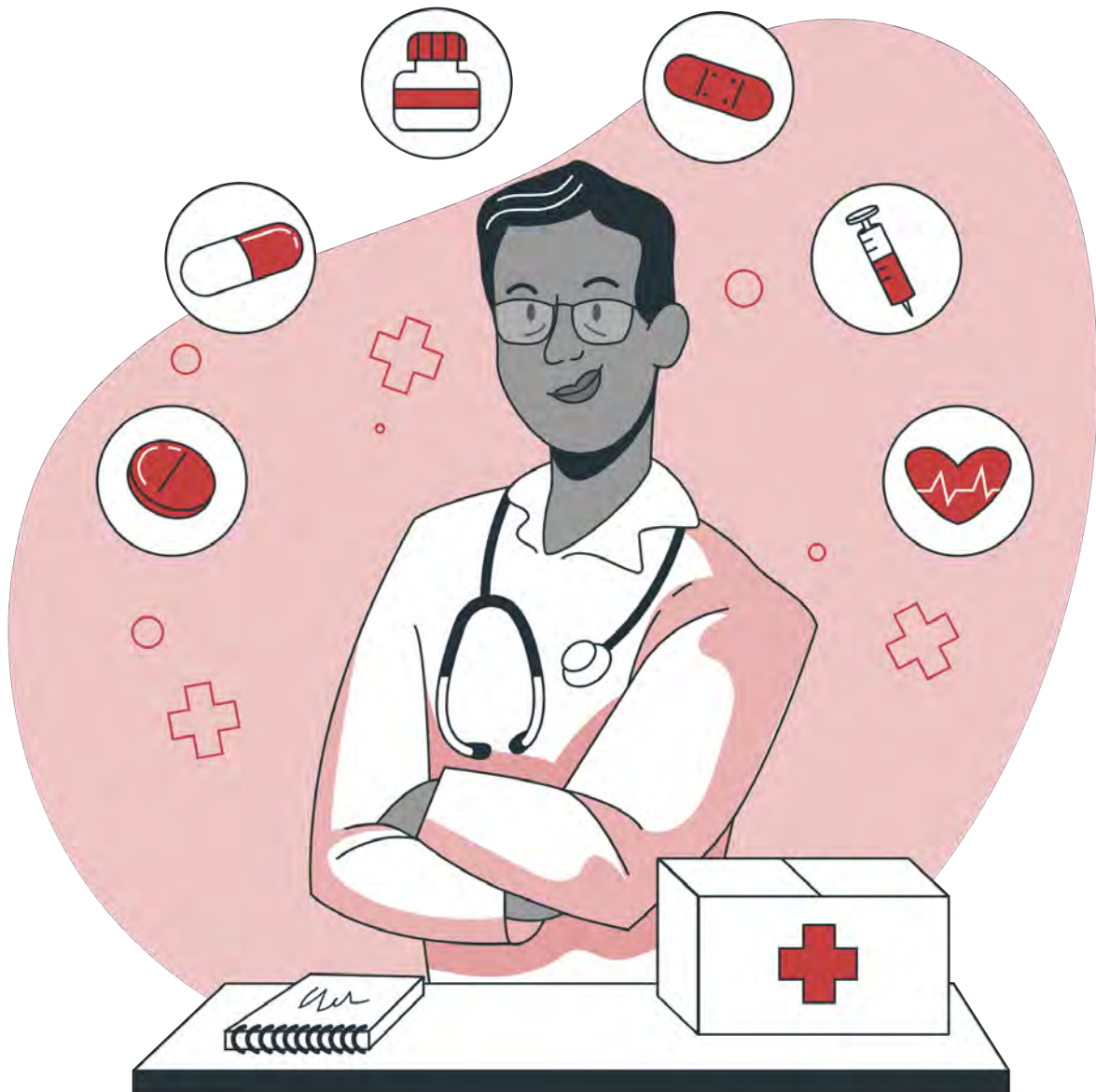
Through a strategic blend of capacity training and mentorship, Naymote has cultivated a culture of informed advocacy and policy engagement among health coalitions. Mrs. Lisa T. Zayzay, M&E Officer at YOUNETPO, expressed gratitude for the impactful training on issue-based advocacy, highlighting the deeper insights gained that will drive vigorous policy reform advocacy within their communities.

The institution's commitment to bridging gaps and empowering health coalition partners is evident in the various training sessions conducted. Mrs. Zayzay's testimonial reflects the added knowledge and enhanced insights obtained, emphasizing the determination to advocate for policy reform in the health sector, also Leo M. Tiah, Executive Director of YOUNETPO, praised Naymote's exceptional capacity-building training in social research, advocacy, and communication.

Testimonials from partners such as James B. Kollie, Program Director at the Institute for Policy Evaluation and Research (IPER), and Mariyatu A. Jabateh, Project Manager at the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), underscore the significant impact of Naymote's mentorship and support.



In summary, Naymote’s CSA has been instrumental in fortifying Liberia’s health advocacy landscape. The combination of capacity training, mentorship, and strategic support has empowered CSOs to effectively advocate for policy reforms, ultimately contributing to improved public health outcomes across the nation. This success story is a testament to Naymote’s commitment to fostering positive change and resilience within Liberia’s healthcare system.



# PEACE DIVIDENDS PROJECT







## The Peace Dividends Project Story

Once upon a time, in the heart of Liberia, a mission to sow the seeds of peace began. It was the Peace Dividends Project, a tale woven by Naymote Partners for Democratic Development and the United Nations Development Programme. Their mission: is to deliver harmony and unity across Liberia.

The story began with a past of interventions, where Naymote, in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, laid the groundwork for peace. They held dialogues in communities, districts, and counties. A grand conference in 2020 united 15 counties to craft a peace plan, a beacon of hope, presented to President, George Manneh Weah as a national policy document.

From April 8, 2022, to February 20, 2023, this tale unfolded. Committees sprouted in Lofa and Nimba Counties, rallying communities behind the project. Town hall meetings echoed with voices of 200 leaders, trained in non-violence and conflict resolution. Their aim is to nurture peace within their communities.

Twelve town hall meetings stirred policy briefs, shedding light on the pulse of the people. Six marginalized communities were embraced, and given wings to fly through capacity-building for 200 leaders. These leaders, embodiments of resilience, brought forth 24 outreach events, uniting hearts in conflict-prone communities.

Small businesses flourished, not just for profit but as torchbearers of peace. A hundred beneficiaries, mostly women and youth, became ambassadors of tranquility. Media echoed their messages, amplifying

peace across the airwaves.

The project did not stop at economic empowerment. It rooted itself in the community soil, empowering groups to hold meetings and clean-up campaigns. Women in Voinjama City united under the banner of "Women Empowerment for Peace," holding hands, and spreading the gospel of unity in every corner.

This journey was not just about actions; it was a journey of enlightenment. Through dialogues, they unearthed grievances, penned policy briefs, and united voices toward peace.

Media became their ally, echoing their calls for a peaceful election, and calming storms that could brew. But this journey was not without its hurdles. The roads to Lofa County were tough, echoing the trials faced. Yet, the project learned, adapted, and grew stronger. Through collaboration with local actors, through the empowerment of women and youth, it found strength.

Lessons were etched in every challenge. The power of local leaders, the essence of community-led initiatives, the magic of economic empowerment—they were the stepping stones to peace.

As the project concluded its chapter, the legacy it left was not just in numbers or activities completed. It was in the hearts that beat for peace, in the voices that resonated with unity, and in the communities that thrived in harmony. Peace was no longer a distant dream but a reality nurtured by the hands of those who believed.


# STATISTICS



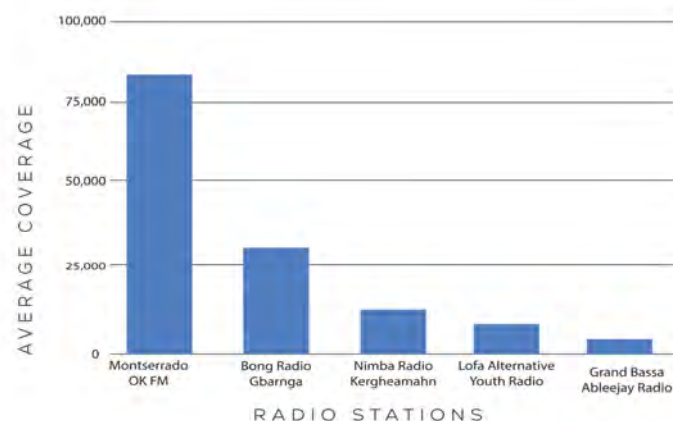
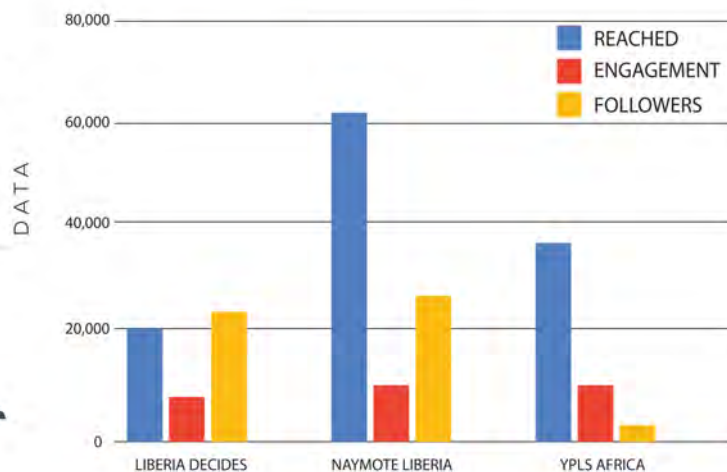




# COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICS ON NAYMOTE'S ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES	<div>  </div>		
	People Reached	Men	Women
EDA	150,000	75,799	74,201
YPLS AFRICA	50,000	22,500	27,500
WOMEN FELLOWS	5,000	3,600	1,400
UN WOMEN	593	343	250
UNDP	840	633	207
PMP	1,012	445	567
<b>Total:</b>	<b>207,445</b>	<b>103,320</b>	<b>104,125</b>

## Social Media Engagement



# 2023 Gallery









# DONOR & PARTNERS







