

# UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

PROGRESS REPORT 2021

2021 UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT  
LIBERIA  
MARCH 2022



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## FOREWORD FROM THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the United Nations in Liberia progress, results, and achievements, aimed at attaining the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, (UNSDCF 2020-2024), the SDGs and our Common Agenda that are aligned to the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. The year 2021 presented great challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic that affected every sector of the Liberian economy and put severe strains on the already weak healthcare system with high household costs on healthcare, electricity, and increased food insecurity. In addition to these epochal challenges for all of humanity, two other topics have remained relevant: climate protection and global peace.

As a result of the pandemic, the UN reprogrammed its development interventions and supported the Government of Liberia to effectively respond to the health crisis and accelerated the rollout of COVID-19 vaccination across the country, strengthened health systems and services, supported women's economic and political empowerment initiatives, and strengthened the rule of law, gender and human rights institutions to uphold the rule of law and increased access to justice for survivors of SGBV and other indigents; strengthened social cohesion and cross-border integration and enhanced the capacity of peace infrastructures to promote conflict prevention and reconciliation; accelerated sustainable economic transformation through climate-smart agriculture and empower youths in political and economic participation.

**NIELS SCOTT  
UN RESIDENT  
COORDINATOR**



**UNITED NATIONS  
LIBERIA**



## FOREWORD

The world has changed immeasurably over the last two years, and we all must evolve and adapt our strategies to enhance a transformative agenda for the advancement of the people of Liberia. The United Nations Country Team in Liberia will continue to support the Government of Liberia in contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through joint efforts that focus on transformative flagship initiatives and building community resilience for the most vulnerable population with the principles of leaving no one behind.

Through the joint efforts of all the UN Agencies in Liberia, the UN strengthened the capacity of the Government to deliver essential COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 services that benefitted approximately 1,876,066 people. Key milestone achievement was made to increasing HIV testing and treatment services/uptake at national and sub-national level that reached 187,733 people living with HIV. The UN supported efforts to increase women's political participation and leadership in all spheres of Government by advocating the passage of the New Elections Law (Article 4.5) that enforces mandatory 30% gender quota for all political parties and women representation in the National Legislature. Millions of schoolchildren and their families received distance education or home-based learning assistance with take-home ration to increase their nutritional intake and learning outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our task today is to build forward differently. This will not be possible without solidarity and ensuring that the recovery is inclusive.

**NIELS SCOTT, UN RESIDENT  
COORDINATOR - LIBERIA**



 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



## UN COUNTRY TEAM IN LIBERIA

The UN Country Team in Liberia comprises 19 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, including sixteen (16) resident and three (3) non-residents, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in Liberia. In 2021, the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) joined the UN Country Team with a physical presence. The operationalization of the Inter-Agency Programming Team (IAPT), Results Groups and other sub-thematic groups accelerated programmatic and coordination activities of the UNCT, particularly the development and endorsement of the UNSDCF Joint Work Plan by the Government of Liberia.

The UNCT advocates for and coordinates implementation of the UNSDCF and the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP) towards achievement of the SDGs, the Agenda 2030, and the UN global COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan (SERP) with the lens of leaving no one behind. The UNCT in a coherence and collective effort, supported the Government to adequately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its immediate consequences on the Liberian economy, society, livelihoods, healthcare, employment, and other binding constraints such as climate change that continue to push back millions of Liberians into poverty and other social deprivations. The UNCT will continue to strengthen the capacity of the Government and people of Liberia to ensure a "reconciled, transformed and prosperous Liberia, anchored on accountable institutions and equitable, inclusive and sustainable development" by 2030. The UNCT will also continue supporting the government through UNSDCF to fulfil its promise enshrined in the PADP, of providing greater income and health security for all Liberians by reducing absolute or extreme poverty by 23% and building more capable and trusted state institutions to lead a stable, resilient, and inclusive nation through sustained investments in agriculture, human capital development, infrastructure, and social protection.

## RESIDENT UN AGENCIES



## NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



## KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN IN LIBERIA

The UN in Liberia works with the government as primary partner and several other multi-stakeholders – including public & private sector institutions, donor/development partners, civil society, and community-based organizations to build strong institutions for service delivery and national ownership. The UN plays strategic and coherence policy advisory and coordination role to bring together development partners to support implementation of the PAPD and UNSDCF. Key platform/mechanism for successful policy coherence and coordination is the joint UN-Government (UN/GOL) Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). The UN utilizes its convening and catalytic capabilities to bring together multi-stakeholders and established multi-level platforms that supported the government’s COVID-19 response and recovery efforts to prevent the transmission of the virus at community and national levels and supported mitigation of its impacts through strengthening resilience, good governance, social protection, and effective delivery of basic social services.

**National Implementing Partners:** Key government institutional partners include the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministries of Justice, Gender, Children and Social Protection, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Education, Youth and Sports, Internal Affairs and other Agencies, including Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Anti-corruption Commission, National Elections Commission, Governance Commission, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, National Commission on Disability, Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) etc.

**Development/Donor partners:** In 2021, the UN Country Team received support from and worked with several development partners such as, the European Union, Government of Sweden, Government of the People’s Republic of China, Government of Denmark, Federal Government of Germany, Government of Ireland, Federal Government of Japan, Government of Norway, Government of United Kingdom, Government of the United States of America through United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Government of Canada and Government of United Arab Emirates. Other donor/development partners include Global Fund; Global Environmental Fund, the World Bank, African Development Bank, Multi- Partner Trust Fund, UN Human Security Fund, the Peacebuilding Fund, GPE, GAVI, etc. The Swedish International Development Agency continued to be a top development partner to the UNCT in Liberia with an annual contribution of \$9.5 million dollars to UN Agencies through UNSDCF JWP, followed by the European Union with \$6.9 million contribution, PBF with \$4.9 million funding, the People’s Republic of China, the Federal Governments of Japan and Germany.

### Key Donor/Development Partners



European Union



Government of Sweden



Government of Ireland



Government of the People’s Republic of China



Government of Germany



Government of Norway



Government of United Kingdom



Government of Canada



Government of United Arab Emirates



United States Agency for International Development

# PROGRESS REPORT 2021

## FOUR STRATEGIC OUTCOMES OF THE UNSDCF

### Outcome 1: Human Development & 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.

### Outcome 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.

### Outcome 3: Sustaining Peace & 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.

### Outcome 4: Governance & 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.



# PROGRESS REPORT 2021

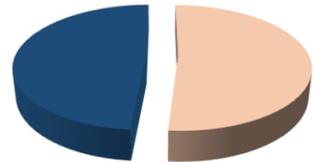
## LIBERIA AT A GLANCE MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW



### POPULATION



5,180,000



■ Rural ■ Urban



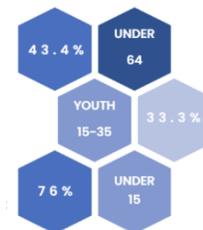
49.8% in rural areas



50.2% in urban areas



Under 15yrs: **43.4%**  
Youth 15-35yrs: **33.3%**  
Under 64yrs: **76%**



GNI: 430, 8.62% decline from 1250 in 2018

**4th** RANKED  
OF 30 POOREST COUNTRIES  
**175**  
OF 189 COUNTRIES ON THE HDI

51.0% extreme poverty, up from 38.6% in 2014

52.3% multi-dimensional poverty rate

4th of 30 poorest countries

Human Development Index: Ranked 175 out of 189 countries

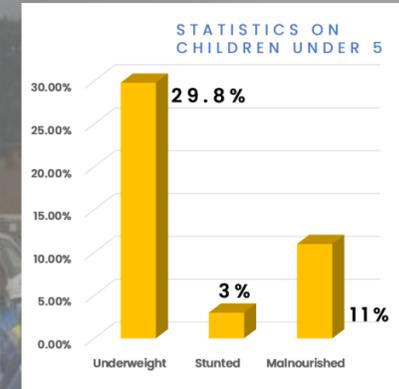
71.6% rural poverty

31.5% urban poverty



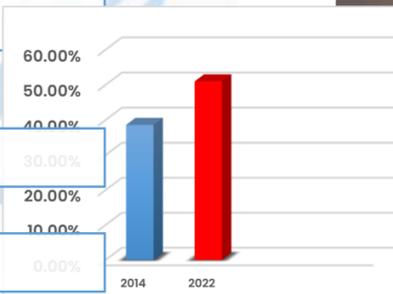
### NUTRITION

29.8% children under 5 are stunted  
3% children under 5 that area acutely malnourished  
11% of children under 5 are underweight



### FOOD SECURITY

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

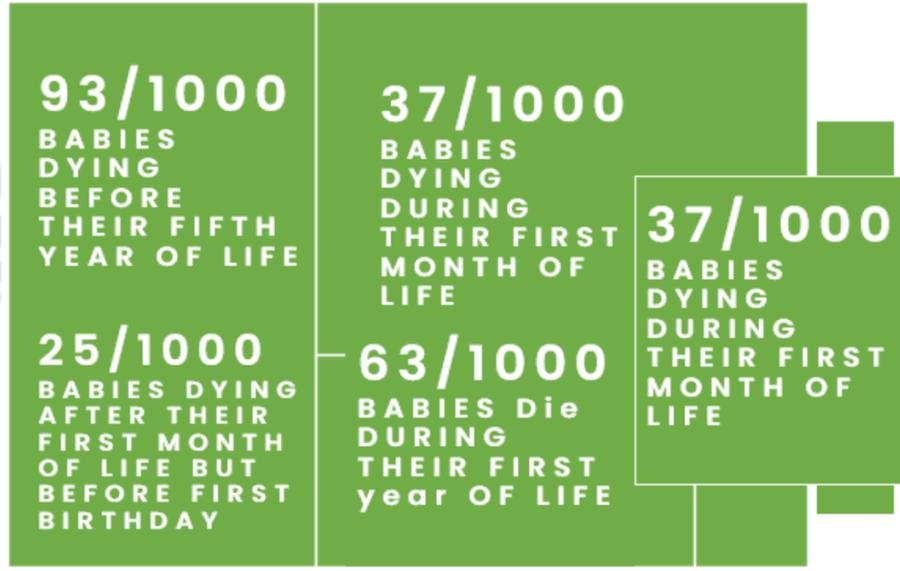


■ Poverty-prone ■ Non-susceptible

# PROGRESS REPORT 2021

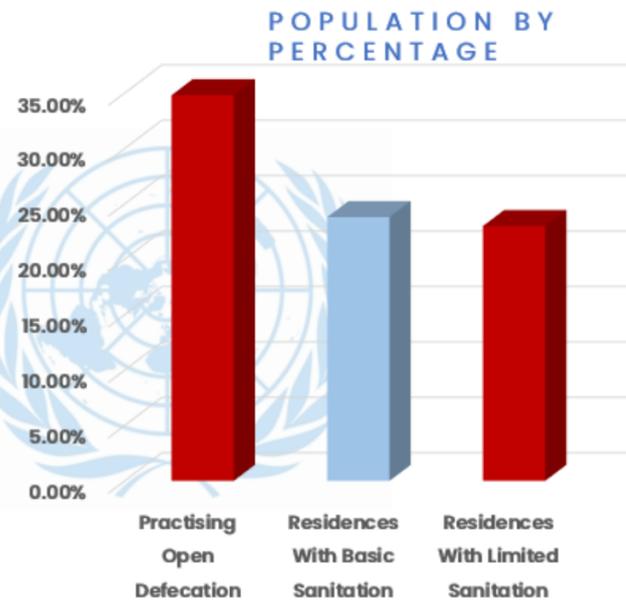


## MATERNAL & INFANCY MORTALITY



## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

34.8% practising open defecation  
23.8% of residence with basic sanitation services  
23.0% of residence with limited sanitation population



## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

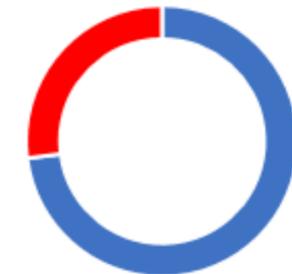
### ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER



### ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER

■ Access to Improved Water

### RESIDENCES WITH IMPROVED SANITATION



■ Residence with improved sanitation  
■ Unimproved Sanitation Residences

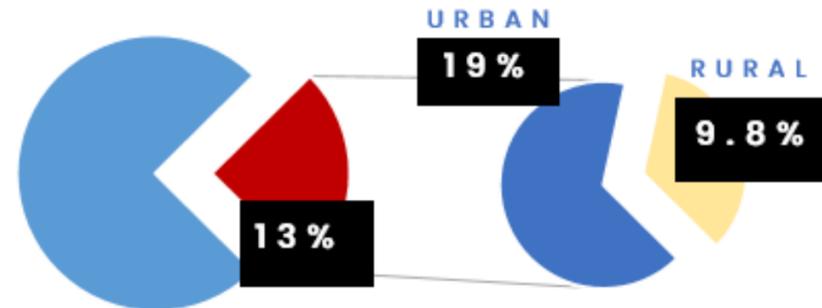


**EDUCATION**

Regression in primary net enrolment and completion rates for both sexes



PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 0-4YRS IN EARLY EDUCATION



Only 13% Children Aged 0-4 Years Attends Early Education Programme (Urban 19%, Rural 9.8%)

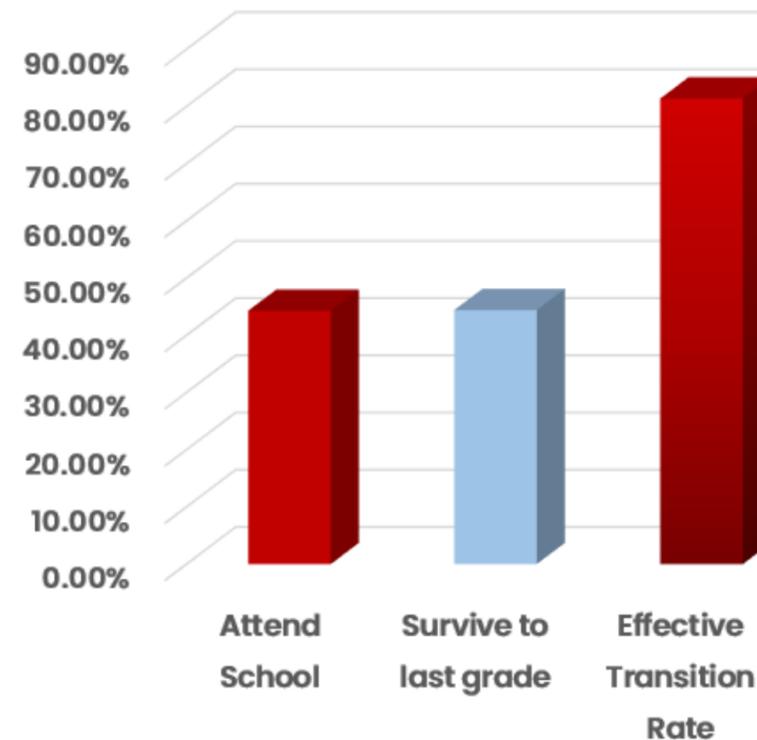


**EDUCATION**

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 education



PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL



# PROGRESS REPORT 2021



**GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**



**60%**

of women aged 15-49 that have undergone FGM

**Rape remains one of the highest reported crimes in Liberia**

78% of GBV were sexual violence in nature; of which 70% were child survivors



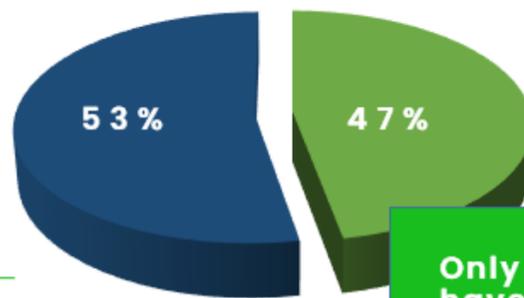
**HEALTHCARE**



**63YRS  
LIFE  
EXPECTANCY  
OF MEN**



**66YRS  
LIFE  
EXPECTANCY  
OF MEN**



■ Alternate Pay

■ Out Of Pocket

Only 1 out of 2 facilities have the WHO Service Availability and Readiness Assessment benchmark. One out of two facilities have essential medicines for children available in health facilities



# CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS



UNITED NATIONS  
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RESULTS REPORT  
LIBERIA

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

## MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

While Liberia remains resilient to multiple shocks, it has been severely affected by COVID-19 pandemic, and the declining fiscal space. In pre-COVID-19 period, the Liberian economy was already experiencing stagnation as triggered by EVD and its residual consequences, departure of the UN Keeping Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the falling prices of its primary export commodities. In 2021, real GDP growth was forecasted to rebound to 2.8% due to an increase in demand for Liberia's key exports of iron ore, gold, diamond, and rubber, but contracted by 3.0 percent, a significant shortfall against a projection of 1.6 percent in 2020.

On a positive note, inflation sharply declined to **13%**, from 20 percent in the previous years, due to tight macro-economic policies, exchange rate stabilization and fiscal deficit to remain below 5% in the medium term with current account deficit narrowing significantly as a result of continued adherence to fiscal discipline. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated situation and disrupted implementation of key national priorities that exposed the country to high risks of vulnerabilities which emanate from both internal and external shocks. More notably, vulnerable households, appropriately **2.3 million people, including persons with disabilities and female headed households were pushed back into extreme poverty** due to high consumption costs and out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures compared to their non-vulnerable counterparts. The COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment shows that people working in the self-employed services sector or vulnerably employed (46.2%) were affected the most by the pandemic with poverty rate increasing by 2.5% for vulnerable workers in comparison to 1.9% for the non-vulnerably employed.

### INFLATION

**13%** decline from **20%** in previous years

### POPULATION IN POVERTY



**2,300,000**

On the other hand, growth in the private sector remained stagnated with low imports of goods to service the economy. The informal sector continues to decline as a result of reduced domestic production mainly from the agriculture, fisheries, and mining sectors. Further, 62.9 percent of Liberians are multidimensionally poor, while an additional **21.4 percent are vulnerable to multidimensional poverty**. Women experience lower income earnings and are more affected by poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic affected health and primary education with significant regression in primary school enrolment and education completion rates with boys representing 33 percent and girls making up 36 percent. The 2021 result reflects a pandemic-induced reduction in external demand for Liberia's 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.



# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

## 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). While the agriculture sector employs nearly 80 percent of the labor force, and contributes immensely to the GDP, however, much has not been done to improve the sector and by extension improve food security in the country. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this situation with **85.3 percent of female headed households experiencing severe to moderate food insecurity**. Rice is Liberia's staple food, but over 70 percent of food is imported to meet the country's rice needs at an estimated cost of about US\$80 million per annum. The reliance on imports to meet the food needs is a growing risk to achieving the agenda 2030, the PAPD and SDGs (goals 1, 2, 8).

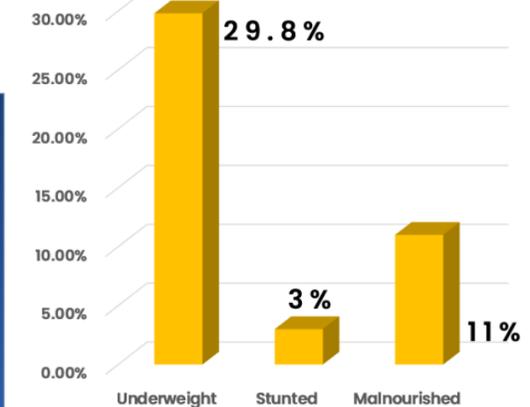
The Liberia Food Security Assessment (2021) report showed a severe deterioration of the food security situation in the country with over half of the population (50.4% HHs) being food insecure and 21.9% chronically hungry. Combined together, appropriately 80.6 percent of households are severely or moderately food insecure. Key drivers of food insecurity in Liberia are poor regulatory environment, poverty, environmentally and financially unsustainable livelihoods, low agricultural production and productivity, land constraints, gender inequalities and inflation. Forests' formal contribution to the economy runs between 9-10 percent of GDP. However, the informal share is estimated to be even larger and is a key source of resilience at household level. Leveraging the large 'natural capital' in a sustainable manner will be critical for recovery from COVID-19 as well as sustaining progress on SDGs. Reducing high food costs with a greater focus on production will be essential for progress on the SDGs and agenda 2030.



### NUTRITION

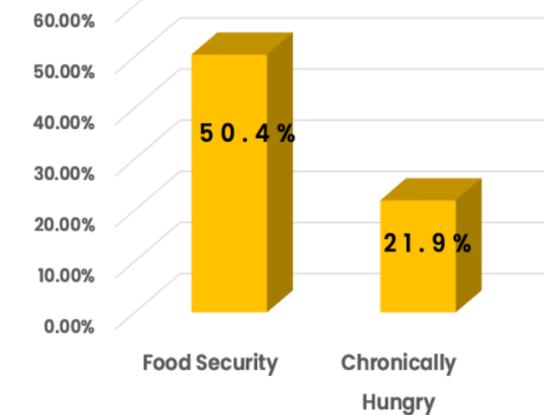
29.8% children under 5 are stunted  
3% children under 5 that are acutely malnourished  
11% of children under 5 are underweight

STATISTICS ON CHILDREN UNDER 5



### FOOD SECURITY

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



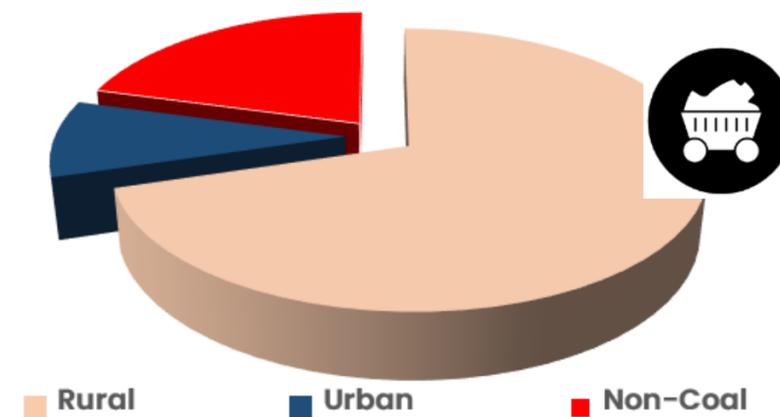
# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

## CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

Liberia hosts **44.9** percent of the forest areas in the Upper Guinea Rainforest Region in West Africa and is home to the most biodiverse, carbon-dense, and tropical rainforest with equatorial climatic topographical areas. However, Liberia **remains fragile and highly vulnerable to climate change** impacts and was ranked **171** out of 181 countries in 2020. High reliance on climate-sensitive activities renders the country vulnerable to climate variability and change, which are expected to manifest in higher temperatures, more extreme weather events such as heavy rains, and rising sea levels, including abrupt changes of elevation in low mountains and plateaus areas. Despite numerous interventions to promote adaptation and climate resilience or urban and coastal defense projects to mitigate against rising sea level, the country remains highly vulnerable to environmental instability due to its extreme poverty and high dependence on 'climate-sensitive' sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and energy and mining. The rural economy is largely dependent on rain fed subsistence farming, forest produce and fishing.

Liberia's annual deforestation rate stands at 0.31% in 2021, depicting that the impact of forest cover loss on poverty is high given that wood and charcoal serve as primary cooking fuel for nearly 98 percent of the country's population, and this includes 43.8 percent of households using charcoal (**70.3% in urban areas and 9% in rural areas**) and, 54% using wood (26% in urban areas and 90% in rural areas). The report stated that the average annual charcoal expenditure per household is estimated **at USD 171 or 22%**. To mitigate Liberia's vulnerability to climate change and build climate resilience, the UN supported the Government to revise its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in which it committed to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 64% below the projected business-as-usual level by 2030, and implement climate-sensitive agriculture, fishery and coastal defense initiatives that are critical to mitigating climate change and its impacts.

### CHARCOAL USE BY POPULATION



### ANNUAL DEFORESTATION RATE



### AVERAGE ANNUAL CHARCOAL EXPENDITURE

**USD 171 / 22%**



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

# GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL COHESION AND RECONCILIATION

Liberia has made tremendous progress since 2003 in sustaining the peace and development, however, the root causes of the civil war – including land disputes, corruption, political violence, and political tribalism remained unaddressed by the Government. The 2021 Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) study revealed that from 2016 to 2021, Liberians have not perceived real change in their social and economic situations or realized a discernible peace dividend. The SCORE assessed progress in Liberia since the departure of UNMIL in 2018 on enhancing good governance and sustaining peace, livelihoods security and gender equality. The peace development nexus ideas suggest that peaceful, democratic, and accountable institutions promote growth, employment and prosperity and address the immediate needs of the people and their vulnerability to structural threats and insecurity.

Public perception of corruption in the public sector is high and there is low level of public trust and confidence in Government's institutions to deliver effective basic social services. Liberia's corruption perception index score in 2021 dropped dramatically to **29 from 36** in 2018 and is ranked 171/181, which suggest that the Country has deteriorated in combating corruption.

**Elections:** In 2023 in October, Liberia is expected to conduct the next general presidential and legislative elections in the context of many shifting narratives. The 2017 elections truly represented a milestone achievement towards deepening political stability with heavy expectations of the citizens towards peace dividends. However, the COVID-19 pandemic was a major disruptor to the effective implementation and translation of the national development plan into credible outcomes for ordinary Liberians, especially the poorest and other vulnerable population. The ensuing elections in 2023 will take place in the contexts of unfilled promises from the incumbent Government, with high cost of food, health, electricity unemployment, rising cases of SGBV and corruption perceptions.



In the past years, the UN development system in Liberia has supported the Government to implement its peacebuilding plan by advancing social cohesion, reconciliation, and conflict prevention initiatives, and strengthening infrastructures for peace that facilitated sustained internal dialogue amongst the different political stakeholders. In addition, the National Elections Commission and political stakeholders have been capacitated to ensure peaceful and efficient resolutions of electoral disputes and conduct free, fair, and transparent elections aimed at sustaining the peace. The recent Afrobarometer report shows high citizens perception of corruption in the public sector which requires continuous strengthening of accountability systems and promoting transparency for public service delivery institutions including effective justice and the rule of law systems. In the preceding year, Liberia witnessed multiple public protests due to citizens dissatisfaction with the slow economic growth, pervasive poverty, corruption, and allegations of mismanagement of public funds.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

### SDGs FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

The current financing context presents a number of challenges and fragilities towards implementation of the SDGs, PAPD and Agenda 2030, characterized by declining volumes of both public and private resources. While Liberia's fiscal space is relatively enlarging as estimated by the World Bank, the commercial sectors remain nascent, the informal which sector accounts for a large proportion of economic activity and provides employment for 70% of the population remains under-developed and investors risk perceptions are high.

To attain the 2030 Agenda requires significant attention to alignment of all resources, both internal and external towards financing the Sustainable Development Goals. While Liberia had not undertaken a "Development Finance Assessment" by 2021, national records showed that about 80 percent of public investment has been financed through external sources- including 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 FDI flows to Liberia and the limited capacity for domestic revenue collection, development investments were inadequate and/or delayed. Liberia also experienced off-the budget spending that 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 a 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, there 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.



# CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



2021 UN COUNTRY  
RESULTS REPORT  
LIBERIA

# UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

## 2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020- 2024) was developed in a participatory and inclusive manner, in close collaboration with and involvement of the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), UN agencies, development partners, civil society actors, private sector actors, youth and women's groups and other vulnerable groups with the principle of leaving no one behind. The Cooperation Framework is fully aligned to the national development plan – the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) with a vision of building more capable and trusted state institutions that will lead to a stable, resilient, and inclusive nation through sustained and inclusive economic growth driven by scaled-up investments in agriculture, infrastructure, human resource development, and social protection. The Cooperation Framework represents the UN Development System's collective offer to support the Government of Liberia in addressing key SDG priorities and gaps and guides the work and collaboration of the UN Country Team in supporting the government to transform the country and sustain the peace and national reconciliation by addressing the root causes of the conflict and other fragilities.

The UNSDCF has four strategic priority results/outcome areas aligned to the four pillars of the PAPD and clustered around the themes of the agenda 2030 and SDGs aimed at supporting the Government to promote and protect human rights and the rule of law, socio-economic growth, and development, and sustaining peace, security, and social cohesion.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Programmatic Results

Achievements of strategic priority one of the Cooperation Framework is critical to meeting basic human needs, however, the COVID-19 crisis slow implementation. In 2021, the joint work plan (JWP) for this outcome was finalized with a total required resources of US\$130.7 million dollars and total available budget of US\$82.4 million dollars and an annual financial delivery of US\$60.9 million dollars, which represents 73% on the total annual financial delivery rate of the four outcomes. The top sources of funding were the People's Republic of China and SIDA, followed by core funds, Global Fund for COVID-19 Response, the European Union/Spotlight Initiative and Mastercard Foundation.

#### Healthcare Strengthening and COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the UN to reprogramme its interventions to support the continuity of health services and strengthening the Government's capacity to deliver essential COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 services that reached a total of 1,876,066 people with basic health services. In 2021, Liberia experienced a third wave of the omicron COVID-19 virus that further disrupted development interventions and shattered the already weak healthcare system. Based on the UN collective support, the capacity of the Government was enhanced to adequately response to the pandemic, to save the lives of patients and prevent local transmission following the donation of 1,626,000 face masks/shields, 200,000 pieces of medical masks, 29,150 gowns and coveralls, 640,000 assorted hand gloves, 100 pieces of 45kg buckets of chlorine, 50,000 pieces of 200ml hand sanitizers, 300 leak-proof waste bags, 30,000 pieces of 300ml liquid hand soap and 100 sets of foot-operated hand washing stations in health facilities in the hardest affected counties that helped prevented transmission and spread of the virus across the country. In addition, WHO and UNICEF jointly strengthened the capacity of 3,883 health workers in the provision of oxygen therapy, infection prevention and control (IPC) and laboratory diagnosis that helped resolved the oxygen needs the government faced during the COVID-19 response period. The UN provided technical support to the government on resource mobilization for COVID-19 response by competing and securing significant resources for the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM).

The technical capacity provided to the Government in resource mobilization enabled the Ministry of Health to raise appropriately USD19,442,350 from the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism that helped reinforced national COVID-19 response, strengthened health and community systems, and mitigated the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and Malaria services.

People with disabilities were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts and they continue to be exposed to other vulnerabilities, largely due to their exclusion in national planning and development interventions. To ensure inclusion of PWDs in COVID-19 and socio-economic development programs, the UN in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) supported the Ministry of Health to improve Assistive Technology (AT) services for people with disabilities. The training of selected health workers and distribution of assistive technology (AT) products, devices, and supplies to key health facilities has enhanced AT service delivery and integration in the healthcare and community systems.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Scaling-up HIV Services

People living with HIV/AIDS experience multiple level of stigmatization and discrimination and they are highly vulnerable and exposed to poverty and marginalization. While the HIV prevalence rate among the general population has declined from 2.1% in 2013 to 1.1% by the end of 2020, women and girls remain more vulnerable to HIV compared to men; the gender disparity is even more apparent among young women (15-24 years), where the prevalence is three times higher than in males of the same age group. In 2021, the UN through its Joint Programme of Support on AIDS in Liberia enhanced the capacity of relevant government institutions and line ministries to ensure uninterrupted access to HIV services for people living with HIV (PLHIV) without stigma and discrimination during the pandemic which had addressed the needs of people living with disproportional level of HIV prevalence among key populations. Through the UN joint effort towards implementation of the National HIV Strategic Plan and strengthening the capacity of the National AIDS Commission and Ministry of Health, Liberia has made progress with a rapid increase in HIV testing and treatment services, from 58-57-77 in December 2020, to a rate of 78-68-77 in December 2021 with a viral load coverage of only 30% against the 90-90-90 targets. The distribution of HIV self-testing kits and community ARVs accelerated testing and treatment uptake at national and local community levels that had facilitated the reduction in mother to child transmission. HIV testing, treatment and counselling services reached 187,733 with 81% of those who tested HIV positive receiving ARVs. The UN support to family and early infant diagnosis for HIV enabled the relevant government ministries and agencies to identify 906 (479 females, 427 males) undiagnosed children living with HIV with 14 children (5 females, 9 males) testing positive, and 460 (405 females, 55 males) households/families. The government now has the capacity for early infant diagnosis and viral load testing with the procurement and supply of GeneXpert cartridges that has benefitted 540 children and 11,000 adults.

In 2021, the UN increased awareness raising interventions in local communities and strengthened the capacity of community members, religious leaders, adolescent and youth groups, and several women's groups on HIV prevention campaigns that reached 250,000 young people with sexuality education and SRHR services. Over 210,000 youths utilized integrated youth friendly SRHR services from supported health facilities and outreach sites, with 55% aged between 10 to 24 years. A total of 966 teachers from 345 schools from 5 counties were trained on comprehensive sexuality education and 11,318 (7,854 females and 3,464 males) school-going young people benefited from CSE. To promote gender sensitive behavioral change educational interventions, 12 women-led organizations (CBOs) were empowered to provide mentorship and sexuality education to out-of-school reaching 32,000 out-of-school youths (including adolescent girls, marketers, motorbike riders). The UN also expanded its reach and presence at grassroots level in line with the principle of leaving no one behind by building strong partnerships with local civil society organizations such as the Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), White Rose Alliance (WRA), the Liberia National Rural Women Structure (LNRWS), and the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade (AWICBT). As a result, more than 500 vulnerable and neglected adult women and adolescent girls were empowered to access services free of stigma, discrimination, and violence across the country.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Nutrition

Despite the critical malnutrition and undernutrition challenges still facing the country as exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic, the UN made significant stride in improving nutrition governance, regulatory and policy frameworks by developing and submitting the Code of Marketing Breast Milk Substitute (CMBS) Bill to the National Legislature for enactment into Law. The CMBS bill when enacted into law, will improve the regulatory and policy environment for the marketing of foods and other products for infants and young children aimed at reducing malnutrition. In addition, the UN in collaboration with the Ministry of Health took concrete actions to combat against child hunger and undernutrition by supporting the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) initiative - a multi-agency support mechanism for improving nutrition governance and service delivery and completed the National Nutrition Stakeholders' Actions Mapping.

#### Strategic Coherent Policy and Institutional Strengthening

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, the UN strengthened internal and external coherent policy environment and organizational frameworks to ensure the delivery of inclusive human rights and gender sensitive development interventions at national and sub-national level. In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia's Gender Equality Profile and Gender Mainstreaming Policy were developed for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Furthermore, the Gender Thematic Group (GTG) led the development of the 2021 UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard that assessed UNCT's performance in five dimensional areas for gender inclusion in planning (common country analysis), joint programming, leadership and organizational culture, partnerships, gender parity and gender coordination and capacities.

At the national level, five justice and security sector institutions capacity were improved through the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiative to develop gender responsive policies and a 5-year costed action plan for the Ministry of Justice and Armed Forces of Liberia that has increased the participation of women in leadership positions in the justice and security sector. This technical support also led the Ministry of Justice and its partners to develop a Legal Aid Bill that will ensure the establishment of a legal aid board and a legal aid fund for delivery of effective and sustainable legal aid services to indigents and vulnerable citizens who are unable to afford expensive legal fees within the Liberian justice system.

The UN also supported human rights mechanisms through strengthening the human resources capacity of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) to monitor, report and response to cases of human rights violations across Liberia. Under the Joint Rule of Law Programme, OHCHR and UNDP trained 18 Human Rights Monitors and recruited new Board of Commissioners of INCHR for continued implementation of human rights agenda and national human rights actions plan (NHRAP) of Liberia. In 2021, a total of 30 INCHR Human Rights Monitors, and Investigators were trained to effectively monitor and report on human rights situations across the country and increased the reach and presence of the commission in the 15 counties where most cases of human rights abuse are under-reported and even if reported, little or no actions are taken to bring the perpetrators to justice. On the Government's global human rights reporting obligation, the UN supported the Government through the Ministry of Justice, INCHR and other stakeholders to prepare and submit the 3rd cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report to the Human Rights Council. The UN continues to support the Government to implement key recommendations and lists of issues made by the Human Rights Council, including strengthening legal and organizational framework and providing the enabling environment to promote civil and political liberties, social, economic, and cultural rights, women and children's rights and other vulnerable groups.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

#### SGBV & Child Protection

In 2021, the UN supported the Government to accelerate SGBV response and strengthened child protection system by developing a national child justice strategy and implementation plan to combat violence against women and children, including SGBV and other harmful practices. The capacity of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and civil society actors was improved to deliver integrated services for survivors of SGBV and children in conflict and contact with the law. The SGBV referral pathway was strengthened, and formal and informal service providers were trained on integrated SGBV response services and 10,118 (5,976 female/ 4,142 male) persons in 62 communities across eight counties were reached. The integrated response mechanisms benefited over 4,979 women and adolescent girls (3,889 girls/1,090 women) with safe spaces, legal aid services, psychosocial counselling, and empowerment support. By strengthening the child-sensitive criminal justice process for children in conflict and contact with the law, 714 (all female) child survivors of rape accessed at least one form of multisectoral case management service, including medical, psychosocial and justice services. To prevent school-based violence and ensure retention and better learning outcomes for girls, 750 (375 male, 375 female) students in 50 public schools in five counties were trained as 'Buddy Club' members. These child-sensitive interventions will continue to prevent child survivors from experiencing secondary victimization from the hands of service providers in the criminal justice system. Community-based awareness on FGM prevention was supported to increase behavior change and remove barriers for women and girls at local level. To prevent FGM, 225 awareness-raising events were conducted across the country that reached 12,347 community members (4,491 women, 5,592 men, 684 girls, and 480 boys) on social behavior change to address VAW, SGBV, HPs, SRHRs, and the acceptance of marginalized groups including LGBTQIA, PLWHIV and people with disabilities.

#### Human Rights & Rule of Law

The UN Joint Rule of Law Programme strengthened the capacity of the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) and the Liberia Immigration Services (LIS) through the provision of in-service training for its personnel which has increased the knowledge, understanding, skills and competencies of officers on the mandate and functions of their respective institutions and has contributed to enhancing the professionalism, effectiveness, and performance of the BCR and LIS. A training manual for traditional authorities to apply human rights norms and laws in the arbitration of disputes in the informal justice sector was developed. 75 (54 females and 21 males) Women human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) were trained by OHCHR, INCHR and civil society partners on Effective Advocacy, Legislative and National Action Plan (NAP) Drafting and reestablished in five (5) counties WHRDs networks (Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Montserrado and Nimba). The UNCT in close collaboration with the LRC, MOJ and CSOs supported the Liberian Legislature in gender sensitive legislative drafting by developing a human rights and gender checklists to support Legislators in ensuring that all bills are reviewed from a human rights and gender perspective, in accordance with international standards. 35 (16 females and 19 males) lawmakers from the lower House of Representative and civil society organizations trained on the gender checklist that has enhanced capacity to mainstream gender and human rights issues in conducting legislative drafting, bills, and policy development.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Support to Education/Home-based Learning

To ensure continuity of learning during school closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN supported the Ministry of Education to roll out its distant learning programs for students through its home-grown school feeding program. In early 2021, the Government suspended on-campus academic learning activities and introduced its distance learning program to prevent the spread of virus. Subsequently, the UN in partnership with the Ministry of Education implemented take-home nutritious program that assisted students to concentrate on their learning. In addition, the UN supported food insecure households meet their nutritional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The take-home program benefitted 36,899 (21,770 girls & 15,129 boys) school-going children and their families with nutritional content/intake and addressed their malnutrition needs at national and local community levels. The program improved food situation for households in counties with the highest proportions of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition households that affect 36 percent of children under five years.

#### Social Protection and Community Empowerment

To ensure continued social service delivery, the UN provided technical and financial support to the Government to address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the needs of vulnerable groups and empowered women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, survivors of SGBV and socially disadvantaged youths and community members across the country. These interventions empowered more than 676 women smallholders' farmers and 53 village saving loan associations (VSLAs) in five counties in social cash transfer. In addition, 700 adult women and young girls and 211,751 youths in 12 counties (aged 21-47 years) benefited from literacy and numeracy skills, increased economic and livelihoods security, business plan development and management skills, effective communication, and personal hygiene.

On behavior change communication and awareness effort, the UN in partnership with seven civil society organizations strengthened the capacity of 10,812 informal stakeholders, religious and community leaders (5,120 women, 5,592 men) from 261 communities to increase advocacy and understanding on gender-equitable social norms at grassroots level. The policy and regulatory environment for safe migration was also enhanced through technical and financial support to the Government to amend the Aliens and Nationality Law. Over 480 youths and community members have improved knowledge on mitigating the risks associated with irregular migration and alternatives to safe migration in 6 Counties.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Support to Data Availability and Evidence-based Programming

Access to and availability of quality disaggregated data to drive evidence-based programming and development interventions remain a challenge in Liberia. In this regard, the UN supported the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to digitize the 2022 National Population and Housing Census from paper-based to computer assisted personal interview (CAPI). Based on technical and financial assistance from the UN, the Government conducted a gender sensitive land registration and cadastral legislation study in 2021 that informed the design of development interventions on land governance, registration, and empowerment of women in the agriculture sector with the aim of mitigating barriers to women's access to land and promote food and employment security. The UN further supported the National Food Security Stakeholders Technical Committee (FSSTC) to update the Food and Nutrition Security Information System that informed preparation of the National Food Security and Post-Harvest Snapshot Assessment report jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), LISGIS, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Liberia National Red Cross (LNRC), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Transport, National Food Assistance Agency (NFAA) and academic institutions. The report shows significant increased in moderate food insecurity from 32% in 2020 to 45.1 percent in 2021, and 5.3 percent severely food insecure, or approximately 2.375 million Liberians who are food insecure. The findings of these studies helped the UN and Government strategically planned interventions on building resilience and investing in climate-sensitive agriculture, productive safety nets, disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

Furthermore, the Government was able to conduct its first Value Chain Analysis (VCA) on rice and cowpea that has enabled WFP and FAO and their government partners to develop the first rice and cowpea value chains program that will empower smallholder farmers to increase local and home-grown production of rice and cowpea aimed at reducing food insecurity and improving livelihoods situations across the country, especially those living in concession affected communities.

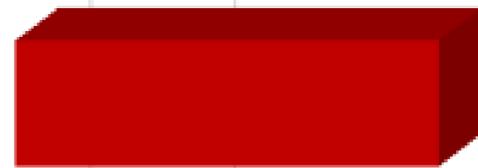


## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

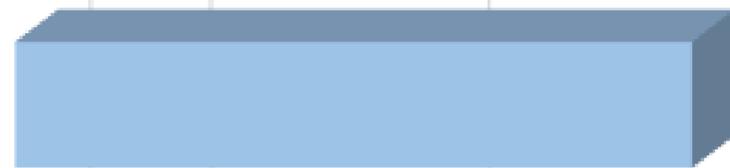
#### Outcome 1 FINANCIAL DELIVERY IN 2021

Total  
Expenditure



\$60,911,852

Total  
Available  
Resources



\$83,422,264

Total  
Required  
Resources



\$130,754,483



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 2: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Programmatic Results and Financial Delivery

Under this Outcome of the Cooperation Framework, a total of US\$103.8 million dollars were projected as required resources with a total available of US\$45 million dollars to support the Government implement key programs in the areas of sustainable economic growth, agriculture and livelihoods development, employment, and poverty reduction. Out the available amount, the total financial delivery rate was approximately US\$9 million dollars in 2021.



#### WASH & Sanitation

To ensure continuity of critical WASH and sanitation system and services during the COVID-19 crisis, the UN through UNICEF and WHO jointly enhanced the capacity of the Government to deliver effective WASH facilities and services that benefitted 178,122 persons in the 15 counties, including 131 health facilities, 8 hospitals through the construction of water kiosks, hand-dug wells, latrines, sanitary and cleaning supplies, medical waste management system which improved hygiene practices in local communities and at health facilities. With the lens of leaving no one behind, refugees and other vulnerable groups and communities benefitted from improved water facilities/WASH facilities in local communities and refugee camps. On handwashing behavior change campaigns, 91,895 persons in 161 communities' knowledge was improved on hand washing and hygiene promotion, and 11,763 persons from 1,234 vulnerable homes were provided with basic family hygiene kits in communities hosting refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties.

Further, the UN strengthened cross-border hygiene and WASH mechanisms at key border crossing points by installing 22 HAND WASHING facilities at 22 border crossing points and communities in Nimba and Grand Gedeh to reinforce the prevention and local transmission of COVID-19 virus. Cross-border COVID-19 testing, and screening interventions were supported at 10 ports of entry and 24 community health workers were trained to enforce use of hand-washing facilities at bordering points between Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Additionally, grassroots hygiene and WASH practices were strengthened through UNCHR and IOM and, they jointly supported the construction of 116 hand Pumps, 66 latrines, 59 bathhouses and 25 wells and 69 hand pumps rehabilitated. The capacity of 39 hygiene promoters, 40 handpump technicians and 95 Community WASH Committees was improved in hygiene promotion and sensitization in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee counties. On another hand, 7,217 girls and women were provided menstrual hygiene services for improved menstrual hygiene practices during the pandemic.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 2: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Agriculture and Food Systems

The UN supported food system strengthening and resilience effort of the government to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the agriculture sector and improve food security. As a result, 1500 rural women were supported by the UN in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and partners to cultivate 300 hectares for lowland rice farming with improved varieties of rice and high value vegetable production (tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, watermelon). In addition, the UN supplied various agriculture equipment (i.e., rice mills, cassava grinders and power tillers) to 1000 smallholder farmers (700 women, 300 men) in seven counties, including Grand Bassa, Margibi, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, Cape Mount and Nimba to increase food production, improve labor and nutritional intake of households. On strengthening fisheries and aquaculture interventions of the Government, 314 fishmongers and selected government staff were trained on packaging/labeling of value-added products. Moreover, 3,500 rural women farmers were empowered, and 40 Village Savings and Loan Associations established in Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Grand Gedeh, and Grand Cape Mount Counties for investing in climate-smart agriculture and agri-businesses. Solar powered irrigation support was provided to rural women farmers which increased food and cash crops productivity in rural communities.

In addition, the tree crops sector was sustainably strengthened by supporting the development of a National Tree Crops Policy for improved value chain development that will ensure food security, inclusive livelihoods, and creation of employment opportunities in the agricultural sector. To enhance the capacity of rural women farmers in agriculture value chain, over 3,257 rural women smallholder farmers (1500 women, 502 men) were trained in business development skills, food production skills (i.e., cassava value chain and vegetable production) in 13 counties and 80 Savings and Loan Associations supported across the targeted counties. These interventions at national and subnational level had enhanced climate resilient agriculture and livelihoods development and linked farmers to markets and improved post-harvest management. On another hand, 13 women-based farming cooperatives capacity improved on climate-smart agriculture in six counties. The UN supported the installation of solar power system several market, health, and school facilities across the country to provide stable electricity supply market women, health facilities and students to facility business continuity, uninterrupted healthcare services delivery and improve learning environment.

#### Support to Fishery Sector

The UN in collaboration with the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAFAA) strengthened the fishery sector by constructing infrastructure (landing sites) including Thaayore Technology (FTTs) for artisanal fishermen in Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties that benefitted 700 women fish processors. The intervention has enhanced the capacity of fishmongers, fishing communities and women fish processors to promote fish value addition, reduce the dangers pose to the environment by deforestation and GHG emission by trees cutting. These interventions did not only strengthen the capacity of the national fishery authority, but more importantly profited and economically empowered fishing communities, particularly women involved in the smoked and dried/dehydrated fish business.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 2: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Climate Change & Natural Resources Governance

With respect to the environment and climate change, major progress was made to ensure that Liberia prevents and responds to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, to protect slum and fragile coastal communities from the effects of sea erosion and destruction of livelihoods and properties through implementation of an integrated coastal management initiative that held conserved the mangrove forests ecosystems. In this regard, the UN supported the Government through the Monrovia Metropolitan Coastal Resilience Project to install 800 revetment meters that benefitted 75,000 people in coastal communities with protection of their homes and livelihoods. Additionally, climate early warning and emergency system was strengthened by installing 5,000 meters of coastal defense walls and strengthened the capacity of the National Early Warning and Emergency Operation Center (NEWOC) that enabled the government to better prevent and respond to climate-induced disaster

On another hand, the UN supported the development of Liberia's first Forest Reference Emissions Level Policy that will improve management of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity and promote community forest management for sustained livelihoods enhancement at community level. As such, over 400 smallholders' farmers were empowered to carry out alternative livelihoods and agriculture to promote climate resilient extension services and to mitigate deforestation due to charcoal production in the forest areas across the country. Aimed at effort to reduce greenhouse gas emission and provide economic empowerment for women and other vulnerable groups, 40 women were trained on efficient eco-stoves that led to the production of over 400 energy efficient cook stoves. The UN investment in climate smart agriculture, empowerment of fishery communities and eco-friendly business support for women are key steps in Liberia's effort to achieving its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target of combating climate change and deforestation.

The oil palm sector serves as an engine for national and rural economic growth, but the sector has been long under-supported and funded. In 2021, the UN supported the Government to develop its National Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan that will transform Liberia's oil palm sector into a sustainable, vibrant, responsible, and productive economic sector while maintaining forest coverage and biodiversity. In addition, the government also developed the Private Sector Strategy (PSS) that will promote private engagement and investments, improve alternative livelihoods for people living near the Grebo-Krahn National Park and support reduction of Liberia achievement of NDC and reduction GHG emissions.

Further, the multi-stakeholder's platform on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining (ASM) was strengthened to improve environmental governance for sustainable land use, livelihoods of artisanal and small-scale miners and affected communities. With technical and financial support from the UN in Liberia, the Government was able to develop the National Tourism Policy that will transform the tourism industry of the country and serves as a viable source for economic growth and diversity.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

OUTCOME 2: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL DELIVERY IN 2021

Total  
Expenditure

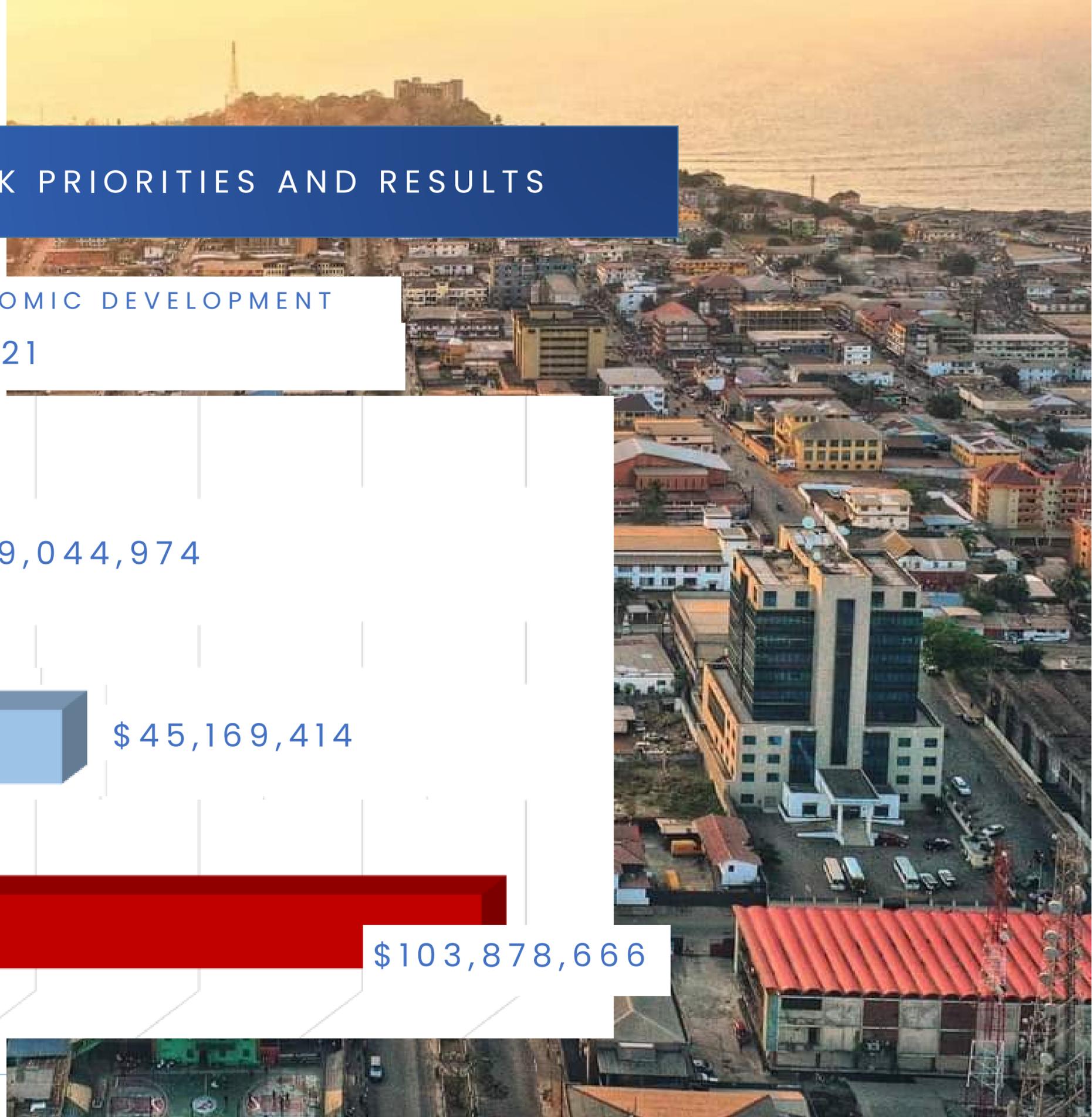
\$9,044,974

Total  
Available  
Resources

\$45,169,414

Total  
Required  
Resources

\$103,878,666



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 3: SUSTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY

#### SGBV & Gender Equality

The lock down measures imposed by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 further exposed women and girls to sexual abuse, domestic violence, and rape across the country. In 2021, more than 1,637 (1,590 F, 47 M) SGBV cases were reported. In response to the rape and SGBV menace, the UN supported implementation of the Government Anti-SGBV Roadmap by strengthening the justice and security system and civil society actors. Through the joint support of UNDP, UN Women and OHCHR, 1,504 cases of SGBV/rape cases were supported, and perpetrators indicted to ensure effective dispensation of justice for survivors of SGBV and domestic violence. To accelerate reporting of cases and link survivors to relevant service providers (police, psychosocial counselors, doctors, social workers, and court), the UN supported the development of an App through which a total of 902 SGBV cases (all females ages 19 - 47) were reported by CSOs in six counties (Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Nimba and Sinoe).

Community mechanisms and members capacity was strengthened to increase understanding and knowledge of chiefs, elders, community and religious leaders and members on prevention of SGBV and referral pathway. The UN supported six community-based organizations (CBOs) to increase the understanding of local communities on the Rape Law and available legal and policy frameworks for legal redress for survivors of SGBV. To ensure adequate legal representation of survivors of SGBV and indigents, the UN supported the development of a National Legal Aid Bill, which when enacted will strengthen the weaknesses in the provision of legal aid services and access to justice and protection. The project has harmonized and standardized legal aid services through the establishment of the Legal Aid Board. The Bill will also increase access to justice for children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalized persons such as women, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, and people living with HIV.

#### Women, Peace and Security

To facilitate gender mainstreaming in security institutions, the UN supported the Ministry of Justice, Liberia National Fire Service and Ministry of Defense/Armed Forces of Liberia to develop their respective gender policies and 5-year action plans for increased women participation in leadership positions and to address internal gender equality issues. The capacity of civil society organizations and relevant government institutions was enhanced to implement the National Gender Policy that reached about 300,000 people across the country on the rights of women to land and promoted women's political and leadership participation in 7 counties. The community dialogues and 20 radio programs held in 2021 increased the knowledge of 214,895 people on gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The UN also accelerated advocacy and technical assistance to the Government which led to the amendment of the Aliens and Nationality Law to promote dual citizenship and remove the discriminatory provisions thereto.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

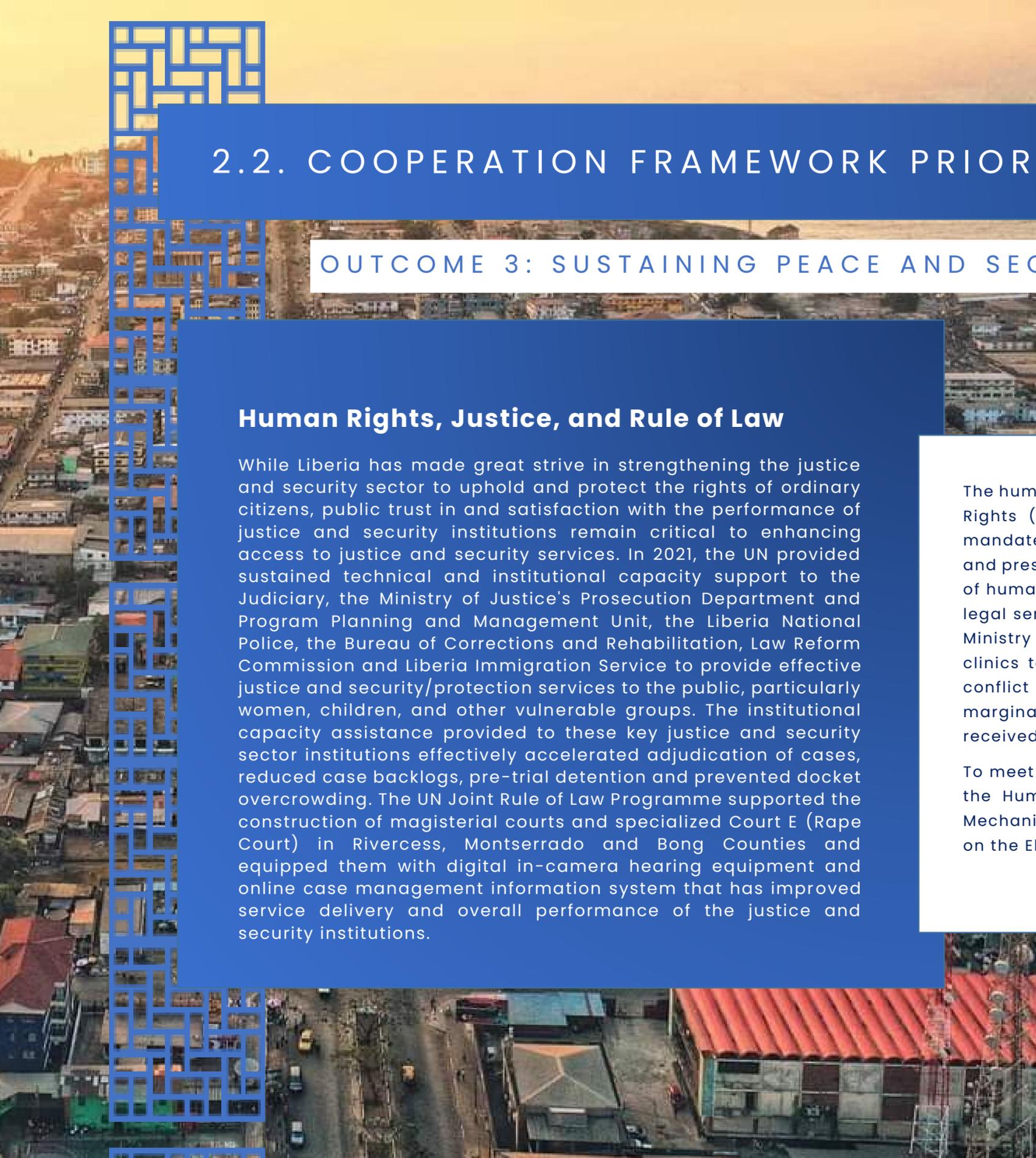
### OUTCOME 3: SUSTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY

#### Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Liberia made significant progress towards sustaining the peace and promoting social cohesion, conflict prevention and reconciliation. In order to track the country's progress towards peace dividend, social cohesion, civic trust, peace and reconciliation, economic progress, and personal safety since the departure of the UN peacekeeping operations (UNMIL) in 2018, the UN supported the conduct of the third wave of the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE Liberia) index in 2021 to measure people's changing perceptions over time as elucidated by the PAPD. The 2021 SCORE Report revealed that most Liberians had not discerned a significant peace dividend, with majority struggling with fragile livelihoods and have not seen major progress in the nation's reconciliation agenda. The SCORE analysis informed national programming and the UNCT annual joint work plan that are accelerating and expanding peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives across the country.

Aimed at fostering social cohesion, reconciliation and restorative justice, the UN strengthened Palava Hut Hearing mechanisms that resolved over 48 cases involving 45 victims and 34 perpetrators and provided a safe space for everyone – men, women, youth – to participate in the healing and reconciliation process necessary for peaceful coexistence and sustained peace. The UN in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO) empowered 280 women's peace structures – or women's peace huts as agents of change to constructively engage in peacebuilding, conflict resolution and negotiation to facilitate sustained social cohesion processes. In addition, 243 district and county peace committees were strengthened in the 15 counties that had increased the responsive capacity of the government in the resolution of land disputes and boundary harmonization and concession related conflicts. The UN through UN Women and partners also provided technical capacity support to the government to mainstream gender into Palava Hut Committees (PHC) that led to four women ascending to the position of Clan Chief, marking a significant paradigm shift in the implementation of the Palava Hut program since 2016.

To support the Government's cross-border peacebuilding and social cohesion agenda, the UN strengthened cross-border integration, social cohesion and conflict prevention mechanisms and peace infrastructures by establishing nine functional Joint Committees between mirroring communities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, RiverGee and Maryland counties. The UN in collaboration with IOM, PBO and MIA supported the rehabilitation of 8 basic cross-border infrastructures (water pumps, small ferryboats, motorized canoes) that have enhanced social cohesion and community engagement in 4 border communities, including B'hai, Tempo, Buutuo, Kenlay and Loguatuo along mirroring communities bordering with Cote D'Ivoire. The UN further improved the capacity of 200 peace huts members on gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive conflict prevention, and mediation and supported the National Peace Hut Women of Liberia to adequately address issues affecting women and marginalized groups from participating in peacebuilding and conflict negotiations.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 3: SUSTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY

#### Human Rights, Justice, and Rule of Law

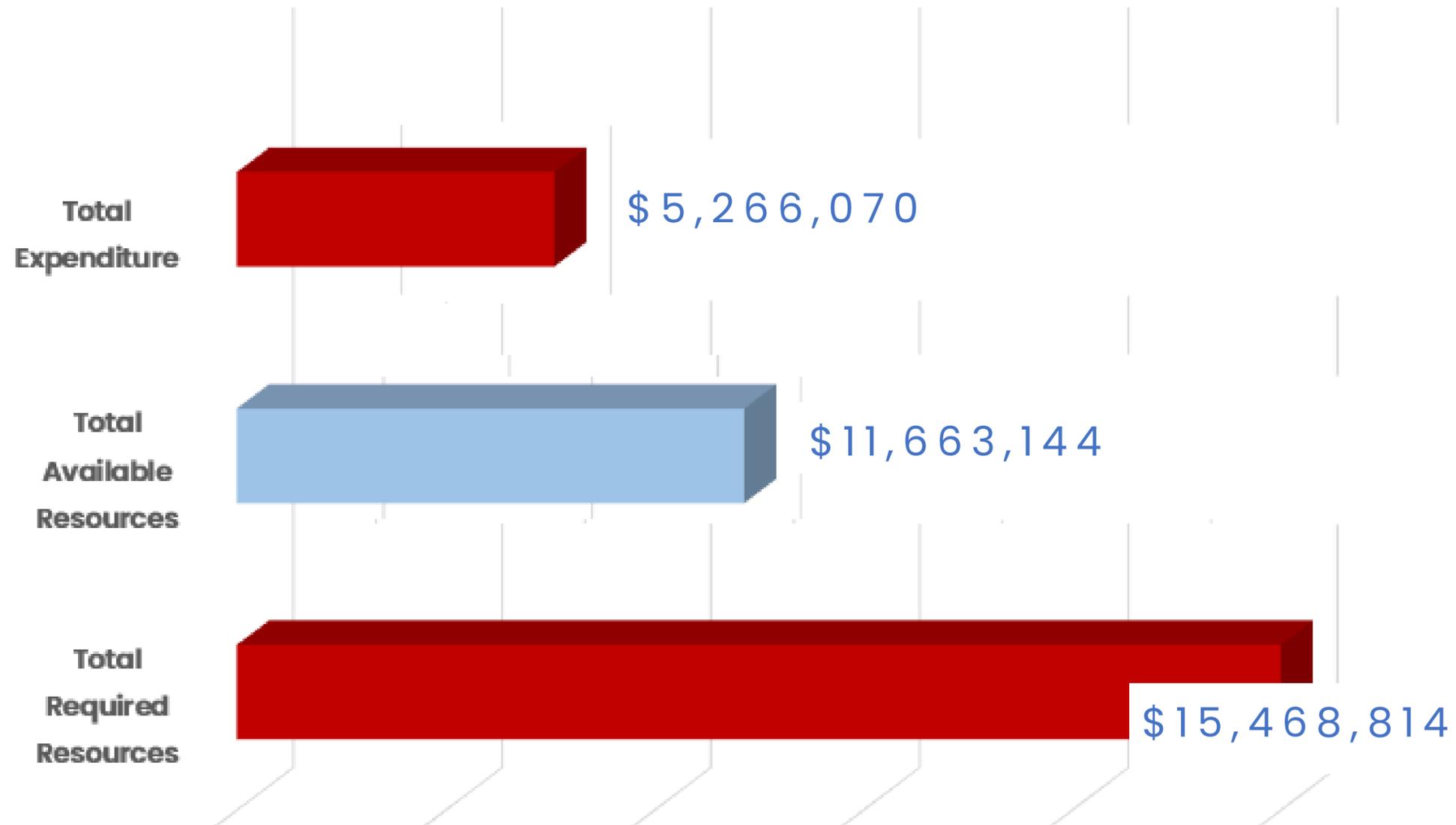
While Liberia has made great stride in strengthening the justice and security sector to uphold and protect the rights of ordinary citizens, public trust in and satisfaction with the performance of justice and security institutions remain critical to enhancing access to justice and security services. In 2021, the UN provided sustained technical and institutional capacity support to the Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice's Prosecution Department and Program Planning and Management Unit, the Liberia National Police, the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Law Reform Commission and Liberia Immigration Service to provide effective justice and security/protection services to the public, particularly women, children, and other vulnerable groups. The institutional capacity assistance provided to these key justice and security sector institutions effectively accelerated adjudication of cases, reduced case backlogs, pre-trial detention and prevented docket overcrowding. The UN Joint Rule of Law Programme supported the construction of magisterial courts and specialized Court E (Rape Court) in Rivercess, Montserrado and Bong Counties and equipped them with digital in-camera hearing equipment and online case management information system that has improved service delivery and overall performance of the justice and security institutions.

The human resources and technical capacity of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) was strengthened to carry out its human rights protection and promotion mandate in Liberia. The deployment of 18 INCHR Human Rights Monitors has increased the reach and presence of the Commission in the 15 counties to timely monitor, document, and report cases of human rights violations, including child rights situation across the country. On access to free legal services for survivors of SGBV, the Association of Female Lawyers, SGBV Crimes Unit of the Ministry of Justice and other women-led organizations were supported to establish legal aid clinics to increase access to justice and legal aid services for survivors of SGBV, children in conflict and contact with the law, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalized persons. A total 624 persons (326 men and 298 women) and 271 survivors rape received legal aid services.

To meet its global human rights reporting obligations, the UN also strengthened the capacity of the Human Rights Protection Division of the Ministry of Justice to implement the National Mechanism for Reporting and recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

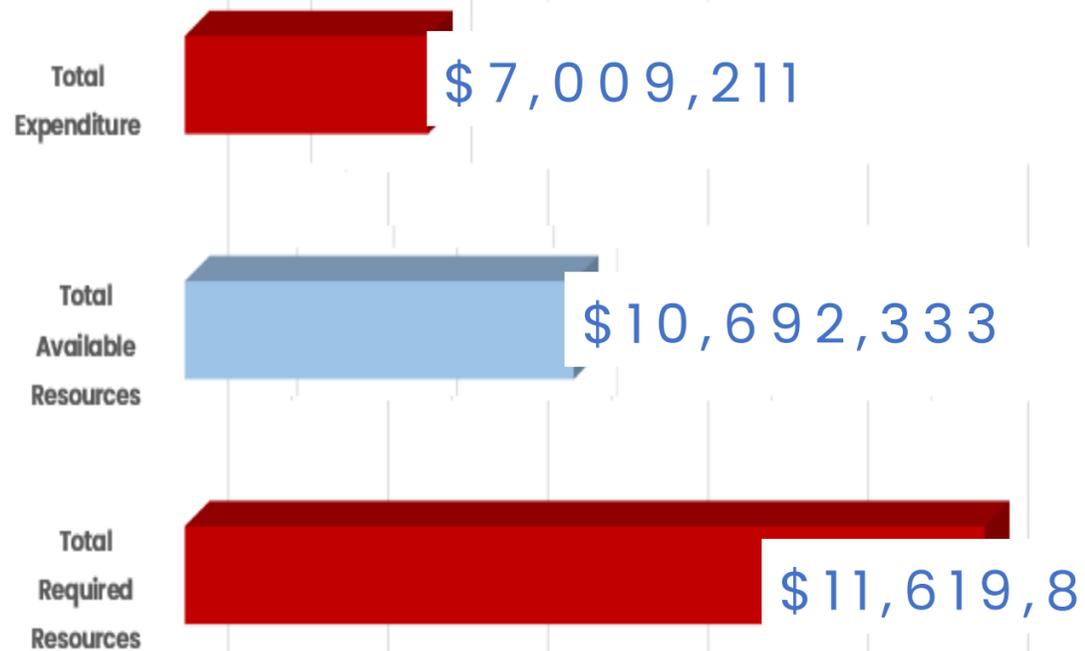
### OUTCOME 3: SUSTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY FINANCIAL DELIVERY IN 2021



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 4: GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

#### Outcome 4 Financial Delivery and programmatic Results



#### Decentralization and Local Government Support

Over the years, the UN system in Liberia has made significant progress towards decentralizing basic social services to the citizens at county level, and de-concentrating services in the capital, however, the implementation of the Government's decentralization plan was disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the UN in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local county administrators equipped the county service centers (CSC) with solar energy and specialized ICT equipment that have enhanced their operational capacities and reduced operational costs and increased access to basic social services for local citizens and reduced travel cost burden on beneficiaries. The County Service Centers provide driver's license, traditional and western marriage certificates, and tax payment services without traveling to the capital city which imposes on local citizens burden of travel and accommodation costs. More than 1,567 (997M and 570F) CSCs staff were trained on the Local Government Act to build national ownership and accelerate implementation of the decentralization plan and to improve service delivery at local level. The county service centers promote efficient citizens feedback mechanisms, transparency, and accountability national and sub-national levels.

To facilitate fiscal decentralization and revenue sharing mechanisms that enable sub-national authorities or county leaders to generate and utilize local revenues for development purposes, the UN supported the drafting of the Revenue Sharing Bill and Public Financial Management (PFM) Amendment Act and submitted same to the National Legislature for enactment. The Revenue Sharing Bill and PFM Amendment Act when both passed into law, will promote local economic growth and development, and accelerate the decentralization of development and basic services across the country. In Liberia, concession awarding processes are often mired by lack of transparency and accountability that lead concessionaires to be in non-compliance with the concession agreements, thereby prompting affected communities to resort to protest and sometimes violence to advocates for their rights under the concession agreements. To promote transparency and accountability in the awarding process of concession agreements, the capacity of the National Bureau of Concession (NBC) was strengthened to ensure concessionaires follow the concession agreements through peacefully dialogue and negotiations. County officials and central government authorities were trained on concession related disputes resolutions and dialogues.

## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 4: GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

#### Women's Political Participation and Leadership

Women and girls in Liberia continue to be underrepresented in national and subnational levels of governance. The space for their engagement in governance processes has further shrunk as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, only 12.3% of seats (9 seats) in the Lower House of Parliament and 6.6% (2 seats) in the Senate are held by women, and 20% of the 15 County Superintendents are occupied by women and women are further significantly under-represented at ministerial positions level.

In the Judiciary, there are only two female Justices on the Supreme Court Bench, five circuit court judges and 33 female magistrates. However, to increase women's political participation and leadership at all levels of the government, the UN supported electoral laws reform, particularly advocated for the passage of Article 4.5 of the New Elections Law for mandatory 30% gender quota of women's representation in the legislature and for all political parties' candidates. In addition, the UN trained 30 political party women, 20 female campaign team members, 45 women leaders in civil society, 32 peace hut women leaders and 33 rural women on leadership, public speaking, and communication skills in the senatorial by-elections in 2021 and in preparation of the ensuing 2023 general elections. In addition, the UN in partnership with NAYMOTE capacitated 150 young women through the Young Women Political Leadership and Mentorship Program which led to the establishment of the National Young Women Political Council. Dialogues were organized with 32 representatives of women's groups and networks, MGCSP, and the National Elections Commission (NEC) to promote increased women participation in politics and leadership.

#### Support to Electoral Law Reform

The UN supported electoral reform and strengthened the capacity of the National Elections Commission to conduct a free, fair, and transparent elections in Liberia. UNDP and UN Women supported several policy dialogues to strengthen electoral law reform which led to the passage of Article 4.5 of the new Elections Law that proposed 30% gender quota for political parties or seats in the National Legislature for women. As a significant breakthrough for women's representation in all spheres of political and leadership position, Article 4.5 of the New Elections Law was passed into law and approved by the President of Liberia. The Liberia Election Support Programme (LESP) strengthened the NEC to conduct a Feasibility Study on Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system and National Identification Registry (NIR) towards a transparent and digital voter registration process that will increase electoral participation and transparency. Electoral disputes resolution mechanisms were strengthened which had enabled the NEC to speedily hear and dispose of electoral disputes arising from the by-elections in 2021. As such, the Elections Dispute Resolution (EDR) Capacity Development Plan was developed to adjudicate electoral disputes in a timely and efficient manner. The UN meanwhile strengthened early warning and response mechanisms to electoral violence (EWER) by strengthening county and district level early warning mechanisms to track and report potential conflict situations across the country.



## 2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

### OUTCOME 4: GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

#### Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting

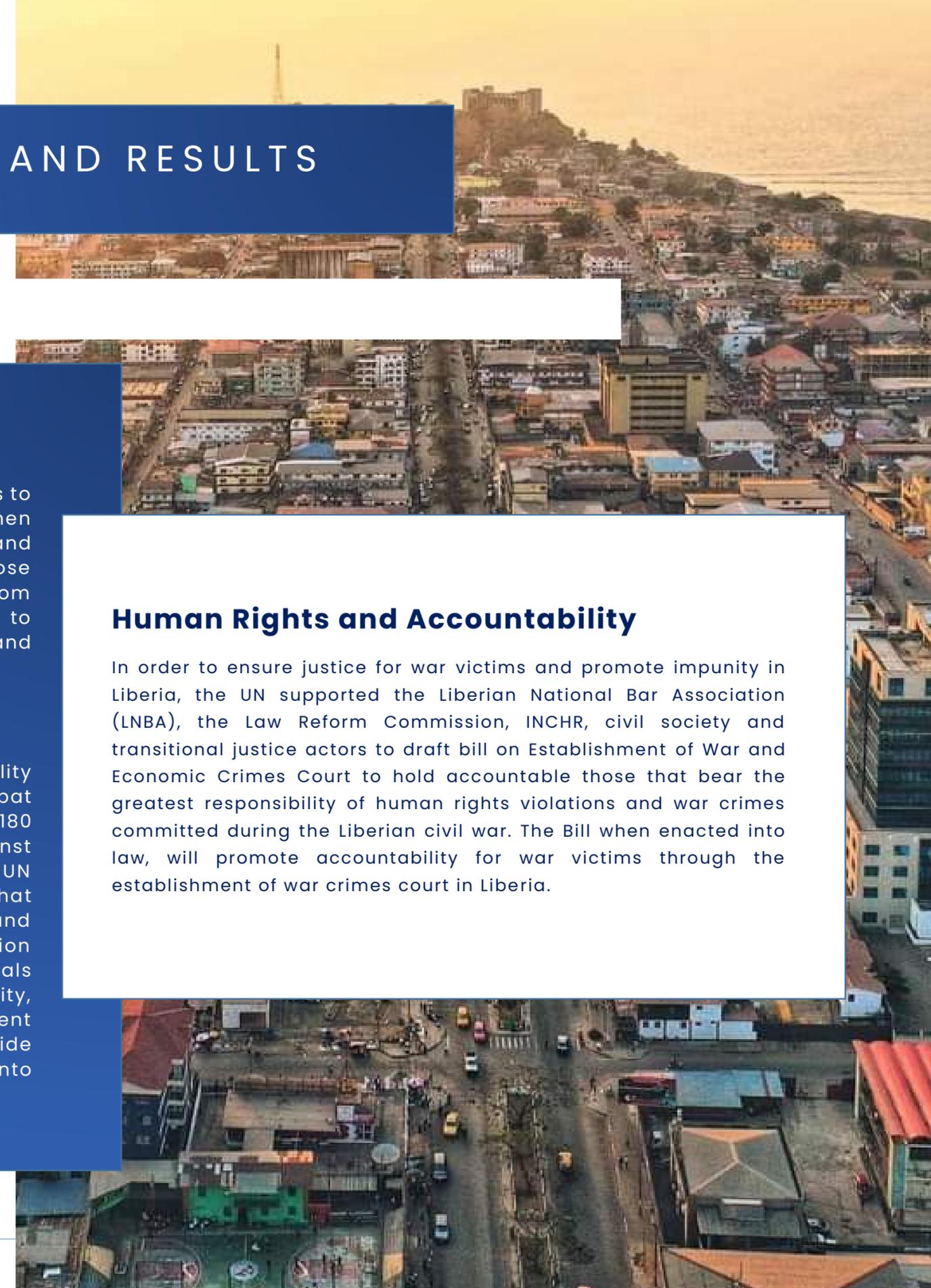
Liberia's national policy on gender-responsive planning and budgeting describes the impediments to national planning and budgeting, and recognizes the national budget as a powerful tool when combined with planning interventions for achieving development objectives. Both the budget and planning interventions are indicators of the government's commitment to its policies, especially those promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2021, 200 gender and budget officers from seven spending entities of the Government and civil society organizations were empowered to influence national budgeting process from gender perspectives and to hold public institutions and officials accountable for gender needs and equality in the budgeting process.

#### Support to Transparency and Accountability

In 2021, the UN Development system in Liberia strengthened transparency and accountability mechanisms and integrity institutions, including the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission to combat corruption in public sector aimed at promoting national development. Liberia currently ranked 136/180 with a score of 29/100, which means that Liberia has made insignificant progress in the fight against corruption in recent years. To enhance the legal framework to prosecute corruption cases, the UN supported the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to amend the Anti-corruption Act that seeks to grant prosecutorial power to the LACC and provides protection for whistle blower and witnesses. The Bill when passed into law, will minimize the delays in the prosecution of corruption cases as LACC would no longer need to rely on the Ministry of Justice to speedily prosecute individuals accused of corruption. Further, as innovative ways to combat corruption and promote accountability, the UN supported the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission to organize a series of development dialogues that brought together key players in the national anti-corruption landscape to provide diverse opinions and share knowledge on obstacles to anti-corruption responses which resulted into proffering concrete strategies to combatting corruption.

#### Human Rights and Accountability

In order to ensure justice for war victims and promote impunity in Liberia, the UN supported the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA), the Law Reform Commission, INCHR, civil society and transitional justice actors to draft bill on Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court to hold accountable those that bear the greatest responsibility of human rights violations and war crimes committed during the Liberian civil war. The Bill when enacted into law, will promote accountability for war victims through the establishment of war crimes court in Liberia.



## 2.3. UN SUPPORT TO COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN

In 2021, Liberia experienced new variants of COVID-19 pandemic that led the UN Country Team to repurpose its programmes to strengthen the capacity of the Government to adequately respond to the crisis and address the immediate socio-economic impacts on the population. In line with the COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan, the UN development system through WHO and UNICEF mobilized US\$12.5 million to support the Government's COVID-19 response plan and ensured that everyone, particularly the most vulnerable groups have access to essential COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 healthcare and social protection services, including equal administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

### **HEALTH FIRST: Protecting Health Services and Systems During Crisis**

#### **Health workers/facilities supported to maintain health services**

- 1,432 health facilities in Montserrado, Bomi, Nimba, Sinoe, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, RiverGee, Grand Kru and Bong Counties supported with essential health equipment/materials
- 4,102,132 million people reached with essential health services in 2021
- Essential immunization services were maintained at health facilities during COVID-19 response process. In addition, the UN procured and installed 20 solar refrigerators, one walk-in cold room, 445 cold boxes and 900 vaccines carriers that were deployed across the country during the crisis.
- An 828-liter ultra-cold chain equipment was installed in Bong County that increased Government's vaccine storage capacity by 40%
- 3,838 health workers capacity strengthened to provide essential health services during the crisis in the areas of laboratory diagnosis, infection prevention and control (IPC);
- Strengthened health facilities capacities with IPC supplies, including 1,616,000 face masks, 200,000 medical masks, 640,000 assorted hand gloves, 100 pieces of 45kg buckets of chlorine, 50,000 pieces of 200ml hand sanitizers, 300 leak-proof waste bags, 30,000 pieces of 300ml liquid hand soaps, 29, 150 gowns and overalls, and 100 sets of foot operated hand washing stations to curtail the transmission of the virus at community.
- The UN procured and distributed 20 oxygen concentrators and 15 filled medical oxygen cylinders with accessories that bridged the gap in oxygen needs during the COVID-19 response order to ensure justice for war victims and promote impunity in Liberia, the UN supported Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), the Law Reform Commission, INCHR, civil society and transitional justice actors to draft bill on Establishment War and Economic Crimes Court to hold accountable those that bear the greatest responsibility of human rights violations and war crimes committed during Liberian civil war. The Bill when enacted into law, will promote accountability for war victims through the establishment of war

## 2.3. UN SUPPORT TO COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN

### HEALTH FIRST: Protecting Health Services and Systems During Crisis

#### Health services & systems Strengthened

- The UN strengthened health services and systems to response to COVID-19 pandemic by supporting the Government set up an effective Incident Management System with improved risk communication and community engagement mechanisms and strengthened infection prevention and control to minimize and prevent the spread of the virus.
- Supported early warning measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the health system by supporting the Ministry of Health to implement the post EVD National Plan for Rebuilding a Sustainable and Resilient Health System. The Ministry of Health capacity was improved to deliver differentiated service models for HIV services, including multi-month dispensing (MMD) of anti-retroviral medicines (ARV) for people living with HIV.
- Capacity of the Ministry of Health was enhanced to provide uninterrupted treatment and testing services for people living with HIV, TB, malaria and strengthened community healthcare systems for disease control during the crisis.
- MOH conducted two rounds of mass drug administration for treatment and prevention of targeted neglected tropical diseases in endemic districts in Bong County.
- UN supported the MOH and Plan International to distribute 2.7 million insecticide-treated mosquitoes nets to households across Liberia for malaria prevention and control. Key behavior change materials and messages were developed and translated in 7 local dialects and aired local community radio stations that increased understanding of COVID-19 prevention mechanisms and enhanced delivery of essential health services.

#### Improved WASH Services & Facilities

- The UN provided technical and financial support to improve WASH facilities and services in 10 of the 15 counties covering 131 health facilities, including 8 hospitals to improve medical waste management practices and improved water facilities across the country.
- 139,658 people in seven counties, including Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland and Rivergee, Grand Cape Mount, and Margibi Counties benefitted from critical WASH services through the construction of water kiosks, hand-dug wells, latrines, sanitary and cleaning supplies for operation and maintenance.
- 91,895 persons in 161 communities in five counties were reached with hand-washing behavior-change messages including COVID-19 messaging.
- 11,763 persons from 1,234 vulnerable homes were provided with basic family hygiene kits to communities hosting refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties. A total of 7,217 girls and women accessed menstrual hygiene services.
- 87,100 children (48,216 males and 38,884 females) were supported with distance/home-based learning



## 2.3. UN SUPPORT TO COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN

### PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social Protection and Basic Services

#### Take-home ration as alternative meals for students and families

•36,899 (21,770 girls; 15,129 boys) schoolchildren and their families in southeastern high food insecure counties provided with nutritious meals support from the UN development system in Liberia through the Ministry of Education. The UN's flagship school feeding programme is being implemented in Maryland and Nimba and other counties with the highest proportions of food insecurity. This programme supports students concentrate on their learnings and to assist food insecure families to meet their short-term food needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and suspension of on-campus academic activities by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

•The UN supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and key justice and security sector institutions to eradicate violence against women and girls through implementation of the Government's Anti-SGBV Roadmap aimed at reducing the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices and increase women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health and rights within the context of COVID-19.

•22,752 women and children who have experienced or at risk of SGBV benefitted from free legal aid services, psychosocial services, and other risks mitigation interventions in 65 local communities.

•1,010 peer educators and buddy club members benefitted from training and logistical support to increase COVID-19 prevention and community behavior change communications. 150 vulnerable women were assisted to address their socio-economic needs through direct social safety cash transfers and psychosocial support across 42 local communities in COVID-19 affected counties. The social safety cash transfer program enabled beneficiaries to adjust to the economic impact of COVID 19 and allowed them to take care of the basic needs of their family's during the pandemic.

#### Social Protection Schemes and Services Support

•6,000 households benefitted from social cash transfers to address the needs of informal workers as part of the Government's Liberia National COVID Response Plan. The UN supported the Government's COVID-19 Emergency Household Food Support Programme that 1,637,099 persons (974,238 female; 662,861 male beneficiaries) in Liberia with a total of 22,038 mt of food commodities in 2021.

•The UN supported advocacy and human rights monitoring interventions during the COVID-19 lockdown measures to prevent violence against women in politics during the mid-term senatorial elections. The UN ensured a gender responsive, coherent, and coordinated approach for mitigating the humanitarian and social-economic impacts of the pandemic resulting in enhanced awareness of communities on preventive measures of COVID-19 and increased to justice for SGBV survivors across the country. Relevant justice and security institutions, particularly, the Liberian National Police to adequately respond to and address incidents of SGBV, including timely investigation and prosecution of perpetrators.

•327 migrants who were stranded and abandoned in the Sahel Region received protection and reintegration assistance from IOM and UN Refugee Agency, including shelter, medical needs, and micro-business funding.

## 2.3. UN SUPPORT TO COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN

### ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and the Informal Sector

•The UN partnered with key private sector institutions, particularly Orange Liberia to provide employment opportunities for women as Orange Money Agents in COVID-19 affected counties, namely Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa. The partnership has benefitted more than 500 women of the Liberia Marketing Association, the National Peace Hut Women of Liberia, and the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade.

•13 women farming cooperatives from Lofa, Bong, and Nimba Counties were empowered with access to sustainable finance, equipment and capacity building that connected women smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs to information and markets in efforts to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. The UN also supported and developed the technical, productive, value addition and market linkages capacities for 55 cooperatives and farmer groups in 8 counties. In addition, the farmers, and charcoal producers Union and 650 community-based forest actors were support through the National Union on Forest Development Committee and National Benefit Trust Sharing Board.

### SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

•Conflict sensitive COVID response mechanisms were supported by the UN that monitored the anticipatory impact of the response on both state-society and inter-group relations. The UN Country Team supported social cohesion and community resilience interventions at local level by strengthening infrastructures of peace, community and inter-political parties' dialogues for conflict prevention and reconciliation processes. The capacity of local authorities, community leaders and civil society organizations, including women's groups, as key actors in supporting government efforts to monitor conflict triggers and address land disputes and boundary harmonization crisis.

•Community knowledge and understanding was increased on SGBV and COVID-19 prevention that reached 40,021 persons (18,028 women, 14,410 men, 647 girls and 6,936 boys) and 216 radio talk shows with 18 jingles in various dialects were aired on community radio stations to raise awareness on COVID-19 and SGBV prevention as well as increased access to justice for survivors of SGBV and vulnerable groups while protecting human rights and civil liberties.

### MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

•The UN supported implementation of the COVID-19 Socio- Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) and helped most vulnerable populations including women, children, youth, persons living with disabilities in line with the Government's recovery efforts.

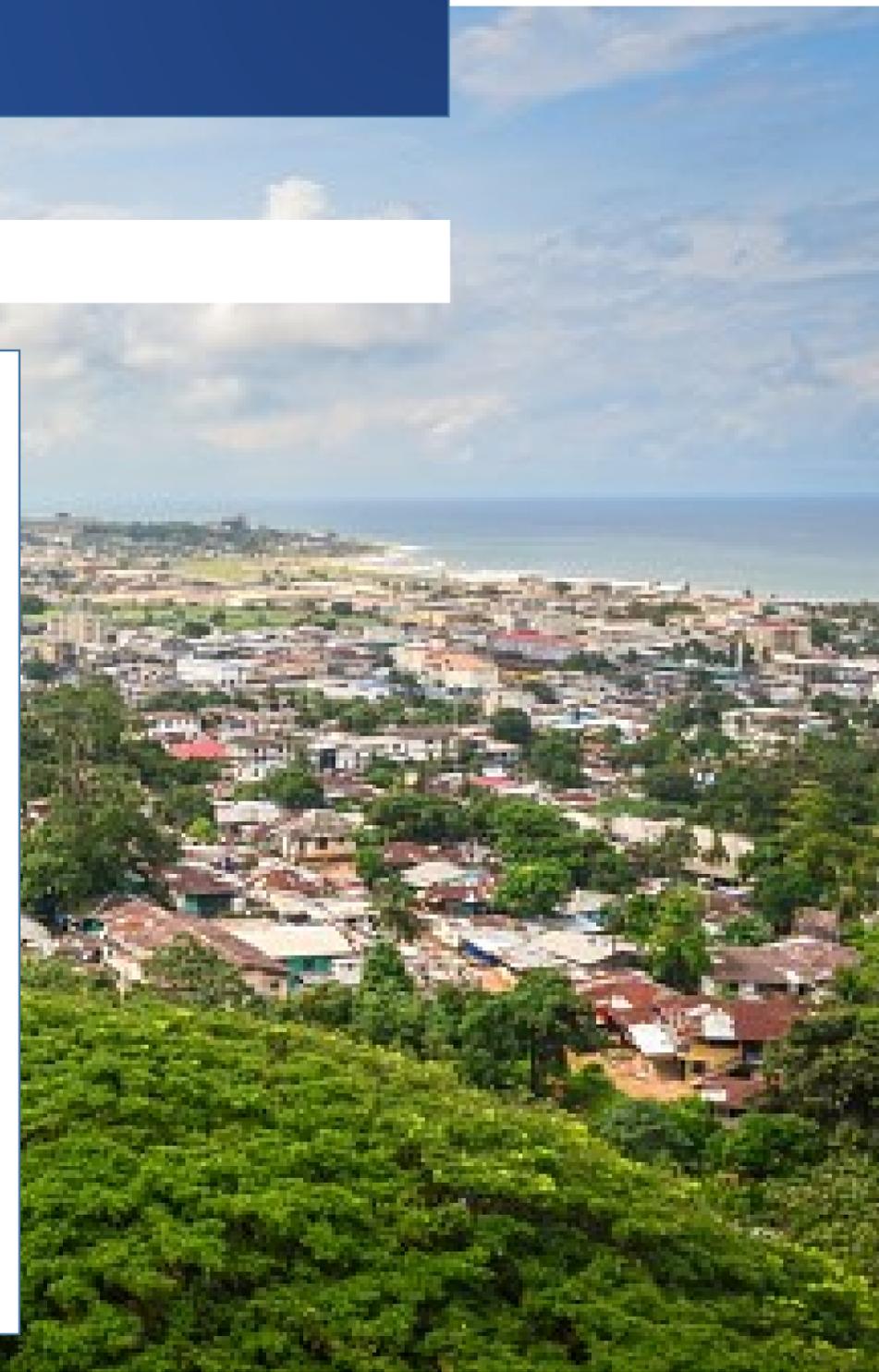
•During the second and third waves of omicron virus in Liberia, the UN and Government partnered with IFIs (World Bank and IMF) to scale up their support to the Liberian people and channeled funds through the Government of Liberia into COVID-19 response activities. The Government-led COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme was financed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and 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.

## 2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

### UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Liberia is a least developed country and the fourth poorest country that faces multiple structural, economic, and governance challenges and other vulnerabilities. While real GDP is projected rebound to 3.6 percent, GNI is speedily declining from \$1,370 in 2020 to \$430 in 2021 depicting the level of poverty and harsh economic conditions for the ordinary Liberians. Liberia's structural and economic challenges require new model of economic development that are human-centric by increasing investments in infrastructure, quality healthcare, education, etc. and lowering recurrent expenditures in the national budget. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic further exposed Liberia's vulnerabilities with increased poverty, unemployment, food insecurity and livelihoods and effect of climate change. In response to the crisis and its immediate socio-economic consequences, the UN in Liberia worked with several stakeholders, government institutions, IFIs and development partners to support the Government in combating COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the devastating impacts on the lives of ordinary Liberians, especially poor households, women, and youths. Utilizing its catalytic and convening ability and comparative advantage of all the UN Agencies, the UN Country Team effectively brought together government and private sector stakeholders as well as development partners to mobilize resources to support implementation of the COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan aimed at mitigating the impacts of the virus on all sectors of the Liberian economy. The UN collective effort to implement the SERP helped strengthened health systems and services and ensured continuity of essential healthcare services. This resulted into a joint response from WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, and other UN agencies on health system strengthening, social protection and livelihoods provision for poor households and other vulnerable groups.

In 2021, seven joint programmes were developed with funding from the Human Security Trust Fund, Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and Liberia Multi-partners Trust Fund (LMPTF) as innovative financing mechanisms to promote digital innovation for women and youths in rural communities and increase access to digital services, including community-driven e-agriculture and food systems services, education, and skills development.



## 2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

**The Liberia Spotlight Initiative** is another flagship joint programme that has demonstrated delivering as one is possible in achievement transformational results at country level. The lessons learned from the joint efforts will continue to inform the development, implementation, and coordination of future joint programmes with the view of improving internal coordination mechanisms for building back better and stronger from the pandemic.

**The Inter-Agency Programming Team (IAPT)** was set up with four results groups to ensure the coordination, planning and implementation of the joint work plan of UNSDCF towards achieving the strategic results articulated in the cooperation framework. Following the development dialogue in August 2021, the four Results Groups coordinated with their respective pillars leads under the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP) to finalize and endorse the joint work plan (JWP) that operationalised implementation of the UNSDCF. The result of the joint work planning process shows how working better together remains critical to the attainment of the SDGs through supporting national partners to achieve the national development plan.

**The CCA Task Team** was established as an internal mechanism to coordinate the CCA update process and to reduce transactions cost of the CCA update process. The CCA update provides a comprehensive analysis of the emerging contexts and SDGs trends that show which SDGs had made progress or regress.

**The Operations Management Team (OMT)** was successful in strengthening strategic efficiency, coordination and cost-effectiveness in its business operations and common premises agenda that save the UN agencies of additional cost. While challenges remain, the BOS 2.0 annual review process brought together all UN agencies to identify efficiency savings by reducing inter-agency duplication, leveraging collective purchasing power, and maximizing economies of scale in six service lines – procurement, finance, information and communication technology, logistics, human resources, and administration).

**UN Joint Steering Committee:** The Joint Steering Committee is the highest oversight and coordination body of the UNSDCF and is co-chaired by the Government, represented by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator. Last year, JSC organized the first annual review of the cooperation framework that assessed progress and challenges towards achievement of the cooperation framework.

**Inter-Agency Disability Inclusion Group:** conducted an internal assessment on disability in UN programming and interventions as well as support to Disabled People's Organization (DPOs) in Liberia. This assessment report has informed the development of a revised National Action Plan (NAP) for Inclusion of Persons with Disability in Liberia. In 2021, WHO in collaboration with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the Ministry of Health supported increased access to assistive technology (AT) for persons with disability and aging population. This AT initiative will increase availability of AT devices and human resource capacity and shift the AT market in Liberia.

**UNSDCF Result Groups:** Composed of four Results Groups– one for each UNSDCF outcomes – is responsible for achievement of the respective results with the UNSDCF outcomes and outputs. Completed a 2-year joint work plan which is under implementation.

**Inter-Agency Programming Team:** Provides guidance on UNSDCF programming including, planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and knowledge management. In 2021, inter-agency programming team held few meetings and coordinated meetings of all thematic working groups (nutrition, gender, human rights, and others)





## 2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

**Inter-Agency Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Group:** Provides technical support to UNSDCF Result Groups. The M&E Working group supported the results groups in the development of joint work plan and annual reviews and supported the CCA review and update process.

**UN Communication Group:** UNCG provides strategic coordination on all UN communication strategies and approaches. In 2021, it developed the communications strategy for UNCT and UNSDCF and coordinated all UN communication and advocacy interventions to increase the visibility of UN in Liberia

**UN Gender Thematic Group:** GTG produced the Gender Equality Country Profile, Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and UN Gender SWAP Scorecard Review for Liberia. The GTG supported the mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in UNSDCF JWP.

**Human Rights Working Group:** Coordinates the protection and promotion of human rights for UN programming interventions. It supported the Government in the development of its 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and to its global human rights obligations.

**Inter-Agency Youth Task Group:** The youth task team worked collaborative with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Education and other stakeholders to develop a two-year 'Youth-At Empowerment Project' that will train and empower approximately 40,000 at-risk youths and reintegrate them in their local communities through livelihood security and employment creation. Majority of these at-risk youths are mostly found in ghettos, cemeteries, dilapidated buildings and regular abusers of drugs and other substances.

## 2.5. EVALUATION, SUCCESS STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

In August 2021, the UNCT through the Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, organized the first development dialogue or annual review to present key system-wide results achieved in 2021 and to set up priorities for 2022. The modality of the annual review allowed for all the four UNSDCF Results Group/Pillars to present results achieved in the preceding year and priorities in 2021 to their national stakeholders and development partners.

Key lessons learned from the development dialogue/annual review is ensuring accountability, transparency to our national stakeholders and involving them at the planning and implementation stages of the UN's interventions in Liberia as to build national ownership and leadership towards achievement of the SDGs and national development priorities. Furthermore, the development dialogue revealed that working together as one UN and implementing complementary interventions is crucial to developing coherent policy and

This calls for building stronger coordination, collaboration, and communication internally and externally with all national stakeholders and development partners through joint programmes that harness greater impacts at grassroots and community levels. To ensure successful implementation of the cooperation framework, the UN should utilize its catalytic and convening capabilities to strengthen and bring together different multi-sectoral and stakeholders' platforms, pillar/results groups, and other thematic groups under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to build synergies and national ownership.

The UNCT instituted the Inter-Agency Programming (IAPT) to coordinate and support the work of the Results Groups and the different thematic groups to ensure a one UN approach to humanitarian and development challenges in Liberia and support the joint steering committee (JSC) during the annual review process to map out progress on implementation of the UNSDCF. The UNCT has shown the leadership and will continue to improve coordination and accountability to ensure that development interventions are aligned with national priorities to show the UN collective offer and impact 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.

## 2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The UN Country Team in Liberia has been making remarkable efforts to increase visibility and communicate its impact at national and sub-national levels and remain accountable to the government and development partners. In August 2021, the UN and the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning held the first ‘development dialogue’ or annual review since the approval of the UNSDCF in 2020 to review progress made against the Cooperation Framework and support provided to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts since outbreak in mid-March 2020. The development dialogue culminated into the development of a two-year joint work plan and a common budgetary framework for UNSDCF that projected total required resources of US\$261.7 million dollars with available resources of US\$150.9 million dollars for implementation of the two-year work plan. Total expenditure for 2021 reached US\$82.2 million dollars with outcome 1 achieving 73% (US\$60.9Mln) of total financial delivery that contributed towards achievement of SDGs (1,2,3 4, 5). Outcomes 3 and 4 achieved 45.2% and 65.6% financial delivery respectively.

Within the UNSDCF document, it was estimated that the UN system in Liberia would require US\$797,248,312 million or appropriately US\$400 million dollars per year to be able to fully implement the Cooperation Framework and advance achievement of the agenda 2030, SDGs and the national development plan. However, due to COVID-19 outbreak, the UN Country Team in Liberia could not meet its yearly resource mobilization targets as enshrined in the cooperation framework despite tremendous efforts applied to mobilize resources to support Government’s COVID-19 response efforts.

**Common Budgetary Framework and Financial Delivery for 2021**

Pillars/Outcomes	Required Resources (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)	Expenditures (US\$)	Delivery Rate (%)
Outcome 1	\$130,754,483	\$83,422,264	\$60,911,852	73.0
Outcome 2	\$103,878,666	\$45,169,414	\$9,044,974	20.0
Outcome 3	\$15,468,814	\$11,663,144	\$5,266,070	45.2
Outcome 4	\$11,619,883	\$10,692,333	\$7,009,211	65.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$261,721,846</b>	<b>\$150,947,154</b>	<b>\$82,232,106</b>	<b>50.9</b>



## 2.7. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND QUALITY OF FUNDING

UNCT was able to secure funding for six joint programmes in 2021 through various Multi-Donor Trust Funds, including Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the UN Human Security Trust Fund and other development partners. The total amount mobilized culminated to US\$14,093,044.48.

### Joint Programmes and Resources Jointly Raised by UNCT in Liberia.

FUND NAME	PROGRAMME/PROJECT NAME	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)	Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence against Women in Politics (UNDP and UN Women)	\$2,000,000.00
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)	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):	1,500,000.00
Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF)	Sustaining peace and reconciliation through strengthening land governance and dispute resolution mechanisms	3,996,522.00
UNI Human Security Trust Fund (UNHSTF)	Building Resilience of Youth, Women, and Vulnerable Groups through Social Protection Floor in Liberia using ICT (FAO, ILO)	1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$14,093,044.48</b>



# CHAPTER 3: UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2022



UNITED NATIONS  
LIBERIA



# UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2022

## 3.1 COVID-19 Response and Recovery

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN system in Liberia repurposed its programming strategy to support the Government's COVID-19 response plan through the Incident Management Team that led by WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNDP and other agencies. Health services and systems were strengthened to ensure continuity of health services during the crisis while ensuring the prevention of local transmission of the virus. Looking to 2022 and beyond, the UNCT will continue to support the Government's COVID-19 response and recovery plan in the areas of social protection, health and education sectors, food security and nutrition, human rights, rule of law, good governance, child protection. This is evidenced by the two-year JWP of the cooperation Framework in which nearly 70% of total required and available resources is allocated to supporting social protection, health, agriculture, food security and livelihood interventions.

## 3.2. SDGs Acceleration VNR Implementation

The year 2022 began with renewed energy and vigor for the UN Country Team in Liberia by engaging the government and development in innovative dialogues for SDG Acceleration. The UN will continue to utilize its catalytic and convening ability to support the Government to take concrete actions to achieve the SDGs and PAPD. As such, the UN is providing technical and financial assistance to the Government of Liberia to conduct its 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR) and to participate in the upcoming UN High-Level Political Forum (HLF) in June 2022 to present and deliberate on findings of VNR and localization of SDGs at county level. The UNCT will accelerate efforts to mobilize SDG funds and other multi-partners trust funds to advance the achievement of the SDGs and support the Government to invest in critical human-centered development interventions in climate resilient agriculture, tourism, smart villages and digitalization, renewable energies and circular economy, gender equality and youth empowerment.

The UN will prioritize SDGs data collection to accelerate progress against implementation of SDGs, Agenda 2030 in Liberia through the SDG/VNR Technical Committee, Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-information Services (LISGIS) in collaboration with other stakeholders. The UNCT will continue to advance strong institutions and advocate for human security, transparency, and accountability as well as empower women and community/informal leaders to advocate and demand effective social service delivery.

Liberia is the fourth poorest countries in the world with rich natural resources deposits, which had not translated into quality human, economic and social development. The country has experienced declining economic growth and development largely due to outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in 2014 and COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 that affected the lives of ordinary Liberians. The fiscal space has been consistently low overtime, incapacitating the government to achieve needed investment and development. On this basis, the UNCT will develop a financing and partnerships mapping and strategy to reinforce its partnerships and resource mobilization mechanism with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), World Bank, IMF, private sector institutions, civil society, traditional and non-traditional donor partners to invest in SDGs interventions.

In addition to utilizing external and internal funding mechanisms, the UNCT will make efforts to secure funding from SDG Fund, the Human Security Trust Fund, PBF/MPTF to support SDGs acceleration in Liberia.



UNITED NATIONS  
LIBERIA



# THE END

2021 UN COUNTRY RESULTS  
REPORT  
LIBERIA  
MARCH 2022



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNITED NATIONS  
LIBERIA



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS