

# Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL)



## 2011 Annual Activities Report

*January 2011-December 2011*



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## 1.1 Introduction

The Citizens United to Promote Peace & Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) INC is a pro-democracy, peace building, policy and development advocacy civil society organization. The CUPPADL started working in Liberia since 2003 and later obtained Incorporation document November 9, 2005 and certificate of accreditation from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs in 2009.

After several years of active work in the health sector of Liberia, in the area of preventive services through creating awareness, advocacy and sensitization and as the result of hard work, commitment to service, professionalism, delegation, the CUPPADL was also accredited/certificated by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as a local nongovernmental organization to render health services in the health sector of Liberia with specific focus on awareness creation and advocacy.

Since 2003, the CUPPADL has been holding advocacy intervention with main focus on building Liberia new democracy, promoting peace, security, human rights and national development. CUPPADL advocacy in 2011 specifically focus on international and national development agendas and policies frameworks such as Millennium Development Goals, the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy I etc. Particularly, for the MDGs emphasis was on goal 7 while for the PRS I main focus was on all the four pillars.

This CUPPADL 2011 activities report will give its readers, partners and donors and the Liberia people detail account of activities done in 2011, strategies employed, challenges, lesson learnt, partners work with, target groups and beneficiaries, political sub divisions intervened in, number of beneficiaries, achievement, total revenue intake and donor contribution to revenue etc.

## **2.1 Forward Note**

Liberia got independence July 26, 1847, since this period, the country experienced several wars, ranging from civil, economic, social, political, religious and ethnic. The latest was the civil war from 1989-2003, following this war in 2003, Liberia's post war democratic government was elected headed by Africa first democratically elected female president, Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Little over seven years after the war (2003-2011), Liberia is recovering from its effect with help from the international community.

Many critics of the war blame it on bad governance including poor fiscal management, economic and political exclusion and social inequalities, corruption, poor justice system, close government and lack of respect for basic human rights and participation especially rural dwellers participation in decision making, centralized system of governance and resource distribution etc.

Following the end of the war, the 1<sup>st</sup> post war government of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf upon taking office January 2006 in consultation with the people of Liberia and development partners derived Liberia's Post War Development agenda the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS I). The document was lay down as vehicle for the country to achieve the MDGs. The PRS is made under four principles/pillars including consolidating peace and security, revitalizing the economy; strengthening governance and the rule of law and rehabilitating infrastructure and delivering basic social services.

So far the government and development partners have been able to source, commit and expand resources for projects aim at meeting MDGs and PRS I. policies have been developed, system set-up but the challenge has been implementation and corruption remain serious constraint for resources to translate into visible impact, civil society engagement as independent monitor to guarantee transparency and accountability in the implementation of projects, the expenditure of finances and policy enforcement and implementation is vital to the attainment of Liberia development agenda.

It is against this background plus others that the CUPPADL with technical and funding supports from several international and national organizations have implemented several advocacy actions as made in this report in several counties.

These interventions sought to on the overall promote acceleration in Liberia's realization of MDGs and PRS. specific focus was to promote democratic participation, peaceful coexistence and tribal tolerance through citizens empowerment that enhance engagement, anti corruption campaign; influence policy formulation and implementation in a manner that promote human rights and Liberia's realization of national and international development and poverty reduction agendas as a way of building the peace and promoting Liberia's young democracy and fragile peace.

***Prince D. Kreplah***

*National Executive Director*

*Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia*

### 3.1 Acknowledgement:

The Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) wish to extend its deepest thanks and appreciation to Plan International, Liberia WASH Consortium, WaterAid-Liberia and Sierra Leone, Oxfam, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), UN Liberia Peace Building Office, UNHCR and the World Bank for financing activities as mentioned in this report. Our humble appreciation to the Government of Liberia and its agents for the technical and enabling environment without which this project would not have succeeded. However, we will like to note that the content of this report and projects mentioned reflect 100% the action, views and aspiration of the CUPPADL, local organizations and staff and not the international partners as mentioned in this paragraph of the acknowledgement.

Additionally, CUPPADL's appreciation to the technical consultants hired, member organizations of the Liberia CSOs WASH Network, National Budget and Human Rights Forum and other coalition of civil society organizations who provided technical, moral and other support to the implementation, planning and evaluation of activities as mentioned in this report. We are grateful to the leadership of local counties where these activities were held and duty bearers for their acceptance of the projects and activities and for welcoming us to their counties something without which this interventions would not have succeeded.

Finally, special appreciation to the administrative, program and operational staff of CUPPADL for the hard work and dedication to the planning, implementation and persistent follow-up of the projects interventions without which specifically interventions as marked in this report would not have being executed successfully.

## 4.0 Activities:

Over the period of January 2011 – December 2011, the CUPPADL held several activities in an effort to meet her mission, vision and specific objectives. Activities implemented over the period as mentioned included trained and accredited civil society organizations and deployed them to monitor and report on the National Referendum; trained and accredited civil society organizations and deployed them to monitor and report on the 2011 general and presidential elections; Right to water and sanitation services and policy enforcement advocacy, capacity development and political awareness; Develop a Briefing paper focus on right based budget analysis for three thematic areas, the right to water and sanitation, rights to Education, rights to Health and one Vulnerable groups analysis that is the right of persons with disabilities and Media Campaign.

Additionally, in pursuance of CUPPADL Mission, Vision and specific objectives, the organization National Executive Director, Program officer, Program Assistant and Finance officer attended several National and International meetings, conferences and Trainings within and outside of Liberia.

## 4.1 Develop a Briefing Paper on the Right Based Budget Analysis

Applying a Human Rights-based approach (HRBA) to budget analysis is to access steps taken by Liberia in addressing her obligations based on commitments and acceptance of Human Rights standards. The main goal is to analyze and monitor government efforts being undertaken to meet these obligations through budgetary decisions related to revenue allocations and expenditure and their impact on protecting and promoting human rights in Liberia.

During the period 2011, as part of the CUPPADL open government promotion initiative, advocacy for improve Public Sector Financial Management, and open budget initiative in an effort to promote the rights to participation in decision making, right to basic health care, rights to basic education, rights to water and sanitation, the CUPPADL in collaboration with the National Budget and Human Rights Forum developed a briefing paper. The paper is a rights- based budget analysis for three thematic areas- the right to Education, the right to Health, and the right to Water and Sanitation and one Vulnerable group analysis- the right of persons with disabilities. The paper undertakes monitoring progress over time, looking into the dynamics of National Budgetary decisions and commitments in Liberia form 2006 to 2012.

Presenting the briefing paper is an opportunity to lobby and influence the Legislature on its deliberations regarding the next National budget cycle (2011-2012). Also the paper seeks to enhance fiscal transparency, and participatory budgeting that will lead to vibrant and effective public sector finance management in Liberia. Additionally, this paper has or seeks to identify additional sources of money, double or triple entries allocations to which cuts can be made to increase on essential but low budgeted for programs in the 2011-2012 draft National Budget already before the National Legislature. Log on to [www.cuppadi.usahidi.com](http://www.cuppadi.usahidi.com) for detail of the briefing paper 2011 or make request for soft copy by email through the address on the back of this report.

## 4.2 Observed 2011 Referendum in Liberia :

In fulfillment of the CUPPADL goal of promoting and improving democratic governance and maximum feasible participation, on August 23, 2011, Liberian when to the poll to vote “Yes” or “No” to amend four (4) provisions in the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia in the first National Constitutional Referendum in two and the half decades. The provisions to be amended are:

- ✓ Article 52 (c) that the residency requirement for the presidency be reduce from ten (10) years to five (5) prior to elections
- ✓ Article 72 (b) that the Chief Justice, Associate Justice of the Supreme and Judges of subordinate courts shall serve for life, except that they shall be retired at age of seventy five (75)
- ✓ Article 83 (a) so as to change current constitutional election date and provide a new constitutional date for president, vice president, members of the senate and house of representatives; and for chief, city mayor and city councils
- ✓ Article 83 (b) so that elections shall for all public officers, except for the president and vice president, shall be simple majority of valid votes cast in any election

The decision under article 52 (c) requiring the residency requirement for the presidency to reduce to five (5) years was voted “No” by the electorate that it remain at ten (10) years. Article 72 (b) that the Chief Justice, Associate Justice of the Supreme and Judges of subordinate courts shall serve for life, except that they shall be retired at age of seventy five (75); more than majority of the population when for the statement “No” and that it shall remain at that and no amendment shall be made. Article 83 (a) so as to change current constitutional election date and provide a new constitutional date for president, vice president, members of the senate and house of representatives; and for chief, city mayor and city councils, the Electorates also voted “No” that the constitutional dates provided for in the constitution for president, vice President, members of the senate and house of representatives, chief, city mayor and city councils remain the same as provided for in the constitution. Article 83 (b) so that elections shall for all public officers, except for the president and vice president, shall be simple majority of valid votes cast in any election. Electorate voted “Yes” for simple majority in favor of the senate and House of Representatives, chief, city mayor and city council but voted “No” for the president and vice president respectively.

The government of Liberia through the National Election Commission accredited the Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) to observe the Referendum elections on August 23, 2011. In fulfillment of her specific objectives under CUPPADL focus area 4” Capacity Building for CSOs, CBOs and Local government” trained twenty two (22) civil society representations on elections monitoring and how to collect elections reports. The twenty two civil society representations were deployed in Montserrado having twelve (12) observers and Margibi having ten (10) observers.

### **4.3 Observed 2011 Presidential and General Elections**

The constitution of the Republic of Liberia mandate that the president and representatives shall be elected by its citizens for six years and senators be elected for nine years respectively. The constitution also provide that at the close of the tenure for the president, representative and senators, the elections commission shall set the stage for another round of election which is to take effect in October of that year. For the presidency only candidates with the vote total 50% plus one (1) during the first round will be declare winner but for representatives and senators will be simple majority. In 2011 Liberians when to the polls to vote their leaders with thirteen candidates in the race for the presidency and over eight hundred running for representatives and senatorial seats in the country. The government of Liberia through the National Election Commission accredited the Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) to observe the conduct of these elections on October 10, 2011.

As a means of fulfillment of the CUPPADL goal of promoting and improving democratic governance and maximum feasible participation, the organization recruited and trained ten (10) civil society representations on elections monitoring and how to collect elections reports. The ten civil society representations were deployed in Montserrado County. During the first rounds of the elections for the presidency, no candidate was able to get the 50% plus one (1) vote base on this, the National Elections Commission set the stage for a runoff election which was held November 7, 2011 between Ambassador Winston Tubman of the Congress for Democratic Change and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Unity Party. At the end of the runoff elections, Madam Ellen J. Sirleaf of the Unity Party won and was inaugurated on January 16, 2012 as President of the Republic of Liberia for a second six years term.

#### 4.4 Citizens Engagement in Peace Building:

Liberia witnessed widespread civil conflict from 1989-2003. The conflict took away the lives of



over two hundred and fifty thousands (250,000) people and displaced million others around Africa, Europe and the Americas. The conflict also caused social, political and economic down-turn on the lives of Liberians, other residence and the state in terms of basic social services, democratic governance, and human rights under the rule of law, sustainable livelihood, jobs, peace and security. The origin of the conflict can be traced to few broad factors including the fact that significant positions of society were systematically excluded and marginalized from political governance, community initiatives and key economic opportunities on ethnic and religious grounds. The

national constitution and other laws were designed in a manner and form that breeds conflict among ethnic, religious, cultural and other social groups.

In view of this, in an effort to meet mission, vision, specific objective and focus five of the CUPPADL strategy Plan with funding support from the UNHCR, the Government of Liberia and the UN Liberia Peace building Office, the CUPPADL signed a memorandum of understanding in the total amount of twenty six thousand United States Dollars (26,000). The objective of the project is for CUPPADL to facilitate the process that engages local community dwellers in four districts of Nimba and Lofa counties in peace building efforts.

During the project period May 10, 2010 to February 10, 2011 CUPPADL trained over fifty (50) people as peace ambassadors and organized them into network to lead the organization of fourteen (14) dialogue meetings, PA and Culture groups outreaches in various populated and conflict park communities, conduct conflict mapping and mediate settlement of established conflict as the result of the mapping.

**Inter-religious and inter-ethnic Dialogues:** During the period of the project the total of fourteen (14) inter-religious and inter-tribal dialogues were held. Seven of these dialogues were held in 2011 and brought together Muslim and Christian leaders, tribal chiefs, elders, youth,

women and civil society leaders, local government officials and key stakeholders from UNMIL, representative of the UNHCR and other international NGOs operating in the four districts of Lofa and Nimba Counties.

The two to three people were allowed to present on two to three separate topics in support of peaceful coexistence. Following the presentations, participants were allowed to ask panelists questions make suggestions, express their personal opinions and recommend way forward relevant to the topics discussed. Each dialogue meeting was moderated by member of the organized network and each meeting brought together at least seventy five and at most two hundred people from different backgrounds of the counties and districts. The objective of the meetings was to promote religious and ethnic tolerance and peaceful coexistence as a means of sustaining the peace and enhancing collective and individual development.



#### 4.5 Right to Water and Sanitation and WASH Policy Advocacy Campaign

Mass mobilization Action: March 10-22, 2011, approximately over 1,000 people (mainly from various slum communities of Monrovia), wearing pro water and sanitation t-shirts, holding banners marked pro water and sanitation messages raising awareness of key WASH issues while been accompanied by a music band, traditional culture dance groups, PA system mounted on vehicle formed part of the parade. Two walks were organized – one starting from 16<sup>th</sup> St Sinkor in front of the old National Elections Commission (NEC) office, the other from Clara Town, in front of the store ended in front of the Old Ministry of Labour (original plan was



to end in front of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet a *representative of the President's Office had to be abandoned* as the march itinerary was disrupted by a student protest taking place that day).

A special statement for World Water Day with specific calls for increased funding for the WASH sector, the finalization and implementation of the Sector Strategic Plan and the inclusion of civil society in discussions relating to the WASH sector, was compiled by the Liberia CSOs WASH Working Group (although the original intention was to present this directly to the president of Liberia and Good Will Ambassador for water for Africa (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf) through a petition ceremony, due to the disruption to the march this was not possible but the statement was shared with various media outlets, the office of the president and other relevant duty bearers in Liberia (radio, tv and press) in hard copies. Numerous talk shows took place in the run-up to and after World Water Day highlighting key issues relating to the current gaps and challenges within the WASH sector in Liberia.

Mary Broh, the Mayor of Monrovia, lead the parade for part of the march, supporting the participants' call for more attention to be given to WASH issues in both rural and urban areas of Liberia. Statement attached.

#### ***Campaigner marching with Buckets and Placards***



World Water Day 2011 celebrations took place in Monrovia on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The key event was a **World Walk for Water in Liberia** (<http://www.worldwalksforwater.org/eng/>), part of the End Water Poverty (EWP), WaterAid and WSSCC Campaign's (<http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/>) global activities. Millions of people worldwide walk 6 kilometers every day just to collect water for their basic needs. Billions have no safe place to go to the toilet. The 2011 Liberia walked, was part of many organized across the world, during which people walked together for 6 kilometers to demand an end to the water and sanitation crisis. A Liberia Information Country Snapshot with key Liberia WASH information was compiled and is uploaded on the World Walks for Water website. Log on to [www.cuppadi.usahidi.com](http://www.cuppadi.usahidi.com) for petition statements that came out of the action or make request for soft copy by email through the address on the back of this report

**Poverty Hearings:** April to September 2011, the CUPPADL collaborated with the Liberia CSOs WASH Working Group to conduct poverty hearings in several counties of Liberia. The Poverty hearings are a unique form of advocacy which accords the victims themselves the space to be heard by political leaders, development partners and policy makers. The poverty hearings also create the space for the victims to understand from political leaders and development partners as to what is in place to address social problems affecting the population.

The overall purpose of the hearings was to influence behavior and policy change, among key behavior change issues that the poverty hearing sought to influence included good hygiene practice among the population, proper management of wash facilities by local and community leaders, good practice on the storage of drinking water. Additionally, on policy issues, the poverty hearing intended to influence improvement in WASH governance and increase service delivery in Liberia through the setting up of Liberia water and sanitation commission and the national water and sanitation resource management board as approved in the integrated water resource management policy as well as increase public spending on WASH programs via national budget allocation.



*Participants National Hearing*



*Participants Clara Town Hearing*

**Procedures of the Hearings:** Prior to the hearings an expert researcher services was hired, questioners were developed and taken into over 75 communities by data collection agents recruited by CUPPADL in project counties including Nimba, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado. Forms were used to take statements from inhabitants mainly water, sanitation and hygiene as well as other basic social services poverty victims. Following the collection of statements from targets, selection of the worst case scenario were made and those were brought forward to the hearing to testify before policy makers, civil society, the media and development partners.

In addition to the witnesses experts from government, private sector, and development partners testified before a jury of seven members drawn from the media, civil society and development partners were constituted. The jurors were allowed to ask each witness five questions while the audience was allowed to ask two questions. Questions were asked following seven minutes of testimonies by each victim witnesses and fifteen (15) minutes testimonies by expert witnesses. The entire process of the hearing which ran for five hours thirty minutes were live broadcasted on Truth Fm 96.1.

**Grass Root Convention:** During the year 2011 under review, the CUPPADL in collaboration with the Association of Evangelicals of Liberia (AEL) and Concerned Christian Community (CCC) lead the holding of two days (November 15-16, 2011) Grass Root convention in the Conference Hall of Kakata City Council, Margibi County. The Grass Root Convention is unique approach to advocacy that give voice and access of slum community dwellers, leaders, community based organizations, youth and women, children and persons with disabilities to the media, political leaders and give them the space to direct WASH service provision, planning and to be heard in setting national development agenda as well demand concrete action to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene in Liberia. The convention is a product of Bangladesh WASH campaigners which was learned by Liberia WASH campaigners following over two weeks of West Africa learning exchanged sponsored by the Water supply and sanitation Collaborative Council in November 2010. The convention mobilized the participation of over one hundred and seventy (170) people from five of the country's fifteen counties including Bong, Bomi, Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado.



*Participants @ Convention*



*Participants @ Convention*

Prior to the convention with financial support from WaterAid Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Liberia CSOs WASH Working Group held county level consultation with Grass rooters, sector players, youth and women groups at the county and district levels during which delegates of the convention were elected, venue and date for the convention derived in a participatory manner.

#### **WASH CSOs Coordination Meetings:**

The Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) lead the holding of ten monthly WASH CSOs coordination and coalition building meetings from March-December 2011. One meeting was held each month and each meeting brought together civil society, government, private sector groups/institutions and donors. Selected focus groups or stakeholders were requested to make presentation on their intervention in the country and relevant topics depicting prevailing situation in the country WASH sector which included challenges faced, lesson learned, opportunities and advance recommendations on the way forward to address challenges.

Additionally, at the meetings specific national and international campaigns are discussed, key decisions derived, strategies and approaches aim at enhancing attainment of objectives

reached and responsibility dedicated to relevant stakeholders. These meetings sought to help in the harmonization of programs, address the issues of duplication, and inform CSOs intervention and aid in the network drive to enhance coalition building.



*Nash-WaterAid Team leader @ meeting*



*Participants meetings*

#### **4.6 Lobby Meetings with CSOs and Setting-up WASH Networks**

THE CUPPAD coordinated the Liberia CSOs WASH Working Group/WSSCC project 2011 title: Civil Society and citizens Action to improve/increase access of Liberian to WASH 2011, the Liberia NGOs Network (LINNK) as a member of the WASH working Group in collaboration both institutions conducted five civil Society meetings in Margibi, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Bong and Bomi counties to enhance the advocacy capacity and set-up CSOs networks in those counties. The purpose of the establishment of the networks at the county level was to enhance civil society advocacy in rural Liberia, enhance decentralization of advocacy and promote rural participation in advocacy efforts at improving service delivery, policy formulation and implementation. Each of these meetings was attended by over twenty five (25) CSOs and other stakeholders in the five project counties; the participants deliberated on strategies and advocacy methodologies that will facilitate the greater participation of the population to demand their rights to water and move policy makers to increase finance and political supports to the WASH sector.

During these meetings, the Liberia NGOs Network (LINNK) and CUPPADL presented to the participants various national and international policies, human rights instruments and highlighted political commandments politicians have made aim at improving the Sector. The UN resolution that makes water a human right issue was also deliberated by the participants to deepen their understanding of the basic human rights of the human person to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and good hygiene behavior change.

Participants agreed to collaborate with the Liberia CSOs WASH Working Group, CUPPADL and LINNK to promote the need for WASH support through advocacy using the following strategies:

- WASH information sharing mechanism should be established between the Working Group, CUPPADL and LINNK on one hand and the networks established in the three counties (Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado).
- Facilitate established networks make constant use of community radio stations as a medium to carryout WASH awareness and advocacy at county level.
- Mobilize community leaders and community Based organizations (CBOs) as a catalyts to promote WASH and conduct massive awareness in the WASH sector.
- There should be a regular coordination and information sharing meeting involving representation of the Working Group, other relevant stakeholders and CSOs networks in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Montserrado counties.

At the end of each meetings in the counties, county level civil society WASH network was establish as sub chapter and leadership of the Liberia CSOs WASH Working Group/Co CUPPADL that will lead activities of the group in the county in collaboration with members of the Working Group. To enhance their capacity and information sheering internet modem was presented to each established network.

**Crisis Talk:** In an attempt to improve implementation and decentralization, the government and partners under the water and sanitation for all partnership held a multi donor conference and developed the Liberia WASH Compact which is the vehicle for acceleration of progress toward Liberia meeting the water and sanitation targets of the MDGs and the National WASH policy and standards.

During the period November 2011, the Liberia CSOs WASH Network coordinated by the CUPPADL through member organizations conducted several crisis talks in Margibi, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Lofa and Nimba counties. The crisis talk is a unique advocacy strategy that give voice and access to slum community dwellers and WASH poverty victims to public official and the media to share how lack of access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation is alarming their poverty condition, depreciating their health and impacting education. It created the space for the community dwellers to propose solutions and demands concrete actions to stop the water and sanitation crisis facing the globe.

During each crisis talk, citizens or participants derived a petition that amongst other things called on President Sirleaf and the 53<sup>rd</sup> National Legislature elect to take the following actions:

- ✓ Create an enabling environment through policy, standards and improvement of services especially to vulnerable population (Women, Children, Disabilities and hard to reach areas) to for fill the right to water and sanitation as declared by the UN General Assembly in 2010 and promote water and sanitation for all (SWA) partnership signed unto by the government of Liberia;
- ✓ Identify clear budget lines increase funding in the National Budget to meet the eThekwini declaration, UN least develop country program of action for the decade 2011-2020 WASH and AfricanSan Action plan;
- ✓ Promote private sector participation and investment in the WASH sector through corporate social responsibility and direct investment by providing incentives and

security of investment to Liberia and foreign businesses involve in the water and sanitation sector;

- ✓ Ensure that unlike PRS 1 (2008-2011), the PRS II (2012-2017) shows strong visibility through increase programs and funding appropriations to the water and sanitation sector.

Additionally, we support the government and partners drive to address governance challenges facing the WASH sector through the creation of a water and sanitation commission, in this regards we challenge the president Ellen J. Sirleaf to:

- ✓ Sign the Liberia WASH Compact that was develop at the multi donor conference on water, sanitation and hygiene. This we strongly believe is the first step towards addressing, coordinating governance and financing challenges facing the sector;
- ✓ Sign the Executive Order which is the second step of demonstrating political will to establish the water and sanitation commission as envisages in the Liberia WASH Compact and other WASH policies;
- ✓ That your Excellency, inaugural address schedule for January 16, 2012 should include a policy statement on WASH

Very importantly, we challenge the members of the incoming 53<sup>rd</sup> National Legislature to prioritized water; sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by taking the following actions:

- ✓ Support and lead the setting up of a Legislative WASH committee involving Legislators from the both houses and civil society as envisages by the Liberia CSOs WASH working group as a first step towards demonstrating commitment to improving the WASH secur;
- ✓ Review and enact into laws integrated Water Resource Management and the water supply and sanitation policies;
- ✓ Ensure that local governments make sure county and social development funds allocated for water, sanitation and hygiene and county development agenda show strong visibility and commitment to WASH

Over 700 slum communities dwellers, policy makers, duty bearers, development partners and the media personnel attended the crisis talks. At each crisis talk, document such as summary of the Liberia WASH Compact, National and International policies were distributed and explained to participants as a means of deepening their understanding of the sector promoting access to safe drinking water, improve sanitation and good hygiene practice. As a means of reaching the president and other relevant ministers of government as speedily as possible each of the members of the working group who led activities forwarded copies of their respective petition to the president and relevant Ministers as well as the media for publication, each talk was live broadcast on national radio stations.

Log on to [www.cuppadl.ushahidi.com](http://www.cuppadl.ushahidi.com) for petition statement derived from crisis talk or make request for soft copy by email through the address on the back of this report

## 4.7 Lobby Meetings with Duty Bearers, Policy Makers and Legislature

The CUPPADL in an effort to meet her mission, vision, specific objectives under focus area one which seek to enhance governance; focus area two human rights and justice and focus area three monitoring infrastructure and basic social services planned and independently and

collaboration with other civil society groups implemented several lobby meetings with legislators, cabinet ministers, development partners and civil society organizations.

The meeting with civil society specifically was held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County; Kakata, Margibi, county; Tubmanburg, Bomi County the meeting particularly sought to mobilize increase civil society intervention in the WASH, Public Finance and Governance sectors and acquainted them with the sectors challenges while the meetings with cabinet officials and legislators among other things sought to discuss the implementation of policies, international instruments, regulations, protocols and advance civil society opinion in national decision relating to addressing these sectors issues that are in the jurisdiction of the legislature.

The objectives of the meetings were to facilitate/increase civil society advocacy on these sectors issues, to influence increase legislators and cabinet officials strong actions aim at ensuring clear budget lines, strong visibility in the National Budget, and policies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy II document of CUPPADL focus sectors priorities.

Meetings were held with the following:

Some Cabinet Officials of the Executive Branch of the Government met with include but not limited to the below:

Duty bearers met with over the period	Objective	Request of CUPPADL from duty bearers met
<p>Hon. Johnson Gwogle, Deputy Minister responsible for ground water, Ministry of Land's Minds and Energy Republic of Liberia.</p>	<p>To influence the ministry position at the Multi Donor conference to consider bring forward deliverables from existing policies that promote governance, rights and transparency and accountability</p> <p>To encourage prioritization of WASH programs in the ministry through increase budget and program in annual agenda of the ministry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for acceleration of action on the part of the ministry to meet water and sanitation deliverable of the Liberia WASH Compact and PRS I</li> <li>✓ Want ministry to increase budget appropriation in 2012/2013 for WASH</li> <li>✓ Call for the development of WASH sector roadmap with measurable timeline for implementation</li> </ul>
<p>Hon. Marcus Dahn, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Planning and</p>	<p>To ensure that Liberia political delegation attending 2012 UN High Level meetings include the views of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call on Liberia delegation to outcome document of HLMs support rights bases approach to social services delivery</li> <li>✓ Call on delegation to hold meeting with civil society before departure</li> </ul>

Economic Affairs and Co-Chairman, National Budget Committee Republic of Liberia	civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call on delegation to specifically sign up to WASH as human rights</li> </ul>
Hon. Tenneh Brumson, Budget Economist/Analyst, Department of the Budget, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Liberia	<p>To create civil society space in executive level national budget hearings and formulation process</p> <p>To create transparency in national budget funds expenditure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CSOs want space in hearing</li> <li>✓ CSOs get copy of the national budget and attend awareness sections of the Ministry of finance</li> <li>✓ Call for budget information to be accessible to citizens and civil society organizations</li> </ul>
Hon. Walter Gonelali, Minister of Health Republic of Liberia	<p>To encourage high-level political prioritization for WASH</p> <p>To ensure rights base approach to health service delivery through increase allotment of funds and actions to marginalized communities and groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for increase to WASH allocation in the MOH budget proposal 2012/2013</li> <li>✓ Call for increase health care service delivery actions to Grand Kru, River Gee, Gbarpolu, Rivercess etc</li> <li>✓ Call for reduction in non essential services budget to facilitate more funds for essential and human interest services</li> <li>✓ Call for user fees introduction plans of the ministry to be open to possibility for some basic health care to be free to enable less fortunate people to be able to access same</li> <li>✓ Advance need for CSOs and citizens participation in health care, policy and expenditure implementation and formulation</li> </ul>
Hon. Saye Bawoe, Director Maternal Health Division, Ministry of Health	<p>To encourage the implementation of national roadmap on maternal and child health</p> <p>To ensure increase political attention and public funds allocation to maternal health in effort to reduce maternal mortality ratio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Discuss the need for civil society role as define in the maternal mortality roadmap to be activated</li> <li>✓ Ensure civil society participation in the national review processes, health and maternal mortality conferences plan by government and partners</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> <li>✓ Cal for update of the old maternal and child health roadmap with the full participation of civil society</li> </ul>
Hon. Levi Peah, Superintendent,	To influence open local government through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related</li> </ul>

Margibi County	lobbying transparency, accountability and participation in the County and Social Development Funds	<p>to project selection and funds expenditure of the CDF and SDF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CSF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Call for the administration to provide detail information relating to the CDF and SDF including number of projects, locations, cost, contractors since 2006</li> </ul>
Hon. Comfort Mashell, Former Development Superintendent, Montserrat County	To influence open local government through lobbying transparency, accountability and participation in the County and Social Development Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the CDF and SDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CSF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Call for the administration to provide detail information relating to the CDF and SDF including number of projects, locations, cost, contractors since 2006</li> </ul>
Hon. Grace Kpahn, Former Superintendent, Montserrat County	To influence open local government through lobbying transparency, accountability and participation in the County and Social Development Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the CDF and SDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CSF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Call for the administration to provide detail information relating to the CDF and SDF including number of projects, locations, cost, contractors since 2006</li> </ul>
Head of Secretariat, Dedicated Funds Committee	To influence open local government through lobbying transparency, accountability and participation in the County and Social Development Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the SDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Call for the secretariat to provide detail information relating to the SDF including number of projects, locations, cost,</li> </ul>

		<p>contractors since 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop measures to improve transparency and accountability in funds expenditure to avoid overlap and or alignment with CDF</li> </ul>
Hon. John Gboaye, Former Development Superintendent and Current Superintendent, Margibi County	To influence open local government through lobbying transparency, accountability and participation in the County and Social Development Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the SDF and CDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CDF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Call for the secretariat to provide detail information relating to the SDF and CDF including number of projects, locations, cost, contractors since 2006</li> <li>✓ Develop measures to improve transparency and accountability in funds expenditure to avoid overlap and or alignment with SDF</li> </ul>

Some meetings held with legislators of the National Legislature as follow:

<b>Duty bearers met with over the period</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Request of CUPPADL from duty bearers met</b>
Hon. Roland Kaine, Senator, Margibi County and Senate Chairman on WASH	To influence open local government through lobbying transparency, accountability and participation in the County and Social Development Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the SDF and CDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CDF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Call for the secretariat to provide detail information relating to the SDF and CDF including number of projects, locations, cost, contractors since 2006</li> <li>✓ Develop measures to improve transparency and accountability in funds expenditure to avoid overlap and or alignment with SDF</li> </ul>

<p>Senator Mabutu V. Nyumpah, Senator Sinoe County and member Ways and means and national Budget Committee of Join Houses</p>	<p>To encourage high-level political prioritization for WASH</p> <p>To ensure rights base approach to health service delivery through increase allotment of funds and actions to marginalized communities and groups</p> <p>To encourage the implementation of national roadmap on maternal and child health</p> <p>To ensure increase political attention and public funds allocation to maternal health in effort to reduce maternal mortality ratio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for increase to WASH allocation in the national budget proposal 2012/2013 of MPW, MOH, LWSC etc</li> <li>✓ Call for increase health care service delivery actions to south east region</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> <li>✓ Call for legislators to insist that user fees introduction plans of the ministry of health be open to possibility for some basic health care to be free to enable less fortunate people to be able to access same</li> <li>✓ Call for civil society space in National Budget hearings at the legislature</li> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the CDF and SDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CDF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> </ul>
<p>Jewel Howard Taylor, Senator Bong County and member Ways and means and national Budget Committee of Join Houses</p>	<p>To encourage high-level political prioritization for WASH</p> <p>To ensure rights base approach to health service delivery through increase allotment of funds and actions to marginalized communities and groups</p> <p>To encourage the implementation of national roadmap on maternal and child health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for increase to WASH allocation in the national budget proposal 2012/2013 of MPW, MOH, LWSC etc</li> <li>✓ Call for increase health care service delivery actions to marginalized counties especially south east region</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> <li>✓ Call for legislators to insist that user fees introduction plans of the ministry of health be open to possibility for some basic health care to be free to enable less fortunate people to be able to access same</li> <li>✓ Call for civil society space in budget hearings at the legislature</li> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens</li> </ul>

	To ensure increase political attention and public funds allocation to maternal health in effort to reduce maternal mortality ratio	<p>participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the CDF and SDF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CSF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> </ul>
Hon. Isaac Nyanbo, Senator, Grand Gedeh County	<p>To encourage high-level political prioritization for WASH</p> <p>To ensure rights base approach to health service delivery through increase allotment of funds and actions to marginalized communities and groups</p> <p>To encourage the implementation of national roadmap on maternal and child health</p> <p>To ensure increase political attention and public funds allocation to maternal health in effort to reduce maternal mortality ratio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Call for increase to WASH allocation in the national budget proposal 2012/2013 of MPW, MOH, LWSC etc</li> <li>✓ Call for increase health care service delivery actions to marginalized counties especially south east region</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> <li>✓ Call for legislators to insist that user fees introduction plans of the ministry of health be open to possibility for some basic health care to be free to enable less fortunate people to be able to access same</li> <li>✓ Call for civil society space in budget hearings at the legislature</li> <li>✓ Call for CSOs, CBOs and citizens participation in decision making related to project selection and funds expenditure of the CDF and SDF</li> <li>✓ Demand platform and mechanism that ensure that projects related to CSF and SDF data are accessible to citizens, CSOs and CBOs</li> <li>✓ Want increase public spending to institutions that deliver maternal and reproductive health care increase</li> </ul>

#### 4.8 National and International Travels, Trainings, Meetings and Conferences:

Over the period of 2011, the CUPPADL staffs attended several national and international meetings, conferences, trainings etc as follow:

Trainings:

Adolphus Gbagbar, former program Officer of the CUPPADL attended training at the Liberia Institute of Public Administration. The training focus on providing beneficiaries skills in project management, proposal development and procurement procedures and techniques, the CUPPADL shouldered the cost for registrations while the LIPA shouldered the cost for tuition.

Martina M. Gbarlar

The Ministry of Lands Mines and energy financed the cost of the entire training with funding from the Africa water Facility through the African Development Bank. The Focal Consultant International limited in association with Innovative Service Limited of Ghana delivered the lessons on the different areas as mentioned in this note.

David P. Flomo, Finance Officer attended training in the areas of accountant software utilization and finance management procedure. This training cost was 100% shouldered by UN Peacebuilding Office in Liberia, UNHCR and WaterAid. The objective was to improve financial management capacity and systems of CUPPADL to cut waste and irregularities in the management and use of funds.

CUPPADL Boss, Prince Kreplah attended learning and experience sheering training in Accra, Ghana. The training cost was covered by WaterAid and lessens was delivered in the form of visitation to sights, review of documents and structural arrangement and the method of work of the Ghana coalition of civil Society organization on water, sanitation and hygiene. At the two days learning mission, the Executive Secretary of the Ghana civil society WASH Coalition convened a meeting of their members and leadership where the CUPPADL Boss and others in attendance asked questions aim at keeping them inform about the best practices of the coalition, management pattern, lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities etc.

In November 2011, the CUPPADL Boss was invited and attended one week training in climate change mitigation, advocacy and integrated water resource management. The cost of the training was shoulder by the Global Water partnership and UNDP and the event happened in Lome, Togo. The training was attended by governments, development partners and civil society, Liberia delegation included two people from the Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy and CUPPADL Boss as civil society representative. Lessons was provided in 60% practical and 40% theory on several topics including climate change mitigation, integrated water resources management and good lobby advocacy skills.

CUPPADL Program officer and national Executive Director were invited, attended and were trained and provided skills in working with digital tools, social media,; use of media tools for advocacy; tips for open and successful communication; media power and risk analysis; relationship building with media; advocacy planning, power analysis and influencing strategy. Presented by Oxfam GB Liberia, December 2011

International Meetings and Conferences:

David P. Flomo, Finance officer of the CUPPADL attended on behalf of the organization regular annual partnership planning meeting of WaterAid and her partners. The meeting took place in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The objective of this meeting is to share experiences, learning, best

practice, advocacy results and derived individual partner and collective action plan for next financial year for which WaterAid will provide funding support to her partner organizations. In that meeting, the CUPPADL finance officer provided partners with progress update on project implementation, impact, challenges, lesson learnt, opportunities, funding expenditure and made project recommendations on the way forward to improve performance.

In April 2011, the United Nations held prep com to finalized and adopt the **Istanbul May 9 – 13, 2011 LDCs Program of Action for the decade 2011-2020**. The National Executive Director of CUPPADL, Prince D. Kreplah attended the Prep Com which had in attendance United Nations General Assembly and Governments representations. At the prep com the LDCs draft Program of Action was finalized and Adoption. Additionally, the CUPPADL Boss attended the Civil Society and UN General Assembly public forum on the LDCs Program of Action. Mr. Kreplah was representing Liberia and West Africa civil society along side a colleague Inna Guenda from Burkina Faso. The second Prep Com took place in New York at the UN HQ, the CUPPADL Boss and colleague met with and held discussions with many countries delegations and several influential members and blocks of the UN General Assembly. A manifesto marked with several demands was distributed to the delegates, Kreplah and colleague had to draft several propositions and share with delegates who had speaking rights at the event.

In April three of CUPPADL Staffs including the national Executive Director, program Officer and Program Assistant attended Multi Donor Conference in Liberia at the SKD Sports Complex in Monrovia. The CUPPADL as head and host of the WASH CSOs Network secretariat coordinated the participation of over eighteen (18) civil society representatives at the conference. CUPPADL national Executive director and LINK Advocacy Officer represented civil society on the conference planning and technical committees. At the event, the CUPPADL Boss presented civil society views in primary through power point presentation. The conference was attended by over two hundred delegates from Liberia and around the world. The conference derived the Liberia WASH Compact a two year road map that outlines actions to be taken by various public agencies and ministries to address water and sanitation services provision, regulations and governance challenges.

The CUPPADL Boss was invited and led a delegation of Liberia participants to the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council Global forum on Sanitation and hygiene held in Mumbai, India, in 2011. The forum brought together over two thousands participants from governments, civil society, development partners and the media. The CUPPADL lead the vetting process that selected the Liberia delegation and or participants to the forum. This is largely because the CUPPADL Boss is the current National coordinator of the WSSCC in Liberia. At that event, WSSCC National and Regional Coordinators planning meeting was held with Prince Kreplah, CUPPADL Boss representing Liberia in that meeting.

In November 2011 the CUPPADL Boss, Prince Kreplah was invited by the ministry of Planning of Liberia, UNDP and United Nations Mission in Liberia to present the findings of her briefing paper which document steps taken by the government of Liberia to meet-up with her human rights to water, sanitation, hygiene, health, education and rights of persons with disabilities through national budget allocations, expenditures and development agendas. The event brought together national and county level planning and monitoring and evaluation officers of the government, assistant and deputy ministers of the Ministry of Planning, Human Rights officers of UNMIL and the Commissioners of the National Commission on disabilities, civil society, the media and local government officials such as

superintendents from the fifteen counties. The cost of CUPPADL Boss participation was shouldered by the UNDP and UNMIL.

The CUPPADL Boss was invited by the World Bank office in Liberia and attended a one day video conference in Liberia involving South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal and several other countries on the Open Government Process (OGP). The OGP is a global partnership in which government who are members subscribe to transparency, accountability, participation and access of the population to basic information that will inform them about governance processes and interventions.

## 5.1 Media Campaign

In an effort to meet mission, vision and specific objectives and as part of communication strategy, over the period under review, the Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) carried out several media campaign. Media campaign was integral part of our actions and interventions, key media actions included but not limited to radio talk shows, television talk shows, social media publication, news paper publications, jingles and online media publications.

Some media institutions that the CUPPADL media campaign targeted and had media actions with included but not limited to ELBC Radio, Lux FM, Truth FM, Radio Veritas, Love FM, Fabric FM, Kings FM, Sky FM. Television institutions included Real TV, Power TV, Clar TV, Sky TV, Love TV. News paper institutions included the In profile daily, Front Page Africa, the Insight, New Republic, New Dawn, the Liberian Nation, Women Voices, Public Agenda, Town Crier etc. Online social media included [www.cuppادل.usahidi.com](http://www.cuppادل.usahidi.com), Short Africa, Face book etc.

These Media campaign and advocacy awareness were designed in a manner that created the platform for the CUPPADL staffs, civil society and community dwellers beneficiaries of CUPPADL interventions to disseminate advocacy key messages, targeting policy makers, political leaders and the general Liberian population to influence strong action on the part of government and sector partners to increase public spending for citizens direct impact actions, implementation of national and international commitments and increase political support to the specific sectors of CUPPADL interventions including but not limited to water, sanitation and hygiene sector, public sector financial management, open government process, peace building and security sector, rule of law and human rights sector, governance and democracy sector.

Appearances on these media actions were CUPPADL staffs which included the National Executive Director, Program Officer and project beneficiaries from counties Network members of CUPPADL led coalitions and civil society from various counties of focus of CUPPADL interventions and project specific.

## 6.1 Summary of Financial Report

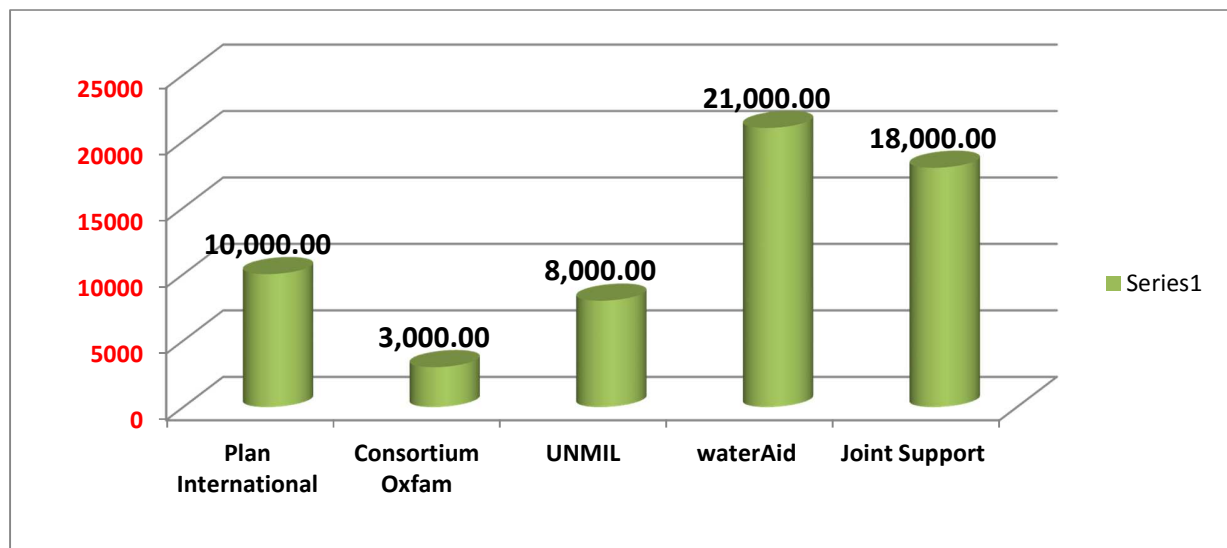
Over the 12 months (January – December) period of the operations of the CUPPADL in 2011, the organization mobilized funding in the amount of US 60,350.00. This amount was mobilized through proposals requesting support for specific programs as mentioned in the narrative

report. In some cases, CUPPADL fronted for networks and managed finances, activities, programs and actions for the group and in addition CUPPADL herself had some of the finances, activities, program and actions allotted to her separately for her exclusive implementation. Over the year, four international organizations supported separate projects and programs and operational cost of the organization as you will see below:

**Intake or Revenue:**

Donor	Project title	Project Duration	Project Amount USD	Year
WaterAid-Liberia and Sierra Leone	WASH Advocacy	1 year	20,000.00	2011
WaterAid-Liberia & Sierra	World Water Day	4 months	1,350.00	2011
Plan International		4 months	10,000.00	2011
Consortium/Oxfam	World Water Day	4 month	3,000.00	2011
WaterAid, Consortium, Plan	World Toilet Day	4 months	18,000.00	2011
United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)	Briefing Paper on HRBA to budgeting, public sector financial management advocacy and launch of CDF and SDF guide booklet	6 months	8,000.00	2011
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>60,350.00</b>	<b>USD</b>

**Analysis Breakdown per Donor Contribution to Revenue of CUPPADL 2011**



## 7.1 Achievements:

- ✓ Liberia sign unto the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership, held 1<sup>st</sup> Multi Donor Conference on Sanitation and Water for All, develop and approved Liberia WASH Compact model after Ghana become the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Africa to develop same;
- ✓ National Maternal and Reproductive Health Roadmap developed, adopted and implementation begins. Full civil society input made to the document and the Vice President of Liberia launch same declared government full support to the implementation of the document;
- ✓ Pro-WASH and Maternal Health political commitments have been made by relevant high level government officials. Participation of civil society in both sector (maternal health and WASH) increase;
- ✓ Appropriation in the National Budget for WASH and maternal health care public institution shows increase over the last four fiscal periods and upcoming period of 2012/2013.
- ✓ National Legislature amend National Budget law on County and Social Development Funds, name new superintendent on fiscal affairs to improve funding expenditure system of the local government
- ✓ In an effort to improve governance and coordination in the water and sanitation sector, National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee constituted with secretariat, regular monthly meetings held at national and five counties levels to coordinate sector
- ✓ National Budget allocations to fuel and lubricant which was reported in briefing paper as high over essential services growth rate which usually hugely grew dropped in the 2012/2013 annual Budget of the country. Current and new minister of finance vowel openly on national radio and public event to reduce expenditure in the direction of nonessential services such as fuel and lubricant, vehicle etc
- ✓ Government of Liberia and the World Bank signed grant to improve public finance management system of the country, the grant has provision for civil society advocacy and awareness creation
- ✓ Citizens' guide to the National Budget and citizens or county budgets developed separately to national Budget. CSOs now are allowed to attend executive level public hearings during national budget formulation and they are allowed to ask questions and provide input. National Legislature allowed CSOs Budget forum coordinated by CUPPADL to present paper at her public hearing
- ✓ For the first time the Ministry of Public Works allotted 1.5m in the National Budget for rural water and sanitation service delivery such as construction of new water and sanitation facilities and repair of existing but damaged facilities to improve access of the population to water and sanitation
- ✓ Access of the population of Liberia to water experience huge increase from 25% in 2008 to over 60% in 2012 and African development Bank has put up grant for the improvement of sanitation and hygiene
- ✓ Government of Liberia submit letter of request to be a part of the Open Government Process (OGP) coordinated by the World Bank, constitute National Steering Committee, developed draft action plan. Government also launched Open Budget Initiative established Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance

## 7.2 Challenges

- ✓ Lack of adequate funding for project activities and follow-up on action after approved project period
- ✓ Lack of permanent source of 100% salaries security for CUPPADL staffs
- ✓ Low awareness and huge illiteracy rate in the country especially in the rural part of the country who inhabitants were the main target for space in policy process, budget HRBA focus, etc
- ✓ Limited availability of duty bearers due to elections campaigning, busy schedule and other factors. This is critical to mention this because those were target for policy change
- ✓ Lack of sufficient local expertise for the budget tracking, monitoring and analysis to inform briefing paper
- ✓ Lack of adequate local expertise in civil society for policy brief development that satisfied national and international standards
- ✓ Ineffectiveness of FOI law to gather information effectively due to several factors including lack of commission constitution, lack of staff to assist the civil society access information, lack of awareness about the law by duty bearers who should provide the information and lack of awareness of the court staffs and civil society who should use the law in advocacy and legal processes

## 7.3. Lesson Learnt

- ✓ Partnering with government officials, community leaders, community dwellers and media people with like minds is key to influencing policy change
- ✓ Placing people at the center of advocacy through involving them in advocacy activities and plans development; key messages development and dissemination to duty bearers; M&E of government deliverables enhances effective advocacy and citizens engagement
- ✓ Planning with duty bearers and policy makers and agreeing with them date, venue and time for advocacy action where their presence is critically needed is very important in addressing issues of failed program due to their absence
- ✓ Making policy brief short and to the point as well soliciting the opinion of duty bearers or policy makers during the validation of policy brief is critical moment where duty bearer can be convened of the paper findings and this can cause them to act on the paper recommendations as quickly as possible
- ✓ Sharing with duty bearers intent of civil action, procedure of the program and how they will be protected from those with political intent for such action in advance to the action is critical to erasing their fear that advocacy action intents to bring them to public disrepute or to give their political opponent the leverage over them.

**Contact us**

P.O Box 5601  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Maxim Building  
Benson and Gurley Streets Interception  
Monrovia, Liberia  
Email: [cuppadlinc@yahoo.com](mailto:cuppadlinc@yahoo.com)  
[cuppadl2005inc@yahoo.com](mailto:cuppadl2005inc@yahoo.com)  
cell : +2316-533-015