



Table of Contents

Context.....	1
The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit	1
Liberia's SDG Insights by 2023	1
Design Elements of the National Development Plan (NDP)	1
Findings of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)	2
The overall achievement of the SDGs	2
Unfinished Business and Gaps	2
Transformations Needed to Achieve the SDGs	3
Global Commitment to SDG Transformations.....	4
National Commitment to SDG Transformations	4
Transformation Actions that will be delivered by 2027	5
Transformation Action 1.....	5
Transformation Action 2.....	5
Transformation Action 3.....	6
Transformation Actions that will be delivered by 2030	6
Transformation Action 4.....	6
Transformation Action 5.....	6
Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)	11
Resource Limitations.....	11
Intergovernmental Working Group on Financing	11
Implementation of the SDG-Push	11
Looking Ahead.....	12
Annex 1: SDG National Commitments Form.....	14

Context

The world is severely off track at the halfway mark of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹. Liberia is off track as well. The UN Secretary-General, in a letter dated 3 April, urged world leaders to help deliver a 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' at the 2023 SDG Summit (18-19 September). In addition to a Global Political Declaration to be adopted at the High-Level Political Forum, each country is expected to announce national commitments to drive SDG transformation in the years ahead. Towards this end, the Government of Liberia, with support from its Development Partners (DP) has organized a series of consultative meetings to compile and put forward Liberia's commitment. The commitment is informed by, *inter alia*, the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of progress towards the SDG targets, sector reviews, and the Liberia SDG Integrated Insights Analyses.

The UN SDG Summit

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR 2023) will be launched at the summit attended by heads of state and governments and leaders of the business world and civil society. Liberia intends to deploy a high-level delegation. The GSDR builds on the 2019 report providing evidence for decision-making on sustainable development going forward. It originated in The Future We Want² which is the outcome of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development. The GSDR concludes that even though the world is off track, "transformations are possible and inevitable"³ to build resilience and use time and resources judiciously for the planet's well-being, people, environment, and ecosystems. The SDGs will remain out of reach even by 2050 on a business-as-usual pathway. Nevertheless, "strong gains can be delivered" via an ambitious SDG-Push scenario.

Liberia's SDG Insights by 2023

In October 2018, the government launched the second in a series of national development plans (NDP) towards the national Vision 2030. Branded the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), the NDP embraced the principles of "reaching the further first" and "leaving no one behind" of the 2030 Agenda as part of its ambition to reduce poverty by 23 percent in 5 of 6 statistical regions of the country where more than half of the population lived below the international poverty line.

Design Elements of the National Development Plan

Of the 17 SDGs, the government committed to and established targets for 11. The 11 are SD Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnership for the Goals). While the SDGs carried 169 targets and 232 indicators for the 17 goals, the NDP introduced 55 high-level national targets (HLNT) overall. The focus is on attaining regionally disaggregated time-bound High-Level National Targets (HLNT). For Goal 1, Progress on the disaggregated Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) is the key measure of success in "building a stable, resilient, and inclusive nation..." On

¹ UN, Global Sustainable Development Goals Report, special edition

² [Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

³ *Op Cit*

Goal 2, the Human Development Index (HDI), and the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index MPI) are the key measures of progress on lifting “an additional one million Liberians out of absolute poverty...”⁴

Findings of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

The government conducted two participatory VNRs to measure progress on the SDGs in 2020 and 2022. The 2022 VNR concluded that a relatively good picture of progress can be seen in delivering the commitments of the SDGs. However, vulnerability to externalities, following decades of social and economic inequality, was exacerbated by the Ebola Outbreak. The COVID19 pandemic militated against its ability to reach the furthest first as well.

The overall achievement of the SDGs

Liberia ranks 157 out of 166 countries with an SDG index score of 49.9 in the 2023 GSDR. Figure 1 shows that only 20% of the SDG targets have been achieved or are on track to be achieved by 2030. On nearly half of the targets, very limited progress was achieved while for the remaining 30% the situation is worsening. Among the 11 goals to which the government committed, as seen in Figure 2, only one is on the rise, 7 are stagnating, 2 are worsening, and 1 is moderately improving.

Figure 1: Status of SDG Targets
% trend indicators

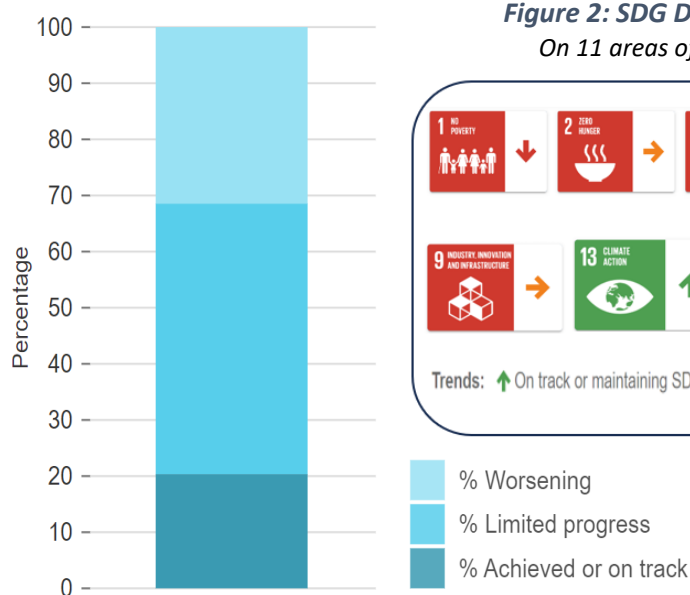


Figure 2: SDG Dashboard and Trends 2023
On 11 areas of government commitment



Unfinished Business and Gaps

About 51.5 percent of the population of Liberia lives below the international poverty line.⁵ Since 2018, the poverty level has remained stubbornly at half of the population with consequential interlinkages to good health and well-being (SDG 3), educational attainment (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), climate action (SDG 13), life on land (SDG15), peace and access to justice (SDG 16). Given Liberia’s high level of vulnerability to the vagaries of the global economy, GDP growth has not been as robust as anticipated in the optimistic scenario of the NDP. Nor can Liberia make progress towards reducing poverty to acceptable levels by 2027, without significant re-prioritization and sustained investment directed at the lower end of the income stream to reduce decades-old

⁴ PAPD Document: [PAPD-Pro-Poor-Agenda-for-Prosperity-and-Development.pdf](https://liberianconsulatega.com/PAPD-Pro-Poor-Agenda-for-Prosperity-and-Development.pdf)
liberianconsulatega.com

⁵ VNR 2022

income inequality. Moreover, the government and civil society need to engage more openly on the true dimensions of pervasive poverty in rural areas and in urban informal settlements so that workable situations can emerge and the needs of the poorest can be addressed. This can only happen if reliable data is available to track progress on the SDGs at the local level and to inform decision-making on prioritization in the fiscal framework. Therefore, the absence of this capacity to gather related data, analyze them, and inform decision-making on strategies and resource allocation is a major gap in Liberia's progress toward the SDG targets.

The leave-no-one-behind principle of the 2030 Agenda, and of Liberia's NDP, has been abandoned in the face of urgent challenges emerging out of the global pandemic response and its adverse impact on economic growth. The absence of deliberate efforts and limited capacity to localize the development agenda⁶ played a role as well. Therefore, inequalities and discrimination by geographic location, gender, social status, and other qualifiers remain largely in place. Localization of the development process to the sub-national level will be important to maintaining long-term initiatives.

Transformations Needed to Achieve the SDGs

In spite of the foregoing, a 10% reduction in poverty by 2027 is certainly in the range of possibilities with a combination of scaled-up investments in social cash transfers (prioritizing vulnerable women and girls in the selection process), labor-based youth employment around informal settlements, and training for technology transfers to small and medium household farming enterprises in the agriculture sector (beginning in the food basket region of Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, and Nimba counties). More investments of this nature will have positive effects on the current situation, create markets for the private sector, and reduce vulnerable employment. Expanding access to digital technology, cellphone-based banking for financial inclusion, and real-time roads and market information for farming households hold tremendous promise to meet the needs of the extremely poor and to draw them into opportunities in the formal economy.

In preparation for the Summit, an Insight Analysis aimed at identifying integrated accelerators for the SDG was commissioned. It found that Liberia's GDP growth trajectory is in acceleration, characterized by being 75% higher on average than the rest of the world. With this pace of growth, the incidence of poverty will reduce but not fast enough to make a significant impact on Liberia's path to the SDGs without a major SDG-Push initiative. Moreover, the carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 7.7% due to increased fossil fuel usage.⁷ Figure 3 shows the likely trajectory of poverty in Liberia with (green line) and without (red line) the SDG Push initiative. The scenario shows poverty can decline to 41% by 2027.

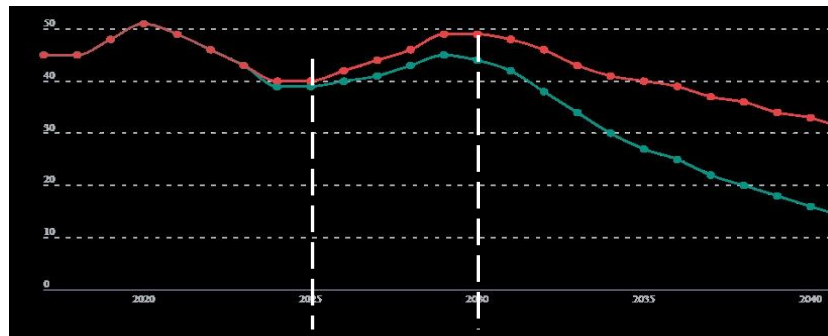
In response to the United Nations Secretary-General's call for national and global commitments to deliver the 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' at the SDG Summit 2023, which will help to drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead, Table 1 is a list of priority investments that the Government of Liberia intends to make to contribute to this effect. The list is in addition to the global commitments of the government headlined below. Therefore, the Government

⁶ Notwithstanding, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its partners have finalized a 10-year Rollout Plan for the Local Government Act (LGA). Implementation of the plan will expand the decentralization of governance and empower local administration to assume more responsibility for local development. Moreover, the MFDP and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) are piloting a Revenue Sharing Scheme (50:50 on real estate tax collected) with several municipalities.

⁷ UNDP, Integrated SDG Insights Report Liberia

of Liberia commits to reducing poverty to 41% by 2027 and to continue the push using accelerating actions towards the SDG Goals by 2030.

Figure 3: Scenarios for Poverty in Liberia



Global Commitment to SDG Transformations

The Government of Liberia recognizes the importance of continuing the global engagement around the ambition of the SDGs. In relation to reaffirming its commitment to accelerating urgent actions on climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, other health-related threats, and economic injustices, the government commits to making specific time-bound commitments at global and regional levels.

These commitments include taking further steps to align global and regional trade policies. In that light, the government commits to the ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, and its domestication, and to ensure that they are oriented toward and further integrated into our national strategy for implementation of the SDGs by 2027.

The Government of Liberia will deliver the commitments made under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The government will also construct framework legislation and forward-looking policies and strategies to harness the potential of climate finance. Efforts will also be made to increase funding for SDG-related research, including the conduct of a comprehensive study on the drivers of inclusive and sustainable development in Liberia, to further deepen innovation on underlying social issues by 2027.

Our commitment to Adolescent Well-being in SDG Priorities in support of the 2023 Global Forum for Adolescents is contained in a separate letter, dated September 5, directed to the UNSG. A copy is herewith attached for reference. In the effort to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) we have submitted our results to form a part of the conversation at the Spotlight Initiative. Our contribution to the High-Level Political Declaration to the Summit has been submitted as well.

National Commitment to SDG Transformations

The Government of Liberia commits to implementing an SDG Stimulus Plan leading up to 2027 by organizing priority interventions around 5 SDG Transformations. The government also commits to continuing the push on all 17 Goals towards 2030.

Building on the SDG-Plus principles, the transformations are 1) aligned with the national development plan and government organizations with the aim of accelerating a few ongoing activities with proven capacity to deliver significant impact on the lives of poor and food insecure households in the shortest possible time, the average household size is 5 persons, 2) interlinked, mutually reinforcing, and inclusive with the capacity to draw more partners and engage a wide range of constituencies and stakeholders to scale up similar interventions, 3) proven systems approach with the capacity to target

directly, reinforce, or enable most of the 11 SDGs to which the government initially committed 4) built on lessons-learned on early interventions deployed during the post-conflict period of the country.

The government used seven-point selection criteria to choose the SDG-Push priority investments with potentially the greatest impact. These include 1) alignment to the PAPD so there is minimal disruption, 2) capacity for quick action and quick impact on the target groups, (3) opportunity for an early startup or expansion of activities, 4) broadly inclusive of people and existing programs falling under the “leave no one behind” principle, 5) realistic in the timeframe to 2027 and extendable to 2023, 6) investments that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timebound, 7) the outcomes can be easily institutionalized and/or drawn into the framework of a success national development plan to the PAPD.

Transformation Actions and pathways can be seen in Table 1. More details on the Actions and pathways can be found in the Annex. The potential population impacted by these investments targeting the poor and food-insecure is significant. In total an estimated 275,000 to half a million people (average household size is 5) living below the international poverty line will be lifted through these Transformation actions.

The Liberia Social Safety Net Projects, which was a precursor to the ongoing Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment (REALISE) project, impacted about 208,500 poor and food-insecure individuals. The Accelerated Community Development Project (ACDP), recently launched by the government, aims to deliver urgent development services and infrastructure to communities “left behind” while involving communities and private providers in the process. The acceleration actions (Transformation Actions 1&2) will reach, between now and 2027, 30,000-40,000 additional poor and vulnerable households, an additional 10,000 youths living in urban informal settlements and vulnerably employed in informal income-generating activities, and at least 30,000 farming households living in rural areas or at the periphery of urban areas (Transformation Action 3).

Transformation Actions that will be delivered by 2027

Transformation Action 1: Implement social protection systems The Actions involve two components. In the first, priority investments will expand into new geographic areas, identify new poor and food-insecure households, draw them into the national social registry information system, and provide social cash transfers with microenterprise training in keeping with efforts to leave no one behind. Investment in women and girls will also be a priority through well-defined categorical targeting processes. About 90% of the workforce in Liberia is engaged in vulnerable employment activities with low net incomes which are prone to shocks and disruptions in their life cycle. These interventions will provide income stability over a period with an exit strategy as the economy improves.

An offshoot of this intervention will be to set the stage for a long-term social security system, built on the national social registry, that can embrace elements of the 4 protections and include the poor. This is the second component. **SDGs directly targeted are Goals 1, and 5. Goals 2, and 3, will be reinforced.**

Transformation Action 2: Invest in the creation of full employment, tackle vulnerable employment, and promote decent work with equal pay. The first component of the investments will expand opportunities through labor-based work-targeting youths in the urban informal settlements and delivering skills training options to improve their business acumen and/or to find more long-term career opportunities and pathways to formality as the economy expands. These interventions will provide income stability over a period with an exit strategy as the economy improves. The second will involve the Acceleration of Community Development Initiatives targeting areas of the country left far behind and drawing private sector actors into the framework to participate in the

delivery of infrastructure and services as subcontractors. **The SDGs directly targeted are Goals 1, 8, 10, 11. Reinforced are Goals 5, 13.**

Transformation Action 3: **Improve food security, climate change mitigation and harness the potential of climate finance.** The priority investments will contribute to more secure food, water, and sanitation systems while rolling out acceleration and mitigation measures identified in the Liberia Nationally Determined Contribution to Climate Change. Slightly more than half a million Liberians (10% of the population)⁸ make their living predominantly in farming activities. Farming household incomes are depressed in part because of high levels of post-harvest losses (amounting to nearly 40% of harvests), low yields due to poor adaptation of new farming technology, and underinvestment. This transformation will significantly scale up Farmer Field School (FFS) activities and engage a wide range of constituencies and stakeholders to expand the intervention.

As a second component, it will also introduce climate acceleration and mitigation strategies into the training activities. Maximum interlinkages to the SDGs are possible. An environment that allows greater involvement of the private sector in adding value (marketing, storage, processing) and the supply chains will be encouraged. Potentially, the transformation will have the greatest long-term effects on the incomes of the poor and food-insecure population. **The SDGS directly targeted are Goals 1, 2, 8, 13, 17. Reinforced are Goals 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 16.**

Transformation Actions that will be delivered by 2030

Transformation Action 4. **Promote Adolescent and Youths Wellbeing:** Recognizing that the wellbeing of adolescents is critical to achieving sustainable development and acknowledging the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach in a coordinated and collaborative manner to address the multiple intersecting factors that impact that population group, the investments will ensure sustainable resources will be provided for the wellbeing of this population group, strengthen the policy and legal environment that ensures their welfare and include in our subsequent development agenda new programs that address their specific needs. **The SDGS directly targeted are Goals 1, 2, 3, 8, 13, 17. Reinforced Goals are 4, 5, 6, 10, 16.**

Transformation Action 5. **Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions to deliver the transformation needed, including evidence based planning, programme and policy development.** . Finally, priority investments will also have to be transformative. The focus will be on strengthening and expanding the capacity of national state institutions and local government entities to collect, process, analyze, and track SDG-related data at the subnational level, a key priority of which is the ongoing study on the drivers of inclusive and sustainable development conduct of periodic surveys. Additional priority focus will be the fulfilment of commitments under the Addis Ababa Declaration for Population and Development, particular, the recommendations of the second report. Therefore, this commitment includes urgently needed priority investments in building capacity to gather national statistics, draw them together into a cogent form, and present them in a way to influence decision-making.⁹ All interventions (policy, program financing) and institutional capacity to support them are linked to statistics/evidence-based planning that are achievable before 2027 and sustained to 2030.

⁸ PAPD, *Op Cit*

⁹ The government is committed to finding resources to implement the Five-Year Strategic Plan for the development of Statistics put forward by the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

While aligning the PAPD to the SDG was a first step, spending priorities and resource allocation are misaligned with the PAPD. The second component of Action 5 has the potential to make SDG achievement a more central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms while aligning the national and subnational budgets and financing (Corporate Social Responsibility payments and County Development Fund allocations) with the SDGs. It will also improve the coordination of programs between spending entities. The most significant transformation in the medium term will be the use of correct evidence to influence prioritization within the national budget, the Public Sector Investment Plan (PSIP), and the corporate social responsibility spending of State-Owned Enterprises (SOE).

Another component of Action 5 involves creating an environment for the active participation of the private sector (see Action 3 as well). Opportunities for private investments in other areas in support of a digital transformation roadmap, toward financial inclusion of the poor and a cash-lite society, will be created. **The SDG directly targeted is Goal 17. All other Goals will be reinforced by Action 5.**

Table 1: Transformations and Priority Investments for Acceleration Actions to Achieve SDGs

Transformation	Principal line ministries involved	SDG Interventions	Outputs	Association with specific Sustainable Development Goals																
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Gender, Children, and Social Protection; Education, Health, Labor, Youth and Sports	Scale up Social Cash Transfers (women and girls prioritized) in regions with high levels of extreme poverty with microenterprise training. (SDG Goal 1Target 1.3)	Improved outcomes for women and girls, interlinked to women and children's health, education outcomes, and vulnerable employment; Basis for a long term national social security system aimed at the poor	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	4	1	4	4	2	4	4	4	4
2	Labor, Youth and Sports, Education	Full employment and decent work with equal pay (SDG Goal 8 Target 8.5)	Acceleration in labor-based work upskilling, and livelihood creation under LACE/ACDP targeting youth, women, and girls in urban informal settlements Accelerated Community Development interventions in areas of the country that are left behind, and inclusion of private sector actors	3	1	1	1	2	1	4	3	4	3	1	4	2	4	2	2	4
3	Environment Protection Agency, Agriculture, Labor	Establish 400 farmer field schools and train at least	Increased income for farming households;	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	3	4	2	4	2	3	4	2	2	4

Transformation	Principal line ministries involved	SDG Interventions	Outputs	Association with specific Sustainable Development Goals																
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		10000 farmers to implement conservation agriculture, soil carbon sequestration methods, and low-emissions livestock systems by 2025 (Linked to Adaptation target); Train at least 3 agricultural extension agents per district yearly to support the implementation of conservation agriculture, soil carbon sequestration, and low-emissions livestock systems by 2025 (Linked to Adaptation target) (SDG 13 Target 13.3)	reduction in post-harvest losses, mitigation of environmental impact, more sustainable farming technology introduced into Liberia's "breadbasket" involving farmers. Private sector actors will be involved in value addition and supply chain development																	
4	Adolescent and youths	adopting a whole-of-government approach in a coordinated and collaborative manner to address the multiple intersecting factors that impact that population group, the investments	The policy and legal environment that ensures the welfare of this population group is included in our subsequent development agenda, comprised of new programs that	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	3

Transformation	Principal line ministries involved	SDG Interventions	Outputs	Association with specific Sustainable Development Goals																
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		will ensure sustainable resources will be provided for the wellbeing of this population group,	address their specific needs.																	
5	MFD, LISGIS, MIA	Roadmap to SDG M&E strengthening-monitoring and tracking progress (SDG Goal 17); technical assistance to align National Budget and PSIP to SDGs (SDG Goals 16,17 Targets)	Effective, accountable, and transparent institutions developed with the technical capacity to mainstream the 2030 agenda into Liberia's planning instruments, policies, and financing frameworks at national and local levels; and inclusion of private sector	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3

Legend

The relationships between each acceleration action and SDG outcomes are described on a 4-point scale: **1s** enable the SDG, **2s** reinforce the SDG, **3s** directly target SDG outcomes, and **4s** do not interact with the SDG.

Note: The 4-point scale was developed and used by a group of 6 people led by Jeffrey D. Sachs of Columbia University NY. The scale has been modified for this document's purpose.

Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)

Resource Limitations

Efforts of the government to raise domestic resources have been successful through the Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy and a strategic alignment with the Common External Tariffs (CET) framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Tax administration has improved and domestic revenue to GDP rose from 13.7% in 2017 to 23% in 2022-exceeding the PAPD target of 17.5%.¹⁰ This growth in domestic resources has been an exception and demonstrates the commitment of the government to closing gaps and exploiting domestic resource-generating opportunities for more sustainable financing of national and subnational development.

Although the current GDP growth trajectory is 75% higher on average than the world, when compared to other Low Income Development Countries (LIDCs), it is based on a relatively small GDP that has experienced periods of growth and reversal since the end of the civil conflict. Gross government debt is now 8.8 percentage points above the average for LIDCs¹¹ consequently. Hence, the challenge of financing acceleration actions to sustain the effort to attain the SDG goals and targets remains and will remain at risk without an SDG Stimulus program. Therefore, the government also commits to deploying an Integrated National Financing Framework for the SDG Acceleration given the need to manage resources more wisely in a constrained fiscal space.

Intergovernmental Working Group on Financing

The government commits to establishing an Intergovernmental Working Group on financing of SDG Acceleration. The IWG will think through the overall picture of costing and financing the SDGs achievement in Liberia to 2027 and then to 2030. The scope and focus of the IWG will be within the acceleration of existing plans, improvement of existing structures and processes, and identification of the additional resources that may be needed. Working in collaboration with the national fiscal authorities, the group will help chart the discrete steps to financing long-term SDG investments based on national priorities going beyond 2027 to 2030. The Working Group will advise on the content and structure of an SDG Stimulus Plan based on the principles of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Post SDG Summit, the government in collaboration with the IWG, will act to complete an assessment and diagnostics as a precursor to developing cost estimates and a financing strategy. The diagnostics will also draw into consideration policy considerations, governance, and coordination arrangements going forward, strategies to mitigate systemic losses due to corruption and malfeasance, and the arrangements for monitoring and periodic performance reviews of the SDG Push investments. The scope of the initial assessment will extend to potential sources of financing, relevant legal and regulatory measures that may need adjustments, and processes relevant to public and private financing.¹² Of particular interest to the government will be the potential to attract private financing for private ventures to enhance the value of farm production and support the rollout of a digital transformation roadmap toward financial inclusion of the poor and the creation of a cash-lite society.

Implementation of the SDG-Push

The government implementation strategy for the SDG-Push acceleration involves an increase in the pace and expansion of coverage of existing social and economic investments. This will minimize the start-up requirements, build on what works well, and provide an early impact on the target groups and

¹⁰ PAPD, SDG Integrated Insights Study

¹¹ IBID

¹² INFFs operationalize the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) in county-specific ways.

regions of the country. Opportunities to improve operational efficiencies will also be identified and exploited.

New pipeline projects that have already been vetted will be rushed to start-up once the financing arrangements have been set into place. Opportunities to expand the scope of those projects will be exploited as well. In areas such as Adolescents and Youth and VWAG, the government commits to conducting a review of legal and policy instruments to domesticate the global commitments.

In addition to attracting urgently needed technical assistance for strengthening institutions managing the statistical systems, the government commits to increasing domestic financing for those institutions as well. Moreover, the period covered by the current national development plan ends in December 2023. The successor framework will be aligned with the SDGs to reflect the commitments to sustaining the effort beyond 2027 towards the Agenda 2030.

The government recognizes the importance of keeping the SDG commitments in sight for the foreseeable future. Therefore, focal points for the SDGs will be designated in each Ministry, Agency, and Commission (MAC) and each of the 15 county administrations. Leadership on each Goal will also be assigned to specific MACs of the government as can be seen in Table 2. Lead institutions will ensure that the conversations at the highest political levels include progress on the SDGs.

Table 2: Lead Institutions for the SDGs

Goal	Description	Lead Institutions
1	No Poverty	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
2	No Hunger	Ministry of Agriculture
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	Ministry of Health
4	Quality Education	Ministry of Education
5	Gender Equality	Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Commission
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Ministry of Mines and Energy
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Ministry of Labor, Civil Service Agency, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Public Works
10	Reduced Inequalities	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Children, & Social Protection
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Ministry of Internal Affairs
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture
13	Climate Change	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Environment Protection Agency
14	Life Below Water	Ministry of Agriculture, National Fisheries & Aquaculture Agency
15	Life on Land	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Development Agency
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Governance Commission
17	Partnerships for the Goals	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Looking Ahead

To sustain this commitment, the government will complete the Drivers of Development (DOD) study in collaboration with development partners. The study will provide a longer-term perspective on

Liberia's growth and development potential and challenges to set the stage for future interventions informed by the study findings. This will ensure the best fit for transformational game-changing investments going forward.

The support of Liberia's traditional partners both in providing technical and financial assistance will be critical. The government will look to both its traditional partners but is keen to embrace non-traditional partners as well to actively participate in the financing and implementation of the transformation actions. The key partners to date for similar actions have been the World Bank, *USAID*, *Sweden*, *European Union*, *African Development Bank*, and *the United Nations System*.

Annex 1: SDG National Commitments Form

In line with the **Guidance Note on National Commitments** Member States are encouraged to present at the SDG Summit forward-looking national commitments to SDG transformation that include

- (i) priority transitions and areas for investment that will help maximize progress across the SDGs;
- (ii) a national benchmark for reducing poverty and inequality by 2027; and
- (iii) steps towards strengthened national planning and institutional frameworks to support progress in these areas. Member States in a position to do so have further been encouraged to put forward time-bound global and regional commitments to strengthen international cooperation and support for developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable countries.

Submission Requirements:

1. **Title of commitment:** Liberia National Commitment to SDG Transformation
2. **Name of submitting Member State or Government:** Republic of Liberia
3. **Please indicate whether your commitment is intended to address SDG Progress at a) national, b) regional or c) global level**

The commitment is intended to address SDG Progress at the national and at global levels.

4. **What are the key priority transitions and areas for investment that this commitment will address? (Bolded selected)**

- a. **Leave no one behind**
- b. **Investing in women and girls**
- c. **Making the digital transformation work for everyone**
- d. **Adopting a life course approach to essential services**
- e. **Tackling the global crisis in education**
- f. **Investing in peace**
- g. **Accelerating access to energy for all and the shift to renewables**
- h. **Securing food, water and sanitation systems**
- i. **Protecting biodiversity and natural resources**
- j. **Preventing and/or reducing disaster risks**
- k. Scaling up and/or fulfilling ODA commitments
- l. Re-channeling Special Drawing Rights

- m. Addressing sovereign debt
- n. Aligning trade policies with the SDGs**
- o. Delivering on climate finance**
- p. Increasing funding for SDG-related research**
- q. Other please specify:

Expanding access to basic social protections including

- access to a nationally defined set of goods and services, constituting essential health care
- basic income security for women and children
- basic income security for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income; and
- basic income security for older people.

5. Please outline briefly the commitment(s) made in the areas outlined above

Commitment	Priority Transitions and Areas of Investment
Ratification and domestication of Africa Continental Free Trade Area	Aligning trade policies to ensure that they are oriented toward and further integrated into our national strategy for implementation of the SDGs by 2027
Nationally Determined Contribution	Protecting biodiversity and natural resources while preventing and/or reducing disaster risks by delivering the commitments made under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
Drivers of Inclusive and Sustainable Development Study	Increasing Funding for SDG-related research
Acceleration Actions for Social Protections through expanded social cash transfers, microenterprise training, and women empowerment for income stability and reduction in food insecurity	Leaving no one behind in the poor and food-insecure communities, investing in women and girls, expanding access to basic social protections, tackling the global crisis in education, investing in peace,
Acceleration Actions to expand labor-based work opportunities-targeting youths in the urban informal settlements and deliver skills training options to improve their business acumen and/or to find more long-term career opportunities and pathways to formality as the economy expands. Accelerating Community Development Initiatives to provide access to basic infrastructure and engage communities and private sector	Leaving no one behind in the poor and food-insecure communities in urban informal settlements, investing in women and girls, accelerating access to energy for all and the shift to renewables while securing food, water, and sanitation systems, and other (see above)
Acceleration Actions to contribute to greater food, water and sanitation systems while rolling out acceleration and mitigation of climate change measures identified in the NDC through a network of 400 to 1,000 Farmer Field Schools established in rural areas.	Leaving no one behind in poor and food-insecure communities in rural areas, investing in women and girls, securing food, water and sanitation, and protecting biodiversity and natural resources.
Acceleration Actions to adopt a whole-of-government approach to address	Leaving no one behind, investing in women and girls, tackling the global crisis in education

multiple intersecting factors that impact adolescents' well-being	
Acceleration Actions to strengthen national institutions and systems for data collections, aligning national planning and budgets with SDGs, and drawing private sector into digital transformation toward inclusion of the poor and creation of a "cash-lite" society	Leaving no one behind, Investing in Women and Girls, making the digital transformation work for everyone, strengthening national institutions

6. Does the commitment include a new national benchmark for reducing poverty and inequality by 2027? If yes, please indicate the benchmark below:

The new national benchmark is to reduce poverty from 51% to 41% by 2027

7. Please explain how national planning and institutional frameworks will be strengthened to support the progress of the commitment:

The focus will be on strengthening and expanding the capacity of national state institutions and local government entities to collect, process, analyze, and track SDG-related data at the subnational level. Therefore, this commitment includes urgently needed priority investments in building capacity to gather national statistics, draw them together into a cogent form, and present them in a way to influence decision-making. All interventions (policy, program financing) and institutional capacity to support them are linked to statistics/evidence-based planning that are achievable before 2027 and sustained to 2030. Furthermore, SDG achievement will become a more central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms while aligning the national and subnational budgets and financing (Corporate Social Responsibility payments and County Development Fund allocations) with the SDGs.

8. Strengthening institutional frameworks: Which of the following, if any do your strengthened institutional frameworks seek to address?

- a) **Making SDG achievement a more central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms**
- b) **Aligning domestic budgets and financing with the SDGs**
- c) Strengthening regulatory frameworks to align private sector governance models, operating principles and disclosure requirements with sustainable development objectives
- d) **Strengthening the capacities of local and subnational governments to advance the SDGs**
- e) **Rejuvenating and strengthening public sector institutions**
- f) **Boosting transparency and access to information**
- g) **Strengthening national statistical systems**

h) Securing country-level data for the SDG targets

i) Increasing domestic financing for data and statistics

j) Other please specify

9. If you have any further information to share, please upload the information here, or provide a link to applicable site or document below

Note: file to upload must be in PDF format, and 20 MB size limit.

10. Additional Information

11. Please provide the full name, title and email address of contact person (Hon. Augustus J. Flomo, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, ajflomo@mfdp.gov.lr)

12. Please provide the official email address of your country's Permanent Mission in New York, for verification purposes(dcm@liberianembassyus.org)

With support from, and in partnership with, the United Nations Country Team in Liberia

