



# *The Monthly Monitor*

*An insight on monthly social, economic trends in Liberia*

**BY LONG-TERM OBSERVERS**

*Reporting Period:*  
January 2022

## **Overview**

On behalf of all LEON members, we stood with grief and shock at the loss of our beloved Head of Finance in January 2022. Words can never do justice to his legacy. Through the challenging time, the work did continue. The Regional Coordinators ensured that all LTOs nationwide, fulfilled their tasks of monitoring the social economic trends/activities in their assigned districts in the month of January, 2022. Their tasks also involved filing in data and information which is incorporated in this report supported by charts and tables

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## Background

The Liberia Election Observation Network (LEON) is excited to release what we expect is the first of many monthly newsletters leading towards the 2023 elections. Although those elections may seem far away right this moment, our objective is to use this newsletter as a scoping tool for policymakers, partners and the Liberian public in general, to assess the political, socio-economic and environmental context prevailing throughout the country each month as perceived through the eyes of ordinary Liberians.

Long-Term Observers (LTOs) are permanently deployed in each of the 73 electoral district to report on the standard of local roads, the state of security within the districts, price changes for common baskets of goods, and the availability of medicines at hospitals and clinics amongst others. We even report on whether or not claims of ritualistic killings were reported in the districts. It is our hope that stakeholders will use this report to make meaningful interventions in the districts where necessary so as to improve on the vulnerable state of the Liberian populace at large.

This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to Mr. Spencer Kongbor, the head of our finance department who, suddenly passed on January 25, 2022 at our offices in Monrovia. His was a very short but meaningful life. It is for colleagues such as Spencer that we do what we do to ensure that good governance and its antecedent dividends help prolong the lives of young people throughout Liberia towards self-attainment and national renewal.



## **1. Trending economic activities during this period**

As highlighted in most of our past reports, the shortage of Liberian dollars on the market especially smaller denominations (\$5.00 and \$10.00) still remains a challenge many Liberians are frustrated about. Hike in prices and inflation in these areas are due to the shortage of these lower denominations and limit business transactions overall. Increment in the prices of basic essential commodities such as gasoline, red oil, argo oil, rice and fuel was again emphasized by citizens in all districts data indicates. These trending recurring social economic developments are impacting citizens in a negative way with a direct impact on their survival and livelihoods.

Social economic issues and trend monitored for the period were as follow:

1. Districts accessibility
2. Road maintenance
3. Reasons for non-maintenance of roads by government
4. Inflation in prices of commodities
5. Prices of commodities
6. Ritualistic killings
7. Drugs activities
8. Gender involved in drugs activities
9. Drug dealers living in the district
10. Lawmakers activities
11. Health related issues
12. Active CSOs and CBOs

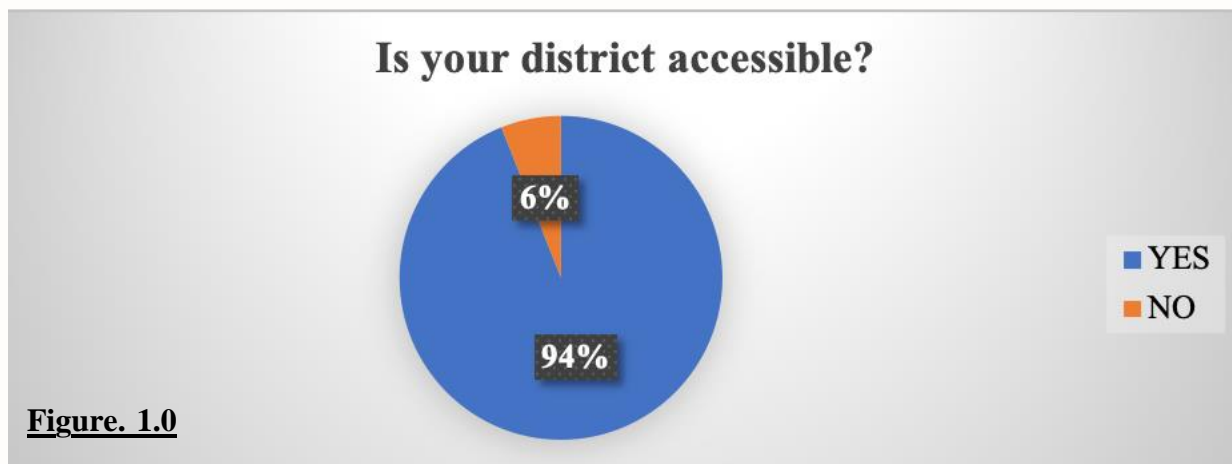


**Checklists of LTOs reports per district covered**

Month	County	# of Checklists	# of LTOs per county
January	Montserrado	17	17
	Bomi	3	3
	Cape Mount	3	3
	Gbarpolu	3	3
	Lofa	5	5
	Nimba	7	9
	Bong	7	7
	Margibi	5	5
	Grand Bassa	3	5
	Rivercess	0	2
	Grand Gedeh	3	3
	Grand Kru	0	2
	Sinoe	3	3
	Maryland	3	3
	Rivergee	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>73</b>

**Section 2.0: Data in Tables and Charts**

**1. Districts Accessibility by Road**



**Figure. 1.0**

Figure 1.0: Report filed in by LTOs reveal 94% of the districts were accessible, while 6% reported inaccessibility. Counties and districts reporting inaccessibility were: Montserrado dist. 17, Grand Gedeh dist. 3, Lofa dist. 1&4, Gbarpolu dist. 3, Cape Mount dist. 1 and Grand Bassa dist.



## 2. Road Maintenance

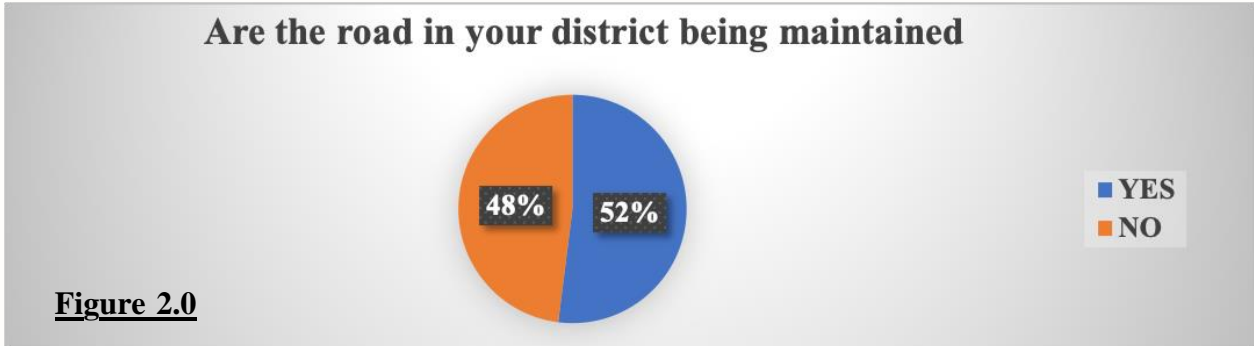


Figure 2.0: Data form LTOs receive shows 52% YES to road maintenance 48% NO.

## 3. Reasons for Non-maintenance of Roads

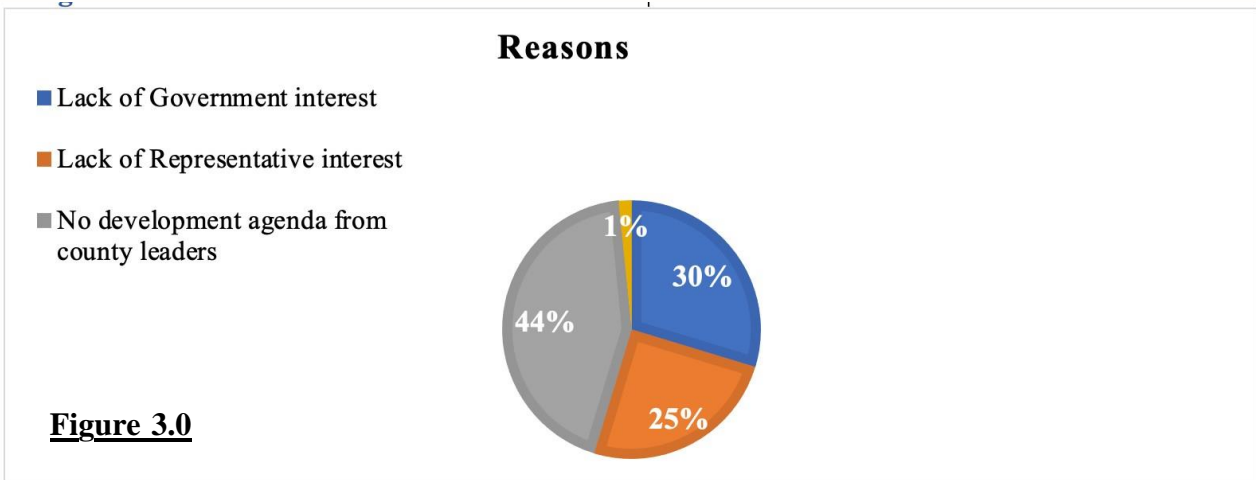
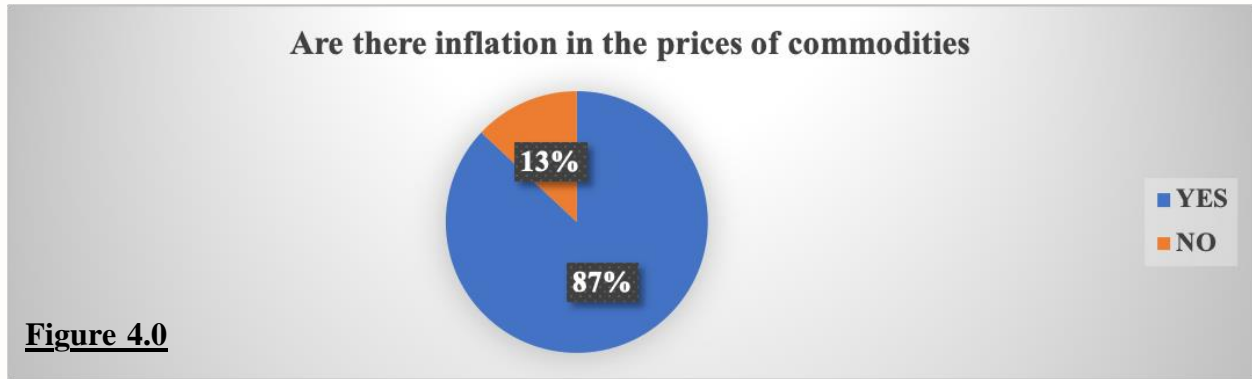


Fig. 3.0: Indicates 44% of the responses state that, the reasons why the district road are not maintained is because there is no developmental agenda from county leaders, 30% says it was because of the lack of government interest, 25% says lack of representative interest, while 1% says lack of communities volunteering.



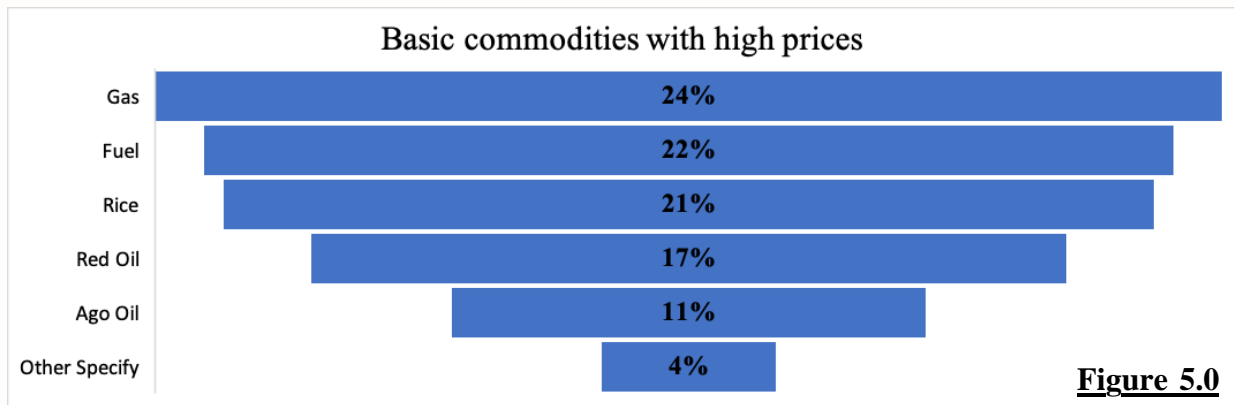
#### 4. Inflation in the Prices of Commodities



**Figure 4.0**

Figure 4.0: 87% of report accounted for inflation in prices of commodities and 13% reveal no rise or fall in prices during the period.

#### 5. Prices of Commodities



**Figure 5.0**

Figure 5.0: Shows that the above-mentioned commodities experience price hike with Gas and fuel tapping the list with 24 and 22% respectively.

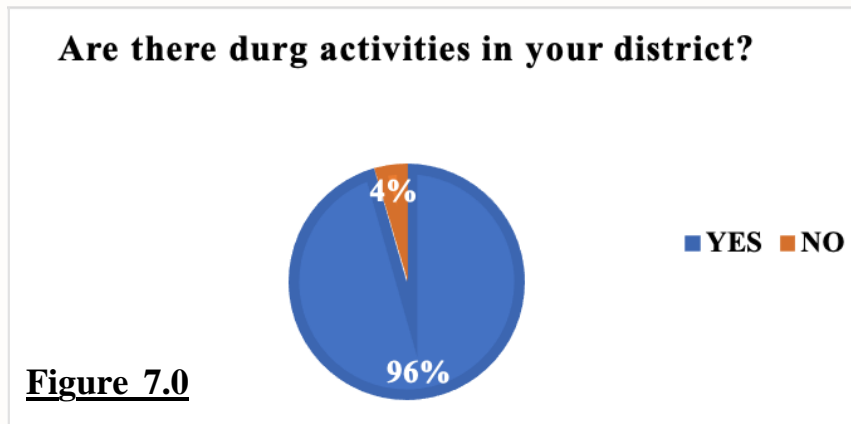


## 6. Ritualistic Killings



Figure 6.0: Reveal 90% limited ritualist activities for the period, with only 10% in (Montserrado dist. 1, Lofa dist. 4, Maryland dist. 1, Gbapolu dist. 2, Bomi dist. 2, Rivercess dist. 2, Bong dist. 5 and Sinoe dist. 3) respectively.

## 7. Drug Activities



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**Figure 7.0: data shows that 96% reported YES and 4% NO.**  
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### 8. Age Group Involved in Drug Activities

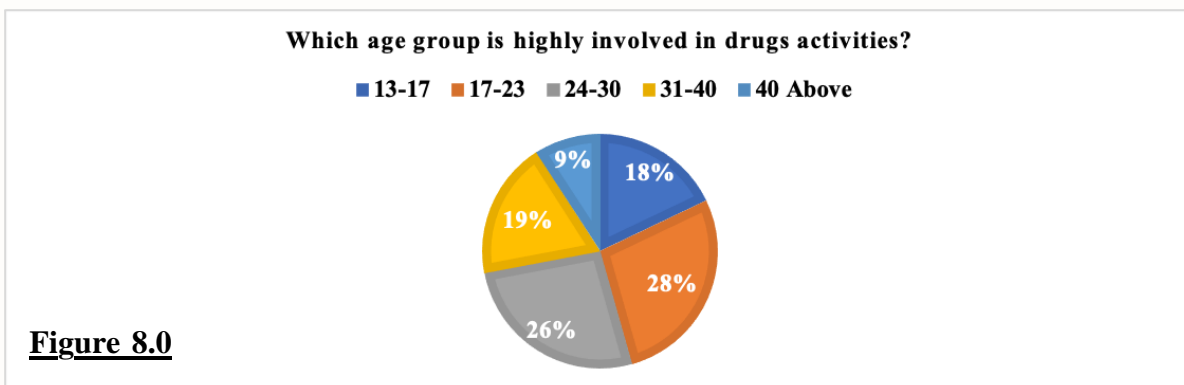


Figure 8.0: specifies the ages group 17-23 as the highly involved age group at 28%, follow by 24-30 age group at 26%. The age group 40+ accounted for the lowest at 9%.

### 9. Drug Dealers Living in the District

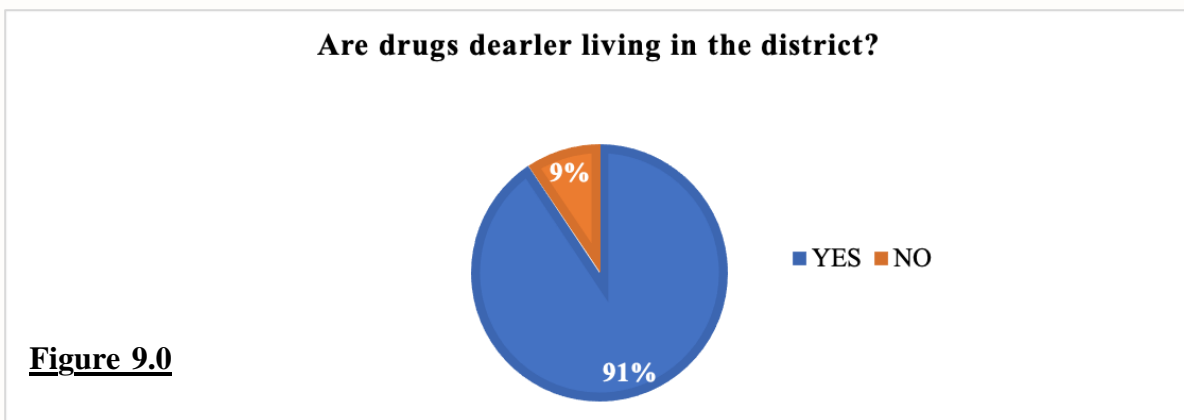


Figure 9.0: Shows that 91% of the respondents confirmed drugs dealers living in their districts, while 9% answered no.





## 10. Lawmakers Activities

**Figure 10.0**

Questions	% of YES	% of NO	Tot. %
Does the lawmaker visit the district?	50%	50%	100
Is lawmaker reporting back to the district?	40%	60%	100
Is lawmaker implementing legislative project in your dist.	22%	78%	100

Figure 10.0: 78% of the report says NO to lawmaker implementing legislative project in districts, 60% NO to lawmakers reporting back to the districts.

## 11. Healthcare Service Delivery

**Figure 11.0**

Questions	% of YES	% of NO	Tot. %
Is there a health center in your district?	92.30%	7.70%	100%
Are citizen accessing the government health facilities?	84.60%	15.40%	100%
Do government supply medical supplies to the health facilities?	73.80%	26.2	100%
Is government subsidizing the health center?	82.7	17.3	100
Is the drug/equipment use for citizen?	97.9	2.1	100

Figure 11.0: Health center in the districts, 92.3% reported YES, 84.6% YES to citizen access to government health facilities, 73.8% YES to government provide medical supplies to health facilities, government subsidizing the health center YES at 82.7%, and 97.9% YES to drug/equipment use for citizens.



## 12. Active CSOs and CBOs

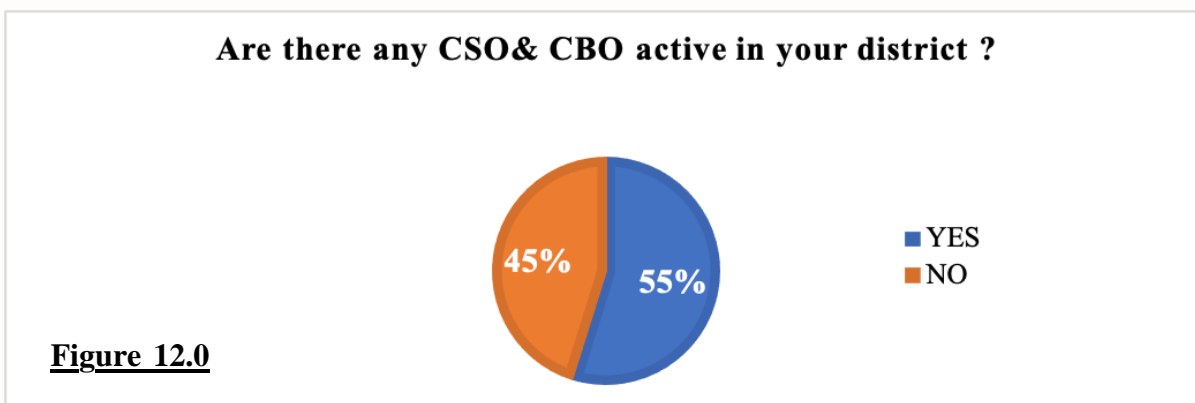


Figure 12.0: data reveal 55% of respondents said YES to activeness of CSO & CBO in districts, while 45% responding NO.

### Summary and Conclusion

Data on social-economic issues like roads accessibility and maintenance in the 73 districts, frequency of alleged ritualistic killings, drug activities, health, commodities prices as contained in this report are from 65 out of 73 infield monitors (LTOs) nationwide who monitored and filed in development on these issues through ELMO. These data are no different from past reports as citizens continue to complain about the hike in commodities prices like gas, fuel, red, and ago oil, and others.

### Road Accessibility and Maintenance

Generally, there was 94% YES to road accessibility in almost all districts, with only 6% of NOs to inaccessibility nationwide as reported by the LTOs. There was a 52% to YES for Road maintenance indicating the need for improvement in regular road maintenance to enhance social-economic activities across Liberia.



## **Inflation**

Inflation was reported at 87% with a YES in the prices of basic commodities depicting difficulties Liberians are experiencing in their daily strive for improved livelihood.

## **Ritualistic Activities**

Limited ritualistic activities were reported nationwide with 90% of NO to ritualistic activities and 10% YES in only few counties. This shows a drastic reduction in ritualistic activities across Liberia.

## **Drug Activities**

There was a 96% YES from the LTOs report to drug activities in districts and a 4% NO. The age groups 17-23 and 24-30 were reported as hugely involved at 28% and 26% respectively. 40+ age group accounted for the lowest. Additionally, 91% reported YES that drug dealers are living in their districts which is a vital influence for the rise in drug activities and intake by young people at an alarming rate. This is leading to a boom in the number of disadvantaged youths called (Zogos) nationwide.

## **Lawmakers Interaction with their Districts**

There was a balance between visit and non-visit to districts by lawmakers with YES and NO being at 50% as the data shows. Reporting back to districts by lawmakers was at 60%, with the report stating it as a NO. For the implementation of legislative projects by lawmakers, there was a 78% NO reported overall. These data confirm that lawmakers are not adequately reporting back to their respective constituencies regularly and there are limited legislative projects being implemented in districts. For visit and non-visit, this is a reasonable balance but there is a need for more constituency visits by lawmakers for better representation and lawmaking.



### **Health Related Issues**

From the data, 92.3% responded YES to health center present in districts, 84.6% responded YES to citizen access to government health facilities, 73.8% responded YES to government supply of medical supplies to the healthfacilities, 82.7% responded YES to government subsidies to health centers, and drug/equipment used for citizens was at 97.9% with a YES as the report disclosed. Largely, even though a lot is required in the health service deliveryfor Liberians nationally, health-related activities were reported to be good as seen by the percentages between YES and NO about health-related information .as ,mentioned above.

### **CSOs and CBOs Activeness**

As shown in Figure 12.0, 55% of reports received specified YES to the activeness of CSO & CBO in their districts with 45% reported NO. It means,CSO & CBO are actively involved as a watchdog for society in monitoring and advocating for improved social-economic opportunities and policies geared towards improving economic and social activities at the community and national level.

#### **Challenges**

**No substantive challenges  
were reported from any  
regions during this reporting  
period.**



## About LEON

The Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON) is a platform of four Liberian civil society organizations, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC), Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP), Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and National Union of Organizations for the Disabled (NUOD) with the overall goal of meaningfully contributing to the democratization process in Liberia by providing an avenue for civil society to participate in monitoring and observing elections and democratic processes in Liberia. LEON observed the 2017 and 2020 elections with over 1000 observers and issued statements on pre-election, election day and post-elections activities. In 2019, LEON engaged in monitoring the Legislature with the aim of increasing legislative openness and transparency for better representation that leads to improved social service delivery in constituencies.

LEON has a steering committee comprised of members of the four member organizations and a secretariat of 15 persons including four regional coordinators who will coordinate and oversee the short-term and long-term observers. LEON has a focus on the inclusion of marginalized groups including women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Under this project, LEON receives funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and technical support from The Carter Center. However, its findings, reports and other determinations are independent of the two organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views of those organization.

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