

CAPACITY STATEMENT

AIDE LIBERIA

SECURITY AND JUSTICE / INCLUSIVE PEACE & RECONCILIATION

1.1. Presentation of AIDE profile

1.1.1. Overview: History, structure, and Capacity

AIDE is a national Non-Governmental Organization with experience in humanitarian and development aid, and structural poverty reduction. AIDE (African Institute for Development and Equity) was borne during the exit of CORDAID (a reputable International NGO Project Office, with over 120 years of global operations). With the International NGO Foundation operations ending in Q3 of 2022 after twenty-two years of operations—the entire staff began to find ways to:

1. Sustain the gains made by the exiting International NGO in the areas of Healthcare; Community Development; and Systems Strengthening
2. Continue to utilize the staff and keep them gainfully employed in an organization which will harness and develop their skills—as well as use them for the common good.
3. Close the gaps in expertise that will be needed for future development grants and projects.
4. Strengthen localization and achieve Global Development localization goals by creating a local entity with similar expertise as the dissolving entity.
5. Create partnership channels where the expertise of Local Experts, Communities of Practices; and Networks can be utilized when the opportunity allows.

In January 2022, the staff under the leadership of their Country Lead requested a formal transition from the International NGO to a Local Non-Governmental Organization—which was agreed to be led by the former head of the outgoing organization alongside the existing team. We took the first step to realizing this dream by incorporating a legal local Non-Governmental Organization named AIDE (AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITY).

Since then, we have expanded our expertise with community-based disaster risk reduction, health, and education system strengthening, employment and entrepreneurship, inclusive peace & reconciliation, financial mechanisms, food systems and livelihoods, and innovative technologies. Our multi-stakeholder approach seeks and promotes alliances of civil society organizations, as well as the public and the private sectors. We focus on local agents for change and implement innovative digital and financial methods to increase the impact of interventions.

Our foundation lies in the values of human dignity, justice, and compassion. We participate in like-minded, networks, on grassroots, national and international levels.

AIDE aims to increase the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth for equal and meaningful participation in **peacebuilding** and **conflict transformation**. We also address the gaps women face **in access to justice in formal and informal spaces**. We strive to eliminate all forms of **inequity**, including gender inequality, for sustainable and peaceful development. This means

working with people from different **gender identities** and from diverse backgrounds applying an **intersectional** approach.

In terms of managerial capacity, AIDE has a Code of Conduct, Gender Policy, established financial procedures and an anti-corruption policy and an open data policy. Through AIDE's Open Data policy, we strive to be a transparent, results oriented and results driven organization.

We have strong HR, finance, procurement, and monitoring systems in place to support project implementation. The organization also has inclusion, integrity, gender equality, protection and safeguarding policies and complaint feedback mechanisms in place to ensure the projects delivered meet the highest humanitarian standards. AIDE has a country office in Liberia and Sierra Leone. It has been fighting poverty and exclusion in West Africa's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas. It delivers innovative solutions to complex problems by emphasizing sustainability and performance in projects that tackle security and justice, health and economic opportunity.

1.2. Technical approach

Our vision is that of a world in which people live in just, peaceful, safe and equitable societies. These societies are underpinned by responsive and accountable security and justice institutions, and inclusive arrangements for political governance and peace-making. Through our security and justice programming we strive for **positive peace**; creating an optimal environment for human potential to flourish. Positive peace assumes an interconnectedness of all life, meaning that a sustainable peace cannot be achieved by approaching development through a narrow lens.

To achieve this AIDE will

- Establish stronger partnerships internally and externally. In our approach "local is leading" we focus on strengthening communities to actively participate and contribute to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and informal and formal peace processes.
- Support and reinforce citizens' ability to demand and defend realization of their rights. We aim to achieve this by working with other local civil society organizations, women's and youth movements, as well as by engaging with national police, justice institutions and local and national governments.
- Our advocacy, based on the views of local communities and evidence-based research, will influence those who make policy decisions, those who have the ability to legislate, negotiate or set budgets relating to formal and informal public security and justice policies.
- Focus on creating an enabling environment for CSOs and local movements to take forward their work since they are best placed to address security, justice and peace issues in a sustained manner.

AIDE Selected targets:

1. Increased capacity of individuals, communities and civil society to effectively advocate and take action towards positive peace, and expanded civic space to influence decisionmakers and powerholders.
2. An enabling environment for legitimate stability, through improved responsiveness and accountability of security and justice providers. This is done through access to justice,

security sector reform and justice sector reform programming, including among others innovative results-based financing approaches.

3. Strengthened capabilities of people, communities and civil society to peacefully resolve conflict and bolster social cohesion

AIDE pays keen attention to 2063 agenda which recognizes the centrality of women's roles in the attainment of its seven aspirations in view of women's important economic and social contributions to the development of the continent; the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), which focuses on conflict prevention and all forms of violence against women and girls, women's participation and leadership in peace and security processes, women's protection from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and women, peace and security in prevention; and SDG 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) a related global goal that aims to foster peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide universal access to justice, and construct effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

AIDE aims contribute to achieving SDG-related outcomes and strategies, such as transforming public justice and law enforcement institutions to provide gender inclusive services, creating an enabling environment for women to access quality justice services, and ensuring women's inclusion and empowerment in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. In addition, AIDE also focuses on the advancement of women's roles in traditional dispute resolution and peace-building mechanisms by paving a new path toward a more peaceful society, as well as expanding empirical study and discourse on gender-inclusive laws and procedures.

1.3. AIDE Experience on Peacebuilding and Security & Justice

AIDE has pilot-tested the nexus approach in Sierra Leone by linking women, peace and security initiatives, peace building and conflict transformation. Through this groundbreaking proof of impact, AIDE aims to build a track record in Liberia and position itself in innovative programming. Peacebuilding is a critical focus area in Liberia and the link with women's meaningful participation, voice and agency will most certainly lead towards attracting additional funding from both donors and the private sector.

Sierra Leone Context Matters – Results Based Financing for Security and Justice in Sierra Leone (2020 – 2021);

Budget - \$285,000 (Cordaid GO)

The project was piloted in four SLP divisions (Waterloo, Harbour, Congo Cross and Goderich) in the Western Area of Sierra Leone and later extended to Kenema, Kailahun, Kambia and Motema (Kono) divisions. This project focused on improving service delivery of state security and justice providers (police, prosecutors, judges, penal workers). The overall aim of S&J RBF was to increase the interface between SLP and the community through improved service outcomes.

Specific objectives included; ensuring safer communities, reducing the incidence of crime, investigating criminal cases swiftly, improving documentation and prompt accountability, including reporting especially on SGBV cases and management.

The Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project – Sierra Leone;

Budget - \$1,360,000 (UNPBF)

The project responded directly to root causes of conflict in Sierra Leone identified in the conflict analysis, specifically: (1) the general systematic exclusion of rural and peri-urban youth; and (2) the specific exclusion of rural and peri-urban youth from opportunities to defend their rights and resolve conflicts through existing CBDR mechanisms, and to contribute to conflict prevention at national level. The project builds on the premise of UNSCR 2250 that recognizes the positive role young people play in contributing to solutions for peace; and applies a people-centered, bottom-up approach that will be further adapted to the contexts of each of 3 intervention sites.

Key Results

- One Policy-relevant research on key drivers of conflict conducted by young women and men
- 240 Community Based Dispute Resolution providers trained, advised on adoption of inclusive, gender-sensitive, conflict-sensitive practices.
- 23 Youth-led groups supported to network and share knowledge on conflict prevention at national level.
- Implemented and evaluated 23 sub-granted projects aimed to improve inclusiveness, gender-sensitivity and conflict-sensitivity of CBDR

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