



2nd National Conference on the Theme: Sustaining Women and Youth Empowerment Through Agriculture, Health, and Educational Investments

Background and Introduction:

Guided by the UN Resolutions 1325 and 2250 on Women, Youth, Peace and Security; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), The United Nations (UN) Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategy 2020-2024; Liberia's Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Agenda as well as the National Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), the Business for Peace Community Development Foundation (B4P CODEFOUND) continues to pursue its mission which seeks to Increase and sustain the voice and agency of women and girls by building their capacities to access resources and tools for social justice, cohesion, and financial independence.

The 2025 conference being organized by the Business for Peace Community Development Foundation (B4P CODEFOUND) and the Bong County Women and Youth Development Cooperation (BWYDC), aims to sustain women and youth empowerment through agriculture, health, and educational investments in Liberia's rural communities. **This initiative builds on the success of the 2023 conference, which sparked regional cooperation and is expected to eventually lead to the formation of the Liberian Women and Youth Cooperation for Peace and Development.**

The 2023 conference had three other big achievements in addition to the official launch of the Foundation. First, BWYDC was established and the County Steering team appointed. Secondly, the Bong County Women and Youth Solidarity Fund (BWYSF), a revolving financial mechanism for support to community-driven and business development initiatives in Bong was established, and over 1 million Liberian dollars was raised. This fund expected to grow overtime will help facilitate movement building and co-creation processes as well as ensure sustainable development and resource sharing amongst members that are direct participants and beneficiaries. Although the conference focused on Bong, participants were invited from Margibi, Montserrado, Lofa, Nimba, Bomi and Grand Bassa Counties to promote cross-cultural learning and resource sharing across different counties.

Following 2 years of community engagement and Leadership by the Steering Committee on the BWYDC, the upcoming conference will build on successful local initiatives for women and youth empowerment, aiming to evaluate progress and chart sustainable development through targeted investments in agriculture, health, and education, exemplifying partnership, movement building efforts as well as joint planning and implementation practices.



Conference Overview

The 2025 Conference on Sustaining Women and Youth Empowerment, scheduled for December 11-13 in Gbarnga, Liberia, adopts a comprehensive sustainable development approach through interconnected domains of agriculture, health, and education. This location is not only central but strategic as one of Liberia's agricultural heartlands expected to attract diverse stakeholders for a three-day gathering, including community leaders, government officials, international organizations, technical and financial support providers, and women and youth groups driving local development initiatives.

The conference will feature an intensive program designed to maximize learning, collaboration, and actionable outcomes, featuring expert workshops, diverse panel discussions also allowing for virtual participation of participants and speakers from abroad, and structured networking sessions. **Key objectives include:**

- Evaluate BWYDC's operations, progress made, successes, barriers, and learn lessons for the future;
- Identify and select the second county to be onboarded as part of the movement building process and elect a new Steering Team with a two-year mandate to lead and scale the work of the Cooperation;
- Identify and define specific needs and opportunities for cross-sector resource mobilization and map out strategic partners and stakeholders whose work directly aligns with the organization's overall goal;
- Design strategies for movement building and collective actions;

Proposed Activities:

- Pre-Conference: Media Engagement on December 10th
- Day One: Introductions, Reporting, Panel Presentations and Conversation with Traditional Leaders
- Day Two: Recap of Day One, Thematic Planning Workshops, Preparations for the leadership elections, and Cultural Night
- Day Three: Election of New Steering Committee members, Presentation of the Action Plan (2025-2027), fundraising, and Closing
- Post-Conference: Media Engagement on December 17th



Expected Outcomes:

- A more coordinated and robust Cooperative empowering women and youth in targeted communities in semi-urban and rural Liberia;
- Women and youth relationship with stakeholders in fostering local development impacting women and youth improved in targeted communities;
- An expanded resource mobilization and investment portfolio leading to increase in funds generated through the fundraising initiatives held before and during the conference to support the Women and Youth Solidarity Fund (WYSF) and launch of a revolving financial scheme;
- Instituted planning mechanisms and sector working groups responsible for overseeing actions and plans on agriculture, health, education in addition to other women, youth peace and security issues to be identified during the conference;
- Targeted women and youth communities have increased understanding of various processes and are aroused to join local resource mobilization and development efforts.

Conference deliverables:

- Development of a comprehensive multi-county plan developed to guide the expansion and implementation of at least two county Cooperation's activities for sustainable and accountable results for 2025-2027.

Proposed Budget: \$25,029 USD and \$2,377,800 LBRD (See detailed budget highlighting income streams and expenditure)

General Income Sources:

Total Contribution expected

- B4P CODEFOUND's Contributions @ \$9,582.50 (Cash and in-kind contributions plus other fundraising efforts)
- BWYDC's Contributions @ \$5,063.50 (Cash and in-kind contributions, sales plus other fundraising efforts)
- Institutional & Individual Donations/Grants @ \$10,383