

Community leaders and residents in these counties were mobilized as well as sensitizes on ebola prevention. This study was part of social mobilization and behavioral change attempt to curtail the further spread of Ebola. The project was successfully completed in March, 2015. P4DP as a Coordinating Chair for the Natural Resource Management have implemented for SIDA Sponsored program for NDI and the program was renewed for another nine months after a resounding success of the first. https://www.ndi.org/citizen-centered-politics-liberia

**Mission**

The mission of P4DP is to make Liberia become a society that is based on good governance and civic participation, through the strengthening the capacities of the state and non-state actors in order to prevent, manage and transform through collaborative action.

**Vision**

The vision of P4DP is to see Liberia as a society that is characterized by equality, social cohesion and respect for all.
Core Values and principles
Below are the values and principles by which P4DP is directed and survive as an institution:

- Dialogue and Respect are critical for building trust and lasting peace
- Sustainable Peace requires an inclusive process that involves women, youth and excluded groups in a meaningful and constructive way
- Create Level Playing Field- That reflects social, Political and Economic Diversity for all actors
- Build trust and legitimacy- by remaining objective and sensitive
- Develop User friendly ways of communication
- Build and strengthen social networks-Across social and political divides by bringing state and non-state
- Peace- Should be locally owned, driven and managed

On-going Programs

Frameworks for Assessing Resilience (FAR)

Liberia is one of three countries, along with Guatemala and Timor Leste, participating in a cross-country project aimed at developing frameworks for assessing resilience. Resilience is understood as the capacity to anticipate risk, resolve challenges collaboratively and non-violently across societal divisions, respond creatively to conflict and crisis, and steer social change in ways that foster shared benefits of peace and development.

This project, coordinated by Interpeace, a Geneva-based non-governmental organization with projects in over 20 countries, seeks to shed light on how change works and what constitutes progress within particular societies. Using participatory action research, the project will develop frameworks and indicators by way of inclusive consultations and national working groups over a two year period, such that the resulting frameworks are context sensitive and nationally owned. P4DP is responsible for the implementation of this programme in Liberia.

Prior to the outbreak of Ebola in Liberia, P4DP launched the study to explore Resilience to conflict as part of a three country project titled Frameworks for Assessing Resilience (FAR). Using participatory research action methodology throughout the 15 counties in Liberia, P4DP’s team consulted 1,152 Liberians, from diverse social, economic and political
backgrounds. Even though extra efforts were made by the team to ensure reasonable gender representation, 36% of the groups consulted were female while 64% were male. In this study, these elements were classified into three thematic groupings with relevant illustrations of how they could cause a relapse to conflict or aid a transformative process of ‘next level’. They include, (a) Shifting gender roles and identities of women within existing patriarchal structures in Liberian social life, which was seen to contribute substantially to a lot of individual and household-level conflict and violence; (b) the weakness of the state manifested in the inadequate provision of public goods and a perception of governance failures, erodes trust between the state and society; and (c) increasing pressure on land and the absence of effective regulation, fuels conflict and potential violence. In addition to these three threats, the Ebola crisis as an external shock, and the ways in which it has undermined social cohesion is an additional conflict driver that exacerbates the three identified threats. See attached Executive Summary.

Validation Forum
In an attempt to further discuss and corroborate findings from the study, a one day validation was held on the 29th of April 2015, in Monrovia where the Minister of Internal Hon. Morris Dukuly served as Special Guest. The validation forum brought together representatives from different sectors of society, including the House of Representatives, Governance Commission, the African Union, the Secretary General of Liberia Motor Circle Association, people living with disability, Council of Chiefs, and people from the private sector. There was a strong appreciation and affirmation of the research by all participants. In his opening remarks, Minister Dukuly said that this research resonated with Liberia because it acknowledged “the difficult past of Liberians couple with their determination to grapple with their realities and that it cannot be over emphasized that they are resilience people”. At the end of the session, participants resorted to prioritization exercise during which eight resilience mechanisms were identified as having the greatest potential to contribute to the strengthening resilience and peace in Liberia.

National Working Group
The forum advised P4DP to pursue the research’s second phase in a dialogue-based process through the establishment of a National Working Group with the objective of making concrete suggestions for programmatic and policy actions. Two National Working Groups have been constituted and working on the key findings. The National Working Groups are working on findings from the consultations of which the results will be validated in 2nd Validation Forum.

---

in November, 2015 to understand policies and programs that will help build resilience. Having undergone a recent transformation with the aim of promoting local ownership and developing participatory methodologies in targeted peacebuilding initiatives, P4DP previously worked as part of an integrated Interpeace team. P4DP utilize Participatory Action Research (PAR) methods to contribute to peacebuilding and the reconciliation roadmap process. P4DP are currently focused on strengthening the role of youth in peacebuilding.

Since 2012, P4DP lunched a Women Empowerment micro-finance loan Program’ commonly called ‘Women Empowerment Loan Liberia: http: www.wellprojects.com, in short –WELL. The PROJECT aimed at economically empowering marginalised women through microfinance loan in order to strengthen their capacities to fight poverty and enable them to positively address societal problems through peaceful and much dignified manner.

Other Projects completed

a. Small Arm Survey
P4DP also conducted a Small Arm Survey Project and completed same in 2011, with support from DFID under the Clingendael Project. The survey was implemented in Montserrado, Bomi, Bong and Grand Cape Mount Counties. The project had three major objectives: To know whether the skill training give ex-combatants in Liberia following the end of the DDRR program was beneficiary to them; to know whether the funding allocated by the international community towards the DDRR project was actually used for the benefit of the ex-combatants, relative to disabusing their minds of violence and warlike thoughts and to know the number of ex-combatants that benefited as well as those that did not benefit in actual sense, giving understanding that most of them have become criminals and formed gangs, having gotten incorporated back into the society;

b. Ebola and Community Action Plan (ECAP)
P4DP also implemented and completed the Ebola and Community Action Plan (ECAP)\(^2\) project in 2015, with sponsorship from Mercy Corps. The project had three major objectives: a.) Facilitating the eradication of Ebola out of Liberia, through community platform and active participation; b.) Creating awareness among local communities on measures to eradicate Ebola; and c.) Mobilizing communities’ action towards eradicating Ebola.

**BBC Media Action Kick Out Ebola from Liberia Project**

Since December 2014, P4DP has been working with BBC Media Action, to implement a participatory research called ‘Kick Ebola Out of Liberia’ in both rural and urban Monrovia. The focus of this study is to create awareness in the communities through FGD discussion organized around various themes of Ebola- how people are reacting to them and how they can keep themselves safe from the deadly virus. The program is ongoing and the final round of the FGDs was concluded by Early July, 2015.

**Contribution to peace**

- Early warning
- Human rights
- Mediation & Dialogue
- Reconciliation
- Research
- Youth
- Gender and women
- Peace Education/Awareness/advocacy
- Conflict prevention

---

The P4PD programme brings together all sectors of society from across Liberia.

---

This includes both urban and rural populations so that a common vision for a peaceful future is developed. This vision is expected to come from the people themselves and the process will complement current efforts to develop concrete recommendations and strategies to implement them.

P4DP also participated in the Joint Council of Chiefs Meeting between Co

**Builds capacities to deal with conflict**

**The program increases positive social and political cohesion** by creating better capacities in state and non-state actors to deal with conflict through collaborative action. Specifically it:

- Builds trust between and among individuals, communities and institutions.
- Levels the playing field’ by reducing the inequalities in power and increasing the confidence and competence between different social and political actors.
- Ensures an inclusive process that also involves women, youth and other excluded groups in a meaningful and constructive way.
- Develops channels of communication and social networks across social and political divides and between government and social actors.

**Impact and results**

Successfully implemented a pilot community mobilization reconciliation project in Nimba County with the support of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the UN Mission in Liberia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This project is now being rolled out across the country following the success. It led to the Musa Bility Commission that paid compensation to communities in Nimba.

The 2009 report of the Secretary-General on the UN Peacebuilding Fund stated: ‘A pilot community reconciliation project in Liberia’s volatile Nimba County succeeded in developing a model for conflict resolution, including mechanisms for settling property disputes. The success of this project in fostering reconciliation and post conflict reintegration led to the roll-out of a similar approach at the national level. Challenges to such approaches include political risks affecting the performance of reconciliation and governance projects: limited political will and national ownership, along with difficulties in national legislatures; and inflexible positions of some key stakeholders. Such challenges attest to the fact that sustainable peacebuilding is not a short term endeavor’.
On the FAR project there has been increased momentum about the FAR project on how people understand resilience as a resource that promote peace and de-emphasized fragility in ways that build local capacity to avert civil conflict. During the validation forum, participants noted that this kind of consultation help people develop resources that keep them from going back to conflict anytime soon.

**Momentum for peace**

The independent evaluation commissioned by the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the Government of Liberia underlined the project’s success in mobilizing local communities to address conflict in non-violent means and create a “momentum for peace”.

**Capacity building of local change agents**

The project is being carried out through eight partner Liberian peace organizations. This constitutes a “hands-on” exercise in capacity building to instill skills of facilitation, research, mediation, and gender mainstreaming in local Liberian organizations.

**Local consultations on key priorities carried out across Liberia**

The project conducted consultations across all of the counties in Liberia, reaching into districts that have never been consulted on these issues. The results were provided to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and are being incorporated into key government policy documents.

**Upcoming projects**

**R2HC Project- The Role of Traditional Healers in the Fight Against Ebola**

P4DP is at the verge of implementing the R2HC project for Save The Children UK, a study titled ‘The Role of Traditional Healers in the Fight Against Ebola’. The focus of the study is to look examine the role traditional healers and spiritual healers play in the fight against Ebola and how community residents perceive their work. This is an evolving work that will commence very soon.

**American Anthropologists Association (AAA)**
P4DP is a staunch member of the Liberia’s chapter and an affiliate of the American Anthropologists Association (AAA). The AAA in Liberia is a hub created by Anthropologists and Social Scientists who came from various parts of the globe to work on Ebola Prevention and awareness Programs. The essence of the group is to share information and understand what each researcher was working on. P4DP and University of Liberia are the only two local affiliates of AAA. Busy with the establishment of a local branch of the AAA.

Mobile4women (Mobile4Women)

The Mobile for Women project is intended to contribute to the promotion of gender-sensitive human rights problems in the border counties of Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Maryland and River Gee through the strengthening of local CSOs in awareness raising and advocacy. The proposed project seeks to bring women’s rights in the border areas on the agenda of the population and the authorities as well as identify ways of improving the human rights situation of women.

Enhancing Capacity of Liberian Youth for Peace and Security (ECLYPS)

The (ECLYPS) proposed project is a pilot intervention for South-eastern border counties that aims at contributing to Liberia’s overall peace and security by addressing insecurity and inter-communal fragmentations in border areas through focused empowerment of at-risk youth and marginalised social groups. The project seeks to train youth civil society organisations in techniques of relevant conflict prevention, dialogue, and peacebuilding and to enable them to empower these groups to produce constructive recommendations to address the challenges faced by the young population in the troubled border area with Ivory Coast. In addition, ECLYPS aligns with the national reconciliation roadmap and feeds into the larger reconciliation process.

Accepts volunteers and interns

This organization accepts volunteers and interns who have cutting-edge skills in the core areas of our work. Email using the below contact details for more information.

Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)

Sinkor, Old Matadi Estate Road

Monrovia, Liberia

Tel: +231- 886-451845, 7776449230

E-mail: p4dpplib@gmail.com
Website: www.p4dp.org