

Forum Syd: Sustainable ownership – empowering communities and civil society in Liberia

	Implementing partner(s)	Forum Syd
	Location	Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh and Montserrado counties
	Agreement period	01 June 2018 – 31 May 2021
	Budget total (Sweden)	51 697 000 SEK

Overview and objectives

In Liberia, civil society presence and efficiency outside Monrovia is weak. Through this programme, Forum Syd (a Swedish non-profit) is establishing a network of partner civil society organisations (CSOs) and working to strengthen CSOs across three focus areas:

- **Governance and accountability;**
- **Gender equality;** and
- **Environmental sustainability.**

This means supporting CSOs working directly on these substantive areas as well promoting good practices in these areas more generally.

The programme’s objective is that: **“civil society organisations have developed and strengthened their presence in rural counties in Liberia** through increased capacity of rights-holders living under marginalised conditions to claim their rights and participate in locally owned initiatives and local development processes.”

The outcomes targeted are:

- Partner organisations and communities have developed their **capacity to participate in decision-making processes** regarding the three focus areas.
- Partner organisations have developed their **advocacy and monitoring skills of governmental institutions**, public service providers and private sector actors’ performance, across the three areas.
- Partner organisations and CSO networks have the **capacity to develop, fund-raise and implement projects of their own choice** that are linked to needs identified by the involved rights-holders and communities; and informal grassroots groups have transferred to formal/registered groups.

Activities

Forum Syd enters partner agreements with CSOs in order to achieve the programme objectives. Under these agreements, a capacity building intervention is designed including coaching and training of CSO leaders, and organisational development. Forum Syd works with organisations to develop the policies and systems (e.g. administration, finance) needed to strengthen the organisation, and supports CSO project planning and monitoring. Through the programme, financial and technical assistance is also provided to the partner CSOs.

In addition to the individual CSO level support, Forum Syd also works to create networks and connections between CSOs to strengthen the civil society ecosystem, for example, collaborating with CSOs to pursue the new Land Rights Law in Liberia.



Figure 1: Participants at a governance and organisational development training session, facilitated by DEN-L, Gbarnga. Photo credit: Forum Syd, June 2019