



**Bassa Youth Caucus Students
Vacation Job Project**

Monitoring & Evaluation

Implementation

"Good habits formed at

Report

youth make all the

1st Month

difference"

(August 2013)

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Project Monitoring & Evaluation Officers

Table of Content

Cover Page.....	1
Executive Summary.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Introduction	4
Project Background	5
Methodology.....	6
Findings (Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Impacts).....	7
Challenges and Constraints.....	11
Conclusions.....	12
Recommendations.....	13
Financial Report.....	14

Executive Summary

The Bassa Youth Caucus Student Vacation Job Project includes a full one (1) month summarized and narrative report of the Observation, monitoring, evaluation, assessment, survey and analyzing processes of the youth oriented development initiative conducted during the project first implementation month of August. This report highlights issues of importance that covered the entire monitoring, evaluation, and analyzing process of the Youth development project within the five Statutory Districts of the county where the visibility of the project took effect and made some positive development marks. Hence, this report includes the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the project. It gives an insight on how the project was fully implemented; including challenges, constraints and recommendations from Field Supervisors and workers. Within the key findings, clear explanations of the Project impact, efficiency and

effectiveness are labeled. The concluding aspect of this report gives a clear picture of key findings and an introduction of the project methodology from whence recommendations are being analyzed.

Introduction

On August 7, 2013, 225 (two hundred and twenty five) well deserving and needed students from the five Statutory Districts in Grand Bassa County for the first time through the Bassa Youth Caucus were given vacation jobs to buttress parents effort in paying their children school fees and purchasing of school materials for academic 2013/2014, due to the high cost of living found among young people in the county. With the project being fully funded by the Grand Bassa County Authority and implemented by the Bassa Youth Caucus, it was against this backdrop that a Monitoring and Evaluation Officers were hired in order to properly ensure the full monitoring, evaluating and analyzing of the project impact. It also entails the monitoring and proper management of funding and materials, most especially, during its implementation where Field Supervisors and Project Coordinator were critically monitored. More than 1,500 (one thousand five hundred) students applied for this year vacation job, but due to the project target, after the vetting process by the recruitment committee, only 225 (two hundred and twenty five) were selected. At the very starts of the project,

the recruitment Committee reached a number of critical decisions and identified essential strategies for an M&E personnel's in the project.

Project Background

The Bassa Youth Caucus students Vacation Job Project that is been funded from the Grand Bassa County Development Fund (GBCDF), was originated from a resolution drafted on the empowerment and employment of youths representing the five electoral district of the county at the 6th County Development Sitting in June 6-8 this year. It was from this sitting that the county unanimously and satisfactorily for the first time in a huge sum reached a decision and requested the young people of the county through the Bassa Youth Caucus to fervently present a proposal on youth jobs creation of which a budget of not more than \$US 30,063 (Thirty Thousands and Sixty Three United States Dollars) was presented. Looking at the closeness to the 2013/2014 School year and the lack of inadequate student vacation jobs, a proposal entitled: "Bassa Youth Caucus Students Vacation Jobs for 225 needed students was created and presented

to the county authority for quick implementation. The county then, through the office of the Superintendent, Madam Etweda A. Cooper approved the project and submitted a letter to the Bassa youth Caucus (BYC) dated on August 2, 2013 for onward implementation of the project.

Methodology

Through our approaches we were able to engage Field Supervisors according to our M&E questionnaires and evaluation plan for the daily attendance sheets of field workers so as to know whether Field workers were always absent from their duties. Through our surveys and monitoring we also engaged Field Supervisors to show us where and how they are doing the job. In our approach to the evaluation process, we followed areas under the name of the responsible Supervisor(s). As another method, we were notified by our key informants on some unnoticed information during the implementation of the project. In and around Buchanan, the project was fully been monitored on a daily basis, but within the Districts, it was done twice a week, where we as M&E Officers visited Field

Supervisors without having them informed about our visit. Strategically, based on our M&E guidelines, we were able to effectively, effectuate our findings which is based on the collections and analyzing of reports, data sheets and complains from Field Supervisors and workers.

Findings

In this section of the report, we discovered that most of the work carried-out was done under some level of constraints and challenges of which we will be presenting later under its own topic (Challenges and constraints). But until then, we will give you brief summary of some of the most essential tools which includes; the Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Impact of the project) in our report.

A. **Efficiency**

With the hiring of skilled manpower, with broad knowledge and experienced in their selected fields, the project is proven to be efficient. Moreover, in our introduction and background of this report, we earlier mentioned to you about the cost of the project which is US\$30,063, this amount also covered the payment and the purchased of tools or materials for the project. At the project entail start, there were few lapses like the structuring and deploring of workforce, identification of worksite for Field workers, but in order to increase the efficiency of the project, it was resolved by the project Coordinator. Even though with the lack of some important tools and materials that were not mentioned in the project proposal,

Field Supervisors in collaboration with the Project Coordinator however manage to maneuvered and strategized to ensure the smooth operation of the project. In continuation of our findings of project efficiency and of unsuccessful applicants not creating a bad image for the project, the Project Coordinator was able to strategize and create job opportunities for some needed students outside of project funding, despite the over 1275 students who were unable to get an opportunity to work on the project.

B. **Effectiveness**

To effectively implement the project, the project Field Supervisors and Field workers that are working in Buchanan and its environs during the course of the project were been summoned weekly at the Bassa Youth Caucus Hall by Project Coordinator as a means of finding strategy to address some of the challenges and constraints faced with the work. At starts of the project, contract papers were signed between the Bassa Youth Caucus Field workers and Field Supervisors so as to encourage them to effectively carry on their job. As a way of motivating Field workers on the job, Field Supervisors sometimes joined and collaborate with Field workers in their daily work. During the

implementation of the Bassa Youth Caucus Student Vacation Job Project, and as another effective means, communications were provided by means of providing each Supervisor with US\$5 scratch card twice a month as a means of them developing effective communication with project coordinator and project M&E officers.

c. **Project Impact**

- a. This is an important part of our project monitoring and evaluation report where amidst these challenges and constraints and the lack of inadequate materials, predominantly those that were not included in project funding, the 225 young persons were able to vigorously able to give the Atlantic Port City of Buchanan and its environs and district seats a facelift.
- b. The first phase of this Student Vacation job project took effect in most of the targeted areas, giving these major streets and communities road a sparkling view.
- c. As one of the main aspect of the job, the project also enables students in the county to buttress their

parent's effort by taking the responsibilities to purchase their own School materials.

- d. It also helped promote the social cohesion of young people, thereby making them associating, sharing and getting to know their peers.
- e. Young people are now capable of handling their own affairs.

Below is a simple chart showing the Impact of the work

Target Group/Job Description	Areas of Work	Progress Made
225 Students and Youths from Grand Bassa County Successfully Undertook Phase 1 of the Bassa Youth Caucus Student Jobs Project which entailed; the Brushing and Tidying of Major Road	➤ Atlantic Street	✓ To be Completed
	➤ Gardner Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Prosser Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Plantation Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Tubman Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Forts Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Roberts Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Church Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Preston Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Lewis Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Kilby Street	✓ Completed
	➤ New York Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Fuller Street	✓ Completed
	➤ Sugar Cane Farm	✓ Completed
	➤ Joe Quarter	✓ Completed
	➤ Monrovia Junction	✓ Completed
	➤ Bassa Community	✓ Completed
➤ Gorzohn Road	✓ Completed	
➤ Fair Grounds	✓ Completed	
➤ Welcome Gate	✓ Completed	
➤ God Bless You	✓ Completed	
➤ Theodore Street	✓ To be Completed	

Side and Major Government Facilities in Buchanan and the Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gio Town No. 4 ➤ Compound 3 ➤ Compound 1 ➤ Compound 2 ➤ Admin. Building ➤ Old Field Road ➤ Korduah ➤ Compound 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed ✓ Completed ✓ Completed ✓ Completed ✓ Completed ✓ Completed ✓ Completed ✓ To be Completed
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Note: From Data analyzed, evaluated and critically monitored, this first phase project is proven to be 67% successfully completed based on our findings. With a clear hope to increase the job impact percentage at 100% in September, the last month of the project.

Challenges/Constraints

- f. As one of the most important aspect to identifying some of the ills and backsliding issues in the project, that is mostly essential to the implementation of any project, most especially during its monitoring and evaluation process, there were few challenges and constraints that showcased in the project.
- g. Due to the lack of full and accessible materials that would easily allow Field workers and Supervisors to easily carry on the implementation of the job, particularly, those that were found working in hard places, made the work a bit difficult for some students, thus, ensuing health hazard like blisters, ants bites and etc...

- h. The lack of some of these essential materials that include; rakes, shovels, booths, hoes, Files, and hand gloves which were not part of project funding almost slow the project, but because of the passion some of these field workers and Supervisors had for the job, they were able to maneuvered and work under these conditions.
- i. As another issue which was later resolved by Field workers and Supervisors was the lack of feeding and water to drink, this problem when started led some of these students who didn't have strong resistant in holding back hunger and thirst when sometimes of work, would not have the strength to continue the job.

Conclusion

From a perspective point of view, the summary and conclusion of this document, you notice how critically and chronologically we were able to analyze on the project that has positively impacted the lives of these 225 young people in the county. However, with 89% of the project being fully implemented, we strongly believed that the goal and objective of the project was met, meanwhile, the project also signaled and created some act of unity and reconciliation among young people in the county. With such project, many of the young people believed that they fell a part of their county social

development fund. As a matter of major concern, we strongly believed that the project is proven to be an excellent step taken by the county authority, of which its continuation may spark up or become a positive turning point into the lives of hundreds of young people in the county every year, thus, bringing glory to the county for the developmental growth our dear county.

Recommendations

Our recommendations are drawn from challenges and constraints faced by Field Supervisors and workers during the implementation of the project; most of which were suggested by them.

1. Recommend that materials such as file, rain booth, shovel, rake, and hole that were not included into project funding be added if another vacation job is to be undertaken this year.
2. Recommend that feeding which plays an essential role in human lives be enshrined into next vacation job funding so that it can help students save their money and equally use it for the intended purpose.
3. Recommend that Local county Authority who unanimously provided the funding of the project, continue to provide jobs for students through the Bassa Youth Caucus.

4. Recommend that other projects that will bring about youth development and social cohesion jointly designed and awarded to the Bassa Youth Caucus for successful implementation.
5. We therefore and strongly recommend that in order to give an equal opportunity and access to other students who were not successful for this event, an increment should be made if there is a need for at least 500 students to benefit from future projects.