



CAMP FOR PEACE LIBERIA INC.
(CFP-LIBERIA)
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INTRODUCTION/ACTIVITIES

Camp for Peace with its mission to contribute to nation building by facilitating processes for equipping communities in Liberia with skills and knowledge for sustainable peace through trauma healing, promotion of culture of nonviolence and reconciliation, education and promotion of good governance and social transformation carried out various peace-building and educational activities in targeted and needy communities. Some of the major activities carried out during the period were: training of war affected youths, capacity building workshops and seminars in conflict resolution, mediation, human rights, good governance, trauma healing, reconciliation and peace building. Other activities such as psycho-social counseling services, reconciliatory forums/dialogues networking, support to war affected youths to vocational training, assessments, monitoring and other developmental initiatives were undertaken. The targeted groups in these activities were, youths at risk, war affected including former child soldiers, ex-combatants, community leaders and other service providers drawn from three counties including Montserrado, Bong and Lofa Counties. These activities were intended to promote peace, reconciliation and unity among community youth and to enhance post-war reconstruction, reintegration and development in targeted communities.

During the period under review, **twelve (12)** training and capacity building seminars and consultative dialogues on peace building, reconciliation, youth development and good governance were organized for community leaders, service providers, youth and student groups, local authorities, women groups, religious leaders and other institutional personnel. These seminars focused on youth transformation, reconciliation and rehabilitation, trauma and recovery, human rights and good governance and practical project planning. The practical planning was designed to increase the capacities of youth to become more effective and committed community agents for change and transformation who will afterwards assist their communities and Liberia with the enormous task.

During these dialogues and seminars, youth were held to analyze security and additional socio-economic factors within the context of potential risks and threats that could contribute to insecurity in the communities. Participants were introduced to the use of participatory tools which will help them to analyze community specific risks and threats, analyze root causes and their impact on the community. The identification of these factors helped community youths to develop community security action plans. The process has also enhanced social cohesion in the communities and increased confidence and trust among young people.

During the period, CFP-Liberia also conducted workshop designed to help young people identify the users of complaints and response mechanism and the barriers users faced when reporting complaints. During this interactive workshop, participants were able to explore practical issues that influence the design and operation of an effective complaints and response mechanism and how to handle complex complaints, such as allegations of sexual exploitation, drugs and alcohol abuse. The workshop also helped young people to think through the process of setting up a complaint and Response Mechanism in their communities.

Kids for Peace Program:

In CFP-Liberia's endeavor to engage Children to actively make a positive contribution to their communities and nation through service, leadership and civic responsibility, CFP-Liberia organized "Kids for Peace" program in Monrovia for group of children between the ages of 5 - 10. The program aims to assist kids to build on one another self-esteem through circle of play. It is our belief that children can learn the tenets of leadership and civic responsibility through hands-on training and by implementing

meaningful community service projects. Additionally, with the notion that children tap into the wisdom of their elders and seniors as they interact with them!

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

There are several challenges that hinder the work of CFP-Liberia:

- The difficulties in soliciting funding from government, local and international agencies to effectively run the program;
- Challenges in maintaining volunteers to continue the activities of the program;
- Bad road condition to the leeward counties especially during the rainy season;
- Lack of vehicle to take staff and volunteers to the field;

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