



Mitigating Local Disputes in Liberia Program (MLDL)

SNAPSHOT

Improved information flow has improved Government of Liberia responsiveness to community concerns

The Kparlee District Security Council advocated to county and national government for infrastructure assistance



Road maintenance on the road to Sanniquellie, Nimba County's Capital

During the rainy season in Liberia, rivers flood, overtaking homes and cars, mud piles up to 10 feet high, and bridges wash away. Each year at this time, small communities outside of Monrovia face difficulties traveling and receiving shipments of foods, medical supplies, and other items. The deplorable road conditions have been high on the list of community security threats reported at Community Forum and District Security Council meetings. These local groups, set up by INL's Mitigating Local Disputes in Liberia Program (MLDL), meet regularly to identify and address potential security concerns and conflicts and report the results up the chain to the county and even national-level.

MLDL has strengthened the links between district and county governments as well as with the national government, conveying information from the lowest community level. Without these mechanisms, county and national government representatives would not have insight into events and concerns at the community level.

In January 2014, deplorable road conditions were reported at the Dubuzon Community Forum and the Kparlee District Security Council meetings. Following established procedures, the meeting notes were submitted to the Nimba County Security Council Chair. Again, following established protocols, the Chair transmitted the notes, along with the Community Forum's request for road repairs, directly to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Monrovia.

After authorization by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a contract was awarded through the Ministry of Public Works to begin road construction just after the rainy season.

Mr. Jonathan J. Tarue, Secretary of Dubuzon Community Forum, was filled with excitement upon hearing about the approved road construction. "I couldn't believe it at first; we waited some time but then we received the good news that the procedures paid off," he said. The Community Forum's plea was answered due to their advocacy. Fifty-four kilometers of dirt roads will be repaired, giving 50 communities better access to goods, services, and markets. The Community Forum members are gratified by the response to their community concerns. "This is how the MLDL bottom-to-top and top-to-bottom information flow is supposed to work," said Martins Sopp, MLDL's Program Manager. "Now we have seen that the system works, we will continue to bring security threats to the attention of our local representatives," added Mr. Julius Nezzolah, Community Forum Co-Chairman.



Information flow from rural communities up the chain to the government in Monrovia