



UNITED NATIONS
LIBERIA

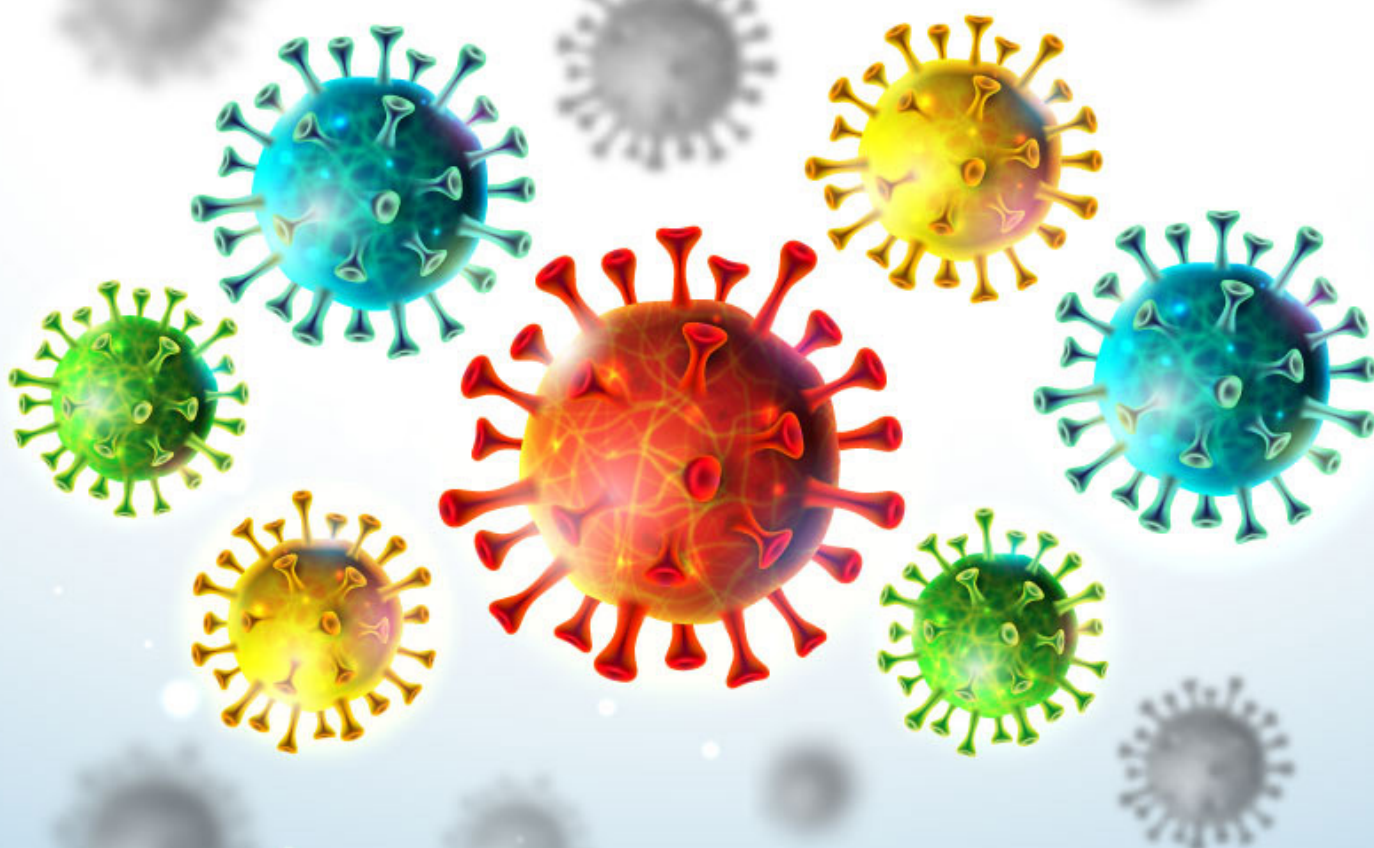


UN Liberia COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan

August 2020



COVID-19
RESPONSE



I. Introduction

On 31st December 2019, China declared an outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Wuhan, Hubei Province with a possible link to the animal market. One month later, on 30 January 2020, the WHO Director General declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of international concern, and on 11 March, WHO elevated it to a pandemic. By 26th August 2020, 210 countries had reported over 23,752,965 confirmed cases of Coronavirus resulting in over 815,038 deaths and this number keeps rising.

Liberia reported its index case on 16th March 2020, and as of 26 August 2020, the number had risen to 1,295 (including 208 Health Workers, with a HAI rate of 16.1 per cent) confirmed cases and 82 deaths. Since the onset of the pandemic, the National Incident Management System (IMS) was activated with 18 pillars driving the response under the central command of the Minister of Health as the incident manager and a special presidential advisory committee on COVID-19 (SPACCO) chaired by H.E. President George Weah, has been formed. Immediate steps taken by the government after the detection of the index case included the declaration of a health emergency, which entailed certain restrictive measures from large gatherings, closure of all schools nationwide and enforcing social distancing among others. A National Response Coordination Structure was set up by the Government supported by the Incident Management System and the 19 Sectoral Pillars led by the Government Ministries. These measures sought to keep the infection rates low, but things suddenly took a turn for the worse when the number of confirmed cases increased to 37, leading the President to declare a State of Emergency and a national lockdown from Friday, 10 April 2020 for 14 days. The State of Emergency has since been renewed twice but rescinded on 21 July 2020. On 7 April, the President appointed Madam Mary Broh to serve as the National Response Coordinator reporting to the SPACOC.

The United Nations in Liberia has been supporting the IMS and its 18 Pillars as well as the National Response Coordinator and her team. WHO in Liberia has its own Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and by the end of April, Liberia was added to one of the five countries in West Africa to the Humanitarian Response Plan which was included at the end of April and updated at the end of July 2020. The Liberia Chapter of the HRP has the total funding need of 57 million USD whereas only a small proportion was mobilized so far. For its operationalization of the HRP, a Task Force was established under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. Currently the national COVID-19 response plan and its strategy is being revised.

Meanwhile and evidently, this health pandemic is likely to exacerbate the pre-existing vulnerabilities in a country

with a low human development index and ranking 176 out of 189 countries and territories where 63.8% are poor, with huge inequalities and gender gaps. The economy has been struggling towards post-Ebola recovery with a medium-term growth forecast of 3.8%, far below the requirement of 7% annual growth to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.¹ Over 90% of youths do not have access to formal employment and women experience higher informal employment than men (90.9%) and vulnerable employment (91.1%)².

With more than 79 per cent of the population vulnerable hunger and unrest could potentially build up in many slum communities and rural areas of the country that have been locked down in the absence of social safety nets to protect the poor and vulnerable groups from the economic fall out of the COVID-19. The combination of poverty, high external dependency (including reliance on donor assistance and food imports) and widespread price increases of essential commodities due to COVID-19 could prove catastrophic. The rate of malnourishment in Liberia of 37.2 per cent is high compared to the rate in Africa. The climate induced shocks such as coastal erosion and flooding are concerning as these have displaced residents and their livelihoods in recent years.

As the pandemic unfolded across the World, the March 2020, the United Nations undertook assessment and released a global report which points to that need to look beyond health towards socio-economic impact of the pandemic. To operationalize this finding, the UN released a framework document guide response and recovery efforts by member states. In Liberia, and as guide to contextualizing this framework document as the basis of any Socio Economic Response Plan (SERP) the UN Country Team Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, with technical lead of the United Nations Development Programme, commissioned a Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID-19 impacts and Implications in Liberia as a basis for the development of the SERP. The report finds that the pandemic has impacted on the socio-economic fabric of the Liberian society in areas of health, people's livelihood and wellbeing, businesses, the economy, social protection and other systems of care, governance, social cohesion. The report recommends, among others specific measures to address the impacts of the pandemic, and how to build back and recover better under the following pillars, now the basis of the SERP: i) Health Services and Systems (ii) Social protection and basic services, (iii) Jobs, Medium Small and Micro Enterprises, Livelihoods and Informal Sector, (iv) Macroeconomic outlook, including fiscal space, revenues, tax policies, and debts and (v) Social cohesion and community resilience

The report presented the impacts on poverty, inequality

and vulnerability and recommends action for response and recovery over the short, medium and long term.

These include:

- No single source of development finance will suffice to manage and recover from COVID's multiple shocks. **Mobilize the donor and investor community together to preserve development finance funding** and weather the COVID crisis, especially for vulnerable people, and stay on course in terms of socio-political and economic stability: development finance was already falling pre-COVID and fiscal space was limited by poor domestic revenue mobilization and management. There will be a need for dedicated and creative efforts to mobilize private capital.
- **Further social protection measures are necessary to ensure the impact of the crisis on poverty is limited.** This should take on the form of a cash transfer to complement the food security in-kind support and thus provide a multidimensional social protection package against COVID-19. Greater coordination should be observed for the measures to be truly effective. The government must ensure that all the scale up in programmes and implementation of new programmes are coherently implemented within the structure of the overall social protection system and in close coordination with international agencies. This necessitates close communication/dialogue between relevant ministries and agencies to ensure proper targeting so that the programmes are wide-enough to truly leave no-one behind (PAPD aim) in supporting those that are most vulnerable.
- **Specifically, as part of a compact with international donors, recommit to better management of natural resources** with the help of the EITI Secretariat, and of other domestic resources. International donors would commit to preserving ODA budgets to Liberia to contain the drop in other sources of financing (domestic revenues, investment, remittances).
- **To prevent further aid shocks, ODA needs to be stable and predictable** over the next five to eight years rather than surge and dwindle as it did after the end of the civil war and around the Ebola crisis.
- Recognizing that the COVID response in Liberia requires more than finance, supporting households, communities, civil society, the private sector, and governments will require **coordinated**

action across the humanitarian, development and peace spectrum: to address immediate health and humanitarian challenges, and at the same time support livelihoods and social cohesion, bearing in mind the specific needs and roles of women and youth, communities bearing the brunt of the COVID's compound effects (e.g. slum dwellers) and communities with limited access to infrastructure and services.

- **Community leaders and associations and the private sector have a key role to play** in supporting government deliver a rapid and inclusive response, particularly with regards to supply chains of food and essential goods, and the provision of basic services, particularly in highly vulnerable and/or hard-to-reach communities.
- Like GoL, **international partners will need to uphold the highest standards in terms of transparency on the financial, in-kind and technical assistance provided, and promote peer learning** on what works to manage the crisis. This can be particularly effective at regional (e.g. ECOWAS) level. Transparency on the overall response by both national and international actors (including corresponding resources and actions) can be summarized in a results matrix such as those used in EU-UN-World Bank Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments, and used by GoL in the past³. Such a matrix requires a highly collaborative effort with GoL, civil society, private sectors actors, the diaspora, and the international community including the EU-UN-World Bank group. Ideally, GoL is in the lead.

Accordingly, the following actions will be imperative toward this end:

- To contain the spread of the virus in the short-term and build a resilient health system in the medium and long-term, there is a need to
- Ensure that the in-kind food support most at risk, particularly informal sector women, elderly, PWDs and youth in the services sector.
- Provide Emergency income-support given that the majority of those most impacted are not covered by social insurance nor social protection
- Take a human rights-based approach to ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable who are usually excluded
- MSMEs must be supported in terms of financing

to recover from the crisis

- engage informal sector in designing policies to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic
- Strengthen human capital in order to boost employment
- Safeguard the income security of the most vulnerable agricultural sector workers
- Develop targeted strategies and direct income support programs (cash transfers) to mitigate the economic impact on the most vulnerable groups, specifically women and female-led households.
- Develop policies to address the increased burden of unpaid and community work, increased distress and heightened risk of violence for women and children
- Provide social protection measures to ensure the impact of the crisis on poverty is limited
- The country must invest in improving the productive capacities of the agricultural sector as most of the population's livelihoods are based on agricultural activities

The motivation for this assessment was that with the endorsement of the analysis and policy recommendations coming from the report, the UNCT could use this report to ensure, that: a) there is a shared diagnosis with the EU and World Bank, including an exchange on (i) what key assumptions and scenarios can be envisaged; (ii) on what are urgent vs. important priorities; (iii) on costs, non-financial needs, and activities relating to each priority and b) there is a shared results matrix across the international community but also, importantly, with government and Liberia non-state actors, with a clear articulation of what are critical path activities out of the current, multidimensional, emergency, and the vision of what is a "built back better" Liberia. The key findings, reflecting the impacts and implication, the basis of this response plan is contained in the situation analysis below, and the results and actions to be taken by agencies to support government and people of Liberia.

Therefore, given this backdrop, as an immediate support offer, the United Nations in Liberia has developed this Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan, with an 18 months horizon (September 2020- March 2022) based upon the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

The aim of this response and recovery plan is to anchor, as soon as possible, the socio-economic response to

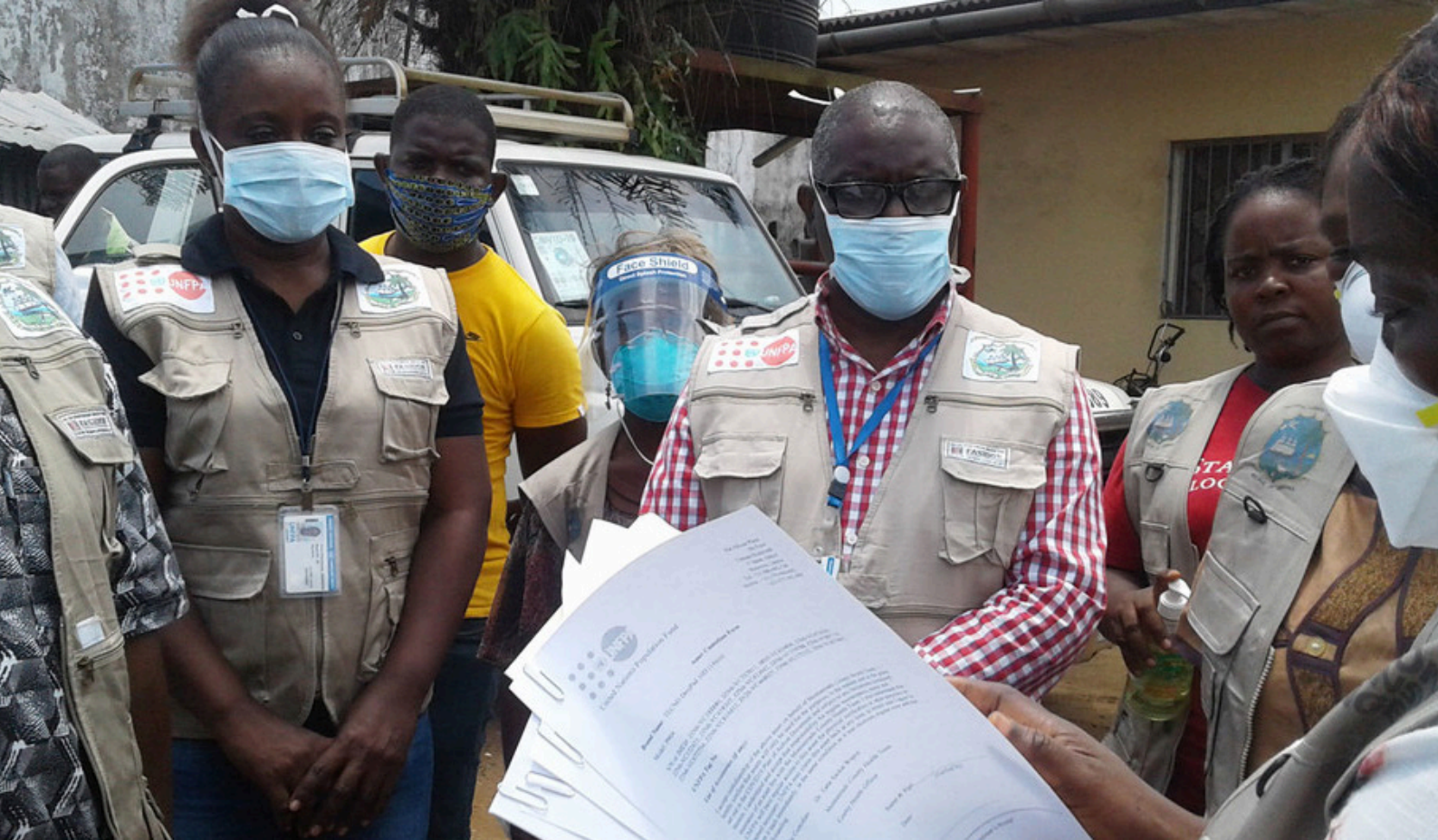
COVID-19 firmly within the national COVID-19 response and long-term development plans, and the priority actions, findings, and recommendations provided by the Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID19 impacts and implications for Liberia.

As such, this Plan will support and remain fully cognisant of and aligned to the following existing frameworks and plans:

- The National COVID-19 Response Plan
- The Global World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan;
- Liberia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020
- The Government Development Plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023);
- Findings of the Agenda 2030 Voluntary National Review;
- A UN Framework for The Immediate Socio-Economic Response To COVID-19
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024
- The Sustainable Development Goals

The response and recovery plan will be a living document and will be updated based on ongoing assessments. The joint programme portfolio that this Response and Recovery Plan supports will be further developed based on the latest and most up to date assessment data and government priorities.





In Liberia, UNFPA is working together with the World Health Organization to co-lead the COVID-19 surveillance effort and the coordination of contact tracing.

II. Situation Analysis:

Liberia, the oldest republic in Africa, is one of the world's least developed countries, ranking 176 out of 189 countries (2019 Human Development Report). More than half of the country's estimated 4.9 million population lives below the poverty line (HIES 2016) which is deeply entrenched in rural (71.6 per cent) compared to urban (31.5 per cent) areas. In 2018, 71.2 percent of Liberians experienced multi-dimensional poverty affecting children the most in a country where 51% of the population younger than 19 and 16% are under five years. A 2018 Systematic Country Diagnosis paper by the World Bank described Liberia as a post conflict fragile state with abundant natural resources, a rapidly growing population, and a unique legacy of entrenched inequality that continues to undermine social and political stability. It further highlighted a combination of poor education and health indicators, inadequate and dilapidated physical infrastructure, limited transportation and communications connectivity, and weak public institutions as key bottlenecks preventing sustainable poverty reduction

COVID-19, a global pandemic⁴ that keeps devastating lives, jobs, livelihoods, and businesses across the world is worsening pre-existing vulnerabilities and socio-economic marginalization. It is receding economic growth, with a risk of a reversal of the sustainable development gains, and undermining the global quest to reduce poverty, inequality and empowerment of women, risking a delayed achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and leaving many people further

behind. As the number of confirmed cases keeps rising and containment measures such as lock downs, social distancing, and border closures, taken, many countries have begun experiencing the socio-economic impact of this pandemic albeit disproportionately across gender, demographics, and locations. In Liberia (a country where more than 62% of the population⁵ are youth; 51% female and 49% male) with its index case on 16th March 2020, the rising cases with a total 1,303⁶ as of 28th August 2020 (up from the situation two days earlier) coupled with state of emergency restricting movements and business transactions, and contacts, are having socio-economic impact on the Liberian society. Like the experience with EVD, the COVID19 is hitting women and youths the hardest. Even before COVID 19, Liberia had high rate of poverty and vulnerabilities. The household income and expenditure household survey (2016) shows that around 2.2 million (50.9%) of Liberians are in monetary poverty. The incidence of poverty was highest in rural areas with 71.6% poverty rates in contrast to 31.5% in urban areas. The rate of extreme poverty was 16.5%. Liberia had a Gini index of 0.33 with higher inequality in urban areas (0.32) than rural areas (0.27). The country could therefore be characterized as having moderate levels of inequality prior to COVID-19.

The labor market was characterized as quite vulnerable prior to COVID-19. The informal employment rate was estimated to be 79.9% with those in vulnerable employment making up 79.5% of the population. Just over

⁴ On 31st December 2019, China declared an outbreak of Coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) in Wuhan, Hubei Province with a possible link to animal market. One month later, on 30th January 2020, the WHO Director General declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of international concern, and on 11 March, WHO elevated it to a pandemic

⁵ UN Population Estimates 2019 and 2020 DHS

⁶ This include 82 deaths, 390 active cases; total cases by gender: Female 452 (34.7%); Male 851 (65.3%), most affected age groups 35-54 (39.2%)

half of the population operated a non-farm enterprise. Of these, 60.8% were traders or shopkeepers and 17.1% were service providers mostly in urban areas. Furthermore, those that were wage earners were mostly employed in restaurants, banks, shops, and other services-related enterprises (64.9%, HIES 2016). These are essentially the sectors that were most exposed to the lockdown measures.

The UN Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of the COVID 19 impacts and implications in Liberia documents how the viral contagion has become an economic contagion and setting out the financing needed to address the shocks. The International Monetary Fund has declared that we have entered a recession as bad as or worse than in 2009⁷. In Liberia, the pandemic is hitting an already weak and fragile economy. Real GDP was projected to move upward to 1.4% from 0.4%, as recorded in 2019. Government's revenue and grant as a percentage of GDP for 2020 was projected at 29.9% up from 28.2 % for 2019.⁸ Total revenue and grant as a percentage of GDP over the medium term was projected to increase gradually and to average below 29.0% of GDP. On the expenditure side, total expenditure, and net lending as a percentage of GDP for 2020 was projected at 34.6% up from 34.3% for 2019.⁹ COVID-19 has now put a dent on this prospect into a recession.

The pandemic is expected to negatively impact economic growth in the short term whilst the effects of the crisis are predicted to subside over the medium term leading to a resumption in growth. Growth forecasts have predicted a contraction of around 2.5-2.6% in 2020 in the COVID baseline scenario.¹⁰ However, downside scenarios predict a larger contraction of 3.3-3.6% if the pandemic worsens into the second half of 2020.¹¹ The sharp contraction in 2020 is mainly attributed to the supply and demand shocks posed by the pandemic which will particularly hit the services sector, private and public consumption, and international trade

With a depression of economic growth projected, contraction in per capita income and rising food prices would increase poverty rates and almost half a million more people are expected to slide back into poverty in the absence of social protection/assistance. Many people have exhausted savings, and for some, income is not available. The rate of poverty is expected to rise from 55.5 percent to between 65.2 percent and 68.9 percent. This projected increase in poverty is consistent with the UN Country Team's recent assessment of the Socio Economic Impact of the COVID 19 in Liberia¹² which indicates, based on a microsimulation model, that the poverty rate would increase by 2.4 percentage points during 2020 compared

to 2019, if no social safety net measures were taken. This amounts to around 2.8 million people implying that around 800,000 more people will add to the current 2.2 million poor. Judging by the projected increase in the Gini Index due to COVID 19 by 0.0091 compared to 0.0017 without this pandemic, one can say that the crisis is compounding pre-existing inequality and vulnerabilities. The inequality and poverty gaps between male and female are expected to further widen as poverty is also expected to increase at a greater proportion for female-headed households (3.4 percentage points in contrast to 2.4 percentage points for male-headed households), nevertheless, that the share of poor is still mainly concentrated in male-headed households as these constitute the majority in the country

2.1 Impact on Health Systems

The COVID-19 pandemic is straining health systems worldwide with no exception in Liberia. The rapidly increasing demand on health facilities, supplies and healthcare workers threatens to leave some health systems overstretched and unable to operate effectively. Previous outbreaks including the 2014-2015 Ebola disease outbreak in West Africa have demonstrated that when health systems are overwhelmed, mortality from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, vaccine-preventable and other treatable conditions like malaria can also increase dramatically.

The impact of COVID-19 on the healthcare system and delivery of essential health services is substantial requiring increased efforts towards curbing the risk of rising maternal and neo natal mortality rates. Despite considerable investment during the Ebola response and recovery, weakness of the health system remains and is being deepened in the context of COVID-19. Poor infrastructure and limited medical facilities persist, inadequately qualified medical professionals are being put under further pressure, uneven and unequal access to health facilities between urban and rural populations is contributing to similar health outcome patterns. Liberia lacks the requisite infrastructure, specialized facilities, equipment, supplies, and human resources to adequately absorb the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining provision of essential health services. These factors among others led to the health care system's low capacity to respond to the pandemic, inability to contain its spread and disrupting the provision of essential medical services. If left unaddressed, these systemic weaknesses will leave Liberia's population vulnerable in the event of future health crises.

Stigma and fear linger on COVID-19 and health services among communities hampered by the diversion of staff and resources, service reduction and infection of health workers. Liberia presents highest levels of net imports

7 All hands-on deck to fight a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic BY ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

8 This was driven mainly by increases in both domestic revenue (14.9 percent of GDP in 2020 compared to 14.4 percent in 2019) and grants (15.1 percent in 2020 compared to 13.8 percent in 2019).

9 This was driven mainly by increases in capital expenditure (11.9 percent of GDP in 2020 up from 11.0 percent of GDP in 2019) despite reduction in current expenditure 22.7 percent of GDP in 2020 down from 23.3 percent of GDP in 2019).

10 CBL, IMF Staff, World Bank

11 These projections are from the IMF WEO April 2020; World Bank Economic Prospects June 2020; Liberian Economic Outlook June 2020; African Development Bank July 2020.

12 2020 Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID 19 impacts and Implications in Liberia, commissioned by the UNCT in Liberia in consultation with government of Liberia and development Partners.

of medicinal and pharmaceutical products and lowest levels of physicians (0.037/1000 population) and hospital beds (0.8/1000 population). These will negatively impact critical health programmes, worsening mortality rates of other diseases as witnessed during the EVD outbreak. Reduced child immunization services in an already under-vaccinated population is of significant concern. Insufficient skilled personnel leave rural facilities without enough staff to care for pregnant women and new-borns, provide HIV-related and essential reproductive health services.

Health facilities are being affected negatively due to the pressure and fear of the COVID 19 outbreak where according to the Ministry of Health data (HIMS 2020), Health service utilization rates including outpatient visits per capita is decreasing respectively. For example, in 2020 service utilization rate for Jan – April is 0.7 compared to 0.9 during the same period in 2019; in 2020, service utilization diminished with time but with a rather steeper dip recorded during Jan -April period of 2020. Four counties including the two highly affected counties of Montserrado and Margibi expressed an overall decline below the national average in April 2020. Further outpatient visits per capita was 0.88 in January 2020, declining to 0.54 in April 2020. These data might show a confirmation of anecdotal evidence, where health facilities particularly within Montserrado County, the current epicentre of the outbreak, are said to have closed off OPD visits and refusing patients including pregnant women for both emergency care and routine antenatal care. This coupled with the lockdown has caused people who would normally readily access essential health services to experience medical emergencies with a high potential of increased morbidity and mortality.

The limited availability of health services, which has affected the right to health of the population also affects the most vulnerable and marginalized people in society particularly, pregnant and breastfeeding women, youth, infants, persons with disabilities, and people with underlying health conditions. The protection and dignity of health workers, midwives, nurses, obstetricians, and anaesthesiologists, treating COVID-19 patients should be given also a priority in the COVID-19 response interventions and beyond. Especially taking into consideration, the high healthcare associated infection rate in Liberia whereas of 26 August, there are 208 healthcare associated infections, 16 per cent, one of the highest in Africa. Therefore, the UN's Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID-19 impacts and implications in Liberia recommends that it is imperative to ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate PPEs for the frontline health workers and immediate emergency response needs for equipment, supplies and treatment and isolation units. The report further indicates that investing in the protection and polarization of frontline and community health care workers, maintaining and safeguarding access to essential

medical services, such as sexual, reproductive, nutrition and psychosocial support services and developing a long-term comprehensive strategy to continue strengthening decentralized and resilient primary health systems are crucial for health services and functionality of the health system during the COVID19

2.2. Macroeconomic, fiscal and sectoral impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Liberia when the economic and social situation was already highly vulnerable to exogenous shocks. Economic activity had not fully recovered from the Ebola crisis as growth remained weak, reaching a high of 2.5% growth in 2017 following contraction in 2016 before modest growth of 1.2% in 2018. The GDP growth rate was revised down to a contraction of 2.5% in 2019 from a 1.1% increase in light of weakened private sector, low consumption and reduced output.¹³ This was driven by sluggish performance in Liberia's key sectors of forestry, manufacturing, services, mining and agriculture. This is related to Liberia's dependence on primary commodities exportation which exposes the country to the international commodities market volatility.

In spite of the challenges, expectations of a rebound were high, especially with the rollout of the IMF- supported program (Extended Credit Facility) in December 2019, which was set up to correct some of the shortfalls in the fiscal and monetary spaces while at the same time removing some of the constraints that were inhibiting private investments and debt stabilization. A new interest rate monetary policy framework was also unveiled by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), aimed at reducing inflation, protecting foreign reserves, and taking steps supported by the IMF program to improve monetary governance and risk management. In light of these fiscal and monetary consolidation efforts, real GDP growth was expected to recover to 1.6% in 2020.

The pandemic is expected to negatively impact economic growth in the short term whilst the effects of the crisis are predicted to subside over the medium term leading to a resumption in growth. Growth forecasts have predicted a contraction of around 2.5-2.6% in 2020 in the COVID baseline scenario.¹⁴ However, downside scenarios predict a larger contraction of 3.3-3.6% if the pandemic worsens into the second half of 2020.¹⁵ The sharp contraction in 2020 is mainly attributed to the supply and demand shocks posed by the pandemic which will particularly hit the services sector, private and public consumption, and international trade. Nevertheless, the economy is expected to recover somewhat in the medium-term, with a recovery of between 2.4%-4% growth in 2021 to 2022.¹⁶ This is expected due to a combination of factors: the ongoing policies to alleviate the socioeconomic impacts, increased efforts of fiscal and monetary

13 IMF, WB, AEO

14 CBL, IMF Staff, World Bank

15 These projections are from the IMF WEO April 2020; World Bank Economic Prospects June 2020; Liberian Economic Outlook June 2020; African Development Bank July 2020.

16 These projections are from the IMF WEO April 2020; World Bank Economic Prospects June 2020; Liberian Economic Outlook June 2020; African Development Bank July 2020.

consolidation and the expected easing of the pandemic and its global economic effects notwithstanding that the COVID-19 pandemic in Liberia exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities in a country where half the population lives below the poverty line with an already low economic growth rate of 1.4 percent in 2019. The economy has been struggling towards post-Ebola recovery with a medium-term growth forecast of 3.8 per cent, far below the requirement of 7 per cent annual growth to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

Liberia's annual national budget is an average of US\$ 570 million (2018-2019). Out of this, over 66 per cent is spent on operational (recurrent) costs, thereby creating severe fiscal constraints for the Government of Liberia in finance, social and economic sectors. Overall, more than 85 per cent of Liberia's social safety net budget comes from donor contributions.

Further given this context, while the full macro-economic effects in Liberia have not been fully examined, the pandemic is projected to have near term worsening macroeconomic effects. This is despite the recent listing of Liberia among the poor and vulnerable countries to benefit from the IMF's debt relief measures as global growth faces a down turn of minus 3 per cent with countries facing health, finances and commodity price falls, and the cumulative losses to global economy is projected to be USD 9 trillion. The current fiscal environment aggravated by slow growth, recent fuel shortages, public salary arrears, limited economic opportunities and devaluation of the Liberian dollar presents a bleak economic situation. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the country to its breaking point. The erosion of livelihoods combined with weak health systems and low access to education and basic services, the current situation will likely undo the gains of the peace dividends achieved so far, two years after the departure of the UN Mission from Liberia.

The specific sectors being impacted are hospitality, aviation, tourism, agriculture, and informal cross border trade. The government has earmarked USD 25 million to fund an economic stimulus package in response to the COVID-19. At the same time, there have been mounting calls for the government to settle its domestic debts.

2.3. Impact on employment and livelihoods

Around eighty percent of the employment in the country lies in the informal sector. This reveals to be even stronger for the young population, with around 95 per cent of them working in this sector, especially in agriculture and small-scale household enterprises.¹⁷ Over 90 per cent of youths do not have access to formal employment and women experience higher informal employment than men (90.9

per cent) and vulnerable employment (91.1 per cent)¹⁸. High participation of women in the informal sector stems from their high levels of illiteracy, lack of employable skills as well as the burden of home and family care imposed upon them through the socio-cultural allocation of gender roles. Eighty per cent, 80.4 per cent, of males are reported as literate, while only 54.8 per cent of females know how to read and write¹⁹.

Further within Liberia, nearly 80 per cent of the workforce are employed in three formal sectors, agriculture (47.3 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (25.1 per cent), and manufacturing (6.5 per cent), two of which are at high risk of impact from COVID-19²⁰. Within the trade sector, retail outlets considered non-essential have been mandated by the government to close in order to reduce interaction and reinforce social distancing. While food retail businesses remain open, workers in that sub-sector are also at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.²¹ In all three sectors, the ability to work from home and maintain an income in the event of strict quarantine measures to contain the spread is very low.

2.4. Impact on geographical inequalities and poverty

Close to half of the population resides around Montserrado, where the capital Monrovia is situated and unfortunately with the slow pace of decentralization, government services are concentrated around Montserrado and the neighbouring counties. This is further translated into unequal distribution of wealth where the majority of those who live below the poverty line are from the rural areas, 71.6 per cent compared to the urban areas, 31.5 per cent.²²

Meanwhile, the risk of transmission remains very high in urban areas, largely due to difficulties in adhering to social distancing especially in hotspot communities with COVID-19 local transmission observed among contacts of confirmed cases accounting for over 80 percent of the total confirmed cases in Montserrado county, the home to approximately 1,566,000 (1/3) of Liberia total population.

In addition, the proportion of population living in slums in Liberia is estimated at over 65.7% (UN Habitat 2014), which poses additional challenges in responding to any pandemics including Coronavirus, due to limited availability of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services. This is an additional pressure on the already overburdened social service delivery systems, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations. The poor, slum dwellers, migrants, internally displaced and refugee populations are especially at higher risk of Coronavirus disease because they tend to live in

17 The World Bank. "Republic of Liberia Skills Development Constraints for Youth in the Informal Sector" 31 Jan. 2016, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/736001477423283461/pdf/ACS18530-REVISED-PUBLIC.pdf>. Accessed 24 Jun. 2020.

18 UNSDCF 2020-2024, Government of Liberia and UN, 2019

19 Government of Liberia, National Gender Policy, 2018

20 These figures refer to formal employment only, as opposed to informal employment. In other reports employment in agriculture is up to 70% in Liberia, a figure that include informal employment.

21 Ibid

22 HIES 2016



overcrowded settings, making it extremely difficult to practice social distancing, and other preventive measures.

2.5. Impact on education and learning

The closure of all 5,423 schools in Liberia affected over 1.4 million students nation-wide (including 650,000 girls). School closures not only interrupt educational progress, they also curtail normal social interaction and limit access to essential services families relies on including school nutrition and health programs for information and disease prevention. The worst affected would be the nearly 50 per cent of children aged 6-17 who were already out of school before COVID-19 outbreak. The government through the Ministry of Education, with support of the UN and other education sector partners have supported home-based/remote learning through radio and printed activity sheets.

Further following the closure of schools for 72 days, high schools (139 public and 528 Private) were finally opened on the 29th of June for 41, 526 students in all 15 counties to prepare them for the regional exam, the West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). The Ministry of Education, World Bank and UNICEF supported the provision of a school package of teaching and learning materials, school health kits, and the roll out of safe school protocols to 707 schools of Grade 12. Prior to the reopening of the schools, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health together with members of the Education in Emergency Working Group, joined forces in updating the safe school protocol developed during the Ebola crisis, to ensure the safety and well-being of students and teachers upon return. To widely disseminate the safe school protocol, the training of trainers for 650 school administrators in Montserrado and trainings were cascaded in all the 15 counties. It is anticipated that they will be a phased approach to the full reopening of schools for students at all grade levels, staggered between August and December 2020.

To address the impact on education and learning outcomes, it is recommended that greater attention and investment be made to ensuring:

- Creation of incentives for families to send their children back to school once they reopen. In order to recover from the crisis-induced income

loss, households may face difficulties to send their children back to school due to educational costs. Moreover, more vulnerable households may also have the incentive to keep their children out of school for paid work, or even to “marry off” their daughters for bride price. Therefore, there is a need to mitigate these issues, by ensuring that every household is able to cover these costs. As for the Ebola crisis, this could be mitigated by ensuring low tuition fees and provision of school meals. Furthermore, cash transfers could be provided to the most vulnerable households.

- Providing support to children and communities that may have been the most vulnerable during the crisis. As mentioned earlier, girls are found to be the most vulnerable during the crisis, due to the reduced security environment provided by schools. Therefore, there is a need to accompany and reinstate this vulnerable group in the learning process. Thus, psycho-social support should be provided in emergency response and recovery periods for girls, as well as the vulnerable population including teachers, parents, and caregivers.
- Providing a clean and safe environment in schools in order to ensure a safe reopening and reinforce the incentive to send children back to schools. A clean environment should be ensured for the reopening of schools, with adequate WASH facilities, health kits and PPE. These are being procured by UNICEF for around 140 public schools. This must however be extended by the GoL, UNICEF and partners to ensure that WASH facilities and PPE are properly distributed at a large scale in a timely manner according to the staggered approach of reopening schools. Educational staff should also be trained in proper hygiene and COVID-health related practices. These actions will allow for a safe reopening of schools within the coming months.
- Reduce the learning losses by adjusting expectations from the curriculum. As aforementioned, the crisis may incur a certain level of learning loss for all students, although remote learning platforms have been put in place.

Thus, students may not be ready to follow the curriculum that was advanced prior to the crisis. The expectations from the curriculum would need to be adapted to ensure that all students are able to learn effectively. As the education is provided by different public and private actors in the country, there is also a need to coordinate these expectations across these actors, in order to avoid any further inequality in learning outcomes.

- Recovering the learning losses through a rapid catch-up period once schools reopen. As aforementioned, pupils might have reached different learning outcomes after the crisis, due to divergence in access to appropriate remote learning platforms. As learned from the Ebola crisis, parents also demonstrated their willingness to ensure a period (two weeks) dedicated to review previous year's learning, as well as conducting small assessments to capture where students were in their understanding for their respective levels. Therefore, a catch-up period would be needed for the most affected children in order to avoid being left out from the cursus. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure that all actors are able to cover the extra costs incurred by this catch-up period, in order to avoid any incentives to push pupils that are lagging to other institutions.
- Resumption of school feeding, including home-grown school feeding, needs to take place as a priority in the upcoming academic year. The PAPD calls for the scaling up of school feeding and nutrition as fundamental investments, and the Government acknowledges school feeding as key enabler of human development: improving the quality and access of education, while enhancing nutrition, gender equality and safety nets for the most vulnerable and food insecure households. Given its impact on education and local agricultural development, the Government's collaborations with partners, such as WFP, will provide essential school meals or take home rations for food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable students and their families.

2.6. Impact on food security and nutrition

Liberia imports 81% of its food requirements, and only 11 % of food is sourced from local production. Prices are expected to continue rising as the country struggles with an inflation that remained high at 20.2 % at the end of 2019 and further increased to 25.8 % in February 2020, putting the most vulnerable at-risk. Food insecurity is widespread in Liberia with an estimated 1.8 million

people undernourished.²³ One-fifth of households are considered food insecure, and two-thirds (60 percent) of these households are severely food insecure, with higher rates amongst poor households in rural areas, and families who are dependent on informal livelihoods.²⁴ Chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread in a country where at least 30 percent of children under 5 is stunted and 45 percent of women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) is anaemic.²⁵

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2019-20 Liberia Demographic Health Survey (LDHS) results show that 30% of children under age 5 are stunted, and 10% are severely stunted. Boys are more likely to be stunted (32%) than girls (28%). Children residing in urban areas are less likely to be stunted than those living in rural areas (25% and 35%, respectively). Among the counties, the prevalence of stunting is highest in River Cess (41%) and lowest in Montserrado (21%). The prevalence of stunting decreases with increasing mother's education and household wealth. Three percent of Liberian children are wasted, and 1% are severely wasted. There is no variation in wasting between children in urban and rural areas (3% each). Also, wasting is similar among boys (4%) and girls (3%). Assessment of uptake of nutrition services using Health Management Information System data of the period January to June 2019 and 2020, showed significant decline of 22% for Vit A supplementation among children under six years and 62% in admission of children for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition. The fear of health facilities as potential sources of COVID-19 infection has impacted utilization of health facility-based services for children. The above food security situation can be remedied by addressing the immediate urgent needs and decreases in food security among the most vulnerable populations, especially the urban poor. Liberia must ensure continuity of the critical food supply chain for the most vulnerable populations. Emergency food assistance, such as the Government-led COVID-19 Food Support Programme (COHFSP), and essential school feeding programmes, which include home grown school feeding, must be directed at vulnerable, food insecure urban and rural households, and support smallholder farmers, particularly (rural) women, with reliable and sustainable markets for their locally produced commodities. The planned 2.5 million people (COHFSP) and at least 270,000 children (school feeding) must be reached as soon as possible to ensure access diverse diets and adequate nutrition, and help protect these households from increasing food insecurity and malnutrition.²⁶

2.7. Impact on water security

The high proportion of the urban slum population (65.7 per cent) is posing additional challenges to the response due to low WASH facilities and services (including waste management) with less than 1 per cent of the population

23 FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNICEF, and WHO. 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World.

24 Ibid.

25 Liberia Demographic Health Survey, 2019-2020.

26 UNCT 2020 Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID-19 impacts and implications in Liberia

with basic hand washing facilities at home and 97 per cent with no handwashing facility.

2.8 Impact on Government Services, Demographic Governance, Human Rights and Access to Justice

The pandemic has given an overall strain to government services and further polarized the political landscape and has put strains on the fragile social cohesion, with the Government being accused of having used the suspension of some fundamental freedoms to clamp down on the opposition and silence critical voices, with already. Press freedom, freedom of opinion and civic space have been under serious threat. Many human rights violations relating to the detrimental impact of the pandemic and the government response thereto continue to be reported, in particular regarding the right to adequate food, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to education, the right to physical integrity, the rights of people deprived of liberty and access to justice.

Access to justice was limited pre-COVID and was slowed down further given restrictions on movement, including in which the Chief Justice suspended jury trials during the state of emergency. There is no data yet, but there will likely be an increase in the caseload, both due to the pre-existing delays, and new cases²⁷ The corruption in the justice and security institutions had direct and indirect negative impacts on vulnerable citizens, which included reduced access to justice and security services²⁸. Moreover, the lack of judiciary personnel often led to trial delays, apart from the negative impact of judicial corruption access to justice was costly for most citizens, and there were few lawyers outside Monrovia and this mostly affected citizens living in the interior²⁹. This is worsened by the lack of an institutionalized legal aid system: for the poor and disadvantaged who are most vulnerable to having their human rights infringed, absence of legal aid makes it impossible to obtain redress through the legal process. Liberia has two legal systems, a statutory one and a state-sponsored customary one, which sometimes makes up for the still very limited access to formal justice.³⁰

2.9. Impact on Agriculture, Informal Economy, MSMEs and Social Protection

Agriculture remains the critical sector of the Liberian economy. It contributes 38.8 per cent of the country's GDP. Agricultural sector is made up of crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry and natural resources production activities. The sector provides livelihood, food, and income to more than 70 per cent of the labour force including mainly women and youth. Majority of the workers in the agricultural sector are involved in crop

production mainly along the rice, cassava, and vegetables value chains, while cash crops such as cocoa, oil pal, and rubber are produced mainly for export. Despite domestic potential for agriculture production of staples as rice, rice constitutes about 80 per cent of the country's imports. Domestic production is inadequate to meet the demand for food. About 18 per cent of the population is food insecure (16 per cent moderately food insecure and 2 per cent severely food insecure), with varying effects from rural areas (23%) to the urban areas (11%). Moreover, the poorest of the poor are working in the agriculture sector mainly as subsistence smallholder farmers.

The sector is however faced with several challenges compounded by COVID-19. There is limited mechanization of agricultural production where farmers use basic tools leading to low yields. Access to inputs as seeds, technical skills and knowledge, extension and advisory services, finance, and credit as well as markets continues to hinder domestic agricultural production noting the gender variation in challenges faced, and this is partly due to limited digitization to facilitate access. COVID-19 lockdown has worsened access to labour, markets, inputs, and disrupted the food system and food supply chains, with consequences for rural incomes, poverty, and food security. Secure access land and tenure continue to hamper agriculture production and related responsible agriculture investment and generate land and natural resources related conflicts. Farming practices as slash and burn and shifting cultivation remain a threat to sustainable forestry management and climate-smart agriculture. Animal farmers, poultry producers, and fisher folk and fish mongers (mainly women) face obstacles as access to inputs such as feeds, vaccines, animal diseases including zoonotic diseases, and know-how to boost production, add value and market their outputs. Moreover, the policy front in the agriculture sector still needs to be more effective in building back better post-COVID-19.

Further women are the backbone of the Liberian agricultural sector as they produce 60% of agricultural products and carry out 80% of trading activities in rural areas. The activities and roles on the farm are often segregated by gender with women primarily responsible for planting, weeding and harvesting. The women's associations and informal networks play a crucial role in the internal rural to urban market linkages as they are the ones bringing the produce to the urban markets. Despite performing key roles, women still face discrimination and inequities, such as are not granted access to land. It is estimated that the Government has awarded approximately 35-40 percent of Liberia's land to concessions, the majority of which was already encumbered and located in provinces/communities with fragile state authority and with frequent land disputes³¹. Concessions have exacerbated inequalities in terms of women's access to land and hence deprived them of livelihood opportunities, productive work and a general wellbeing. An assessment conducted by USAID in 2018 revealed a lack of access to productive assets such as land

27 = Rapid assessment Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID Impacts and Implications in Liberia

28 Rapid assessment Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID Impacts and Implications in Liberia

29 Bertelsmann Transformation Index, Liberia report, 2020; United States Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019

30 Both systems are formally independent of each other, but cases can transfer from one to the other, and there are ongoing efforts to harmonise the two systems.

31 De Witt, Paul (2012), Land rights, private use permits and forest communities, report for the land Commission of Liberia

for women has resulted in increased scarcity of food and medicinal herbs, etc. Several other assessments in the land sector have highlighted that equal rights for men and women to ownership of land remains a challenge with women owning 38% of agricultural land thus limiting their access to available credit.

Informal sector and MSMEs: while the COVID 19 impact does not spare any one, the reality is that , that the ‘new poor’ are mainly working in the self-employed services sector (46.2%), followed by wage work in the agricultural sector (18.25%).³² This is why sub-population poverty rates are predicted to increase the most in these sectors. Livelihoods of those that are in vulnerable employment are therefore also predicted to be hardest hit. It is estimated that the poverty rate will increase by 2.5 percentage points for vulnerable workers in contrast to 1.9 percentage points for the non-vulnerable employed. Further, 90% of the new poor households have at least one member working in vulnerable employment. These households have higher absolute rates of poverty, estimated at 63% in contrast to 55% for the non-vulnerable employed.

The COVID 19 is having profound impact on all societies, but the most obvious economic effects could be manifested in lost corporate and household income, rising unemployment and vulnerable employment, and job losses, and widespread poverty. Preliminary discussions with business owners, workers and petty traders in Liberia highlighted that all are worried about job security, outstanding debt loads, and their livelihood, given that their savings, if any, can only last for a limited period. As MSMEs tend to rely heavily on internal sources of financing, due to the pressure of the pandemic on livelihoods, the availability of these sources could be compromised in order to restart business activities. In order words the use of unsustainable coping strategies would mean depletion of enterprise stocks and savings making it difficult to restart a business. A projected decline in growth with a contraction of 2.6 percent down from 3.2 percent in January 2020 based on recent World Bank Liberia Economic Update report would mean loss of jobs for both workers in the formal and informal sectors. Due to the risk of a lack of liquidity during the crisis because of lockdown measures, government and financial institutions should play an important role in financially supporting enterprises to restart and operate their activities, and thus, generate employment opportunities. In order to target vulnerable enterprises, institutions can use telecommunication companies’ data to make regular payments to targeted populations via mobile money for instance. Thus, encouraging the use of services, such as mobile money, in MSMEs’ activities could also help in contributing to recover the economy from the crisis.³³ Moreover, tax relief measures could be implemented

for MSMEs. Within this response, there is a need to bring a focus on urban areas, but also more particularly on rural areas and women-owned SMEs, which may have less access to finance (UN 2020 Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID-19 impacts and implications in Liberia). In this regard, there is need for support for the informal sector and MSMEs. The provision of immediate relief assistance including through cash transfers will provide buffer income loss and human capital erosion and protect poor and vulnerable households during the initial period, being the periods of lockdowns and its immediate consequence. Building on this, support for recovery to households, workers, and informal Medium, Small and Micro entrepreneurs will facilitate their restarting of economic activities and livelihoods as the immediate crisis begins to wind down, and scaling up and sustaining these efforts would boost economic resilience and resilience of households self-employed (Informal sector and registered MSMEs through strengthened shock responsive social protection systems³⁴. Additionally, the UN and partners should further **safeguard the income security of the most vulnerable agricultural sector workers along the entire food systems value chain**. Agricultural wage workers and landless farm labourers are estimated to be among the most vulnerable, poor and food insecure groups. The immediate critical step would be to cushion and alleviate the economic shocks for workers who have lost their jobs or had hours reduced via social assistance. Social protection programmes covering or injecting funds in the agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture sectors to protect livelihoods and stimulate production.

2.10. Impact on Population movements

Liberia shares 45 official ports of entry and 173 unofficial points of entry, surrounded by three countries, Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire and Sierra Leone, that if left unchecked put the country at a risk of resurgence of the pandemic.

Mobility tracking in West and Central Africa by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicates that regional migration has dropped by over 50% during the first half of 2020 due to the Government’s travel restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, cross-border movements persist given the devastating repercussions of border closures on regional trade and livelihoods. In a region where 40% of the economy is informal, travel restrictions have strongly impacted border communities and cross-border commerce and have stranded seasonal migrants engaged in transhumant herding, cross-border mining, and farming.

The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 is affecting various vulnerable groups such as women, children, adolescents, youth, survivors of SGBV, elderly, migrants, IDPs and

32 UN 2020 Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID-19 impacts and implications in Liberia

33 Pacific Council. “Rescuing SMEs can save Africa’s economy from COVID-19” <https://www.pacificcouncil.org/newsroom/how-save-africa%E2%80%99s-economy-COVID-19>. Accessed 2 Jul. 2020.

34 UN 2020 Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID-19 impacts and implications in Liberia and World Bank Liberia Economic Update 2019, released 2020



III. Attention to the Vulnerable Groups

host communities due to the loss of income, restricted movement, reduced access to markets, inflation and spike in prices. It may further lead to increases in social unrest and negative coping strategies such as hazardous forms of child labour and child marriage.

The following is considered the most affected and at-risk population groups due to their vulnerabilities and capacities, which were exacerbated due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19:

- **Women** continue to be disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19: work in insecure more precarious, lower-paid and part-time and informal employment, with little or no income security and social protection³⁵. In Liberia, 84 per cent of women in non-agricultural jobs are in the informal sector. Working in the informal sector without any social protection and insurance and the fact that most of them earn a daily revenue and have no savings, will push them to continue to take high risk during the pandemic to be able to meet their families' basic needs. This results in their marginalization and disproportionate lack of access to credit and banking services, limited financial literacy and business training, few social protections and childcare options, poor access to sanitation at the marketplaces, among others. **Despite representing the larger part of health provision services and being the primary caregivers to the sick at home, women have less decision-making power and often are less protected.** And access to health care is particularly affecting pregnant and breastfeeding women. Gendered social expectations and norms dictate that women are

the primary caregivers at home³⁶. In addition, large parts of the health care workforce delivering the last mile health services as well as the support roles in health facilities are women. Higher illiteracy rates also expose women and female-led households to a greater risk of misinformation and disinformation. Even though no evolution in literacy can be perceived for men, a greater increase can be observed for women over the ten last years.³⁷

- **Children** also continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups, in the context of widespread poverty levels in Liberia, based on the incidence and intensity of poverty and related deprivations. The global MPI 2020 report highlights that children are disproportionately affected as half of multidimensionally poor people (644 million) across the world are children under age 18, and one in three children is poor compared with one in six adults. The Report estimate that the impact of COVID-19, under a conservative scenario for school attendance and a moderate scenario of the impact on nutrition, simulations indicate that the increase in deprivations because of COVID-19 may set poverty levels back by 9.1 years, with an additional 490 million people falling into multidimensional poverty. These global indications are alarming in the context of Liberian children due to widespread multidimensional poverty.

In 2018, 71.2 percent of Liberians experienced multi-dimensional poverty affecting children the most in a country where 51 per cent of the

population younger than 19 and 16 per cent are under five years. In 2019, only 80 per cent of children were fully vaccinated, and 35.5 percent were stunted. Nearly 50 per cent children aged 6-17 were out of school and children continued to need protection against violence including gender-based violence. A total of 924 GBV cases reported (January to May 2020; GBV IMS/Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection); of which 632 cases, 68 per cent are girls (under 18 years old). In addition, while significant gains have been made in terms of birth registration as over 60 per cent of births under the age of 5 years were registered as per the preliminary results of the LDHS 2019/2020. However with the lock down measures and limited operation of health centres, there is already indication of lesser births being registered compared to 2019; this is a concern for other critical health services such as immunization, treatment of severe and acute malnutrition and neonatal care, which already in the 2019/2020 LDHS is showing alarming figures where the neonatal mortality rate has increased 42 percent since 2013, with a rate of 37 deaths per 1,000 live births currently as compared to 26 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013.

School closures is increasing protection risks for **children**. As evidence in other countries in the continent has shown 'local flares' of COVID-19 cases due to the school reopening. Children outside of family care, such as street children, children on the move, and children in institutions or in detention centres, are particularly vulnerable, including discrimination within the community. Measures taken in response to COVID-19 and their impact on family unity and negative coping mechanisms, may likely cause children to be at heightened risk of being separated or unsupervised for longer periods, suffer neglect and increase their risk of being abused or exploited, including girls who can fall victim of sexual and gender-based violence, including child marriage and FGM.

Finally, evidence suggests that child marriage increases during times of crisis, with disproportionate negative impacts on girls. COVID19 poses unique challenges, UNFPA estimate that an additional 13 million child marriages will take place and we risk losing some of the substantial progress made against goals to reduce child marriage, particularly when we consider the likely impact of global school closures. Experience from other pandemics suggests that getting girls back into school will be particularly challenging, with knock-on

effects on child marriage. Recent World Bank analysis indicates that close to 7 million students from primary up to secondary education could drop out due to income shock related to COVID19 alone. While gender inequality is a root cause of child marriage, increased economic stresses and family fears about the risks of violence against girls can also be drivers, particularly in times of crisis.

- Liberia has continued to experience a dramatic increase in its **youth** population, with over 70% of its population under the age of 35 and an annual population growth rate of 2.6%. Youth and adolescents, officially defined as those individuals between the ages of 15 and 35 years, comprise roughly 28% of the population. 45% of youth live in rural areas and 55% in urban areas, with the Greater Monrovia area showing the highest concentration of youth, approximately 40%. Rural youth in isolated areas are more likely to be affected by poverty. Poverty is twice as high in rural areas (71.6%) than in urban areas (31.5 %) and 68% of the country's poor are in rural areas, approximately 1.46 million people. Over 90% of youths do not have access to formal employment and women experience higher informal employment than men (90.9%) and vulnerable employment (91.1%).³⁸
- **People with Disabilities and people with chronic diseases** (e.g. diabetes, hypertension) from all social backgrounds are experiencing extreme difficulties. 16 percent of the population have a disability. Disabled people's organizations (DPOs) estimate that 99 per cent of persons with disabilities live in extreme poverty, mainly due to exclusion from education, skills training, work and income generation opportunities. They are more vulnerable and susceptible to viruses like COVID-19 in every human dimension due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Some of them are visually impaired and are unable to fend for themselves during this period of the state of emergency in Liberia. Moreover, most of the People with Disabilities are either largely dependent on caregivers, family members, relatives or others who may be reluctant to provide their services for fear of contracting COVID-19.
- There are 8,122 **refugees and asylum seekers** in Liberia with most of them from Cote d'Ivoire. 4% are elderly and another 6% have serious illnesses that predisposes them to COVID-19. The refugees reside in 5 counties - Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee and Montserrado. In remote

camp locations and hosting communities, overcrowding, inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene provision, and under-resourced health services exist which present enormous challenges. Lack of livelihood opportunities and poor nutrition among refugees and their host communities increases their vulnerability. In urban areas, many refugees have become destitute, as daily wage labour and other livelihoods opportunities vanish overnight.

- Furthermore, with **older people** being the most adversely affected by the virus, their additional care requirements and need to shelter at home, could potentially increase their risk of isolation and/or abuse. ^[391]
- Other high-risk groups include **subsistence and small producers; agriculture labourers (landless farmers); labourers along the rural and urban value chain (young daily workers in rural areas); women farmers and individual aggregators; vulnerable agricultural households, vulnerable forest, vulnerable fishers and fishing communities, as well as urban workers of the informal sector.**
- Gauging the country's experience from the EVD outbreak where many **health workers** contracted the disease, leaving health facilities and critical services abandoned, including HIV/AIDS, many pregnant women and girls lacked access to safe essential reproductive health services. There is an inadequate number of skilled personnel including midwives, leaving most rural facilities without requisite staff to care for pregnant women and their new-borns. Through the plan deliberate efforts will be made to reach and protect health care workers to protect them from contracting COVID 19 but also to ensure that they continue to deliver essential health services to the population of Liberia.

IV. Liberia Socio-Economic Recovery Plan

UN Liberia Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) is aligned to the five pillars of the Secretary-General's global UN framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19. Protecting health systems and immediate containment of the virus remain as the immediate priority. Second, and equally urgent, are protecting people through social protection and basic services; protecting jobs, MSMEs, and the most vulnerable informal actors through economic recovery while adopting low carbon growth models; and, helping guide the necessary surge in fiscal and financial stimulus to make the macroeconomic framework work for the most vulnerable, and strengthening multilateral and regional responses; and, finally, promoting social cohesion and building trust through social dialogue and political engagement, and investing in community-led resilience and response systems. Throughout the SERP, special attention is paid to Liberia's fragility, dependence on donor support, low capacity and low fiscal space.

This SERP is aligned to the SDGs and outlines an integrated support package to protect the needs and rights of people most affected by the pandemic, with focus on the most vulnerable groups. The immediate and medium-term strategies are human rights compliant, inclusive, transparent, and accountable; with a focus on building back better.

The SERP is also aligned to the Government of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), which is a five-year Strategy designed to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development and is premised on four strategic pillars that are inter-connected and mutually reinforcing. The UN Country Team supported the new government in developing the national pro-poor agenda for sustaining peace and development and the SDGs.

The SERP has clear linkages to the UNSDCF 2020-2024 outcomes. These UNSDCF outcomes are in response to Liberia's transformative agenda and development priorities and are listed below:

- a) **OUTCOME1: Basic Social Services** - Improved rights-based, gender-sensitive quality life with inclusive, equitable access and utilization of essential social services
- b) **OUTCOME2: Sustainable Economic Development** - Diversified and inclusive economic growth; sustainable agriculture, food security, job creation; and resilience to climate change and natural disasters
- c) **OUTCOME3: Sustaining Peace and Security** - Consolidated and sustainable peace; enhanced social cohesion, rule of law and human rights.
- d) **OUTCOME4: Governance and Transparency** - Good governance; transparent and strengthened institutions to the delivery of essential services targeting the most marginalized vulnerable.

V. Theory of Change

Impact: The people of Liberia, in particular the most vulnerable have access to essential services, in health, social services, employment and other livelihood opportunities due to the ongoing COVID-19 response and beyond.

Outcome Statement: The Government of Liberia and its people successfully overcome the immediate and medium-term adverse health, social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

Output Statement:

Output 1: The healthcare system and other relevant authorities and stakeholders in Liberia have improved capacities, means and instruments for a rapid response to the gaps, needs and priorities in connection with the outbreak of the pandemic

Expected Result 1.1. Support to maintaining essential life-saving health services

Expected Result 1.2 Support to health systems recovery, preparedness and strengthening

The output 1 is linked to Strategic Priority 1 - Protecting health services and systems during the crisis, contributing to the SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG3, SDG4, SDG 5, SSDG6, SDG7, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 16; and UNSDCF outcome 1 2 and 4.

Output 2: Identified vulnerable groups in Liberia are benefiting from social protection, education and essential services

Expected Result 2.1: Scale up and expand resilient and pro-poor social protection systems

Expected Result 2.2: Maintain essential food and nutrition services

Expected Result 2.3 Ensure Continuity and quality of water and sanitation services

Expected Result 2.4: Secure sustained learning for all children, and adolescents, preferably in schools through building a resilient and stronger education system prior to COVID-19: "Building back better"

Expected Result 2.5: Support the continuity of social services and access to shelters

The output 2 is linked to Strategic Priority 2 - Protecting people: Social protection and basic service, contributing to the SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG3, SDG4, SDG 5, SSDG6, SDG7, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 16; and UNSDCF outcome 1, and 4.

Output 3: Ensured protection of jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and vulnerable workers in the informal economy through targeted policy, technical assistance and support

Expected Result 3.1: Integrated, country-specific policy advice and programme support

Expected Result 3.2: Scaling-up employment intensive programming

Expected Result 3.3: Support to young people and social partners in entrepreneurship and social innovation in response to COVID-19

Expected Result 3.4: Rapid and gender-responsive socio-economic assessments and labour market and business environment diagnostics

Expected Result 3.4: Advice on nature-based solutions for development, including for SMEs

Expected Result 3.5: Business linkages support

Expected Result 3.6: Investments to improve productivity and working conditions in micro and small firms

Expected Result 3.9: Technical support to women micro and small entrepreneurs

Expected Result 3.10: Digital payments support

Expected Result 3.11: Assistance to address trade challenges and facilitating trade flows

Expected Result 3.12: E-commerce and digital solutions to allow secure access to services needed at the time of crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups

The output 3 is linked to Strategic Priority 3 - Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, informal sector, contributing to the SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG14, SDG 15; and UNSDCF outcome 1, 2 and 4.

Output 4: Analytical advisory and technical assistance services provided to the Government of Liberia for evidence-based policy making and better social expenditure

Expected Result 4.1: Statistical data capacity, Analytical, advisory and technical assistance services

Expected Result 4.2: Advice on social expenditure monitoring and mapping of budgets for social development priorities to assist governments in rebalancing public expenditures

Expected Result 4.3: Conduct of comprehensive impact assessments at the household level, and to undertake context-specific socio-economic impact analyses of the crisis

The output 4 is linked to Strategic Priority 4 - Facilitating macroeconomic response & multilateral collaboration, contributing to the SDG 8, SDG 16, SDG 17; and UNSDCF outcome 1 and 4.

Output 5: Enhanced social cohesion through the promotion of inclusive social dialogue, community resilience and governance, grounded on human rights

Expected Result 5.1: Inclusive social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement

Expected Result 5.2: Empower community resilience, participation, and equitable service delivery

Expected Result 5.3: Support to governance, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law

The output 5 is linked to Strategic Priority 5 - Supporting social cohesion and community resilience, contributing to the SSDG 4, SDG 5, DG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 16; and UNSDCF outcome 3.

VI. Assessment

Liberia has enormous data gaps and challenges in terms of use of data and analysis. There is limited gender disaggregated data that hinders targeted gender equality response. UN agencies and other development partners are conducting thematic assessments to deepen understanding of impacts in specific areas. UNDP has undertaken a Rapid Assessment and Roadmap of COVID Impacts and Implications in Liberia. UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA and OHCHR joint assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children, women and their communities. These rapid assessments efforts are also expected to establish systematic data collection to monitor impacts of policy responses and recovery programmes in support of the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS).

The UN in Liberia represented by UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, and OHCHR, have collaborated with the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Projection (MGCSP) and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to conduct a joint assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children, women and their communities. The first round of the assessment is expected to be conducted in the last week of September. The people and communities that will be covered by the planned assessment is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its central promise to 'leave no one behind'. This proposed joint assessment is aligned with the new UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. Efforts are ongoing to further strengthen statistical capacity for SDGs monitoring, and the development of data hub for COVID19 and other vital development information in support of evidence policies. The successful conduct of the labor force, DHS, and plans for the upcoming census will strengthen Liberia's statistical capacity. However, there is a need to support research and policy analysis institutions to make data more usable and appropriate for policy.

VII Support of the United Nations, Technical Financial Partners and National Community

The United Nations in Liberia through the UN Country Team will provide advisory, technical and financial support to the Government of Liberia's Response and Recovery Plan. This includes supporting national assessments in critical multi – sectoral areas that have been severely impacted by the COVID- 19 pandemic. The UNCT will repurpose their current budgets and adjust them to invest them in critical transformative socio-economic interventions that will Build Back Better and ensure that the most vulnerable populations particularly women, girls, youth, persons living with disabilities through targeted populations. This will be in consultation



with the Government and the contributing partners.

In collaboration with the IFIs, the Private Sector, INGOs, CSOs and Research think tanks and academia, the UN will support policy advocacy on urgent macroeconomic measures; debt stress relief and increase in fiscal space; effective programme design and delivery and planning targeting the most vulnerable severely impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The United Nations through the leadership of the Resident Coordinator will leverage on resources from the Secretary-General's new COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Peace Building Fund, the IFIs in Liberia (World Bank, IFC, African Development Bank) the European Union, bi-lateral including Sweden, United Kingdom, European Union, Government of Norway, Germany. They will also use the Joint SDG Fund Trust Fund, and other windows to mobilise resources in support of the Socio-Economic Recovery and the UNSDCF in Liberia for the medium and long term. Existing funding windows through the Spotlight Initiative will provide complementary programmed resources for addressing critical socio-economic areas.

VIII. Convergence with Liberia's National Response Coordination Mechanisms

Containing the COVID-19 pandemic in Liberia has been through a well-coordinated multi-sectoral response led by the Government of Liberia and supported by the United Nations in Liberia, Development Partners, the IFIs, African Development Bank, International NGOs, CSOs and the Private Sector. This will continue for the Socio-Economic Recovery. This will be coordinated through multi-sectoral, national and sub-national platforms to ensure that **Liberia Builds Back Better**.

The UN Liberia COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (UNLSERP) is the UN's response and collective offer if it supports the Government of Liberia's Response Strategy. It is aligned to the national recovery plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and the SSDGs. The UN Liberia SERP will be under the overall leadership and accountability of the UN Resident Coordinator, collaboration with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and guided by the mandates and comparative advantages of individual Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs).

The UN will collaborate at the highest level, through the Resident Coordinator with the Special Presidential Advisory Committee on COVID-19 (SPACOC), established and chaired by His Excellency the President of the Government of Liberia. The SPACOC is composed of Government Ministries, Agencies the United Nations, and the World Bank bilateral partners, and will provide the overall policy, strategic, and political direction for the Response and Recovery.

The COVID-19 National Response Coordinator, appointed by the His Excellency the President of the Government of Liberia, leads the Executive Committee on Coronavirus (ECOC) and will coordinate the Liberia COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Response Plan, in partnership with the UN, Development Partners, the Ministry of Health and National Public Health Institute of Liberia and Line Ministries

The UN in Liberia is aligned to the both the National Coordination Pillars, the PAPD and the UNSDCF Pillars, and in collaboration with the Line Ministries, Agencies and Commissions, and the Sub-National Administration, will continue to provide support through these vehicles including the UNSDCF Liberia governance mechanism and structures to ensure comprehensive and coherent support at all levels.



IX. Five Strategic Pillars



Countries need to make difficult decisions to balance the demands of responding directly to COVID-19, while simultaneously maintaining essential health service delivery, mitigating the risk of system collapse. The UNDS is there to support Governments in making these difficult choices. Establishing effective patient flow (including screening, triage, and targeted referral of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 cases) is essential, for example.

Countries with the weakest health systems have the narrowest room to maneuver. **At least half of the world still does not have full coverage of essential health services** and about 100 million people are still being pushed into extreme poverty because of health costs.

Faced with these choices, the UNDS will promote a two-phase strategy. First, targeted actions to allow countries to **maintain essential lifesaving health services** even as they surge to meet the spike in demand for acute care. Second, a complementary effort targeting **health systems recovery, preparedness and strengthening** with a focus on primary health care and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and preparedness for future waves of COVID-19.

A. Pillar 1. Health First: Protecting Health Systems and Services during the Crisis

A response to support and reinforce health systems' resilience

COVID-19 further compounds pre-existing health vulnerabilities exacerbated by supply constraints (incl. health sector's salaries, assets and medicines) and demand constraints (incl. ability to invest resources towards a healthy life). These constraints are complemented by stigmatization and fear to seek treatments at health centres given the increased chances of catching the virus or being transferred to isolation centres.

To overcome such challenges, it is of the essence to support the Government of Liberia in its strive to strengthen the health system not only to identify, manage and rapidly treat cases, but also boost preventive actions through awareness raising campaigns envisaged to induce compliance with basic hygiene rules, washing hands and wearing masks to finally decontaminate affected areas.

In this regard, the United Nations foresees two main objectives: (1) provide analysis and policy support, as well as rapid technical counselling to support the Government of Liberia in applying a holistic and concerted approach in its response built upon a multi-sectoral coordination for health systems recovery, preparedness and strengthening; (2) support to maintaining essential life-saving health services (including early detection of suspected cases; lab confirmation of suspected cases and resulting treatment; contact tracing; community-level preventive control measures; cases containment; awareness raising and risk communication).

Expected Result 1.1. Essential life-saving health services supported

Expected Result 1.2 Support to health systems recovery, preparedness and strengthening

B. Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

Urgent interventions to protect people and safeguard access to basic services

COVID-19 constitutes a severe constraint for the peoples of Liberia, who are already faced with job insecurity, low income, fragility, multifaceted inequalities and food insecurity. The economic contraction resulting from the containment measures applied to curb the spread of the virus throughout the country may lead to severe job losses, especially for the informal sector, menacing sustained peace efforts to date.

To overcome uncertainties and mitigate those social risks that are embedded within the pandemic itself, it is pivotal for social protection mechanisms to be in place to ensure continuity of access to basic services. To do so, strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus would allow for urgent immediate responses to enable recovery efforts in the medium to long term. As such, this pillar would focus on pursuing, adapting, extending and intensifying services to build back better by: (1) scaling up and expanding resilient and pro-poor social protection systems; (2) maintaining essential food and nutrition services; (3) ensuring continuity and quality of water and sanitation services; (4) securing sustained learning for all children and adolescents, preferably in schools by building a resilient and stronger education system; (5) supporting the continuity of social services and access to shelters.

Expected Result 2.1: Scale up and expand resilient and pro-poor social protection systems

Expected Result 2.2: Maintain essential food and nutrition services

Expected Result 2.3 Ensure Continuity and quality of water and sanitation services

Expected Result 2.4: Secure sustained learning for all children, and adolescents, preferably in schools through building a resilient and stronger education system prior to COVID-19: "Building back better"

Expected Result 2.5: Support the continuity of social services and access to shelters for vulnerable groups

C. Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers

Actions to protect jobs, SMEs and informal sector and boost research, innovation and entrepreneurship

COVID-19 has gradually evolved from a health crisis to an economic shock negatively impacting the labour market. M-SMEs and the informal sector are most affected by the pandemic menacing productivity, market access and loss of income. Such conditions necessitate for the UN to support the Government of Liberia in promoting economic stimulus for those businesses most affected by the pandemic, whilst building the basis for increased social dialogue and institutional reforms to protect jobs, M-SMEs and workers in the informal sector. To do so, the UN will focus on achieving three main objectives: (1) support businesses, including the informal economy, for a safe continuation of economic activities, whilst boosting job opportunities for all, especially youth and women; (2) preserve jobs in the formal and informal sectors through economic empowerment, especially for women and youth, by strengthening their resilience to natural and economic shocks; (3) promote and support dialogue for institutional reforms and sustainable and innovative policies and solutions.

Expected Result 3.1: Provide integrated and gender responsive country-specific policy advice and programme support

Expected Result 3.2: Scaling-up employment intensive and inclusive programming

Expected Result 3.3: Support to young people, women and social partners in entrepreneurship and social innovation in response to COVID-19

Expected Result 3.4: Support on strategies to green fiscal stimulus packages

Expected Result 3.5: Rapid and gender-responsive socio-economic assessments and labour market and business environment diagnostics

Expected Result 3.6: Advice on nature-based solutions for development, including for SMEs

Expected Result 3.7: Business linkages support

Expected Result 3.8: Investments to improve productivity and working conditions in micro and small firms

Expected Result 3.9: Technical support to women micro and small entrepreneurs

Expected Result 3.10: Digital payments support

Expected Result 3.11: Assistance to address trade challenges and facilitating trade flows

Expected Result 3.12: E-commerce and digital solutions to allow secure access to services needed at the time of crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups

Expected Results 3.13. Promoted access to information, productive assets financial services and markets for rural

D. Pillar 4: Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration

Concerted efforts to boost inclusive economic recovery

The pandemic has brought about significant macroeconomic and budgetary repercussions, leading to a significant deterioration in macroeconomic accounts, disruptions of trade across communities, whilst destabilising external and financial stability. In this context, (1) providing analysis, advice and technical assistance on macroeconomic issues; (2) supporting the process of controlling and rationalising expenditure budget for alignment with socio-economic development priorities; and (3) conducting socio-economic impact analyses to further strengthen the development of response policies are key value propositions that the UN will offer in support of Government of Liberia's efforts to overcome the crisis.

Expected Result 4.1: Analytical, advisory and technical assistance services

Expected Result 4.2: Stepped-up technical support to member states to improve the evidence base for inclusive

policy making, including in the emergency response

Expected Result 4.3: Advice on social expenditure monitoring and mapping of budgets for social development priorities to assist governments in rebalancing public expenditures

Expected Result 4.4: Conduct of comprehensive impact assessments at the household level, and to undertake context-specific socio-economic impact analyses of the crisis

E. Pillar 5. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

Immediate short-term interventions to sustain citizens' trust and safeguard social cohesion

Public trust over reacting measures enacted by the Government of Liberia is a must for an effective response to COVID-19, especially given its unexpected nature that led to uncertainty across the peoples of Liberia. Public information and awareness raising play an enabling role towards strengthening social cohesion. In parallel, stronger governance at county and district levels, as well as evidence-based strategies targeting the most vulnerable socio-economic groups are essential enablers towards building back better and strengthening community resilience. Accordingly, the UN will focus its support towards achieving three main objectives: (1) strengthen inclusive social dialogue, advocacy and political communities; (2) strengthen community resilience, equal participation and access to public services; and (3) support governance, including fundamental rights and the rule of law.

Expected Result 5.1: Inclusive social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement

Expected Result 5.2: Empower community resilience, participation, and equitable service delivery

Expected Result 5.3: Supported governance, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law

Expected Result 5.4. Enhanced women's participation in politics, emergency response and security sector

Expected Result 5.5. Local Peace infrastructure and CSOs are strengthened to prevent and address conflict, sustain peace and enhance social cohesion in a more effective and inclusive manner.

X. Delivering the Response

As mentioned earlier, as an immediate support offer, the United Nations in Liberia has developed this Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan, with an 18 months horizon (September 2020- March 2022) based upon the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

The aim of this response and recovery plan is to anchor, as soon as possible, the socio-economic response to COVID-19 firmly within the national COVID-19 response and long-term development plans. As such, this Plan will support and remain fully cognisant of and aligned to the following existing frameworks and plans:

- The National COVID-19 Response Plan
- The Global World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan;
- Liberia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020
- UN Liberia Socio Economic Recovery Plan
- The Government Development Plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023);
- Findings of the Agenda 2030 Voluntary National Review;
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024
- The Sustainable Development Goals

The response and recovery plan will be a living document and will be updated on the basis of ongoing assessments. The joint programme portfolio that this Response and Recovery Plan supports will be further developed based on the last and most up to date assessment data and government priorities.

Further this plan will be implemented under the following approaches/strategies:

- A **coordinated approach** which aims to generate synergy, avoid duplication, fragmentation; thereby increasing transparency and efficacy. This will also address cost effective transactions that will be minimized to the extent possible, by using existing platforms, capacities, institutions and systems that will beef up the local economy. Coherence and discipline must be everyone's focus, by working with and through collective initiatives and frameworks, including when it comes to resource mobilization, sharing responsibility and upholding high degree of integrity at all levels.
- Gender sensitivity and mainstreaming approach means the plan will take into consideration the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment and Gender will be mainstreamed in its implementation. The UN inter-agency, Gender Thematic Group (chaired by UN Women) and participated by the gender focal points of UN agencies will provide the necessary technical support to both Government institutions and UN Agencies to ensure that women, girls and vulnerable groups benefit and participate in the implementation of this plan.



XI. Communications

The communication envisages the use of different available joint approaches to reach the specified objective under the Government of Liberia Response plan which will target groups so that no-one is left behind, which implies that the information dissemination will be easy to read and easy to understand in order to get the buy-in and support of the beneficiaries in far to reach communities and counties. Since this is a UN in Liberia Response and Recovery Plan, the ONE UN approach to support the country to recover from the crisis will be mentioned during all communication relating to this intervention, with the technical support and oversight from the UN Communications Group. UN agencies will collaborate to implement joint activities and will ensure the communication around the activities implemented/ results reached and visibility of all partners involved in line with their own guideline taking into consideration the ONE UN approach mentioned earlier.

XII. Resource Mobilization and Coordination

A total of **US\$ 191, 926, 087.1** is required to implement this One UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan over the next 18 months. Participating agencies - FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO shall contribute according to the budget in Table 1 below. This Plan for Liberia is a pledge of the existing available resources and additional resources to be mobilised by individual agencies and the UN Country Team. Under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN

Agencies Funds and Programmes will be responsible for mobilizing additional resources to bridge the financial gap to enable the implementation of proposed interventions and actions. The breakdown of the cost allocation in the budget is found in Annex I.

XIII. M&E Framework

The COVID-19 pandemic has many human rights implications for civil, economic, political, social and cultural rights. The responses to the pandemic need to be consistent with international human rights standards and address key human rights concerns. The SERP Monitoring framework will draw from the Annex 1: 10 key indicators for monitoring human rights implications of COVID-19 of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response To COVID-19. The complementary indicators as suggested in the framework will be considered to further support the operationalization of the indicators or more comprehensive measurement, depending on available capacity. Special efforts will be made to disaggregate relevant indicators by sex, age, disability, national origin, nationality, migratory status, race/ ethnicity, income, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Due to the unpredictability of the pandemic, the approach to monitoring for the purpose of the One UN Plan will entail both the monitoring of the progression of the situation and needs of the country, and the integrated implementation of the response plan itself ensuring marginalized groups are not left behind. The individual agencies will work with Resident Coordinators Office (RCO) in monitoring this Response Plan which the RCO will

yield its support from the UN M&E Group. The M&E framework is structured in three components comprising:

- 1. Situation monitoring:** The situation monitoring will capture how the pandemic is evolving (either expanding or contracting) in the country both at national and subnational level. The sex and age disaggregated data collected by the M/E experts will inform how the pandemic is impacting the immediate needs of the people of Liberia.
- 2. Response monitoring:** The response monitoring will capture the achievements of the UN collective response as well as the effectiveness of preparedness actions to respond to any new occurrences on new cases.
- 3. Learning and Evaluation:** The technical team will ensure documentation throughout the process; from the initiation, design, implementation reporting to ensure lessons are learnt and inform adjustments where necessary. The Response Plan also envisages one technical review after three months of implementation and end of response comprehensive evaluation.

Acknowledging mobility and access constraints, efforts will be made to disaggregate relevant indicators by sex, age, disability and, when appropriate, by other vulnerability and diversity characteristics such as status of displacement. In view of the mobility and interpersonal contact restrictions, creative monitoring approaches will be applied, including remote monitoring through phone calls to key informants and households, and third-party monitoring. Monitoring will be attached to real-time learning that enables immediate action and further improvements of the response.

The M&E plan will be in line with the Results Framework and will be collectively developed and endorsed by the respective participating agencies and RCO. Data from the monitoring processes will be used to update the Integrated UN Response Plan on a regular basis. The monitoring and reporting will be done by a technical team with membership from agencies and RCO.

XIV. Annexes



Pillar 1: Health First: Protecting Health Systems and Services during the Crisis					
National Development Priorities or goals -- Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD):ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR ALL--Improving wellbeing for all through intensifying the collaboration with private for profit and nonprofit providers					
DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME: By 2023, the population will experience increased access and improved system delivery of quality healthcare and reduced overall morbidity and mortality with special focus on malaria, major RMNCAH outcomes, disease surveillance, and more effective health financing; improved access to safe drinking water and toilet/latrine facility					
Liberia UNCDF 2020-2024 outcomes: Outcome 1: 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.					
Indicator: Maternal Mortality Ratio. Baseline: 1,072/100,000, Target: 804/100,000, Contraceptive Prevalence Rate: Baseline: 19; Target: 33					
Outcome/Pillar					
SDGs 3, 5,					
United Nations Partners:					
Expected Result 1.1. Support to maintaining essential life-saving health services					
Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Enhance the capacity of MoH to deliver life-saving programmes including COVID-19 testing through the supply of medical and non-medical equipment	2020 - 2021	\$ 2,400,222.00	\$1,000,222	Ministry of Health	UNOPS and WHO
Strengthened health systems and capacity for improved access to quality health service delivery to the most vulnerable population (children and women)	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$2,250,000	Ministry of Health, CHTs of 5 SE counties of Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Grand Kru, River Gee, and Monsterrado and Margibi counties	UNICEF
Support training of skilled birth attendants and social workers in Universal precaution and MISP/SRHR to protect them provide quality care (SRHR/SGBV services including ANC, Delivery, HCT, Fistula and CMR, Psychosocial support) to enhance capacities on infection prevention, and control in all facilities (including health facilities in all counties and districts) and ensure uninterrupted provision integrated package of life-saving Sexual, reproductive health and rights and SGBV services (EmONC, ANC, Delivery, FP, HCT, eMTCT, Fistula Management, Adolescent Health Services	18 months	\$ 1,130,000.00		MOH/CHTs, MGCSP, MOE	UNFPA
Provide high-quality, people-centred health services, based on primary health care strategies and comprehensive essential service packages	September 2020 - August 2021 (Short to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 825,000.00	135,000	MOH	WHO

Strengthen their health systems to implement condition- and disease-specific programmes	September 2020 - August 2021 (Short to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 805,000.00	110,000	MOH/MOF	WHO
Improve access to essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and devices for primary health care	September 2020 - August 2021 (Short to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 1,350,000.00	250,000	MOH	WHO
Strengthen their health systems to address population-specific health needs and barriers to equity across the life course)	September 2020 - August 2021 (Short to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 790,000.00	163,500	MOH	WHO
Provide ICT assets and services to critical containment and response sites/facilities to ensure internet connectivity, data processing and operational communication (including via email, etc.). - Providing IT support to the IMS with video conferencing setup	September 2020 - December 2020	\$ 120,695.00		MOH/NPHIL	WFP
Provide solar electric power for selected live saving health services at surgical theater, labs maternity and neonatal intensive care unit	Short term	\$ 200,000.00		MOH	UNDP
TOTAL		\$ 10,120,917.00	\$3,908,722		

Expected Result 1.2 Support to health systems recovery, preparedness and strengthening

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Ensure the availability of adequate human resources including skilled birth attendants, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, mental health clinicians, social workers, general community health volunteers, community health assistants to deliver service.	1 year/September 2020- August 2021	\$ 550,000.00		MOH, LBNM, Phebe Para Medical Training Program, Post Medical Training Programme	UNFPA
Procurement and distribution of Reproductive health Kits and commodities drugs, medical supplies and consumables, equipment, diagnostics supplies including reagents	1 year/September 2020- August 2021	\$ 300,000.00		MOH,LBNM	UNFPA
Strengthen POE staff capacity for health related activities, population mobility and health surveillance information and laboratory sample collection etc	September 2020 - April 2021	\$ 520,000.00		MoH, LIS, NPHIL	IOM

Improve the resilience of health infrastructure through rehabilitation and construction of new health care facilities resistant to shocks such as COVID-19 to "Build Back Better", including providing renewable solar energy supply under the framework of Building Back Better	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 3,300,000.00		Ministry of Health/ Solar Energy Commission/ Ministry of Public Works	UNOPS
Strengthened capacity of Ministry of Health in real time disease surveillance, logistical management of health supplies and community health management	September 2020- March 2022	\$ 525,000.00		Ministry of Health, NPHIL	UNICEF
emergency preparedness, surveillance and response	September 2020- August 2021 (short term to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 1,910,000.00	290,000	MOH	WHO
Review/develop, implement and monitor key National Health Policies and Plans including guidelines and operational plans	September 2020- August 2021 (short term to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 454,000.00	50,000	MOH	WHO
Policy dilogue for social determinats of health	September 2020- August 2021 (short term to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 165,000.00	20,000	MOH/MOF	WHO
Strengthen health sector coordination at national and sub national levels	September 2020- August 2021 (short term to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 200,000.00	35,000	MOH	WHO
Strengthened country capacity in data and innovation	September 2020- August 2021 (short term to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 800,000.00	120,000	MOH	WHO
Review and implement equitable health financing strategies and reforms to sustain progress towards universal health coverage	September 2020- August 2021 (short term to medium term/6-12 months)	\$ 160,000.00	25,000	MOH/MOF	WHO
Provide technical logistics and supply chain support, transport/warehouse management and construction of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) and/or renovate major storage facilities	September 2020 - December 2021	\$ 3,739,478.00		GSA/MOA	WFP
Support the development of Social Health Insurance Policy Framework	September 2020- May 2021	\$ 50,000.00		MOH	UNDP
Strengthen health system capacity to manage medical wastes, including the use of autoclaves	September 2020- May 2021	\$ 200,000.00		WASH COMMISSION/MOH	UNDP

Provide capacity building support to increase absorptive capacity and accountability in management and implementation of Global Fund supported programmes	September 2020- May 2021	\$ 400,000.00		MOH	UNDP
Support for coordination-including software and tools, resource mobilization and tracking and reporting expertise, accountability and citizens feedback mechanism	September 2020- May 2021	\$ 50,000.00		Ministry of Health/IMS	UNDP
Set up a community-based contact notification network	September-December 2020	\$ 30,000.00		Accountability Lab	UNDP
Promote One Health Approach to address zoonotic diseases	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 1,000,000.00		MOA; MOH	FAO
Total		\$ 24,474,395.00	540,000		

Pillar 2: Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

National Development Priorities or goals -- Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)

Liberia UNCDF 2020-2024 OUTCOME 1.1: By 2024, the most vulnerable and excluded groups have improved quality of life with rights-based, gender sensitive, inclusive, equitable access and

Outcome/Pillar

SDGs 2, 3, 5,

United Nations Partners:

Expected Result 2.1: Scale up and expand resilient and pro-poor social protection systems

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Using Mobile Technology through public-private partnership to enhance community alert of rape prone communities to strengthen SGBV reporting and response	Sep 2020 - March 2022	\$ 250,000.00		MOH, NPHIL,	UNFPA
Implement an integrated package of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for women, girls and disadvantaged youth (Zogos and Zogees) as part of the SGBV prevention, response and continuum of care in effort to reduce stigma, discrimination and trauma associated with rape and other forms of SGBV/HIV/Fistula and drug abuse	Sep 2020 - March 2022	\$ 150,000.00		MOH, MGCSP, MOE	UNFPA

Reactivate existing Support or Strengthen Helpline Hotlines for reporting, and telephone/virtual based psychosocial support for child and women victims/survivors including boys and men, with a multi-disciplinary team of respondents and mobile team (comprised of social workers, WACPs, PSS counsellors etc).	Sep 2020 - March 2022	\$ 145,000.00		MOH, MGCSP, MOE	UNFPA
Provide timely and nutritious school meals to 100,000 children attending school, and provide 4,000 adolescent girls with family take home rations linked to local purchase, to meet their daily nutrition requirements, support school enrolment, attendance and retention, and improve gender parity.	Sep 2020 - March 2022	\$ 13,661,811.00	13,511,811	MOE	WFP
Cash transfers for Key Results for Children (Immunisation, Birth registration, School attendance etc.)	September 2020- March 2022	\$ 2,000,000.00	1,500,000	MOH, MGCSP, MOE,	UNICEF
Scale up opportunities for livelihoods in communities; foster financial inclusion, particularly for women, youth, and the rural poor:	September 2020- March 2022	\$ 1,000,000.00		MGCSP, MOL	ILO
Deliver conditional cash transfers for key results for children and women	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 100,000.00			UN Women
Role out social cash transfer for vulnerable informal sector -women, youth and persons with disability	September - December 2020	\$ 1,500,000.00		MGCSP	UNDP
Support psycho-social and economic support to help vulnerable groups cope with post-pandemic recovery	September - December 2020	\$ 100,000.00		Ministry of Finance & Development Planning	UNDP
TOTAL		\$ 18,906,811.00	15,011,811		

Expected Result 2.2: Maintain essential food and nutrition services

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Provision of direct nutrition interventions for maternal, infant and young children including adolescents girls and nutrition information management system strengthening	September 2020- March 2022	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$2,464,933	MOH	UNICEF
Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE)	September 2020 - June 2021	\$ 1,500,000.00		MoA, MGCSP, MoCI, MoL	UN Women, FAO, WFP
Promote nutrition sensitive agriculture, fisheries, and livestock development	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 2,520,000.00		MOA; NaFAA,	FAO, ILO
Support value chains development	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 1,000,000.00		MOA	FAO
Support the restoration of household livelihoods and contribute to the recovery of rural economic activities	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 6,000,000.00		MOA; MOIA, MoL	FAO, ILO
Provide technical and operational support for prevention and management of acute and chronic malnutrition, including SBCC and nutrition sensitive approaches.	September 2020- March 2022	\$ 2,000,000.00		MOH; MOA; NFAA	WFP

Provide conditional safety nets (in-kind and/or cash-based transfers) in communities with food and nutrition insecurity	October 2020 - May 2021	\$ 6,500,000.00		MOH/MOA	WFP
Strengthen national capacity and provide technical support to insitutionalise and promote ownership of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, at national and sub-national levels	October 2020 - Mar. 2022	\$ 411,015.90		MOH/MOA	WFP
TOTAL		\$ 23,531,015.90	\$2,464,933		

Expected Result 2.3: Ensure continuity and quality of water and sanitation services

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Rehabilitate WASH infrastructure in most vulnerable communities, schools and health facilities.	Oct 2020-- March 2021	\$ 3,000,000.00	2,800,000	WASH Comission, MPW	UNICEF
Build and/or rehabilitate isolation and WASH infrastructures at all official PoEs for a better management of suspected cases	September 2020 - October 2021	\$ 80,000.00		WASH Comission, MoH	IOM
Enhance resilisence in vulnerable, at risk communities (including urban slums) by restoring/rehabilitating dilapidated/contaminated wells and waste water drainage infrastructure to "Build Back Better"	September 2020 - December 2021	\$ 1,913,000.00	\$1,913,000	Monrovia City Corporation / National Disaster Management Agency/ Environmental Protection Agency	UNOPS
TOTAL		\$ 4,993,000.00	\$4,713,000		

Expected Result 2.4: Secure sustained learning for all children, and adolescents, preferably in schools through building a resilient and stronger education system.

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Strengthen the delivery CSE and the National School Health Program to informed decision making by adolescents and youth including those living with disabilities and a	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 375,000.00		MOE, MOH, MGSCP	UNFPA
Prioritize menstrual health and hygiene management, including supplies and age appropriate information for adolescent girls.	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 145,000.00		MOE, MOH, MGSCP	UNFPA
Recovery, re-opening of schools and Education system strengthening	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 1,650,000.00	\$330,000.00	MOE, MOH	UNICEF ,UNESCO
Support the creation of 'safer, healthier and better' learning environment for all children including those with special needs	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 2,700,000.00	500,000	MOE, MOH, MGSCP	UNICEF
Promotion of school enrollment and retention post COVID-19 and beyond	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 400,000.00	\$50,000.00	MOE	UNICEF, UNESCO

Strengthening alternative learning including early learning for children out of school prior to COVID-19 Strengthening alternative learning for children out of school prior to COVID-19	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 3,000,000.00	2,750,000	MOE	UNICEF, UNESCO
Advocacy and awareness-raising campaign to ensure that children and particularly girls are resuming their schooling at the scheduled school reopening.	September 2020 - November 2020	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 94,000.00	Ministry of Education	OHCHR, UNESCO
TOTAL		\$ 8,330,000.00	\$ 3,724,000.00		

Expected Result 2.5: Support the continuity of social services and access to shelters

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Strengthening the 'circle of care' for girls affected by SGBV during COVID-19 and beyond in Liberia	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$2,250,000	MoGCSP, MOJ (SGBV and WACPSs), MOH and MOYS	UNICEF
Institutional strengthening of the social service work force of Liberia to address violence against children	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$1,000,000	MOGCSP, MOJ, MOH, and MOYS	UNICEF
Support and ensure the continuity of services that minimize and address risks and vulnerabilities especially affecting children, including adolescents	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$1,500,000	MOGCSP, MOJ, MOH, and MOYS	UNICEF
Strengthen the capacity of 2 existing safe homes and establish additional 5 to include skills training and economic livelihood to enhance income generation for SGBV survivors	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 950,000.00		MGCS, MOH	UNFPA
Prevention of SGBV and support to victims/survivors of SGBV including legal assistance	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 6,300,000.00	0	MGCS, MOH, MOJ	UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF
Girls Empowering Girls, Mentoring Plus and 'Let us Learn' Programme	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$2,500,000	MOGCSP, MOE, MOJ, MOH, and MOYS	UNICEF
TOTAL		\$ 17,750,000.00	\$7,250,000		

Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers

National Development Priorities or goals -- Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD): YOUTH DEVELOPMENT--Transforming our demographic dividend into a driver for growth and Liberia UNCDF 2020-2024 outcomes

Outcome/Pillar: 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 SDGs 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17

United Nations Partners:

Expected Result 3.1: Integrated, country-specific policy advice and programme support

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
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Provide policy support and organized policy and stakeholder dialogues on agriculture and food security related policies for building back better	September 2020 - Dec 2022	\$ 50,000.00		MOA	FAO
conduct socio-economic impact and needs mapping of vulnerable persons at risk of being left behind for targeting and support	September - December 2020	\$ 60,000.00	0	LISGIS	UNDP
Support Sustainable Plastic Waste Management, reducing the harmful impact of plastic and converting it into a resource	June 2020-May 2021	\$ 200,000.00	150,000	EPA	UNDP
Support Government to prepare and implement its Stabilization and Recovery Plan and review of PAPD, and convene multi-partner recovery partnership and mobilize support for recovery	September - December 2020	\$ 135,000.00	80,000	Ministry of Finance & Development Planning	UNDP
Set up COVID19 data hub and support capacity building for SDGs monitoring in Liberia	June 2020-May 2021	\$ 149,000.00	0	LISGIS/MFDP	UNDP
support Liberia's climate finance consultation, budgeting, monitoring and reporting and national adaptation planning	June 2020-May 2021	\$ 50,000.00	25,000	EPA/MFDP	UNDP
Undertake a rapid survey to identify informal sector workers impacted by COVID 19 their needs/gaps, demographics and location	September - December 2020	\$ 50,000.00	0	LISGIS	UNDP
Provide support for SMEs to recover including micro-grants, low cost loans with preferential payment terms	September - December 2020	\$ 230,000.00	170,000	Ministry of Commerce	UNDP
Promote local content in COVID19 response, including leveraging both Government and UN procurement, formalisation of local informal businesses and stronger private sector engagement	September - December 2020	\$ 75,000.00	50,000	Ministry of Commerce	UNDP
Support Government to prepare and implement its Stabilization and Recovery Plan	September - December 2020	\$ 80,000.00	0	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning	UNDP
TOTAL		\$ 1,079,000.00	475,000		

Expected Result 3.2: Scaling-up employment intensive programming

Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Improve capacities and restore productive assets for smallholder farmers – equitably women and men – and their communities in order to sustainably improve their productivity, resilience and access to local markets as well as linkage to home-grown school feeding	Sep. 2020 - March 2022	\$ 4,553,937.00		MOA	WFP
Scale up opportunities for livelihoods in communities; foster financial inclusion, particularly for women, youth, and the rural poor;	September - December 2020	\$ 500,000.00	100,000	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sport	UNDP, ILO

Support the development of resilient livelihoods for women in small-scale fisheries	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 1,500,000.00		MOA; MGCSP	FAO
		\$ 6,553,937.00	100,000		
Expected Result 3.3: Support to young people and social partners in entrepreneurship and social innovation in response to COVID-19					
Activity	Timeframe	Overall Budget	Budget to Mobilise	Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Employment enhancement programme for at risk adolescent and Youths	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 3,000,000.00	2,500,000	MOGCSP, MOJ, MOH, and MOYS, MOL	UNICEF, ILO
Support socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged youth (Zogos and Zogees) through vocational and economic livelihood and enterpreneurship skills and peace Building training and social safety net and business start-up capatal	September 2020 - March 2022	700.000.00		MYS, MGCSP	UNFPA, ILO
Meaningfully engage young people as active participants of the UN contribution to the COVID-19 response including participation in contact tracing, active case search and data management using mobile technology to ehance SGBV alert and reporting	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 345,000.00		MOH, NPHIL	UNFPA
Support vocational skills training program for youth in Prison/Conflict with the law to ehnhace promote empowerment and economic livelihood	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 250,000.00		Ministry of Justice, MGCSP	UNFPA
Ensure enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains for traditional practitioners to access markets for their products	August 2020 - March 2022	\$ 350,000.00		MoA, MGCSP	ILO, FAO
Support local innovations- including use of locally made face masks in COVID19 response, working with SMEs (Tailors Union), and producers and local soap and Fabric	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00	0	National Respone Committee	UNDP
Engage youth in outreach activities, community engagement, social mobilization, through communication messages, on risk and prevention	September - December 2020	\$ 8,000.00	0	NAYMOTE	UNDP
Conduct socio-economic impact assessment on livelihoods of poor and vulnerable households in affected areas, with the focus on women and youth	September - December 2020	\$ 30,000.00	0	Ministry of Finance & Development Planning	UNDP
Reduce overcrowding in prisons by exploring alternative to imprisonment and strengthening vocational training	September - December 2020	\$ 50,000.00	40,000	Ministry of Justice	UNDP

Provide prevention kits and develop COVID prevention messages for commercial transport operators, in partnership with the Drivers Union and the Musician Union of Liberia)	September - December 2020	\$ 15,000.00	0	National Response Committee	UNDP
Youth in agriculture and agripreneurship	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 1,000,000.00		MoA; MoYS; MOIA	FAO
		\$ 5,058,000.00	2,540,000		
Expected Result 3.4: Rapid and gender-responsive socio-economic assessments and labour market and business environment diagnostics					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Assessment of Socio-Economic Assessment of Covid-19 impact on Children and Women and their Communities	September 2020-March 2022	\$ 300,000.00		MOGCSP, MFD, MOJ, MOH, and MOYS	UNICEF, UNWOMEN,
Conduct gender analysis on impact of COVID-19 on women and	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00	5,000	Ministry of Gender	UNDP
Monitor the impact of COVID on food supply chains	September - December 2020	\$ 32,000.00			FAO
		\$ 342,000.00	5,000		
Expected Result 3.5: Advice on nature-based solutions for development, including for SMEs					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Provide support for alternative Livelihoods for the vulnerable, youth, and women	September - December 2020	\$ 450,000.00	200,000	Ministry of Youth & Sports	UNDP, ILO
Implement measures to facilitate stronger private sector	September - December 2020	\$ 25,000.00	15,000	Ministry of Commerce	UNDP
		\$ 475,000.00	215,000		
Expected Result 3.6: Business linkages support					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Support climate-smart agriculture	by Dec 2022	\$ 3,000,000.00	2,500,000	MoA; EPA	FAO; UNDP
Ensure increased access to market information and improved cooperation among women entrepreneurs for diversifying and promoting their products and services	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 350,000.00		MoA, MGCSP	FAO, ILO
TOTAL		\$ 3,350,000.00	2,500,000		
Expected Result 3.7: Investments to improve productivity and working conditions in micro and small firms					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Stimulate local productivity by extending renewable and sustainable power to rural communities with no access to electricity by constructing solar mini-grids	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 7,500,000.00		Renewable Energy Agency / Ministry of Finance and Development Planning / Ministry of Public Works	UNOPS
Expand access to Finance to (M)SME in Rice Value and Poultry Sectors for Youth and Women Economic Empowerment	January 2021 - March 2022	\$ 200,000.00	170,000	MFD, MOCI, CBL, MOA	UNDP
Support the upgrading of public infrastructure to ensure adequacy of isolation and quarantine facilities.	September - December 2020	\$ 20,000.00	20,000	National Response Committee	UNDP

TOTAL		\$ 7,720,000.00	190,000		
Expected Result 3.8: Technical support to women micro and small entrepreneurs					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Support economic recovery by constructing/rehabilitating market facilities that are gender responsive and meet minimum hygiene standards for the health and safety of marketeers and the communities they serve	2020 - 2023	\$ 3,000,000.00		Monrovia City Corporation/ Ministry of Public Works	UNOPS
Ensure improved access by rural women to sustainable micro finance services to support their engagement in economic activities	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 150,000.00		MGCSP, MoPF	UN Women
Ensure increased incomes and opportunities for decent and productive self-employment for rural women and youth with access to capital markets	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 150,000.00		MGCSP, MOPF	UN Women
		\$ 3,300,000.00			
Expected Result 3.9: Digital payments support					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Ensure increased investments in innovatin and ICTs to unlock the business potential of rural women farmers and financial transactions	october 2020 - march 2022	\$ 100,000.00		MGCSP	UN Women
Support the scaling up digital/contactless payment system in COVID19 response through the roll out of mobile money payment system in the counties.	September - December 2020	\$ 100,000.00		Ministry of Commerce	UNDP
		\$ 200,000.00			
Expected Result 3.10: Assistance to address trade challenges and facilitating trade flows					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
promoting market access and delivery of commodities across closed borders with the initiation of the Trade Across Closed Boundaries	September - December 2020	\$ 25,000.00		Ministry of Commerce and Industry	UNDP
Expected Result 3.11: E-commerce and digital solutions to allow secure access to services needed at the time of crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Connecting women smallholder farmers and cooperatives to information, finance and markets	August 2020 - June 2021	\$ 285,000.00		MoA, MGCSP, CDA	UN Women, ILO
Provide social assistance, social insurance and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups, including high risk youths, and families of confirmed, recovered and dead cases	September - December 2020	\$ 150,000.00		Ministry Youth & Sports	UNDP

Continue support to High Risk Youths, and assist persons with disabilities, the non-working elderly especially in the slum communities with food and non-food items during and after the quarantine measures	September - December 2020	\$ 300,000.00		Minsistry of Youth & Sports	UNDP
Ensure value chains, food systems and agri-trade is alive	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 3,187,000.00		MOA; MOCI	FAO
Support responsible agricultural investment	September 2020 - March 2022	\$ 1,000,000.00		MOA; MOCI	FAO
procure and distribute of basic survival items to vulnerable citizens and groups- disadvantaged youth, People Living with Disability, and the elderly.	September - December 2020	\$ 250,000.00		Ministry of Gender	UNDP
Total		\$ 32,274,937.00			

Pillar 4: Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration

National Development Priorities or goals -- Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)

Liberia UNCDF 2020-2024 outcomes

Outcome/Pillar

SDGs

United Nations Partners:

Expected Result 4.1: Analytical, advisory and technical assistance services

Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Support the Government to monitor food security and conduct market assessments using innovative tools (incl. remote data collections)	September 2020 - December 2021	\$ 959,037.10		LISGIS, NFAA, MOA	WFP
Technical Assistance for the development of Innovative Financing Strategies for Health and Economic Infrastructure Investments	September 2020 - December 2021	\$ 250,000.00		Ministry of Finance and Development Planning/ Ministry of Health/ Ministry of Public Works	UNOPS
Conduct feasibility Studies on the adaptation of emergency community area based development model in 35 selected poor communities	September - December 2020	\$ 210,000.00		MFDP	UNDP
Conduct analyses to support expansion of the fiscal space	September - December 2020	\$ 30,000.00		Ministry of Finance and Development Planning	UNDP
Support the Government of Liberia to enhance efficiency and mainstream sustainability into public procurement practices by undertaking a procurement efficiency assessment and developing a capacity building roadmap	September 2020 - December 2021	\$ 250,000.00		Ministry of Finance and Development Planning/ Public Procurement and Concessions Commission	UNOPS
TOTAL		\$ 1,699,037.10			

Expected Result 4.2: Advice on social expenditure monitoring and mapping of budgets for social development priorities to assist governments in rebalancing public expenditures

Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Fiscal Space Analysis for essential services for Children	October 2020-March 2022	1,200,00	120,000.00	MFDP, MOGCSP, MOE, MOH,	UNICEF

Conduct a Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) analysis for monitoring of national budgetary resources allocated and as an advocacy tool for ensuring that the post recovery effort strongly takes into account the needs of women and girls	August 2020 - July 2021	\$ 30,000.00		MFDP	UN Women
		\$ 30,000.00	120,000		
Expected Result 4.3: Conduct of comprehensive impact assessments at the household level, and to undertake context-specific socio-economic impact analyses of the crisis					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Support Rapid Socio-economic assessment and Roadmap of COVID19 impact and implications in Liberia	September - December 2020	\$ 45,000.00		MFDP	UNDP/UNWOM
Assess the social and economic impact of COVID on agriculture, food security and livelihoods	September - December 2020	\$ 70,000.00		MoA; NAFAA; NaFAA;	FAO
Total		\$ 1,844,037.10			
Pillar 5. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience					
National Development Priorities or goals -- Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)					
Liberia UNCDF 2020-2024 outcomes					
Outcome/PillarOutcome 3: 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: 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.					
SDGs					
United Nations Partners:					
Expected Result 5.1: Inclusive social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency
Forge Strategic partnership with Media and CSOs to promote messaging and enliven dialogue on the COVID19 situation, stigma, misinformation rumours and other biases	September - December 2020	\$ 50,000.00		ALICOR	UNDP
Support secure land tenure and governance	September 2020 -- March 2022	\$ 500,000.00		MOA; MOIA; LLA	FAO
Develop specific COVID19 messages for Commercial Transport operators in partnership with leaderships of the taxi, motorcyclist, Keke associations.	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00		NAYMOTE	UNDP
TOTAL		\$ 560,000.00			
Expected Result 5.2: Empower community resilience, participation, and equitable service delivery					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency

Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms	August 2020-March 2022	\$ 2,000,000.00		Liberian Land Authority (LLA) Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Peacebuilding Office (PBO) National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) Office of the legal advisor to the President (OLA) Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), National Center for the Coordination of Response Mechanisms (NCCRM)	UN Women, WFP, UNDP
Support community-based surveillance in 40 bordering communities with Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone	April 20 - April 21	\$ 24,000.00	9,600,000	MoH, LIS, NPHIL	IOM
pilot community area based development in selected poor communities	June 2020-May 2021	\$ 500,000.00		MFDP	UNDP
Support County level surveillance activities and case profiling	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00		Ministry of Health	UNDP
Expand border surveillance and cooperation in the Mano River Union region to address cross-border epidemic surveillance and security, as well as cross-border trade	September - December 2020	\$ 15,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Support National Prisons Authorities to develop and implement a contingency response for facilities and inmates.	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Train and Deploy Community Youths and Volunteers to support Community Case finding/Contact tracing efforts	September - December 2020	\$ 50,000.00		Ministry of Health	UNDP
Build capacity at county, district and community levels to strengthen nurturing care and early childhood development	September 2020 - March 2022	2,500,000.00	260,000	MOH, MYS, MGCSP, MOE	WHO
Strengthening community based groups, community influentials (religious, community and traditional leaders) and service providers on C4D (communication for development) planning and implementation to enhance service uptake and demand creation on critical services for women and children	September 2020 -March 2022	\$ 3,500,000.00	2,500,000	MOIA, MOH, MoI, MOGSP, MOYS, MOE and WASH Commission	UNICEF
		\$ 6,109,000.00	12,360,000		
Expected Result 5.3: Support to governance, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law					
Activity	Timeframe	Budget		Government Counterpart	UN Agency

Undergird Government, CSOs, and CBO services, through provision of telecommuting services, including acquisition of Zoom Licenses for Government Ministries, Agencies	September - December 2020	\$ 100,000.00		Ministry of State, Ministry of Labour, Liberia Labour Congress, Liberia Chamber of Commerce	UNDP, ILO
Mobilize police and communities to strengthen contact-tracing and ensuring community safety and the Rule of Law	September - December 2020	\$ 25,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Training and deployment for additional Immigration officers and health workers	September - December 2020	\$ 150,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Strengthen coordination among relevant authorities (Security, health, local and national leadership) in the Mano River Union region	September - December 2020	\$ 15,000.00		Ministries of Justice and Health	UNDP
Integrate community policing in local community structures and provide support in enhancing their work and strengthen Community and Police relations	September - December 2020	\$ 15,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Monitor/assess the human rights condition of inmates to provide the immediate support	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Support Human Rights advocacy and improve access to justice	September - December 2020	\$ 10,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Support community policing to be integrated in community structures/leadership and provide trainings on social cohesion, issues (health and security) that threaten	September - December 2020	\$ 25,000.00		Ministries of Justice and Health	UNDP
Integrate appropriate trainings for national security and health personnel to manage health surveillance and security	September - December 2020	\$ 40,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Reduce overcrowding in prisons by exploring alternative to imprisonment and strengthening vocational training	September - December 2020	\$ 50,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Build capacity of Prison and Security Authorities on COVID-19 prevention	September - December 2020	\$ 15,000.00		Ministry of Justice	UNDP
Support INCHR/CSOs to monitor human rights countrywide and provide early warning as well as early response to human rights violations.	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 220,000.00	\$180,000	Independent National Commission on Human Rights, Ministry of Justice	OHCHR
Support Institutional Capacity of INCHR to act as a key player ensuring human rights-based approach to socio-economic response and recovery.	October 2020 - March 2022	\$ 180,000.00	\$120,000	Independent National Commission on Human Rights	OHCHR
Strengthening the Rule of Law in Liberia: Justice and Security for the Liberian People	October 2020-March 2022	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$9,600,000	Ministry of Justice	UNDP, UN Women,
Line Ministries and institutions, local Government and CSOs have the capacities to allocate financial resources, coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women Peace and Security.	August 2020-December 2021	\$ 500,000.00		Ministry of Justice, MGCSP, Ministry of planning and Finance	UN Women
Legislative Committees, Line Ministries, Security and justice Institutions have the capacity to promote gender equality.	August 2020-December 2021	\$ 500,000.00		Ministry of Defense, LNP, LNFS, MoJ	UN Women
TOTAL		\$ 11,855,000.00	9,900,000		

Expected Result 5.4. Enhanced women's participation in politics, emergency response and security sector					
Advancing the implementation of UNSCRs on WPS through Gender Responsive Budgeting and Innovative financing	August 2020-December 2021	\$ 1,000,000.00		Ministry of Justice, MGCSF, Ministry of planning and Finance	UN Women and OHCHR
Strengthen the capacity of Community Platforms in the 15 Counties to provide additional support to survivors of violence and provide timely referral of SGBV cases at community level to the relevant institutions.	October 2020- July 31 2021	\$ 400,000.00			UN Women
TOTAL		\$ 1,400,000.00			
Expected Result 5.5.local Peace infrastructure and CSOs are strengthened to prevent and address conflict, sustain peace and enhance social cohesion in a more effective and inclusive manner.					
local Peace infrastructure and CSOs are strengthened to prevent and address conflict, sustain peace and enhance social cohesion in a more effective and inclusive manner.	August 2020-December 2021	\$ 300,000.00		National Peace Huts Women of Liberia, MIA (Peace Building Office)	UN Women, ILO
Strengthen institutional capacities in Liberia for ratification, domestication and reporting on International Labour Standards.	August 2020-December 2021		\$ 408,000.00	Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Justice, Parliament, Liberia Labour Congress, Liberia Chamber of Commerce	ILO
Total		\$ 20,632,000.00			
OVERALL TOTAL		\$ 191,926,087.10	65,897,466		