



**Peace Africa Alliance
Consulting, Education & Training Centre**

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PAACET MONTHLY UPDATES: AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome to our monthly update for August – September, 2016. This edition highlights a summary of our engagements in terms of follow-ups on PAACET's in-country registration, consultations with relevant organizations and institutions, stakeholder meetings, internal reviews and planning, fundraising initiatives and a working visit to Liberia. These among others signifies our commitment to our service charter....

**Registration with the Government of
Sierra Leone**

PAACET's registration process in Sierra Leone is still on course. The necessary submissions of requirements to the line Ministries, Commissions, Departments and Agencies as outlined in our July Update have been accomplished. We have received encouraging feedbacks from SLANGO, NAYCOM and MOYA. NAYCOM and MOYA conducted inspections of PAACET's temporary office space and other organisational operating systems. PAACET is now registered with NAYCOM and recommended for attestation with MOYA. The registration certificate and attestation is expected in October 2016. There is need to fulfil the requirements with SLANGO and the other Ministries in order to be able to move on to the registration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) which

¹ Bo [District] is Sierra Leone's second largest city, located in the Southern Region with 15 out of the 149 Chiefdoms of the 14 administrative districts.

is responsible for the final award of our NGO registration certificate.

**Meeting with the Bo District Human
Rights Committee**

PAACET's Africa Regional Director (ARD) held three meetings with representatives of the Bo District Human Rights Committee in the district headquarter town of Bo¹. The first meeting was held with the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr. Tony Blake at the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL). This introductory meeting was necessitated by our quest to network and build strategic linkages with like-minded allies. Mr. Blake, who also doubles as the Director of Alliance for Social Justice and Development informed the ARD about the Committee's structure, relevance and the human rights challenges in the district.



*PAACET ARD and Bo District Human Rights
Committee Chairperson, Tony Blake*

The Committee has a membership of 26 active Civil Society and Human Rights Organisations covering all 15 Chiefdoms of the District. The Committee was initiated by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). Each district in the country has a Human Rights Committee which were devolved to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRC-SL) when the UN drew down its operations in Sierra Leone. The HRC-SL later transferred the management of these Committees to Civil Society due to budgetary constraints to manage their functions and operations. Mr. Blake advised that a meeting be held with the Committee's eight-man Executive to agree on next steps. A date and time was agreed for the meeting.

The second meeting was held between PAACET and the Bo District Human Rights Committee Executives, also in Bo. Four Executive members were present at the meeting which was chaired by the Committee's Chairperson, Tony Blake. After an opening courtesy, PAACET ARD was introduced and invited to give a brief synopsis about PAACET. The ARD gave a brief run-down of PAACET and its desire to set up an Africa office in Sierra Leone.

The Committee's Executive applauded PAACET for such initiative and committed to work with PAACET to meet the human rights and social justice challenges. It was agreed that the ARD make a detailed presentation of its organizational background and programmes, and how partnership can be enhanced between the two bodies at a general forum. A date and time was set for the presentation and a planning committee of three persons was selected to do a session plan [Agenda] with a modest budget for the presentation forum. Since the Committee was unable to provide the required budget for the forum, PAACET ARD committed to fund the forum at a minimal rate. Responsibilities were assigned for effective coordination.



A cross-section of Executive Members of the Bo District Human Rights Committee at a meeting with PAACET's ARD

Consultative and Partnership Forum with the Bo District Human Rights Committee

A one-day consultative and partnership forum was held with the Bo district Civil Society Human Rights Committee on Saturday, 13th August 2016. The session was attended by representatives from twenty-two (22) civil society human rights organisations and two (2) students from Njala University (Bo Campus). Mr. Tony Blake and Mr. Andrew Karim, Programme Manager, Peace and Reconciliation Movement, co-facilitated the process. Gender representation was minimally fair and the session was interactive and participatory.

The session provided an opportunity for the ARD to present PAACET's institutional background, programme of events and potential areas of partnerships and collaboration. A facilitated discussion on the human rights situation, key challenges and what each organisation is doing towards addressing the identified challenges concluded the forum.



A cross-section of participants at the forum

Two presentations were made as follows;

1. A presentation of PAACET's institutional background, programme areas and potentials for partnerships, collaboration, associations, corporations, networking and linkages and establishment of an Africa Regional office in Sierra Leone.
2. Facilitated session to identify the human rights situation in the Bo district and presentation of what each organisation is doing towards addressing the challenges and the next steps. Human rights issues were categorized into the following treaties / conventions;
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
 - International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
 - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Organisational thematic programmes were discussed to enable the forum to identify the common areas with PAACET. Training needs were also identified for the Committee's membership. A full report of the session is available on PAACET's website.



Participants at the Consultative Forum

Reviews and Planning Tele-Meetings with PAACET Canada

Regular weekly and bi-weekly meetings were held between the Executive Director (ED) Janyce Konkin in Canada and the ARD to provide briefings and plan upcoming events. The ED and other Directors in Canada proposed a review of PAACET's Mission statement for clarity purposes. It was agreed that the Mission statement will be reworded to read as follows;

Mission Statement:

"Solving human rights, post-conflict and structural violence in governments, businesses and not-for-profit organizations using ethically sound traditional conflict transformation techniques applied to training & research methodologies."

ARD's Official Visit to Liberia

The ARD made a working visit to Liberia from September 11th to 24th 2016. The purpose of the visit was twofold: first to attend a regional summit on next steps towards a phasing out project on Engaging Children and Youth as partners to prevent the worst forms of Violence among Children in the three Mano River Union countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea), and second, to hold consultative and familiarization meetings with key government and private institutions in Liberia and explore possibilities for PAACET's operations in Liberia. The following institutions and their representatives were met among others;

1. The Chairman, Mr. James D. Torh and Commissioner Oretha S. Davies, Esq. of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights
2. The National Chairman of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia, Chief Zanzan Karwor and a female member of the Council

3. The Assistant Minister of Culture and Customs at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Hon. Joseph Jangar and Principal Assistant, Mr. William Jallah
4. The Vice President for Institutional Advancement at William V.S. Tubman University, Rev. Rita E. Townsend
5. National Peace Ambassador, Peace Building Commission, Ambassador William Tolbert Jr.



L-R: Young Community Ambassador, the National Peace Ambassador and PAACET ARD.

6. Mr. Sabato Neufville, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Community Outreach Coordinator
7. Madam Eva Flomo, UNMIL Focal Person for Gender
8. Professor T. Debey Sayndee, Director, Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), University of Liberia
9. Ambassador Juli Endee, Traditional Queen and Culture Ambassador, Republic of Liberia, who also doubles as Executive Director for Crusaders for Peace
10. Mr. Caleb Katwebaze, Head of Human Rights Section, UNMIL
11. Mr. William Bwewusa, Head of UNMIL Radio.
12. President and one representative of the Federation of Liberian Youth.

In addition to meeting the aforementioned, the ARD also took radio interviews on UN Radio and attended a grand ceremony in celebration of International Peace Day under the theme: **“A Time for Peace, Rejecting**

Violence to Secure Human Rights” which was held at the Monrovia City Hall.



ARD and other dignitaries at the International Day of Peace celebration at the City Hall in Monrovia

This visit was made possible by the generous contribution and coordination support from William Bwewusa. Special thanks to Mr. Caleb Katwebaze who arranged some of the meetings and also took the ARD round on the first day of the meetings.

PAACET's Fundraising Plans

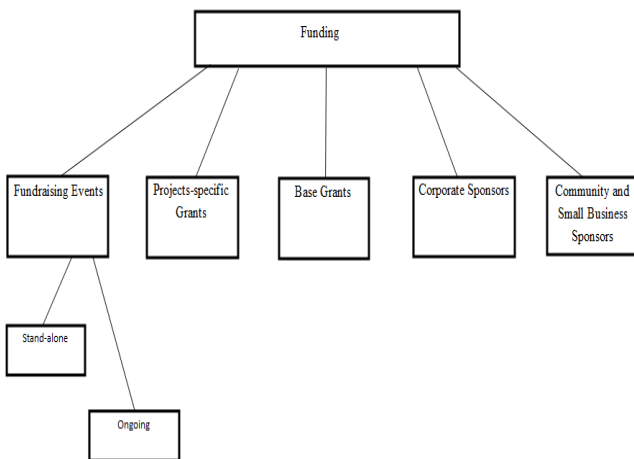
Fundraising is key to all of PAACET's operations. A lot of effort is being put towards ensuring that the institutional funding base is properly designed and implemented. In this regard, PAACET has submitted two grant proposals for upcoming projects:

1. a small grant proposal to the Nexus Fund to address issues of **“Dangerous Speech”**. The main objective of this project is to reduce or limit violence by restricting the gravity of inflammatory speeches. This will be achieved by;
 - Training 50 civil society organisations and community action groups to lead the advocacy campaign in identifying dangerous speech without any hindrance to existing human rights provisions

- find and use lawful best practices to ensure limitation of dangerous speech and their consequences
- develop indicative frameworks and tools to monitor and evaluate dangerous speech especially during political and election campaigns
- lobby and advocate for the implementation of a sound policy to limit or restrict dangerous speech in Sierra Leone

The small grant proposal, if funded, will be implemented jointly with a Sierra Leone based Non-Governmental Organisation, Society for Learning and Yearning for Equal Opportunities (SLYEO).

A funding plan for PAACET has recently been designed outlining the various strata of funding requirements. The funding strategy is presented below:



2. In collaboration with SAMGUS Investment Company Limited, a Sierra Leone privately owned company, PAACET and four other local NGOs have completed and submitted a proposal to support the scaling up of HIV services for key populations (KP) in Sierra Leone. The proposal is in response to the US Department of States' Notice of Funding Opportunity (for Prime Recipient) through the Office

of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Global Health Diplomacy (S/GAC).

Conclusion

It is essential to conclude the registration requirements for PAACET at the earliest possible time in order to place us in a strategic position to operate without hindrance. There are financial requirements to meet in both Sierra Leone and Liberia. Increasing PAACET's funding base must also be given greater attention to enable PAACET to strategically locate itself within the respective funding platforms.

Please join us by becoming a regular Donor. Visit our web page at www.paacet.org for more information on how to donate. We thank you for your consideration and support.

For further information, please contact us on the contact details above.

-----See Next Edition -----