





The Carter Center: Access to Justice 2

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
|  | Implementing partner(s) | The Carter Center, The Catholic Justice, and Peace Commission (JPC) The Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON) |
|  | Location | National; with specific interventions in Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties |
|  | Agreement period | July 2017 – August 2025 |
|  | Budget total | 111 343 623 SEK |

Overview and objectives

The goal of the Swedish collaboration with the Carter Center is to strengthen peace in Liberia by enhancing citizen ownership of government, strengthen the rule of law in communities, and preventing violence. The program has an approach based on disseminating context-specific information and strengthening the capacity of government and civil society leaders to deliver demand-driven services.

The program aims to improve local good governance and conflict resolution. This comprises work with customary and local mechanisms offering free legal advice and conflict mediating services; strengthening the capacity of traditional leaders to promote good governance and community justice practices and improve the national policy framework to support access to justice at the community level. Furthermore, by providing support to national policy level development processes linked to justice and good governance, the program aims to strengthen and decentralize access to such processes in Liberia.

The programme outcomes targeted are:

- **Provide** effective free **legal information** and **dispute resolution services**.
- **Strengthen the capacity of traditional** leaders to advance and implement good governance and community justice practices.
- **Advance a policy framework to increase access to justice** at the community level.
- LEON: Improve information, citizen engagement, and confidence in government and **peaceful electoral processes**.

Activities

Through the support to Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) run Community Justice Advisors (CJA) program. The CJAs providing pro bono civic education, mediation, referral, and accompaniment services in almost 500 communities. Ca. 11,000 cases have been opened since the projects inception and it continues to demonstrate its value through demand, particularly among women. By providing civic education, community justice services, and training in the law and alternative dispute resolution techniques to rural leaders, the project provides a rapid means of engaging citizens to fill the post war vacuum in the rule of law. By educating people on their rights and responsibilities, the intent is for citizens to better hold their local leaders accountable and develop a better and common understanding of good governance and the rule of law.



Figure 1: Spiritual leader Mama Tumeh speaking at a Carter Center community event. Photo credit: The Carter Center