



Liberia Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative

**Report on the Dissemination of Liberia's 13th, 14th, and 15th EITI
Reports in Sinoe, River Cess, Grand Bassa, and Margibi Counties.**



June 20-28, 2025

Introduction

The second phase of LEITI's dissemination exercise commenced on June 20, 2025, in Sinoe County and ended in Margibi County. The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) launched a nationwide effort in December 2024 to disseminate its 13th, 14th, and 15th Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Summary Reports, covering six counties in the Western and Northern Regions. This exercise demonstrates LEITI's commitment to fostering transparency, accountability, and local engagement in Liberia's extractive sector, targeting ten counties, particularly those hosting significant extractive activities. The initiative aimed to make vital sectoral (Forestry, Agriculture, Mining, and Oil & Gas) information accessible and comprehensible to all stakeholders, especially local communities.

The dissemination exercise prioritized summarizing the EITI Reports into transparent, community-friendly formats. These summaries covered key aspects such as revenue disclosures, employment statistics, operational companies, contract transparency, Beneficial Ownership Disclosure, export and production data, and other critical metrics. To expand the dissemination exercise, Phase two focused on four counties (Sinoe, River Cess, Grand Bassa, and Margibi). Phase one targeted six counties: Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu.

The interactive and participatory presentations allowed participants to raise concerns, ask questions, provide feedback, and propose actionable recommendations. The initiative received USD 60,000 in funding from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). For phase one, as agreed in the signed contract, GIZ made the first transfer of USD 36,000 (thirty-six thousand) to the LEITI Secretariat. Upon the comprehensive completion of phase one and GIZ certifying the first report, the second trench was disbursed to the Secretariat, enabling the second phase to commence.

Phase Two Dissemination Team

The dissemination team for the second phase comprised Finance Director George N. Dennis, Technical Officer McDonald S. Kerl, Sr., MSG Member and National Civil Society Representative George Kingsley, and LEITI's Communications Assistant Kelvin Benson.

The team conducted detailed presentations, breaking down complex data for easier understanding. Their participatory approach included interactive discussions to capture the concerns and perspectives of local stakeholders. This process ensured that community voices were heard and documented for follow-up actions.

County-Specific Issues and Feedback

1. Sinoe County

Citizens of Sinoe County expressed concerns about the Chinese mining of black sand in the County, the poor condition of the County's roads, and the lack of information about the County's Social Development Funds. The citizens accused Golden Veroleum-Liberia's trucks of damaging the roads and making it difficult for citizens to travel internally to certain parts of the County. They also wonder why a county endowed with several natural resources struggles with basic social services. They accused Sino-Forest, a company that once operated in the County, of abandoning workers and affected communities, owing them wages and social development funds, respectively, and leaving them without a word. They accused their local officials and legislative caucus of failing to adequately protect their interests.



A cross-section of citizens of Sinoe County during the dissemination exercise in Greenville City, Sinoe County.

II. River Cess County

In River Cess County, many citizens expressed disappointment in their county officials for failing to ensure that the county's resources benefit them. They raised an alarm about the increasing wave of illegal mining across the County, especially in the Sand Beach Community, where environmental degradation and water pollution are taking a significant toll on the community. They accused Kplon Mining and Agriculture Cooperative in Sand Beach of undermining the river in collusion with some local authorities. They have also accused GMCS, owned by Chinese nationals, of failing to uphold the social agreement it signed with the

affected community. They want the government to intervene to curb these illegal acts, which they believe are affecting communities near the river environmentally and socially.



Citizens of Cestos City, River Cess County, listened attentively as the findings of the reports were being presented.

III. Grand Bassa County

Many citizens of Grand Bassa County expressed frustration over the allocation of their county's one million dollars in annual social development funds, provided by ArcelorMittal-Liberia. They emphasize that the LEITI report is a significant tool for local communities and stakeholders to hold companies and their leaders accountable. The event aimed to provide communities with accessible information on the revenues generated by the extractive sector, and on how those revenues are allocated and used. Some citizens of Grand Bassa County expressed deep concern about the lack of transparency in how social development funds were spent and accused county officials of failing to account for their SDF over the last seven years.



LEITI's Technical Officer explains the report during the interactive dissemination exercise in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County.

IV. Margibi County

Citizens from Weala, Harbel, and Kakata City in Margibi County, who are hosts of the Country's largest rubber plantation, the Firestone Rubber Plantation, expressed concerns over the lack of impact from extractive activities in their county. They accused Firestone of suppressing local rubber farmers and dictating the prices at which they could sell their rubber. Meanwhile, they acknowledged Firestone's improvements in housing and other areas for their workers, including social contributions to the County. However, they believe that, county-wide, the company has not done much for the people, given the long years it has operated in the County. They want the Government to revisit the fiscal regime in the extractive sector to ensure companies pay more than their current payments. They believe that companies are making more money and paying less in taxes and social contributions.



Dissemination team member George Dennis listens as citizens of Kakata City ask questions during the dissemination exercise in Margibi County.

Citizens Demand Accountability and Monitoring

Community members in the targeted counties expressed concerns over the lack of effective monitoring of social development projects, which they believe has contributed to delays and substandard implementation. They emphasized the need for civil society groups to proactively ensure that these projects meet their intended goals and benefit local communities.

The citizens also called on LEITI to ensure that future EITI Reports are disseminated promptly and made available in easy-to-understand formats. They noted that timely access to information is critical for fostering transparency, fighting corruption, and enabling citizens to hold stakeholders accountable.

EITI Reports Highlight Revenue Flows and Challenges

The summarized reports presented during the outreach highlighted key findings from Liberia's 13th, 14th, and 15th EITI Reports. These reports provide a detailed account of revenues generated from the mining, forestry, agriculture, and oil and gas sectors, as well as the payments made to and received by government entities. The reports also outline gaps and challenges in revenue management, project implementation, and overall governance issues facing the extractive sector.

The LEITI team at the dissemination event reiterated its commitment to transparency and accountability. They assured citizens that efforts are underway to improve the timeliness and accessibility of future reports.

The dissemination exercise underscores the importance of collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities to ensure the effective use of revenues from natural resources. LEITI's outreach activities aim to empower citizens with the information needed to demand better governance and advocate for sustainable community development.

As Liberia continues to implement the EITI Standard, the active involvement of all stakeholders remains essential in promoting transparency, reducing corruption, and ensuring that natural resource revenues contribute to meaningful development for all Liberians.

Environmental Degradation in Government Camp, Sinoe County

At the town hall in Government Camp, Sinoe County, participants expressed concerns about environmental degradation caused by artisanal and small-scale (ASM) mining in the area. They highlighted issues such as encroachment into agricultural areas, water pollution, occupational hazards, and labor abuse, which have significantly affected the region's ecosystem and the livelihoods of its inhabitants. Residents stressed the need for the Government, through the MME and the EPA, to hold companies and Class C license holders accountable for the environmental damage caused by their activities. The interactions emphasized the need for the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen its oversight of mining areas in the Country.

Social Development Services

Across all four counties, there was a common dissatisfaction with the perceived unfairness in benefits derived from extractive activities. Locals criticized concessionaires' inadequate community development initiatives, noting that promised benefits often fail to materialize or meet the communities' needs. During the engagement, citizens accused concessionaires of drafting well-written agreements but failing to honor the commitments outlined in them. They thanked the LEITI for publishing extractive contracts on their website, making it easy for them to access and gather facts. Citizens across the four counties highlighted the lack of implementation of the terms and conditions in most social agreements with companies as a major driver of conflict in affected communities nationwide.

This dissatisfaction underscores growing concerns about the socio-economic impact of the extractive industries on local communities. Citizens called for the Government of Liberia to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for concession agreements, ensuring companies fulfill their social obligations to affected communities and counties, thereby promoting harmony and preventing unrest fueled by dissatisfactions.

LEITI emphasizes that concession agreements between the Government and companies should foster equitable development, ensuring communities benefit from the exploitation of their

natural resources. Transparency and accountability are key principles under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard, which Liberia has pledged to uphold.

During the dissemination, LEITI's staff assured participants of their commitment to creating platforms for stakeholder dialogue in the extractive sector. They also encouraged community members to continue advocating for their rights by holding officials, both local and national, accountable.

Gender Composition of LEITI Dissemination Activities

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) is committed to inclusivity in its engagement efforts, ensuring that all stakeholders, regardless of gender, are represented in discussions on transparency and accountability in the extractive industries. Here's an overview of the gender composition from recent dissemination events across six counties:

No.	County	No. of Females	No. of Males	Total
1	Sinoe County	152	249	401
2	River Cess County	115	286	401
3	Grand Bassa County	134	266	400
4	Margibi County	209	393	602

Highlights of Key Demographics of Participants

- The total number of persons across the four counties participating in the dissemination exercise was 1807.
- There were a total of 698 females representing 38.6% of participants and 1,109 males representing 61.4% of participants who participated in the dissemination exercise during the second phase.
- Most of the participants were in the age range of 18-35, with a relatively small number of participants aged above 60 years.

Why Gender Representation Matters

Under EITI guidelines, achieving gender balance in stakeholder engagement ensures that all voices—especially those of historically underrepresented groups, such as women—are heard. Women bring unique perspectives on the impacts of extractive industries, particularly in areas like environmental stewardship, community development, and equitable resource distribution.

Media Engagements

The media remains a key partner for public engagement and plays a critical role in enhancing transparency and accountability across Liberia. In line with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard, which emphasizes inclusive communication and stakeholder involvement, LEITI has prioritized media engagement as an essential tool for its dissemination efforts. During the second phase of our dissemination efforts, three media engagements were conducted to ensure the broadest possible reach and to foster informed public dialogue on extractive industry governance.

Media Activities During Dissemination

The second phase of the dissemination exercise involved the dissemination team engaging three media entities in three counties across the dissemination scope. The team conducted a one-hour public engagement with three different media institutions as part of the dissemination exercise's awareness and public engagement process. Our focal persons also engaged with local media in three counties to mobilize stakeholders and effectively disseminate key messages. This multi-channel approach included live talk shows, interviews, and social media updates to ensure comprehensive coverage of the dissemination activities.

In Sinoe County, the team arranged a one-hour live talk show on the Voice of Sinoe in Greenville City. In Grand Bassa, the team held a live talk show in Buchanan, and in Margibi, the team engaged Voice of Margibi Radio. These talk shows provided an interactive platform, allowing citizens to ask questions and better understand LEITI's objectives and the significance of extractive industry transparency. These engagements were instrumental in reaching diverse audiences across urban and rural settings, ensuring inclusivity in dissemination.

The dissemination exercise received significant media coverage, with many community radio stations covering the exercise and highlighting its significance. LEITI's official social media pages were also actively used to share updates, photos, and key takeaways from the dissemination activities. This digital engagement strategy complemented traditional media efforts, ensuring that stakeholders who rely on online platforms were also adequately informed.

Impact of Media Engagement

The media engagements during phase two of the dissemination exercise raised public awareness about LEITI's activities and the broader objectives of the EITI framework. By leveraging both traditional and digital media channels, LEITI fostered greater public participation and enhanced understanding of extractive industry transparency and accountability. The inclusion of local media outlets that tailored their messages to specific communities made the information more relatable and impactful.

Media engagement is a cornerstone of LEITI's public outreach strategy. The success of the first dissemination exercise laid the foundation for this second phase, underscoring the importance of maintaining strong partnerships with the media. LEITI will continue to build on these efforts, ensuring that media activities remain integral to promoting transparency, accountability, and informed public participation in Liberia's extractive industries.

Key Findings

The dissemination exercise revealed the following insights:

1. **Revenue Disclosures:** Citizens believe that revenue disclosure should not be an end in itself. The Government of Liberia should establish a mechanism to link natural resource revenue to national development projects that positively impact its people's lives.
2. **Employment Data:** One of the key objectives of attracting foreign direct investments is to provide employment opportunities for citizens. Citizens believe that companies investing in Liberia have not done much to employ Liberians. They referenced LEITI's disaggregated data on employment in the extractive sector.
3. **Export Data:** Given that royalties are calculated on export volume, the issue of fair calculation of royalties was a sticky issue, which citizens want greater transparency around to ensure that the Country is not cheated in the process.
4. **Accountability Gaps:** To ensure companies' compliance, stakeholders called for regular, timely reporting and more effective monitoring mechanisms.
5. **Regular Dissemination:** Regular dissemination is vital to the flow of information and the utilization of EITI data. LEITI needs to make significant strides in regularly disseminating these reports as they are produced to foster and ignite the necessary reactions and reforms in the governance of the extractive sector. Citizens believe that these data inform their advocacy and promote a culture of fact-based engagements with companies, local authorities, and national government.

Recommendations

To address the concerns raised and improve the extractive sector governance, LEITI proposes the following:

1. **Enhance Local Engagement:** Regularly organize community forums and provide simplified report summaries to improve public understanding and foster inclusive participation.
2. **Strengthen Monitoring Mechanisms:** Establish independent oversight bodies to track the implementation of social development projects and land reclamation efforts. Development of a comprehensive land reclamation policy for the country.
3. **Promote Equitable Employment Practices:** Advocate for and enforce policies that ensure equal treatment and opportunities for local and foreign employees.
4. **Enforce Compliance with Employment:** The Government should ensure that the five-year review clause in concession agreements prioritizes companies' compliance with the employment of Liberians at all levels.
5. **Ring-fence Extractive Revenue:** Dedicating extractive revenue to a significant national priority is a strategic way of measuring and tracking the usage and impact of extractive revenue.

6. Timely Reporting: Expedite the publication and dissemination of EITI Reports to maintain transparency and accountability.

7. Enforce Environmental Safeguards: Implement stricter environmental regulations to mitigate the adverse impacts of extractive activities on local communities.

8. Liberianize the Forestry Sector: Enacting laws that ensure that only Liberians are granted rights in the forestry sector will empower Liberians and promote value addition.

9. Revisit Fiscal Regime in the Extractive Sector: The current fiscal regime in the extractive sector is not strong enough to generate fair revenue for the Government and ensure that benefits to affected communities are adequate to address the many issues confronting the real owners of the resources.

Conclusion

The MSG and the Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) extend deepest thanks and appreciation to GIZ for their financial support to the LEITI, which made possible the dissemination of LEITI's 13th, 14th, and 15th summary reports across ten (10) counties. The dissemination of these reports is a milestone in promoting transparency and accountability in the governance of the country's extractive sector. By addressing community concerns and fostering informed dialogue, LEITI seeks to ensure that Liberia's natural resource wealth translates into sustainable benefits for all citizens.