

## 1.1 Background of LCUNA

The Liberia Credit Union National Association (LCUNA) is the Apex body of Credit Unions Liberia with the mandate to support the growth and development of credit unions across Liberia. The credit unions are member-based institutions engaged in improving the livelihood of the rural poor and marginalized communities particularly those in hard to reach areas through the philosophy of people helping people. LCUNA was established in 1966 in Maryland County in Liberia through the guidance of Father Ted Hayden and Bishop Boniface Dallieh of the Catholic Church. In 1969 LCUNA was officially established and accredited in 1973 by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thereafter, LCUNA had 68 credit unions with 24,000 individual memberships. Immediately after the Liberian civil crisis in 2006 LCUNA regained its strength by establishing its leadership: Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee and Management. The membership of LCUNA currently is 400

**Vision:** A sound and self-sustaining National Association promoting sustainable growth and development of credit unions in Liberia

**Mission:** To positively impact the lives and livelihood of credit union members through the provision of cost-effective financial and technical program

### Core Values

**Integrity:** We carry out our duties fairly, honestly, faithfully and transparently at all time.

**Professionalism:** We execute our duties in accordance with set rules or standard to gain members' confidence.

**Accountability:** We take complete responsibility of our actions and inactions and the outcomes

**Confidentiality:** We will always strive to protect and respect member and stakeholder privacy

**Responsiveness:** We are sensitive, prompt, fair and objective in our dealings with members and stakeholder

## 1.2 Governance

LCUNA is governed by a Board of Directors of 9 a supervisory committee of 3 and a management team of 10 persons. The Board provides oversight and ensure LCUNA meets minimum regulatory standards and good governance practices while the supervisory committee ensure Board and Management compliance to set standards. LCUNA has 4 regional offices that are located in **Ganta, Nimba County providing services to three counties: Nimba, Bong and Lofa Counties.** The second regional office is locate in Tumbmanburg and provide services to Bomi, Capemount, Gbarpolu and Montserrado counties. The third regional office is located in Buchana, Grand Bassa, This office serves three counties Margibi, Bassa, Rivercess and Sinoe counties and the fourth one is in Zwedru, Grand Geddeh County. This office serves four counties: Grand Geddeh, Rivergee, Grandkru and Maryland Counties.

### 1.3 Services

LCUNA primary goal is to reach out to a larger portion of the marginalized, poor and hard to reach communities providing effective and sustainable basic social and economic welfare for communities' dwellers especially the disadvantage women and children.

**Training:** The major areas of concentration are: short time technical vocational activities, Financial Literacy, village and saving loan administration, Leadership and Small Business Management and community awareness on human rights.

**Central Finance Facility (CFF):** CFF serves as a potential source of financial resource center for members' financial enhancement. The CFF is supported by its members and other donors.

**Small Business Management unit (SBM):** The SBM helps to develop entrepreneurship program for vulnerable youths and women especially.

**Information Technological System (ITS):** The Unit is created to help develop programs that will provide the enabling environment for the new modern LCUNA through the creations of **Digital Financial Services**. This system is primarily responsible to create a cashless financial services for major communities in Liberia.

**Transformation of Individuals and Village Saving Loan & Association (VSLA) predominantly women groups.** LCUNA works with local social groups to train and motivate thousands of women farmers and individuals into progressive agribusiness culture.

**Youth Empowerment Unit:** This unit helps to expose vulnerable youths to safe and sound saving culture through financial literacy and other technical and vocational activities.

**Monitoring:** the unit ensure that activities of the target groups are in lines with set plans and laid down policies.