

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND



PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country: Liberia	
Project Title: Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security in Liberia	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):	
PBF project modality: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRF <input type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts): <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): UNDP, OHCHR, IOM	
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Government: Ministry of Justice (Joint Security including Liberia National Police (LNP)), Ministry of Information. Independent Agencies & Commissions: National Elections Commission (NEC), Peacebuilding Office (PBO), Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), National Council of Traditional Leaders, CSOs and Media Organizations: Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL), Her Voice Liberia (HVL), Migrants as Messengers of Peace Association-Liberia (MAMPL), Local Voices of Liberia (LVL), Press Union of Liberia (PUL), Civil Society Organizations Human Rights Advocacy Platform (CSOsHRAP), Integrity Watch-Liberia, Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, Women for Positive Action (WPA), Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS). International NGOs: The Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC), International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	
Project duration in months¹ ²: 24 months (16 September 2022 – 16 September 2024) Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation: to be identified through a baseline assessment.	
Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative ⁴ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): UNDP: \$ 1,467,900 IOM: \$ 685,800 OHCHR: \$ 846,300 Total: \$3,000,000	

***The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second**

¹ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 24 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

² The official project start date will be the date of the first project budget transfer by MPTFO to the recipient organization(s), as per the MPTFO Gateway page.

³ Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Gender Promotion Initiative

⁴ Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Youth Promotion Initiative

and subsequent tranches the Coordinating agency needs to demonstrate expenditure/commitment of at least 75% of the previous tranche and provision of any PBF reports due in the period elapsed.

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): N/A

PBF 1st tranche (70 %):

UNDP: \$ 1,027,530

IOM: \$ 480,060

OHCHR: \$ 592,410

Total: \$ 2,100,000

PBF 2nd tranche* (30 %):

UNDP: \$ 440,370

IOM: \$ 205,740

OHCHR: \$ 253,890

Total: \$ 900,000

PBF 3rd tranche* (%):

XXXX: \$ XXXXXX

XXXX: \$ XXXXXX

XXXX: \$ XXXXXX

Total:

Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs):

The project will support a peaceful electoral environment through interventions on conflict prevention and the mitigation of widespread insecurity, human rights violations, and electoral violence before, during, and after the 2023 General Elections in Liberia. The Project supports a response to actual and perceived triggers of electoral violence by consolidating the Early Warning and Response (EWR) mechanism; mainstreaming human rights, gender, and youth-based interventions, principally at the grassroots level. Training and capacity development of state security apparatus, CBOs, media, and other actors, joint peaceful electoral planning, community outreach including through mass media, peace messaging, grassroots peace advocacy by civil society, as well as mediation, monitoring, and reporting will be supported. Geographic targeting will be determined by a comprehensive baseline assessment which will determine hotspot communities for prioritization of the project activities. To the extent possible, training, dissemination and capacity building protocols, materials and delivery will be harmonized across activities to promote efficiency and effectiveness.

Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups): The convening agencies held bilateral meetings and a roundtable discussion (1 June 2022) with Ministry of Justice (Liberia National Police, Liberia Immigration Service, Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit), Ministry of Internal Affairs (Liberia Peace Building Office and the Council of Traditional Leaders), Independent National Commission on Human Rights, CSO Human Rights Platform; CSOs (Angie Brooks International Centre – Women Situation Room), its Peace Ambassadors, NAYMOT, WANEP, IDLO, ABIC, Integrity Watch; National Elections Commission, Messengers of Peace-Liberia, Inc amongst others.

UN Country Team (UNCT), UN Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs (DPPA), UN Electoral Assistance Division (EAD), Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs), European Commission – UNDP Joint Task Force for Electoral Assistance (JTF), and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Secretariat were also consulted during concept note and proposal development stages.

Project Gender Marker score⁵: 1 (43.39% \$1,301,607.70 million of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment)

Briefly explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment⁶: Building on and complementing interventions of two PBF projects, "PBF/LBR/B-4 Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics" implemented by UN Women and UNDP and "PBF/IRF-412 Sustainable and inclusive peace in Liberia through promoting women leadership and participation in civic and political life and their strengthened conflict resolution" implemented by ZOA and ABIC, this project will contribute to gender equality through specific

⁵ Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE

Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)

⁶ Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

activities related to electoral violence prevention. Angie Brooks International Centre (ABIC) Women Situation Room and related activities specifically contribute to this objective. The Women Situation Room (WSR) will promote the full and active participation of women and youths in ensuring peaceful elections in Liberia. It provides a platform for women and youth to strategize, plan and respond rapidly to election related violence in a coordinated manner; launch preventive measures to ensure elections take place in a peaceful environment; conduct high level advocacy in order to mitigate political and electoral violence and emergencies; build a network of youth and women peace activists equipped with the requisite skills and knowledge for early prevention and response to political and electoral violence; and build skills in the application of the WSR mechanism for promotion of peaceful elections. Women's participation will be further enhanced through the engagement with political parties' youth and women wings as well as engaging traditional leaders through civic and voter's education. The media, especially community radio stations will be used to amplify the voices of women and their right to political participation before, during and after elections.

Project Risk Marker score⁷: 2

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (select ONLY one)⁸: 2.3 Conflict prevention / management

If applicable, SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s) to which the project contributes: Outcome 3 – Sustained Peace and Justice & Outcome 4 – Inclusive and transparent governance

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: 5 – Gender Equality (target: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities); 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (target: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels; ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.)

Type of submission:

- ☒ New project
☐ Project amendment

If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:

Extension of duration: ☐ Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date):

Change of project outcome/ scope: ☐

Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: ☐

Additional PBF budget: ☐ Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX

Brief justification for amendment:

Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in

TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.

⁷ Risk marker 0 = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

* PBF Focus Areas are:

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management.

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

Recipient Organization(s)⁹ Stephen Rodriques Signature [Redacted] Title: Resident Representative Name of Agency: United Nations Development Programme Date & Seal 19/9/2022	Representative of National Authorities Hon. Samil D. Tweh Signature [Redacted] Title: Minister of Finance & Development Planning Date & Seal
Recipient Organization(s)¹⁰ Abdul Fofana Signature: [Redacted] Title: Chief Programme Support and Management Services, Geneva Name of Agency: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Date & Seal 9/20/2022	Sept. 21, 2022
Recipient Organization(s)¹¹ Mohamed Cherif Diallo Signature DIALLO Mohamed Cherif [Redacted] Title: Programme Manager & Country Coordinator Name of Agency: United Nations International Organization for Migration Date and Seal	Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) Elizabeth Spchar Signature: [Redacted] Title: Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal 27/09/2022
Head of UN Country Team Niels Scott [Redacted] Signature [Redacted] Title: Resident Coordinator Date & Seal	

⁹ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

¹⁰ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

¹¹ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support

- a) *A brief summary of conflict analysis findings as they relate to this project. This analysis must be gender- and age-responsive.*

The last three post-conflict general elections in Liberia (2005, 2011, 2017) were relatively peaceful with isolated cases of electoral violence, amidst some perceptions of administrative malpractice and heated political rhetoric. Nevertheless, the Montserrado by-elections (2019) and Special Senatorial Elections (2020), as well as ongoing tensions surrounding Lofa by-elections, indicate the presence of both latent and imminent sources of conflict that can escalate to violence.¹² The recent 2021 Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) monitoring progress in reducing propensity to electoral violence indicates that 13% of the population across the country (and up to 30% in some specific counties) are potentially prepared to use violence as a method of political expression since faith in the judicial system as a viable tool for settlement of political or other dispute is low.¹³

As Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with high rates of illiteracy,¹⁴ aspirants' campaigns are not based on ideological principles but rather personality politics that exploit these weaknesses of vulnerable populations. This is particularly pronounced among youth as about 80 – 90% of youth in Liberia cannot find meaningful employment opportunities, which prevents their full inclusion in the society.¹⁵ Furthermore, there are no statistics on youth participation in the electoral process and the provision of the Election Law (Article 18.1) that only allows to vote those who attain 18 years of age at the time of registration (not the Election Day) disenfranchise young – first time voters. These factors, coupled with rising economic inequalities, inflation, lack of progress in fighting corruption, and decline in political inclusion, accountability, and participation have a large impact on the sense of civic responsibility among communities with high numbers of youth, reducing their ability to promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence with those of different political opinions during and after electoral processes.¹⁶ As further suggested by the SCORE, there is inadequate progress in reconciliation and healing, and limited dialogue between civil society and Government institutions because of distrust in the governance structure, perceptions of widespread corruption and a culture of impunity, physical insecurity, and daily risks of violence.¹⁷

The research over the years suggests that excluded youth in Liberia remain prone to manipulation and to involvement in political and criminal violence, and mercenary activity. Earlier weak demobilization processes have failed to fully reintegrate young former combatants back into society or provide them with alternative livelihoods.¹⁸ The low SCORE index suggests this exclusion has yet to be fully overcome. A lack of socio-economic opportunities for young women and men, and grievances over weak and exclusive state and non-state governance fuels propensity of youth to engage in conflict.¹⁹ Liberian youth continue to stand up for human rights, promoting peace, and contributing to sustainable development despite the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and their exclusion from influencing decisions about their own lives within their communities and the society at large. A full involvement of youth in creating peaceful electoral environment, remains, therefore, critical. ‘If

¹² For instance, during the November 2017 Presidential and Representatives Elections, as well as the 2020 mid-term Senatorial Elections, violence included youths throwing stones and wielding machetes and sticks as a form of attack against political opponents. Joint Press Statement of the Election Observation Group, September 2020 (<https://www.eug.org/press-statement-2020-09-20/>); Anid Voter-Trucking-ECC-calls-for-Border-Closure-between-Liberia-and-Sierra-Leone; EU Election Observation Mission to Liberia, Final Report, 2017).

¹³ <https://scoreforpeace.org/en/liberia/publications>

¹⁴ The current population of Liberia is 5,291,779 based on projections of the latest United Nations data. Over 63.8 percent of the population is estimated to be poor. This estimate of poverty is below the level obtained in a previous study by UNDP Liberia (2001, 2006), according to which 76.2 percent of the population was poor. According to World Bank data (September 2023), among youth (15-24) the literacy rate amounted to 55% and 48% for the entire population (15+): <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.1524.LT.ZS?end=2017&locations=1&start=2017&view=bar>, while HDI

¹⁵ Despite the official World Bank data only suggesting a 3.3% unemployment rate (15 – 24) (Ref. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS?locations=LR>), ILO suggests that the definition only counts as unemployed “those who report working less than one hour per week”. The ILO survey further underscores that formal employment reaches only 5 percent of the population, while nearly 80 percent of the labour force is in vulnerable employment – a level that reaches 90 percent for women (https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_emp/documents/projectdocument/vcms_504717.pdf).

¹⁶ <https://scoreforpeace.org/en/liberia/publications>

¹⁷ <https://scoreforpeace.org/en/liberia/publications>

¹⁸ <https://www.e-r.org/record/west-africa-liberia-and-sierra-leone/work-not-war-youth-transformation-liberia-and-sierra>

¹⁹ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-africa/-ro-abidjan/-ilo-abuja/documents/publication/vcms_762903.pdf.

these young people could be used for violence, they can also be used to make peace and contribute to the peacebuilding process,' says Gwendolyn Myers, Board Member of Messengers for Peace.²⁰

Furthermore, gender-based political violence and harassment have become deeply rooted within Liberian society. Angie Brooks International Centre for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security (ABIC) confirmed that *'this is further compounded by social norms about the domestic roles of women, which results in unfair and unjustifiable intimidation and attacks on women in elections, swinging them on a pendulum of unequal power relations.'* One such concrete occurrence is the use of traditional practices to harass female candidates during elections, with the potency to destabilize the country politically, and perception that women are just 'bulk of voters that elect law makers,' rather than seen as candidates, party leaders, or representatives.²¹ This affects women's potential to meaningfully participate in politics of their country. Despite Liberia was the first country in Africa to have a female President, as it continued its democracy consolidation efforts through two subsequent general elections (2011 and 2017) and three Senatorial mid-term elections (2008, 2014, and 2020), women's participation dropped to 12.3 percent in 2014, and to 9.7 percent in 2017. Currently, only 8 out of 73 House of Representatives (10.9%) and 2 of the 30 Senators (7%) are women. Also, only 4 of 19 cabinet ministers, and 3 of 15 county superintendents are women. At the local government level, only 5 percent of over 2,000 local government officials are women.²² Women also do not score high in the top-level memberships of the political parties (only 1 out of 26 parties had a female leader). Since 2005 there have been six failed attempts²³ to include affirmative action/quotas in the electoral framework. But the advocacy groups remain disconnected from the Executive and the lack of coordination weakens existing efforts.²⁴ Women elected members being a minority within the legislature and within the leadership of political parties made it difficult to negotiate an affirmative action bill. In addition, there is a lack of a real political will. The prevalence of masculinity within the country's political parties is a major challenge and efforts need to focus on both their system and their culture.

Within this context, administration of elections, notably in situations of tight electoral contests in the first-past-the-post system, may become an important trigger of electoral violence. Any actual or perceived electoral fraud or manipulation has the potential to trigger a violent reaction leading to violation of human rights. In 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, for example, the monitors of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) observed, amongst other things, excessive use of force by security agencies, arbitrary arrests and detention, discriminatory treatment against political parties that were not aligned with the ruling coalition, preferential treatment for the ruling party, and absence of strategic provisions to ensure easy access to voting materials by persons living with disabilities. During the same polls, Liberia also witnessed a clear case of VAWIE in Gbarpolu when the Senatorial Candidate Botoe Kanneh, her supporters, and family were repeatedly assaulted, and a ballot box was stolen to prevent Senator Kanneh from winning the polls. The Women Situation Room (WSR) and women organizations were the early responders to mitigate conflict and protect the candidate and her supporters.²⁵

The perception amongst the electorate indicates that 2023 will be the most intensely contested elections since the civil war,²⁶ and the violent incidents in the above-mentioned most recent electoral contests is the warning sign. Reflecting on lessons learnt from the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections and findings of the 2019 UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), budget gaps (and delays in Government funding to elections) as well as institutional weaknesses that may prevent the National Elections Commission (NEC) and law enforcement

²⁰ <https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/youth-peace-talks-in-liberia-insights-from-gwendolyn-myers/>

²¹ ABIC: 'Liberian Women Prepare for 2023 Elections.' <https://womenvoicesnewspaper.org/liberian-women-prepare-for-2023-elections/>.

²² Ministry of Internal Affairs, Community Dialogue Report, 2015

²³ In 2009 a more structured and constructive introduction of a full-fledged proposal for legislative action was borne. The document titled the Fairness Bill proposed amongst other things: 30% Women Representation on Party lists; 30% leadership positions on party executive committees at both national and county levels

²⁴ Also, there is no deeper analysis detailing the participatory challenges Liberian women may face or how lessons learnt from the 2017 election could have been applied to strengthen women's participation rate in 2020. This contributes to the challenge. Affirmative action laws remain lacking as follow up on elections observation reports, recommendations of Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and National Action Plans (NAPs) for legal reforms remain elusive. This is also due to a lack of consistent high-level political follow-through on observer recommendations and tracking of commitments in human rights, peace, and security laws and programs.

²⁵ Ref. Situation Report, PBO, December 2020.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

agencies from ensuring timely and adequate administrative preparations and security remain of concern. The lessons learnt suggest that late allocation of 'physical cash' to elections or budget allocation in small amounts does not allow for effective electoral administration. That goes together with Liberia's attempt to implement Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), which is a strong requirement of the political parties. Implementation of new technology, if done without sufficient consultation with stakeholders, may not be trusted and may impact the credibility of the actual process and acceptance of election results. In very tight contests, such cases trigger suspicions, tensions, and subsequently violence. Furthermore, inadequate, and delayed training of security forces, and lack of resources for their electoral mobilization, would impact the ability to act and risk the violence to escalate. And the response to triggers of electoral violence has overall proved the weakest point in the existing Early Warning and Response to Electoral Violence system led by Peacebuilding Office (PBO).²⁷

Furthermore, hate speech and restriction of access to information also constitute an electoral violence trigger and human rights violation. *"The violence that took place in Gbarpolu in the 2020 elections was fueled, in part, by hate speech and misinformation spread through social media. Local "Dey Say" or rumor-mongering, is usually accepted as fact, often targeting women candidates. With little recourse against such allegations, the targets of hate speech are vulnerable to violence."*²⁸ Restrictions on fundamental freedoms, divisive political discourse and mis-/disinformation tend to be an important factor in the escalation of tensions during elections that could lead to widespread human rights violation.²⁹ While media generally has free space to operate in Liberia, some intimidation and restrictions against journalists and jamming of radio stations were observed in relation to '7 June 2019 protests.'³⁰ Investigative reporters receive threats, including by members of the government who threaten with the lawsuits in response to journalistic inquiries. In 2020 polls, journalists were harassed, and attacked. In June 2021, two journalists were physically assaulted by police for photographing in a public area.³¹ At the same time, the quality of media reporting tends to be poor, with journalists neither checking information nor verifying facts. Increased use of social media has become an avenue for misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech, in particular among youth. This phenomenon affects female candidates and politicians disproportionately as well as other marginalized groups within the society.³²

Currently 26 political parties are registered with NEC. This political fragmentation generally characterizes the electoral campaigns, often leading to electoral and other human rights related violence.³³ This violence, for example, included attacking campaign convoys, the burning of vehicles, setting private residences ablaze and sporadic live gunfire, during the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections. In Grand Cape Mount, rival supporters clashed, resulting in the burning of cars, a house and looting.³⁴ According to Angie Brooks International Center experiences from the Women Situation Room (WSR) *"[t]he violence is mainly perpetuated by political parties and their supporters, and it has over the period manifested itself in many forms from hate speech, intimidation, harassment, destruction of properties, kidnapping and murder."* The 2019 Montserrado By-elections as well as the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, again exposed the vulnerability of Liberia's elections to violence and highlighted challenges to mitigate and respond to its triggers.³⁵ The national early warning and response mechanisms, which may provide early detection of violence, are not well linked yet to the NEC, Independent National Commission for Human Rights (INCHR), Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC), and the general electoral process. *"The PBO [Peacebuilding Office], through the work of the National Center for Coordination of Response Mechanism (NCCRM), is not capable of tracking implemented responses to reported incidents, which hampers the PBO's capacity to build a relevant database of shortcomings or good practices and impedes*

²⁷ USIP Peace Brief 229, September 2017, <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB229-Preventing-Election-Violence-in-Liberia.pdf>; UNDP LESP Early Warning and Response Assessment Mission (EWR), September 28, 2021.

²⁸ <https://www.liberianobserver.com/liberia-adopts-tool-address-misinformation-and-disinformation>

²⁹ It is important to distinguish between misinformation, which is related to poor journalism, and disinformation and hate speech, which is produced with the intention to harm and often constitutes a human rights violation.

³⁰ <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2019/06/13/access-social-media-blocked-day-anti-government-protest/> ; <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/06/07/africa/liberia-protests-george-weah/index.html> .

³¹ Freedom House: 'Freedom in the World 2022: Liberia', <https://freedomhouse.org/country/liberia/freedom-world/2022>.

³² UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) 2019; UNDP LESP Support to Tackle Disinformation and Hate Speech in Liberia Report, October 5, 2021.

³³ Liberia Country Report 2022. <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/LBR>. EU EOM Final Report 2017, p. 1.

³⁴ Joint Press Statement of the Election Observation Group, September 2020.

³⁵ Montserrado County District #13 witnessed widespread electoral violence during the Representative By-elections in 2019, leaving many wounded. It is reported that armed personnel of the Liberian National Police (LNP) did not have adequate resources to respond, fuelling widespread tensions and violence in other areas (Ref. Joint EU-US Statement on Recent Electoral Violence in Montserrado County, 20 August 2019, <https://lr.usembassy.gov/joint-eu-us-statement-on-recent-electoral-violence-in-montserrado-county/>).

*the PBO from monitoring the impact of responses on the resolution of the incident.*³⁶ Limited operational resources further impact the ability of law enforcement agencies to mitigate election-induced human rights and gender-based violence. At the same time, and as witnessed in 2020 Senatorial polls, violence against women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups in elections and politics (VAWIE-P) continues to be a significant challenge that affects inclusive political participation in Liberia and triggers tensions.

Lastly, voter trucking³⁷ is perceived by many Liberians as an important trigger of electoral violence, mainly at ground crossing points with bordering countries of the Mano-River Union (MRU) and is alleged to be widespread. The Election Coordination Committee (ECC) and the Liberia Election Observation Network (LEON), for example, alleged voter trucking in at least six counties (Maryland, Sinoe, Grand Kru, River Gee, Nimba and Montserrado). The 2018 LEAP survey conducted by USAID indicated that 60% of respondents heard about voters being trucked to the polls to register and vote.³⁸ Nevertheless, there is no data to confirm the real impact of trucking on electoral results, and there is no distinction between cross-border and within the country trucking. That notwithstanding, border management agents are faced with inadequate border infrastructure, and limited data collection and management capacity, to man the 45 official border crossing points.³⁹ This gives leverage to political parties to mobilize supporters and protesters, which increases the prospects for violence in the campaign and immediate post-election periods, both within and outside the country.

Considering the above-mentioned political realities arising from the Liberia electoral context – such as: an increasingly polarized political environment; the impact of misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech; economic challenges not allowing timely electoral preparations; and the early warning signs of potential conflict, including electoral politics tapping into a background of inter-communal tensions, tribal differences, public disenchantment, youth restiveness, and reported militarization of party supporters⁴⁰ – it is clear that elections, if not handled carefully and with due consideration for respect for human rights and the rule of law, have the potential to complicate prospects for sustainable peace and development.⁴¹ The presence of Ivorian refugees⁴² in Liberia's border areas and the influx of Burkinabe into its territories for cultivation of farm lands may ignite further tensions and the recurrent cross-border conflicts between communities of the Mano River Union (MRU) countries that surround Liberia are problematic. There are also several factors that limit women's participation in the political sphere. At the macro-level, long-term structural causes include patriarchal, social, economic, traditional, cultural, and religious factors. COVID-19 has further exacerbated these structural causes. Women remain largely confined to household responsibility or lower paid or volunteer community jobs. There are also persistent cultural stereotypes against women in leadership, particularly in rural areas. Despite signing the Farmington declaration in 2017 and committing to 30 percent gender quota, political parties have no strategy to increase women participation in political and public office. They generally just pay a lip service to the obligation to what they agreed to adhere. The legacy of the civil war also left more than 50 percent of the population living below the poverty line, which, in particular affects women.

Link to previous and ongoing initiatives related to this intervention:

³⁶ UNDP Report, Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Assessment Mission, September 28, 2021, p. 5.

³⁷ Trucking means bringing individuals from outside the area / country to vote illegally.

³⁸ USAID, Final survey report Liberia electoral access and participation survey, iteration ii (leap ii), May 2018.

³⁹ According to IOM, Liberia has 176 land border crossing points, of which, only 45 are recognized as official border crossing points with minimum border management agents. This leaves 131 ports of entry unattended. IOM subsequent Point of Entry (PoE) mapping showed an increase from 45 to 54 official entry points. (UN PBF/PBO Cross Border Phase II - Capacity Assessment of Joint Security Agencies, Basic Infrastructure, Border Management and Social Cohesion, August 2020).

⁴⁰ According to the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Major General Prince C. Johnson, the militarizing of young people by both the ruling and opposition political parties poses a threat to Liberia's peace and stability. However, even though the high level of coordination and cooperation among security actors in the MRU region makes it difficult for any group to wage war or any external form of insurrection in Liberia, the turning of young people into political parties' "militants" puts the country and its people at risk. For instance, on May 10, 2022, more than 30 people between the ages of 25 to 35 were seen in Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) regalia in Foya District, Lofa County. They were dressed in khaki suits with the inscription "CDC Militant" at the back, along with red berets displaying the party's emblem. Sources in Foya reported to one of the nation's leading news outlets, Front Page Africa, that the "CDC Militants" had gathered in the area to await the arrival of Montserrado County district #5 Representative Thomas Fallah and independent candidate Counsellor Joseph Jallah.

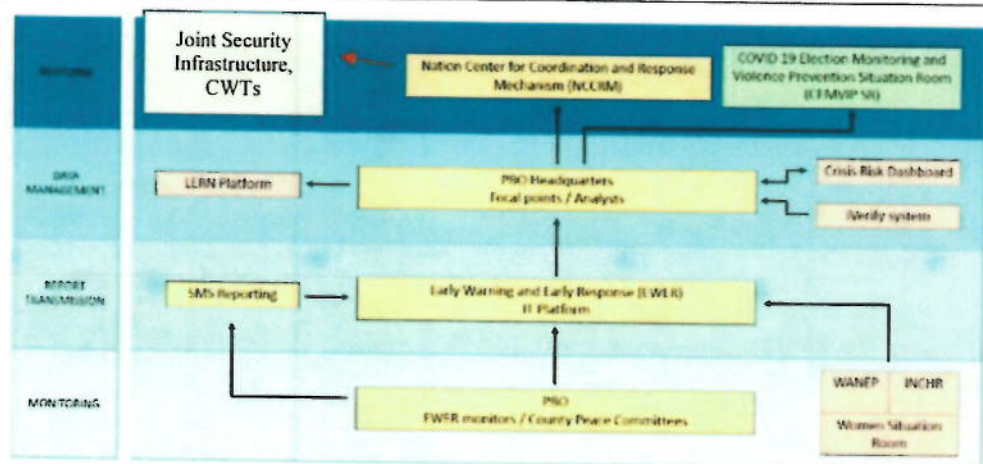
⁴¹ Reference is made to regular Tuesday briefings by the PBO Election Situation Room (CEMVIP).

⁴² Ref: UNHCR 750 - 1000 Ivorian refugees in Nimba.

Against this backdrop, it is critical to develop strategies that will strengthen the prevention and response to triggers of electoral violence, building upon previous and ongoing international support, and in complementarity to UN initiatives which continue to try to address some of the deeper structural and socio-economic root causes of these tensions and potential violence. Such support will also build on lessons learned from previous electoral peacebuilding support. According to United States Institute of Peace (USIP) research, an initial indication of the risk of violence and the scope of violence prevention efforts in the 2017 elections helped to strengthen a peaceful electoral environment.⁴³ In 2017, UNMIL utilized programmatic funding to support a peaceful electoral

environment through reinforcing capacity building efforts with respect to public order and crowd management control with Points of Contact (POC) focus. UNDP through its electoral assistance and Rule of Law projects also addressed training for law enforcement, and security manuals (also replicated in 2020). Liberia National Police (LNP) leadership was commended for

The chart below shows the EWER infrastructure. While Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) supports the PBO and its monitors, this Project is timely and well placed to strengthen other actors in the mechanism, such as INCHR Human Rights Reporting, WSR, and joint security infrastructure on the response side (response to the referrals by NCCRM who then inform security agencies to intervene). The consolidation of actors according to the below scheme will make the system stronger, more robust, and responsive.



the success of this approach and acknowledged the need to continue to support these efforts.⁴⁴ This new Project is well placed to provide this support for the 2023 elections.

Also in 2017, PBF provided funding to ensure peaceful elections, whereby young people were engaged nationwide to prevent electoral violence.⁴⁵ The 2017 youth and elections project empowered youth to engage fellow youth in urban and rural communities on conflict prevention before, during and after the general elections. These youth also supported NEC's effort on the popularization of civic education materials, which helped significantly minimize electoral violence. Overall, youth's leadership and participation in the electoral and post electoral mechanisms and processes for peacebuilding at all levels were enhanced as a result of this Project. The Project promoted, supported, and established youth electoral peacebuilders, created access and space for young people to engage directly as principal actors of the electoral process, by developing activities aimed at raising public awareness of electoral and civic responsibilities, and available opportunities to voice their grievances. The Project also promoted youth dialogues and encouraged youth participation in finding political consensus among stakeholders. The participatory nature of the activities under this outcome enhanced not only youth, but citizens' confidence in the electoral process. As a key lesson learnt, it is critical to maintain space and platform for the youth to engage in electoral and political process.

In 2020, to support electoral violence prevention, ECOWAS and UNMIL deployed an election situation room, while Angie Brooks International set up a women's situation room (WSR). Both Situation Rooms work closely together, with WSR having specific methodology to detect, prevent, and respond to VAWIE/P. Both were put in place in 2020 and were widely recognized for mitigating electoral violence through mediation. Similarly, OHCHR supported the INCHR and CSOs to monitor and report on election-related human rights violations

⁴³ <https://www.usip.org>

⁴⁴ DCAF, Lessons Identified from UN Mission in Support to Rule of Law in Liberia, p. 101.

⁴⁵ https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/liberia_two-pager_v3_0.pdf.

across the 15 counties in Liberia. The OHCHR support provided led to the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) and civil society organizations (CSOs) physical deployment of human rights monitors at different polling stations for the purpose of monitoring and reporting human rights issues in the context of the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections. That is complementary to international and national election observation missions (EU, Carter Center, NDI, ECOWAS, UNOWAS, Liberia Election Observation Network and Elections Coordinating Committee), which also play important role in strengthening electoral integrity and preventing electoral violence.

The Women Situation Room (WSR), initiated in 2011 to train and empower women in collaboration with youth to take ownership of peace processes in their country was particularly efficient in the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Liberia. The WSR undertook the first response to the violence against the senatorial candidate in Gbarpolu.⁴⁶ Renewed support to WSR activities is timely and strategic not only to further strengthen the EWER mechanism, but also to ensure VAWIE-P is mitigated in the lead-up to the 2023 polls. The establishment and key features of the WSR will be supported under this Project intervention.

As an overall lessons from previous support regarding the Early Warning and Response Mechanism, too many actors with unclear responsibilities did not allow the mechanism to reach its full potential, notably on the rapid response side (the diagram above shows the consolidated mechanism, with clearly defined roles of individual actors).⁴⁷ This year the UN is taking action to address this issue more effectively. The Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP), managed by UNDP, now assists PBO in the implementation of a robust Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism (EWER). While the mechanism is mainly being developed based on collection of information and identification of triggers of electoral violence, the analysis and response side are particularly weak.⁴⁸ This is caused not only by limited resources available to law enforcement, but also by weak links in the mechanism that, for the time being, relies too much on volunteers and staff – often not fully trained – to quickly analyse information and seek a response.⁴⁹ This PBF Project will be, therefore, important to complement existing efforts and strengthen a collective response and intervention to quickly engage and mobilise relevant actors on triggers of electoral violence, such as local unrest, clashes, or human rights violations/abuses that may impact a peaceful electoral environment. The PBF Project will provide additional resources to strengthen the response component – react to the referrals from the National Centre for Coordination of Response Mechanism (NCCRM), through training and capacity development of Joint Security Infrastructure and grassroots structures, such as Community Watch Teams.

The PBO – with support from LESP and input from UN OHCHR, UN Women, and other national and international partners – recently held a national roundtable discussion to review existing triggers of electoral violence. The key recommendations include the need to strengthen coordination of partners at different levels, integrate IPCC, women groups (including Women Situation Room [WSR]), youth, and clarify roles and responsibilities. The stakeholders further agreed that the response will be very challenging and awareness raising together with a strong community engagement must be prioritised.⁵⁰ This PBF Project hence provides an opportunity to strengthen a first line of responders through support to gender-sensitive community policing, and neighbourhood watch programmes, including the Community Watch Teams (CWTs). CWTs are established in the counties to organize forums, conduct community awareness on peaceful resolution of conflict, support alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes, report crime, step in to hold suspects of minor criminal disputes that may escalate when the police are absent, and hand the individuals over to police as soon as possible. The community watch forums played an important role in supporting the maintenance of peace and security in particularly rural communities amid low manpower and weak capacities of the Liberia National Police (LNP) to effectively respond and address security issues in a timely manner. The CWTs also conduct joint patrols with the police to identify and prevent possible triggers of community violence. By enhancing capacity of CWT, this Project can strengthen prevention of electoral violence through timely intervention and facilitation of rapid response at the local level. Development of synergies and collaboration with PBO's 400 monitors, youth

⁴⁶ PBO presentation to the NEC held on 25 December 2020 at National Elections Commission.

⁴⁷ UNDP Report, Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Assessment Mission, September 28, 2021.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ The EWER, for example only sends the analysis to the response agencies once a week. If the incident takes place or triggers appear on Monday but the information is only sent on Sunday, the rapid response is no longer possible. UNDP LESP Early Warning and Response Assessment Mission (EWER), September 28, 2021.

⁵⁰ Report: Training Meeting & roundtable discussions on the Early Warning and Early response in the frame of strategic long-term support to Liberia, 14 April 2022, Hotel Royal, Monrovia

ambassadors for peace, and peace committees on the ground will lead to the development of a robust early warning and response system, with the aim to foster peace and stability during the 2023 electoral cycle and beyond.

Utilizing UNDP Joint Task Force for Electoral Assistance (JTF) global expertise on EWER to prevent and respond to electoral violence, LESP has a comparative advantage to develop a strong EWER mechanism. This mechanism, once in place, can be used and supported by other projects to foster prevention and response in other areas, such as human rights violations, crime prevention, etc. That will also ensure the system's sustainability as other projects and actors can later rely on it as well. This is critical considering the dire economic situation in the country, and related inadequate numbers of police officers and absence of civil authority in most communities. It is important that the LNP is empowered, through this Project, to work with communities and the EWER system to improve human rights and security through a joint formulation of gender-sensitive community policing, prevention programmes that combat crime and by conducting regular community sensitization campaigns that educate communities on triggers of violence and basic measures to prevent conflict. The activities and campaigns are conducted partnering with religious leaders, media, CSOs, and other stakeholders.

Moreover, on the response side, it is critical to ensure that specialised measures are in place to respond to conflict triggers. Illicit cross-border activities represent one such potential trigger and are targeted by this Project. Prevention measures, such as ID/travel document verifications at selected neighbouring point of entry, monitoring suspicious movements, and empowering the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) to respond in a timely manner will limit tensions, help ensure that the electoral rights of Liberians are not jeopardised by mobilisation of foreign nationals, and help prevent recent election-related dynamics in Ivory Coast or Guinea from spilling into Liberia.

This Project also provides an opportunity to interface with and mainstream human rights into existing support surrounding election-related hate speech and disinformation. UNDP is building upon an existing fact-checking platform managed by Local Voices Liberia and funded by the EU. Like EWER, the UNDP JTF has developed a tool called iVerify that helps to manage and respond to mis-/disinformation and hate speech. The iVerify is a collaborative platform that helps in identifying and responding to mis/disinformation and hate speech. This Project is well placed to foster links from different situation rooms and media monitoring entities to ensure that disinformation and hate speech, constituting human rights violations, are detected early, and are responded to adequately. Furthermore, Internews, in collaboration with LESP, conducted several trainings on conflict sensitive reporting leading to 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, 2021, and 2022 by-elections. Additional trainings, to be implemented by this Project, will be beneficial leading to beyond the 2023 elections.

Additionally, the IPCC is well established to promote peaceful elections, accountability, and electoral integrity amongst the political parties through dialogue, including between political party youth, and to enhance respect for peaceful elections including through codes of conduct. In 2016, the political parties came together and signed joint declarations (Ganta Declaration, Farmington Declaration) committing to peaceful elections. A previous electoral project supported the revision of the Code of Conduct to ensure renewed commitment to the peaceful process. IPCC serves as a platform for peaceful dialogue and dispute resolution, but its function can be strengthened, notably incorporating civil society, and better institutionalizing the mechanism (LESP is focusing on this goal). In March 2022, for example, the Liberian political parties, under the auspices of IPCC, took an important step and signed a Protocol and Action Plan to prevent violence against women in elections and politics (VAWIE-P). All acknowledged, however, that implementation will be a challenge, notably due to the limited number of men pushing the women's participation agenda. LESP, in close collaboration with UN Women, as well as the recently approved PBF funded Inclusive Political Participation Project, supports awareness-raising around VAWIE-P and promotes women's political participation. This new Project provides further opportunities to work with partners to establish closer relationships amongst PBO, NCCRM, IPCC, LNP, civil society, and NEC through a coordination mechanism on prevention and response to electoral violence, including specifically VAWIE. Integrating IPCC into the above system, focusing on mediation, and promoting inclusive dialogues, builds on nearly two decades of electoral assistance in Liberia. However, with a view to setting up more coherent and integrated structures and spreading the dialogues, further outreach to youth, rural communities, and disadvantaged groups is an important aspect that this Project can address.

UN in Liberia has also provided a platform for Liberian youth to continue to stand up for human rights, promote peace, and contribute to sustainable development. As part of these efforts, youth-led organizations participated in the first National Inception Workshop on maintaining national peace and security in Liberia, held in 2019. The participation of youth at the first National Inception Workshop set the stage for their inclusion in the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives under the UNDP supported project “Promoting Sustainable Peace through National Youth Policy in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda”. Since 2019, the project has provided opportunities, tools, capacity building, and grants for young people to engage actively in development and peacebuilding processes that influence national policies. Several activities to develop youth potential in entrepreneurship, financial management, peacebuilding, project proposal writing, fundraising, sustainability, communication, and partnership building also took place under the Project implemented by Accountability Lab Liberia, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MOYS) and the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) with support from UNDP, as well as UNDESA. UNDP Electoral Assistance held three youth forums to strengthen youth involvement in society. In 2017, the EU Election Observation Mission reported that through their involvement in the signature of the Farmington Declaration through which Liberia political actors committed to peace, youth noted that it was the first time they got a space in decision-making.⁵¹ Widening this space is critical to address youth disengagement and decrease the potential for the mobilization of electoral violence. This Project will further open space for youth to be engaged in early warning, response, community watch, and further electoral violence prevention activities.

Chart: Key Actors for Peaceful Electoral Process

-Initiatives consolidated under the EWER, leading to rapid response by the security agencies in place for the upcoming elections-

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)	
Objective	Monitor early signs of conflict and work with partners to prevent or mitigate them
Presence in the field	Monitor presence in 11 of 15 counties
Activity timeline	Permanent
Angie Brooks – Women Situation Room	
Objective	Monitor and prevent/mitigate violence that could emerge before, during and after elections while mobilizing and empowering women to provide for peacebuilding initiatives
Presence in Liberia	Presence in all 15 counties
Activity timeline	Permanent <i>Ad-hoc</i> additional structure for Early Warning and Early Response during the electoral period
Independent National Commission of Human Rights (INCHR)	
Objective	Monitor and verify human rights violations for transmission to relevant response actors (i.e., police, County Peace Committees, etc.)
Presence in Liberia	Presence in all 15 counties
Activity timeline	Permanent
National Center for Coordination of the Response Mechanism (NCCRM)	
Objective	Established by law as the institutional center coordinating responses based on thematic fields such as governance and human rights, crimes and criminality, security, health, environment, and gender
Activity timeline	Permanent
COVID-19 Elections Monitoring Election and Violence Prevention Situation Room (CEMVIP-SR)	
Objective	Act upon instances related to violence in elections and COVID response planning
Activity timeline	Currently inactive <i>Ad hoc</i> functioning based on the electoral calendar

⁵¹ Final Report, EU Election Observation Mission, 2017.

National Security Council Secretariat of Liberia (NSCSL)	
Objective	Established by Law through the National Security Sector Reform and Intelligent Act 2011 that improves the efficiency and effectiveness of a state's security sector on EWERM and Border Management
Activity timeline	Permanent

Joint security infrastructure	
Objective	Comprises of LNP, LIS, DEA, LNFS county and local security forces. Based on joint security strategy, this structure is responsible for the electoral security.
Activity timeline	Permanent

a) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports existing Governmental and UN strategic frameworks⁵², how it ensures national ownership.

This project is in conformity with Liberia's international human rights obligations and Pillars three and four of the Government's Medium Term Development Plan, the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), notably its priority on *'Promoting Inclusive and Peaceful Elections'*, which provides a well-developed framework for sustaining peace, formulated in accordance with Security Council resolution 2333 (2016), and "directs the role of the United Nations to consolidate commitments across development, security, and human rights operations, defining priority areas for mutual engagement in order to prevent relapse into conflict." Similarly, the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan includes supporting the operations of key conflict-prevention and peacebuilding institutions and decentralizing the presence of competent justice and security sector personnel across the country as indicative priorities to sustain peace in Liberia.

The project aligns with Pillar 3 of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023 and envisages sustaining peace as a necessary condition for promoting development and social cohesion. This Pillar identifies a society that guarantees space for all citizens to thrive; a society where justice, rule of law and human rights prevail; and improved security service delivery nationwide with adequate capacity to deter and/or respond to security threats.

The project also aligns with Outcome 3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) which, among other things, seeks to enhance public trust and confidence in justice, security, and rule of law institutions at national and subnational levels; protection of human rights; fight SGBV and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; promoting effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and improving security services at all levels, especially for women and children, among others.

This Project is complementary to the UNDP Governance approach to elections, identified in the LESP project document signed in September 2020. Guided by the UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) that took place in July 2019, it supports Outcome 3 - *Conflict prevention and mitigation mechanisms to support peaceful conduct of elections are strengthened*. Under the UNDP Governance portfolio output area 3.1 Strengthened electoral framework for inclusive, transparent, and peaceful elections, Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) supports prevention and mitigation mechanisms, institutions, and actors, to conduct peaceful elections, and to reduce obstacles to women's participation. The intervention into the EWER builds on previous support to PBO by Sweden and Ireland through ZOA. Amidst the proliferation of actors with unclear responsibilities, international development partners decided to consolidate support to EWER through UNDP. UNDP therefore seeks to play a coordinating role in electoral violence prevention, and this Project will be implemented in close collaboration with LESP. The support to prevention of disinformation and hate speech links to LESP Output 1 implemented within the framework of Governance Portfolio output area 3.2 Enhanced civic and voter education and public information towards inclusive and active democratic societies and 3.3 Capacity of political parties and civil society improved to participate in political processes and decision-making especially women, persons living

⁵² Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.

with disabilities and youth. This Project also collaborates with another PBF intervention, implemented jointly by UNDP and UN Women. The intervention aims at eliminating VAWIE-P.

- b) A brief explanation of how the project fills any strategic gaps and complements any other relevant interventions, PBF funded or otherwise. Also provide a summary of **existing interventions** in the proposal's sector by filling out the table below.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) - UNDP September 2020 – July 2024	Sweden, Ireland, UNDP (8 million USD) Negotiation being finalized with EU (10 million USD)	The Project is an electoral assistance project, responding to the 2019 NAM. Output 3 explicitly focuses on prevention of electoral violence and VAWIE-P. Output 1 supports inclusion, transparency, and credibility of electoral process and includes support to conflict-sensitive reporting and mitigation of dis- / mis-information and hate speech.	This Project focuses on actors outside of the UNDP direct electoral assistance such as law enforcement, human rights actors, and non-traditional structures. It aims to strengthen the response to the triggers of electoral violence and works in close complementarity to the LESP.
Inclusive Political Participation Project (IPP) – UN Women and UNDP October 2021 – September 2023	PBF 2 million USD	This project focuses on mitigation of VAWIE-P and increased women political participation through support to institutions, processes, and community (including grassroots level).	VAWIE-P is an important aspect of electoral violence that needs to be mitigated. This Project will mainstream VAWIE prevention in all its activities, using tools developed under IPP Project (such as currently ongoing VAWIE risk assessment).

I. Project content, strategic justification, and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

a) A brief description of the project focus and approach

The project aims to address the most prominent and under-funded potential triggers of violence and to strengthen response mechanisms so as to make them more inclusive, more effective and better coordinated, with a view to reducing the likelihood and intensity of violent conflict related to the electoral issues during the two-year period before, during and after the 2023 elections. The project will complement existing interventions including the UNDP Governance portfolio and its *Liberia Electoral Support Project* (LESP 2020-2024), and the PBF funded Project on *Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics* (2021-2023), all contributing to a more peaceful electoral environment.

The Project will be implemented within 24 months (July 2022 – June 2024) and it will target pre-election, election and post-election period. At the beginning of implementation, the Project will also conduct an assessment and a baseline study to identify hotspot communities, where the Project engagement will be enhanced. The teams from the three agencies will meet with national counterparts responsible for existing structures and develop a detailed implementation plan – to ensure integration of all Project activities and mutual reinforcement of conflict prevention efforts. Gender, human rights, and youth will be mainstreamed and accentuated in all interventions.

b) *Provide a project-level ‘theory of change’.*

The Theory of Change (TOC) for this project is premised on the evidence that significant conflict triggers exist to potentially jeopardize a peaceful conduct of 2023 elections and EWER as well as human rights protection mechanisms exist and have the potential to mitigate them but suffer from capacity deficits which impact their effectiveness.

This project is focused on addressing major violence triggers for electoral violence. It recognizes that root causes cannot all be addressed by this intervention and therefore the UN will continue to work with the Government, donor partners and communities to look for solutions to deeper causes including the socio-economic. The triggers that this Project addresses include reported militarization of political party supporters and indications of preparedness to use violence to achieve electoral outcomes; inadequate meaningful participation of youth and women in politics and early warning and violence prevention systems ;perception of electoral fraud and manipulation, including voter trucking; institutional weaknesses stemming, amongst others from limited and late funding, and related weak response to triggers of electoral violence; misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech that may lead to flagrant violation of human rights.

The 2023 elections present an opportunity for the country to make a transition to inclusive and peaceful electoral institutions and processes. In line with those priorities, this Project uses the standard theory of change (TOC)⁵³ where conflict prevention is broken down into three classic types: (i) operational prevention that encompass using dialogue and awareness to support discursive and attitudinal changes; (ii) structural prevention, which include thinking about contextual factors and how they could be altered to make the society more resilient to conflict. The structural prevention aims at fostering a behavioral change in the way actors behave vis-à-vis a concern, in other words, act or interface with others, in consequence of formal and informal changes in discourse, procedure, content, or attitude; and (iii) systemic prevention, which is creating mechanisms and procedures that guard against violence. The gender approach borrows from the UNSDCF pillar 4 and UN Women Flagship Programme Initiatives (FPI) theory of change, which defend that the gender sensitive capacity strengthening of Liberian actors will lead to delivery of women’s leadership and participation in governance processes including contributions to peacebuilding.

Operational prevention TOC: Inclusive dialogue sessions, collective activities, and awareness sessions, involving particularly youth and women, will show the young population that they can meaningfully participate in peace and nation building processes of their country. The activities will support the discourse change indicating that achieving peace and reconciliation in country is not through mobilization of force but participation. Furthermore, the awareness sessions will demonstrate benefits of peaceful conduct of elections and present existing safeguards to prevent manipulation. Through training and awareness of observation and monitoring of elections, communities will see an opportunity to engage as watchdogs in safeguarding their national process. If these activities are successful, the youth will rather consider mediation that they are part, than violence, to achieve fair electoral outcomes. Focus on conflict sensitive reporting and raising awareness about hate speech and its mitigation will decrease the potential of conflict escalation based on unverified news.

Structural prevention TOC: Arming security institutions, including at the border areas, additional support and training will address some of the weaknesses in the system. Strengthening the early warning and response component by bringing various actors together to act under one mechanism will foster a reconciliatory approach to electoral violence. The EWER framework will also make the actors focus more on prevention and early response to the triggers, therefore, prevent violence from escalating. Mainstreaming gender and human rights

⁵³ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-10-0983-9_24

in security operations will ensure that triggers leading to VAWIE-P and flagrant human rights violations are detected and reported early.

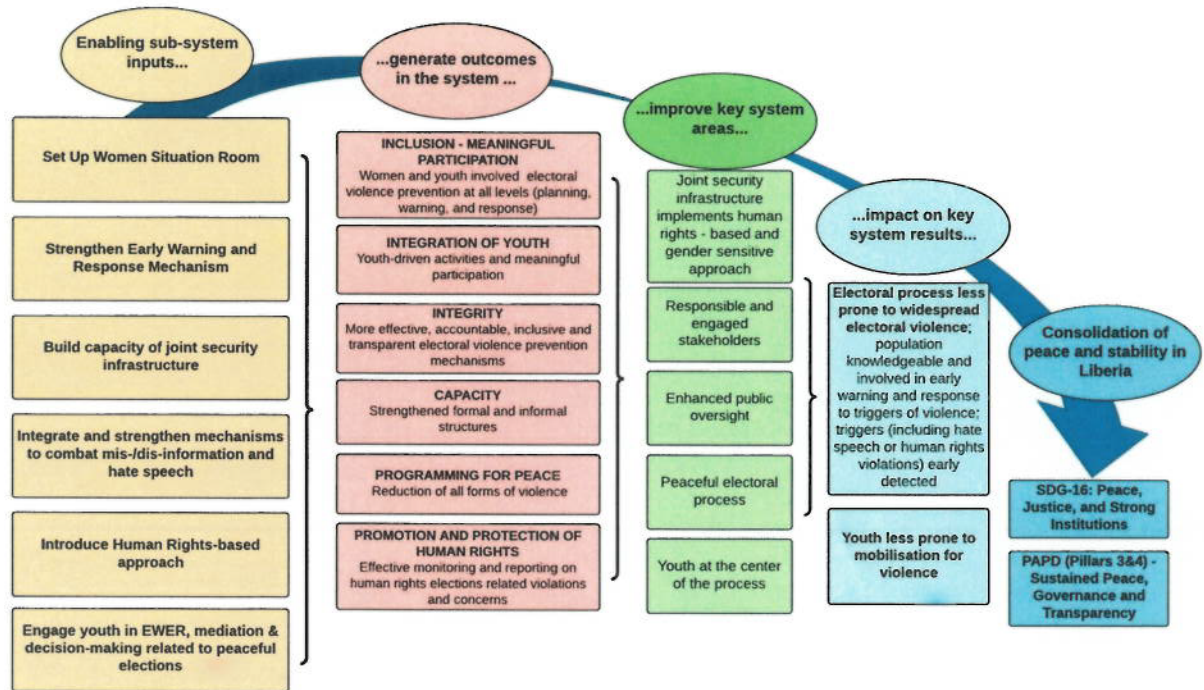
Systemic prevention TOC: The strengthening of EWER and iVerify mechanisms through this project (and jointly with LESP) will enable consolidation of a stronger mechanism to promote and protect human rights in elections and guard against electoral violence. Through additional support to the response component of EWER, the system will become more responsive to address electoral violence before it becomes widespread.

Gender approach TOC: Deployment of specific Women Situation Room and mainstreaming of women organization in all activities will strengthen women engagement in peace building. Gender sensitive capacity strengthening will ensure that women interest is considered in the prevention and response actions, guide against violence against women in the electoral processes, and therefore, the electoral process will be more peaceful. This is based on the previous experience of Liberia civil war where women movement played a strong role to lead the country towards peace. Overall research also shows that involving women in peacebuilding increases the chance of ending of violence by 24%.⁵⁴

Youth engagement / empowerment TOC: Engaging youth in EWER mechanism will help bridging the gap between young people and decision-makers in electoral violence prevention efforts. Furthermore, giving the youth specific purpose in electoral violence prevention, mediation and overall peacebuilding decision-making will mitigate the space for their mobilization of violence.

Overall, the Project will enable inputs into existing mechanisms and systems, with the aim to strengthen key aspects of the democratic electoral processes and programming for peace (inclusion, integration of youth, integrity, promotion and protection of human rights, and capacity). This will generate outcomes in key system areas as described in the below diagram, such as enhanced engagement on peaceful elections with public, focusing on women and youth. The key system areas, such as joint security infrastructure as well as informal structures will be strengthened and enabled to integrate human rights and gender sensitive approaches. As a result, the electoral process is expected to become less prone to electoral violence. Mechanism to respond to

⁵⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/aug/11/women-conflict-peace-society>



electoral violence and human rights violations triggers are strengthened, leading to further consolidation, and sustaining of peace and stability in Liberia.

c) *Provide a narrative description of key project components*

Outcome 1: More inclusive, coordinated and effective early warning systems and inclusive dialogues at community and political party level help to reduce electoral violence

This outcome aims at supporting a more peaceful electoral environment by strengthening peacebuilding and electoral infrastructure at national and community levels through various capacity building, prevention, and response initiatives to help the community members to freely exercise their constitutional franchise without any forms of harassment, intimidation, and manipulation. This Project will undertake targeted actions, under each of the identified outputs, including awareness raising, strengthening early warning and response infrastructure, engaging political parties, youth, joint security, community policing through watch teams. These activities will contribute to the outcome, which is aligned to Pillar 3, Sustaining Peace of the government Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and Outcome3 of the UNCT Cooperative Framework.

These interventions will be carried out in close collaboration with the CTA of the LESP.

Output 1.1 Youth and women-inclusive Community Watch Team structures and Joint Security Infrastructure (LNP, LIS, and other law enforcement agencies) are supported to undertake effective early warning and response on electoral conflict

The joint security infrastructure, including LNP, LIS, MIA, LDEA is the formal structure responsible for peaceful elections at the level of voter registration and tally centers, pooling places, and during campaign events. Raising awareness of the electoral process and related aspects strengthens the capability of law enforcement to protect elections ensuring due respect to human rights. The approach is embedded in a long-

term capacity strengthening approach, rather than isolated trainings. A capacity development plan will be based on gaps analysis and lead into the development of curricula and guidebooks to be re-used by Liberians in the next electoral cycles.

This Output will also support the work of Community Watch Teams (CWTs) in project counties identified through the baseline assessment. The CWTs are an informal infrastructure consisting principally of youth and women who will coordinate community relations to avoid issues likely to cause tensions with community leaders, LNP and other security personnel and CSOs representatives. Members of the CWT will be trained on their civic duties, peaceful and alternative dispute resolution measures, jurisdictional issues in respect of minor cases that can be resolved by communities and traditional leaders, coordination with joint security mechanisms and protecting the rights of women, youth and children.

By enhancing the capacity of both joint security infrastructure and the CWTs, this Project aims at strengthening prevention of electoral violence through timely intervention and facilitation of rapid response at the local level. Coordination and interrelation between the law enforcement agencies, CWTs and the EWER structure, and development of inter-institutional collaboration with PBO to grant relevant access to EWER platform will further facilitate the response mechanism.

Activities:

1.1.1. Conduct capacity building sessions for joint security agencies (LNP, LIS, and other law enforcement agencies at national and local levels) on electoral procedures, and regulations as well as their role in elections to effectively mitigate electoral violence and human rights abuses, including VAWiE – this activity will strengthen the capacity of the Liberia National Police and its joint security services in gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches to policing, including crowd control, and response to electoral violence during pre-electoral and post electoral period. The participants will be issued a gender-sensitive pocket guidebook on dos and don'ts while executing their duties. The participants will be also trained by PBO on their role in EWER system.

1.1.2 Strengthen the capacity of youth and women-based Community Watch Teams (CWT) and local authorities through trainings to prevent conflict through establishing community forums to identify and discuss community violence prevention, human rights approach to community policing to reduce mob and electoral violence in partnership with the police. Train members of the CWT on a human rights approach to community policing to reduce mob and electoral violence – training will be conducted jointly by the LNP and the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC).

1.1.3. Support the conduct of regular joint police-CWT patrols in communities to identify triggers of crime and violence and prevent their occurrence and provide torches, whistles and other necessary materials. Support joint patrol of the police and community leaders/CWTs with roll-out of awareness packages and pocket handbooks on elections, gender-sensitive policing, and human rights-based approach, as well as unofficial Points of Entry (POEs) and informal dispute resolution mechanisms.

1.1.4. Regularize inclusive dialogue sessions of the CWTs – conduct bi-monthly dialogues and coordinate CWTs with the regular electoral violence prevention dialogue with IPCC (in collaboration with NEC, conduct four IPCC dialogues at the local level specifically targeting youth and women wings of political parties leading to 2023 elections). The IPCC dialogues are regularly convened by the NEC.

1.1.5. Coordinate CWTs into PBOs Early Warning and Response (System) and train them in conflict mediation, electoral and human rights monitoring, triggers of electoral violence, electoral violence prevention, and EWER mechanism – training to be conducted with technical support from UNDP LESP by the PBO, NEC, and INHRC (the mediation curricula is under development with support from UNDP)

Output 1.2: Women and youth role in electoral period conflict resolution and mediation is strengthened through their inclusion in the EWER mechanism

Output 1.2 will be implemented by Angie Brooks International-Center (ABIC) and will be co-funded jointly by this Project and LESP. ABIC will collaborate with the Project under the Responsible Party Agreement and take charge of implementation of the below activities.

The Women's Situation Room (WSR) is an early warning and response mechanism that mobilizes women and youth to ensure their active participation in curbing electoral violence. It is a platform for women, in collaboration with the youth, to play an active and direct role in peace and conflict prevention processes. The Women's Situation Room works with all electoral stakeholders in consultative engagements to promote peace before, during and post elections. The WSR mitigates conflict, provides a rapid response mechanism when violence occurs and guards against violations before, during and after elections. The Eminent Women of the WSR, which is a group of non-partisans, neutral and well-respected women, in advocacy for peace, intervene and mediate to avert conflict; provide coordination for receipt and response to incident reports; engage in ongoing political and legal analysis and advice. In addition, the WSR provides opportunity for women and youth to monitor the polling process and report election related incidents to the Eminent Women who in turn refer the reported incidents to relevant authorities for immediate action. The WSR provides real-time intervention to electoral conflict on Election Day utilizing its Toll- Free number and Call Centers.

*Output 1.2 overall aims at **maintaining peace by enhancing the role of women and youth in conflict resolution and mediation**. Through WSR mechanism, and through the involvement of women mediators, and engagement of youth in awareness-raising peaceful coexistence will be strengthened.*

Activities:

1.2.1. Assessment and planning missions to project counties are conducted and teams in the counties set up and **orientation trainings conducted for WSR county hubs:** an Assessment will be conducted to review the elections process and status of preparation, and the potential for violence. It will identify the key players in the 2023 elections that the WSR will need to engage, and existing or potential areas of conflict. The activity aims to provide a platform for women and youth to strategize, plan and respond rapidly to election related violence in a coordinated manner throughout Liberia. Also **under this activity, women candidates will be provided relevant support, thereby creating the enabling environment to promote voice and accountability before during and after elections.** The project counties will be selected following the overall assessment supported by LESP.

1.2.2. Physical Women's situation room is operational and trained on human rights: All the above actions and activities will culminate into the Physical Situation Room where intervention and mediation by the Eminent Women will take place, supported by political, media, legal, gender and security analysts; and with the advice and guidance of the Group of The Wise. The WSR monitors will be trained and their capacity built on how to identify human rights violations and how to report same to early warning and response system (the human rights training will be delivered by OHCHR in collaboration with INCHR). Specific training will be provided to **Eminent Women in mediation and WSR methodology conducted:** Additional training will be conducted on EWER Platform and the synergies with EWER system, which is a new aspect comparing to 2017. **Support (transportation and logistics costs, DSA, honorarium) will be provided to Eminent Women Mediators staff and WSR.** Eminent Women Mediators will be selected by ABIC as is the practice of the WSR. They will bring in external capacity and buttress the non-partisan nature of the WSR in the politically charged elections environment. They will support the national Eminent Women throughout their role. The last WSR of 2017 had eight (8) African Eminent Women. The WSR will also **train, accredit, and deploy an all-women observer team** to monitor the elections in the counties and reports all incidents to the call center.

1.2.3. Talking bus civic education and community engagements conducted in project counties (1 event per county) - The Talking Bus is a non-partisan platform that promotes interactive civic engagements and forums on issues that mostly confront and to some extent frustrate citizens. This is a physical bus that moves from community to community with experts on board to educate citizens and provides them with the opportunity to

ask experts' advice on how to use the available legal channels to address their issues. The activity is conducted by the WSR and will aim to specifically target women and youth, as much as possible.

1.2.4. Youth peer-to-peer engagement processes rolled out: Youth leaders from various youth groups in the counties will be trained on various topics including prevention of violence against women (VAWIE/P), elections laws, the Elections Offences Courts and the country's constitution and peace building. They will then be given logistical support such as NEC materials, t-shirts, and airtime to raise sustained awareness and campaign on the need for peaceful elections among their peers. ***Unity games - soccer and kickball for peace will be conducted in 7 counties (1 event per county) will be also rolled out:*** This tool has been one of the effective tools implemented by the Women Situation Room to unite communities to use sports to address issues of violence. Soccer and kickball are two loved games in Liberia, and it has been used in the past to galvanize the support of diverse youth to use dialogues to address their differences rather than violence.

UNDP will also liaise with ABIC and engage the youth political party wings to engage on their work and organizing methods, campaigns, and engagement in prevention of electoral violence. It will support a creation of youth roadmap to electoral violence prevention and commitments not to engage in violence. ***The Activity will also engage and build capacity of youth groups, women, traditional, and religious leaders on human rights principles of non-discrimination and inclusion for sustainable peace during and after elections.*** This is necessary to obviate the practice that was witnessed during the last election where some traditionalists employed cultural methods to prevent political gains of other candidates. ***Print and distribute public outreach materials and raise awareness on peaceful elections***

Output 1.3: Community stakeholders within identified hotspots, and border communities, are more aware and able to withstand and prevent manipulation and potential violent dynamics linked to the electoral process.

Under this Output, the hotspot communities and actors are identified to mitigate electoral violence. This output seeks to empower youth groups to actively engage in awareness raising to create the enabling environment for peaceful electoral process. The hotspot communities identified in the overall project baseline assessment will be linked to border areas or areas prone to trucking of voters. IOM will coordinate with ABIC during implementation to extensively cover identified project communities. Where there are geographic overlaps for reasons identified in the assessment, clear division of responsibilities will be outlined between IOM and ABIC, to ensure output indicator targets are met, contributing to the intended outcome. This Output will also bring together youth groups, at the hotspot areas, to jointly develop and disseminate peaceful messages. This is intended to increase awareness in hotspot communities and to enhance participation of youth in conflict prevention.

Activities

1.3.1. As part of the overall comprehensive baseline assessment of the project, a study will be conducted to determine the existence of fragility and incentives that influence voter trucking in hotspot communities (including political parties, local authorities, media, youth, communities, and traditional leaders. The survey will help identify hotspot areas and factors that can both trigger and/or prevent electoral violence.

The result of the assessment will be presented to the relevant actors, followed by the discussion and development of an implementation plan to mitigate electoral violence and voter trucking. These actors will include youth groups, women, traditional, and religious leaders in hotspot communities identified by the assessment. These stakeholders will jointly develop messages and outreach programs. This will guide the implementation of activities in this project to achieve its intended outcome.

1.3.2. Organize the engagement of relevant government authorities, political parties including their women and youth groups, and independent candidates on risks associated with voter trucking, electoral violence and

manipulation, recruitment and militarization of youth groups and its potential as driver of violent conflicts. ***Conduct dialogues in hotspot areas to develop peaceful messages and comprehensive outreach program.***

1.3.3. Engage and support existing peace infrastructures and community volunteers to conduct peer to peer engagement on conflict prevention and political participation in border communities: The activity will help to raise awareness in border communities on the triggers of electoral violence related to voter trucking and support youth teams' structure under EWER in engaging community youth in electoral violence prevention. It will help disseminating the outreach materials, programs, and implement plan developed in Activity 1.3.2. ***Electoral violence prevention outreach programs will then be organized in cities and bordering communities/hotspot areas through drama programs*** engagement with youth clubs, community leaders, women's associations, foreign residents/alien, local authorities, and civil society organizations. The outreach programs will be implemented by local community organizations through small grants.

1.3.4. Conduct capacity development sessions for joint security actors, local authorities, women, and youth groups to reinforce peace corridors in hotspot areas including and bordering communities to respond to risks associated with electoral violence and potential issues arising from voter trucking. ***Support awareness raising sessions with community-based organizations, youth groups,*** women's organizations ***in hotspot areas*** on major electoral violence risks and on existing protocols against electoral interference in the hotspot areas. ***The activity will also support conflict prevention and dispute resolution platforms including existing early warning structures through training on peaceful dialogue and early response reporting mechanisms in cities and hotspot communities*** to prevent and/or response to conflict and violence during and in the aftermath of elections. Identified community youth in hotspot communities will be trained in reporting to EWER.

The awareness sessions will be implemented through sub-granting of local organization to build their capacity. The local organization will also be tasked to develop awareness in collaboration with local communities, in particular youth.

1.3.5 Local authorities, traditional and religious leaders will be trained to mediate and prevent electoral interference, violations, and voter irregularities in hotspot communities. This activity will strengthen mediation and conflict resolution involving traditional and religious leaders as well as local authorities in hard-to-reach communities in the wake of limited state authorities in rural communities. There is strong influence of traditional and religious leaders in most of the rural communities, as such, their role is pivotal to maintaining peace and peaceful coexistence.

1.3.6. Support community and ECOWAS radios to develop and broadcast conflict sensitive awareness materials in local languages to promote peaceful elections in hotspots areas and along bordering communities with Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone – the broadcasts and messages are to be developed with youth organizations and community. Women in politics will also be given a platform to discuss.

Output 1.4: National and local watchdogs are empowered to monitor and report human rights abuses throughout the electoral cycle in close complementarity with the EWER.

This output aims to ensure that human rights-based approach is mainstreamed and integrated into EWER mechanism. It supports national actors with training, mobilization, and awareness campaigns to prevent and respond to election-induced human rights violations. The result of the output will be more human rights and gender-sensitive early warning and response system.

Activities

1.4.1 Support setting up of a formal mechanism at the INCHR to monitor and report human rights situation (before, during and after the 2023 general elections) for early warning and prevention by identifying possible triggers of violence, and act upon (election-related) human rights violation cases in line with the commission's mandate. The activity will help review triggers of electoral violence that constitute abused. The reporting will be channeled through iReport (EWER online tool) / LERN (Liberia Early Response Network) platform. The

activity will equally enhance the capacity of the INCHR to issue a report on the human rights situation during the electoral period with concrete recommendations for further processes. INCHR will be equipped with access rights and empowered to verify claims of human rights abuses and support the response component through the platform. This activity will also *mainstream human rights into existing election situation room that will collate information and ensure early warning and response mechanism*: This activity will allow secondment of human rights analysts in the situation room and deployment of human rights monitors who will report to the EWER mechanism. The activity will also strengthen the training on human rights for existing EWER monitors

1.4.2 Strengthening of tracking and reporting of human rights election-related situation by CSOs through the CSO Human Rights Advocacy Platform (CSOs HRAP). CSO and INCHR monitors will be trained by OHCHR in collaboration with INCHR on human rights monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, the activity will ensure that CSOs HRAP communicates with EWER and PBO monitors to ensure that human rights concerns are mainstreamed in the EWER.

1.4.3 Train media practitioners on conflict-sensitive and human rights-based approach to election reporting. The activity complements trainings already conducted by Internews and LESP. The Project will support the organizations involved (including NEC, PUL, FJaL, Internews) to collaborate on integrating human rights-based approach for peaceful elections into the media trainings. Furthermore, four additional trainings will be conducted based on identified hot spots. The trainings will be conducted in collaboration with PUL, INCHR, and CSOs ahead of 2023 elections to combat misinformation and strengthen partnership. The activity is implemented through the cost-sharing bringing expertise of various organizations together and building on each other's comparative advantage and access.

1.4.4 Train existing community peace structures inclusive of youth representatives (County Peace Committees) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) including women and youth groups and traditional and religious leaders on human rights-based approach to the electoral process. County Peace Committees are community structures already part of the EWER mechanism. CBOs are local structures of CSOs monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and concerns locally, specifically in local communities. Strengthening their awareness of human rights is critical to ensure that election-induced triggers that may result in widespread human rights violations are recognized early and therefore timely reported and addressed. The activity will be implemented in close collaboration with INCHR, CSOsHRAP, and PBO. The activity will be integrated into the trainings for EWER actors implemented by LESP, in close collaboration with NEC.

1.4.5 Support political parties' leadership in ensuring peaceful election by exposing them to Human Rights Based Approach in managing their internal electoral processes. The activity will complement existing activities implemented through LESP. The Human Rights – based approach will be incorporated into ongoing IPCC dialogues, with specific regional engagements on the topic. The human-right based approach will be also integrated into the revision and recommitment to the Farmington declaration on Peaceful Elections.

1.4.6 Support the national electoral commission to raise awareness and provide mechanisms for the participation of vulnerable persons especially minorities, at-risk persons, first time voters, elderly voters, and persons with disabilities to exercise democratic participation rights in elections. This activity will be implemented in close collaboration with UNDP LESP, as well as national partners (CSOsHRAP and INCHR). The awareness will be developed by NEC in collaboration with OHCHR materials and implementation plan by OHCHR in consultation with NEC, INCHR, and CSOsHRAP.

Output 1.5 Hate speech triggering potential electoral violence is reduced

This output specifically covers the mitigation of instances of hate speech during the electoral period. It collaborates closely with PUL, INHCHR, and iVerify mechanism being developed under LESP, ensuring that hate speech is considered as a flagrant human rights violation, and raising awareness of its implications to peaceful elections. The awareness-raising will be conducted by OHCHR in collaboration with CSOsHRAP and trainings facilitated by OHCHR and national actors, including INHCHR, Local Voices of Liberia, PUL, Female

Journalist Association (FJaL), Integrity Watch, political leaders and their sympathizers, youth groups, amongst others.

1.5.1. Organize a hate speech definitional workshop with PUL, FJaL, NEC, ECC, LEON, CSO Council, MOJ, Internews, Local Voices Liberia (LVL), LNBA, LNP, INHCR, UNDP, Inter Religious Council, Women Human Rights defenders network, Integrity Watch, CSOsHRAP, to develop shared meanings and definition on what constitute hate speech , inflammatory rhetoric and incitement to violence generally and hate speech that constitute human rights violation specifically in electoral process and agree on a list of indicators. The activity will complement existing engagement on iVerify and incorporate UN frameworks as a guide, see: https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/advising-and-mobilizing/Action_plan_on_hate_speech_EN.pdf.

1.5.2. Develop a database of key words and indicators that will be used to monitor hate speech that constitutes human rights violation based on agreed working definition. The activity will complement the database developed under LESP / iVerify. INCHR, CSOsHRAP, and LVL will popularize the database with key words and indicators identified through this engagement. With the support of OHCHR Regional Office in West Africa (OHCHR/WARO), the magnitude of hate speech will be assessed by conducting daily media monitoring on Liberia through international media outlets: the Europe Media Monitor (EMM) platform as well as both traditional and social media to mitigate violence.

1.5.3. Organize three national dialogues on countering hate speech (in general and as a human rights violation) with media regulatory and oversight bodies, national elections commission, independent human rights commission, civil society and elections observatory bodies, national security, Liberia National Bar Association, etc. The dialogues will be complemented by the training module on discriminatory speech against women, currently being developed with support from UNDP LESP.

1.5.4. Strengthen human resources available to monitor and analyze collected hate speech to enable early reporting and response from relevant actors. Through this activity, support will be provided to training, deployment, and incentives to human rights monitors, and additional analysts to support monitoring, collection, reporting, verification, and fact checking under the INCHR monitoring and reporting framework and iVerify system.

1.5.5. Conduct nationwide sensitization and awareness-raising campaigns (i.e., Radio, posters, social media, etc.) on topics of hate speech (and specifically hate speech as a human rights violation) and manners or tools available (e.g., INCHR monitoring and reporting framework and iVerify platform) to report and mitigate this phenomenon. The sensitization campaign is to be developed through consultation with the above-mentioned actors.

1.5.6. Set up a messaging portal in collaboration with telecommunication bodies to send messages that promote tolerance, diversity (and respect for human rights) in all local languages and dialects to the populace.

1.5.7. Conduct training for civil society organizations/journalist to monitor/document and report hate speech (specifically hate speech constituting human rights violation) through the *established INCHR and CSOsHRAP monitoring and reporting framework* and iVerify platform tip lines. Training to be conducted by OHCHR, in collaboration with Local Voices, INCHR, and CSOsHRAP.

Use Annex C to list all outcomes, outputs, and indicators.

d) Project targeting

The Project targets all 15 countries in Liberia, with specific focus on hot spot areas that includes areas along the border. Women Situation Room will be based in seven counties identified for VAWIE-P. These counties will

also serve as regional hubs for WSR. Collaboration will be established between IOM and ABIC to ensure clear division of responsibilities in counties identified as hotspots for both – trucking and VAWIE-P. These areas will be determined through the assessments to be conducted at the start of this project and under LESP. The Project will work with different stakeholders, most importantly **women and youth**, the County Peace Centers (CPC), Community Watch Teams (CWTs), joint security infrastructure, traditional leaders, political parties, media, and civil society organizations. The role of **women and youth** in preventing, mitigating, and responding to conflict is important element of this Project. NEC is mandated to conduct elections and is included in prevention and response to electoral violence, specifically as a stakeholder in EWER. **Political parties and its youth wings** will be involved in dialogues and awareness raising. **Joint security infrastructure** will benefit training and further capacity development, in particular in human rights and gender sensitive approach to elections. **Media** are key actors in preventing mis- information and will benefit conflict sensitive reporting training, while **civil society and media organizations** will be engaged in monitoring and detecting disinformation and hate speech. Civil society actors will further provide support in different processes. As it builds on previous interventions, the Project targets mainly the established formal and informal institutions and structures, such as **EWER** led by **Peacebuilding Office**, **iVeify** led by **Local Voices**, **CPCs**, **CWTs**, **CSOs**, **HRAP**, **INCHR** and other actors. The Project will ensure national ownership by enabling these partners to take the lead in implementation of Project activities. The total number of beneficiaries will be at least 200 from the above-mentioned structures, and wider populace will be reached through awareness campaigns, and sport events amongst others. The Project aims to target at least 500 youth and women in the hotspot areas. Substantive involvement of women and youth will be ensured through strengthening sufficient participation of women in all Project activities (i.e. roughly equal participation from each gender in Project activities, involvement of women and youth groups, and development of clear roadmap to ensure enhanced participation of women and youth in electoral violence prevention. The Project will collect sex disaggregated data and record participation of youth in all activities to ensure proper monitoring and take redress if needed.

During the definition of this Project, all three implementing agencies held bilateral dialogues and one roundtable discussion was held with the key partners on 1 June 2022 to collect feedback into the activities.

II. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

a) Recipient organizations and implementing partners

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Recipient Organization: UNDP	18 million USD	UNDP TRAC European Union Germany / GIZ Japan / JICA Sweden, Norway, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway UK / DfID USAID Peace Building Fund	Monrovia	LEST and Rule of Law Projects have over 10 staff in different thematic areas to support implementation of this Project (Monrovia)	UNDP CTA for the Rule of Law will manage the Project and CTA for LESP, and her team will provide oversight to the activities under Outcome 2. LESP is also recruiting the Transparency and Digital Coordinator (interview stage) who will support overall coordination for the EWER and iVerify. UNDP will recruit the national program

<p>Implementing partners:</p> <p>ABIC</p> <p>Peacebuilding Office (PBO)</p> <p>National Elections Commission (NEC)</p>					<p>manager to directly implement this Project.</p> <p>ABIC will implement Women Situation Room (Outcome 2) as a responsible party. The main coordinator and key support staff are in place to implement the Project</p> <p>PBO and NEC are UNDP implementing partners in the activities related to electoral trainings, and EWER.</p>
<p>Recipient Organization: IOM</p>	<p>US\$ 4,268,279.56 (2020-2021 Calendar year)</p>	<p>UNPBF (Peacebuilding Fund)</p>	<p>Monrovia</p>	<p>IOM has a total of 16 staff including 2 international and 14 national staff who cover the program, operation, and financial capacities of the country office.</p>	<p>IOM Liberia will closely collaborate with Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) and MAMPL (Migrant as Messengers of Peace Association Liberia). Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding- (CCPP).</p> <p>The two collaborating IPs through sub-granting will implement awareness raising, capacity building sessions and provide support on early warning structures and outreach programs</p> <p>The project team are in place (Project Management & Field Coordination) will provide full oversight on outcome 3 activities under output 3.1 & 3.2 taken into consideration the Gender implications of working with different actors categorized by age,</p>
<p>Implementing partners:</p> <p>Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC)</p> <p>CSO-MAMPL (Migrant as Messengers of Peace Association Liberia)</p>		<p>Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) EU (European Trust Fund)</p> <p>Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC)</p>			

					and occupation, focusing on dimensions of age (beneficiaries' youthfulness), gender considerations will apply all through the project activities from analysis to conception to implementation and monitoring/evaluation.
<p>Recipient Organization: UN OHCHR</p> <p>Implementing partners:</p> <p>INCHR</p> <p>CSOsHRAP</p>	<p>3,613,264 USD (OHCHR Liberia 2021 Budget)</p>	<p>Sweden EU (Spotlight Project)</p>	<p>Monrovia</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>OHCHR Liberia Country Office to directly implement in close collaboration with INCHR and CSOsHRAP some activities under Outcome 1, 2, 3, and most activities under Outcome 4, as well as provide oversight to 2 implementing partners (INCHR and CSOsHRAP). The Project is also recruiting an IT Specialist to support the different projects Digital intervention and coordinate overall engagement with EWER and iVerify existing platforms.</p> <p>INCHR (implementing partner) – OHCHR key partner with legal mandate to monitor, report, and investigate human rights abuses and violations in Liberia. The INCHR was established through an Act of Legislation in 2005 and has since operated with Hq in Monrovia and human rights field monitors deployed in all 15 Counties of Liberia</p>

					CSOsHRAP (Implementing Partner) – A key civil society partner to OHCHR. The platform is a network of over 25 human rights CSOs with membership in all 15 counties of Liberia monitoring, reporting and advocating against human rights abuses and violations
--	--	--	--	--	---

b) Project management and coordination

The Project will be implemented jointly by three UN agencies (UNDP, OHCHR, and IOM) utilizing their comparative advantage and the one-UN approach. UNDP will utilize its experience with community policing, support to Rule of law, tight relationship with PBO, joint security infrastructure, and NEC, as well as building on four consecutive cycles of electoral assistance. IOM will leverage its expertise in dealing with cross-border issues, displacement, and movement of populations. The implementation will also benefit from their established relationship with Liberia Immigration Service and experience working with cross-border communities and communities in hotspot areas. OHCHR, using its comparative advantage in mainstreaming human rights will, in addition to specific human rights interventions, also oversee that human rights-approach is integrated in all Project activities.

UNDP will serve as the managing and convening agency for the project and will ensure coherence and partnership in activity implementation jointly with UNOHCHR and IOM across the outcomes, outputs, and activities. The Project will be also closely coordinated with UNDP LESP and its Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), to develop strong synergies with existing efforts and avoid duplication. The UNDP overall management will fall under the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of the Rule of Law, while the UNDP CTA for LESP will provide overall oversight, advice, and review of implementation plan, to ensure activities are in line with ongoing electoral support. The Project also complements the efforts of UN Good Offices and UNOWAS functions to mitigate tension between political stakeholders and facilitate and host inter-party dialogues to provide a forum for airing of grievances and to discuss sustaining peace priorities.

UNDP has demonstrated success in supporting national and local-level peacebuilding projects and electoral assistance in Liberia, including an ongoing PBF project implemented in collaboration with the UN Women to increase women's participation in politics and leadership. UNDP has proven expertise in supporting initiatives to build social cohesion, support vulnerable groups to access justice, build capacities of the security sector, promoting the participation of women and youth. UNDP has supported the Government of Liberia during key transformative periods, including during and after national elections and the transition from UNMIL in 2017/2018. UNDP has a countrywide network of partners on peacebuilding, early warning, and conflict prevention, both at the national and local levels. UNDP will use its local as well as global experience and expertise to foster partnerships and dialogues at the local levels, promoting political participation and economic opportunities to build the skillsets of marginalised youths, as well as help build the capacities of local and national actors on conflict prevention, to promote social cohesion and resilience to counter risks of conflict and vulnerabilities.

The Project Management and team will provide strategic direction for the overall project implementation. It consists of an international Chief Technical Advisor for the Rule of Law for the full project period, who manages, oversees and supervises the Project, being charged 25% to the PBF project and the other 75% to the UNDP Rule of Law Project, working in close collaboration with the Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) at

the RCO and the Chief Technical Adviser for the LESP. The CTA/ Project Manager (PM) will coordinate and manage the overall intervention and will have responsibility on project implementation, including providing technical guidance on substantive aspects, ensuring effective coordination among the RUNOs and implementing partners.

In addition to the CTA, the PBF project will benefit from the support of staff recruited under the UNDP Rule of Law and LESP. Support to this project will be provided in particular by the LESP Programme Officer (national / already in place) and Transparency and digital coordinator (under recruitment) who supports an overall implementation of EWER and iVerify.

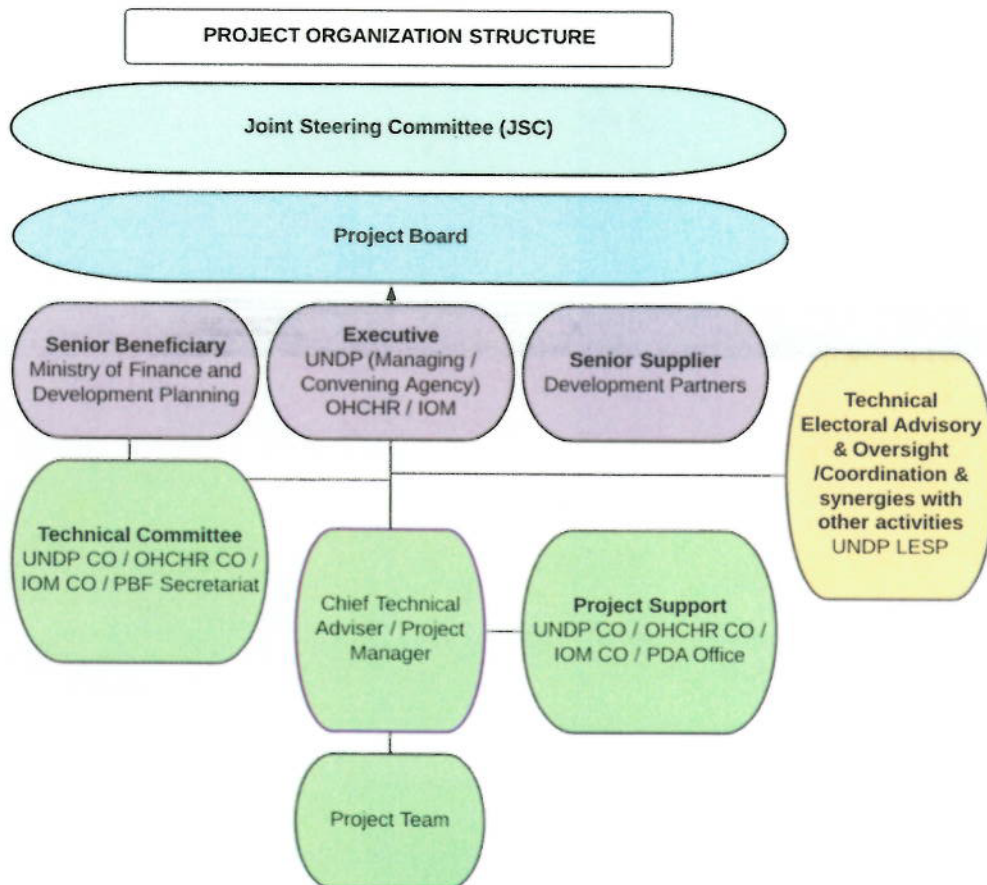
The project will also comprise OHCHR and IOM staff members (please see below staffing table for details):

Agency	Staff position	Role/Comment	Percentage of salary funded from this Project
UNDP	Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) Rule of Law (int.)	Overall management	25% (in place)
UNDP	CTA LESP (int.)	Oversight, synergies, and advisory support	0% (in place)
UNDP	Project Officer (national)	Implementation and management support	100% (to be recruited)
UNDP	M&E and Reporting Specialist (national)	Conduct overall monitoring of the Project	100% (to be recruited)
IOM	Program Manager (Int)	Overall Management	50% (in place)
IOM	National Field Coordinator (national)	Implementation Support	100% (in place)
IOM	RMO/Finance (national)	Administrative support	20% (in place)
IOM	IT/Procurement (national)	Administrative support	20% (in place)
OHCHR	Human Rights Officer (National)	Thematic support	100%
OHCHR	Human Rights Officer	Thematic support	100%
OHCHR	IT/M&E Support Staff (national)	Support to coordination of different platforms and monitoring of the activities	100% (to be recruited)

The project team, made up of UNDP, OHCHR, and IOM staff will meet regularly to ensure timely and efficient implementation of the project

Management			
	Lead	Key Partners	Staff
Outcome 1	UNDP	As indicated in the project.	Chief Technical Adviser Rule of Law (Int – in place) 25%
Output 1.1: CWT & Joint Security	UNDP		CTA LESP (Int) Project Officer (Nat)
Output 1.2: Conflict resolution and mediation	UNDP		100% - to be recruited

			M&E and Reporting Specialist (Nat) 100% to be recruited
Output 1.3: Border activities	IOM		Program Manager (Int) Overall Management 50% (in place)
			National Field Coordinator (national) Implementation Support 100% (in place)
			RMO/Finance (national) Administrative support 20% (in place)
			IT/Procurement (national) Administrative support 20% (in place)
Output 1.4: HR monitoring	OHCHR		2 Human Rights Officers (National) 100%
Output 1.5: Reducing hate speech	OHCHR		IT/M&E Support Staff (national) (100%)



JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE

The PBF Joint Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator, and a designated representative of civil society and development partners' group. It will meet at least once a year to review portfolio progress and its impact. JSC will provide policy direction for PBF support. The steering committee will meet at least once a year. However, it could also convene extraordinary meetings if deemed necessary.

The PBF Secretariat will provide direct support to the JSC and ensure its meetings and follow up on decisions.

PROJECT BOARD (PB)

The Project Board will be responsible for the overall strategic guidance of the project and recommend decisions with regard to the project and the areas agreed in the project document. It will review and assess the targets set in the annual work plan and oversee performance to ensure that the project meets its critical milestones and that impediments, if any, can be addressed. All annual work and M&E plans will be cleared by the PBF Secretariat. The Project Board is co-chaired by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, ideally a deputy minister, and the National Elections Commission and line ministries and heads of agencies. The project board meets bi-annually to discuss project progress and implementation bottlenecks. Should there be an urgent requirement for a Project Board decision, it may be convened as and when necessary, on an *ad hoc* basis including virtually. The Resident Coordinator may attend Project Board Meetings if he/she deems it necessary.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC):

The Technical Committee, chaired by the UNDP CTA/PM, consists of UNDP, OHCHR, IOM, ABIC, NEC, PBO, INHRC, recipient CSOs and representatives of joint security infrastructure. The PBF Secretariat will attend to provide needed support to the committee. The Committee will meet monthly or more frequently, if required. Technical experts from the contributing partner organisations and direct beneficiaries can also be invited. The Technical Committee will serve as platform for coordination and exchange of information, and to oversee technical aspects of project implementation, including joint field missions for programmatic visits, assurance of project overall quality and reporting, and technical backstopping. By considering all technical and procedural aspects of the project and as such, the TC will provide input to the agenda for the Project Board meetings, as well as provide expert input in the PB discussions. Sub-committees may be established by the PB or Technical Committee, as needed, to further additional coordination and communication around key issues. UNDP LESP CTA is specifically tasked to provide electoral advice and oversight, to ensure coordination and synergies with existing activities.

The project team, made up of UNDP, OHCHR, and IOM staff will meet regularly to ensure timely and efficient implementation of the project. The PBF Secretariat and PDA will be invited to provide advisory and technical support, as needed.

The structure for project management herein proposed considers the needs for implementing the activities related to the described outcomes, with the achievement of the concerned expected results, and considers the other partners and agencies related electoral interventions, reporting to the Joint Steering Committee which is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the RC including other representatives as mentioned under the structure.

The modality of direct implementation and by utilizing Letter of Agreement (LOA) modality with national counterparts, grants to civil society organizations, and responsible party agreements with international implementers will be utilized, according to the UN Agencies' rules, and as per the narrative above. This modality, in line with UNDP, OHCHR, and IOM regulations and respecting them, enables easier management and procurement and favors national ownership and appropriation, but must follow UNDP, OHCHR, and IOM rules and regulations. Where necessary ad-hoc consultancies will be planned at project development level.

Furthermore, the project will provide direct training support. It will also engage with UNDP Joint Task Force for Electoral Assistance in Brussels, notably on aspects related to EWER and iVerify.

PBF Secretariat: As per its mandate, the PBF Secretariat provides oversight management, coordination, monitoring and compliance of PBF Portfolio, which this project is no exception. The Secretariat will closely work with the project team to ensure quality assurance and management to obtain anticipated results. The project will provide regular updates to keep the RC informed of project progress. This project will participate in the Secretariat's regular Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) Meetings to present progress on implementation.

c) Risk management

Project specific risk	Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Lack of coordination between organs of sovereignty	Low	Senior management intervention will be provided in case of negative impact of the Project implementation.
Further proliferation of early warning and response actors	Medium	The oversight by UNDP LESP and close collaboration with the mechanisms implemented under the LESP will ensure the integration of actors into the mechanism.
Occurrence of violence in the country and the identified hotspots	High	The established early warning and response systems, mediation teams of PBO and WSR, NCCRM, national law enforcement and community structures, to prevent and mitigate escalation of violence. RCO, UN Good Offices, and UNOWAS will be engaged in violence prevention through regular high-level dialogues.
Tension due to acceptance of electoral results by contestants	Medium	By supporting the EWER & WSR Situation Rooms and other partners, CDCs, Eminent Women, the project will contribute to increase accountability and respect of the electoral results aimed at reducing tensions. The activities on fighting hate speech, disinformation and misinformation are also a means to mitigate this risk. Furthermore, dissemination of information and awareness about NEC safeguards of integrity of the results, will help prevent such occurrence.
Lack of responsiveness of the targeted stakeholders to the sensitization activities	Medium	To mitigate this, the Project will collaborate with the NEC that will have Civic and Voter

		Education Cells in each of the 73 electoral districts in Liberia.
Difficulties to roll out training at local level	Low	The project was drafted consulting national stakeholders. The Project also mainly works with existing structures that are already decentralized at the local level and will be involved in implementation.
Epidemic outbreak affecting the electoral process and preventing implementation of the project activities.	Medium	The EWER Situation Room has experience with monitoring Covid-19 pandemic and can be quickly deployed to respond to pandemic outbreaks. The list of indicators for health is also already established, so is the channel for communication with health authorities.

d) Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be conducted at different stages and with different methodologies. Annual workplans (AWP) and a M&E plan will be prepared and approved by the project team and main national partners and shared with PBF once the project implementation starts.

The M&E plan will stipulate frequent monitoring activities to support reporting requirement and data collection activities, based on the adjacent Results Framework. As per the Results Framework below, the monitoring and, therefore the reporting, of some activities will be provided by national counterparts fully engaged in the project, namely ABIC, PBO, NICHR. In terms of training trainers, to monitor achievement of results in terms of learning, an initial and final questionnaire will be applied to compare results. Some indicators require collection of baselines, namely the perception surveys, which will be done at the inception of the project or in the timeline mentioned in the Results Framework. In fact, some of the indicators will be measured after the elections to assess the results of the interventions undertook and the perceptions of the citizens vis-à-vis those interventions.

The project team, made up of UNDP, OHCHR, and IOM staff, will be responsible for ensuring data collection and reporting from partners from project activities. The M&E and Communication Specialists of the implementing organizations and one additional staff member, will contribute to ensure appropriate M&E of the PBF project, ensuring at the same time that results achieved feed into the overall UN support to the electoral process in Liberia. In addition, the PBF Secretariat will support the project team by providing quality assurance of PBF support, technical advice on peacebuilding issues and methodologies.

As the convening Agency, UNDP will be responsible for complying with all narrative and financial reporting requirements established by the PBF, in addition to any internal agency reporting requirements. The CTA/PM, operating at UNDP level with the support of OHCHR and IOM staff, and inputs from the technical committee, will produce narrative and financial reports.

The monitoring and evaluation framework will have two objectives: 1) monitor program performance and effectiveness of the project through the collection and analysis of relevant and timely monitoring data but also; 2) support program management and eventually, if necessary, readjustment of project planning.

More than five percent of the budget have been allocated for monitoring and communications activities, as per the budget breakdown. This will include funds to allow the project team to be present during the training sessions and other activities that will take place in the provincial capitals of project counties where hotspot communities

will be identified through a comprehensive baseline assessment indicated on the project cover page. It will also consist of regular and joint site visits to verify, among other things, the progress of the project and the achievement of the targets set in the logical framework, semiannual and annual activity reports, preparation of periodic progress reports, documentation of good and innovative practices during the implementation of the project and the search for synergies between the different project components. The Project will also hire dedicated M&E and Reporting Officer (national) (in addition to the above-mentioned dedicated M&E budget).

An Independent Evaluation of the Project will be commissioned at the end of the project. A total of 50,000 USD is set aside for that purpose. An external final evaluation will verify the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, impact, and sustainability of the project.

e) Project exit strategy/ sustainability

The project takes measures to ensure sustainability following the expiry of donor support considering the below factors that anchor on lessons learnt from previous interventions:

- **Alignment:** The project document is fully aligned to national development priorities, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and the UNSDCF 2020-24, which has received high level government endorsement. The interventions build on / strengthen existing structures including Early warning and Response Mechanisms-EWRM, some of which are institutionalized and supported by government at national and county levels. The EWRM exist and are part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs under the Peace Building office-PBO. They will continue to exist through and the support of the Government allotted resources under the PBO. At the end of the project, these structures would have been capacitated to sustain emerging challenges in the absence of full donor support. This will include an existent coordinated structure to detect and respond to triggers of electoral violence. The structure can also be used for other issues, such as land disputes, health / pandemic monitoring, etc., if the triggers are identified.
- **Enabling environment:** The project will support further development of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs), trainer guides, databases, and frameworks, that will provide long-term guidance for continuing the objectives of the project's support. SOPs for various initiative will enable the replication of the mechanisms for other issues (as mentioned above).
- **Ownership through participation:** UN agencies will ensure that all interventions are designed, planned, implemented, and monitored in a participatory way to encourage full ownership by stakeholders and beneficiaries. Integration of variety of actors into EWER, iVerify, and other mechanisms that this intervention supports, will ensure participatory approach to peacebuilding and will contribute to the long-term social cohesion. UNDP and the Government of Liberia has an Electoral Cycle Support Project which incorporates some of the elements described above including EWER and iVerify, consequently these activities will continue to be supported by other partners including the Government of Liberia through the National Situation Room which is linked to the ECOWAS Commission office in Liberia.
- **Financial sustainability through counterpart financing:** The UN will engage with all levels of State institutions so that the government of Liberia can provide any contribution required in the development and implementation of relevant projects (e.g., PBO integration into the Ministry of Internal Affairs budget) to strengthen the chances of sustainability. The UN will also conduct advocacy for the funds to be factored in the government budgets. Annual Work Plans will be approved through the Project Steering Committee, with the attempt to obtain any clear government allocations/commitment to future activities implemented in the Project. The possibility to utilize the existing structure for different topics beyond elections will allow for it to receive continuous funding from different initiatives and continue beyond the duration of this project.
- **Capacity building through local institutions:** All capacity building initiatives will be designed with a strong focus on imparting new knowledge that leads to a positive shift in attitudes and practices of public service. The project will partner with or contract expertise that are utilizing transformative capacity building approaches and include training of trainers, curricula development, and phasing out strategies that can subsequently be used by Liberians (trainings replicated without the need for international support).
- **Involvement of youth:** Recognizing the special role and importance of youth in democratic governance as well as in elections and peacebuilding, this project will remain particularly active in seeking out synergies

with youth targeting programs and approaches. Youth are mainstreamed throughout all the Projects interventions.

- ***Institutionalized knowledge management:*** Learning and knowledge management will be supported through scaling up best practices, accountability for and communication results to key stakeholders and support to learning activities. All the trainings will be implemented by local institutions who will also participate in curricula development. The ToT approaches will also help to develop cohort of trainers within the institutions.
- ***Exit strategies:*** Throughout the implementation, the Project staff will work on developing exit strategies with partners taking on functions upon termination of intervention.
- ***Social capital:*** The project will strive to strengthen civil society networks (including networks of including those furthest behind such as women, youth and communities vulnerable to disasters) to advocate for and enjoy their rights and foster inter-institutional collaboration. Specific support to rural communities will help increasing social capital at the local levels.

III. Project budget

Provide brief additional information on projects costs, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project. The proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. The proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit. Fill out Annex A.2 on project value for money.

Please note that in nearly all cases, the Peacebuilding Fund transfers project funds in a series of performance-based tranches. PBF's standard approach is to transfer project funds in two tranches for UN recipients and three tranches for non-UN recipients, releasing second and third tranches upon demonstration that performance benchmarks have been met. All projects include the following two standard performance benchmarks: 1) at least 75% of funds from the first tranche have been committed, and 2) all project reporting obligations have been met. In addition to these standard benchmarks and depending on the risk rating or other context-specific factors, additional benchmarks may be indicated for the release of second and third tranches.

Please specify below any context-specific factors that may be relevant for the release of second and third tranches. These may include the successful conduct of elections, passage of key legislation, the standing up of key counterpart units or offices, or other performance indicators that are necessary before project implementation may advance. Within your response, please reflect how performance-based tranches affect project sequencing considerations.

The total budget of this project is USD\$ 3,000,000 for 24 months. Funds will be divided into two tranches for UN recipients with the second tranche being released upon demonstration by the project that the first tranche has been expensed or committed to at least 75% between the recipients and upon completion of any regular PBF reports due in the period elapsed. The release of the second tranche is dependent upon the results achieved with the funds of the first tranche.

The human resources dedicated to Project implementation / project management do not exceed 18.9 % of the total project budget (USD\$ 565,681.00 for 24 months). The Project combines new recruitments with support of existing staff. There is a specific staff dedicated to the M&E and Reporting, who will be recruited.

Apart from staff costs, the project budget will include:

- Costs for programmatic interventions comprising:
- Indirect support costs at 7% is at 196,261.68 USD.
- M&E Costs and Independent Evaluation are set at 5.53% (165,758.77USD) of the overall project costs and include independent audit.
- Gender Marker is at 43.39% of the total budget (1,301,607.70 USD)

Output 1.2 will be implemented entirely by ABIC via responsible party agreement. The organization has an excellent reputation in implementing these activities in the previous electoral processes and demonstrates value for money, using its existing national and regional networks.

There are several activities that either contribute to some of the LESP ongoing interventions or vice-versa. The Project will therefore leverage existing structures and some activities will be co-funded (e.g., conflict sensitive training for journalists, integration with EWER, sensitization campaigns, etc.). That will be maximizing Project's impact with lower costs to the PBF.

Detailed budget information per activity and category is available in Annex D.

In the first Excel budget table in Annex D, please include the percentage towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) for every activity. Also provide a clear justification for every GEWE allocation (e.g. training will have a session on gender equality, specific efforts will be made to ensure equal representation of women etc.).

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question		ES/N/		Comment
Planning				
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline		X		All partners were identified and consulted in project development stage.
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission			X	The Project will develop a TOR for Project Officer (national) to oversee implementation, M&E and reporting and other remaining staff before the implementation starts.
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline		X		Project sites were mostly identified; however, assessment is needed at the start of implementation to identify hotspot areas
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project? Please state when this was done or when it will be done.		X		The proposal drafting team engaged bilaterally with various stakeholders at the concept stage. On 31 May, the Project held a consultation with all identified stakeholders.
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done? If not, what analysis remains to be done to enable implementation and proposed timeline?		X		Yes. The Project builds on previous initiatives, and benefits from their lessons learnt reports (NEC LESP, EWER and iVerify assessment reports). Assessment is needed at the start of implementation to identify hotspot areas.
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.		X		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation site approaches, Government contribution?			X	The discussions will be held at the initiation stage of the Project. The implementing agencies have, however, long-term established collaboration with existing Project partners and interventions were closely consulted.
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?		X		The roles and responsibilities of each team were discussed and agreed.

9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	N/A	
Gender		
10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?	X	UN Women representatives were involved in the consultation on 31 May 2022.
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	X	Women organizations participated at the consultation on 31 May 2022.
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	X	
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	X	

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?	X		See the section above.
2. Are unit costs (e.g. for travel, consultancies, procurement of materials etc) comparable with those used in similar interventions (either in similar country contexts, within regions, or in past interventions in the same country context)? If not, this needs to be explained in the budget narrative section.	X		
3. Is the proposed budget proportionate to the expected project outcomes and to the scope of the project (e.g. number, size and remoteness of geographic zones and number of proposed direct and indirect beneficiaries)? Provide any comments.	X		
4. Is the percentage of staffing and operational costs by the Receiving UN Agency and by any implementing partners clearly visible and reasonable for the context (i.e. no more than 20% for	X		

staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?				
5. Are staff costs proportionate to the amount of work required for the activity? And is the project using local rather than international staff/expertise wherever possible? What is the justification for use of international staff, if applicable?	X			
6. Does the project propose purchase of materials, equipment and infrastructure for more than 15% of the budget? If yes, please state what measures are being taken to ensure value for money in the procurement process and their maintenance/ sustainable use for peacebuilding after the project end.		X		
7. Does the project propose purchase of a vehicle(s) for the project? If yes, please provide justification as to why existing vehicles/ hire vehicles cannot be used.		X		
8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.	X			CTA for electoral assistance will support with no additional costs to this Project. Project interventions under EWER, iVerify, and related to NEC will be cost-shared with UNDP LESP to maximize impact, build synergies, and strengthen sustainability. LESP Digital and Transparency Coordinator (recruitment ongoing) will also liaise with PBF Project and support implementation and coordination of iVerify and EWER tools.

Annex B.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

AA Functions

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved “Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds” (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. For the MPTF Office to financially close a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Semi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in

		consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
30 April	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure</i>	

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent's website (www.mptf.undp.org).

Annex B.2: Project Administrative arrangements for Non-UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient Non-United Nations Organization:

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each recipient in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Activity is implemented in accordance with the signed Project Document;

In the event of a financial review, audit or evaluation recommended by PBSO, the cost of such activity should be included in the project budget;

Ensure professional management of the Activity, including performance monitoring and reporting activities in accordance with PBSO guidelines.

Ensure compliance with the Financing Agreement and relevant applicable clauses in the Fund MOU.

Reporting:

Each Receipt will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reports and timeline

Timeline	Event
28 February	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
30 April	Report Q1 expenses (January to March)
31 July	Report Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Report Q3 expenses (January to September)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</i>	

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250 at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the Administrative Agent, no later than three months (31 March) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the Recipient Non-UN Recipient Organization will be determined in accordance with applicable policies and procedures defined by the PBSO.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund) and the Administrative Agent website (www.mptf.undp.org).

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

An independent project audit will be requested by the end of the project. The audit report needs to be attached to the final narrative project report. The cost of such activity must be included in the project budget.

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

In order to be declared eligible to receive PBF funds directly, NUNOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its agent, the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Prior to submitting a finalized project document, it is the responsibility of each NUNO to liaise with PBSO and MPTFO and provide all the necessary documents (see below) to demonstrate that all the criteria have been fulfilled and to be declared as eligible for direct PBF funds.

The NUNO must provide (in a timely fashion, ensuring PBSO and MPTFO have sufficient time to review the package) the documentation demonstrating that the NUNO:

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (NOTE: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (NOTE: If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.

- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.⁵⁵
- Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought.
- Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

Project Budget and Annualized Budget (Table 1)

⁵⁵ Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

Annex C: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated targets)

A baseline survey will be conducted during the Project inception phase to determine some of the baselines and indicators.

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: Peaceful and secure political environment that allows enlightened electorates (women and men) to freely exercise their constitutional rights without any forms of obstruction and electoral violation. (This Outcome contributes to SDGs 5 and 16 and PAPD Pillar 3)		Outcome Indicator : 1a. Proportion of voters that did not experience any incident of violence/violation of human rights during the electoral process disaggregated by sex & age. Baseline: TBD Target: TBD 1b. Proportion of registered voters that peacefully cast their ballot disaggregated by gender and age Baseline: 75.19% 52M-48F (2017) Target: 80% (50m-50f)	Reports from the EWER and a Joint Security Infrastructure Evaluation report	
SDG 5: Gender Equality Target 5.1: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres Target 5.5: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres		Outcome Indicator 1c 1c. % of political parties not involved in violence/electoral violation and hate speech	Revised Declaration / signatures Evaluation/LESP / PBF IPP Survey report	

Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		the political space mitigated / responded to..	Reports from EWER, WSR, and Joint Security Infrastructure	
		Baseline: TBC (WSR successfully mitigated a high-profile case in Gbarpolu) Target: 100%		
		I.e. Outcome Indicator 1d # of women participating in WSR conflict resolution and mediation Baseline: TBC Target: 50	Final report on WSR	
			I verify report/Project report	
Output 1.1 Youth and women-inclusive Community Watch Team structures and Joint Security Infrastructure (LNP, LIS, and other law enforcement agencies) are supported to undertake effective early warning and response on electoral conflict.	Output Indicator 1.1.1 # CWTVs capacitated to participate in EWER, elections, and electoral observation to prevent potential violence. Baseline: TBD Target: TBD		Activity reports, M&E	
		Output Indicator 1.1.2 # of women and youth community watch teams using human rights-based approach to community policing, and elections monitoring.	Activity reports, M&E	

<p>Output 1.2: Women and youth role in electoral period conflict resolution and mediation is strengthened through their inclusion in the EWER mechanism.</p>	Baseline: TBC Target: 21 (3 per 7 hot spots county)		
	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.1 # of youth and women led groups engaged in peace and human rights education during the 2023 electoral process.</p> <p>Baseline: 3 (LINSU, Media, & motor bike riders trained 2017) Target: 7</p>	Activity reports, M&E	
	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.2 # of persons reached with non-violence messages during the 2023 elections disaggregated by sex</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.3 # of political parties' youth and women wings and youth groups committing to non-violence.</p> <p>Baseline: 8 (2020 special senatorial election) Target: 16 representatives sign communiques committing to sustain the peace.</p>	Project progress, M&E and observer reports	

(This contributes to SDGs 5 and 16)		Output Indicator 1.2.4 Percentage of potential conflicts involving female candidates/women in the political space mitigated / responded to	Reports from EWER, WSR, and Joint Security Infrastructure	
SDG 5: Gender Equality Target 5.1: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres Target 5.5: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres		Baseline: TBC (WSR successfully mitigated a high-profile case in Gbarpolu) Target: 100%		
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		Output Indicator 1.2.5 % of women participating in EWER conflict resolution and mediation infrastructure (incl. from the WSR) Baseline: TBC Target: At least 50%	Final report on WSR and EWER; gender disaggregated data on the EWER and WSR actors	
Output 1.3: Key Community stakeholders within identified hotspots, and border communities, are more aware and able to withstand and prevent manipulation and potential violent dynamics linked to the electoral process.			Activity reports, M&E	
		Output indicator 1.3.1. # of elections related disputes and violent dynamics registered by community peace committees (CPCs) reported to local authorities in the target areas.	Project progress, M&E and observer reports	
		Baseline: (CPC reports) Target: 50 cases registered and settled Output Indicator 1.3.2: # of youth leaders in target counties trained and able to prevent electoral violence and		

including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime (Liberia 3 rd Review Session Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement: Recommendations Numbers 100.86, 100.87, 100.89, 100.90, 100.92, 100.98, 100.103, and 100.104)		Target: 5		
		Indicator 1.5.2: # of messaging portal setup to promote tolerance, diversity and respect for human rights Baseline: 0 Target: 1		
		Indicator 1.5.3: # persons aware of hate speech that constitute human rights violation disaggregated by sex and age Baseline: 0 Target: 5000		

For MPTFO Use

Totals				
	Recipient Organization 1: UNDP	Recipient Organization 2: IOM	Recipient Organization 3: OHCHR	Totals
1. Staff and other personnel	\$ 265,681.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 565,681.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ 27,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 87,000.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4. Contractual services	\$ 182,319.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 261,000.00	\$ 478,319.00
5. Travel	\$ 88,914.74	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 94,934.00	\$ 243,848.74
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$ 793,955.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	\$ 1,158,955.00
7. General Operating and other Costs	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 235,934.58	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 269,934.58
Sub-Total	\$ 1,371,869.74	\$ 640,934.58	\$ 790,934.00	\$ 2,803,738.32
7% Indirect Costs	\$ 96,030.88	\$ 44,865.42	\$ 55,385.38	\$ 196,261.68
Total	\$ 1,467,900.62	\$ 685,800.00	\$ 846,299.38	\$ 3,000,000.00

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown				
	Recipient Organization 1: UNDP	Recipient Organization 2: IOM	Recipient Organization 3: OHCHR	Tranche %
First Tranche:	\$ 1,027,530.44	\$ 480,060.00	\$ 592,409.57	70%
Second Tranche:	\$ 440,370.19	\$ 205,740.00	\$ 253,889.81	30%
Third Tranche:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
TOTAL	\$ 1,467,900.62	\$ 685,800.00	\$ 846,299.38	
			\$ 3,000,000.00	