

UNDP Liberia News



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VSLA Beneficiaries Increase Savings

On 26 April 2014, the second share out of savings by the Lorkiamue Group in Newtown Bong County, was held under the Kokoyah Millennium Village Project. During the share out ceremony, members of the Lorkiamue Association received cash ranging from **25,000 LD** to **53, 5000 LD** depending on the amount each member invested in the Association and interest generated from loans.

The Commissioner for Boinsen District William Tarpeh thanked the Rural Women Welfare Committee (RUWECO) and UNDP for bringing this lucrative initiative into his district. Mr. Tarpeh cautioned the beneficiaries to use their savings to develop their homes and send their children to school.



The Town Chief of New Town said the VSLA programme has provided a safety net for most homes since its inception. Joseph Zekeh said members now have easy access to cash when they are caught in difficult situations. "I want to encourage the women to work even harder next year so as to fight poverty effectively" Town Chief Zekeh stressed.

On his part, the Manager of the UNDP KMV Project Samuel Ndingi expressed appreciation to members of Lorkiamue VSLA who have made the project impactful. "You have followed the processes of the VSLA methodology training which today has culminated to a second successful share out" Mr. Ndingi noted.



Members of the Lorkiamue are elated over the savings accrued, utilizing the VSLA Training conducted by UNDP.

1.9 million People Recorded As Eligible Voters

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced that the total number of registered voters in the country is put at 1.9million (1,903,229). The Chairman of NEC Jerome Korkoyah said the figures represent a combination of figures from the 2011 Voters' Registration Exercise and the 2014 Voters' Roll Update (VRU) Process. According to Chairman Korkoyah, out of this number, 986,190 were males, constituting 52%, while 919,039 were females, constituting 48%.

These results recorded 649,484 registered voters in Montserrado with the highest percentage of 34%, followed by Nimba with 241,903 at 13%, Bong and Lofa at 178,866 and 164,203 respectively, with a percentage of 9% each.

Rivercess and Rivergee Counties each recorded the lowest of 2%at 31,550 and 31,515 respectively.

It can be recalled that following the conduct of the Voters' Roll Update (VRU) exercise the Commission had recorded a preliminary figure of 104,710 as the total number of newly registered voters who had attained the age of 18 years and those who did not register during the 2011 voters registration exercise.

Out of this number, 67,474 at 64.4% were new registrants whose ages range from 18 to 22 years. Provisional results also showed that 65,989 or 63% of the new registrants were males while 38,721 or 37% were females. According to the Commission, voters who had transferred from their previous areas of registration to their current areas of residency were 44,000.

The NEC Chairman has meanwhile announced that nomination of candidates begins July 2nd to the 24th.

UNDP, as part of its programmatic activities, provides technical, logistical, financial as well as capacity building and policy support to the National Elections Commission. The aim is to assist the government of Liberia deepen the democratization process of the Country.



Over 1,000 Liberians participated in the Voters' Roll Update Exercise Conducted by the National Elections Commission.

Law Reform Commission Gets a Boost

UNDP through the Peace Building Fund, turned over two land Cruiser Jeeps to the Law Reform Commission (LRC) in Liberia.

Speaking during a turnover ceremony of the vehicles at the Commission's office in Monrovia, its Chairman Counselor Jallah Barbu described the PBF as "a strong pillar of peace, security and development" under the government's Agenda for Transformation Framework.

Counselor Barbu applauded the continuous support of the Peace Building Fund (PBF) through the United Nations Development Program, (UNDP) to the Commission. He said since the establishment of the LRC, UNDP, through the Peace Building Fund, has been extremely supportive of its programmatic activities.

UNDP Country Director Kamil Kamaluddeen reiterated UNDP's commitment to the strengthening of government's institutions and processes that promote sustainable democratic and economic development in the country.

Dr. Kamaluddeen noted that assets deployed within the government's framework further strengthens and solidify accountability, coordination and trust within the system.



UNDP Country Director Kamil Kamaluddeen Turns Over to Counselor Jallah Barbu, keys to the Two vehicles.

14 Human Rights Monitors to be Deployed Following 4-day Training

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Launches CAP on Post 2015

14 Human rights monitors completed a four-day pre-deployment training organized by the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) with support from the United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Support Office through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).



Independent National Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Brueh Certificates one of the 14 Human Rights Monitors

The training was aimed at ensuring that Human Rights Monitors are adequately knowledgeable on issues related to human rights abuses and accessible to rural communities.

The Monitors are to be deployed at various regional hubs in the country, to monitor and report on human rights and other forms of abuses, as mandated by law.

Speaking at the close of the exercise, UNDP Program Analyst on Conflict Prevention and Recovery, James P. Monibah, told the trainees to make maximum use of the knowledge and skills they have acquired at their various areas of assignments. Mr. Monibah pledged the continuous support of the UN Peacebuilding Office, through UNDP to the work of the INHCR to assist in reducing human rights violations in every part of the country.

Speaking earlier, INCHR Oversight Commissioner for Training, Communication and Information, Thomas A. Brueh said under the justice, security, rule of law and peace-building pillar of the government of Liberia's Agenda for Transformation, the government is obligated to construct five regional hubs in the country and the Commission is responsible to monitor human rights issues at these hubs.

velopment. "This is the first time that all of Africa has agreed with one voice on a common agenda, although in the formulation of national priorities there will be recognition of local specificities" President Sirleaf noted.

The HLC headed by President Sirleaf, comprises 10 Heads of State and Government from the five regions of Africa.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has reiterated that the Common African Position (CAP) on Post 2015 Development Agenda will provide a broad road-map towards action that Liberia and the rest of the region must undertake to transform their societies as they embark on the longer journey of the African Union's Vision 2063.

Speaking at the National Launch of the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, at the Foreign Ministry's C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium, the Liberian Leader noted that the document is intended to inform policy makers and all stakeholders of the development agenda that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015 and enable Liberians take full ownership of the next process of the agenda.

She termed the CAP as a unique and historic de-



velopment. "This is the first time that all of Africa has agreed with one voice on a common agenda, although in the formulation of national priorities there will be recognition of local specificities" President Sirleaf noted.

The HLC headed by President Sirleaf, comprises 10 Heads of State and Government from the five regions of Africa.

Police Investigators Trained in Gathering Evidence

The Legal Counsel and Deputy Chief Prosecutor at the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Crimes Unit (SGBV-CU) has told a group of Investigators at the Ministry of Justice to remain consistent in the gathering of the necessary pieces of information and evidence about crimes.

Attorney Bornor Varmah said the police, is the first line of contact in the criminal justice sector and should therefore ensure that investigations are properly conducted.

He was speaking at a two-day training for thirty- six Investigators of the Liberia National Police women and children section. Attorney Varmah said inconsistency in investigation usually leads to the dismissal of mainly rape and other SGBV cases. “There can never be good prosecution without good investigation” he stressed.

The training was organized by the Ministry of Justice with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was held at the Justice and Security Regional Hub in Gbarnga Bong County solely for investigators from the three Hub region counties of Bong, Nimba and Lofa.

Held under the theme “Building Investigators’ Skills in Arrest, Charging and Writing Charge Sheet”, the training was intended to build the skills of officers in the areas of investigation and producing accurate charge sheets for prosecution.

Speaking earlier, Attorney Josephine Gross, a Prosecutor and Program Officer at the SGBV-CU said the training also seeks to ensure that the investigators are informed about procedural methods of sexual offense investigation; standards for charging an accused and the writing of charge sheet.

Attorney Gross urged the investigators to make maximum use of the training to enhance the efficient prosecution of rape and other SGBV cases in the country.



Police Investigators from the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Unit of the Liberia National Police Trained In Gathering Evidence

Bureau of Immigration receives 18-Seater Bus From UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has turned over an 18-seater Toyota Hiace mini bus to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN).

The cost of the vehicle is put at over \$30,000 United States dollars.

At a brief handover ceremony at the Offices of UNDP in Monrovia, the Deputy Country Director for Programmes at UNDP stressed that the donation forms part of continued efforts by UNDP to strengthen its partnership with the Bureau and promote security sector reforms in Liberia.

Mr. Cleophas Torori acknowledged the pivotal role being played by the BIN in securing Liberia’s borders.



Cleophas Torori (left) Turning Over The Vehicle to Commissioner Budy (Right)

He reiterated UNDP’s Commitment through its Justice and Security Sector Program to continue to improve the work of the Bureau by providing logistical and capacity building support.

Receiving the 18 seater bus, the Deputy Commissioner for Operations at the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization extolled the support of UNDP to the BIN.

Robert Budy said the donation has come at a time his entity continues to seek logistical support from government partners in order to enhance its field activities.

UNDP BIDS FAREWELL TO KEY STAFF



Contributions

Individuals

- Samuel Ndingi
- Marzu Stubblefield
- Blamo Nimle
- James Monibah

Units

- Governance and Public Institutions Pillar
- Sustainable Economic Transformation Pillar

Photo Credits

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Cleophas Torori

Staff News: Departures & Arrivals

Departure

1. Catherine Masaka-DCD/O
2. Blamo Nimle-Program Associate/ SET
3. Amani M'Bale -CTA/UNCDF
- Rukshan Ratman-Communications Officer-RC Office

Arrivals

1. Antonio Vigilante-RR
2. Rokya Ye Dieng -DCD/O
3. Virginia Chitanda-CTA/ Decentralization

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