



Republic of Liberia

PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063

September 2021

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1.0. Brief of the country's Socio-economic Status

Liberia is a country located in West Africa, with a population of approximately 4,243,475 as of 2016.¹ Females make up 51.1 percent of the population and male 48.9 percent. About 70 percent of the population was below the age of 35 and nearly half (44.5%) of the population was below the age of 15 years in 2016.

Liberia's economy broke down due to a civil unrest during the 1990s and early 2000s. Since 2003, peace was restored and the country has had three successful democratic elections. The Government of Liberia has had several development plans, ranging from short, medium to long term; 150-Day Action Plan (2006), Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (2007), Full Lift Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2011), and the Agenda for Transformation (2012-2017). Liberia Rising Vision 2030 is the long term plan with a vision of "One People, One Nation United for Peace and Sustainable Development". The development plans from 2006 to 2017 raised Liberia from post-conflict emergency reconstruction and position it for future growth, as well as for Liberians to feel the benefits of peace. The country experienced significant growth and hit 7% growth rate in 2011 and was projected at 9% in 2012 due mainly to the expansion of mining activities. Then came the Ebola Virus Disease that eroded some of the significant gains. There were disruption of production processes across several sectors, household incomes dropped because of substantial loss of jobs and self-employment, economic activities slowed down due to the fear of the outbreak of the Ebola, concession companies suspended investment plans and a number of expatriates were relocated to other countries.

The newly elected government of President George M. Weah came into office in January 2018 and initiated a 150-Day Action Plan that focused on quick win projects for the Government of Liberia. Later in October of 2018, a full developed medium term plan, referred to as the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023) was launched. This plan aims:

1. To build more Capable and trusted state institutions that lead to a stable, resilient, and inclusive nation embracing its triple heritage and anchored on its African identity and
2. To provide greater income security to an additional one million Liberians, and reduce absolute poverty by 23 percent across 5 out of 6 statistical regions

The PAPD is built on four pillars and goals as stated below:

1. Power to the People- with the aim of empowering Liberians with the tools to gain control of their lives; reaching the furthest first and leaving no one behind
2. Economy and Jobs- to have a stable macroeconomic environment enabling private sector-led economic growth, greater competitiveness, and diversification of the economy
3. Sustaining the Peace- to have a more peaceful and unified society that enables economic transformation and sustainable development
4. Governance and transparency- to have an inclusive and accountable public sector for shared prosperity and sustainable development

The PAPD is currently at the midterm of implementation. A midterm review of achievements has been conducted, and the PAPD has been reprogrammed for its remaining years to reflect current realities because of the impact of COVID-19.

¹ LISGIS, OP cit, 2016

2.0. Key strategies for Implementing Agenda 2063

The Government of Liberia decided to implement one plan, thus, the current development plan, the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023) encapsulated critical aspects of the Agenda 2063 and the SDGs 2030 in its domestication process. The alignments were done at the goal, target and indicator levels:

1. The goals of the four pillars of the PAPD were aligned to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the corresponding Agenda 2063 aspirations.
2. The high-level national targets of the PAPD were aligned to the 2030 Agenda and its corresponding SDGs targets and the corresponding Agenda 2063 targets.
3. The National Key Indicators (NKIs) of the PAPD were also aligned to their corresponding SDGs 2030 and Agenda 2063 indicators.

By doing these alignments, when a goal, a target, or an indicator of the PAPD is achieved, its corresponding goal/aspiration, target, or indicator of the SDGs 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 is also expected to be achieved.

3.0. Strategies to Internalize and Mainstream Agenda 2063 into NDPs and other Planning Instruments

Implementation of Agenda 2063 is not a standalone in the context of Liberia. In this light the Government of Liberia has decided to implement Agenda 2063 within the framework of the implementation of the national development plan. Against this background, the internalization and mainstreaming of the Agenda 2063 into the NDP and other planning instrument follows the strategies of the implementation of the NDP which is provided above. Additionally mainstreaming of agenda 2063 can be traced to the results framework of the NDP which aligns the targets of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs to the High Level National Target within the NDP.

4.0. Policy Frameworks, Institutional Mechanisms in Place for Agenda 2063 Implementation

The Government of Liberia has a national implementation and coordination framework that is being used to coordinate, monitor and report on the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), by extension the SDGs 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063.

National Steering Committee (NSC)

There is a National Steering Committee (NSC) which is the apex level coordination and decision-making body. The NSC is chaired by the President of the Republic of Liberia. The NSC is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the PAPD. The membership of the NSC comprises of the Minister of State for presidential Affairs, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Representatives of five key Development Partners, and Champions of the four pillars of the PAPD. The NSC is to hold meetings more frequently, respond more rapidly, and make substantive decisions more easily.

Cabinet

The cabinet is to provide guidance on policies and priorities that may affect the implementation of the PAPD. In collaboration with the Implementation, Coordination and Delivery Unit (ICDU), the cabinet monitors the goals, NKIs, and strategic objectives by assessing PAPD progress periodically, in accordance with the Results Framework. The cabinet facilitates inter-institutional coordination and collaboration to improve participation of various public and private sector actors directly involved in the implementation of the PAPD.

Implementation, Coordination and Delivery Unit (ICDU)

The ICDU serves as the secretariat to the National Steering Committee and the Pillar Working Groups (PWG). ICDU is responsible for the general coordination and monitoring of the PAPD. It provides support to and follow-up with ministries, agencies and commissions, and other key national and international stakeholders to ensure timely implantation of the agreed strategies and activities of the PAPD. The Secretariat works with the National Steering Committee, the cabinet, and the Multi Sectoral Planning Working Group to monitor interventions and ensure compliance with strategic goals of the PAPD. The ICDU works along with Pillar champions to plan and coordinate Pillar Working Group and Technical Working Group meetings. Periodic progress reports and other supporting documentation on the PAPD implementation is the responsibility of the ICDU.

Multi-Sectoral Planning Working Group (MSPWG)

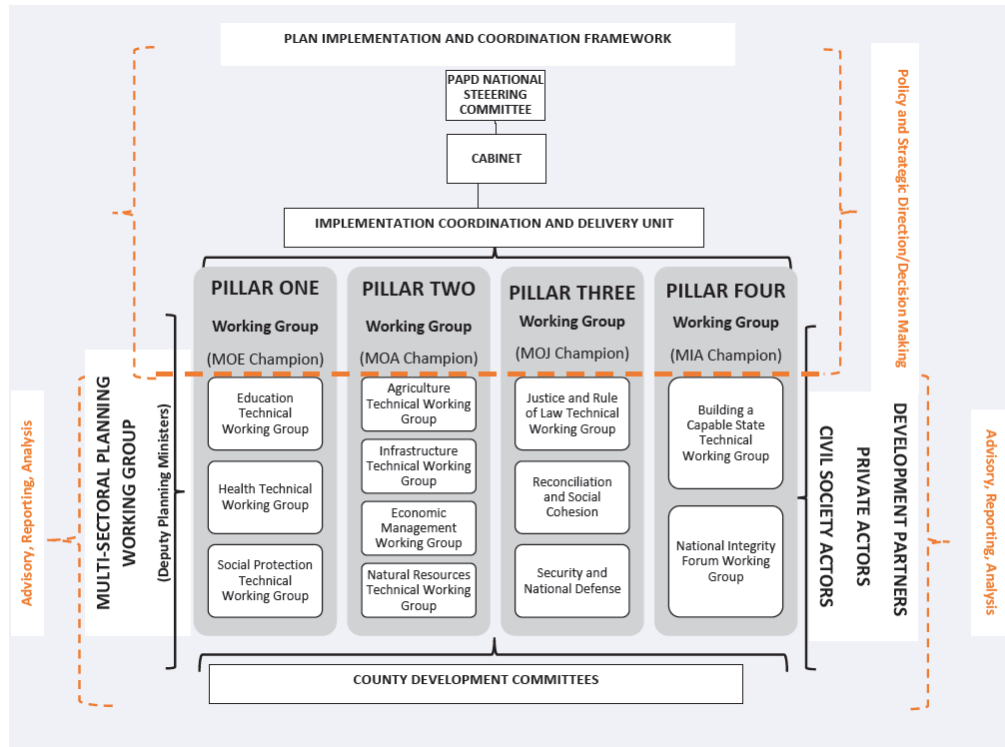
The MSPWG comprises of heads of planning departments of ministries, agencies and commissions and representatives of the County Development Committees. Its function is to review sector plans, strategies, and interventions; identify linkages and synergies; improve coordination and prevent duplication of efforts.

Pillar and Technical Working Groups

Each pillar is led by a Champion, with primary role to convene quarterly meetings to deliberate on progress towards the development outcomes and agree on resource requirements from a multi-sectoral perspective. The membership of the Pillar Working Group comprises of cabinet ministers (or their designates) and others by invitation.

The Technical Working Groups (TWGs) comprises of experts and specialists from ministries, agencies and commissions. They support the pillars. There are 12 TWGs. Their role is to ensure participation of multiple stakeholders to advise public planning, ensure wide-ranging buy-in and disseminate information throughout the implementation of the PAPD. Civil Society Actors, Development Partners, County Development Committee Representatives and Private Actors play advisory role within the TWGs. In close coordination with the ICDU, the TWGG's undertake strategic and operations planning activities, including the development of the strategic plans and financial projections.

Below is a graphic of the Plan Implementation and Coordination Framework



5.0. Country Level Status on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 Goals

Please see attached Progress Reporting Template