

THE LIBERIA MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (LMPTF) ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2019

With support from:



United Nations
Peacebuilding
Peacebuilding Fund



About LMPTF

The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF) is a pooled funding mechanism that supports peace and development efforts in Liberia.

LMPTF ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2019

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INTRODUCTION

The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF) is a pooled funding mechanism that supports peace and development efforts in Liberia. Established in July 2018 as part of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, the Fund addresses the remaining root causes of fragility in Liberia while supporting the country's efforts to sustain peace and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

LMPTF brings together the Government, development partners, the UN system, and relevant stakeholders. The LMPTF is designed to support and

accelerate the implementation of the Government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), which was launched in October 2018, through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The LMPTF provides a coordination mechanism both financially and programmatically by improving aid effectiveness, increasing alignment among stakeholders and reducing transaction costs for donors and implementing partners, in close consultation with the Government of Liberia. The Fund is managed through a Secretariat funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

LMPTF'S ADDED ADVANTAGE

- Supporting SDG implementation
- Enhanced Coordination
- Predictable funding
- Risk tolerant

LMPTF/PBF

Portfolio
2019

Funding

USD15.4M

Covering

9 projects
implemented.
5 successfully
completed

ABOUT THIS REPORT

In 2019, LMPTF/PBF supported the implementation of nine projects with a key focus on peacebuilding in the 15 counties of Liberia. This report presents the key results from these projects, five of which were completed in 2019 and four of which are ongoing.



Source: <https://mapuniversal.com/>

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Promoting Inclusive Security

Project budget: US\$ 2million

The ***Inclusive Security: Nothing for Us without Us*** Project aimed at supporting the Government of Liberia (GoL) to achieve its commitments on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which are enshrined in the Liberia National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on WPS.

The 18-month Project was implemented by United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The agencies worked with various Government of Liberia institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Security Sectors Institutions (SSIs) and Peace Huts Women to promote gender equality in the security sector; and enhance the

capacity of the national justice and security institutions to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women.

Additionally, the Project aimed at enhancing women's involvement in decentralizing peacebuilding efforts, such as early warning structures, county and district security councils, and cross-border dialogues. It was implemented in Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties.



The Ganta Peace Hut women, after dedicating their peace hut. (Photo credit: LMPTF/PBF 2019).

Key Results

- Liberia's **second National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAP WPS) 2019-2023** was developed with support from the project. The NAP WPS addresses the major conflict triggers in the country including land disputes in a gender responsive manner. The process of developing the NAP WPS also provided training for several public officers in the security sector. This has seen an increase in the promotion of women to more senior offices. For example; the Liberian National Fire Service (LNFS) for the first time has two female officers appointed as Directors.
- The Project was key in **strengthening** the individual and institutional **capacities** of the Liberia Women Peace Huts network supporting their **formalization** through registration as a Community-Based Organization (CBO) - the **National Peace Huts of Liberia**. A comprehensive financial sustainability assessment commissioned through the project also enabled the Peace Huts to get training and develop **financial sustainability plans** which integrate income generating and resource management activities. As a result, **36 plans were developed** and many women reported **increased group savings** contributions by at least 50%, allowing them to invest in alternative income generating activities.
- Furthermore, the project supported the **construction of six new Peace Huts** in Lofa, Nimba, Maryland counties where the project was being implemented. Four of the Peace Huts were constructed with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).
- With training on mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts, members of **12 Peace Huts are now able to mediate conflicts in their communities**. In addition, they are actively reporting major Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) cases to the Liberia National Police (LNP) and potential conflict triggers to the Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO) using the **national early warning system** hence helping addressing conflicts in time.

The *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Liberia: Addressing Pre-Trial Detention and Rolling Out Community Policing Project* was jointly implemented by UNDP and UN Women. It aimed at supporting the Government of Liberia in its efforts to build a society based on the principles of rule of law, human rights and justice. This was in response to the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan on Peace, Security and Rule of Law, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2333 (2016), and UNSCR 1325 on Woman Peace and Security. With funding from the PBF, the project enhanced the capacities of, and public confidence in, rule of law institutions, as well as strengthened access to justice and security, especially for women and girls. In particular, the project aimed to reduce the unacceptably high pre-trial detention rates across the country, by strengthening institutional capacities across the justice chain. Additionally, it also supported the roll-out of the community policing policy, by nurturing relations between the police and communities.

Key Results

- The project supported the roll-out of gender responsive community policing leading to the **creation of 15 County Security Councils (CSCs)**. The CSCs comprise local authorities who have been crucial in **mediating critical issues** in the communities such as land disputes leading to reduced violence. For example, CSCs and joint security in Bong and Gbarpolu helped resolve a conflict over a rich gold mine situated between the two counties.
- A joint **training of 198 Community Watch Forum members** including 45 women and 250 police officers led to **increased awareness** on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), domestic violence in the communities and encouraged them to seek redress through the justice system. The **enhanced coordination mechanisms** between the Forums, the local community leaders and the Police resulted in **early resolution of conflicts** and a **reduction in mob violence** due to increased patrols and monitoring across the counties.
- 12 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), which received training in gender responsive legal aid, worked closely with key justice institutions to provide **free legal aid to 1,441 vulnerable Liberians**.
- In Grand Bassa, lawyers filed a motion to assist a 73-year-old widow whose sisters-in-law tried to evict from her deceased husband's land. The motion was based on the ground that the amended Equal Rights of the Customary Marriage Law (1998) prohibits any restriction of a widow's rights to her husband's estate. The Judge ruled in her favour enabling her to keep her land.

“I am very grateful to all staff of the legal aid clinic for helping me to get my property back, because, after the death of my husband, all the family members turned against me and wanted to move me out of the land and house my husband constructed over 40 years ago,” she said after the court proceedings.

- The CSOs also provided **free legal aid including representation to 573 pre-trial detainees (232 women)** resulting in a **3 percent decrease** in pre-trial detention.
- Furthermore, the capacity of the Police Women and Child Protection Section (WACPS), Community Service Section and the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Crimes Unit were also strengthened resulting in the **investigation of 320 cases**.

Reel Peace

Project budget: US \$ 433,130

Liberia's women, particularly in the rural areas are usually on the sidelines of national conversations. As part of efforts to give them

a voice, the Peacebuilding Fund supported the *Reel Peace: Using Film to Support Stability in Liberia* Project. The project goal was to build a network of women peacebuilders who could use film to tell Liberia's stories hence; "taking women from sidelines to the forefront."

Key Results

- **45 female film makers were trained** in film making and advocacy during a 15-month long fellowship; and supported to **establish a Women Film Makers (WFM) network**. Through this network, the women were paired with professional film makers who mentored and coached them, leading to the **production of 15 short films** on different issues taking place in Liberia's 15 counties. The films cover topics ranging from drug abuse in the urban areas to maternal health challenges and women's role in cross-border trade among others.
- The **15 films** were **showcased during a two-day festival** at the Monrovia City Hall and iCampus, the Accountability Lab Head Office in Liberia. The festival attracted over 500 people who took part in **various other activities including panel discussions** covering the issues highlighted by the films, podcasts for radio and social media, music and mural painting. The films were **also shown in various counties across the country**. With support from the European Union in Liberia, Accountability Lab was able to show the films during the **16 days of Gender Activism**.
- The Project **increased awareness and support for the critical role of women in peacebuilding** and telling Liberia's story. Their stories are now part of advocacy campaigns on women's rights to property, the fight against harmful traditional practices such as "bush schools", child neglect and abandonment among other issues. The female film makers aim to use these skills to influence decision-making in their communities. The 15 films produced are;



1. **Trial by Ordeal (Sassywood – River Gee County)**
2. **Ganta at Night (Sex work in Ganta)**
3. **Maternal and Newborn Health (Grand Kru County)**
4. **Women in Cross-Border trade (Maryland County)**
5. **The legacy of Ebola (Bomi County)**
6. **Women in Agriculture (Lofa County)**
7. **Water and Sanitation in Tiwor (Grand Cape Mount County)**
8. **Tribal divide: the case of the Sapo and Kru people (Sinoe Gedeh County)**
9. **The Story of a Single Mother (Grand Bassa County)**
10. **The Plight of People with Disabilities (Grand Gedeh County)**
11. **The Plight of less privileged Females (Zogos) in Monrovia**
12. **The Impact of artisanal mining on Education (Gbarpolu County)**
13. **Women in Construction (Bong County)**
14. **Poverty and Education (Rivercess County)**
15. **Female Mechanics (Margibi County)**



The female film makers trained during the project were awarded certificates after their training. (Photo credit: Accountability Lab Liberia).

Strengthening Conflict Prevention

Project budget: US\$ 2.7 million

In natural-resource rich Liberia, land concessions continue to be a major source of hope for economic development and social transformation. The Government of Liberia has awarded several concessions to large conglomerates in various sectors. These concessions are a major source of employment and income for at least 22,000 Liberians.

However, the relationship between local communities and concessionaire companies has not been the best. It is for that reason that the UN Peacebuilding Fund supported the **Strengthening Conflict Prevention through Establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and Improved Alternative Livelihoods for Concession Affected Communities Project**. Implemented

by UNDP and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the project's goal is to support both the local communities and concessionaire companies work together to achieve development in their localities and in Liberia.

The project partnered with the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), multi-national companies with concessions in the country and local communities to provide long term solutions to address conflicts in communities affected by the operations of concessions in Liberia. In addition, the project also provided livelihood support to local communities in the selected counties.

Key Results

- Through this project, the National Concessions Bureau was supported to set up Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) to enable community members and concessionaires work together in a peaceful manner. The MSPs were also supported to become legal entities.
- **15 new MSPs were established** enabling both communities and concessionaires to meet and mutually agree on solutions to the issues affecting them. They **mediated and resolved 25 conflicts** in the affected communities with the involvement of women in conflict mitigation and promoting social cohesion. With the project's support, the MSPs have become major platform for addressing conflict in concession areas with a membership of 300 (200 men & 100 women), ensuring conflict prevention and dispute resolution related to land concessions, hence promoting social cohesion.
- Under the livelihood component, **two storage facilities with drying floors have been completed** in Nimba and Bomi Counties. They were **equipped with post-harvest technologies** and turned over to the communities. Communities also received four **improved poultry units** which were constructed by the project. Community members were also trained on improved crop and poultry production, as well as Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) management, **enabling them to form savings groups** to support their agricultural and other endeavours. The MSPs were also instrumental in encouraging their community members to reduce their reliance on concessions for employment and try out other livelihood opportunities such as agriculture.

Support to National Peacebuilding Priorities

Project budget: US\$ 2million

Although significant progress has been made towards improving the human rights situation in Liberia over the years, the root causes and consequences of the conflict have not been fully addressed. It is for this reason that the Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) established a country office in 2017 at the request of the Government of Liberia.

To support the Office's efforts to promote human rights in the country, the PBF provided funding for the ***Support to national peacebuilding priorities in enhancing the capacity of human rights institutions and entities*** project. It aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Government, as well as those of the Independent Commission

on Human Rights (INHCR), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and community organisations in promoting human rights.

The project also sought to enhance the culture of human rights through continued provision of independent field monitoring, mentoring, advisory services and technical assistance

to national institutions/actors and the United Nations Country Team for sustained peace after the United Nations Mission in Liberia's withdrawal.

Overall, the project was central in promoting human rights in Liberia, enabling OHCHR to acquire more funding for its Country Office programmes.

Key Results

- The project supported the **development of the 2nd National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP)**. The five-year plan will provide an over-arching policy framework to guide relevant stakeholders including Government Ministries, Corporations and Agencies; CSOs and other relevant actors to implement human rights recommendations from regional and international instruments such as Human Rights Council Mechanisms (Universal Periodic Review); Treaty bodies and domestic level mechanisms.
- Support provided to INCHR and CSOs in terms of capacity building, training, collaboration and mentoring has **enabled these groups to gradually take lead in human rights** monitoring, protection, promotion, advocacy and reporting.
- Furthermore, the project **enabled OHCHR to establish its presence in the country**, working with key human rights actors to promote, monitor and report human rights issues.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Empowering Disadvantaged Youth

Project budget: US\$ 1.4 million

Although the youth constitute over 70% of Liberia's population, they remain one of the most marginalized groups in the country. Effects of 14 years of civil war and the Ebola crisis left many young people with

limited education and skills to compete favourably. The current socio-economic environment has also led disadvantaged and at-risk Liberian youth to destructive and destabilizing activities, including violent protests, criminal behaviour and substance abuse, as a way of dealing with their situation.

With funding from the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund/Peacebuilding Fund, UNDP and the United Nations Population

Key Results

- In 2019, the project established three drop-in centres where **1,319 youth were medically screened and given counselling**. The youth also benefitted from the provision of sexual and reproductive health services; including the distribution of 144,000 pieces of condoms provided at these centres. They also received care for malaria, typhoid, anaemia, scabies, respiratory infections including tuberculosis. Although the project's target is 500 youth, at least 1,972 youth have benefitted from these health care services.
- **Advocacy campaigns**, a key component of the project have been crucial for changing mindsets towards the youth. Community and youth leaders, and the police have been actively engaged in these campaigns, supporting the project to reach more youth and monitor their progress for the good of their communities. At least 100 community leaders, 40 disadvantaged youth leaders, 50 police and 50 drug enforcement officers took part in these campaigns and related trainings.
- Furthermore, the project made efforts to provide the targeted youth with vocational skills. So far, **223 disadvantaged youth** have been **enrolled in a 6-month training programme** which will enable them to acquire hands-on skills. These include skills in mechanics, tailoring and entrepreneurship among other things.

Fund (UNFPA) are partnering with the Government on the **Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged youth (SEED)** Project to address the issues of drug abuse and lack of skills among disadvantaged/at-risk youth in Liberia. The 18-month project aims to influence behavioural change among select groups of disadvantaged or at-risk youth popularly known as Zogos/Zogees. The project's goal is to rehabilitate them through psycho-social support and vocational training and skills; and reintegrate

them into their communities as productive citizens who can effectively contribute to local conflict prevention mechanisms.

Going forward: It is hoped that the results of this project, will encourage the Government and other partners to address the issue of disadvantaged youth in Liberia. This could be through the development of a national drug programme and the establishment of a rehabilitation centre to address the problem of drug abuse in the country.



One of the youth trained in soap making shows off some of his products. He has been selling these in the local market. (Photo credit: LMPTF/PBF 2019)

Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion

Project budget: US\$ 1.5 million

Even though Liberia has been at peace for several years, land disputes remain a major driver of conflict and fragility particularly in the rural areas where majority of the country's population lives. Youth, and particularly young women, do not own land and/or have limited access to land for agricultural and other productive purposes. This has restricted their opportunities for a sustainable livelihood through agriculture and also led to agitation.

The *Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion through the Promotion of Rural Employment Opportunities for Youth in Conflict-Prone Areas* Project aims to address these issues through giving the community members, particularly the youth, training in conflict resolution as well as agricultural practises.

Key Results

- Implemented in Bong and Lofa counties, which were once considered Liberia's agricultural hubs, the project is already training communities in conflict resolution mechanisms. Already, two community-based participatory planning meetings have been held in Zorzor and Salayea in Bong County. During the meetings community members including youth, women and county officials were trained in peacebuilding and conflict resolution mechanisms. As a result, a **community development action plan was developed** to act as a guide for resolving conflicts within the community. In addition, **community champions** were selected to lead these peacebuilding mechanisms.
- In addition, the project in partnership with community members in the counties of Bong and Lofa has cleared **sixty (60) hectares of integrated community land for rice and vegetable growing**. This is being done in partnership with community members who offer and prepare the land. Further, a market assessment on sustainable poultry feed supply has been conducted as part of the project's support for poultry production.



One of the beneficiaries of the project (above) returning from the field after working in their group's rice field (below). (Photo credit: LMPTF/PBF 2019).

Going Forward: In 2020, the project will support the establishment of inclusive peacebuilding structures for mediation and dispute resolution, which include marginalised groups such as youth and women in six targeted communities in Bong and Lofa. In addition, these communities will be facilitated to engage in agriculture and value addition to ensure sustainable livelihoods and local economic growth.

Advancing Reconciliation

Project budget: US\$ 1.6 million

While Liberia has experienced relative peace for 15 years, various injustices faced by the population

during the civil war period remain unaddressed. The ***Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative***

Key Results

- In this regard, the project has equipped oversight bodies with tools on human rights based legal review and law drafting to ensure proposed laws, policies and bills are gender sensitive and conform to human rights standards. A **draft practical guideline on legal reform and parliamentary oversight** has also been developed and submitted to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) for review and inputs.
- In addition, the project supported the Independent National Commission for Human Rights (INHCR) to **establish a Transitional Justice Unit**. The Unit has become key for reporting on transitional justice issues and concerns. The project has also **trained a pool of women on CEDAW legal review and law drafting**. Using their skills, the women are lobbying lawmakers to pass a proposed legal aid bill as well as the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Bill.
- The project also aims to enhance civic engagement and participation to foster reconciliation by undertaking activities that bring together legislative, political, economic reforms, social justice and reconciliation. To support this, it supported a **national colloquium** to raise awareness and galvanize the civil society to campaign for the **implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations** including the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Courts.
- The Liberia **National Bar Association** was also supported to **draft a Bill** for the establishment of the Court; and the **Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)** was reactivated and is actively campaigning for the full implementation of the TRC recommendations.
- Supported the **National Reconciliation and Economic Dialogue (NRED)** convened by the Government in September 2019 which, among others, recommended the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court.
- As part of the process to develop a National Reconciliation Plan, **seven peace and reconciliation dialogues were held across seven counties** to collect views on what should be done to achieve national reconciliation in Liberia. The dialogues were used to develop **county reconciliation plans** which will contribute to the development of the National Reconciliation Plan.
- The project is supporting the INHCR to **construct 14 memorial sites across the country** to enable communities have a central place to recognize their loved ones who passed away during the civil war. Construction of five memorials was started in 2019, including one in Monrovia, which is being refurbished.

Reform and Civic Engagement

Project aims to support the creation of a platform that provides redress for outstanding transitional justice grievances and the opportunity to repair and restore broken relationships at the community and national levels, as well as address the structural and systemic gaps in the legislature. This is through strengthening the oversight functions of government institutions and their capacity to discharge their mandate in supporting legislative reform and strategic actions to address conflict triggers.

The project is implemented by OHCHR, UNDP, and UN Women.

Going Forward: The project will continue to engage with oversight bodies on passing more gender responsive laws including the Affirmative Action Bill, FGM Bill and Legal Aid Bill. It will also support the convening of a national reconciliation conference where additional seven county-level reconciliation plans as well as a national reconciliation plan will be endorsed. All the 14 memorials will be completed in 2020.



One of the completed memorial sites in Bong County. (Photo credit: LMPTF/PBF 2019)

SUPPORT TO LMPTF -PBF SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat provides technical and management support to the Steering Committee and the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) and ensures effective coordination, monitoring, reporting and communication of the achievement

of both LMPTF and PBF support to peace building in Liberia.

In 2019, the Secretariat supported the development of new LMPTF/PBF projects through provision of technical inputs and review.

Key Results

- Two LMPTF projects: Land Governance (USD 4 million), and Extension of Joint Secretariat Support (USD 600,000) were approved. In addition, two PBF projects: Cross-Border (Phase II) – between Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire (USD 1.5 million each); and 2019 PBF Gender Initiative (USD 1.5 million) were also approved. **The LMPTF/PBF Portfolio increased by USD 7.6m by the close of 2019, hence a 50% growth in the portfolio in comparison to USD 5m in 2018.** This is due to the improved quality and extensive consultation with the Government, Thematic Groups, Civil Society, and other stakeholders in the project development processes.
- The Secretariat also **convened Technical Coordination Committee (TCC)** meetings every month. These are **chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator** and have been important for tracking progress and ensuring that projects meet their delivery targets. This led to increased expenditure, hence improved delivery for both LMPTF and PBF project portfolios. **The PBF 2019 Expenditure was 100% (of \$13.6 million) and the LMPTF 2019 Expenditure 39% (of \$5 million).**
- The fund was also able to make its work more visible through the **development of a communication strategy**, more **frequent posting on platforms** such as medium, twitter and face book.
- In 2019, the LMPTF/PBF Secretariat and projects were able to demonstrate that **pooled funding and joint implementation** by both the UN and the other partners is the way to go in sustaining peace and development in Liberia. The Fund has been able to show its **added advantage in coordination** of both programmes and development financing. The improvement in delivery of both funds and results have been made possible by the cooperation of the various UN agencies indicating the importance of delivering as one under the new **Strengthened Resident Coordinator's Office.**



Looking ahead – 2020

In 2020, the Fund through its Secretariat will increase coordination, particularly through monitoring and evaluation efforts, to ensure improved delivery of both results and financial expenditure. In addition, the Fund will sustain

resource mobilisation efforts to support the implementation of the UNSDCF to achieve Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

OUR PARTNERS

Government

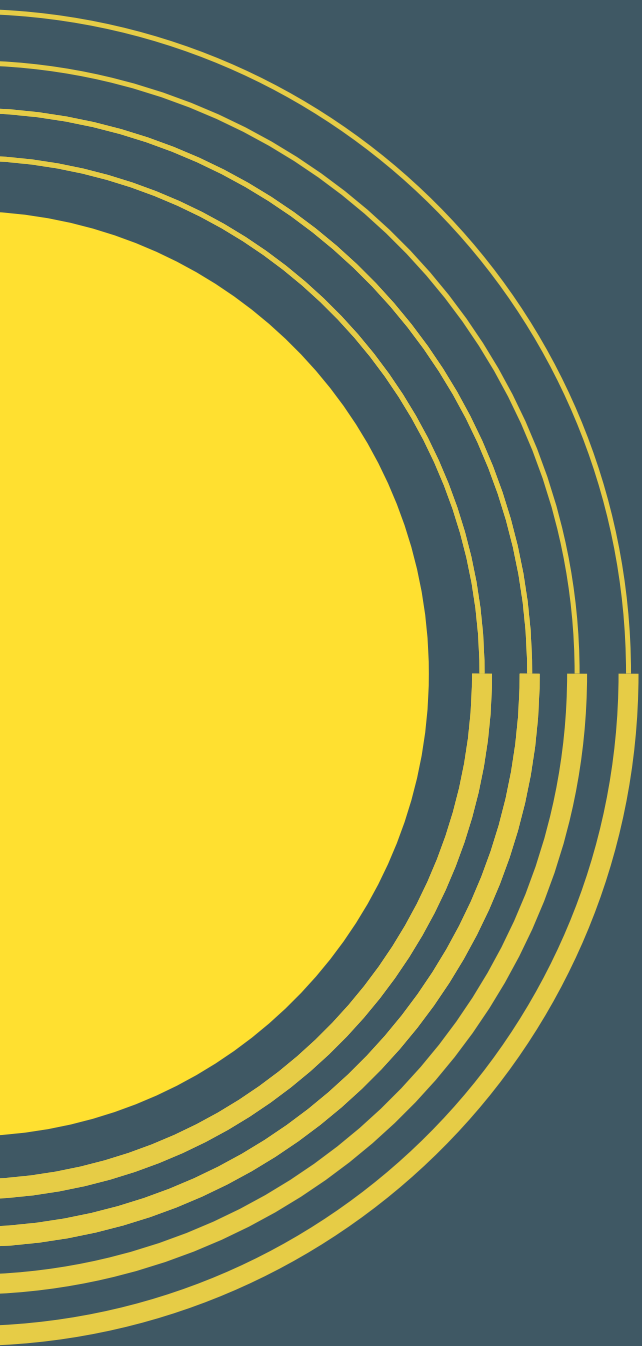
Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), Liberia National Police (LNP), County Development Authorities, National Electoral Commission (NEC), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), Office of the National Peacebuilding Ambassador (ONPA), Peacebuilding Office (PBO), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Judiciary, National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Independent National Commission for Human Rights (INHCR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Legislature.

Civil Society Organisations

NAYMOTE, IRED, Educare, Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), Accountability Lab Liberia, Human Rights Advocacy Platform, Women in Village Savings and Loans Associations, National Rural Women's Structure, Women Peace Huts networks.

Academia

Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law and the Kofi Annan Institute of Transformation, University of Liberia.



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Find more about us here:

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4LR00>