**Learning Squared Liberia PROJECT Update:** **Revolving Loan Support Rural Women in Liberia**

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**LOCATION: MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

This update covers recent activities implemented under the above-mentioned Project covering the month under review (**August 2019 –October 2019**). Activities were held in Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia. This update reflects the beginning of the rural women’s loan project payment in Minor Community, Kakata, Margibi County.

**2.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH:**

2.1 Signing of MoUs and other project documents;

2.2. Joint Meeting with both women’s group in Kakata City;

2.3 Organized meetings with DEO and community women on project related issues;

2.4 Women’s project payment phase one begins.

**ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW:**

**Signing of MoU & project documents:** The women of both Palm Bush and Minor Communities completed the signing of MoUs and other project document that makes them fully involve with the loan project. These documents include the following; 1. Commitment Forms, this form is to ensure that all members of the group fully commit themselves to the loan payment and is witness by a reputable member of the community.2 The Bio-Data Form, this form is a complete self-information of each member of this group. 3. The child protection policy document and the MOU that both the women and Learning Squared Liberia signed. The total of 30 women are on the pilot  project.  17  women from Palm Bush community and 13 from  Minor community.

**Joint Meeting:** Learning Squared Liberia conducted 2 combine meetings with both palm bush and Minor communities, the purpose of the meeting was to explain the full intend of the loan project and payment plans. During these meetings, women of these communities were encouraged to take this project as their own and work hard to pay back the loan on time. Also, parents were informed that children benefiting from the project last year will also be a part of the scholarship program this year .

**Stakeholders Meeting:** During the period under review, Learning Squared Liberia facilitated five (3) town hall interactive sessions with County and District Education authorities, policy makers and local and community leaders in the project areas.The purpose of these meetings was to provide complete information to all stakeholders and policy makers on the loan project and payment plans.

These meetings which brought together over 230 persons in the two project communities was very interactive open to all participants, question ask and participants spoke on other issues and promise to work in line with  Learning Squared Liberia loan and other policy.

**Women’s Loan Project.** Learning Squared Liberia begin loan payment to women of Kakata, Margibi County under the titled; Revolving Loan Support Rural Women in Liberia. This project which is aim at supporting rural female heads of household to strengthen and provide additional income generating opportunities for their family and community, which brought improvement in the quality of life of rural women whose children are benefiting from our educational program.

The total of 30 women of Kakata city has begun receiving loan payment of ($50.00USD) as a way of sustaining themselves through improving their businesses and creating income to further sustains their children’s education.   Women of this community are involved cash crops production, and other agricultural activities.

**4.0 Constraints:**

There were few challenges that the project team encounter during the period under review, Increased in the demand for the project to other communities and high cost of transportation for volunteers and staff, due to the bad roads condition during the rainy season in rural Liberia, Our team had to travel on motorcycles to get to communities and schools.

**5.0 Recommendations / conclusion:** Thanks, and appreciation to our supporters, donors, GlobalGiving, local community for the level of commitment shown towards the successful implementation of the project. Learning Squared Liberia continue to receive calls and appeal from other communities for similar intervention.  Hope we can get more donations and contributions to increase the number of women on the program.