



YAPUGEANMA

# YAPUGEANMA WOMEN INC

Sappimah, Bopolu city

Gbarpolu County, Republic of Liberia

Cell: 0886-204-923/0775863556

Email: [yapugeanma@yapugeanma.com](mailto:yapugeanma@yapugeanma.com)



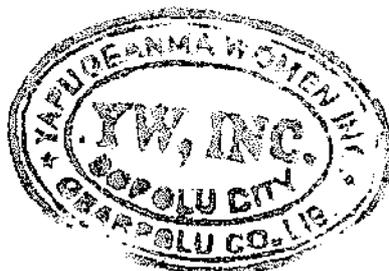
## NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT



**Project Title: Creating massive Awareness on the Existence of the County Service Center and De-Concentrated services Provided at the Center**

**Project Duration: November 1, 2017 to January 30, 2018**

**Reporting Period: October 26 to November 30, 2017**



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Project Purpose/Goals: to Broaden the understanding of citizens at the county and community level on the significance of the county service center, and encouraging them to make use of the opportunity, and to take ownership of the Center for maintenance and sustainability of the center.

### **Introduction**

This report covers advocacy, awareness and sensitization activities implemented by the YAPUGEANMA WOMEN INC at the community level in the following towns in Molaquelleh Town, Bokomu District, Dogorta Town in Guanwolala District, Bopolu City in Bopolu District, Gbarma Town in Gbarma District, Kungbor town in Kongbah District, Belle yallah in Belleh District, Tapkoimah in Gbarma District, Zuo town in Gbarma District, Sappimah Town in Bopolu District, Totoquelleh Town in Bopolu District, Henry Town in Bopolu District and Saw mill town in Gbarma District in Gbarpolu County, under the Liberia Decentralization Support Program, LDSP local awareness component. It covers the period October 26, 2017 to November 30, 2017. The project is intended to create awareness on the County Service Center and the Liberia Decentralization support Program as well as the Local Government Act, across Gbarpolu County.

### **Summary of Activity**

1. Advocacy and awareness workshops
2. Production and dissemination of awareness materials
3. Community Lectures and public discourse sessions
4. Local leaders and community dwellers awareness meetings
5. Radio talk shows
6. Production and airing of radio jingles
7. Women and youth awareness and sensitization meetings
8. Live drama and culture performance sessions

This progress report provides summary information on the activities implemented by the YAPUGEANMA WOMEN INC under the Liberia Decentralization Support Program, local community's awareness and Advocacy component. This also provides in-depth analysis of the major activities that were implemented, achievements, challenges as well as lessons learned and recommendations. The following activities were implemented (Production of Awareness materials, organization of awareness and advocacy workshops, hosting of community lecture and public discourse sessions, organizing local leader's awareness meetings, Radio Talk Shows, production and airing of radio jingles, women and youths sensitization and awareness meetings).

### **Objectives**

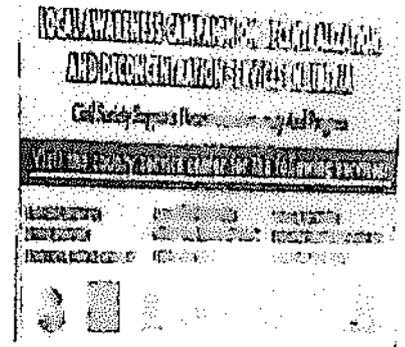
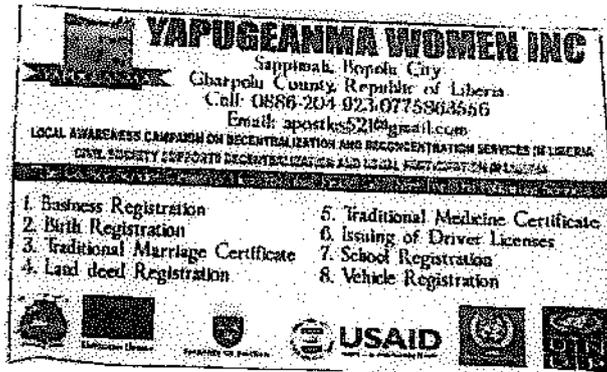
The objectives of this report is to provide first-hand information on the activities that were implemented during the period under review, and to inform the donors on what have been achieved, remaining activities as well as challenged faced during the period under review, lessons learned and way forward.

### **Accomplishment**

During the period November 1 to 30, 2017, YAPUGEANMA WOMEN made the following achievements while implementing the Liberia Decentralization support program, LDSP advocacy and local awareness component in Gbarpolu County. During the period under review, the following activities were implemented in Gbarpolu County.



## 1. Development and dissemination of assorted awareness materials to Communities in Gbarpolu County.

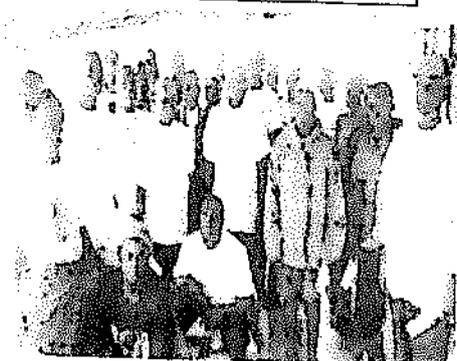


During the period Wednesday November 8 to Friday November 10, 2017, 500 Posters Portraying messages with awareness on the County Service Center, 1,000 Stickers with awareness messages, 250 T-Shirts with awareness messages as well as 2 Project banners were produced, disseminated and used for awareness in the various communities and towns in Gbarpolu County. The materials were disseminated to the six districts and major Towns within the entire Gbarpolu County. The posters were placed on Buildings and on materials in public places, while the stickers were distributed to community dwellers and motorcyclist who also placed them on their motorcycles and other materials. The T-shirts were also given to participants who attended the various meetings and workshops as well as local chiefs and community dwellers that use them to extend the awareness to their communities and beyond.

## 2. Awareness and Advocacy workshops

During the period November 1 to 30, 2017, through the UNDP supported Liberia decentralization support Program LDSP local awareness program, six (6) awareness workshops were held in six different towns in the six districts, in Gbarpolu County. The workshops were held on the following dates in the following towns:

Date	Town	District	Number of participants
November 14, 2017	Bopolu City	Bopolu District	50 persons including women and youths
November 17, 2017	Moilaquelleh Town	Bokumu District	50 persons
November 21, 2017	Gbarma Town	Gbarma District	50 persons
November 24, 2017	Belle Yalla Town	Belleh District	50 persons
November 27, 2017	Kungbor Town	Kongbah District	50 persons
November 30, 2017	Dogorta, Guanwolala District	Guanwolala District	50 persons



In the opening workshop in Bopolu City, the following local Government officials were in attendance, the Clan Chief of **Bondi-Mandingo Clan, Mr. Dorbor Mawolo**, the Administrative Assistant in the superintendent office **Mr. Bundo**, who proxy for the superintendent, the County Data officer in the CNDRA assigned at the County Service Center **Mr. Yankonah Zorh** who also proxy for the County Service Center Coordinator **Mr. Owen Kolleh**, the Commissioner of **Bopolu District Mr. Olu Nagbah**, the **Youth Chairman for Bopolu District, the Rural Women Representative** as well as people from the business community. During the awareness workshops in the other districts, participants came from the various clans within each district to form part off the workshops. The participants included Women representatives, Youth Representatives, Traditional leaders, Community elders as well as Clan and local chiefs. The workshops brought together a total of three hundred participants (300), who came from all sectors to represent a broad based participation. The awareness workshops were facilitated by the Executive Director of YAPUGEANMA WOMEN, **Madam Fatu F. Jalloh**, the Program Officer, **Mr. Victor P. Howard** and the Finance Officer **Mr. Joseph T. Massaley**. During the workshops, women participation was highly encouraged as women are the ones who carry the messages to the various communities on a larger scale. Each day, the workshop lasted for four (4) Hours beginning 9:00Am to 1:00PM. Participants in the various workshops were told the value of the County service Center, the Services that are being offered there, and the need for participants to inform their people to make use of the County Service Center. Also during the workshops, participants were given information on the local government Act.

**3. Community Lecture and public discourse on the value of the County Service Center**

During the period November 1 to 30, 2017, YAPUGEANMA WOMEN held six (6) Community Lecture sessions in six different towns within the six Districts in Gbarpolu County. The meetings were held in the following towns on the following dates:

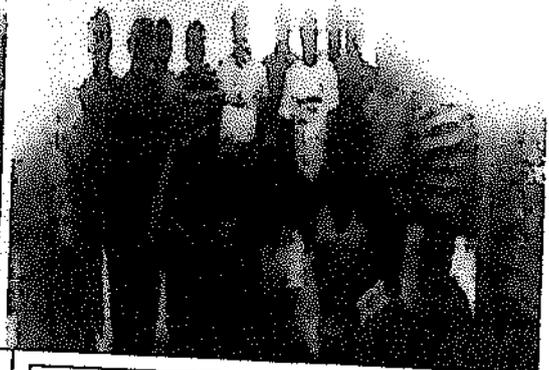
Date	Town/city	District	Number of attendances
November 15, 2017	Sappimah Town	Bopolu District	50 persons
November 16, 2017	Wayamah town	Bokomu District	50 persons
November 21, 2017	Zuo Town	Gbarma District	50 persons
November 19, 2017	Belle yalla	Belleh District	50 persons
November 22, 2017	Dorgorta	Guanwolala	50 persons
November 24, 2017	Tarkpoimah town	Gbarma District	50 persons



The Land Commissioner of Bopolu District Mr. Otto Making remarks at one Community lecture session



Community members in Takpoimah Town



Community members in Wayamah town

The community lecture sessions brought together Women, youth groups, Elders as well as other community based organizations working in the various districts in the county. The lecture sessions were intended to sensitize the communities on the value of the County Service Center, and the need for the citizens to make use of the services being offered, so as to avoid spending monies to travel to Monrovia for the same services offered at the county service center. A total of **three hundred (300)** persons from six different towns, within the six different towns in the six districts in Gbarpolu County took part in the community lecture and public discourse sessions. During the sessions, equal participation was encouraged, so as to have a broad based participation, during the sessions; presentations were made on the Liberia Decentralization Support program and the Local government Act as well as the various services that are being offered at the County Service Center in Bopolu. The participants were given the space to ask questions and make remarks on their view about the county Service Center and the Decentralization Support Program as well as make recommendations. Also during the community Lecture and Public Discourse Sessions, most of the citizens inform us that this is the first time that they are hearing about the county service Center; some of them mentioned that they can only see the Building that is **painted with green color**, but they don't know the reason it was erected. The citizens also assure us that as they have now getting the information about the County Service Center and the Valuable services being offered at their level; they will start making use of the services, because according to them the service Center is for their own good. During our community lecture and public discourse sessions, authorities from the County Service Center were involved in our activities, so as to provide the direct information that is needed about the Center and various services and procedures.

#### 4. Local leaders awareness meetings

During the Period Thursday November 23 to Thursday November 30, 2017, YAPUGEANMA women hosted **Six (6)** Meetings with local leaders and community dwellers in the six (6) districts across Gbarpolu County. The meetings were intended to create awareness amongst local leaders and community dwellers on the importance of decentralization and citizen's empowerment through the local government act and the devolution of power to the local people. The meetings were held in the following towns in the following districts;

Date	Town/City	District	Number of participants
November 23, 2017	Gbarma Town	Gbarma District	50 persons
November 24, 2017	Sappimah Town	Bopolu District	50 persons
November 25, 2017	Moilaquelleh	Bokomu District	50 persons
November 27, 2017	Dogorta	Guanwolala District	50 persons
November 28	Konnesu Town	Belleh District	50 persons
November 30, 2017	Kungbor	Kongbah District	50 persons

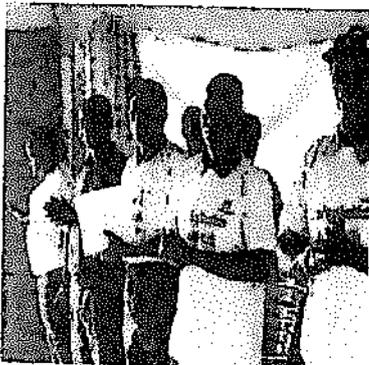


The local leader's awareness meetings brought together Clan Chiefs, Paramount Chiefs, and General Town Chiefs, Town Chiefs as well as Community leaders, Women and youth groups within each of the six (6) districts. Also During the meetings, the local leaders were abreast of the local government act and the importance of de-concentration and citizen's empowerment. The meetings brought together 300 participants including local chiefs and community dwellers as well as youth and women representatives. The local leaders and chief express gratitude for the awareness activities and emphasize the importance of citizen's empowerment through the local government act and decentralization program. Each of the meetings lasted for 2 hours and was held for one day each. During the discussions, questions were asked as whether the local Act is already signed into law and printed, the County Service Center and how citizens will be empowered through the decentralization program?. In all of the towns, the local leaders and citizens inform us that this is the first time an organization is going down to their level with such vital information and enlightening them on the value of their own empowerment and participation in the national governance process.

**5. Advocacy and sensitization meetings with Women and Youth Groups**

During the period under review, we hosted six (6) Advocacy and Sensitization meetings with Women and Youth Groups in six (6) towns in the six (6) districts in Gbarpolu County. The meetings were held in the following towns and districts on the following dates listed below;

Date	Town/City	District	Number of participants
November 23, 2017	Zuo Town	Gbarma District	50 persons
November 24, 2017	Sappimah Town	Bopolu District	50 persons
November 25, 2017	Wayama Town	Bokomu District	50 persons
November 26, 2017	Saw Mill	Gbarma District	50 persons
November 27, 2017	Henry Town	Bopolu District	50 persons
November 29, 2017	Fassama town	Beelleh District	50 persons



The sensitization meetings brought together three hundred (300) persons including youth and women from various towns being mentioned within the three districts. Also during the meetings, the women and youths were informed about the County Service center and the value it brings to their county and communities. During the meetings, the women and youths were abreast with information on the County Service Center and the different kinds of services that are being offered at the County Service Center, and they were also sensitized on the need for them to go to the service Center for services such as Birth registration for 0-12s, so that they can get the birth certificates of their children. The meetings were interactive, and it encompasses equal participation between both Males and females. During the meetings, many of the women mentioned that the ministry of Health was issuing them birth Certificates at the Chief Jallah Lone hospital, and they wanted to know whether the certificates being issued at the County Service Center is different from the one that is being issued at the hospital.

**6. Development and airing of radio jingles with awareness messages on the importance of the County Service Center and the local Government Act**

During the period October 26 to November 30, 2017, 2 radio jingles were produced and aired on 2 radio stations in Gbarpolu County. The jingles were produced in both English and Kpelleh, the two widely spoken languages in Gbarpolu County. The Jingles were produced by voice of Kpor FM 92.5 and aired on both Kpor FM and Puma FM in Bomi County, which also covers most parts of Gbarpolu County. The jingles are currently being played and will continue for a period of three months. The jingles are intended to inform the wider public most especially radio audience about the County Service Center and the Local government Act as well as the Liberia Decentralization Support Program.

**7. Live Radio Talk Shows with local radios and stakeholders on , Decentralization and the local government Act**

During the following dates in the month of November (November 14, 20, 24, 27, and 30, 2017) YAPUGEANMA WOMEN held six (6) radio talk shows with two (2) Community radio stations in Gbarpolu and Bomi Counties. During the talk shows, the County Service Center Coordinator Mr. Owen Kolley and other Agencies and Ministries within the County Service Center appeared on the shows to provide information on the services they offer. The talk shows were intended to inform the public about the County Service Center most especially, bringing the County Service Center Coordinator and other service providers within the Center, to speak about those important services that they provide at the County Service Center and to encourage the Citizens to go to the Service Center as well as admonishing them not to do business with people going around and collecting money in the name of the government agencies responsible for the collecting of taxes and other businesses. Also during the talk shows, Mr. Owen Kolley provided the background information of the local government act and the reason for the County Service Center as well as the values it bring to them and the easing of travel and other burdens associated with going to Monrovia for Government services. The talk shows were held on the following dates and on the following stations;

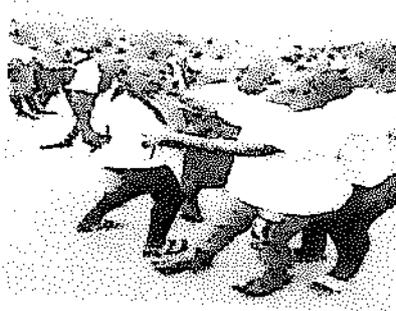


Date	Station
November 14, 2017	Kpor FM 92.5
November 20, 2017	Puma Fm
November 24	Voice of Kpor FM
November 27	Puma FM
November 30, 2017	Kpo FM
November 30, 2017	Puma FM

Also during the talk shows, Phone calls were allowed to know the reception and to ascertain as to whether the people were getting the messages and their imports and concerns as well.

#### 8. Live drama Performance and cultural dance session

During the period under review, Six(6) live drama performance sessions were held in six (6) different towns within four different districts in Gbarpolu County. The live dram performance sessions were held in the following towns, districts and on the following dates; the live drama performance sessions were held in open places and market places to where people gathered in numbers and witness the drama team performing



Date	Town/City	District
November 23, 2017	Zuo Town	
November 18, 2017	Bopolu City	Gbarma District
November 26, 2017	Wayama Town	Bopolu District
November 24, 2017	Totoquelleh Town	Bokomu District
November 28, 2017	Henry Town	Bopolu District
December 1, 2017	Saw Mill	Bopolu District
		Gbarma District

#### Achievements

During the project implementation, we were able to achieve the followings:

1. Successfully produced and disseminated various awareness materials to towns and communities across Gbarpolu County
2. Successfully organized 6 awareness workshops in the 6 districts of gbarpolu County
3. Successfully organize meetings with all the clan chiefs, District Commissioners, Paramount Chief and General Town Chiefs in Gbarpolu County
4. Completion of the project activities amidst the many challenges



## Challenges

During the period under review, we encountered the following challenges while implementing the LDSP local awareness project across Gbarpolu County.



2. Bureaucracy in getting some key stakeholders to form part of activities, most especially influential personalities
3. Delay of funding for activities, which reduce the momentum of the program as earlier scheduled
4. Long distance not reachable via vehicle, only Motorbikes which is more costly than expected, due to continue rainfall in the county.

## Recommendations

After working with diverse stakeholders and local authorities, women and youth groups during the implementation of the Local awareness on Decentralization and De-concentration services and the County Service Center in Gbarpolu County, we will like to recommend the followings:

### 1. Citizens Recommendations

- That the government and its partners devolve the County Service Center to the district level, because travelling to the county capital is more costly
- That there be an information officer at the district level, who will be responsible to pass information to the people as it comes to the various districts
- That the county services Center procedures should not be like the banking system in the county where people go there and stay for days before receiving their services

### 2. YAPUGEANMA's Recommendations

- That the time frame given for the awareness activities be extended and more funding allotted, so as to reach the remotes villages and hard to reach areas
- That UNDP follow timeliness and work according to timeframe stipulated in partner's contract documents so as to enable partners meet their targeted objectives in time.
- That other mass media awareness equipment's be provided for partners in the future in case of such project.



### **Lessons learned**

We were able to learn the following lessons while implementing the awareness Project:

- That Citizens are very happy for the Liberia Decentralization program and the Local government Act
- This is the first time that local chiefs from the lowest level are being called to discuss decentralization and citizens empowerment issues
- That even people in the city of Bopolu were not aware of the County Service Center and Activities being carryout there
- People from Monrovia still go around in other parts of the county collecting money from the people in the name of being tax collectors and commerce inspectors
- The ministry of Health is issuing Birth Certificates at the Hospital level in the county
- The people in the entire county on the average were not aware of the County Service Center and it activities
- Local chiefs are happy and willing for the local government act to be passed into law.

### **The Way Forward**

This work is still in progress; YAPUGEANMA will continue this wok up to the end of January, 2018 as per the program duration. However, because YAPUGEANMA is a county based Civil Society organization, the project activities will form an integral part of YAPUGEANMA's agenda

In order to ensure compliance with request to submit all activities and financial reports by first week in December, 2017 to the Donor, UNDP and the GC, YAPUGEANMA WOMEN had to Source Funding from other Project Accountsto finance the completion of the below listed activities which was not provided in the 70% disbursement made to YAPUGEANMA by UNDP.

1. Local Leaders and Community Dwellers awareness meetings
2. Advocacy and sensitization meetings with Women and Youth Groups
3. Administration and project Coordination Support

