



UNITED NATIONS
LIBERIA



PROGRESS REPORT 2020

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2020-2024

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to share with you this report which showcases the United Nations progress and achievements over the last year.

As I write this Foreword, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge our world today, but we know that working together as one UN and implementing complementary activities is crucial. It is important that we develop a common approach at the onset of emergencies with joint activities that focus on a shared vision. A one UN approach to humanitarian and development challenges will not only strengthen our response but also add value to future interventions.

For the UN system to support governments to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (the 2030 Agenda), in a more evidence-based manner, a coherent and systematic planning, monitoring and reporting system is critical at the country level. At national level, while Liberia has made significant gain towards the achievement of SDGs, mainstreaming SDGs by way of identifying contributory linkages presents a huge challenge in tracking the actual status of implementation. To accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind, a systematic monitoring mechanism for SDGs in Liberia is paramount.

The UN Country in Liberia will continue to advocate for the implementation of the SDGs, the Agenda 2030, and UN Vision 2030 through the UNSDCF 2020-2024 for Liberia that is aligned to the National Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development through UNCT integrated and coherent advocacy on SDGs; supporting SDGs acceleration and strengthening national data and systems to track the implementation of SDGs and development initiatives in Liberia.

The UN will continue to support the Government of Liberia contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through joint efforts that focus on building community resilience for the most vulnerable. Emphasis will be placed supporting Liberia to build a more inclusive governance systems, ensure gender equality and embrace digitalization for transformational changes in the lives of the most vulnerable and left behind.

The UN in Liberia will continue to promote and advocate for the fundamental values, standards and principles, integrates its commitments to leave no one behind, gender equality and human rights norms and standards into its programmatic and operational interventions for Agenda 2030. Through the Leave No One behind lenses, the UN will focus its efforts, support and assistance the most vulnerable, especially youth, children and women, including those with disabilities through working more at the county and community levels. The UN will explore a heavier footprint at the field level and as informed by vulnerability and poverty profile of the country.

The UN in Liberia recognizes that human development remains critical for attaining the Agenda 2030, emphasis will be placed on investments with transformation impact in health, education, economic development, agriculture and food security while creating an environment that sustains peace, social cohesion and reduction of fragility in the country.

The UN will continue with its normative role of supporting the government to honor and fulfil pledges and commitments on global humanitarian and human rights obligation i.e. but not limited to gender, refugees, children and youth.



Niels Scott
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Liberia



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Country Team in Liberia comprise eighteen(18) resident and Non-Resident UN agencies, Funds and Programme, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in the Country. The UN Country Team advocates for the implementation of the SDGs, the Agenda 2030 and UN Vision 2030 through the UNSDCF 2020-2024 for Liberia that is aligned to the national Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). The UN in Liberia supports the Government priorities, and the achievement of the SDGs that the country committed to in collaboration with Partners. The United Nations envisages a partnership that would "...support Liberia become a reconciled, transformed and prosperous nation anchored on accountable institutions and equitable, inclusive and sustainable development " by 2030

The UN's Vision 2030 is aligned to and supports the Government's Vision "To build more capable and trusted state institutions that will lead to a stable, resilient, and inclusive nation embracing its triple heritage and anchored on its African identity and to provide greater income security to an additional one million Liberians, and reduce absolute poverty by 23 % across five out of six regions --through sustained and inclusive economic growth driven by scaled-up investments in agriculture, infrastructure, human resource development, and social protection."

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCF) 2020-2024 is the UN's response to Liberia's transformative agenda and development priorities and guides the collaboration with the Government of Liberia clustered the following four strategic results:



RESIDENT AGENCIES:





Result (Outcome) Area 1- Human Development and Essential Social Services

By 2024, the most vulnerable and excluded groups have improved quality of life with rights-based, gender sensitive, inclusive, equitable access and utilization of essential social services in an environment free of discrimination and violence including in humanitarian situations.



Result (Outcome) Area 2: Sustainable Economic Development

By 2024, Liberia has sustained, diversified and inclusive economic growth driven by investments in agriculture, food security and job creation and is resilient to climate change and natural disasters.



Result (Outcome) Area 3: Sustaining Peace and Security

By 2024, Liberia consolidates, sustains peace and enhances social cohesion, has strengthened formal and informal institutions capable of providing access to inclusive, effective, equitable justice and security services, capable of promoting and protecting the human rights of all.



Result (Outcome) Area 4: Governance and Transparency

By 2024, people in Liberia especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged, benefit from strengthened institutions that are more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive in the delivery of essential services at the national and sub-national levels.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNDSCF) 2020-2024 has clearly defined results areas, that are further elaborated through the Joint Bi-Annual Workplans (JWP). In all the human-rights, gender equality and Women's Economic Empowerment, inclusion, capacity development, resilience; and environmental and climate adoptability have been mainstreamed in the programming areas including joint work plans and joint programmes across all the results areas. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the 2020 development agenda, resources were reprogrammed to support the response, the United Nations delivered on its commitments.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN IN LIBERIA, IN 2020



Government of Liberia



European Union



Government of China



Government of Denmark



Government of Germany



Government of Iceland



Government of Ireland



Government of Japan



Government of Norway



Government of Sweden



Government of United Arab Emirates



Government of United Kingdom



Government of United States of America

TheGlobalFund



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



THE WORLD BANK



MPTF



SDGF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FUND

GPE
Transforming Education

Gavi
The Vaccine Alliance



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security



United Nations
Peacebuilding
Fund

KEY SELECT DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FOR LIBERIA



THE STATE OF ECONOMY

- **4th** of **30** poorest Countries,
- High multidimensional poverty index (**over 70%**)
- **HDI**: Ranked **175** out of **189** countries
- Increasing poverty from **54.1% (2014)** to **61.1% (2016)** and higher in the rural (**over 76%**)



IMPACT OF COVID-19

- Likely to drive up to **180,000 people, mostly women into poverty**,
- COVID-19 aggravated socio-economic shocks that continue to impact negatively human development, peoples' livelihoods , social protection, governance, gender and human rights as well as other social basic services,
- COVID-19 found the country was still grappling with the socio-economic effects of Ebola, struggling economy, and challenged health systems



POPULATION - 50,732,960

- **Urban**: 50.2%
- **Rural**: 49.8%
- **Under 15 years**: 43.4%
- **Youth (15 & 35 years)**: 33.3%
- **Under 64%**: 76%



MATERNAL AND INFANCY MORTALITY

- **93/1000** babies dying before their fifty year of Life
- **37/1000** babies dying during their first month of Life
- **25/1000** babies dying after their first month of Life but before first birthday
- **63/1000** babies die during their first year of Life
- **661 deaths/100,000 live births**-women die due to complications pregnancy of childbirth



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- **84.5 %** of population with access to improved drinking water
- **15.4%** of population with unimproved source of drinking water
- **74.3%** of population with access to basic drinking water services
- **10.3%** of population with limited access to drinking water services
- **47.6%** of residence with improved sanitation facilities
- **17.6%** of residence with unimproved sanitation facilities
- **34.8%** practising open defecation
- **23.8%** of residence with basic sanitation services
- **23.0%** of residence with limited sanitation population



HEALTH

- Life expectancy at birth **62.9 years** (WHO estimates 2018)
- Household Out of Pocket expenditure on health **53%** (MOH 2019)
- General health Facility readiness (capacity) to deliver services **only one out of two facilities** have the WHO recommended general capacities to deliver essential health services (2018 Service Availability and Readiness Assessment)
- **One out of two facilities** have essential medicines for children available in health facilities (SARA 2018)
- Core health workforce density is **11/10,000** population, WHO recommends 44.5/10,000 (SARA 2018)
- **Eight out of ten** births are attended by skilled health personnel (DHS 2019-20)
- For Maternal mortality ratio, the recommendation is that we use the GoL figure of **742/100,000** from the DHS which is higher than the one from MMEIG of **661/100,000**, with a foot note that the MMEIG (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WB, UN Population Division) figure is 661



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- **38.2%** of women age 15-49 that have **undergone FGM**
- **Rape** remains one of the highest reported crime in Liberia
- Between 2016-2020, **78%** of gender-based violence were of sexual violence in nature; of which **70%** were child survivors



FOOD SECURITY

- **50.4%** of HHs are food insecure – approx. 2.3 million people
- **21.9 %** Chronically Hungry - 1 Million people



NUTRITION

- **30%** children under 5 are stunted
- **3%** children under 5 that area acutely malnourished
- **11%** of children under 5 are underweight



EDUCATION

- Only **13%** children aged 0-4 years attends early education programme (**Urban 19%, Rural 9.8%**)
- **44.3%** of primary school-aged children attend school
- **44.4%** Survival to the last grade of primary (%)
- **81.4%** Effective transition rate from primary to lower secondary general education



1.

COUNTRY CONTEXT AND TRENDS.



1. COUNTRY CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Liberia has remained resilient to challenging environment characterized by multiple shocks including the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, residual social impacts of the Ebola Virus Disease of 2014, the negative economic implications of the UNMIL departure in 2018, the falling prices of Liberia's primary commodities -iron ore, rubber, oil palm, gold and diamond—in the global market. This is exacerbated by the rising rate of inflation, increase in prices of basic commodities, depreciation of the Liberian dollar, which affect the provision of basic social services in the health and education systems. Liberia was able to maintain a stable macro-economic environment. Liberia was able to maintain, through fragile, stable and peaceful environment that enabled socio-economic activities to continue albeit in reduced and constraint manner.

CONTEXT

The Coronavirus (COVID- 19) pandemic affected every aspect of society, in Liberia as in the developed and developing countries. Based on COVID-19 Social Economic Impact Assessment (October 2020), populations that are more vulnerable were expected to be poorer than their non-vulnerable counterparts. The report showed that people working in the self-employed services sector (46.2%) were expected to be the hardest hit by the pandemic with the poverty rate projected to increase by 2.5% for vulnerable workers in comparison to 1.9% for the non-vulnerable employed. Households which had higher absolute rates of poverty (estimated at 63%), in contrast to 55% for the non-vulnerable employed. This notwithstanding that poverty still remained pervasive with over 42% of the population living in extreme poverty and subsisting on less than US\$1.90 per day and was to be exacerbated in areas mostly affected by COVID-19 (46.3% of the population, approximately 2.3 million people).

MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

To galvanize the required resources for development and social service needs, the Government of Liberia unveiled its national development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) in October 2018. While there is some progress, gaps remain in social service delivery. Public infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, electricity, and

provision of safe drinking water continues to remain out of reach of the ordinary Liberians.

According to the Human Development report, (2020) 62.9 percent of the population of Liberia are multidimensional poor while an additional 21.4 percent classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. Women experience lower income earnings and are more affected by poverty. Primary school enrolment and education completion rates are low: net enrolment in primary schools is 48 percent and in early childhood education only 29 percent. Primary education completion rates are 33 percent for girls and 36 percent for boys.

The Country has made significant efforts with support of the Development to maintain a stable macro-economic environment including commitment to debt rules, The Government of Liberia has been implementing the IMF's ECF program, which aims to create a sound macroeconomic policy environment and to address underlying structural bottlenecks from December 2019 that include: limiting external borrowing to concessional terms; , reduced domestic borrowing from the Central Bank of Liberia while increasing domestic revenues by expanding the revenue base and minimizing tax losses; Capital market development. Despite the efforts, the economic growth has remained slow and is projected to continue contracting during the COVID-19 pandemic before improving marginally in the medium-term. Real GDP is estimated to contract by 3.1% in 2020, its third year of decline in the past five. The 2020 result reflects a pandemic-induced

reduction in external demand for its major exports and reduction in demand in the service sector, particularly wholesale and retail trade, and the hospitality industry which were the hardest hit by the COVID-19.

In 2021, real GDP growth is forecasted to rebound to 2.8% due to increased demand for Liberia's key exports of iron ore, gold, diamond, and rubber—assuming major importing countries in Europe and Asia cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Inflation is projected to decline to 13%, the exchange rate to stabilize, the fiscal deficit to remain below 5% in the medium term, and the current account deficit to narrow on the back of continued adherence to fiscal discipline and tight monetary policy that is aligned with the IMF's ECF program.

The challenge remains in the possible risks emanating from high vulnerability to external shocks and prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic necessitated stringent public expenditure measures and the revenue generated through domestic mobilization was redirected to address the response and the pandemic's unpredictable impacts. Growth in the private sector remained stagnant with slow imports of goods to service the economy. The informal sector, predominantly the domain of the urban and rural poor, continues to decline as a result of reduced domestic production mainly from the agriculture sector and the slow pace of international transportation of goods.

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS

Liberia has remained resilient as it continues to address the root causes of conflict by promoting a cohesive society for sustainable development, ensuring equal justice and human rights by ensuring justice systems work to the benefit of the poor and most marginalized, and strengthening national security and ensuring governance systems that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of Liberian people. Despite the gains made in maintaining national

peace and security, the root causes of the country's 14-year civil war, remained unaddressed. The triggers of conflict include: The unfinished business of peace and reconciliation and a slow national reconciliation process. There remains the need for a community-based and internally-driven reconciliation process – which is still a gap; Grievances over the political legitimacy of concessional agreements, given the failure of contractual processes to involve the affected communities and local authorities in decision making when granting concessions, and a lack of government accountability for ensuring good conduct by the concessionaries; Effective delivery of key national legislations on, corruption, county boundary disputes and concession related tensions, pending constitutional review that would address the inherent inequalities.

Public service delivery institutions (national and decentralized) accountability systems require strengthening including strengthening institutional capacities of delivery, administration of justice and the rule of law institutions.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

The Liberian economy heavily depends on agricultural, fisheries and forest-related production and exports, altogether constituting approximately one-third of the country gross domestic product (GDP). Most Liberians, especially women, depend on agriculture-related activities for livelihoods. The dependence in agriculture has however not improved for security in the country. Liberia Food Security Assessment (2021) showed a severe deterioration of the food security situation in the country with more than half of the population (50.4% of HHs) were food insecure and about 21.9% were chronically Hungry.

Among the main drivers of food insecurity in Liberia are poverty, environmentally and financially unsustainable livelihoods, low agricultural production and productivity, land constraints, gender inequalities and inflation. Additionally, under-performance in the

agriculture sector is attributed to several reasons including:

- Weak institutional capacities to formulate agriculture friendly development framework and investment that encourage agricultural production and productivity including inadequate policy coherence and multi-sectorial coordination in agriculture sector.
- Low public-sector resource flow towards investment in agriculture sector. This has led to limited (below optimal) food production focus and lagging agricultural modernization.
- Infrastructure deficit that greatly constraint access to market for farm produce and irrigation.
- Limited public awareness of good food security and nutrition practices.
- Lack of enabling environment and lack of incentives for significant private sector investment

In recent years, the impact of climate change including changing rain patterns, heavy rains, flooding in coastal cities, especially in Monrovia, fall armyworm outbreaks and caterpillar infestations and other pests has increased the susceptibility of the agriculture sector to natural and environmental hazards that have impacted agricultural production in Liberia

Due to government stringent COVID-19 containment measures, domestic food prices rose monthly by 37.3 percent in June 2020 compared to 30.4 percent during the same period a year ago. These disruptions adversely impacted household welfare, rendering 66.4 percent of households to be “dire food situation” according to World Bank High Frequency Phone

Monitoring Survey Report, launched in August 2020. In the same survey, 75.3 percent of households had reported job loss and 67.5 percent reported income loss (World Bank, 2020).





SDGS FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

To attain the 2030 Agenda requires significant attention alignment of all resources, both internal and external towards financing the Sustainable Development Goals. While Liberia had not undertaken a “Development Finance Assessment” by 2020, national records showed that about 80 percent of public investment has been financed through external sources--grants and concessional loans which are executed outside the national budget. The remaining 20 percent of capital spending, forming the Presidential Priority Projects, were domestically financed through the Public Sector Investment Plan (PSIP) window. Given the dwindling FDA flowing to Liberia and the limited capacity for domestic revenue collection, the development investments were inadequate and/or delayed.

Liberia also experienced off-the budget spending led to repeated slippages in fiscal consolidation thus rising contingent liabilities resulting in re-redirecting resources mainly to recurrent expenditures, operations and emergencies and little to development.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, Liberia was already experiencing challenges meeting its revenue collection targets with bigger part of development finance funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA), a situation that has been worsened by the pandemic. The Government has since revised its target for development financing further narrowing prospects for SDGs attainment. Overall, remains a significant part (over 50%) of the financial landscape with very low private sector, domestic commercial activities, direct foreign investment. Domestic revenue collection remains a significant challenge.



2.

HIGHLIGHT OF 2020
PROGRAMMATIC
RESULTS ON SUPPORT
TO NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PRIORITIES.





















2.1 BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES: PROTECTION, PROMOTION AND FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS; ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION; HEALTH CARE; HIV PREVENTION AND CARE; IMPROVED NUTRITION

By 2024, the most vulnerable and excluded groups have improved quality of life with rights-based, gender sensitive, inclusive, equitable access and utilization of essential social services in an environment free of discrimination and violence include in humanitarian situations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The UN supported Liberia's COVID-19 Emergency Response Project with the procurement of 15 units of ambulances to the Ministry of Health benefiting 6,756 health workers (69% Female) and 40,991 people (58% Female) per year in 15 counties, including Montserrado (7,840), Bomi (1,338), Cape Mount (2,187), Gbarpolu (365), Margibi (2,786), Bong (4,832), Nimba (5,392), Lofa (5,113), Grand Gedeh (2,642), Sinoe (1,056), River gee (764), Rivercess (584), Grand Bassa (3,146), Maryland (2,477), and Grand Kru (469) to ensure continuous health services amidst the pandemic
- 82 reproductive health officers were trained on the application of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Quality of Care Standards in 3 counties (Bong, Lofa and Grand Cape Mount) to introduce and roll out the adapted WHO Quality of Care Standards for Liberia in the 3 counties to contribute to improving quality of care for mothers and improve health outcomes.
- 3501 health workers (70% female) and 468 volunteers were trained, mentored facilitated on case management and IPC measures in 15 counties. This prompt action has contributed to high recovery rate (98%) of all COVID-19 admitted cases.
- Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic the UN scaled up its emergency food assistance in the country through the Government-led COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme with the financial support of the IMF and World Bank, reporting an increased number of beneficiaries and making a significant contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Liberia.
- The UN supported the development of Annual Health Sector Operational Plans (national and sub national levels) defining national priorities elaborated for the period 2020/2021. Further, as part of the integrated Africa Health Observatory as a one stop portal for health information, health statistics and knowledge products, the UN supported the review and update of the National Health Observatory for Liberia.
- Before onset of the COVID-19, UN provided food assistance to 10,000 people living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy and their families. . In total, more than 1 million crisis affected people were assisted with a total of 12,450 mt of food commodities across the country in 2020.
- Despite school closures, the UN continued to deliver on its 'changing lives' agenda by providing alternative take-home rations to 92,000 school children under the school feeding programme with the support of private sector and bilateral government partners, thereby directly contributing to the Government's national development agenda, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development

 World Health Organization	 Total Expenditure: \$ 7,952,012.00	 People Reached: 4,900,000	  
 UN WOMEN <small>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</small>	 Total Expenditure: \$ 218,856.35	 People Reached: 1,200	
 UNESCO <small>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</small>	 Total Expenditure: \$ 120,124.00	 People Reached: 1,190	
 UNOPS	 Total Expenditure: \$ 870,222	 People Reached: 47,747	 

(PAPD). The continued school feeding support was largely possible due to flexible funding from Mastercard Corporation.

- United Nations Gender Thematic Group (UN GTG) collaborated with the Government of Liberia, development Partners, NGOs Civil Society Organizations on gender equality and women's economic empowerment notably supporting the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in the development of the second phase of Liberia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2023).
- A more robust death registration platform was developed, finalized and planned for roll out in 2021. This will include the international classification of diseases 11 (ICD 11) classification of causes of deaths in Liberia and further strengthen and improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) architecture in the country.
- The UN supported LISGIS conducted the Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20. The LDHS provides an opportunity to inform policy and provide data for planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of national health programs. It has been designed to provide up-to-date information on health indicators including fertility levels and preferences, sexual activity, awareness and use of family planning methods, breastfeeding practices, nutritional

status of children, early childhood and maternal mortality, maternal and child health, awareness and behaviors regarding HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the prevalence of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. The Interim Key Indicators Report (KIR) released by LISGIS in September 2020 shows some improvement in the areas of facility delivery by pregnant women, and skilled attendance at birth.

- In 2020 the UN planned for the 2022 National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) (The last NPHC was in 2008).. Liberia will move from Paper and Pen Interviewing (PAPI) to Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) using virtual servers in the Google Cloud Platform (GCP). The preparations have pre-positioned Liberia to be among the first African nations to ever conduct a fully digital census at every stage of the preparation and implementation.

The UN continued to provide spectrum of protection to over 4000 refugee families (over 13,000 individuals) in 3 counties in Liberia by providing access to basic services and supported health and education as well as infrastructure interventions, food and CRI assistance across the counties and access to health services in all refugee settlements and public schools in refugee camps

2.2 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: JOB CREATION; PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT; ACCESS TO MARKETS AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT; EQUITABLE AND GENDER RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC POLICES AND STRATEGIES; DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

By 2024, Liberia has sustained, diversified and inclusive economic growth driven by investments in agriculture, food security and job creation and is resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Capacity of 1,011 farmers in lowland rice production in two counties was strengthened (with agro machines, training on System of Rice Intensification practices, South-South knowledge exchange, post-harvest facilities equipped with Agro machines, water management, seeds and fertilizers) leading to improved yields (of 4.5 MT/ha) almost 4 times the national average (of 1.2mt/ha);
- Through the United Nations Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, at least 10,743 women and men smallholder farmers have increased access to and control over resources, assets, and services critical for their food and nutrition security in Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Bassa, and Margibi Counties respectively. Of the number reached, 9,273 women farmers have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products
- There was enhanced community-level capacity through the training of 100 community members in three authorized forest communities on enumeration of forest inventory, planning sustainable forest management activities and livelihood options. The UN and Development Partners provided livelihood and capacity strengthening support through its Food Assistance for Assets projects to 4,300 smallholder farmers, stimulating local food production and aiming to meet the requirements of the home-grown school feeding programme.
- The UN supported and empowered 1,000 small-scale fish mongers and enhance livelihood in coastal communities during and after COVID-19, jointly with The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA).
- The UN supported the Forestry Development Authority to complete Liberia's first national forest inventory. The project built the capacity of more than 70 staff and students to undertake forest enumeration activities. Additional training in data cleaning and analysis was also completed. The FDA now has a core staff of technicians who can be deployed to the field to undertake critical forest monitoring activities vital to the sustainable management of forests in Liberia.
- The UN supported the government to improve National Capacity for investigation and management of Animal Health Diseases and Public Health threats, through strengthening national laboratory diagnostic capacity, human resource capacity and national knowledge on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and Biosafety and Biosecurity.
- The UN provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social in defining and implementing social protection programmes - including strengthening the




Total Expenditure:
 \$ 315,403.65


People Reached:
 1300



role of women in the labor market, particularly in the agricultural sector, by stimulating the production of female smallholder farmers in rural areas in support of the home-grown school feeding programme. A food security assessment in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and other food security actors was conducted

- The UN supported dialogue among local youth communities by engaging them in community-driven, youth-managed, and growth-oriented enterprises. Under the UN joint programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment as part of peace-building initiatives.
- The UN provided technical support to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for the implementation of the National Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting Policy to help the reclassification of the national budget as an accountability mechanism on gender equality and women's empowerment that would enable the GoL for align expenditure reporting with the SDGs and Agenda 2063 including from gender perspective. Six key spending entities in the GoL are institutionalizing gender-responsive planning and budgeting.
- The UN supported the Ministries Health, and Youth and Sports to provide psycho-social services and economic empowerment for 508 (133 female and 375 male) disadvantaged, who gained vocational training skills across ten project communities. Technical skills included

carpentry, electrical, tailoring, welding, and plumbing. Some beneficiaries were allowed based on their preference to receive small funding to engage in Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model, which allows members to develop savings plans and borrow capital for small-scale enterprise development. The model helps to capacitate and keep groups



2.3 SUSTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY: ENHANCED SOCIAL COHESION; ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS; ACCESS TO JUSTICE, RULE OF LAW

By 2024, Liberia consolidates, sustains peace and enhances social cohesion, has strengthened formal and informal institutions capable of providing access to inclusive, effective, equitable justice and security services, capable of promoting and protecting the human rights of all.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The UN provided technical support in the form of policy advice and built the capacity of the Government of Liberia for mainstreaming SDG 5 and other related SDGs into National Policy Documents such as the National SGBV Road Map (2020) and the simplified sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) comprehensive Prevention Strategy that was disseminated in targeted communities.
- The UN strengthened the capacities of the Government on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the Lands Right Act, the SGBV Comprehensive Prevention Strategy and the Domestic Violence Act. Subsequently, the GoL took firm steps in advancing the WPS Agenda through the implementation of its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS) 2019-2023, with the technical and financial support provided by the Country Office (CO).
- The UN adopted a landmark comprehensive prevention Strategy on ending sexual and gender based violence against women; establishment of the anti-SGBV Roadmap in collaboration with the Government of Liberia; empowering traditional leaders with alternative economic livelihoods for self-sustainability; enhancing CSO and women rights movement (inclusive of the LGBTIQs, the disabled etc) with skills and knowledge on ending SGBV; enhancing media practitioner's capacities' in gender sensitive reporting among others
- Through the Spotlight Initiative (LSI), the UN reprogrammed US\$1.3 million to ensure essential services continued during the partial lockdown and movement restrictions measures against COVID-19. Interventions such as psychosocial support, counseling, referrals, fistula campaigns, family planning and services (case management, counseling, access to justice and economic empowerment) were provided to survivors of GBV in partnership with MGCSP and CSOs. LSI enabled 1,659 survivors to access medical and counseling services from county One-Stop Centers (OSCs) and Safe Homes and provided services to 94 survivors during the reporting period with 58 of the survivors were reunited with their families after receiving psychosocial counseling and other services. These services are becoming critical for survivors as increasing trust and confidence are built and information about available services is shared with communities. Despite challenges in 2020, the Liberia Spotlight Initiative (LSI) achieved major milestones with a strategic change heavily focused on prevention reinforced with continuation of essential response services for survivors and at-risk vulnerable groups of women and girls.
- With support the UN SGBV Technical Team under the Spotlight, the Government of Liberia & Partners Anti-SGBV Roadmap (2020 – 2022) was developed to address increased



cases of sexual and gender-based violence/ violence against women and girls during and after COVID-19. These efforts are aimed at addressing deeply rooted cultural and traditional beliefs and practices which are a major underlying driver in defining perceptions and attitudes on sexual violence, especially on sexual violence, including the treatment of survivors and victims.

- For the first time in Liberia, a 24/7 SGBV Maternal Care and Child Protection Call Center was established with a toll-free line, which is institutionalized in the prevention and referral mechanisms at the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection to handle the rising cases of SGBV and refer them to the relevant service centers for timely intervention. The center fast track and ensure effective response to the increased cases of sexual violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 293 female traditional practitioners from 120 Sande groove/bush school were documented from 3 Counties, namely Bomi, Margibi and Rivercess Counties (Non-Spotlight Counties), while 104 participants (55 traditional leaders, 13 religious leaders and 21 community leaders and 15 community members) led community engagement in addressing negative masculinity and ensuring positive social norms, attitudes and behaviors in ensuring that women and girls live in violence free communities in their respective counties. This was supported with

funding from the Government of Sweden under the SGBV Joint Programme.

- 240 key decision makers including pastors, traditional leaders and Muslim leaders have committed themselves to serving as agents of change and gate keepers in the prevention of SGBV and referral of cases utilizing the referral pathway information throughout the 5 counties.
- 388 media practitioners (91 females and 197 males) from 66 media institutions including 44 radio stations, 13 Newspapers, 3 television stations and 6 online/social media outlets have increased their knowledge and skills to report SGBV and other gender stories in a gender sensitive manner. In addition, 7 radio jingles and radio messages have been aired on 20 radio stations including community radio stations in the 5 Spotlight Counties.
- As a way of capacitating their efforts, during the reporting period 46 CSOs obtained grants to implement various activities under the Spotlight Initiative. 28 local grassroots CSOs received grants to ably reach out to the hard to communities, build awareness on EVAWG and SRHR promotion as well share knowledge on COVID-19 prevention in line with the National health guidelines. Moreover, CSOs and Women Rights groups have enhanced capacity in the development, implementation and monitoring of EVAWG programmes, including identifying

key issues and making recommendations to address SGBV, HPs and SRHR issues, utilizing social accountability tools including community score cards, preparation of shadow reports, as well as participating in experience sharing conferences which resulted in the development of a resolution presented to key stakeholders.

- To ensure the implementation of the second phase of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) provided US\$1.5million to empower the Government through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to build capacities of line government ministries and agencies for the purpose of integrating gender and human rights principles that respond to the needs of women, in the peacebuilding context. The PBF support has ensured capacity building in the areas of women peace and security, through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing, and gender responsive budgeting at both national and local levels- creating equal opportunities for women. The project has been working with the Ministry of Finance on the gender responsive budgeting component, ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in the budget of government's institutions.
- Several studies have identified the mismanagement of land cases as a major conflict trigger in Liberia. Some of the root causes point to weak infrastructures to ably address land conflicts, ensuring more transparent, effective gender and youth responsive approach with the view of reducing conflicts, particularly in concession areas. In 2020, through UN support to address pervasive land related conflicts in four counties in Western, Central, And Southeastern Liberia to support the implementation of the Land Rights Act and the Local Government Act, resulted in the comparative review and a gender assessment of palm oil out-growers' schemes

in Indonesia and Malaysia, to inform possible development of out grower schemes in Liberia; a gender responsive out-grower scheme policy brief; a framework for gender 'due diligence' for business plans; and research on the coordinating mechanisms and challenges of relevant Government entities to improve support and monitoring to concessionaries and communities.

- Gender assessment was conducted provided insights into the current land dispute resolution processes and legal structures. These studies highlight the need for intensified efforts in mainstreaming gender and inclusivity in land processes which is evidently lacking. This result was achieved in collaboration with line ministries and other government institutions including with the National Bureau of Concession and LLA.
- The UN support helped to ensure young women and men have increased access to local conflict resolution mechanisms, with a focus on land disputes, and become active agents of peace to enhancing peacebuilding and social cohesion in six communities in Lofa and Bong Counties. Further, rural young women and men have access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods, - addressing key drivers of conflict in Salala District, Bong County, and Salayea District, Lofa County. The communities have benefited from access to peacebuilding and dispute resolution capacities. Through their youth, women, elders, representatives of socio-economic groups, and decentralized units of line ministries, agencies and commissions, these communities have been increasingly capacitated to undertake community-based participatory planning. Using a participatory approach to build social capital, safe spaces were created for joint decision-making.
- With UN support, the Law Reform Commission (LRC), the Domestic Violence Law, Inheritance

Law and Rape Law were simplified. CSOs conducted massive dissemination and distribution of the simplified CPS in 150 communities. Afterwards, reporting increased in 23 beneficiary communities, with perpetrators arrested.

- The third UPR was conducted with high levels of engagement and the government accepted all recommendations, except for those relating to FGM, LGBT rights and the establishment of a War and Economics Crime Court. A Government-UN-Donor Community Workshop held to develop an action plan to implement the UPR recommendations. Government resuscitated the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up.
- During the reporting period, Peace Building Office (PBO) made significant progress in strengthening peace structures at the local, county, and district levels to promote social cohesion and co-existence through civic engagements. The programme adopted conflict sensitive policies, strategies and programs on national reconciliation and strengthened

national reconciliation and peacebuilding mechanisms through early warning and early response network and county peace structures.

- Through localized mechanisms, dialogues promoted inter-group reconciliation and social cohesion as well as strengthened the capacity of early warning structures in 137 districts in the 15 counties to effectively identify and respond to conflict sensitive issues in a timely manner.
- The PBO and the UN in partnership with the Center for Sustainable Peace and Democracy (SeeD) made significant progress in the conduct of the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Wave 3 Study. The study measures progress and indicators enshrined in Pillar 3 of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PAPD) and will go a long way in informing propensity for conflict as well as the people's perceptions on peace and social cohesion in Liberia ahead of the presidential election in 2023.



2.4 GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY: FREE AND FAIR ELECTION; PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM (DECENTRALIZATION); WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING; ANTI-CORRUPTION

By 2024, people in Liberia especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged, benefit from strengthened institutions that are more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive in the delivery of essential services at the national and sub-national levels.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The 2020-midterm elections marked a key milestone in Liberia's fragile democratic process. To ensure that the National Election Commission (NEC) successfully conducted the elections, the UN supported the strengthening of the National Voters' roll process by ensuring that the Data Center was fully equipped and operational for the duration of the electoral process.
- As part of gender mainstreaming and providing a safe space for women participation in the democratic process, the Election project in collaboration with the Peace Building Office (PBO), trained members of security agencies, and political party representatives. One of the central themes of the trainings was to enhance gender sensitivity of the participants with emphasis on the impact of violence against women.
- The UN continued to support the implementation of the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Government (NPD LG) as well as operationalization of the new Local Government Act passed in 2018. The LDSP II deliberately targets decentralization of administrative and political governance in Liberia. It aligns to the peace building and reconciliation processes, Public Sector Reform Agenda, Civil Service Reform (CSR) and the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) - under Governance Pillar IV- and thus supports the implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the PAPD and the SDGs particularly goals 1, 5, 16 and 17.
- To improve citizens' participation and access to basic public services, particularly by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, the UN supported the implementation of an innovative, information technology-enabled citizens' feedback mechanism. The data from this mechanism will enable the design and implementation of a performance management system for the civil service, and inform planning, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The UN supported the government to draft the Local Government Gender Policy in 2020 to help Local Government institutions in Liberia to commit to be gender-sensitive and gender responsive in planning and executing all programs and projects. The Policy enhances a strong sense of national reconciliation and unity in Liberia.
- The UN provided technical support to the Ministry of Health's grants management, particularly aimed at strengthening three key areas of Grants Management using a Capacity Development (CD) Plan namely a) Programmatic and Institutional Arrangements, b) Financial Management Systems and c) Health Information System and Monitoring and Evaluation.




Total Expenditure:
 \$ 32,300


People Reached:
 2,000



- The UN provided technical and financial support the GoL to institutionalize gender-responsive planning and budgeting into six (6) spending entities (Finance and Development Planning, Gender Children and Social Protection, Health, Education, Agriculture and Justice)
- Through consistent advocacy and support from UN, the Government of Liberia, MFDP allotted US\$ 200,000.00 in the approved national budget FY2020/2021 for gender equality and women empowerment.
- The UN also supported the Electoral Law Reform process to ensure more inclusive participation of all citizens. Key among the proposed amendments is on 4.5. b and c for enforceable gender quotas






3.


UN COVID -19 SOCIO- ECONOMIC RESPONSE.





SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS


FOCUS AREA	KEY ACHIEVEMENT
 <p>HEALTH FIRST: Protecting health services and systems during crisis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The UN built the capacities of the national institutions including the Ministry of Health, in containing and responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic by providing technical advice, resources and access to global networks and knowledge in responding to the pandemic and preparing for other shock- polio outbreak. The UN provided technical advice, coordination and global expertise provided to the Government on COVID19 and other external shocks. This included supporting the procurement of required medical and emergency equipment and medicines for the COVID-19 facilities. ▪ With the UN and Development Partner support, the Government of Liberia reported and responded to 53 disease outbreaks to from 15 counties, compared to 69 outbreaks reported from 13 counties in 2019 with COVID-19 as the most predominant. As of December 31, 2020, a total of 45,303 COVID-19 tests were conducted with 1,835 testing positive including 83 deaths (CFR- 4.5%). Seventy-four percent (74%) of cases were reported from Montserrado county. ▪ Capacity building for frontline health workers and surveillance officers was conducted for 2,500 COVID-19 active case findings, 2,500 contact tracers, 657 case investigators, 671 case management clinicians, 985 Infection prevention and control (IPC) health facilities focal persons, and 914 risk communication and community engagement personnel with support from WHO ▪ The UN s developed, printed and disseminated 15,000 copies of COVID-19 IPC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for marketplaces, banks, places of worships and POE, 20,000 copies of COVID-19 case definition and surveillance SOPs, 500 copies of Case Management guidelines, and 5,000 Risk Communication and community engagement messages ▪ The UN procured and donated Laboratory and IPC supplies that include: Laboratory (sampling kits for 26,020 tests, manual extraction kits for 13,368 tests, Realtime PCR detection kit for 15,360 tests, Eliza antibody kits for 1,248 tests, COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic kits for 2,500 tests). IPC supplies donated includes: 27,000 pcs of Face masks cartoons, 8,000 pcs of Face shield, 480 Goggles protective pcs, 7,400 pcs of Gowns for isolation and 23 oxygen contractors for case management.

FOCUS AREA	KEY ACHIEVEMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With financial support from the UN, through the COVID-19 National Coordinator's Office, food packages were distributed to 28,396 residents in Montserrado county ▪ The UN built the capacities of the national institutions including the Ministry of Health, in containing and responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic by providing technical advice, resources and access to global networks and knowledge in responding to the pandemic and preparing for other shock- polio outbreak . The UN provided technical advice, coordination and global expertise provided to the Government on COVID19 and other external shocks. This included supporting the procurement of required medical and emergency equipment and medicines for the COVID-19 facilities. ▪ WASH was implemented across Government facilities including the medical centers. The UN supported the county health teams in the training of port health staff to screen, detect, identify and isolate COVID-19 cases at points of entry (PoEs). Constructed triage and/or isolation centers to reinforce border management and developed standardized SOPs to be used with the Mano River Union (MRU) in COVID-19 preventions at ground crossing. ▪ WASH was implemented across Government facilities including the medical centers. The UN supported the county health teams in the training of port health staff to screen, detect, identify, and isolate COVID-19 cases at points of entry (PoEs). Constructed triage and/or isolation centers to reinforce border management and developed standardized SOPs to be used with the Mano River Union (MRU) in COVID-19 preventions at ground crossing. ▪ In view of the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN prioritized the socio-economic response and recovery to the crisis meeting the immediate needs of population, while efforts were made to sustain the gains of previous development interventions. Although the UN's COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plan remained underfunded, various UN organizations were able to support the Government of Liberia in its response activities (i.e. incident management, logistics provision, telecommunication, SBCC etc.).

FOCUS AREA	KEY ACHIEVEMENT
 <p>PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social Protection and basic services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The UN facilitated the conduct of Socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA). The report showed that people working in the self-employed services sector (46.2%) were expected to be the hardest hit by the pandemic; with the poverty rate projected to increase by 2.5% for vulnerable workers in comparison to 1.9% for the non-vulnerable employed. These households had higher absolute rates of poverty (estimated at 63%), in contrast to 55% for the non-vulnerable employed. The report recommended an urgent and immediate need to protect vulnerable groups, including those living in extreme poverty and areas mostly affected by COVID-19 (46.3% of the population, approximately 2.3 million people), especially with 42% of the population living in extreme poverty and subsisting on less than US\$1.90 per day. ▪ Recognizing the magnitude and scale of assistance needed to support informal workers as part of the overall the UN supported in the development Government of Liberia National COVID Response Plan as well as mobilizing additional resources which enabled to provide social cash transfer approximately 6,000 beneficiaries ▪ At the request of the government, the UN supported through the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme to mitigated negative effects as a result of the pandemic. In this framework, the UN assisted 1.5 million vulnerable and food insecure Liberians (57% female and 43% male). A total of 16,000 mt of food commodities were transferred to beneficiaries throughout the country. ▪ The UN ensured advocacy and human rights monitoring during the COVID-19 lockdown measures as well as in the context of the mid-term senatorial elections contributed to prevention and addressing of human rights violations. ▪ The UN ensured a gender responsive, coherent, and coordinated approach for mitigating the humanitarian and social-economic impact of the pandemic resulting in enhanced awareness of communities including women on preventive measures of COVID-19 and SGBV in Margii, Bong, Montserrado and Bomi Counties. on COVID-19 prevention and SGBV. This was achieved in partnership with the Liberian National Police who used the awareness campaigns to assure communities of its readiness to respond to and address incidents of SGBV including prosecution of perpetrators.

FOCUS AREA	KEY ACHIEVEMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The UN also contributed to the assistance and reintegration of stranded Liberian from the Sahel Regional who were abandoned as a result of lockdown due to COVID-19. In 2020, a total of 327 stranded and abandoned Liberian from the Sahel Region were assisted with shelter, medical needs and reintegrated into their different facilities with support of job skill training and micro-business funding. ▪ The UN supported the Liberia National Police to conduct awareness campaign to conscientize communities about various measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and inform and educate the public about sexual and gender-based violence. The awareness reached 65,000 community members and USD10,000.00 was spent. ▪ The UN also provide preventive COVID materials to peace huts in three counties (Montserrado, Nimba and Margibi) along with the dignity kits to the two treatment units in Margibi County. The total amount spent was US\$57,186.9 ▪ Additionally, the UN supported 10 women owned small tailoring business to produce mask. A total of 10,000 mask were distributed. The total spent was US\$11,000.
 <p>ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-sized enterprises and the informal Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The UN Liberia conducted Rapid Assessment of COVID-19 Impact and Roadmap for Recovery in Liberia. This s Socio-Economic Impact study was done in collaboration with the Government of Liberia and Development partners to guide the recovery in Liberia beyond health towards, tackling the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. ▪ The assessment highlighted the negative impact of the pandemic on the socio-economic fabric of the Liberian society in health, people's livelihood and wellbeing, businesses, the economy, social protection and other systems of care, governance, and social cohesion.

FOCUS AREA	KEY ACHIEVEMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Assessment recommended measures on addressing the pandemic including how to build back and recover better under the health Services and Systems; Social protection and basic services ; Jobs, Medium Small and Micro Enterprises, Livelihoods and Informal Sector; Macroeconomic outlook, including fiscal space, revenues, tax policies, and debts and Social cohesion and community resilience. ▪ The assessment highlights the impact on poverty, inequality and vulnerability and recommends action for response and recovery over the short, medium and long term which include mobilizing donor and investor community to preserve development finance funding especially for vulnerable people; social protection measures to ensure the impact of the crisis on poverty is limited through cash transfers to complement the food security in-kind support , providing a multidimensional social protection package against COVID-19.
 <p>MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The based on the SEIA report, the he UN’s development of the Socio- Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) aligned to the GoL priorities. The SERP targeted the most vulnerable populations including women, children, youth, persons living with disabilities, and supports GoL recovery efforts. The Plan is anchored firmly within the national COVID-19 response and long-term development plans, and the priority actions, findings, and recommendations provided by the Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID19 impacts and implications for Liberia. ▪ The response plan was aligned to the National COVID-19 Response Plan, the Global World Health Organization’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan; Liberia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020; the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023); the UN Framework for The Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024. It also aligned to the five pillars of the Secretary-General’s global UN framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19. Protecting health systems and immediate containment of the virus remain as the immediate priority.

FOCUS AREA	KEY ACHIEVEMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, through advocacy from the UN and Government, the IFIs scaled up their support to the Liberian people channeling funds through the Government of Liberia into COVID-19 response activities implemented by the UN. The Government-led COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme financed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, implemented by WFP delivered a social safety net to half of the country's population, seizing its whole-of-society approach in strengthening the government capacity in saving lives and providing food assistance to those most in need.
 <p>SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN ensured a conflict sensitive COVID response by anticipating and monitoring the impact of the response on both state-society and inter-group relations. UN advocated for transparency regarding the overall national response by both national and international actors. This was intended to promote transparency on public procurement to strengthen public confidence and to enhance private sector participation. UN ensured also that the response was community based such that all that which were affected regardless of location, sex or age. Ensured that the response engaged local authorities, community leaders and civil society organizations, including women's groups, as key actors in supporting government efforts in addressing the multidimensional crisis. through outreach and open-air activities to 56,021 persons (18,028 women, 14,410 men, 13,647 girls and 9,936 boys) with prevention awareness information on SGBV and COVID-19 prevention. Furthermore, 216 radio talk shows with 18 jingles in various dialects were aired on community radio stations with 113 community structures established to raise awareness on COVID-19 and SGBV prevention as well as track, report and refer SGBV cases.

4.

RESULTS OF THE UN
WORKING MORE
AND BETTER
TOGETHER: UN
COHERENCE,
EFFECTIVENESS
AND EFFICIENCY.



Despite the COVID-19 occasioned challenges in 2020, the UN in Liberia pooled their resources, comparative advantage collectively to support the Government of Liberia. The internal Inter-Agency Working Groups under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, supported implementation of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020- 2024 and the UN Liberia COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan.

Coordination mechanisms to support implementation of the UNSDCF, were established and were instrumental in coordinating the processes for building back-better and stronger from the pandemic. These coordination structures are:

1. UNSDCF Government of Liberia - UN Joint Steering Committee:

The Joint Steering Committee is the highest level of oversight of the UNSDCF. This is co-chaired by the Government, Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator.

2. UNCT:

The UNCT is chaired by the Resident Coordinator and is composed of all Heads of Agencies including the Non-Resident Agencies. They will implement the Management and Accountability Framework as prescribed by the UN reforms.

3. UNSDCF Result Groups:

Composed of four Results Groups coalescing on each UNSDCF outcome. Each Results Group has the responsibility of the implementation of the UNSDCF Result and the achievement of the respective Outputs and priorities of the joint work plan.

4. Inter-Agency Programming Team:

Provides guidance on UNSDCF programming including, planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and knowledge management. In 2020, Inter-Agency Programming Team did not convene regularly due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, the UN continued to work through the thematic working groups (nutrition, gender, human rights, disabilities) and the joint programme coordination structures.

5. Inter-Agency Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group:

Provides technical support to UNSDCF Result Groups. This includes support in developing bi-annual joint work plans, annual reviews, preparation of results and resource periodical reports, conduct of the CCA review and update, development of results frameworks, technical support in developing results reports, mid and end of cycle UNSDCF Evaluations.

6. Operations Management Team:

Responsible for the development and implementation of the second generation of the Business Operations Strategy for Liberia. The OMT leads implementation of operational matters and advises the UN Country Team on the operational issues including efficiency, cost effectiveness and on efficient business solutions that support the programmatic implementation of the UNSDCF. In the reporting period, the OMT has promoted common business operations, generating efficiency gains, synergies and greater coherence through the development of BOS.2 for Liberia, conduct of client survey on the efficacy and quality services provided.

7. UN Communication Group:

Provides strategic coordination on all UN communication strategies and approaches.

8. UN Gender Theme Group:

Responsible for mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in Liberia and within the UN including support for joint programmes and inter-agency mechanisms.

9. Human Rights Working Group:

Coordinates the protection and promotion of human rights for UN

10. Joint Team on Aids:

Coordinates the prevention and care on HIV and AIDS for the UN.

11. UN Disaster Working Group:

Coordinates prevention and response on disaster and humanitarian emergencies for the UN

12. Youth Task Team:

Ensured the plight of the youth was central to all UN planning.

13. Joint Programming:

Other joint implementation and operation modalities include joint programming. In 2020, several joint programmes based on themes commonly agreed by the UN. Select joint programmes were designated as flagships, including the Liberia Spotlight Initiative to demonstrate delivering as one, was done through co-location, procurement, implementation, and technical coherence under the overall guidance of the RC Office. There are lessons learnt from the development and implementation, coordination of the programme that will inform future joint programmes.

5.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.



COMMON BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

The UNCT in Liberia and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning endorsed the five-year UNSDCF common Budgetary framework and tasked the respective Results Groups to develop coasted bi-annual Joint Work Plans for 2020-2021. Approximately US \$797million was projected to implement the UNSDCF for the five years. Required and available resources to support implementation of planned outcomes are outlined in the table below. The funding gap were also indicated as resources to be mobilized. Detailed annual Joint work plans identifying budgets, partner's activities and geographical areas were drafted but had not been endorsed by the time COVID-19 hit the country.

OUTCOME	Total Planned Budget	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Gap (To be mobilized)	Gap as % of requirement
Outcome 1	224,151,936	49,034,925	175,117,012	132,249,148	59%
Outcome 2	424,409,622	203,731,148	220,678,474	175,816,096	41%
Outcome 3	65,745,325	18,847,175	46,898,150	39,627,100	60%
Outcome 4	82,941,430	18,783,293	64,158,137	56,461,912	68%
	797,248,312	290,396,540	506,851,772	404,461,912	51%

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



USD 12,593,044.48 for joint programmes 2020

Secured by the UN through various Multi-donor Trust Funds and similar mechanisms.

FUND NAME	PROGRAMME/PROJECT NAME	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
LMPTF	Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (UN Women, UNDP, and WFP)	USD 3,996,522.48
LMPTF	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement (OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women)	USD 1,600,000.00
PBF GBI	Advancing implementation of UNSCRs on Women Peace and Security (WPS) through strengthening accountability frameworks, innovative financing and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) (UN Women, OHCHR):	USD 1,500,000.00
LMPTF	Sustaining peace and reconciliation through strengthening land governance and dispute resolution mechanisms	USD 3,996,522.00
Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)	Cross border engagement between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia to reinforce social cohesion and border security-Phase II (Liberia)	USD 1,500,000.00
TOTAL		12,593,044.48



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6.

EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED.



The COVID-19 pandemic showed that working together as One UN and implementing complementary activities is crucial. It is important to develop a coherent approach from the onset of an emergency. Collective agencies in planning of joint activities and targeting ensures coherence of a shared vision and prioritization especially in emergency contexts. Building synergies through joint programmes increases the success of activities, improves coordination and implementation including engagement with national counterparts.

A centralized coordination mechanism to support a one UN approach to humanitarian and development challenges in Liberia would strengthen the response and add value to future interventions. With improved coordination and accountability and alignment of activities and interventions, there are opportunities for increased synergies and broadening of the impact of interventions across Liberia.

For the UN system to support governments to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals the

2030 Agenda in more evidence-based manner, a coherent and systematic planning, monitoring and reporting system is critical at the country level. UN INFO presents a huge opportunity in addressing this challenge.

At the national level, while Liberia has made significant gain towards the achievement of SDGs, mainstreaming SDGs through identifying contributory linkages presents a huge challenge in tracking the actual status of implementation. To accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind, a systematic monitoring mechanism for SDGs in Liberia is paramount.

In the modern era of digitalization and 'Bigdata', production, access and utilization quality, reliable and easily accessible data for decision making indispensable. More focus should be placed on strengthening systems continuous data collection, analysis and visualization.



7.

UNCT FOCUS FOR 2021.



The UN Country in Liberia will continue to advocate for the implementation of the SDGs, the Agenda 2030, and UN Vision 2030 through the UNSDCF 2020- 2024 for Liberia that is aligned to the National Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development through UNCT integrated and coherent advocacy on SDGs; supporting SDGs acceleration and strengthening national data and systems to track the implementation of SDGs and development initiatives in Liberia

The UN will continue to support the Government of Liberia contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through joint efforts that focus on building community resilience for the most vulnerable. Emphasis will be placed supporting Liberia to build a more inclusive governance systems, ensure gender equality and embrace digitalization for transformational changes in the lives of the most vulnerable and left behind.

The UN in Liberia will continue to promote and advocate for the fundamental values, standards and principles, integrates its commitments to leave

no one behind, gender equality and human rights norms and standards into its programmatic and operational interventions for Agenda 2030. Through the Leave No One behind lenses, the UN will focus its efforts, support and assistance the most vulnerable, especially youth, children and women, including these with disabilities through working more at the county and community levels. The UN will explore a heavier footprint at the field level and as informed by vulnerability and poverty profile of the country.

The UN in Liberia recognizes that human development remains critical for attaining the Agenda 2030, emphasis will be placed on investments with transformation impact in health, education, economic development, agriculture and food security while creating an environment that sustains peace, social cohesion and reduction of fragility in the country.

The UN will continue with its normative role of supporting the government to honor and fulfil fulfilling pledges and commitments on global humanitarian and human rights obligation i.e. but not limited to gender, refugees, children and youth.



