

FINAL PROJECT NARRATIVE REPORT

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form and the Agreement with WACC. Please answer the questions as fully and concisely as possible to help us learn about your completed project. The report should not exceed 15 pages, excluding appendices. Please return the report with any supporting documents and materials to WACC. We welcome stories about how individuals benefitted from the project, with photos. We also welcome case studies. Please place stories and case studies, if any, in an appendix.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title: (as in the Agreement)	Media Capacity Building
1.2 Project Reference Number: (as in the Agreement)	1377
1.3 Full Name of Organisation:	Culture Radio 104.5 FM
1.4 Country:	Sierra Leone
1.5 Full Postal Address:	24 Fort Street Freetown
1.6 Physical Address:	24 Fort Street Freetown
1.7 Contact Person:	Elijah Gegra
1.8 Telephone:	+232-77-438968
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1.10 E-mail:	shltafrica@aol.com
1.11 Website:	
1.12 Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	June 2011 - 2012

2. OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1 What was the project's long-term goal?
The overall goal which this project addresses is to employ communication strategies and practices to achieve a stronger voice for the poor, marginalized and excluded in shaping local and national decision making, promote the development of transparent public communication policies, including the right to information of people living in poverty.
The main purpose of the project is to campaign against Land grabbing for Agro-fuel use, advocate for better conditions for the ordinary citizenry and to contribute to the peace building process through the promotion of peaceful co-existence, local initiatives and community empowerment
2.2 What was the project's immediate purpose and to what extent was it achieved?
The main purpose of the project is to campaign against Land grabbing for Agro-fuel use, advocate for better conditions for the ordinary citizenry and to contribute to the peace building process through the promotion of peaceful co-existence, local initiatives and

community empowerment. The project objective could be achieved to the extent that, the partner radio stations now regularly broadcast radio emissions on land grabs and reporting about development in civil society and resource distribution. The Network of Journalists against Land grabbing is also reporting regularly on the issue in a very professional and unbiased manner, so much that the issue is becoming a topic in many households

2.3 To what extent were the expected outcomes and outputs achieved?

<p>Expected outcomes and indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A nationwide Network of journalists from 13 media institutions both from the print and electronic has been formed. 2. Youth focussed Umbrella Organization for Peace 3. A network with 4 radio stations has been formed; the radio stations are as follows; Radio Wanjei - FM101.1 in the Pujehun district; Radio Maria in Makeni, Bombali district; Kiss 104 FM Bo district; Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation etc. <p>Expected outputs and indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training for Journalists Indicator: (Investigative, well researched Report and information to the public) 2. Peace Symposia for Youths Indicator (Network of Youth For Violent Free Elections in Sierra Leone formed) 3. Forum on Land Investments: 4. The Judiciary, Parliamentarian, NGO's & civil society organizations 	<p>Achieved outcomes (disaggregated by sex)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Network of Journalists against Land grabbing in Sierra Leone 2. Network of Youth For Violent Free Elections in Sierra Leone formed 3. <p>Achieved outputs (disaggregated by sex, if applicable)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. etc.
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2.4 What other observations did you make? Please mention anything that may illustrate the benefits arising from the project.

With our intervention, we have been able to diffuse many of these explosive conflicts, both in Freetown and in the provinces. Our major obstacle in this regard has been mobility. Most of these problems of land disputes, land grabbing etc. take place in the provinces. We sometimes find it very difficult to organize a team to dispatch immediately. One instant was the riot in Pujehun, where youths who could no longer sit and watch how very large quantum of arable farmland are been sold to multi corporations by the Paramount Chiefs, organized themselves to protest. They were arrested by the police and whisked to the cell where they stayed for over 3 days, until our team arrived in Pujehun and pleaded for their release. We could not go their immediately we got the news, because it is quite a long distance and we do not have a vehicle

That the Farmers are beginning to form Cooperatives against Land grabbing, for eg. In Pujehun district, the Hon. Shaka Sama, a farmer himself, is heading one such Cooperative.
2.5 If you observed any unintended positive outcomes arising from the project, please describe.
In February this year, the British Broadcasting Corporation BBC, in their African Debate series, broadcasted a panel debate on land grabbing live from Freetown. This gave a big momentum and added more weight to the campaign against land grabbing in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is not the only country in Africa that is affected by this phenomenon, but the campaign against land grabbing is becoming louder every day that was the reason why the BBC decided to broadcast the debate live from Freetown.
2.6 If you observed any negative outcomes arising from the project, please describe.
2.7 Did you observe any long-term impact (positive or negative) in the wider context that might be related to the project interventions?
In the wider context of the project, the impact observed so far is very positive and encouraging. The welcome news of a proposed land use policy review by Government has come in the wake of our intervention. This may not be dissociated with our intervention. In February this year, the British Broadcasting Corporation BBC, in their African Debate series, broadcasted a panel debate on land grabbing live from Freetown. This gave a big momentum and added more weight to the campaign against land grabbing in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is not the only country in Africa that is affected by this phenomenon, but the campaign against land grabbing is becoming louder every day that was the reason why the BBC decided to broadcast the debate live from Freetown
2.8 What methods did you use for assessing outcomes and impact?
We used the Base line method to assess outcome and impact. When we started the project in the beginning there was zero broadcast on land grabbing, there was zero information by the public about this phenomenon. But now there is increasing awareness and interest by the public; the increasing number of telephone calls and text messages, feedback which we received from areas previously not reached. By observing the constant increase in the number of calls and text messages, it indicates that there is an increasing awareness among the public. Listeners and callers are expressing their appreciation of Culture Radio for dealing with the issue of land investments on the radio.
2.9 Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.
The target groups include men, women and children, numbering in total over 500,000 from various ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The direct beneficiaries are the grassroots population, most of who are living under one United States Dollar per day and without access to basic facilities such as electricity, water supply, affordable health care and so on.
2.10 What is the likelihood that the project outcomes will be sustained over the medium and long term? Please explain.
Farmers are beginning to organize themselves for example the Land Owners and Land Users Cooperative in the Pujehun district. It is our hope that very soon other farmers in other parts of the country will follow suit. Culture Radio and Society for Democratic Initiatives SDI, Sierra Leone, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on land

rights and litigating measures for persons affected by land grabbing; the School cluster clubs is also a very vibrant force, in educating and informing the peers about the effects Of land grabbing.

2.11 What has been the most important change brought about by the project and what is the key evidence for this change?

So far there is an increase in awareness, there is a growing interest among the citizens, not only those directly affected but a large part of the population is becoming very interested in the issue; another important development is that other political parties and Parliamentarians are taking Land grabbing in their agenda; There are Networks building up that are advocating for better conditions for the ordinary citizenry, there are local initiatives and community empowerment organizations by concerned and informed citizens, where men and women have equal opportunities in voicing out their opinions. For example the formation of the Sierra Leone Right to Food Network, SLNORF of which Culture Radio is a member. On most discussion programs be it on the Radio or Television, the issue of Land grabbing is always present.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 Please provide a summary of the major activities carried out in comparison with those planned. In the case of significant changes, please explain the reasons. If applicable, please report on specific activities for women and men respectively.

Planned activities	Actual activities (<i>state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all</i>):	Explanation of change
1. 25 – 27 September Training/Workshop for Journalists 2. 30th June 2012- Awareness & Peace Sensitization Symposia 3. 26 th . July 2012 - Forum on Investment in land.	1. Training/Workshop for Journalists 2. Awareness & Peace Sensitization Symposia 3. 26 th . July 2012 - Forum on Investment in land. The activities were for all, and not for any specific gender group.	1. 2. 3. etc.

3.2 How did the beneficiaries react to the programme activities?

The reaction of the beneficiaries to the activities was positive, as it has encouraged and inspired them to form nation-wide Network. The Network of Journalists against Land Grabbing, and the Network of Youth for Violent Free Elections, both are very vibrant and articulate.

3.3. If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.

With the financial support from the World Association of Christian Communication , WACC, we purchased a 1,5 Kw Solar equipment. With this equipment we have increased our program broadcast to about 20Hours a day, this is adding to our credibility. In Sierra Leone, it is a regular and common thing for radio stations to go off air for quite a long time because of the frequent electricity power cuts (Black out). Using a fuel generator is not only an environmental hazard, but also a very noisy alternative and disturbing for the neighbors.

3.4. If the project included a workshop, seminar, or consultation, please attach the list of participants, the themes/topics of their speeches/papers, and any statement, declaration, or other material published.

25 – 27 September, Training/Workshop for Journalists and civil peace organizations. Over 20 Participants – Network of Journalists against Land Grabbing founded 30th June 2012- Awareness & Peace Sensitization Symposia for 35 Youth Focused organizations from violent prone communities - Network of youth for violent free elections formed; working to consolidate the Peace. 26th. July 2012 - Forum on Investment in land. Target group: The Judiciary, Parliamentarian, NGO's & civil society organizations.

4. CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATION

4.1. Please note any important changes or events that took place that directly affected the project. These can relate to management, planning, staffing, or other matters.

5. CONTEXT

5.1 Please note any important changes in the following contexts since the project began and summarise the implications for the relevance of the project.

Political:	Since the inception of the project, one direct change we have been observing is that other political parties and Parliamentarians are taking Land grabbing in their agenda. The welcome news of a proposed land use policy review by Government has come in the wake of our intervention.
Social:	Since the inception of the project, because of the ever inflating cost for basic food commodities at the markets, Land for Agrofuel production is surely a threat to food security. There are Networks building up that are advocating for better conditions for the ordinary citizenry, there are local initiatives and community empowerment organizations by concerned and informed citizens, where men and women have equal opportunities in voicing out their opinions. For example the formation of the Sierra Leone Right to Food Network, SLNORF of which Culture Radio is a member.
Natural environment:	The important changes in the direct natural environment observed so far is the effect of the activities of the Mining and Agro fuel companies on the water sources in their operational areas. In place of the diversified form of agriculture practiced by the villagers, we now have vast acres of land been cleared to grow one type of crop in Mono-culture

5.2 To what extent is the project still relevant in the present-day context? Please explain.

The underlying problem analysis of the project is now more of evident than ever before, as the negative effects of the activities of the multi-national companies becomes a real threat, not only to food security but the physical environment as well, and also taking the socio-political development that characterize the incident of electoral violence in post conflict situation like Sierra Leone, those seeking to address the violence and consolidate peace, must employ mitigating strategies in order to efficiently reduce violence of any type. The role of youth in helping to prevent electoral violence cannot be over emphasized. They represent more than 56% of the total population and about 40% of the voting population. Yes, of course the project is still relevant in the present day

context, because course

6. YOUR ORGANISATION'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AND NETWORKING WITH OTHERS

6.1 Has the project and the support from WACC helped your organisation be in a better position to provide leadership for further initiatives of your own or of others? If so, please explain.

The project on the whole and the support from WACC helped us to provide leadership for further initiatives. Since Culture Radio is the only Radio station in Sierra Leone that deal with the issues of Land Grabbing, Human Rights and Peace very intensively; conducting outreach programs to schools and visiting farmers and other people affected by land grabs.

6.2 In what ways has your organisation articulated and shared good practices, lessons learned, and/or resource materials with other organisations working on similar or related concerns? If you have not done so, do you plan to do so? How can WACC assist?

Culture Radio is working intensively with other organizations working on related concerns and has helped formed 2 vibrant Networks; the **Network of Journalists against Land Grabbing** and **Network of Youth Organizations for Violent Free Elections in Sierra Leone**. Due to the fact that Culture Radio is a neutral and Cause based media institution, we have become the widely listened to radio station in the whole of Sierra Leone and hence known as *THE PEOPLE'S STATION-VOICE OF THE VOICELESS*.

Our major handicap is mobility. Our presence and intervention is often needed and we receive regular calls from organizations out of the capital Freetown. We receive calls from mine workers, from farmers affected, from youths defending their plantation from Multi corporations and whisked to the police and prisons. Because of the far distance and because we don't have a vehicle on our own, reaching these victims and intervening or even reporting correctly is difficult.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 What lessons and good practices have emerged from this project?

Some of the lessons we learned are as follows that (i) while the men in those communities affected by land grabs are mainly concerned about food insecurity issues, the women are more vocal on the effect of land use on water sources and fire wood depletion. (ii) the involvement of local authorities in land deals is not in the interest of the community; (iii) that even in the midst of corruption and poverty, there are still people with integrity and cannot be bribed. One good example is the honorable Member of Parliament in one of the constituencies in Pujehun district, Hon.Shaka Sama. He has described in an interview on Culture Radio, because of the stout stance he is taking against land grabbing, how he has been offered money so many a times by Multi Corporations like SOFCIN and rejected it.

7.2 What challenges and difficulties were encountered, and how did you address them?

In the beginning of our broadcast on the phenomenon of Land grabbing, supporters of

the ruling All People's Party, APC thought we were only trying to oppose the government and were threatening to attack us. But since that threat was announced live on the radio, we were not afraid. But now that there are radio discussions at other stations, there is a gradual awareness among the public that this issue is real and poses a threat to the peace and stability if not properly addressed.

Also, because of our constant broadcast on the condition of the Mine workers at "African Minerals Ltd. Even though our reporters saw well over 50 corpses, yet the government announced it was only 1 casualty.

7.3 Did the project have any impact on gender equality issues?

The project has a very great impact especially on women. In the regions where small farmers have lost their farmlands to Multi Cooperations for Agro fuel production, the women are more active and articulate in condemning the land deals. In most regions in Sierra Leone, Traditional and Customary laws forbid women from owning lands. There are initiatives from Women groups, advocating for the right of women to own land.

Also in all the initiatives against land grabbing and the different Networks formed, the membership comprises of about 47% women.

7.4 What further work needs to be carried out or follow up steps taken, if any?

There is also the dire need to educate and inform the public especially Stakeholders like Parliamentarians, Paramount and Section Chiefs, train more journalists, Civil Society organizations and NGOs, on the effect environmental, economic and socio-political effects of Land grabbing and litigation measures for persons and communities affected by land grabbing.

Giving the socio-political developments that characterize the incident of electoral violence in post war Sierra Leone, those seeking to address violence and consolidate peace must employ mitigating strategies in order to efficiently and drastically reduce election violence of all type.

We must engage the youths and together undertake activities like training workshops on issues relating to non-violent conflict resolution, civic responsibility, and elections monitoring; organize media sensitization including Press Briefing; organize public lectures, Symposia, Peace Concerts and procession marches; organize sporting activities such as football, volleyball, basketball athletics meeting etc. The youths must be engaged in meaningful activities that will positively change their mind set and distract them from violence.

7.5 Other comments, if any.

Culture Radio and Society for Democratic Initiatives SDI, Sierra Leone, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on land rights and litigating measures for persons affected by land grabbing.

7.6 We would like to receive digital copies of materials produced such as manuals, training materials, and other products to share them with others. We would also appreciate digital copies or internet links to photos, video or audio recordings produced by or about the project. Please indicate below what you are sending us.

Internet Links, photos and audio material will be sent via post.

Name and position of person submitting the report.	
Elijah Gegra	Director

Signature:

Date: 31st. August 2012



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