



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
COUNTRY REPORT

AADPD+5/ICPD@25

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA

POPULATION POLICY COORDINATION UNIT,
SECRETARIAT OF THE
NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION

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PREFACE

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994. One hundred Seventy-Nine states, including Liberia took part in negotiation to finalize a 20-year program of Action (PoA) on population and development. The ICPD PoA was adopted by acclamation, endorsed a new strategy that emphasized the numerous linkages between population and development focusing on meeting the needs of individual women and men rather than on achieving demographic targets.

Empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services, and promoting skills development and employment were key strategies. The ICPD PoA included goals related to education, especially for girls, and for the further reduction of infant, child, and maternal mortality. It also addressed issues relating to population, the environment and consumption patterns; the family; internal and international migration; prevention and control of the HIV and AIDS pandemic; information, education and communication; and technology, research and development. As part of a broadened approach to reproductive health and rights, the program advocated making family planning universally available by 2015; provided estimates of the levels of national resources and international assistance that would be required; and called on governments to make these resources available.

In 2014, twenty years (20) after the adoption of the Action plan, there was a need to assess the implementation of the action plan. A national Review process was conducted on the ICPD Beyond 2014. Eventually, a comprehensive Country Report which emphasized the need to deliver the most comprehensive evidence base of achievements, gaps and outstanding issues in relation to the implementation of the Action plan was prepared. This year ICPD members countries are required to review progress they have made over the last five years.

AADPD/ICPD @ 25 national Review report is expected to enable Member States evaluate the extent to which they have fulfilled the commitments reflected in the AADPD over the past five years, by providing data on an agreed set of indicators across various levels of change. Furthermore, the national report creates space for countries to highlight innovative policies, strategies and programs that facilitate the fulfilment of commitments and therefore the achievement of national priorities, as well as the challenges that limit the achievement of these priorities.

This country report on Liberia is part of the global ICPD Beyond 2014 initiative aimed at delivering the most comprehensive evidence-based review of achievements, gaps and outstanding issues in relation to the implementation of the Program of Action. It is developed based on the global survey instrument and follows the broad outline provided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for the compilation of country reports that should feed into Africa's report for the Global Review. Liberia's review of progress on the ICPD PoA is strategically linked to the on-going post 2015 MDGs consultations.

The report is also prepared with a view to influencing the country's population and development agenda, as well as the development of Liberia's long and medium-term development policy frameworks. Its preparation has been guided by procedures prescribed by the law governing of Liberia's national development planning processes. A cross-sectoral planning group (CSPG) comprising relevant stakeholders in the population and development sector is set up to complete the country questionnaire, write and validate the report. This was to ensure ownership and sustain the dialogue around population and development issues beyond the review exercise. The process is also undertaken with a view to repositioning and strengthening policy analysis, planning, coordination, and partnerships around population and development issues.

The Cross-Sectoral Planning Group will be reconvened to continue the dialogue around population and development, using the ICPD Beyond 2014 Country Report as the basis for its deliberations. The CSPG deliberations will aim to build consensus around population and development priorities for the Post-2015 consultations and the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework.

More importantly, the CSPG will support the restructuring of the National Population Commission, review of the National Population Policy; development of a common results matrix for institutional coordination; streamlining of financing and expenditure tracking modalities; and monitoring and evaluation of population goals, objectives, and policies to facilitate compliance with both domestic and international reporting requirements.

ACRONYMS

AADPD	Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development
ACPF	Africa Child Forum
AFELL	Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia
ALP	Accelerated Learning Program
AFT	Agenda for Transformation
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BPC	Bucharest Population Conference
BPF	Peace Building Fund
BPHS	Basic Package of Health Services
CARI	Center for Agriculture Research Institute
CCC	Concern Christian Community
CDSC	County Development Steering Committee
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEP	Community Empowerment Program
CPC	Caro Population Conference
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSPG	Cross-Sectoral Planning Group
CUGPS	Cuttington University Graduate and Professional School
CWIQ	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPAG	Empowerment of Adolescent Girls
EPHS	Essential Package of Health Services
ESDC	Education Sector Development Committee
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FLY	Federation of Liberian Youth
GAD	Gender and Development
GC	Governance Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development

GOL	Government of Liberia
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
ICIDH	International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDD	International Disabled Day
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IPFMRP	Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project
INHRC	Independent National Human Rights Commission
IRC	International Rescue Committee
JPEE	Joint Program on Youth Employment and Empowerment
JPGEWEE	Joint Program on Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment
JPSGBV	Joint Program on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
LACC	Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission
LDHS	Liberia Demographic and Health Survey
LEED Development	Liberia Entrepreneurial Economic
LEITI	Liberia Extractive Transparency Initiative
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LIBA	Liberia Business Association
LISGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LMIS	Liberia Malaria Indicator Survey
LPMM	Liberia Prevention of Maternal Mortality
LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Survey

LRA	Liberia Revenue Authority
LRRRC	Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission
MARYP	Most-At-Risk Adolescents and Young People
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOL	Ministry of Labor
MPC	Mexico Population Conference
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
NACP	National AIDS and STIs Control Program
NACROG	National Child Rights Observatory Group Program
NBIS	National Biometric Identification System
NCC	National Coordination Committee
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NCSC	National Civil Society Council
NEC	National Election Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGP	National Gender Policy
NHRAP	National Human Rights Action Plan
NIR	National Identification Registry
NPC	Nation Population Commission
NSRH	National Sexual Reproductive Health
ODA	Official development assistance
PFML	Public Financial Management Law
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to- Child Transmission
PoA	Plan of Action
PPAL	Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia
PPAS	Participatory Poverty Assessment Survey
PPCU	Population Policy Coordination Unit
PPP	Public Private Partnerships

PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRSI	Poverty Reduction Strategy I
PRSI	Poverty Reduction Strategy II
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSOs	Private Sector Organization
RAAAP	Rape Assessment Analysis & Action Planning
RDT	Rapid diagnostic tests
RH	Reproductive Health
SBA	Subah-Belleh Association
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRMNAH	Sexual Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child and Adolescent Health
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General
STC- HPDC	Specialized Technical Committee for Health, Population and Drug Control
UL	University of Liberia
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	UN Development Assistant
UNECA Africa	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nation Children Education Fund
UNSC	United Nation Security Council
UNSCR	United Nation Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WACP	Women and Children Protection Unit
WAD	Women and Development
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WONGOSOL	Women Non-Governmental Organization Secretariat of Liberia
YMCA	Young Men Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association

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The AADPD+5/ICPD@25 recognizes the need to review the implementations of ICPD Beyond 2014 PoA to take stocks of progress, challenges, and possible recommendations for further improvement in the lives and rights of individuals and the communities they live in. It is against this background that the Government of Liberia through the National Population Commission (NPC) empowered its secretariat, the Population Policy Coordination Unit (PPCU) and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to conduct a survey and submit responses and data gathered through a participatory process.

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Mr. Stephen Quoi, Director, Population Policy Coordination Unit, Alfred C. Sayon, Program Officer, P & D, UNFPA-Liberia, Mr. Michael Weah, Program Associate, UNFPA-Liberia paved the way to the success of the exercise. It was the NCC that coordinated, consolidated, compiled and reviewed the results of the data collected and the pillars reports.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations emanating from the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Process were made before and they are still important as they relate to specific recommendations on the AADPD/ICPD @ 25 thematic areas and enablers for better programming and results around the ICPD agendas moving forward.

Specific enablers include enhancing the visibility of ICPD in planning processes through the development of a strategic framework for action; sustained capacity building on population and development for critical actors; the need to focus attention on emerging issues emanating from Liberia's current population dynamics such as ageing, the very large youthful population, migration, urbanization and empowerment and rights; and the need to maintain a coordinated statistics data base and training for its use and the compilation of ICPD indicators to track performances and achievements in population related issues.

Specific recommendations made in addition to future plans include the need to:

- i. Sustain advocacy and awareness creation among national and district-level policy and decision-makers for functional integration of population into development planning;
- ii. Pursue an employment-centered economic growth strategy that will ensure sustained employment creation, especially for the growing numbers of unemployed youth;
- iii. Scale-up investments promoting the welfare of population groups such as children, adolescents and youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Policy should focus on young persons aged 10-24 to streamline institutional and funding bottlenecks to deal with their issues;
- iv. Provide comprehensive sexuality education and promote adolescent reproductive health and rights;
- v. Promote gender parity at secondary and tertiary levels; enhance productivity and income of women in both formal and informal economies, especially rural women;
- vi. Improve nutrition outcomes among women in their fertility ages, to especially reduce pregnancy-related anemia;
- vii. Establish a transitional/alternative education system to facilitate the reintegration of school drop-outs into the mainstream education system, including teenage girls returning to school after delivery;
- viii. Review current practices and establish quality standards and monitoring and evaluation systems to continually track the condition of care homes, including mental institutions to uphold the basic rights of people in institutional care;
- ix. Develop a framework and provide facilities for rehabilitation for substance abuse and early detection of disability;
- x. Strategically position and strengthen the Department of Social Welfare to effectively coordinate policies, programs, and strategies that protect the family and its vulnerable members;
- xi. Broaden partnerships around budget support to encompass other issues apart from social policy/protection frameworks to the welfare of specific vulnerable groups;

- xii. Advocate for political support for establishing an HIV and AIDS Fund to generate local resources to sustain programs;
- xiii. Integrate health planning into district level planning to provide effective leadership for better program delivery and results;
- xiv. Improve monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Special Education Policy;
- xv. Adopt a sector approach mobilizing partnerships around budget support for managing results and tracking of resource allocation and expenditures on population and development; and
- xvi. Make adequate budgetary allocations for M&E activities.

1.0 BACKGROUND TO POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERIA

1.1 Introduction

The Liberia Country Report is part of the global Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 initiative aimed at providing an evidence-based review of achievements, gaps and outstanding issues in relation to the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action (PoA). It is developed based on the global survey instrument and follows the broad outline provided by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for the compilation of country reports that should feed into Africa's report for the Global Review. Liberia's review of progress made on the AADPD/ICPD @25 is strategically linked to the ongoing post-2015 development agenda consultations the SDG.

The report is also prepared with a view to influencing the national population and development agenda such as the restructuring of the National Population Commission, the revision of the National Policy on Population for Social and Economic Development (revised in 2005), and the development of Liberia's Medium Term (Pro-Poor Agenda) and Long-Term Development Policy Frameworks. It is expected to reposition and partnership around population and development issues.

The preparation of the report has been guided by procedures prescribed by national development planning and monitoring processes. A cross-sectorial group, comprising relevant stakeholders in population and development, was set up to complete the country questionnaire, write and validate the report. This is not only to ensure ownership but also to engender and sustain dialogue around population and development beyond the review exercise.

1.2 Socio-Demographic Profile

Liberia is situated on the West Coast of Africa and occupies a total land area of 37,000 square miles (m²). It is bordered on the west by Sierra Leone, on the east by Cote D'Ivoire, on the north by Guinea,

and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Liberia has a democratic system of governance with an elected legislature, executive and independent judiciary. The country has fifteen administrative counties, subdivided into 136 districts to ensure efficient and effective administration at the local level.

It operates a system of administration, which also recognizes the role of traditional authorities in development. Principal religions are Christianity, Islam and Traditional African religions. Liberia has a large variety of ethnic groups including Kpelleh, Bassa, Grebo, Gio, Mano, Kru, Lorma, Mende, Mandingo, Vai, Dey, Gbandi, Gola, Kissi, Krahn, and Sapo. While there are differences in the social structure and organization of these ethnic groups, they share many similarities in culture and economic activities which impact on the growth and development of Liberia.

According to the 2016 Household Income and expenditure Survey (HIES), Liberia population estimated to be just above 4.2 million. Out these, approximately 51.1% is females and 48.9% is males. According to the 2008 National Population and Housing Census, persons below 15 years represent 42 percent of the total population, with older persons aged 65 years and over constituting 3 percent. A significant share of the country's population growth has been due to the high fertility rate relative to declining mortality.

Persons with disability constitute 3% of the total population. Urbanization has been quite rapid with its attendant problems of overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, youth unemployment, high crime rates and slum development. Currently, 47% of the population is resident in urban areas. The average population density is 93 persons per square miles, varying from the high level of 1,500 per square miles in the Greater Monrovia to a low level of 22-40 per square miles in Eastern Liberia.

The youthful structure of the population presents an in-built momentum for rapid growth despite the decline in fertility. Child dependency is high at 80%.k, stressing domestic budgets and putting high economic demands on families. The total fertility rate is currently

5.8 per woman. According to the 2013 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey, Infant mortality is 54 per 1,000 live births with under-five mortality reported as 94 per 1,000 live births, maternal mortality was 770 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013 and the national HIV prevalence in 2013 was 1.9%.

1.3 Institutional Arrangements, Policies, Strategies, and Programs

In 1988, the “New Executive Law” was amended by adding thereto a new chapter to be known as Chapter 66. Section 2 of this chapter authorized the President to constitute a commission within the Executive Branch of the Government, to be known as the “National Population Commission”.

This chapter enjoins the state to maintain a population policy that is consistent with the aspirations and development needs of the country. Government’s determination to effectively manage population for development is also reflected in its commitment to global and regional agreements and conventions on population and development, including the ICPD PoA, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Beijing Platform for Action, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the SDG.

Liberia’s quest to integrate population concerns into development planning pre-dates ICPD. In 1988, the Government of Liberia promulgated the National Policy on Population for Social and Economic Development and established the Population Policy Coordination Unit, Secretariat of the National Population Commission, to coordinate the implementation of the policy in close collaboration with other line ministries and agencies.

The 1988 Population Policy was to address key strategic areas such as fertility, family planning, morbidity and mortality, data collection and research, information, education and communication, the role of women, internal and international migration, and International Corporation. The policy also advocated the alleviation of mass poverty to enhance the welfare and standard of living of Liberians. In 2005,

Liberia revised its National Population Policy and worked towards ensuring the incorporation of emerging population concerns into its development planning activities.

Following the convening of the ICPD in 1994, the government has developed and implemented several national development policy frameworks incorporating population concerns. These include Liberia's Five-year Medium-Term Plan for National Reconstruction and Development, 2001-2006, designed to guide national development in the immediate aftermath of the civil disturbances that lasted over a decade; Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (IPRS) (2006-2008); the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) (2008-2011); and the visioning process which contains the Agenda for Transformation(AFT) (2012-2017).

The Population Sector Plan has also been developed to manage issues related to population and development. It is expected that the Pro-Poor Agenda will further address more pressing population and development issues.

Furthermore, national coordinating institutions have been established to ensure linkages among population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Key among these are the National Population Commission (NPC), which is the advisory body to government on population matters, and formulates, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates population policies/programs in the country; and the Liberia Reconstruction and Development Committee (LRDC) which advises the president and legislators on development policy and strategy, and is the apex body of Liberia's planning system charged with coordinating policy formulation, planning and monitoring and evaluation of all government development policies, programs and projects. These bodies liaise with all relevant economic and development sector institutions in pursuance of their mandates.

FIRST PILLAR: DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

2.0 Introduction

The issues of gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of Women in Liberia initially started in the early 1970s, following the Bucharest Population Conference (BPC) in 1974. During and prior to this period, the discussion of gender issues such as equality, equity and the empowerment of women were quite limited at both the national and sub-national levels in the country.

Although the 1974 BPC focused on how women could be integrated in the development (WID) process, the Government of Liberia (GOL) did not attach much priority to decentralizing the discussions and awareness creation on the issue. Because of the low profile of the GOL on gender mainstreaming in the country, the full implementation of thematic issues that could integrate women's concerns into the development process were not achieved.

But after the Mexico Population Conference (MPC) in 1984, the GOL began to attach significance to the implementation of thematic gender issues that could enhance the situation of women and development (WAD). Consequently, the GOL established a women's focal point at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs (MPEA). The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) stimulated the GOL's efforts in openly integrating gender and development (GAD) into its development policies. Hence, a functional Women and Children Unit (WCU) was established at the MPEA.

Moreover, the 1995 Beijing Conference and Beijing+5 further increased the country's zeal to mainstream gender. Subsequently, a gender ministry was established propelled many policy decisions aimed at enhancing gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women. Furthermore, the ICPD beyond 2014 report profiled another layer of achievements made and possible barriers thereto.

Hence, this report focuses on the progress level of the 29 commitments of ICPD@25 /AADPD+5 as outlined in the Africa Regional Survey questionnaire for Liberia.

The report looks at the availability of institutional framework and the level of progress made in dealing with human rights, dignity and equality; eradication of extreme poverty and discrimination against women, youth and girls; and ensuring empowerment of and equal participation among women and men in decision making/leadership, including the sharing of responsibilities.

The report looks at access to and achievements made in providing educational, nutritional and health opportunities for people with disability irrespective of age and gender. It points at progress made in addressing high school drop-out rates for boys and girls; keeping pregnant and non-pregnant and lactating girls in school; and early and or forced marriage, female genital mutilation and the prevention of all forms of child abuse. The report also reviewed Liberia's commitments to equality before the law and hate crimes.

Other commitments covered in the report include but not limited to the ensuring universal access to affordable quality, comprehensive education and skills development; equitable access to education for all disadvantaged persons and groups; decent work and appropriate skills for young people. The report focused on the country's commitment in investing in young people to create and have access to jobs. Progress made in determining the welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities; existing challenges facing emerging family structures.

The state and level of Liberia's commitment to ensuring active and healthy ageing for older population, including their participation in society was reviewed in this document. The report dealt with the commitments of Liberia in addressing the issues of child labor and all

forms of child exploitation; the rights of all migrants and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities.

2.1 Human rights, dignity and equality

Liberia has a national policy, programme and/or strategy that explicitly address human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development. The Liberia Human Rights Commission (LHRC) is used to address policies and programs on human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development.

Similarly, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) (2013) implements policies and programs on human right related issues. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) through the Women and Children Unit of the Liberia National Police implements policies on human rights, dignity and equality. It's being implemented within a five (5) year period, 2014- 2018. The Decent Work Act (DWA) of the Ministry of Labor (MOL) implements policies on human right related issues. The inception/revision period was since 2015.

The institutional entities established to address issues related to human rights, dignity and equality are Ministry of Justice (established in 1973), Independent National Human Rights Commission or INHRC (2010) and the National Commission on Disability (2005). The country also has addressed the following issues related to human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development:

- a.) social protection program - this was addressed in the essential Package of Social Welfare policy with a budget allocated for implementation of program for orphanages and old folks homes; but shows that implementation level of the program is currently low.
- b.) Minimum wage policies issue was addressed in the Decent Work Act (DWA) with a budget, the concrete implementation

measure was to ensure respect for, and the protection and fulfillment of fundamental rights at the work place, including fundamental rights that are protected by the constitution of Liberia which indicate a low implementation level.

c.) Issues related to Tax Policies were addressed through the Public Financial Management Law (PFML). Concrete measures were taken to address Progressive tax regime, but its current implementation level remains low.

d.) Public health issues were addressed through the Liberian Public Health Law (LPHL) with a budget. The establishment of the national institute is the most concrete measure taken to address public Health issues. This policy has been implemented at level one.

e.) Policy relating to existence / enforcement laws to guarantee human rights has been addressed by the Ministry of Justice (through the Liberian National Police) with budget. The establishment and strengthening of the National Joint Security forum head by a Solicitor General, is the most concrete action taken in Liberia whose implementation is at level two.

f.) The policy on public campaigns and education programmes to promote awareness of human rights has been addressed through the National Human Rights Action Plan with a budget. The implementation status of this framework is at level two.

Among the numerous issues mentioned, one of the areas of relevance in the national context is social protection program: it provides support to orphanages, people with disability as well as old folks. The major achievement is the establishment of children villages that serves as home for abused children and those who come in conflict with the law. The Ministry of Gender Children and Social

Protection (MGCSP) facilitated the process. The barrier was limited funding.

The most relevant issues regarding human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: Public health Law; Law enforcement to guarantee human rights; Social protection; employment and provision of job opportunity to reduce unemployment. In the last five (5) years Liberia has never carried out research on human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development for planning purposes at the national and/or sub-national levels.

The country has neither allocated resources for research and capacity development for monitoring of human rights, dignity and equality; nor has it established linkages between human rights, dignity and equality and inclusive sustainable economic and social development in the last five years.

The Government of Liberia partnered with the following three CSOs in the areas of human rights, dignity and equality. The names of the local and international NGOs that government partnered with are: National Civil Society Council (NCSC), WONGOSOL and Action Aids. The types of CSOs were National NGO (2-NCSC and WONGOSOL) and international NGO (1- Action Aids). The areas of involvement of the three CSO are as follows: The NCSC engaged in advocacy and policy formulation including awareness raising and social mobilization. Similarly, WONGOSOL and Action Aids were involved with advocacy and policy formulation, awareness raising and social mobilization and education and training respectively. The activities carried out by NCSC were mainly focused on advocacy awareness for citizens on their rights while those of WONGOSOL and Action Aids were advocacy awareness for citizens on their rights and training on basic human rights.

2.2 Eradicating extreme poverty in Liberia

Liberia has a national policy and strategy that address eradication of extreme poverty. These policies and strategies are referred to as Agenda for Transformation (AfT) which was implemented from 2012 - 2017 through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning; Food Security and Agriculture Policy, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in 2007; Liberia Agriculture Transformation Agenda (LATA). This strategy was also drafted by the MOA; and the National Export Strategy (NES) which was drafted by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC). The institutions established to address issues related to eradication of extreme poverty are the MOA (established in 1972); MOFDP (2013); and MOC (1987).

Liberia has carried out research on poverty for planning purposes at the national and/or subnational level in the last five (5) years. The Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) in 2014 and 2016 respectively conducted the Household Income Expenditure Surveys (HIES); and in 2017 conducted the Fragility Assessment Survey in all the counties of Liberia.

Also, Liberia did allocate resources for research on capacity development regarding monitoring poverty trends which is the bi-annual Food Security Survey. The country did also establish linkages between population and poverty; poverty and sustained economic growth and poverty and employment. These were the HIES (LISGIS 2014 and 2016) and National Human Right Labor Survey (MOL 2016).

As relates to government partnering with CSOs in the areas of poverty eradication, this political commitment has been institutionalized with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (known as the GoL-CSO Accord) between the GoL, represented by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and CSOs, represented by the National Council of Civil Society (NCSCS) in Liberia.

Signed in 2016, this MoU is the main policy framework governing Government-CSO interactions for the CSO sector. Yet, progress needs to be noted, particularly through the involvement of CSOs in accountability of public policies.

2.3 Discrimination against women and girls

Liberia has a national policy and programme that explicitly address discrimination against women and girls. The policy is referred as the National Gender Policy (NGP). It is implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

The initial implementation framework covered from 2009 to 2016. Later the document was revised for another five years (2017-2022). The Ministry of Justice (1973) and the Independent National Human Rights Commission or INHRC (2010) were established to address issues related to discrimination against women and girls.

Liberia never harmonized national legislation with international commitments on gender inequality. But it had concrete implementation measures which are the Equity and Domestic Violence Bills. However, these bills have not being ratified by the Lower House (House of Representative).

Moreover, the country created an independent body or the INHRC (with a budget) that is responsible for promoting and protecting the right to non-discrimination. The implementation of the Domestic violence policy and promotion and protection of the right to non-discrimination are at level zero which is a major concern.

Major achievements in the promotion and protection of the right to non-discrimination are the establishment of the Independent Human Right Commission (INHRC) with the appointment of Commissioners. The process was facilitated by the Executive Branch of Government and the barrier was lack of funding.

The most relevant issues regarding discrimination against women and girls for inclusive sustainable economic and social development that should receive further public policy priority for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: harmonization of national and international commitments on gender inequality; full budgetary allocations for the Independent Human Rights Commission; and the legislative ratification of the Domestic Violence Bill and Equity Bill. There was no research conducted on discrimination against women and girls for inclusive sustainable economic and social development for planning purposes at the national or subnational level in the last five (5) years.

Similarly, there was no budget allocated for resources for research and capacity development on monitoring of human rights, dignity and equality / scenarios; and the establishment of linkages between discrimination against women and girls and inclusive sustainable economic and social development. The Government of Liberia partnered with the following three CSOs in the areas of discrimination against women and girls. The names of the local and international NGOs that government partnered with are: National Civil Society Council (NCSC), WONGOSOL and International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The types of CSOs were National NGO (2-NCSC and WONGOSOL) and international NGO (1- IRC). The area(s) of involvement of the three CSO are as follows: The NCSC engaged in advocacy and policy formulation and awareness raising and social mobilization. The activities carried out by NCSC were mainly focused on advocacy awareness for citizens on their rights while those of WONGOSOL and IRC were Advocacy awareness for citizens on their rights and training on basic human rights.

2.4 Discriminatory impact on women and youth

There is a national policy and programme which addressed discriminatory impact on women and youth. The policy is the National Gender Policy: The intervention was implemented by MGCSP from 2009 -2016 and was revised for five years (2017-2022). Liberia has

established institutional entities to address issues related to discriminatory impact on women and youth especially girls through the Ministry of Justice (established in 1972) and Independent National Human Rights Commission (2010).

The Abolition of laws, regulations, and practices with a discriminatory impact on women was never addressed; while an independent body (INHRC) was created for monitoring discrimination against women. The INHRC operated with a budget but was not implemented. For abolition of laws, regulations, and practices with a discriminatory impact on women; the establishment of INHRC was the key achievement. It was carried out by MOJ but with limited funding as barrier.

The most relevant issues regarding discriminatory impact on women and youth especially girls for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that Liberia consider priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: force (child) marriage and female genital mmutilation (FGM). Liberia has not carried out research on discriminatory impact on women and youth especially girls for inclusive sustainable economic and social development for planning purposes at the national or subnational level in the last five (5) years.

There have been no resources allocated for research and capacity development for research in the last five years regarding abolition of laws, regulations, and practices with a discriminatory impact on women; and creation of an independent body responsible for monitoring discriminatory impact on women and youth. The Government of Liberia (GOL) has partnered with Federation of Liberia Youth (FLY) ;)WONGOSOL and IRC in the area of discriminatory impact on women and youth. The types of CSOs are FLY (youth groups); WONGOSOL (national NGO) and IRC (international NGO). These CSOs (FLY, WONGOSOL and IRC) were all involved with advocacy and policy formulation and awareness rarisng and social mobilisation.

2.5 Equal participation of women

Liberia has a national policy and program that explicitly address equal participation of women. These policies are National Gender Policy and Equal Participation. The Gender Policy is a policy - based intervention while that of Equal Participation is a program intervention. Both the National Gender Policy and Equal Participation have been implemented by MGCSP. The National Gender Policy was implemented from 2009 up to 2016 and was revised from 2017 up to 2022. The Equal Participation program also implemented by MGCSP is still ongoing up to the development of this document.

Moreover, Liberia has established institutional entities to address issues related to equal participation of women. These institutions are Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Governance Commission (GC), Ministry of State, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Independent Human Rights Commission. The following issues regarding equal participation of women, for inclusive sustainable economic and social development in Liberia has been addressed in the last five (5) years. These issues are: i) supporting paid parental leave; sick and care leave; ii) offering of work-place accommodations for nursing mothers; iii) creating and supporting gender equality offices/units; iv) creating/ supporting institutions providing leadership training for women.

For the Equal Participation program, the major achievements made includes: series of leadership training offered to women across the country (by UNDP); and the equity or Equal Participation Bill that was submitted to legislature with support of UN Women. The achievements were facilitated by the MGCSP with entrenched cultural and traditional mind-set and limited funding serving as major barriers.

The most relevant issues regarding equal participation of women, for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: entrenched cultural and traditional mind-set; lack of gender knowledge or not gender aware; limited knowledge of gender issues and

analysis; failure to harmonize national and international commitments and failure of the legislator to pass equity or Equal Participation Bill.

Liberia has not carried out research on equal participation of women, for inclusive sustainable economic and social development for planning purposes at the national and/or subnational level in the last five (5) years. Similarly, the country did not allocate resources for research and capacity development for research regarding the equal participation of women, related issues in the last five years. For example, resources were not allocated for the (a.) abolition of laws, regulations, and practices with a discriminatory impact on women and (b.) creation of an independent body responsible for monitoring discrimination against women.

Liberia collaborated with WONGOSOL, Women Political Forum and Global Fund for Women. WONGOSOL, Women Political Forum are local NGOs while Global Fund for Women is an international NGO. WONGOSOL focused on advocacy and policy formulation, awareness raising and social mobilisation; and education and training while Women Political Forum focused on advocacy and policy formulation; and awareness raising and social mobilization. The Global Fund for Women dealt with the provision of financial support. Further, WONGOSOL, Women Political Forum both engaged in the establishment of Women Constitution Review Task force and drafting Equity Bill while Global Fund for Women provided quick funding for women's political activities.

2.6 Male participation and equal and equitable sharing of responsibilities

Liberia has a national program that explicitly address male participation and equal and equitable sharing of responsibilities. The name of the program is Male Involvement (He for She). It is a program that has been implemented by the MGCSP. It was launched in 2006 and is still ongoing. Institutional entities that address the issues related to male participation and equal and equitable sharing of responsibilities in Liberia are: Ministry of Internal Affairs that was established in 1976;

Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Education established in 1973 respectively.

2.7 Economic empowerment of women and young people

Liberia has a national programme that addressed economic empowerment of women and young people. The National Gender Policy and Economic Empowerment of Women (through business development skill, numeracy literacy Village Savings and loans) are the two-major program that explicitly addressed economic empowerment of women and young people. The two programs are implemented by the MGCSP. The National Gender Policy was revised for the year 2017-2022 while Economic empowerment of women program began in 2010 and is ongoing.

The GOL uses the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (established 1987) and the Ministry Finance and Development Planning (established 2012) to address issues related to economic empowerment of women and young people.

In the past five (5) years Liberia has addressed issues regarding economic empowerment of women and young people in national context through the existence of laws guaranteeing woman's equal access to ownership and control of resources using its constitution. However, there has been no budget allocated for this program hence its implementation is at level zero. The program on the existence of systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5c1) was never implemented. Hence, it was part of Liberia's strategy to empower women and young people during the last five years.

Women land ownership is one of the major issues related to the empowerment of women and young people. The major achievements made toward this issue are the Draft Land Rights Act that has been sent to the Legislature for ratification through the Liberia Land Authority (LLA). The failure to ratify the Land Rights Act remains a major

barrier. The most relevant issues regarding economic empowerment of women and young people in Liberia for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: Women's Land ownership; Women and youth's access to productive resources; Women and youth's access to loan (Student loan) and Training opportunities.

2.8 Women and youth participation in decision-making and leadership

Liberia has two major national policies that explicitly address women and youth participation in decision-making and leadership. These policies (National Gender Policy and National Youth Policy) are implemented by the MGCSP and Ministry of Youth and Sport. The Youth Policy was revised in 2012 for five years and has not been updated while the National Gender Policy was revised in 2017 for a 5-year implementation period. The national institution that addresses issues related to women and youth participation in decision-making and leadership is MGCSP.

Liberia did not use the existence of affirmative action policies for women and youth participation in decision-making. However, there is an Equity Bill before the Legislature for ratification. The implementation of affirmative action policies for women and youth participation in decision-making has not improved. Liberia has made progress in addressing issues that are related to participation and inclusion of women, youth and people with disability. The major achievement made so far is the development of National Youth Policy; and the drafting of Equity or Equal Participation Bill and onward submission to the Legislature.

2.9 Gender equity, equality and women's empowerment

There are national policies and programmes that addressed gender equity, equality and women empowerment. These programs are: a) Liberia National Gender Policy which has been implemented through the MGCSP from 2009-2016 and revised from 2017-2022. b) Gender Based Violence (GBV) National Action Plan which is one of the program that has been implemented by the MGCSP and revised in 2008

for the period 2016 -2021. c) National Action Plan UNSC1325; this policy has been implemented by the MGCSP from 2008 -2013 and has not been revised.

The national entities implementing these gender equity, equality and women's empowerment policies and program are: a) Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Ministries of Health and Education; Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Ministry of Internal Affairs. The country has also used the existence of systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment in the past five years. The issue was addressed in the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). The country took concrete action on this issue through the Gender Responsive Budget Technical Working Group and High-Level Committee that has been established; its implementation is at level one.

The most relevant issue to be addressed in this thematic area is engendering various sector ministries and agencies budget to be gender responsive; and the lack of technical capacity of budget technician as well as technical planning staffs. Major achievement made is the GRB pilot with the Ministry of Health 2017/2018 budget; establishment of GRB Technical Working Group and High-Level Policy-makers to speed up the process. This achievement was facilitated by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. In spite of all these the lack of technical knowledge of GRB serve as major barrier.

The most relevant issues regarding gender equity, equality and women's empowerment for the next five (5) to ten (10) years include: integration of GRB in the national budget; building the capacity of all technician (planning and budget officers) of ministries, agencies and commissions; and creating GRB awareness for all private and public sectors.

2.10 Rights of all girls, boys and children with disabilities to health, nutrition and education

Liberia developed national policies and programmes to address rights of all girls, boys and children with disabilities to health, nutrition and education. The policies and program are: a) special education policy implemented by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in 2009; b) National Social Welfare Policy and Plan; Essential Package Social Service, Special Education Policies implemented by MGCSP in March 2009; c) vulnerable girls program implemented by MGCSP in 2013 and d) National Policy on Girls' Education implemented by the MOE. The country has addressed issues related to rights of all girls, boys and children with disabilities to health, nutrition and education through the MOE (established in 1973); MGCSP and National Commission on Disability (2005).

The issues of girls, boys and children with disabilities to health, nutrition and education has been addressed through the existence of national policies/ program to address children's rights to health, nutrition and education; infrastructures for learners with disabilities in the last five (5) years. The Social Welfare Policy, vulnerable girls program, National Policy on Girls' Education, Special Education Policies, Children Law, and Essential Package of Social Services were the policies and program used to address the issues on rights of all girls, boys and children with disabilities to health, nutrition and education in the national context. There was a budgetary allocation. The Establishment of Children Villages and support to orphanages were the concrete actions taken. The current implementation status needs improvement.

The most relevant issues to be addressed in this area are: child abandonment; persistence none support; missing children; and street selling (child labor). The subsequent achievements are: the development of children's law; construction of children village; and establishment of children's Parliament to advocate and raise awareness

on children's issues. The national institution that implemented in this thematic area is the MGCSP.

The lack of adequate funds is the major barrier to the implementation process. The most relevant issues of concern in this thematic area that need to be addressed for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: enforcement of children's law; construction of more safe homes for street children; and social assistance to street children and vulnerable families.

2.11 High school drop-out rates, among boys and girls

The country has explicit policies and program that addressed high school drop-out rates, among boys and girls. These policies and program are: a) National Policy on Girls Education implemented by the MOE in 2009; b) vulnerable girls program implemented by MGCSP in 2016; and the take home ration program for girls (school feeding) implemented by MOE in 2008. The national institutions that addressed high school drop-out rates, among boys and girls are: the MOE, established in 1973, MGCSP (established 2001), Ministry of Agriculture or MOA (1972) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs which was established in 1976.

The problem of high school drop-out rates, among boys and girls during the last five (5) years has not been addressed by existence of school-based programs to attract children who have never-enrolled in school. Major areas that need to be emphasized in addressing high school drop-out rates, for boys and girls are: Girls Education; Special Education; and disparities in school enrollment. Key achievements made so far are: the development of National Policy on Girls' Education (developed in 2006 and revised in 2013) and the Special Education Policies to address the disparities between persons with disabilities.

The achievement was facilitated by MOE and the MGCSP in the presence of limited funds as major barrier. The major issues confronting high school drop-out rates that need to be addressed in the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: Financial constraints (unemployment) on parents; the high level of Self-supported students; and pregnancy among school going girls.

2.12 Keeping the girl child, including married girls and pregnant girls, in school

Liberia has policies and programs to address keeping of the girl child, including married girls and pregnant girls, in school. These policies and programs are: a) Education Reform Act of 2011; and the Free and compulsory education for all students of primary school nationally, that are implemented by the MOE from 2011 to date. Other programs are: Special Education Program Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) that was implemented by the MOE in 2002 and 2006 respectively. Institutions implementing “keeping of the girl child, including married girls and pregnant girls”, in school in Liberia include: the MOE (established 1973); MGCSP; and the Ministry of Justice (1972).

Liberia did not use existence of policies and school-based programs to keep pregnant girls and teen mothers in school in the last five (5) years. Similarly, the country did not use the existence and number of education facilities that are gender sensitive; and education institutions with counseling services for pregnant girls or young mothers to keep the girl child, including married girls and pregnant girls, in school in the last five (5) years. The major areas of focus for Liberia in keeping the girl child in school is the take-home ration for girls, which was supported by the World Food Program (WFP) and UNICEF through the MOE.

The program is facilitated by MOE, WFP, UNICEF and MGCSP despite limited resources from GOL (which seems to be a major barrier). To keep the girl child in school the following policies and programs must be supported by both GOL and its partners in the next five (5) to ten (10) years: enforcing the policies on sexual harassment and abuse of girls in schools; Protection from pregnancy and earlier marriage; and Providing grant or scholarship.

2.13 Prevention of all forms of child abuse

There are national policies and programmes addressing the prevention of child abuse. They: The Children Law policy which is implemented

by MGCSP in 2011 and the National Action Plan on Child labor which was implemented by Ministry of Labor (MOL) in 2014. The national institutions that are addressing issues related to prevention of all forms of child abuse are: MOL (2011); MGCSP (2011); Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and National Commission on Child Labor. In the prevention of all forms of child abuse in the last five (5) years, Liberia did not use existence policies to prevent school- based violence. However, it used the existence legal framework and report to address sexual violence and harassment in the last five (5) years.

The major issues that Liberia focused on are: Sexual violence and harassment, rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), and earlier child marriage. The major achievements made during the period under review are: the establishment of Women and Children Protection unit (WACP) at the Liberian National Police; the Sexual and gender-based violence crimes unit, and; the establishment of criminal court “E” specializing in the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence cases. This thematic area was facilitated by MGCSP and MOJ with the lack of adequate man power and logistics as major barrier. Liberia needs to focus on domestic violence, ending child marriage, stopping of FGM and control the level of street selling by children in the next five (5) to ten (10) years if the country will succeed in preventing all forms of child abuse.

2.14 Legal age of marriage

There are policies and programmes addressing legal age of marriage in Liberia. These policies are: National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence or SGBV program (in 2015); National Gender Policy or NGP (revised from 2017 -2022) program; and the End Child Marriage Strategy (2016-2020) were all implemented by the MGCSP. Existence institutions used to address legal age of marriage are: MGCSP (2001); Ministry of Internal Affairs (1976) and MOJ (1972).

Liberia did not use legal age of marriage set in accordance with Article 6(b) in addressing the issues of legal age of marriage. However, Public campaigns against child and early marriages were used. The policy used in this thematic area was the “End Child Marriage Strategy”, launched during the 16 days of Activism. There was a budget allocated while the

concrete actions were the submission of draft Domestic Violence Bill and the launched of the End child marriage campaign. In addition, existence institutional mechanism, in this case the MGCSP, was used to prevent child marriage. The specific policy applied during the implementation was the National Gender Police. The implementation status of this thematic area is at stage one.

The most relevant issues that Liberia focused on in the last five (5) years are: Legal age of marriage, FGM, Gender Based Violence and Rape. Major achievements made were Awareness campaign on ending child marriage launched in 2016 during the 16 days of activism and the drafting of the Domestic Violence Bill. The facilitating national institutions are: MGCSP; Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA); and MOJ. The barriers experienced during implementation period were Tradition and Cultural norms, and lack of funding. If Liberia is to increase the legal age at marriage, then it needs to focus on Constitutional age of consent (which is currently at 18 years); to eliminate the domestic relations law (consider 16 years as age of consent); and harmonization of the two laws.

2.14.1 Early and/or forced marriages, female genital mutilation /cutting

There is national policy, program addressing early and/or forced marriages, female genital mutilation /cutting. These are: Domestic Violence Bill policy which has been drafted and implemented by MGCSP since 2013; and National Action Plan on GBV which has been drafted and implemented by MGCSCP and revised in 2016. Liberia has also used the MGCSP (established since 2001); Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in 1976; and MOJ in 1972 as national institution framework for addressing early and /or forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

The country did adopt existence laws against early and forced marriages, and female genital mutilation. It did not also have budgetary allocation for the implementation of the thematic area but

took concrete action using end child marriage strategy and vigorous campaign. The implementation status is still low for this thematic area. In the implementation process of this thematic area, Liberia focused on school dropped out due to pregnancy; sexual harassment; and female genital mutilation as prominent issues of concern. The key achievements accomplished so far are: advocacy on closure of Sande School during former school; establishment of adolescent Girls Division at MGCSP and Girls Manifesto to educate, sensitize girls about their well-being through the hosting of conferences and workshops. Moreover, another major achievement is the issuance of circular 12 (on 15 January 2013) emphasizing immediate arrest, charge and prosecution of persons engaged into forceful initiation of others into tribal ritual or traditional practices, including FGM.

Institutions that facilitated these thematic areas are: MGCSP, MIA and MOJ. Limited funding was a barrier for the implementation process. For Liberia to reduce the existence level on early and/or forced marriages, female genital mutilation /cutting in next five (5) to ten (10) years, the following policies and programs must be implemented: harmonization of statutory and domestic relations laws on age of consent; enforcement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' January 15, 2013 Circular 12; and the Passage of the Domestic Violence Bill.

2.15 Gender-based violence

There are national policies and programmes addressing gender-based violence. These are: National Gender Policy which has been implemented by MGCSP since 2009 and revised from 2017-2022; National Action Plan on GBV and has been drafted and implemented by MGCSCP in 2006 and revised for a five-year period (2016-2021); and the Draft Domestic Violence Bill- a draft document. The country has established institutions which addressed issues related to gender-based violence. The institutions involved are: Ministry of Health, established in 1973; Ministry of Internal Affairs (1976) and Ministry of Justice (1972).

Liberia did use existence laws against gender-based violence within and outside the family. The policy implemented in that thematic area is the Rape Law; Domestic Violence Bill but without a budget. The concrete implementation measures were: the annual campaign of the 16 days of activism against Gender based violence; Anti-rape campaign; establishment of a Secretariat on Gender Based Violence; and the establishment of “ Safe Homes” for SGBV survivors.

Issues that were addressed include: Rape, and delay in adjudicating rape cases; abused women and children safety (Safe Homes); domestic violence; abandonment, persistence non-support; and FGM and Earlier marriage. Key achievements for the period under review include: Safe Homes for the provision of temporary protective shelters for abused women and children as well as psycho social counselling, recreation and follow-up treatment for survivals of rape. These achievements were facilitated by MGCSP and partners (UN Systems and donors) through joint programs. The barriers experienced were limited government budgetary support, entrench cultural and traditional practice. To reduce GBV in the next five to ten years Liberia must focus on Passage of the Domestic Violence Bill; increased budgetary allocation to address GBV issues in the country and Increase adjudication of rape cases in court.

2.16 Equality before the law

The national policies and programs to address equality before the law are; National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) - this policy was implemented by MOJ from 2013 -2018. The 2015 Decent Work Act is a policy that has been implemented by the MOL since 2015. The Draft Domestic Violent Law - is a policy that has been implemented by the MGCSP since 2015. The national institutions dealing with issues of equality before the law are: Ministry of Justice/Division of Human Rights established in 1972; Independent Human Rights Commission (2010); Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (2001); and Ministry of Labor.

17.5) There exist laws that guarantee human rights for all, and equality before the law. An example of this law is the NHRAP which has budgetary allocation. The concrete action taken in these thematic areas are two: the development of the the National Human rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and Drafting of Domestic Violence Law and submission to the legislature. There are also centers, public agencies and CSOs devoted to the protection of human rights. Example of this is the Independent Human Rights Commission (INHRC) which is without budgetary allocation. The concrete measure taken in the past was the establishment of MGCSP.

Issues addressed in this thematic area (equality before the law) were Right to equal participation; Right to adequate standard of living; and Right to food and water. Progress made so far through the implementation efforts of MOJ, INHRC and MGCSP are: The development of the National Human Rights Action Plan; establishment of Independent Human Rights Commission and appointment of commissioner; the creation of Human Right division at MOJ and MGCSP; and carrying out awareness and sensitization across the country. Inadequate finance served as major barrier. For the next five to ten year the following must be carried out to ensure equality for all before the law: i) Enforcement of the law, ii) Educate, sensitize and raise awareness on human rights and iii) Enhance proper coordination among the relevant institutions.

2.17 Hate crimes

There are no policy and programme to address the issue of hate crimes in Liberia. However, there are units within the MOJ (division of Human Right and the Liberia National Police) that address issues related to hate crimes. There are Promulgation and enforcement of laws against discrimination, stigmatization and violence to address hate crimes in the national context. Liberia has never made progress in hate crimes while there are also no implementation frameworks for the next five to ten years for hate crimes.

2.18 Universal access to affordable quality, comprehensive education and skills development

Liberia has four policies and programmes dealing with universal access to affordable quality, comprehensive education and skills development. These are: a) Education Reform Act of 2011 and Free and Compulsory Primary Education policy were two major policies implemented by MOE in 2011 and 2001 respectively. Similarly, Alternative Basic Education (ABE), Special Girls' Education Initiative (SGEI) and Special and Inclusive Education were three programs implemented by MOE 2009, 2006 and 2017 respectively. The MOE established in 1972 and the MGCSP (2001) are institutional framework that addressed universal access to affordable quality, comprehensive education and skills development.

The provision and universal access to affordable quality, comprehensive education and skills development was the key ICDP issues that was implemented by Liberia through its free and compulsory primary education policy with a budget. The concrete measure taken in this thematic area is the training of more teachers and construction of more school buildings. The policy was implemented at level three (3).

The major ICDP thematic area that was addressed is the Provision of free elementary education and universal access to affordable quality and comprehensive education. There were three major achievements made: a.) number of teacher training institutions rehabilitated, and staff equipped to provide basic teacher training for elementary schools in Liberia. b.) free tertiary education and stipends that were provided by the Government for all students specializing in education as incentives to increase the number of trained teachers in the country and c.) Special education policies developed to address the disparities between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities in the educational system including girls with disabilities. The achievements were facilitated by MOE, MGCSP, UNICEF and UNESCO.

In the next five to ten years there is a need to focus on: Providing needed incentives (such as housing, allowance) for teachers especially those in the rural areas; Training of more teachers and provision of refresher training for older teachers; and construction of new schools infrastructures to be user friendly for persons with disabilities if Liberia is to achieve free elementary education and universal access to affordable quality and comprehensive education.

2.19 Equitable access to education for all disadvantaged persons and groups

Liberia has a single policy addressing equitable access to education for all disadvantaged persons and groups. This policy, Special and Inclusive Education Policy, was implemented by MOE from 2017 to date. The Division of Special and Inclusive Education/Ministry of Education, SightSaver; and Handicap International are three institutions used by Liberia to address equitable access to education for all disadvantaged persons and groups.

In the last five (5) years Liberia did not use existence and number of educational facilities that are gender and disability sensitive to address the issues of equitable access to education for all disadvantaged persons and groups. However, it used Existence of legal provisions to provide a safe, non-violent and inclusive learning environment for all through The Education Reform Act 2011.

The implementation of this thematic area had no budget, but its concrete outcome was the development of special and Inclusive Education Policy. The implementation level was at stage one (1).

The ICPD issues addressed by Liberia in this thematic area were the Existence of legal provisions to provide a safe, non-violent and inclusive learning environment for all. The key achievements made were two: the development of special and Inclusive Education Policy; and the provision of scholarship (for one of the staffs at Master level) by Sight-saver in Special and Inclusive Education. The implementation

process was facilitated by MOE, Sight-saver and Handicap International. The major barrier is the inability for most of the old school infrastructures to be disabled friendly.

In the next five (5) to ten (10) years, it is imperative to implement the following policies and programs if Liberia is to achieve equitable access to education for all disadvantaged persons and groups. These are: government budgetary support for the implementation of the Special and Inclusive Education Policy; Government support in training more teachers in the areas of special and inclusive education; the inclusion of special and inclusive education in the curriculum of teachers training institutes by educational authorities; the insurance (by educational authorities) that all new school infrastructures and public buildings be disabled friendly; the establishment of functional assessment centers for testing all disabilities.

2.20 Decent work and appropriate skills for young people

The country used one policy, Decent work Act of 2015 to ensure decent work and appropriate skills for young people. The policy was implemented by MOE from 2016 to date. The Division of decent work at the MOL was used to implement the decent Work and appropriate skills for young people.

Liberia did not use existence policies and programs to generate employment in the last five years rather it used educational institutions that mainstream training in life skills. This was done through public high schools (Multilateral High school in Voinjama, Sinoe, and Harbel) with budgetary support but no concrete implementation measure identified. The country also used existence educational institutions in vocational schools to ensure decent work and appropriate skills for young people in the last five (5) years. For example, it used the Monrovia Vocational Training Institute (MVTIC), Booker Washington Institute (BWI) for project implementation. The concrete action includes

an annual training and certification program for students. The implementation level was one (1).

The ICPD area covered in this segment are: School institutions that mainstream training in life skills and the existence of educational institutions in vocational schools. Principle achievement made so far is the graduation (May 26, 2018) of 2,500 students (from Monrovia Vocational Training Center) in different disciplines. The Ministry of Youth and Sport and Ministry of Education were used to facilitate process but were affected by limited budget. If Liberia is to achieve decent work and appropriate skills for young people in the next five to ten years, then government should work with authorities of the training institutes to organize the graduates into cooperatives, provide contracts and job opportunities.

2.20.1 Commitment 22: Investing in young people to create and access jobs

There are no policy and programme addressing the issues of investing in young people to create and access jobs. However, there are institutions like the Ministry of Youth and Sport or MoYS and Ministry of Education that addressed these issues.

There are existing programs that are creating opportunities and supporting the environment for innovation and entrepreneurship for young people. This issue was addressed by the MoYS through its youth employment kills project with a budget. There was no concrete action taken in the process while the implementation status is still low. Moreover, there were no existing programs supporting formal training opportunities for youth entrepreneurship in line with AADPD/ICPD issues. Hence, the MoYS built the capacity of youth prior to AADPD / ICPD.

The ICPD issues addressed by the country in this thematic area were the existence of programs to create opportunities and a supportive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship for young people.

The key achievements identified were: a.) that 4,500 Liberian youth benefited from skills training program from 2010-2014; b.) Another 2,700 participants received remunerative employment following these training programs; and c.) Sub-component of this program include business development support to help improve the quality and provide relevant training opportunity for young people.

The MoYS was the only facilitating institution for the program. In the next five (5) to ten (10) years the most relevant issues that need to be addressed regarding investing in young people to create and access job are: Provision of skills training and employment opportunities for young people; development of programs to build young people capacity with job skills to access jobs; and the development of young professionals to access job in the public sector.

2.21 Welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities

The national policies and programs to address universal access to welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities are: Essential Package for Social Services -this policy was implemented by MGCSP from 2011- 2015. Family assistant program is also one of the policies in this thematic area that has been implemented from 2011 to date.

The national institutions addressing issues of universal access to welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities are: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection/Family Preservation unit established in 2001 and the MOE (1972). In the last five (5) years Liberia used existence of social protection programs for families through the Family assistance program.

The implementation process of this thematic area had no budget, but its concrete measure was the development of the Social Welfare Policy and Plan; the Essential Package for Social Services by government in addressing issues of access to welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities. The Issue

addressed in this thematic area (universal access to welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities) was the existence of social protection programmes for families. The development of the Social Welfare Policy and Plan; Essential Package for Social Services; provision of assistance to 25 mothers through skills training program and the provision of soft loan for livelihood sustainability in 2016 were key achievements made.

The implementation process was facilitated by MGCSP through the Family Preservation Unit. The major barrier was lack of funding to support the program. The most relevant issues regarding universal access to welfare, livelihoods and stability of families and communities in the next five (5) to ten (10) years are as follows: Need for budgetary allocation for programs; Stability of broken families due to unemployment of family head (Husband); and Review and upgrade program to suit current reality.

2.22 Challenges facing emerging family structures

There are national policies, programmes and strategies that explicitly addressed challenges facing emerging family structures. They are: Social Welfare Policy and Plan and Essential Package for Social Services both implemented by MGCSP. The institution that addressed issues related to challenges facing emerging family structures is Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection through the Family Preservation Unit (established in 2001). During the last five (5) years Liberia did not use existence of programs in addressing the economic (housing, food and health) needs of emerging family structures.

There was no major achievement made in this area so far. This thematic area only focused on awareness and sensitization for communities carried out by MGCSP. Limited funding was the major barrier. The major issues confronting challenges facing emerging family structures are: the unavailability of fund to administer assistance for health care, food and housing; children abandonment and the dropout of students from school; Unemployment of family head; and the too many family conflicts with no understanding.

2.23 Active and healthy ageing for older persons

There are national policies and programmes addressing active and healthy ageing for older persons. These are: Social Welfare Policy and Plans; and Essential Package for Social Services. These policies have been implemented by MGCSP from 2011 -2015 with revision period pending. Liberia has established institutions to address issues related to active and healthy ageing for older persons. These institutions include Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection/Family Preservation Unit; Ministry of Health; and Coalition of Caregiver Advocating for Elders in Liberia (COCOEL).

There are existence of programs and policies to support active and healthy ageing in addressing issues regarding active and healthy ageing for older persons during the last five (5) years. The Issue addressed in this thematic area (active and healthy ageing for older persons) was the Health (medication); food and housing.

The implementing institutions were the MGCSP/Family Preservation Unit, MOH, and CCOAEL with no major achievements due to limited funding. The issues to be considered major priority for public policy in the next five (5) to ten (10) years for Liberia include: the Development of specific policy to address aging; Development of programs and strategies to address issues associated with aging; and harmonization of international convention on aging for older person.

2.24 Participation of older persons in society

Liberia has no policy and programme to address participation of older persons in society. However, there are institutions - MGCSP, MOH & CCOAEL that address issues related to Participation of older persons in society. There are existence programs and policies to support lifelong learning; integration of older persons in society that is addressed in the national context.

The ICPD area covered in this segment are the existence of programs and policies to support lifelong learning; and the integration of older persons in society with MGCSP serving as facilitator. There was no achievement made in this thematic area due to limited funding. The priority areas of concern in the next five (5) to ten (10) years include: the recognition and consideration of older person's view on related issues

2.25 Child labor and all forms of child exploitation

There are two major policies and programs addressing child labor and all forms of child exploitation. These are: first the National Action Plan on Child labor program that is being implemented by the MOL since 2017; and second, Children's Law policy that has been implemented by MGCSP from 2011 to date.

Institutions implementing programs on child labor and all forms of child exploitation are Ministry of Labor (Division of Child Labor), National Commission on Child Law (2017), and Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (2001). In the five years Liberia used existence of child protection units (at national and subnational levels) to deal with child labor and related child exploitation issues. There was no direct budgetary allocation while concrete measure taken was advocacy against child labor including construction of children villages/safe homes.

The most relevant issues that were considered child labor and related child exploitation issues were the existence of child protection units at national and subnational levels. In dealing with this issue government has made the following achievements: developed a National Action Plan on Child labor; enacted Children Law; created Child Labor Division at the Ministry of Labor and Children Division at MGCSP; and established National Commission on Child Labor (NCCL). The progress made by government in dealing with child labor issues was facilitated by MOL, MGCSP, MOJ and NCCL.

Barrier includes limited funding. In the next five to ten years, government needs to focus on three major issues if it is to make major progress in dealing with child labor problems. These three issues are: Construction of additional children villages as safe home for children; enforce children's Law and implement the National Action Plan on Child Labor; and strengthen the capacity of social worker that deals with children issues.

2.26 Rights of all migrants

Liberia has a single policy (Liberia Migration Policy) on the rights of all migrants. The policy has been implemented by Liberia Immigration Services (LIS) since 2017. Institutions involved with the implementation of migration policy are Liberia Immigration Services (Ministry of Justice) and International Organization on Migration (IOM) that arrived in Liberia in the mid-1990s.

Liberia dealt with existence of policies and programs to facilitate migrants' access to work, using the Liberian Labor law with budget allocated. The concrete actions taken in this direction include but not limited to the issuance of work permit to migrant. The implementation measure of this thematic area is at level three which seems to be encouraging. The country also used existing law enforcement units to protect their rights; consular services for migrants through security or intelligent unit. The concrete action in this area is the issuance of residence permit to migrant. Implementation level of the thematic area is at the minimal.

The relevant issues covered in dealing with the rights of migrants are existence of policies and programs to facilitate migrants' access to work and existence of law enforcement units to protect their rights; consular services for migrants. Key achievements made by government and its partners include but not limited to the development of national migration policy, which grant migrants all rights as by international best practice the rights for all migrant to have in their possession all travelling documents; the issuance of residence and work permits to all migrants without discrimination.

The creation of a security or Intelligent unit to protect the rights of all migrants; and eligibility of all migrants to work in Liberia in accordance with their qualifications; these achievements were facilitated by Ministry of Justice (Liberia Immigration service) and the Ministry of Labor. Lack of adequate fund served as barrier for this thematic area. To make adequate progress in addressing issues affecting all migrants in Liberia in the next five to ten years the following must be consistently done: Migrants traveling with all their documents and residing and working with permit.

2.27 Non-discrimination of persons with disabilities

Liberia has a policy and strategy addressing persons with non-discrimination and disabilities. These policies and programs are the National Special and Inclusive Education Action Plan and Special and Inclusive Education Policy that have been implemented by the MOE from 2013 -2017 and from 2018 to date respectively.

The institution that implemented program relating to non-discrimination and persons with disabilities is the Special and Inclusive Education Division at Ministry of Education that was established from. In the last five years Liberia addressed the problems of non-discrimination of persons with disabilities through the following:

- a.) the implementation of provision of the rights of persons with disabilities. The MOE was used to implement this thematic area without budget. The concrete action taken is the establishment of Special and Inclusive Education Policy at the MOE.
- b.) the use of existing public accommodations to meet the needs of persons with disabilities through Liberia School of the Blind with limited budgetary allocation and no concrete implementation measure; and
- c) The country did not use existence social protection programmes to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

The key issues dealt with by government in relation to non-discrimination and persons with disabilities are: implementation of the provision of the rights of persons with disabilities; the existence of public accommodations to meet the needs of persons with disabilities; and existence of social protection programs to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. The major achievements were i) the establishment of a national commission on disability; ii) drafting of the National Action Plan on Disabilities; and iii) the establishment of the school of the blind in Liberia.

These achievements were facilitated by the MOE, MGCSP and the National Commission on Disabilities. In the next five to ten years Liberia needs to consider the following interventions if the country will address the issue of non-discrimination and persons with disabilities. These measures are: to develop policy to meet the needs of persons with disabilities; to develop program to fully implement provisions of convention on persons with disabilities; and to build additional schools and improve existing one for persons with disabilities.

SECOND PILLAR: HEALTH

3.0 Introduction

The Specialized Technical Committee (STC- HPDC) for Health, Population and Drug Control of the Africa Union (AU), met and mandated a ministerial review of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) in Africa beyond 2014. This evaluation is envisaged to contribute to the global review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action by the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in April 2019 and the 25th anniversary of the ICPD.

To facilitate the review and submission of the AADPD Beyond 2014 Report, countries are requested to conduct a comprehensive review through multi-sectoral consultative processes. The aim of the national review processes and national reports is to document progress on the AADPD beyond 2014, identify gaps and challenges, and ultimately advocate for policy change to achieve national development objectives and priorities in line with commitments reflected in the AADPD. Furthermore, countries' reports will be based primarily on the

Operational Guide of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development Beyond 2014 and the indicators contained in its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

This section of the report highlights the AADPD beyond 2014 health component progress, challenges and recommendations for improvement.

3.1 Equitable and Universal Access to Comprehensive Health Services

The Ministry of Health (MOH) vision, goals and objectives encapsulate the issue of equitable and universal access to comprehensive health services. The vision is a healthy population with social protection for all, while the Ministry's goal is to improve the health status of the population of Liberia on an equitable basis.

The National Policy (2011-2021) states “sustained leadership, stakeholder commitment, resources and effort are needed to achieve this by accomplishing the following”:

- Increase access to and utilization of a comprehensive package of quality health services of proven effectiveness, delivered close to the community, endowed with the necessary resources and supported by effective systems;
- Make health services more responsive to people's needs, demands and expectations by transferring management and decision-making to lower administration levels, thereby ensuring a fair degree of equity;
- Make health care available to all Liberians, regardless of their position in society, at a cost that is affordable to the Country.

The health sector has made progress in addressing equity and universal access to comprehensive health services by increasing the number of health facilities from 657 functional in 2014 to 840 in 2017. Also, the MOH is implementing the essential package of health services (EPHS) to all health facilities with a users' free policy in public facilities.

Though significant progress was made beyond 2014 in bridging the equity gaps in health services provision to Liberians, there exist challenges as 29% of the population lack access within 5km of a health facility. The Ministry is committed to addressing this problem through different mechanisms targeted at implementing the global agenda of Universal Health Coverage 2030 and the sustainable development goals vision of “every life matters and leave no one behind”.

3.2 Delivery of Health Services That Is Free from Stigma, Coercion, Discrimination, Violence.

Most of health services are free from stigma, coercion, discrimination and violence. However, services such as HIV, TB, rape and post abortion care and adolescent health services are usually characterized by stigma and discrimination. The National HIV/AIDS Policy calls for de-stigmatization of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS can adversely affect both people’s willingness to be tested for HIV and their adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART). HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination undermine HIV prevention efforts by making people afraid to seek out information about how to reduce their risk of exposure to HIV and to adapt safer behavior, in case the inquiry itself raises suspicion about their HIV status. Since 2005, several organizations in Liberia have campaigned against stigma and discrimination and fought for improved rights for people living with HIV (NAC, 2014).

The reduction of stigma and discrimination in the population is thus an important indicator of the success of the programs targeting HIV/AIDS prevention and control (LDHS 2013).

Since 2007, there has been no measurable improvement, and stigma associated with HIV has perhaps increased. This is of concern because, as previously discussed, stigma prevents or delays persons

getting tested for HIV and, among those living with HIV, stigma prevents them from seeking care and treatment services (NACP and MOHSW, 2014).

According to the 2013 LDHS, women and especially men tend to express more accepting attitudes toward HIV-infected relatives than toward other such as shopkeepers or teachers who have HIV/AIDS. Sixty-nine percent of women and 74 percent of men would be willing to care for a relative with AIDS in their home.

The challenges associated with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, rape and abortion services are enormous due to stigma, discrimination, fewer service delivery points and inadequate trained and skilled staff across the Country.

3.3 Elimination of Preventable, Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases

Liberia is struggling with the burden of chronic conditions such as diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory infections and hypertension, to name a few. The country has limited access to NCDs services, inadequate diagnostic and treatment facilities and fewer qualified service providers. Weak enforcement of current NCDs related regulations (e.g.: Tobacco, Traffic, Alcohol, etc.) have aggravated its burden.

These issues have been identified as serious threat for both the health service and the population at risk. NCDs lower the quality of life, impair economic growth and place a heavy demand on family and national budget.

There are national NCDs Policies and Strategies elaborated to prevent, control and alleviate the health burden of NCDs. With support from partners, the MOH conducted NCDs risk factors surveys, developed health messages and launched public campaigns on the use of tobacco and alcohol.

The major priorities of the country towards NCDs prevention and elimination are as follow:

- a) Increased access to NCDs diagnostic and treatment facilities;
- b) Increased public awareness on NCDs and its risk factors; and
- c) Improved capacity of health workers on the management and care for NCD patients.

On the other hand, communicable diseases such as Malaria, HIV/AIDS, and Tuberculosis are among the major cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia. For instance, Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia, with over one-third of outpatient attendance and inpatient deaths attributed to malaria¹.

Although there are national policies and plans available to tackle the burden of non-communicable diseases, implementation of these plans is sub-optimal due to limited resources to detect, diagnosed and treat communicable diseases. However, the Liberian Government and her partners are committed and resolved to reducing the prevalence of communicable diseases in Liberia.

3.4 Universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support

Liberia has a generalized HIV epidemic with a low prevalence of infection among the adult population. In 2014, an estimated 33,000 people were living with HIV in Liberia,² with prevalence in the general population estimated at 1.9%.³ In recent years, the National AIDS Control Program has significantly scaled up HIV testing, care

¹ Ministry of Health Annual Reports (2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017)

² UNAIDS. Liberia HIV and AIDS Estimate. 2013. Available at <http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/epidocuments/LBR.pdf> Accessed 20 September 2015

³ Republic of Liberia. Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2013. Available from: <http://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr291-dhs-final-reports.cfm> (Accessed 28 September 2016)

and treatment services. A decade ago, these services were available only in Monrovia in few private health facilities.

To date, it has been extended to all 15 counties with 64% of health facilities offering HIV counseling and testing services, 32% offering care and support services, 36% offering ARV services and 65% providing Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT).⁴ PMTCT services are integrated into Antenatal Care Services. HIV testing settings include, voluntary counseling and testing centers, Antenatal Clinics, provider-initiated testing, and blood donors testing mainly in hospitals. Community HIV testing are done during outreach and big national events including World AIDS days.

Liberia has a National HIV/AIDS and STIs Strategic Plan that serves as a road map for halting the spread of HIV/AIDS within the population, ensuring that HIV/AIDS knowledge is universal, and that testing, care and treatment facilities are accessible to the population.

The country established the National AIDS and STIs Control Program (NACP) in 1987 and the National AIDS Commission in 2010 to lead the fight against the disease, design appropriate and cost-effective strategies for ensuring universal access to testing, care and treatment.

Though the HIV Program has made progress over the past decade, there still exist challenges that require urgent attention. The current program challenges include limited access to improved services, inadequate qualified and skilled service providers, stigma and discrimination associated with services and people living with HIV and insufficient funding to address the program needs.

The program priorities for the short to medium term include, capacity building of institutions dealing with the HIV programs, increasing

⁴ Liberia Ministry of Health 2018 Service Availability and Readiness Assessment Report (SARA).

access to HIV services and generating domestic revenue to implement HIV Services.

3.5 Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services

The Republic of Liberia is a signatory to several guiding international resolutions and conventions that strive to improve sexual and reproductive health, including the International Convention on Population and Development (ICPD), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). However, Liberia has no comprehensive reproductive health legislation to address the high maternal and newborn death rates, the high adolescent fertility rate, the unmet need for family planning and other reproductive health services, and other on-going problems related to sexual and reproductive health. All individuals have the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health and to make informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive lives free from discrimination, coercion or violence. Sexual and reproductive rights include, but are not limited to, the right to:

- a) Quality and accessible sexual and reproductive health care and protection that is gender, age, lifestyle and culturally appropriate;
- b) Decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of one's children, and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of one's choice;
- c) Be free of discrimination, coercion and violence in one's sexual decisions and sexual life, including the right to choose freely one's life/sexual partners and the right to refuse marriage [and to say no to sex within marriage];
- d) Safe pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care and services;

- e) Access new and safe reproductive technologies, including artificial insemination;
- f) Safe and accessible abortion-related care;
- g) Information, counseling and services for the prevention and treatment of sexually-transmitted infections;
- h) Information, education and services on all matters of sexual and reproductive health, including infertility, menopause and reproductive cancers;
- i) Specialized education for children, adolescents and marginalized groups on sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- j) Receive information about one's health condition and any medical care required;
- k) The confidentiality of any medical or other information obtained by health-care providers;
- l) Freely consent to the reproductive health care and services obtained;
- m) Prenatal diagnostics for identifying fetal diseases and deformities;
- n) Essential newborn care and prevention, early detection and management of complications during the newborn period;
- o) Safe cultural practices that will not lead to avoidable complications before and during the delivery of a child;

The Ministry of Health has a National Policy Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNAH) with support from UN agencies, and development partners. However, universal access to sexual, reproductive health and right remains a

challenge due to cultural barriers, low coverage of education regarding RH rights and services among others.

3.6 Respect and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights

Reproductive rights are legal rights and freedom relating to reproduction and reproductive health. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines reproductive rights as the basic rights of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. They also include the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence.

Liberia has no law that guarantees reproductive rights of individuals, women and adolescents informed choices regarding their SRH rights, women and men access to SRH care, information and education although there exist sexual and reproductive health policy and strategic plan⁵.

Customary laws and practices often deny women and girls their sexual and reproductive rights, especially in rural areas. However, recent legislations, including the rape and inheritance laws, has been enacted to address some of these issues. However, the high illiteracy rate among women, estimated at 52% (LDHS 2013), has a negative impact on women's health.

The Government of Liberia with support from development partners has increased and improved sexual and reproductive health services. There has been over 30% increase in the number of health facilities providing sexual and reproductive health service since 2014.

⁵ National Sexual and Reproductive Policy of Liberia, 2010

3.7 Integration of sexual and reproductive health services, HIV and AIDS and family planning

The Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) established the framework to begin improving basic facility health service provision in a post conflict setting. Building upon successful BPHS implementation and strong health sector development, the EPHS now includes scaled –up and additional services for all levels of health care delivery to provide more comprehensive services to the Liberia people.

The introduction of the EPHS in 2011 initiated an integrated approach towards service delivery. For instance, PMTCT services were integrated with antenatal care, HIV-TB co-infection services were harmonized, and family planning services were provided at antenatal and postnatal clinics for pregnant and newborn mothers.

There are standard protocols and guidelines that encourage integration of SRH, FP and HIV/AIDS services.

3.8 Elimination of preventable maternal and neonatal, morbidities and mortality

Liberia health system is characterized by severe shortage of skilled and qualified human resources and inequitable distribution; limited health infrastructure; inadequate diagnostic capacity, frequent stock out of essential drugs and supplies; limited financial resources for reproductive health and a weak referral system.

Currently, 87% of health facilities offer ANC services, 85% provide basic obstetric and newborn service and 60% offers comprehensive obstetric care services (SARA 2018). Out of the 16,064 health workers documented by the Human Resources for Health Census in 2016, only 38% are core health workers (e.g.: Medical Doctors, Physician Assistants, Nurses and Certified Midwives). These hurdles couple with low motivation of health workers, weak referral system has made the elimination of preventable maternal and neonatal mortality very difficult.

3.9 Access to safe abortion services

One of the leading causes of maternal death is unsafe abortion, although it is illegal in Liberia. Whenever abortion is performed illegally, post abortion care services are available at most public health facilities to attend to survivors. In 2015, unsafe abortion accounted for 2% of maternal complications while in 2016 it increased by 10% (MOH Annual Reports).

There are health messages on the effect of abortion, service delivery protocol, guidelines and training of health workers on post abortion care and management.

3.10 Comprehensive sexuality education programs

The Ministry of Education, School Health Division is in the process of drafting a comprehensive sexuality educational policy. However, there is no comprehensive program in Liberia. The introduction of a comprehensive sexuality education program will be challenged by the lack of capacity and limited financial to roll-out the program.

3.11 Rights of individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly, the number and spacing of their births

As indicated in the previous section (2.7), there is no law that prohibits individuals and couples from deciding freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. However, customs and traditions give men the privilege to decide the family matters including the number of children. Women in rural areas and those with no formal education have limited rights to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children as evidence by the differential in fertility based on place of residence and women's educational levels.

3.12 Prevention of unplanned pregnancies

The ultimate way to prepare for unplanned pregnancies is to utilize family planning services and abstain from sex. According to the 2018 SARA, 83% of health facilities offer family planning services. Liberia's contraceptive prevalence rate is gradually increasing because of women's empowerment, education, increasing access to family planning services and regular celebration of family planning week. It has increased from 11% in 2007 to 19% in 2013 (LDHS). However,

unmet need (36%) for family planning services is still high and the inequity in access between rural and urban residents is unacceptable.

There has been improvement in family planning services in recent years, but the issue of unplanned pregnancies which result into abortion is of concern. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with partners are scaling of family planning services and increasing public information to reduce the occurrences of unwanted pregnancies.

3.13 Rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) for HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and reproductive tract infections

Unlike malaria, there is no rapid diagnostic test available for HIV and other STIs in Liberia. The health system is progressing gradually, but one of the biggest challenges is the limited diagnostic capacity of the sector.

3.14 Access to sexual and reproductive health information, counseling and services

The National Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Policy has interventions on accessibility to information and counseling. Public awareness and sensitization on women's SRH is ongoing at various health facilities during health talks and through IEC and BCC programs that are implemented by government and her partners (e.g.: PPAL, UN agencies, etc.).

The National Policy on SRH goal is to reduce the burden of morbidity and mortality attributed to sexual and reproductive conditions. It highlighted the following initiatives for addressing access to sexual and reproductive health information, counseling and services:

- a) Encourage schools to incorporate information on SGBV and domestic violence prevention into health education curricula;
- b) Ensure the availability of and access to STI and HIV prevention and management including HIV testing and

counseling (HCT) and appropriate information for safe sex targeting youth;

- c) Ensure that continuous IEC/BCC interventions are provided to communities, especially young people, to empower populations and create demand for and increase utilization of SRH services, particularly for skilled facility deliveries.

However, since the elaboration of the Policy not much have been accomplished due to limited financial support, weak institutional capacities and difficulties dealing with culturally sensitive and behavioral issues.

3.15 Access to appropriate psychosocial services

The Government of Liberia acknowledges that every person has the right to enjoy the best attainable state of mental health and that the protection of the rights of persons with mental disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, is an obligation of the State.

There exists a Mental Health Policy (2016-2021) that calls for equal access and right to health care for all persons, and persons with mental disabilities have a right to treatment of the same quality and standard as all other persons and that persons with mental disabilities have the right to be protected from discrimination, stigmatization, or marginalization on the basis of their mental or intellectual disability.

Currently, Liberia has no established institutional framework to address access to appropriate psychosocial and health services except for the Ministry of Health through her health facilities and centers that provide medical and psychological support to victims/survivors of gender-based violence. Also, there are public awareness campaigns on violence against women to prevent violence and create demand for services

3.16 Integrate responses to gender-based violence

The National Health Policy and the EPHS call for the clinical and psychosocial management of Gender Based Violence. Also, the NACP has developed an indicator to report on the total number of Survivors from penetrative rape receiving post exposure prophylaxis within 72

hours. County Hospitals have established SGBV Unit with trained health workers to respond to rape cases.

These interventions couple with the Ministries of Gender and Justice response to gender-based violence provides a platform for integration. The Ministry of Health within this framework is responsible to provide services to victims and ensure patients' records are available for any court action, while the Ministry of Justice prepares perpetrators. The Ministry of Gender has the mandate to deal with gender-based violence while working with both Ministries of Health and Justice.

THIRD PILLAR: PLACE AND MOBILITY

4.0 Introduction

Liberia has favorable and supported environment in the direction of free movement of people and goods within country. Liberia was founded in 1822 by emancipated African-Americans slaves, immigrants mostly from the United States of America. After the declaration of independence in 1847, Liberia adopted encouraging migratory programs and strategies.

Moreover, as founding member of the United Nations in 1945, Liberia adopted and subscribed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration states in Article 13 that “Everyone has the rights to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state” and “Everyone has the rights to leave any country, including his/her country, and to return to his/her country as well.” In addition, Liberia

as member state of the United Nations agreed to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and member of their Families in 1990 and designated December 18 as International Migrants Day.

Thus, free movement of people and goods within country is also an integral component of the constitution. Furthermore, Liberia is also founding member of the African Union and has ratified protocols on international migrations that encourages free movement of people and goods within country. Recently, Liberia as Member States endorsed the proposal of the UN Secretary-General to create a forum to continue the global dialogue on international migration and development. The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was established in 2006 as a voluntary, non-binding and informal consultative process, led by and open to all States Members and observers of the United Nations.

The provisions of the free movement protocols are attractive to many refugees in West-Africa as they provide secure residence and work entitlements while allowing them to retain their nationality. This is significance given that most refugees prefer to retain their original nationality and dual nationality is prohibited.

Liberia faces international and domestic migration challenges, including cross border migration through porous borders, unregulated remittances from an influential Diaspora population, ineffective border management, and irregular migration in the form of human trafficking and smuggling.

4.1 Objectives

The primary objective of this report is to assess the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa (AADPD) issues regarding the free movement of people and goods within countries in the national context during the last five years.

4.2 Methodology

The data in this report were gathered through participatory discussions and meetings of stakeholders, program managers, experts on population and development in the country. The data was validated.

4.3 FINDINGS

4.3.1 Free movement of people and goods within countries

Liberia has program and/or strategy addressing free movement of people and goods within countries and has established national institutions to handle issues of international migration and development. These institutions are:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), established in 1973;
- Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) established in 2015;
- Liberia Immigration Service was established in the 2016; and Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), established in 1993.

The provisions of the free movement protocols are attractive to many free movements of people and goods within countries. However, the most relevant issues for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five years (5) to ten (10) year include:

- Improvement in road networks
- Combating smuggling and fake and illegal trading
- Illegal drug traffickers
- Improvement in Borders control/ Security

4.3.2 Maximizing the benefits and minimize the costs and repercussions of international migration

Despite the absence of an explicit national migration policy, programs have been initiated and implemented to address international migration and development issues in the country. Liberia has established national institutions to handle issues of international migration and development. These institutions are:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs established in 1973
Liberia Revenue Authority, (LRA) was established in 2015

Liberia Immigration Service was established in the 2016; and Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), established in 1993.

Liberia is also addressing the AADPD/ICPD issues by protecting migrants against human rights abuses, racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia through the Liberia Immigration Service the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission and National Integration Policy. These institutions received budgetary support from the Government of Liberia. Concrete implementation measures are being taken by the Ministry of Justice and the courts to address the issue of migration. From observation, these measures are on schedule.

In addition, the Liberia has ratified United Nations and regional Protocols that provide established standard for residence entitlements, presumption of renewability, security and protection.

Issues regarding maximizing the benefits and minimizing the costs and repercussions of international migration for inclusive sustainable economic and social development that should receive further public policy priority for the next five (5) to ten (10) years include:

- Develop and finalize the National Migration Policy
- Training of Border guards/ immigration officers
- Review of the Naturalization and Alien law
- Provision of appropriate equipment relating to international migrations

4.3.3 Evidence-based migration policies

Although there is no national policy, program and/or strategy that explicitly address evidence-based migration policies, the institutions established are;

Ministry of Foreign Affairs established in 1973,

Liberia Immigration Service established in 2016; and Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), established in 1993.

The most relevant issues regarding evidence-based migration policies for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

Finalization and implementation of the Migration Policy;

Review of the impediments/hindrances on migration issues regarding non-negro citizenship.

4.3.4 Integrating migration issues in national development plans

Liberia has program and/or strategy that explicitly address integrating migration issues in national development plans. The Constitution of Liberia explicitly specified that ... “only persons who are Negroes or of Negro descent shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia.”

Liberia has established national institutions to integrate migration issues in national development plans. These institutions are:

Liberia Immigration Services established in 2016; and Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), established in 1993.

Issues regarding integrating migration issues in national development plans for inclusive sustainable economic and social development that should receive further public policy priority for the next five (5) to ten (10) years include:

- Review of the Naturalization and Alien Law;
- Constitutional review on Citizenship; to incorporate people of non-negro descent;
- Finalization of the National Migration Policy;
- Provision financial and social commitment relating to integration.

4.3.5 Systematic city planning and equal access to quality and affordable basic health and social services

Although Liberia does not have explicit policy, some program and/or strategy have been initiated to address systematic city planning and equal access to quality and affordable basic health and social services. Recently in 2016, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Internal Affairs has initiated discussions for a National Urban Policy for Liberia. This Policy for Liberia is expected to coordinate the work of different sectors, establish incentives for sustainable practices and spur a balanced system of cities through strengthening urban-rural linkages and equitable resources allocation.

Some established institutional entities to address these issues include:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs established in,
- City of Monrovia with city status in 1922,
- Ministry of Public Works established in 1972 with the Zoning Law in 1957
- National Housing Authority in 1970
- Paynesward City in 1972 and other established cities in the country.

The most relevant issues regarding systematic city planning and equal access to quality and affordable basic health and social services for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years.

- Revision of the zoning law
- Development of National Urban Policy of Liberia

4.3.6 Land and housing needs of the poor and to improve land markets

Liberia has national program and/or strategy that explicitly address land and housing needs of the poor and to improve land markets. The program for the construction of affordable housing units and creation of ownership and mortgage program for low-to- middle income earners has been initiated.

The established institutional entities to address these issues include:

National Housing Authority established in 1970;
Liberia Land Authority established in 2016.

The most relevant issues regarding land and housing needs of the poor and to improve land markets for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

- Provision of adequate funding for housing units;
- Acquisition of land for the construction of more housing units;
- Revision of land tenure and Enactment of land bill;
- Develop national housing policy;
- Develop appropriate mortgage scheme arrangements;
- Revision of the zoning law.

4.3.7 Anticipating future growth and population needs

Liberia has national policy, program and/or strategy that explicitly address anticipating future growth and population needs. The National Family law of 1966, National Population Policy for Social and Economic Development enacted in 1988, the Health Plan and Policy and Agenda for Economic Transformation: Steps Towards Liberia Rising 2030 etc. are some policies, programs and strategies to address these issues.

The established institutional entities to address these issues include:

Ministry of Education established in 1973;
The National Population Commission with its secretariat, the Population Policy Coordination Unit established in 1988;
Ministry of Health;
The Planned Parenthood Association established in 2010;
Ministry of Finance & Development Planning established in 2013.

The most relevant issues regarding anticipating future growth and population needs for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

- High fertility and low contraceptive prevalence;
- High morbidity, emerging of new epidemic, mortality including maternal mortality;
- High rural-urban migration, and urbanization;
- Poor sanitation, lack of access to safe drinking water and garbage disposal;
- High rate of non-school attendance and dropout of young people.

4.3.8 Needs of people living in fragile ecosystems

Liberia has national policy, program and/or strategy that explicitly address needs of people living in fragile ecosystems. Some of the policies are National Environmental Policy, National Disaster Management Policy and program and National Zoning Law are initiated to address the issues.

The institutions established are:

Ministry of Public Works established in 1973 and the Zoning Law in 1957;

Liberia National Red Cross established in 1919;

Environmental Protection Agency established in 2003;

National Disaster Management Agency established in 2016.

The most relevant issues regarding needs of people living in fragile ecosystems for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

Revise or update the existing zoning law;

Capacity building for the implementation of the Zoning law;

Increase awareness and community participation of the effects of people living in fragile ecosystems;

Need to develop urban policy.

4.3.9 Sustainable use of urban space

Although, there is no specific national policy, program and/or strategy that explicitly address sustainable use of urban space, the institution established are:

Ministry of Internal Affairs;
Ministry of Public Works.

The most relevant issues regarding sustainable use of urban space for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

Development of Urban policy;
Institutional setups and capacity building;
Revising the Zoning Law.

4.3.10 Reducing barriers on movement and making migration an instrument of mutual development

Liberia has program and/or strategy that explicitly address reducing barriers on movement and making migration an instrument of mutual development. Some of the strategies are free movement of people within countries within the framework of the adoption of the ECOWAS passport, no visa requirement in members' states and identification cards, ECOWAS transportation insurance and customs.

The institutions established are:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) established in 1973;
- Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) established in 2015;
- Liberia Immigration Services established in 2016; and
- Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), established in 1993.

The most relevant issues regarding reducing barriers on movement and making migration an instrument of mutual development for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

Revision of the Constitution relating to inclusive of non-Negro citizenship in the country, revision of the naturalization and Alien Law and training of immigrations/ security officers.

4.3.11 Surveys to ensure current migration data

Although, Liberia does not have a national policy, program and/or strategy that explicitly address surveys to ensure current migration data, some programs exist. The provisions of the Constitution of Liberia on the conduct of National Population Census, the National Population Policy for Social and Economic Development, the Statistics Act, Liberia Immigration Services, Institute for Population Studies, University of Liberia could ensure current migration data.

The established institutions to ensure current migration data are:

National Population Commission with its Secretariat, the Population Policy Coordination Unit established in 1988, Liberia Institute for Statistics & Geo- Information Services established in 2004, Liberia Immigration Services established in 2016 and the Institute for Population Studies established in 2002.

The most relevant issues regarding surveys to ensure current migration data for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

Collection and analysis of current migration data,
Dissemination of the results to stakeholders for policy formulation and Publication.

4.3.12 Rights of refugees and their physical protection

Liberia has program and/or strategy that explicitly address rights of refugees and their physical and social protection. Liberia has also addressed the ICPD issues by protecting migrants against human rights abuses, racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia through the Liberia Immigration Services, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, National Integration Policy, and National Reconciliation Commission. These institutions received budgetary support from the Government of Liberia. Concrete implementation measures are being taken by the Ministry of Justice and the courts to address the issue of refugees.

Issues regarding strengthening support for international activities to protect and assist refugees since ratification of protocols on international migrations.

The strategies considered are:

Ensure that penalties are not imposed on refugees, on account of their illegal entry or presence, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence, notwithstanding any provision of the 1973 Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia. Some refugees have been resettled, assisted to return to their countries of origin and integrated into the Liberian communities.

The institutional entities to address rights of refugees and their physical and social protection are:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs established in 1973,
- Liberia Immigration Services established in 2016, and the
- Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission established in 1993.

The most relevant issues regarding rights of refugees and their physical and social protection for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

- Provision of adequate arrangements and funding to assist refugees;
- Develop law and procedures on asylum;
- Revision of the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia;
- Revision of the Constitution particularly the section on citizen to give opportunity to persons of non-Negro for eligibility to Liberian citizenship.

4.3.13 Removal of barriers to environmental sustainability

Liberia has national policy, program and/or strategy that explicitly address removal of barriers to environmental sustainability. The

Environmental Policy and the Zoning Law of 1957 have adopted issues relating to environmental sustainability in the country.

Liberia has established institutional entities to address removal of barriers to environmental sustainability. They are:

Ministry of Public Works established in 1973; and Environmental Protection Agency established in 2003.

The most relevant issues regarding removal of barriers to environmental sustainability for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are:

Revision of the Zoning law; Capacity building; Provision of appropriate technology.

FOURTH PILLAR: GOVERNANCE

5.0 Introduction

In 1994, 179 countries Liberia included gathered at the International Conference on Population and Development to discuss a bold new vision regarding the causality between Population, development and individual wellbeing. A major outcome of that meeting was a unanimous adoption of a 20-year action plan that encapsulates key indicators of national development affecting the population. The 20-year plan was built upon the success of the population, maternal health and family planning programs of the four previous decades while addressing, with a new perspective, the need of the early years of the twenty-first century.

The year 2014 marked exactly twenty years (20) since the adoption of the Action plan. The need to assess the implementation of the action plan became cogent. A national Review process was conducted on the

ICPD Beyond 2014. Eventually, a comprehensive Country Report which emphasized the need to deliver the most comprehensive evidence base of achievements, gaps and outstanding issues in relation to the implementation of the Action plan was prepared. This year ICPD members countries are required to review progress they have made over the last few years.

ICPD @ 25 national Review report is expected to enable Member States evaluate the extent to which they have fulfilled the commitments reflected in the AADPD over the past five years, by providing data on an agreed set of indicators across various levels of change (input, process and output/ impact indicators). Further, the national report creates space for countries to highlight innovative polices, strategies and programs that facilitate the fulfilment of commitments and therefore the achievement of national priorities, as well as the challenges that limit the achievement of these priorities.

This report on Governance evaluates the extent to which national government has worked towards integrating the population into development through the establishment and administration of institutions of governance as reflected in the AADPD over the past five years. Further, the report highlights innovative polices, strategies and programs that facilitate the fulfilment of commitments, the achievement of national priorities, as well as the challenges that limit the achievement of these priorities.

5.1 Integration of Population dynamics into development planning:

The government of Liberia continues to implement critical national policies that enhance involvement of the population into integral development planning processes. At ICPD twenty-five (25), much has already been accomplished albeit existing challenges. Various programs, Policies and strategies are being implemented across sectors of government. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection continues to implement the National Gender Policy gear

towards mainstreaming women and men in public sector without discrimination. The Ministry of Gender has succeeded with the establishment of Gender Units/Gender Focal persons in government Ministries and Agencies. The Ministry continues to advocate for women empowerment and inclusion across sectors of the country.

The Ministry of Health is consistently and effectively ensuring the realization of the National Health Policy and Plan and the government ambitious inter-ministerial Health Workforce program designed primarily to achieve targeted improvements in the quality, quantity, and skill diversity of national health workforce and improve access to safe and quality health services throughout the country by 2021.

The Ministry continues to ensure systems that respond adequately to the health needs of the population. An important component of the National Health Policy and plan is the need to increase and create conducive conditions for physicians, at the same time increasing investments in basic infrastructures in the health sector that would ultimately lead to responsive service delivery for the population.

The government has established a Post Graduate Medical College-Liberia college of Physicians and Surgeons and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia to train health workers to man the sector. These efforts will create ultimate conditions for the provision of responsive health care services across the country.

The implementation of the National Youth Policy is smoothly underway. Youth across the country are continuously being integrated into development planning activities in central and local government of the state. The Local Government Act provides for the inclusion of youth at the County Council level. Albeit prevailing challenges in the Education sector, the Ministry of education remains functional in its education decentralization effort- a key accomplishment of the National Policy on Education. District Development Officers and

County Development Officers continue to create conditions for dialogues with the population.

5.2 Ensuring effective coordination of all relevant social and planning bodies:

The government of Liberia has made efforts to ensure that planning bodies within the country are effectively coordinated. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has been the principle institution responsible for instituting this initiative. The Ministry implemented the Liberia Development Alliance 2012-2017, a national program that is an embodiment of activities undertaken by various planning bodies.

Key achievements of the Ministry include: The Development of the Agenda for Transformation, the establishment of Liberia Development Alliance and the Establishment of the County Development Steering Committee. Perennial turnover of Political appointees and staff turnover of civil servants are among the challenges in the coordination of planning bodies. Towards the future, the major public policy discussion will focus on the citizen's ownership, Political Will and capacity building.

5.3 Inclusive and effective participation of the whole society:

A significant factor that resulted to years of civil unrest in Liberia was the exclusion and marginalization of segments of the population from the mainstream of social, political and economic activities. It is therefore incumbent upon the state to ensure the development of strategies that promote population inclusiveness in the governance and management of the society. The government through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Governance Commission developed the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Government. The Policy calls for the conduct of local elections that will allow for local decision making and development planning locally.

The Act to give the Decentralization Policy effect is still lingering at the legislature -lacking political will. However, there is a huge sensitization of the population on the impacts of the decentralization policy. Additionally, the government of Liberia initiated the establishment of County Service Centers around the country.

The Centers are currently functional in all fifteen counties of Liberia. The centers are dispensing functions transferred to them from centralized government ministries and agencies to the people in the rural areas. The centers have been succeeding in providing basic social services for the citizens in rural communities around the country.

The government also continues to provide support to and collaborate with Civil Society organizations working to ensure that the population is effectively participating in local governance and planning activities. The National CSO Policy calls for sustainable CSOs-population engagement efforts that are expected to produce greater awareness on the role of the population in the governance of the state.

5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

The government has not done much to construct a national monitoring and evaluation framework to track the impacts of government development initiatives around the country. Various ministries and agencies have developed separate monitoring and evaluation tools.

The Governance Commission, the Agency of the Liberian government with mandate on national policy development and advice and the country fiscal house, the Ministry of Finance and Development planning have been making efforts to build Monitoring and Evaluation synergies across government. The two entities have established specific departments to focus on monitoring and evaluation of the country's development progress.

The Governance Commission as part of its governance assessment efforts conducts and produces annual governance report covering various sectors of the country through its Monitoring Evaluation Research and Publication mandate area. Beginning in 2013, the commission has produced annual governance report for Health, Education and recently the Election sectors.

The Ministry of Finance has also developed a Monitoring and evaluation department with coverage on the implementation of Agenda for Transformation, progress of the Liberia Development Alliance and the County Development Steering Committee. Moving forward, it is recommended that the government of Liberia develop a national Monitoring and Evaluation synergy that is an embodiment of all sectors of the state.

FIFTH PILLAR: DATA AND STATISTICS

6.0 Introduction

To address evidence-based analysis and policy studies, Liberia, over the past 10 years, has developed policies, programs and diverse including cost-effective, evidence-based strategies to reform or restructure many instructions to prioritize evidentiary or data based decision making.

The availability of these national policies and strategies seek to address a significant factor affecting the ability of policy makers to engage in evidence based policy making which pertains to both governmental and non-governmental policy analytical capacity which is critical for national growth and development; The level of policy

analytical capacity found in many governments and non-governmental actors is low, potentially contributing to both a failure of evidence based policy making as well as effectively dealing with many complex contemporary policy challenges.

6.1: Key National policies and strategies

There are key national policies and strategies formulated to address evidence-based analysis and policy studies to prioritize evidentiary or data based decision making with support from donors and the UN agencies for national growth and development.

6.2: Establishment of national institutions that have the competence, expertise and core mandate to address National policies and strategies issues

The Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) is the national institution responsible for data in Liberia. The Statistics House, as it is referred to, functions as a producer and publisher of national population and related socio-economic data. This institution also approves sectoral data before publication. Every sector, while they may have their own data collection mechanism, must meet the approval of LISGIS before publishing such data as part of the official national dataset. Since its establishment as a semi-autonomous institution in 2004, LISGIS has conducted the first post-war (2008) Population and Housing Census and several nationally representative data collection exercises including the Core Welfare Indicator Survey (2006), two Liberia Demographic and Health Surveys (2007 and 2013), a host of consumer price index studies, the 2008-2009 Crop Assessment Survey, Labour Force and Human Rights Surveys (2010 and 2016-2017), Most-At-Risk Adolescents and Young People (MARYP) Survey, National Account survey, Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) in 2015, etc. The analytical reports of these surveys are yet to be published.

In addition to data collected by LISGIS, other GoL ministries are also involved in collecting and analysis of data for their own planning purposes. These include:

- The Ministry of Health collects data on clinic services and other healthcare interventions. The Health Management Information System (HMIS) is updated on a regular basis. All hospitals, health centres and clinics (governmental and nongovernmental) maintain registers and records of all health and social welfare activities as prescribed by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Division of MOH. The health facilities transcribe information from the registers and records and report regularly to the County Health Teams (CHTs). Essential analysis conducted at this level is shared with the respective health facility management committee, local authorities, and supervising levels within the MOH.
- The Ministry of Education conducts an Annual School Census to update the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The exercise was initially supported by UNICEF up to 2011. The USAID took over the exercise from 2012 up to present. The 2015 EMIS report is yet to be published.
- The government has started a process of establishing a National Identification Registry (NIR). The NIR was created primarily to design, establish, maintain and administer the National Biometric Identification System (NBIS) of Liberia and it will soon start a national identification registration process across the country. This is a huge effort in collecting data on the population and needs strengthening.
- Ministry of Agriculture's Bureau of statistics collects annual national statistics on food security, livelihood index and agriculture productivity
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection formulate policies and strategies to deal with gender equality, GBV and collects data on rape, domestic violence, SBV.

6.3: Issues regarding statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis and policy studies in Liberia

Among the issues related that is most relevant in the national context-Liberia has done the assessment of CRVS and costing, but still need to be approved for implementation.

Currently, the Ministry of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics records births and deaths as proxy for the CRVS. **Key achievements:** CRVS Assessment frame work was carried out; **Facilitators:** LISGIS, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and National Identification Registry are all involved **Barriers:** These institutions have their own mandate, hence there exist the need for coordination amongst the stakeholders to enter data sharing protocol and memorandum of understanding on CRVS compilation, production and distribution.

6.4 Main institutions responsible for implementing the policy, programme and/or strategy, the implementation and timeframe or the year of inception/revision

Institute of Population Studies (IPS) is the only one of its kind in Liberia providing training in demography and/or population studies. The Institute is expected to be a major provider of human capacity for data collection, management, analysis, reporting and dissemination for the attention of policymakers and development practitioners. As Liberia further moves into a major phase in its post-war reconstruction and development, the need for sufficient human capacity to manage data ecosystems and engender planning, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes puts an added burden on the Institute for Population Studies at the University of Liberia.

Other institutions that explicitly address statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis and policy studies include Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education; Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection; Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services, 2004; Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), 2010; Liberia Telecommunication Authority, 2007; National Identification Registry, 2011 and Governing Commission, 2008 and Liberia Institute of Public Administration.

6.5 Regarding statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis and policy studies in the national context during the last five (5) years

Existence of institutions to undertake evidence-based and policy studies began in the 1980s with a minor in demography at the University of Liberia. This was improved upon in the 1990s after the civil war with a Certificate program in Statistics, and now an undergraduate degree in population studies at the University of Liberia.

6.6: Most relevant issues regarding statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis and policy studies for inclusive sustainable economic and social development priorities for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years

Shortage of national expertise to manage data eco-system: As the world moves towards the emergence of “big data”, not much is being done for the future of big data emergence in Liberia.

There is very low public-sector commitment (in the form of budgetary allocation) to data collection issues; weak institutional capacity (availability of highly trained human resources and requisite equipment) of the national statistical office; highly limited M&E and Planning Officers in over 60% of government ministries, departments and agencies; the school system does not provide the necessary wherewithal for training in mathematics, statistics, population studies/demography, etc., to feed the public and private sectors with the necessary human resources that would engender a good national statistics/planning/M&E culture, and national institutional arrangements governing data ecosystems for the implementation of a data utilization culture are weak due to a combination of the factors itemized above.

It becomes imperative for the strengthening of national capacity for demographic intelligence through the capacitation, upgrading and support to the Institute for Population Studies (IPS) at the University of Liberia, LISGIS, Population Policy Coordination Unit, and Ministries, agencies and departments cited earlier that collect and analyze data. Other areas are to improve the organizational structure and management of the National Statistical System to ensure results-orientation, harmonization of indicators data and optimal use of resources; To upgrade statistical infrastructure and expand the production and dissemination of statistical and spatial data that gear towards the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for the support of the National Development Agenda

6.7: Issues regarding a functioning system of civil registration in the national context during the last five (5) years.

There exist of a functioning system of civil registration but there is no overarching institution, such as a ministerial steering committee, to streamline and coordinate the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the various institutions engaged in CRVS activities, including the implementation of the CRVS improvement plan, which is being driven primarily by the Ministry of Health. It must be noted, though, that there is a taskforce of interested stakeholders that has been regularly meeting to discuss issues related to birth and other civil registration issues.

The current coordination between MOH and the other ministries/agencies is not yet at the required level needed to create the expected demand for birth certificates as a prerequisite for primary schools, job application, and so on. There is no clear provision for the role of traditional birth attendance/community health workers or traditional leaders for notification of births occurring outside the health centers. The CRVS system lacks a central policy that can guide the individual and joint roles, responsibilities, and activities of all actors involved.

6.8: The most relevant issues regarding a functioning system of civil registration for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years? Cite up to five (5) issues.

The most relevant issues regarding a functioning system of civil registration for inclusive sustainable economic and social development is that the CRVS system lacks a central policy that could guide the individuals including joint roles, responsibilities, and activities of all actors involved needed to create the expected demand for birth certificates as a prerequisite for primary schools, job application, and so on.

6.9: Issues regarding use of quality and timely data for purposes of planning, monitoring and evaluation in the national context during the last five (5) years.

During the last five (5) years there are surveys conducted to collect and analyse social and economic data for planning purposes through the Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo- Information Services (LISGIS) and line ministries and agencies including non-governmental agencies for the so purpose of National Development planning of Liberia.

LISGIS has conducted the first post-war (2008) Population and Housing Census and several nationally representative data collection exercises including the Core Welfare Indicator Survey (2006), two Liberia Demographic and Health Surveys (2007 and 2013), a host of consumer price index studies, the 2008-2009 Crop Assessment Survey, Labour Force and Human Rights Surveys (2010 and 2016-2017), Most-At-Risk Adolescents and Young People (MARYP) Survey, National Account survey, Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) in 2015, etc. The analytical reports of these surveys are yet to be published. Other GoL ministries are also involved in collecting data for their own planning purposes. These include:

- The Ministry of Health collects data on clinic services and other healthcare interventions. The Health Management Information System (HMIS) is updated on a regular basis. All hospitals, health

centres and clinics (governmental and nongovernmental) maintain registers and records of all health and social welfare activities as prescribed by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Division of MOH.

- The health facilities transcribe information from the registers and records and report regularly to the County Health Teams (CHT)s. Essential analysis conducted at this level is shared with the respective health facility management committee, local authorities, and supervising levels within the MOH.
- The Ministry of Education conducts an Annual School Census to update the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The exercise was initially supported by UNICEF up to 2011. The USAID took over the exercise from 2012 up to present. The 2015 EMIS report is yet to be published.
- The government has started a process of establishing a National Identification Registry (NIR). The NIR was created primarily to design, establish, maintain and administer the National Biometric Identification System (NBIS) of Liberia and it will soon start a national identification registration process across the country. This is a huge effort in collecting data on the population and needs strengthening.

6.10: Issues regarding use of quality and timely data for purposes of planning, monitoring and evaluation for inclusive sustainable economic and social development that should receive further public policy priority for the next five (5) to ten (10) years

Sustainable economic and social development that should receive further public policy priority for the next five (5) to ten (10) years include the following:

1. Agenda for Transformation 2012 -2017
2. Pro-Poor Agenda 2017 – 2022
3. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) 2016 – 2020

6.11 Establishment of institutional entities to address research and policy studies

There are some institutional entities addressing research and policy studies in Liberia and are University of Liberia (UL), 1953; Cuttington University Graduate and Professional School, 2004; Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA), 1973; Center for Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), 1973.

6.12 Considering the national context, what are the most relevant issues regarding research and policy studies for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years? Cite up to five (5) issues.

Issues regarding research and policy studies for inclusive sustainable economic and social development that should receive further public policy priority for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are as follows:

1. 2019 Population and House Census report which will inform public policy decision making in socio-economic issues in Liberia.
2. 2018 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey to inform health policy decision makers
3. 2016 Labour Force Survey which inform labour market policy on migration, labour force, employment
4. 2016 situation analysis on women and children highlighting issues on gender-based violence, rape, disability and vulnerability.

6.13 National policy, programme and/or strategy that explicitly address collecting data on older persons and persons with disabilities

Name of policy, programme or strategy that explicitly address collecting data on older persons and persons with disabilities include the following:

1. LISGIS Statistics Act 2004
2. Census Act 1960
3. National Commission on Disabilities (NCD) Acts 1974

6.14 Establishment of institutional entities to address regular national censuses

Institutional entities addressing regular national censuses indicating the name(s) of the institutional entity (ies) and the year of establishment include the following:

1. LISGIS, 2004
1. Ministry of Internal Affairs, 1972
2. Ministry of Justice, 1972
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1973 56erw
4. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, 2013
5. National Legislature of Liberia

6.15 Periodic assessment of the national civil registration systems and vital statistics

The periodic assessment of the national civil registration system has not yet started because those institutions that supposed to drive the entire national civil registration systems and vital statistics lack a common platform for data integration, quality, sharing, and dissemination.

SIXTH PILLAR: INTERNAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

7.0 Introduction

The African Regional Conference on Population and Development “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: The Future We Want for Africa” took place in Addis Ababa, from 30 September to 4 October 2013. The Conference reviewed the progress and gaps in the implementation of the Program of Action and identified policy actions around three main themes — framing Africa’s future; the demographic dividend; and equality and human dignity — to lead to implementation modalities for the full achievement of the Program of Action in Africa.

The outcome of the African Regional Conference on Population and Development, the Addis Ababa Declaration, made up of 88 commitments, is a plan for continued commitment by African countries to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development, peace and security, framed within a rights-based approach to population and development strategies, programs and policies for the region.

Pillar six of these commitments considers issues regarding Internal Cooperation and Partnerships. There are eleven (11) commitments in this pillar and are to address the issues regarding Internal Cooperation and Partnerships. To determine the levels of progress on the implementation of Program of Action around these commitments, the consultants applied several questionnaires to randomly selected Civil Society Organization based on their areas of advocacies; as well as private and public institutions in the delivery of goods and services, monitoring compliance, policy formulations and regulation of policies and programs. Desk reviews were conducted on relevant documents to identify the progress Liberia has made on the implementation of Pillar Six of these commitments.

Results from the analyses of the questionnaires and the conduct of the Desk Review showed that Liberia has made significant progress, despite the challenges and constraints, in addressing issues regarding Internal Cooperation and Partnerships beyond 2014.

7.1 Addressing AADPD/ICPD Issues regarding Internal Cooperation and Partnerships

The conference recognized that with the deepening of globalization, the issues of population and development have become increasingly intertwined with global economic, social and environmental concerns and that addressing such issues require a multi-stakeholder both national and international approach. So, therefore, beyond 2014, there was a need for Liberia to promote and strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations including NGOs and youths; as well as the private sectors in the design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of population and development programs and policies, and encourage the promotion of international cooperation efforts, including the development of joint programs and initiatives, the strengthening of policy dialogue and coordination, the transfer of knowledge and technology, and the allocation and mobilization of financial and technical resources, for international cooperation in the area of population and development.

7.2 Participation and building the capacity of local, national and international civil society organizations

7.2.1 Achievements in addressing issue regarding Participation and building the capacity of local, national and international civil society organizations

Liberian CSOs enjoy a relatively favorable enabling environment, which supports the ongoing state building process. Both legal and policy frameworks recognize the need and added value of CSO

engagement. Articles 15 and 17 of the Liberian Constitution guarantee civic/political rights and freedoms (freedoms of speech, movement, association and assembly; privacy of the individual, protection of the individual from being a victim of power excesses of the state). Other key policy documents like the Liberia's Gender Policy (2009) and the National Youth Policy (2012-2017) foresee engagement with and strengthening of Liberian Civil Society.

7.2.2 Participation of CSOs in domestic policies

In the absence of strong state institutions, CSOs in Liberia remain key actors in the provision of services in education, health, water and sanitation, as well as in agricultural extension and food security, filling gaps of weak or inexistent public services, particularly in locations far from the capital. Their engagement as governance actors is however still at an early stage of development.

Liberian CSOs have been deeply involved in the formulation and approval of the two key public policy strategies for reform and development in Liberia (the Agenda for Transformation (AfT) and the vision Liberia Rising 2030) and both documents highlight the role of local CSOs as "agents of change" in critical national processes.

This political commitment has been institutionalized with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (known as the GoL-CSO Accord) between the GoL, represented by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and CSOs, represented by the National Council of Civil Society in Liberia, NCSCL. Signed in 2016, this MoU is the main policy framework governing Government-CSO interactions for the CSO sector. Yet, progress needs to be noted, particularly through the involvement of CSOs in accountability of public policies at local level through engagement of CSOs in the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project (IPFMRP), which has created pressure on public officials and service providers in Liberia to improve service delivery. In the Education sector, CSOs are part of the tri-partite dialogue in the Education Sector Development

Committee (ESDC). In addition, central roles are given to CSOs in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the Liberia Gender Policy (2009) and the National Youth Policy (2012-2017).

7.2.3 Capacity of CSOs

Liberian Civil Society capacity remains generally weak, and CSOs face a multiplicity of operational and institutional challenges that inhibit them in carrying out their missions and activities. Civil Society actors' lack of a clear mandate, sufficient representativeness or strategies on how to strengthen the collective voice of rights-holders constitute real challenges, especially in relation to rural populations. This is even more acute today, as CSOs shift their approaches and leave behind their purely service delivery roles.

7.2.4 Major Challenges and Constraints

The implementation of the GOL-CSOs Accord is however far from being effective, considering the lack of participation culture on both sides, the legitimacy and accountability challenges confronted by NCSCL, and in some cases the lack of will of public authorities to implement it. The result is that Civil Society involvement is still ad-hoc and very much differing across sectors. Development partners, including the EU and its member states, can play a role in advocating for Civil Society consultation and dialogue with Government, not at least to ensure that groups facing societal discrimination such as persons with disabilities, persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community also have their voices heard.

Besides, the legal framework for CSOs is fragmented, as laws are managed by different Ministries. Not-for profit organizations are incorporated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is responsible for accrediting them.

The fragmented legal framework implies multiple and dispersed responsibilities that, combined with unclear CSO provisions, are causing confusion when registering CSOs. This situation tends to be solved by civil servants' discretionary decision and several CSOs still

manage themselves following customary rules and religious as well as traditional beliefs, which are often not in line with Human Rights Conventions and human rights-based approaches.

This lack of CSO capacities, combined with the absence of internal governance and transparency mechanisms, and corruption which persists within many CSOs, are some of the main factors undermining CSO development. This has a strong impact on the credibility and legitimacy of the Liberian Civil Society fabric to represent and defend citizens' rights. Internal governance is further weakened by poor labor standards. Several studies point out that Liberian CSOs cannot provide regular salaries for staff and are highly dependent on donor funds, resulting in periods of little or no revenue between grants.

Many CSO staff, and in some cases, entire staff of some CSOs go unpaid during periods between grants. Those who can pay a few core staff regularly must still rely on volunteers or interns. Finally, with limited technical capacity and weak institutional and financial systems, CSOs are unable to meet donor criteria and fulfill donor procedures for project funding.

About networking and coordination, despite sustained efforts to strengthen the collective voice of the sector, fragmentation also continues to be a fundamental weakness. Due to the challenging funding environment (where most CSOs depend on international funds), CSOs compete in a rather limited and donor-driven arena for mostly small project- or activity-oriented funds. This competition, the establishment of many new CSOs that do not seek coordination with other Civil Society actors, and the lack of knowledge of what other actors do and achieve, create an atmosphere of mistrust.

7.2.5 The most relevant issues regarding participation and building the capacity of local, national and international CSOs for inclusive sustainable economic and social development of priority to public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are as follows:

- a) Full implementation of enacted laws that positively impact issues on Population and Development;
- b) Enactment of mental health bill that will address the enormous challenges in the care, treatment, and prevention of mental health sicknesses;
- c) The Government of Liberia should consider formulating policy that will enhance inclusive economic and social development;
- d) The relevant entities of Government of Liberia need to design youth and women development programs to address youth unemployment, unskilled development, women impoverishment, gender inequality and poverty;
- e) The Peace Building Office in the Ministry of Internal Affairs needs to undertake all measures and programs to sustain the peace the nation has experienced over the ten years;
- f) The Government and its development Partners should provide the necessary funding, logistics, and supplies to build the institutional and Human capacities of CSOs to fully participate in national decision making and to monitor full implementation of programs to address issues of population and development;
- g) Strengthening the environment for Advocacies and Monitoring of development programs;
- h) Full implementation of the terms and conditions of the GoL-CSO Accord;
- i) The full implementations of policies, programs, and strategies that address the issues of AADPD; and
- j) Advocacy and awareness in the areas of human rights, sexual-based violence, gender equity and equality, child protection, the danger of corruption, political violence and abuse, and other societal vices which tend to undermine democratic values and hinder socio-economic development.

7.3 Role of civil society organizations

7.3.1 Achievement in addressing issues regarding the role of civil society organizations

Specific roles are given to CSOs in oversight bodies such as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and the Liberia Extractive

Transparency Initiative (LEITI). For instance, the LACC Act foresees in consultation of Civil Society by the President when considering nominations of commissioners. This provides formalized opportunities for constructive engagements between CSOs and the Government and entry points for capacity building.

The involvement of CSOs in public financial management processes through the Public Finance Management Reform Project (IPFMRP) has created pressure on public officials and service providers in Liberia to improve service delivery. However, these accomplishments may not be sustained due to the weak capacity of the CSO secretariat to enhance the capacity of CSOs to serve as critical watchdogs in public financial management, monitor results and ensure impartiality in the selection of projects. It is therefore recommended that the Civil Society sub-component of the new IPFMRP II puts more emphasis on these issues.

7.3.2 Enabling factors and Challenges

The Government and its partners have been supportive of the CSOs in Liberia. This commitment led to the signing of MOU between the Government and CSOs in Liberia. This is a policy instrument governs the GOL-CSOs interactions. This legal framework recognizes two categories of CSOs in Liberia: mutual benefit organizations and public benefit organizations. While mutual benefit organizations are organizations whose purpose is to help their members, public benefit organizations intend to help specifically identified groups of people or the general population. Civic organizations, development and welfare CSOs, including watchdog organizations, are part of this last group.

Today, key donors supporting Civil Society in Liberia (i.e. USAID, Sweden, UNDP and the EU) find themselves at the identification stage of their future interventions in favor of Civil Society development. Most of them (i.e. USAID, Sweden and UNDP to some extent) are targeting community based/grassroots organizations, including informal groups and plan to support them with institutional capacity development as well as financial supports. There is also a need to rethink donor support models to CSOs to reinforce CSO ownership and financial sustainability. To date, donor support to CSOs has been

for the most part project-based, service provision oriented, channeled through intermediary organization (INGOs) and largely driven by donor agendas.

Nevertheless, the legal framework for CSOs is fragmented, as laws are managed by different Ministries. Not-for profit organizations are incorporated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is responsible for accrediting them.

However, the role given to CSOs in these bodies also adds to the fragmentation of the legal framework, e.g. the Act of 2008 establishing the LEITI under Section 1.2 (b) defines Civil Society as ‘the entire segment of the Liberian population that is not in government’. Within this context, CSOs have not been able to work collectively to safeguard the space by claiming a policy and a single and clear regulatory framework. As result, the space for CSOs remains ‘vulnerable’.

7.3.3 Most relevant issues regarding the role of CSOs for inclusive sustainable economic and social development of priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years:

- a) Building the capacity of CSOs to fully participate in national decision-making processes;
- b) Fully formulating policies and programs to strengthen CSOs in Liberia;
- c) Provide the necessary financial and material supports to enhance the roles of CSOs;
- d) Capacity development in the areas of institution and human resource;
- e) Strengthening Advocacy; and
- f) Promoting inclusive Social and Economic development.

7.4 Strengthening partnerships with the private sector

7.4.1 Areas of progress in addressing issues regarding sstrengthening of partnerships with the private sector

Liberia has made some significant progress to strengthen partnership with the private sector in terms of the formulation of policies, programs

and strategies. According to the National Investment Commission and the National Bureau of Concession, entities of government, policies, programs, and strategies formulated and implemented to strengthen these partnerships are Local Content Policy, Public Private Partnership Policy, Health System strengthen project agreement, Private Sector Development Strategy, Special Economic Zone Law, and Partnership for Health Development. Other institutional entities established to strengthen these relationships are The Liberia Chamber of Commerce (LCC), The Liberia Business Association (LIBA), and Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (LEITI).

Addressing the AADPD/ICPD issues regarding strengthening of partnerships with the private sector in the national context during the last five (5) years, Regional Stakeholder Consultations were held in support to Private Sector Development in Liberia and the production of Trade Bulletin Initiative and Consumer Education documents was done to signify the public mechanisms of quality control in the private production/delivery of commodities and services. These activities received budgetary support from the Government of Liberia. Monitoring from Investment to compliance by NBC helped to strengthen these partnerships.

Some key achievements in strengthening partnership with the private sectors are Development of a Private Sector Development Strategy; setting up of a Consumer Unit at the MoCI; Publication of the Trade Bulletin on a semi-annual basis; and Development of a Local Content Policy.

7.4.2 Facilitating factors and Constraints

Institutions serving as facilitators are the National Investment Commission, Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Liberia Chamber of Commerce and Liberian Business Associations.

However, there are constraints such as the absence of a conducive legal and regulatory framework; weak infrastructure—especially roads and power; difficulty in accessing finance and markets; difficulty in launching new export activities; low levels of human development and

limited management and entrepreneurship skills; high administrative and regulatory costs; insufficient knowledge to stimulate innovation and business development services; and limited local capacity for investment and fragmented markets.

Meanwhile, the Private sector development and the possible role of the government in the process need to be simplified. The central role of the government as facilitator or initiator of private enterprise lacks clarity in the context of the National Development Plan (AfT).

The former would continue the shift in policy emphasis to the highly successful effort to create an enabling regulatory environment, allow market competition, and ease governmental processes. The latter will lead to an expansion of public private partnerships (PPP), continuing subsidies to loss-making SOE's, and expansion of economic enclaves. Government (policies and operations) can be positioned as largely a regulator of a level playing field or as a player in the field. Attempts to do both will lead to policy contradictions.

7.4.3 Most relevant issues regarding strengthening of partnerships with the private sector for inclusive sustainable economic and social development of priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are as follows:

- a) Engaging with the private sector on a regular basis by promoting public – private dialogue;
- b) Instituting reforms that can drive development and promote opportunities for private sector companies;
- c) Creating market linkages and providing access to finance;
- d) Stimulating innovation and business development services to support entrepreneurship;
- e) Development of an implementation framework for private sector growth and development;
- f) To create an enabling environment for private sector investment in the country;

- g) Establish workable and implementable scheme for public, private corporation;
- h) Strengthening education and good governance;
- i) Adequate resources/facilities to enforce property rights as provided for within the PPP regulation;
- j) The availability of PPP documentation and best practices for good;
- k) The effectiveness of governance commitment to eradicate corruption;
- l) The control of foreign exchange to improve business interaction for the common good; and
- m) Adequate resources and authority to effectively and officially regulate and monitor compliance

7.5 International cooperation in population and development

7.5.2 Achievements in addressing the issues regarding International Cooperation

The following development partners were involved in giving **support to Civil Society** in Liberia. These partners are USAID, Sweden, UNDP and the EU. Most of them (i.e. USAID, Sweden and UNDP to some extent) are targeting community based/grassroots organizations, including informal groups and plan to support them with institutional capacity development as well as financial support.

There is also a need to rethink donor support models to CSOs to reinforce CSO ownership and financial sustainability. To date, donor support to CSOs has been for the most part project-based, service provision oriented, channeled through intermediary organization (INGOs) and largely driven by donor agendas.

On partnership and resource mobilization, the Government has several partners that generously contribute resources (grants and soft loans) towards achieving the goals and objectives of the national development plan.

The World Bank, USAID, ADB, UNDP, and the IMF Support the implementations of the National Development Plan (AFT) over the

past five years (2012-2017). Official development assistance (ODA) was in the form of grants, loans, and direct support to projects implemented by partner organizations with donor funding. More than half (54%) of ODA came from multilateral sources and 46% came from bilateral sources. A quarter (25%) of all ODA for the first three years of the AfT was provided through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The World Bank provided 14 percent and the European Union (EU) provided 10 percent. These three sources accounted for half of all ODA flows to the interventions of the AfT for the first three fiscal years. The bulk of the assistance (77%) was tied to specific project/program support

No.	Indicators	Findings
1	Enabling environment for CSO multi-stakeholder information	Stakeholder information was Periodic development assistance reports compiled by MFDP and made available on the web for public review along with other budget performance reports
2	Quality of public-private dialogue	Public-private dialogue ongoing though contentious at times over policy choices and enforcement of regulations; Public entities rarely empathize with private enterprise. Public posture remains highly regulatory as opposed to promotion and facilitation of private initiatives
4	Percent of countries that undertake inclusive mutual assessments of progress on implementing commitments	Inclusive mutual assessments done on a project and program basis by individual donors. Mutual assessments of UN system progress done in the UNDAF review process and by individual agencies and partners. In principle, partners are members of the LDA mechanism and Co-chair pillars; but meetings of working groups are rare and

		infrequent, minutes are not taken, and decisions followed up.
5	Percent of country systems that track and make public allocations for gender equality and women empowerment	Allocations are not tracked and reported largely due to a lack of capacity

7.5.2 Enabling Factors and Challenges

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation established a monitoring framework in 2012. The framework consists of 10 indicators based on the Bussan commitments for more effective development cooperation and on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Areas covered include transparency, predictability, gender equality, and contribution to private sector development. While most of the indicators are quantifiable, a significant number are based on perception.

Some Aid Effectiveness Indicators for the AfT were as follows:

7.5.3 International Cooperation for Population and Development

The most relevant issues regarding international cooperation in population and development for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years

7.6 Mainstreaming the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development

7.6.1 Areas of progress in addressing mainstreaming the AADPD

Though over the past years, Liberia has formulated policy and established institutions to address mainstreaming of the AADPD in to its national development plan; there have been lack of political wills to consider the entry-level modalities of mainstreaming the AADPD from the sector level, sub national level to the national level.

7.6.2 Challenges and constraints

The major challenge and constraints are lack of political will, lack of budgetary support, lack of donor supports, and low institutional and human capacities.

7.6.3 Most relevant issues regarding mainstreaming the AADPD for inclusive sustainable economic and social development of priority for public policy for the next five to ten years

For Liberia, the most relevant issues regarding mainstreaming the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are youth development, women empowerment, Improving the lives of marginalized and vulnerable groups, gender equality and equity, access to quality and affordable healthcare services and the provision of quality education.

7.7 Mainstream the inclusion of the Addis Ababa Declaration

7.7.1 Areas of progress and challenges

Liberia has not made significant progress when it comes to mainstreaming inclusion of the AADPD. This is by and large attributed to lack of political will and budgetary supports.

7.8 Monitor regularly the achievement of the goals of the AADPD

7.8.1 Addressing AADPD/ICPD issues regarding the regular monitoring of the achievement of the goals of the AADPD in the national context during the last five (5) years.

A National M&E plan and a cost Action Plan were drafted in year 2 of the AFT. The plan included templates for reporting on each indicator. In principle, a National M&E Coordination Unit was established at the

MFDP, but it lacks genuine authority to compel compliance of Sector Working Groups or sector MACs with the schedules and protocols for information gathering and reporting on development interventions. A policy has been drafted to give the plan some legal validity or binding authority but has not been acted on.

However, some sectors MACs have developed strategies to regularly monitor some goals of the AADPD. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Liberia Institute Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) developed strategies to monitor sector activities and national plans regarding addressing the issue of regular monitoring of the achievements of the goals of the AADPD.

Despite the many challenges, Liberia has established institutions to conduct regular monitoring of the goals of the AADPD. These institutional entities are Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, General Auditing Commission, and Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.

7.8.2 Key Achievements

The key achievement has been the monitoring, tracking, and making progress reports on Key Indicators of the sectors of the national development plan of Liberia.

7.8.3 Facilitating factors and Barriers

The main facilitation was Government entities and partners participation in sector and coordination meetings. However, these were the challenges: Provision of some logistics and supplies, and Lack of National M & E Policy.

7.8.4 The most relevant issues regarding regular monitoring of the achievement of the goals of the AADPD for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years are: building of institutional and human capacities, the formulation of National M&E Policy; as well as provision of adequate logistics and supplies.

7.9 Monitoring and evaluation of the AADPD

Over the past five years Liberia, though it has not developed M&E Policy, has developed a well-structured M&E strategies and programs in the Health, Educational, Gender, and Youth sectors to explicitly address the issues of monitoring and evaluation of programs in these sectors to determine the level of progress on these commitments. Some of these strategies and programs are the National Development Plan (Agenda for Transformation), the National Health M&E Strategy, the National Education M&E Strategy, and the Household Income Expenditure Survey.

There are also other governmental entities that addressing the M&E of the AADPD. These entities are the Population Policy Coordination Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and LISGIS.

7.9.1 Areas of Progress and Challenges in addressing the issue of Monitoring and Evaluation of the AADPD

Key National indicators were monitored and evaluated to determine desired outcomes. The below table shows some progress on Key National Indicators that were monitored and evaluated according to Aft Mid-term Review Report:

No.	Outcome Indicator	Progress / Findings
1	Increased inclusiveness of growth for more Liberians.	The share of people living below the poverty line in Liberia has declined by almost 30% between 2012 and 2014. It declined from 70% in 2012 to 54% in 2014. This could be explained in part by reduction in unemployment rate; which declined from 3.7% in 2012 and 2013 to 2.8% in 2014.
2	Increased access to	Majority of rural Liberians do not

	new/ improved roads (incl. "year-round" roads) for Liberians in all counties, esp. for SE counties.	have all-year-round access to improved roads. In 2015, approximately 8% of these had access to improved roads throughout the year.
3	Increased access to and utilization of quality health and social services delivered close to the community.	Access to health care services in Liberia for the period under review has generally been improving. For instance, the proportion of infants receiving measles vaccination has increased from 70% in 2012 to 74% in 2015. Similarly, the proportion of under five deaths has declined from 110 per 1000 live births in 2012 to 94 per 1000 live births in 2015. Physical access to health facility less than 5km reduced from 72% to 62.8% possibly because of EVD outbreak in 2014.
4	Increased access to safe water supply and sanitation and improved hygiene practices	Significant progress has been made in improving access to safe drinking water. The 2017 target of 67% has been attained two years to the deadline. However, the share of rural/urban population with access to improved sanitation has reduced significantly from 27% in 2012 to 17% in 2015.
5	Child Protection	Improvements have also been made in child protection; but the findings are mixed. For instance, although the proportion of infants who received measles vaccination increased from 70% in 2012 to 74% in 2015, there are still three out of every ten children not covered. Under five mortality rates has

		declined from 110 to 94 per 1000 live births between 2012 and 2015.
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Progress on the M&E system has been mixed. At the sector level, institutions have embraced M&E and expanded their capacity to gather and process data for results-based management at their level.

Though the concept of a national monitoring and evaluation system remains unclear, individual MACs and departments of the MFDP have embraced the effort to improve evidence-based and informed decision-making. But there exist some constraints and challenges in the system. These constraints and challenges are the Absence of an integrated and locally derived M&E strategy and operational plan; A weak [national] statistical database system and relatively little attention to addressing these constraints; The national statistical database system remains weak; Overemphasis on tracing of inputs and outputs; Basic M&E capacity established in most MACs but remain inadequate (i.e. MOA M&E dept. has only 2 staff; no M&E annual plan exists); statistical support systems for information gathering on NKI's are weak. Primary data not gathered; or are gathered in a format unrelated to and not easily aligned into Aft objectives and priorities.

7.9.2 The most relevant issues regarding monitoring and evaluation of the ADPD for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years

For the implementation of the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, M&E systems will need to be designed based on the strengths of both the PRS and the Aft, building better collaboration and coordination mechanisms vertically between national and sub-national levels, as well as horizontally between the spending entities and the central ministries. Hence, the below are some relevant issues to consider in addressing monitoring and evaluation of the AADPD:

Regular data collection: Strengthening data collection is a key requirement of a strong M&E system. This includes strengthening

output level data collection from national and sub-national governments, as well as establishing measures to regularly collect results level data. Donor funds can be mobilized to assist with light touch annual surveys to provide quick result information against a certain set of indicators, which can help keep the development plan flexible in terms of policy direction.

County structures: The county level M&E structures were mostly ignored for the implementation of the AfT. Some of the county systems are however still in place but are not being used. Given that the cost of maintaining the county systems is still being incurred, it is important to reinvigorate them in a way that will prove to be useful to the M&E of the AfT-II. However, since there is uncertainty regarding devolution of power to the local governments, as well as fiscal decentralization, it is important that national linkages are strengthened and maintained to allow county level information to feed into national level policy making.

National structures: The National M&E Unit should be strengthened in its capacity to manage not only coordination with the county level M&E structures but also coordinate with spending entities and other stakeholders at the National level. National level frameworks and databases should be maintained that monitor county level outputs and their impact on national outcomes. If possible, the web portal set up during the PRS should be restarted and increased in its scope to allow for real time data entry and monitoring.

Outreach: Involving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media in sharing M&E data as well as playing an active part in collecting data will help develop a demand for appropriate M&E for AfT-II. Communications should be an important part of the M&E strategy especially with non-government stakeholders.

Ownership: To sustain M&E efforts and build their ownership, it is important to embed M&E into regular budgeting and management systems. While AfT tried to rely on MTEF to channel M&E for impact on budgetary decisions, the incomplete and inconsistent implementation of MTEF did not lead to the results expected.

However, for AfT-II, M&E should be tied in to the budgetary challenge function with M&E output and outcome data feeding into the preparation of Brief Analytical Notes (BANs) prior to the budget hearings and being used to take allocation decisions either prior to the preparation to the budget, or during any mid-year budgetary adjustments.

Evaluation: To date, appropriate evaluations have not been conducted either under PRS or AfT. M&E strategy for AfT-II should take this into account and aim to conduct at least 2 evaluations during the lifetime of AfT-II either on specific pillars or sectors to understand whether the goals and objectives set in the plan are appropriate and relevant.

7.10 Enhance coordination and cooperation among government departments

7.10.1 Key achievements and constraints in the addressing issue regarding coordination and cooperation among government departments

The final report of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2011) revealed challenge in cross sectoral coordination in the implementation of the plan. The Agenda for Transformation (2012-2017) therefore targeted sector ministries to be the main vehicles of implementing the interventions in the plan. Coordination and M&E was then dedicated to the Liberian Development Alliance (LDA) with a secretariat situated in the then Ministry of Finance.

This structure was to change coordination narrative based on the experience of other coordination challenges in the delivery of development assistance. As the LDA was used nationally, the County Development Steering Committee (CDSC) was used sub-nationally to coordinate the implementation and M&E at the sub national level. LDA convened every quarter while the CDSC convened monthly. LDA steering committee was chaired by the President comprised of Cabinet Ministers, LDA National Coordinator, Development Partners, Private Sectors and Civil Society. For sub-national, the Superintendent chaired the CDSC and

comprised of MACs in the counties, CSOs, NGOs and Private Sector.

The LDA steering committee will review and approve the deliverable plans submitted by MACs. The LDA and CDSC played pivotal roles in fast tracking implementation of the AfT and provided leadership in eliminating any barriers when necessary to meet the objective of the Development Plan. The main challenge to cross sectoral was the perennial turnover of political appointees in leading the sector coordination.

Also, the government and the UN established joint steering committee to coordinate the implementation of the UN Development Assistant (UNDAF, 2013-2017). This steering committee met quarterly to review progress and approve ensuing quarterly work plan.

7.10.2 The most relevant issues regarding coordination and cooperation among government departments for inclusive sustainable economic and social development, that the country considers priority for public policy for the next five (5) to ten (10) years

With the experience mentioned above, the government is to establish champions in MACs to foster ownership and sustainability. These champions will be targeted to be political appointees and civil servant.

Also, the government is contemplating ensuring the viability of sectors working group. Furthermore, other relevant issues to consider will conducting regular coordination with the participation of government and its partners; reducing the increasing staff and political tour-over in government; reduction in the Multiplicity of international commitments; the reactivation of the National Planning Council; the restructuring and reactivation of National Population Commission; the enactment of National Planning Law; and Policy on the participation of government entities and development partners in coordination meetings.

7.11 Review the outcomes of the African regional conferences on ICPD beyond 2014

7.11.1 Status and Constraints

No progress on this commitment by Government of Liberia to date. Probably, this is attributed to the lack of political will and budgetary supports as well as support from development partners.

7.12 Considering the concerns of all stakeholders

7.12.1 Updates on progress as well as challenges

No progress to date on this commitment, but there is a need for policies, programs, and strategies to consider the concerns of all stakeholders.

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