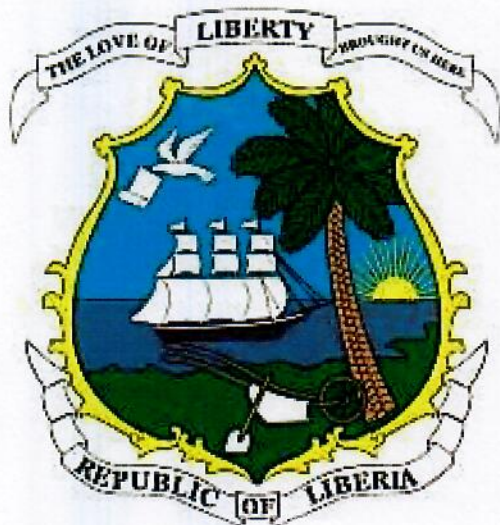




Promoting Accountability of Public Resources

# AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT



**On the Financial Statement Audit of  
the Youth Opportunity Project (YOP),  
Project: P146827  
Credit Number: IDA 56210 & TF A9505**

**For the period July 1, 2021 to December  
31, 2021**

**June 30, 2023**

**P. Garswa Jackson Sr., ACCA, CFIP, CFC  
Auditor General, R.L.**

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**ACRONYMS USED**

<b>Acronyms/Abbreviations/Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ACCA	Association of Chartered Certified Accountant
AFP	Audit Focal Person
AG	Auditor General
CFC	Certified Financial Consultant
CFIP	Certified Forensic Investigation Professional
COSO	Committee of Sponsoring Organization
CPA	Certified Public Accountant
FSs	Financial Statements
GOL	Government of Liberia
YOP	Youth Entrepreneurship & Employment Project
IAU	Internal Audit Unit
IDA	International Development Association
IFRs	Interim Financial Reports
INTOSAI	International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
IPSASs	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
ISSAIs	International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions
OFM	Office of Financial Management
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PCO	Project Coordination Office
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
SOE	Statement of Expenditures
ToR	Term of Reference



June 30, 2023

Hon. Dester Zeogar Wilson  
**Minister**  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Hon. Wilson:

**RE: AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT OF THE YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROJECT (YOP).**

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Youth Opportunity Project (YOP) for the period December 31, 2022 financed through YOP: P146827; Credit No. IDA 56210 which comprise the statements of Receipts and Payments, Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts and a Summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements (YOP: P146827; Credit No. IDA 56210) present fairly, in all material respects, the Statement of Receipts and Payments as at December 31, 2021, Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts and a summary of other accounting policies and explanatory notes for the fiscal period then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Cash Basis of Accounting.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements Section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Supreme Audit Institutions together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the World Bank guideline and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Management's Responsibility**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IPSAS Cash Basis, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing its ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

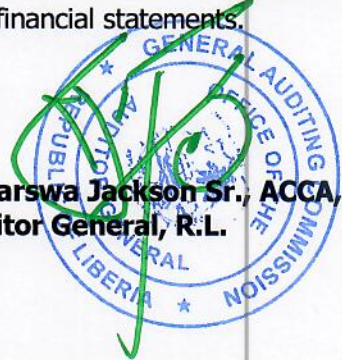
The YOP Management is responsible for overseeing the Project's financial reporting process.



**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**P. Garswa Jackson Sr., ACCA, CFIP, CFC  
Auditor General, R.L.**



**Monrovia, Liberia**  
June, 2023



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

2

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	Notes	July 1 - December 2021	2021 June	Cumulative
<b>Receipt</b>				
IDA Grant	4	93,271	4,093,547	4,186,818
<b>Total Receipt</b>		<b>93,271</b>	<b>4,093,547</b>	<b>4,186,818</b>
<b>Payment</b>				
Pre-Employment Social Support & Household Enterprises for Urban Youth	5	48,358	1,232,957	1,281,315
Productive Public Works & Life Skills Support	6	175,169	2,541,890	2,717,059
Capacity Building for Cash Transfer Program	7	-	-	-
Project Implementation & Coordination	8	97,364	363,966	461,330
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>320,891</b>	<b>4,138,814</b>	<b>4,459,705</b>
Excess of receipts over payments (payments over receipts)		(227,620)	(45,267)	(272,887)
Fund Balance as at beginning		316,928	362,195	362,195
Cumulative fund balance		<b>89,308</b>	<b>316,928</b>	<b>89,308</b>

**NB: activities and amount highlighted are reclassified**

*The notes on pages 6 to 11 are integral part of these project financial reports*



**STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE AND CASH STATUS  
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021**

3

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	Notes	<b>July 1 - December 2021</b>	2021 June
<b>A Fund Balance</b>			
<b>Balance of Project Fund</b>		<b>316,928</b>	362,195
Add: Total Receipts during the period		<u>93,271</u>	<u>4,093,547</u>
Total Fund available for operations		<b>410,199</b>	4,455,741
Less: Total Payments during the period		<u>320,891</u>	<u>4,138,814</u>
<b>Balance of project fund at the end of the year</b>		<b>89,308</b>	316,928
<b>B Cash Status:</b>			
Cash at Bank		<u>89,308</u>	<u>316,928</u>
<b>Total Cash on hand and in bank</b>		<b>89,308</b>	316,928
<b>Difference between A and B</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

*The notes on pages 6 to 11 are integral part of these project financial reports*



**STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JULY 01 DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**Analysis of Variance**

Activities Within Components	Project	Annual	Actual	Variance
	Allocation		Expenditure	
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Pre-Employment Social Support & Household Enterprises for Urban Youth	3,274,187	52,283	48,358	3,925
Productive Public Works & Life Skills Support	7,268,035	176,701	175,169	1,532
Capacity Building for Cash Transfer Program	103,052	-	-	-
Project Implementation & Coordination	2,814,374	111,022	97,364	13,658
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,459,648</b>	<b>340,006</b>	<b>320,891</b>	<b>19,115</b>

*The notes on pages 6 to 11 are integral part of these project financial reports*

**Variance Explanation can be found in Notes 11**





**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

6

**1. Background and Information of the Project**

With support from the World Bank (AfDB); the Youth Opportunity-project is geared towards improving access to income generation opportunities for targeted youth and strengthen the recipient's capacity to implement its cash transfer program. The YO project was approved by the World Bank on February 24, 2016 & April 9, 2019 with a grant amount of USD 10 Million. The aim of the project is

- i. To strengthen the capacity of MYS for Project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, including, inter alia, financial and procurement management;
- ii. Strengthening the capacity of LACE for project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, including inter alia, financial and procurement managements, reporting and auditing;
- iii. Strengthening the capacity of MGCSP for Project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, including inter alia, financial and procurement managements, reporting and auditing.

**2. Use of Grant Proceeds**

The table below sets out the categories of items to be financed out of the grant proceeds, the allocation of the amounts of the grant to each category and the percentage of expenditures for items to be financed in each category:

Category	Amount of grant allocated expressed in US\$	% of expenditure to be financed
Pre-employment social support	500,000	100
Household Enterprise	2,000,000	100
Capacity and System building	700,000	100
Productive Public Work & Life Skills Support	5,780,000	100
Capacity and System building	746,000	100
Capacity building and social cash Transfer	1,200,000	100
Project Implementation & Coordination Ministry of Youth and Sport	500,000	100
Project Implementation & Coordination LACE	1,874,000	100
Project Implementation & Coordination Ministry of Youth and Sport	200,000	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,500,000</b>	

All categories of expenditure shown in these financial statements are fully financed based on the percentage below:

	% of Expenditure
IDA	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** *(continued)*

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**3. Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Cash Basis International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as adopted by the Government of Liberia and in the manner required by the Project Grant Agreement as required by the World Bank's Operating Policies and Procedures and PFMU's Financial Management manual.

**Reporting currency**

Financial reports have been presented in United States Dollars. Transactions denominated in other currencies are translated into United States Dollars and recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transactions. Balances denominated in other currencies are translated into United States Dollars at the rate of exchange prevailing on the reporting date.

**Loan Receipts**

Loan from donors for the YOP project is recognized and reported in the Statement of Receipt and Payment as income when received and held in a bank account called designated income account for transitory purposes. Amounts approved for disbursement are transferred from the designated account into another bank account called the operational account. All payments for the YOP project and activities are made from the designated account.

**Cash and bank balances**

Cash consist of cash in hand and balance at bank.

**Recognition of expenditure**

All expenditures are expensed whether they are revenue or capital in nature and income is recognized when funds are received from the World Bank.

**Tax**

The project is 100 percent inclusive of tax. Taxes are withheld on consultants and vendors.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

8

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	<b>July 1 - December 2021</b>	2021 June	Cumulative
<b>4 Grant Receipt</b>			
IDA Credit 56210	<b>93,271</b>	2,091,718	10,026,700
TF - A9505	-	2,001,829	3,500,000
	<b>93,271</b>	4,093,547	13,526,700
<b>5 Pre-Employment Social Support &amp; Household Enterprises for Urban Youth</b>			
Pre-employment Social Support	<b>29,663</b>	458,045	628,409
Household Enterprise	-	529,311	2,028,866
Capacity & Systems Building	<b>18,695</b>	245,601	586,476
	<b>48,358</b>	1,232,957	3,243,751
<b>6 Productive Public Works &amp; Life Skills Support</b>			
Productive Public Works & Life Skills Support	<b>175,169</b>	2,490,287	6,358,446
Capacity & Systems Building	-	51,604	560,238
Support to Agribusiness Setup	-	-	104,280
	<b>175,169</b>	<b>2,541,890</b>	<b>7,022,964</b>
<b>7 Capacity Building for Cash Transfer Program</b>			
Capacity Building for Cash Transfer Program	-	-	103,052
	-	-	103,052
<b>8 Project Implementation &amp; Coordination</b>			
Project Implementation & Coordination by Ministry of Youth & Sports	<b>27,014</b>	153,620	1,330,988
Project Implementation & Coordination by Liberia Agency for Community Ea	<b>70,349</b>	210,347	1,379,261
Project Implementation & Coordination by Ministry of Gender, Children & Se	-	-	127,757
	<b>97,364</b>	363,966	2,838,005
<b>9 Cash receipts through grant and other Sources</b>			
IDA grant	<b>93,271</b>	4,093,547	4,186,818
<b>10 Cash paid</b>			
Pre-Employment Social Support & Household Enterprises for Urban Youth	<b>48,358</b>	1,232,957	1,281,315
Productive Public Works & Life Skills Support	<b>175,169</b>	2,541,890	2,717,059
Capacity Building for Cash Transfer Program	-	-	-
Project Implementation & Coordination	<b>97,364</b>	363,966	461,330
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>320,891</b>	4,138,814	4,459,705
<b>11 Variance Explanation</b>			
All under the capacity and system buding could not be fully disbursed as planned thereby causing these variances			
The project also returned to the World Bank <b>US\$52,314.17</b> and set put into escrow amount of <b>US\$10,000.00</b> for the purpose of audit			



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** *(continued)*

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**PROJECT DESIGNATED ACCOUNT STATEMENT**

**Account Number:** 6100286622/1602002962/6100064072  
 /6100063722/6100063712/6100286612  
**Account Type:** Current Account  
**Depository Bank (s):** Eco Bank Liberia, Limited & CBL  
**Address:** 11th Street & Ashmun Street  
 Monrovia, Liberia

**Currency:** United States Dollar

	July 1 - December 2021	2021 June
Total Grant Received	<u>93,271</u>	4,093,547
<b>Total grant income reported</b>	<b>93,271</b>	4,093,547
Amount spent	<b>320,891</b>	4,138,814
Balance as at beginning	<u>316,928</u>	362,195
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2021</b>	<u><b>89,308</b></u>	<u>316,928</u>
<b>Closing Balance Consist of:</b>		
Petty Cash - MYS	-	-
Petty Cash - LACE	-	-
IDA Designated A/C - Ecobank	<b>62,673</b>	60
Operational A/C - MYS	<b>8,816</b>	95,549
Operational A/C - LACE	<b>18,535</b>	222,035
Operational A/C - MGCSP	<b>120</b>	120
AF Designated A/C -Ecobank	<b>(836)</b>	(836)
	<u><b>89,308</b></u>	<u>316,928</u>