

## The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund/Peacebuilding Fund (LMPTF/PBF)



## The Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 14 November 2019; 9:00am – 11.30am.

**Venue:** Second Floor Conference Room; Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Monrovia, Liberia.

### Agenda:

1. **Opening Remarks by the Joint Steering Committee Co-Chairs**
  - Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Minister for Finance and Development Planning, Liberia
  - Mr. Uchenna Emelonye, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i.) for Liberia
2. **Session 1: Discussion and approval of the projects**
  - UNSDCF (2020-2024) as a Result Framework for LMPTF
  - Prioritized pillar (Sustaining Peace) and selection criteria
  - Presentation on the project and recommendations from Thematic Working Groups
    - Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms – UN Women, UNDP, WFP
  - Discussion, recommendations, and decisions on approval of the projects
3. **Session 2: Progress Report – Ongoing LMPTF Projects**
  - Project presentations
    - a) Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged Youth in Liberia (SEED) – UNDP, UNFPA
    - b) Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas – FAO, ILO, WFP
    - c) Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement – OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women
    - d) Support to the LMPTF-PBF Joint Secretariat – UN Resident Coordinator's Office
  - Discussion and recommendations

### 4. **Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs**

| Minute      | Issues  | Decision/Action point  |
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| 14/2019/001 | Opening Remarks by the Joint Steering Committee Co-Chairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting started with opening remarks by Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, and Mr. Uchenna Emelonye, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i.) for Liberia, as co-chairs of the LMPTF Steering Committee.</li> <li>• The Minister welcomed all members to the meeting and highlighted that LMPTF was an important partner in peacebuilding and development efforts of Liberia. He then invited his co-chair to share his remarks.</li> <li>• Mr. Uchenna Emelonye, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i.) for Liberia provided a background of LMPTF, which he described as basket fund that is linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and supports implementation of the PAPD and the SDGs. It brings together the Government of Liberia, the UN, civil society and development partners. It is led by the Government of Liberia through Ministry of Finance, with the particular aim of improving aid effectiveness and reducing transactional costs through programmatic and financial coordination.</li> <li>• He also informed the members of the LMPTF Steering Committee meeting today, which is comprised of seven members with voting rights: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Internal Affairs, the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN's inter-agency programme task force, UNFPA, and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) – all of whom were present except PBSO that had submitted its comments via e-mail. The World Bank, other development partner and implementing Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) serve as observers. The Steering Committee is supported by the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). Both the Steering Committee and the TWGs are backstopped by the LMPTF Secretariat.</li> <li>• Mr. Emelonye explained that the purpose of the Steering Committee meeting this time is to review and approve one (1) new project on <i>Strengthening Land Governance in Liberia</i> as well as review the progress of four (4) projects that were approved by the last Steering Committee held in November 2018.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNSDCF (2020-2024) as a Result Framework for LMPTF</b></p> <p>During this session, Ms. Catherine Wailaula (Head of LMPTF Secretariat) made a presentation on LMPTF and its functions. Below are some of the key highlights from the presentation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LMPTF was established in July 2018 following the UN Secretary General's Executive Committee Decision 2017/88 to establish a pooled fund in Liberia to finance the Peacebuilding Plan and leverage longer-term efforts. It supports efforts to address the country's fragilities and consolidate peace gains by realising SDGs.</li> <li>○ LMPTF functions as a coordination mechanism designed to support and accelerate the implementation of the PAPD through the current UNDAF and the subsequent United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2024).</li> </ul> |
| 14/2019/002 | Session 1: Discussion and approval of the projects        |  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LMPTF promotes joint programming for better performance and ensures that all our partners can reach the grassroots/communities/most vulnerable.</li> <li>○ LMPTF is a catalytic fund – willing to take the first step in going into areas that others consider risky but are of strategic focus to accelerate development and peacebuilding progress in Liberia.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prioritized pillar (Sustaining Peace) and selection criteria</b></p> <p>She also took members through the process of selecting a new project and the LMPTF proposal review guide;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Secretariat had received three (3) concept notes after putting out a call for proposals focusing on the new Land Rights Act and the Local Government Act.</li> <li>○ The concepts were reviewed by the Thematic Working Group (TWG) which comprised of the Government led by the Ministry of Finance; and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Liberia Land Authority (LLA), and Office of the Legal Advisor to the President under whose docket the two acts fall; development partners; and the UN Inter-Agency Programme Taskforce (IAPT). World Bank and PBSO shared their comments via e-mail.</li> <li>○ Of the three, the TWG approved one concept on <i>Strengthening Land Governance in Liberia</i> (UN Women, UNDP), while one outcome on environmental degradation from the second proposal (WFP, IOM) was approved for merging with the first proposal. The third proposal (OHCHR, FAO, WFP) was not approved.</li> <li>○ All comments and recommendations from the two rounds of review by TWG were considered, resulting in a draft proposal that was recommended for review and approval by the Steering Committee. (For details, see the minutes of the TWG meetings.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation on the Draft Proposal - Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (by Allen Paye – Liberia Land Authority)</b></p> <p>The presentation outlined the key highlights of the new project proposal. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Project aims to address land related drivers of conflict through supporting the implementation of the Land Rights Act (LRA) and Local Government Act (LGA). The two acts provide opportunities for decentralising land services, and empowering communities to manage their own land and land related resource hence reducing land related conflicts.</li> <li>○ The 36-month Project would start in January 2020. With a budget of USD\$ 4 million, the project will cover 4 counties (Grand Cape Mount, Sinoe, Marlyland, Nimba), 7 districts and 33 communities in Liberia, which was jointly identified with LLA to avoid overlapping with support provided by others.</li> <li>○ The project will be implemented by three UN agencies – UN Women (lead), UNDP and WFP. LLA is the key Government implementing agency. The project goals were aligned to both the UNSDCF and the PAPP.</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project's key beneficiaries include; targeted communities in selected concession areas, concession companies in targeted areas, LLA and the Ministry of Internal Affairs / Peace building Office (PBO). Around 28,660 direct beneficiaries would be reached in the targeted districts, while another 180,000 are estimated as indirect beneficiaries.</li> <li>○ The Project's first outcome will strengthen effectiveness, transparency and inclusiveness of land administrative structures at national and county level, and concession awarding processes. The second outcome will focus on strengthening the existing semi-formal (ADR) and informal land dispute resolution mechanisms, to reduce conflicts in a more transparent, effective, gender and youth responsive manner.</li> <li>○ The project will be managed through the LMPTF structure and complement with on-going initiatives funded by the World Bank, USAID, Sweden, and the EU in the same areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion and Comments</b></p> <p>The Steering Committee members and its observers commented and/or recommended as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project should indicate how it complements with other projects working in the same area.</li> <li>○ Anticipated results (end state) should be more concise, with more clear and descriptive language to ensure they can be monitored and measured. For example, what does "initial steps" mean?</li> <li>○ The project should be specific on its impact; how it will affect the beneficiaries and their communities. Would beneficiaries, for example, be able to acquire land titles and how?</li> <li>○ The involvement of Concessionaire companies is critical since the project is going to be implemented in Concessionaire counties and for ensuring sustainability. If possible, Concessionaire companies should be asked to contribute as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).</li> <li>○ Good coordination among different project partners was noted as key to avoid overlapping since there are many other actors already involved in the area of land governance.</li> <li>○ LLA Commissioner and Chair should be approved by the Government to ensure that the LLA has the leadership and capacity to carry out such projects successfully.</li> <li>○ PBSO's written feedback was shared as follows: 1) additionally identify local-level stakeholders to be engaged; 2) add a dedicated dimension on ensuring increased transparency in the process of allocation/ renewing concession licenses and agreements; 3) include explicit reference to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the project's contribution to the implementation of those Guidelines; 4) add strong countermeasures/ strategy to address the risk of companies not being willing to participate; and 5) add a reference to the role of the LMPTF/PBF Secretariat under the M&amp;E section.</li> </ul> <p>The project team clarified that;</p> |
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|             |  | <p>After the discussions, the UN Resident Coordinator (a.i.) moved a motion to approve the new project – The project was approved by all members present and recommended to incorporate SC's comments and recommendations. PBSO had sent an approval in absentia (along with comments).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project will not pay salaries to LLA staff nor support infrastructure development such as construction of new office buildings. It will focus on land assessment and capacity building for LLA staff in the field to carry out assessments and registration, among others.</li> <li>○ A whole component on coordination has been designed into the project to support LLA to lead coordination among various partners. During the project design, the selected geographic areas and interventions were extensively consulted and carefully chosen to ensure that there is no overlap with other partners. The project aimed to develop rules and procedures to ensure sustainability.</li> <li>○ The project would also utilize lessons learned from previous projects with Concessionaires to ensure success – for example; the use of established Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) to guarantee participation of concessionaires.</li> </ul>  |
| 14/2019/003 | <p>Session 2: Progress Report – Ongoing LMPTF Projects</p> | <p><b>Project presentations on the progress of four (4) projects that were approved by the last Steering Committee held in November 2018.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged Youth (SEED) Project (presented by Maybe Livingstone - UNFPA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 18-month project supports the rehabilitation and skills training of disadvantaged youth to improve their lives and make them more productive citizens. It has spent US\$371,964.32 (26.5% of US\$1.4 million total budget) as at 31 Oct. 2019.</li> <li>○ Key results so far include the establishment of 3 drop-in centres for beneficiaries, which have enabled 626 beneficiaries (215 female) receive psychosocial support services. 223 of these have been enrolled in a 6-month skills training programme.</li> <li>○ 100 community leaders, 40 disadvantaged youth leaders, 50 police and 50 drug enforcement officers have been trained as part of efforts to change perceptions on disadvantaged youth.</li> <li>○ Stock-out of essential drugs in key health facilities, and the homeless state of various beneficiaries have been major challenges for the project. This speaks to the need for a national rehabilitation centre to house, rehabilitate and conduct skills training for beneficiaries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion through the Promotion of Rural Employment Opportunities for Youth in Conflict-Prone Areas (presented by Octavius Quarbo – FAO)</b></li> </ul> |

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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 24-month project aims to tackle issues of conflict resolution and inadequate sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural communities.</li> <li>○ So far, the project has spent US\$459,811.62 or 30.6% of its US\$1.5 million budget. This has been spent through various activities including a scoping exercise to map and document land, youth and gender drivers of conflicts. A report on this is being finalised.</li> <li>○ Two community-based participatory planning activities have been held in Zorzor and Salayea as part of efforts to enhance community efforts towards peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The planning activities led to the development of community action plans to guide peacebuilding efforts.</li> <li>○ The project sites have been identified to train/support communities to plant 60 hectares of rice and rear poultry, using modern agricultural methods.</li> <li>○ Poor condition of existing infrastructure in the rural areas and the initial reluctance of project beneficiaries to participate in the project due to lack of 'incentives' have been major challenges for the project; and more awareness will be required to help them understand that the project belongs to and benefits them.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reform and Civic Engagement (presented by James Monibah – UNDP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 18-month project intended to create a platform to redress outstanding transitional justice grievances, strengthen government oversight functions and enhance civic engagement and participation. The project expenditure was reported at 43% (US\$ 693,946 out of US\$ 1.6 million).</li> <li>○ So far, some of the project results include the development of draft practical guidelines on legal reform and parliamentary oversight. The project supported the set-up of a Transitional Justice Unit at the Independent National Commission for Human Rights (INCHR) and supported the National Economic Dialogue which included discussions on peacebuilding among other things.</li> <li>○ In the coming year, the project would continue to support legal reforms, construction of memorial sites and support the national reconciliation dialogue, among other activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Support to the LMPTF/PBF Secretariat (presented by Catherine Walaula – UN Resident Coordinator's Office)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In 2019, the LMPTF/PBF Secretariat was able to ensure effective coordination, monitoring, reporting and communication. It provided technical support to both SC and TWG; the latter has seen improvements in performance of the portfolio. The fund expenditure to date is 64% (US\$319,616.61 out of US\$ 500,000).</li> <li>○ Under LMPTF, one new project (Land) has been developed and approved today, and the Secretariat project is under consideration for a cost extension. For PBF, two additional projects (innovative financing, cross-border support) were approved or nearly approved. In total, it leads to a 50% growth in the LMPTF/PBF portfolio in 2019 as compared to 2018 (from US\$ 5 million to US\$ 7.6 million).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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|             |                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The continued engagement with the Government, increased visibility efforts, and monthly technical meetings for improved project management have led to this progress. Although implementing joint projects are a challenge, frequent and regular engagement with implementing agencies and partners has been helpful in timely addressing bottlenecks and improving delivery.</li> <li>○ In 2020, the Secretariat will work on: linking the LMP TF results areas to UNSDCF to serve as One Fund; consolidating fund-level results; strengthening community-level monitoring to reach the most vulnerable; and continuing quality assurance and resource mobilization.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions and comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overall, all projects were observed as progressing towards a right direction and on course, except the SEED project of which delivery rate was relatively low.</li> <li>● <b>SEED Project:</b> The idea of establishing rehabilitation centres for disadvantaged youth (Zogo/Zogese) as mentioned in the presentation was emphasized. The Government and development partners were asked to support this, as it remained a major problem in Liberia. Beneficiaries of the project should be tracked overtime to ensure that they stayed on course after their rehabilitation and training. The Project noted that this is being done already.</li> <li>● <b>Sustaining Peace Project:</b> The issue of attitude change within the communities should be key for project success, including many beneficiaries who wanted to be paid for taking part in project implementation. Both the UN and the Government were advised to enhance awareness on this by letting communities know that projects were intended to benefit them through longer-term interventions.</li> <li>● <b>Secretariat Project:</b> The Government was advised to take on LMP TF's idea of regular coordination meetings, which would be key in helping LMP TF achieve its intended goals. The issue of low delivery was a cause for concern and the Government proposed to organize a joint meeting to address existing bottlenecks.</li> <li>● The Steering Committee members and observers were also informed of the new PBF guidelines to ensure delivery of programmatic and financial requirements. Non-compliance will result into the specific Agency and/or the UN Country Team being suspended from transfer of funds from PBF.</li> </ul> |
| 14/2019/004 | Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In his closing remarks, Hon. Tweah, Minister of Finance, said that all ministers and ministry officials whose institutions were taking part in the projects should attend all forthcoming Steering Committee meetings. He also asked that the Steering Committee meetings be held every 3 months.</li> <li>● Mr. Emelonye, the UN Resident Coordinator a.i passed a motion to allow the projects to continue implementing, with a condition to improve delivery until the next Steering committee meeting is held.</li> <li>● The co-chairs thanked all members for making time to attend the meeting.</li> </ul>   |

**Resolutions of the Steering Committee**

**Proposed Resolutions**

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| 1. | The new project titled " <b>Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms</b> " was approved unanimously by the Steering Committee members. |
| 2. | The four current projects approved last year were recommended to continue implementation. They will be reviewed again at the next Steering Committee meeting.   |
| 3. | All forthcoming Steering Committee meetings should have the ministers and ministry teams involved in the LMP TF projects in attendance.   |
| 4. | Steering Committee meetings should be held more often, every three-six months.  |

Co-Chair: .....  ..... Date ..... 04/12/19 .....

Signature (Minister of Finance and Development Planning)

Co-Chair: .....  ..... Date ..... 03/12/19 .....

Signature (UN Resident Coordinator a.i.)



**Annex: Attendance**

| #   | Name                | Organisation  | Gender | E-mail Address   | Phone no.   |
|-----|---------------------|---------------|--------|--|-------------|
| 1.  | Doelar, Prince Saye | MEDP          | M      | <a href="mailto:adoelar@mfdp.gov.lr">adoelar@mfdp.gov.lr</a>                       | 0770076173  |
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| 8.  | Cristina Fernandez  | UN Women      | F      | <a href="mailto:cristina.fernandez@unwomen.org">cristina.fernandez@unwomen.org</a> |             |
| 9.  | Jewel Liverpool     | USAID         | M      | <a href="mailto:jliverpool@usaid.gov">jliverpool@usaid.gov</a>                     | 0770914067  |
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| 12. | Christopher Fayia   | PBO – Liberia | M      | <a href="mailto:ckfayia@yahoo.com">ckfayia@yahoo.com</a>                           | 07770441919 |
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|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--|-------------|
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| 44. | Hon. Samuel D. Tweah  | MFDP            | M |  |            |