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LEGAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ANTI-CORRUPTION (LPAC) ACTIVITY

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The Legal Professional Development and Anti-Corruption (LPAC) Activity is USAID/Liberia's primary formal justice sector program. LPAC is promoting a more effective and accountable formal justice sector by strengthening the capacity of four legal institutions: the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, the Liberia Legal Information Institute (LiberLII), and the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA). LPAC supports its partner institutions with the ultimate aim of helping them operate sustainably and efficiently. Furthermore, LPAC supports the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and associated Government of Liberia agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute corruption, as well as educate the public on corruption related issues.

Current Activities

- Training of sixty magistrates under the Professional Magistrates Training Program;
- Supports the LNBA to operate five pro-bono legal aid clinics to provide legal services to pre-trial detainees and indigent clients;
- Providing quarterly training for Judges, Public Defenders, Bailiffs, Court Sheriffs, and Court Clerks;
- Building the capacity of LACC and other agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute corruption cases;

- Sponsoring public interest scholars at the Law School;
- Supporting the Law School on student counselling , outreach, and fundraising;
- Working with the Law School to develop a curriculum on gender law;

Accomplishment to Date

- Supported the LNBA to open five new pro-bono legal aid clinics, which are working to reduce pre-trial detention rates and provide access to justice to traditionally underserved communities;
- Supported the recruitment and training of 56 new magistrates, who graduated from the Professional Magistrate Training Program in May 2019 ;
- Provided support for adoption first-ever mandatory Continuing Legal Education by the LNBA, and thereby raising the proficiency of legal practitioners;
- Supported capacity training for judges and court officers;
- Modernized and improved the quality of education at the Law School through the provision of audio-visual teaching equipment in classrooms and the conference room, updated the computer lab and provided internet access; and
- Helped build the capacity of LACC's investigation staff to conduct financial investigations, digital forensics, intelligence-led policing, surveillance, criminal asset recovery, and effective investigative interviews in complex cases.

Planned Outcomes

- Sustainable rule of law institutions.
- GOL agencies capacitated to minimize corruption.