



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP LIBERIA

PARTNERS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Development Programme





UNDP AT A GLANCE

Since 1977, UNDP has helped the Government of Liberia and the people of Liberia in their efforts to reduce poverty, build strong institutions and uphold human rights. Over the last 40 years, UNDP has walked alongside Liberia to address development needs in sometimes very difficult and challenging times.

Following brutal and protracted civil wars, Liberia welcomed the UN Peacekeeping Mission (UNMIL) in 2003 ushering in 14 years of relative peace and stability. This enabled the UN system, the Government and development partners to accelerate post-war reconstruction. In 2018, Liberia says farewell to UNMIL while the United Nations Country Team including UNDP assume their usual roles within a peaceful landscape. It is a historic transition.

2018 also sees the final year of the UNDP country programme, a five-year strategy (2013-2017), extended by one year due to disruptions from the Ebola crisis in 2014. However, since then UNDP has worked to restore the momentum of development gains, which include focus accelerated reforms in governance, rule of law, livelihoods and economic management.

UNDP in Liberia anchors its work in two pillars: Governance and Public Institutions, and Sustainable Economic Transformation. As with all of UNDP's work around the world, gender equality, women's empowerment, social inclusion and resilience building underpins all of our work.



GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

UNDP is a long-term trusted and neutral partner particularly in electoral support, local governance, rule of law and security, and public institutions. Through our expansive knowledge and expertise, UNDP in Liberia has supported several key governance initiatives, namely decentralization, peacebuilding, constitutional review, and land reform, among others.

Decentralization in Liberia is a challenge, not just in supporting institutions, but in the geographical limitations. Previously, citizens would travel to Monrovia for access to basic government services. However, in 2017, UNDP and other partners assisted in the creation of 15 County Service Centres across the country. These centres are meeting the needs of citizens in a decentralized mode of governance.

Furthermore, electoral support remains a flagship and contributed to Liberia's first peaceful democratic handover in over 70 years. The election process in 2017 was a resounding success and a demonstration of peaceful democracy at work. Reaching youth and grassroots actors was pivotal in this endeavour.

Lastly, UNDP continues the support to peace consolidation through access to justice, rule of law, governance and a human-rights approach to our work including advocacy for women's participation and representation in decision making positions.



GENDER & SOCIAL INCLUSION



Women empowerment initiatives and gender mainstreaming are the key hallmarks in UNDP's work. Currently, Liberia's women fall behind men in accessing basic services, engaging in politics and civil service, and often bear the brunt of high levels of sexual and gender-based violence.

To mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment UNDP has worked to identify root causes of ineffective mainstreaming of gender in the rule of law, electoral processes and policies, and supporting peace and stability in civic and voter education. Women have a strong role to play in peacebuilding and were instrumental in keeping the 2017 elections largely free from conflict.

Through joint programming with UNWOMEN and other UN agencies, UNDP is working to reform policies and laws to end harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, both highly prevalent in Liberia. UNDP provides wide ranging support to women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship across the country.

UNDP also works with the Ministry of Justice to address the issue of sexual and gender-based violence under its Rule of Law programme.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

UNDP has a team of invaluable economic experts who guide our programming, advise our government partners, and stay on top of trends and patterns to better position UNDP to assist in Liberia's economic prosperity. Despite significant setbacks including the Ebola crisis and a sluggish economic landscape, UNDP has not only helped Liberia to withstand these shocks, but is building a strong foundation of resilience through policy, advocacy, and tangible interventions that will have long-term impact. At the local level, UNDP is working to expand opportunities of Liberia's small and micro enterprise owners, boosting those most vulnerable to any economic shocks ahead.

Over 2017, UNDP's projects have focused on both the top level, offering technical advice to Government, and at the grassroots level offering training and business growth for entrepreneurs, and empowering communities and households through decentralized services. It will stay the course, accelerate its efforts and deepen engagement of the new Government going forward.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

UNDP recognizes youth as agents of change in Liberia and unlocking their potential of their contribution to the achievement of the SDGs remains a priority. UNDP has been at the forefront, mobilizing the youth to aid in reducing violence during elections, spreading messages of health during the Ebola crisis, and as participants of livelihoods and skills building interventions, the latter being most vital as youth employment is one of the priorities of the Government. Going forward, UNDP is working with the Government and partners to empower youth through programmes that combine skills development, entrepreneurship, life skills, access to jobs, and engagement in local and national policy dialogue.

ENVIRONMENT

As the climate changes, countries like Liberia face tremendous challenges in building resilience against shocks. Rising sea level, soaring temperatures and increased rainfall hit the most vulnerable, particularly rural women, the hardest. People's livelihoods in both agriculture and fisheries suffer from flooding, erosion and extreme weather.

In response to these ever-increasing challenges, UNDP, in partnership with key development actors and the Government, has tackled these vulnerabilities through several initiatives such as building break waters in hazard-prone communities, supporting integrated disaster risk reduction plans, and preparing local communities to protect themselves in the face of disasters. Going forward, UNDP is working to operationalize early warning systems and support government in responding to disasters, mitigating risk and building resilience to natural hazards.



UNDP & THE UN SYSTEM

UNDP has remained at the forefront supporting the UN Country Team to *Deliver As One*. As the UN's lead agency for the SDG domestication, UNDP is leading dialogue with government on this agenda ensuring alignment with national priorities. Going forward, UNDP will accelerate efforts, drawing on the full range of UN expertise to deliver on its promise as the partner of choice.



GOING FORWARD

In 2018, UNDP embarked on the development of its new country programme, a five-year strategy in partnership with the Government of Liberia to strengthen the development gains made over the years, as well as push Agenda 2030 and peacebuilding foundations. The new country programme, to be launched in 2019, will be in line with the New UNDP way of working particularly focusing on good governance, economic stability and growth, and poverty reduction

underscored by social inclusion. Within the United Nations Country Team, UNDP will work to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals, and assist Liberia to achieve its pro-poor agenda while maintaining the peace and addressing the underlying causes of its exclusion and marginalization. UNDP continues to walk alongside Liberia in these goals. As UNMIL has closed its mission, UNDP assumes its role in the UNCT as the valued global development partner.

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.



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