

**APPENDIX B – EVALUATION BASIS
CAMP FOR PEACE LIBERIA
PROJECT REPORT
FEBRUARY – JULY 2019**

1. Have the planned activities been completed?

The planned activities of the project (February 2019 – January 2020) as per 2019 contract is still ongoing. This report is just a mid-term evaluation report to show the progress we have so far.

a. How many participants entered, and completed training?

Vocational School: This year, 35 students enrolled in the agriculture training at the Farmer Field School. From February 2019 to July 2019, three of the students dropped from the program. As of July, we were still finding out why these students dropped, but a full reason will be given in our annual report in February 2020.

Post-training agriculture cooperative. As of February 2019, Twenty-six participants have been very regular with activities of extending the agriculture cassava farm in Zorzor while in Salayea, there are 30 participants. As of July or before the compilation of this evaluation report, these numbers were still very constant except for a few cases where there are few absentees for one or two during work schedule.

b. Were opportunities provided to both men and women? (Breakdown of participants by gender, age, and type of training). If women are underrepresented, why is that?

Vocational school: Yes, opportunities were given to both male and female youths to participate in the program. However, we emphasize young women participation. The reason is that in the Liberian context, women have been regarded as a vulnerable group due to the high masculinity culture practices that sometimes suppress women. We are happy to report that out of the 35 students that enrolled from the beginning 20 were females (57%) while 15 were males (43%). However, before this evaluation report, three of the female participants dropped, and we now have 17 females and 15 males. Also, note that all students did general agriculture. The study include but not limited to poultry, animal raising/animal husbandry, fishponds management, crops/plant production including rice, cassava, potatoes, eddoes, vegetable production, soil management and evaluating and learning the type of crops good for which soil and the season necessary for each crops/plants, pest control, organic farming practices, leadership and management of farm, strategies and techniques of establishing own small farm, cooperative farming and a minimum guidance counseling. Please check the list of participants attached in the financial report for listing and students.

Post-training agriculture cooperative: we also prioritize both males and females. However, in the cooperative, there are currently only five females and 21 males in the Zorzor Agriculture Cooperative. In Salayea there are 12 females and 18 males. The reason for this is most of the participants who graduated in previous programs were males. Besides, most females are married and have to stay at home to take care of their kids. The new strategy will be to encourage

females and their spouses to participate in the program. With this strategy, we are sure that there will be some agreement in terms of them working together.

c. What on-going support and follow-up was offered to participants? List of participants with dates of contact for CFP follow-up.

As per our project plan of action and the proposal, we travel to Lofa every month to see project participants and progress. Sometimes we go twice a month whenever the need arises as indicated in the financial report. In term of support. We have always provided motivation and success stories of vocational and skills development when it comes to self-sustainability of the improvement of one livelihood. Besides that, we give every participant of the vocational school 4,000.00 Liberian dollars which is equivalent to USD 25.00. This amount is intended to assist them with transportation for commuting between their towns and villages and the school. Additionally, this amount helps to provide meal while staying in Salayea.

For the participants in the post-training agriculture project in Zorzor and Salayea, similar support has been given to them. We also provide daily food allowances to keep them focus on their project, as indicated in the financial report.

d. Has the micro-credit program continued to operate?

We piloted two microcredit programs in both **Zorzor and Salayea**; however, the **Zorzor micro-credit program failed**. The reason it failed is that the participants took the mini loan and did not payback. We think that it is difficult or challenging to continue the microcredit program in Zorzor. So what we did was to close that aspect of the Zorzor program.

With the **Salayea micro-credit**, the participants have been very committed to taking the microcredit and paying back, so it is progressing very well. Our last assessment in July shows that they have accumulated approximately 80,000 Liberian dollars as interest which equivalent to USD500.00. We want to continue the microcredit program in Salayea because their commitment to this initiative is impressive and promises to be sustained.

e. What progress has been made toward an operating business plan for the proposed guest house?

With the support of the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, the D.M Management Consultancy was hired in January this year to conduct a comprehensive business assessment in both Zorzor and Salayea. Based on the result of the assessment, a business plan was developed. Result of the assessment shows that there are high prospects of guest housing in Zorzor. The location of the guest house and the quality of the structure puts Camp for Peace guest house in a relative position when constructed. That business plan was submitted to the Steelworkers Humanity Fund immediately upon completion. Our figures are crossed that there will be a possibility someday to raise the necessary funds for its completion.

2. In general, what has been the impact of the training and post-training activities on the lives of participants and their families and communities?

Impact of the training on participants- the training is still ongoing for 2019, but testimonies collected so far shows that participants are acquiring lots of skills in general agriculture. Some of these skills include but not limited to pest control, soil assessment and preparation, appropriation of crops or plant that grow on a particular soil, poultry production, fishponds, vegetable production, rice production, organic methods of crops production, leadership, farm management, etc. Most of the participants have acknowledged that they came to the Farmer Resource Center with nothing, but now they are prepared to return to their communities with something. From the conversation with participants and what has been demonstrated at the school also shows that they are learning. They are eager to return to their communities with an exuberant spirit to contribute to their communities. Most of them have promised to establish a farm immediately upon completion of the training to earn money and support their families. We have also received numerous calls from parents and community members that the training is building a proactive community reliance and self-esteem among participants.

For the post-training activities, there is a paradigm shift in the lives of participants. Today they can produce valued-added cassava with gari that is highly demanded and consumed by the local population. Participants at the agriculture cooperative are becoming independent, meaning they can now work for their own money without being liabilities on society. Additionally, their leadership skills are improving by the day. They produced, manage, and give account to each on what they have earned without any conflict. This post-training project has also rebuilt the broken relationship between community members who once overlooked and considered participants as nothing and liabilities to society. Most community people have acknowledged a high degree of maturity and responsibilities on the parts of participants. Also, the social cohesion building among participants themselves is overwhelmed and commendable. They now take each other as brothers and sisters, and they depend on each other for peer support. Their lives are getting better.

The construction cooperative led by Ofantee Geninyan has earned a high degree of respect not only in Zorzor but the entire region of Zorzor and Salayea Districts. One manifestation is the construction of the modern toilet facilities currently being implemented by Camp for Peace Liberia. At one of the dedicatory of these toilets, the Salayea District Commissioner clearly stated that we had not seen any modern toilet like this in many public areas in Liberia. He further said that these modern architectures are a clear indication that these youths are trained and we can depend on them for the construction of our damaged building. Family members of participants now depend on participants for their livelihoods support because they can put food on their table and help to send their children to school.

Due to the quality of work by the building cooperative, they were hired by a church group and an individual to build an elementary school and similar latrine constructed under the Australian project.

- 3. What evidence is there that communities of the participants have changed their perceptions of war-affected youth, and that participants are perceived as productive, peaceful members of the community?**

There are many pieces of evidence, but succinctness among them includes the provision of land by the community people (approximately 40 acre of land in Zorzor and 30 acres in Salayea) for cassava production. Also, the provision of the Farmer Resource Center to be used to train war-affected youth is evidence. Evidence is the influx of people that visit the cassava processing plant to purchase what they have produced. Other indications include inviting the building construction team to build community houses, bars, schools, bridges, etc. The recognition and acknowledgment of their work by the local authorities also give a strong signal that community members and local government perceptions of war affected youth are gradually shifting. Participants are now being regarded as productive members of the community. Some people now referred to them as the food basket of the region.

4. What changes have been noted in the behaviors, attitudes, and skills of participants?

A couple of changes have been seeing. Some of these changes include leaving drugs and overly abuse of alcohol, offensiveness and abusive, disrespect of the rule of law, intolerance, violence, dependency syndrome, etc. For some, they have left the illegal gold mines and drugs trafficking business to a constructive process of acquiring vocational skills that is sustainable. Some have also left motorbike riding to engage in skills development at our vocational school.

5. How many of the participants been successful in finding employment or creating income generating opportunities for themselves? Six months after completion of training? 12 months after completion of training?

Our focus intern of who have been successful in finding employment has shifted since we started the cooperative initiatives in the program. Currently, there are 25 committed participants involved in cooperatives in Zorzor and 30 participants engaged in the Salayea Cooperative. A total of 55 are presently included working on expanding their various cooperatives that will provide some sustainable livelihood employment. However, fewer participants (approximately 10) that we are aware of have some personal business enterprises. Some have an individual farm, and others are doing personal construction work while others are employed in other industries.

6. For those that were not successful in finding employment or creating income generating opportunities, what were the principal reasons?

In previous year most of them complained about the lack of adequate support. With the establishment of the cooperatives, there is a better explanation that they now have a place to remain engage and earned a livelihood for themselves. Additionally, due to the routine movement of students upon completion of training, it is difficult if not impossible, to track all of them. We believe some of them are utilizing the skills adequately in other areas to support themselves and their families.

7. What has the CfP learned as a result of this project?

A couple of lessons have been learned from this project so far. We have learned that if you involved beneficiaries in project planning, implementation, and evaluation, there are better

chances of obtaining more excellent outcomes. If you also give them the power to plan, manage what is entrusted to them, they turn to take sustainable ownership.

These practices are great lessons learned. We have also learned that if you bring passion to anything, there are great successes to the narrative. Transparency and accountable to both benefactors and beneficiaries is also an excellent way of succeeding in a locally-driven project. A healthy relationship building with both beneficiaries and community members also pay off. Regular visit and concern for beneficiaries, going beyond the project platform give beneficiaries extra courage to remain stable. These are a few of the lessons we have learned, and more lessons will continue to be determined as we progress with this project.

8. What factors motivate participants to engage with the agricultural or building cooperatives?

A couple of factors are motivating members of both agriculture and building cooperative. The first is the income that comes out of both cooperative. Food is a demanding commodity, and everyone needs food to live. Now the agriculture cooperative is producing food that almost the entire local population love to consume. Through their production, they have also gained the admiration of their colleagues and community members. People who once neglected them are now embracing them because of what they produce. They see that as a significant motivating factor. Another factor is the recognition they received from community members and community leaders. Another factor is their association with Camp for Peace Liberia as a reputable and the most popular and only locally owned NGO in the region. They also see this as a motivating factor. The Steelworks regular visit and interaction with them and the community people also serve as a motivating factor. Our name, the quality of work we do and the hopes we build are all serving as motivating factors.