United Nations Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Liberia
Project Title: Empowering citizens and communities to foster social accountability and transparency in governance and public service delivery.   **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):**

PBF project modality:	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):
☐ IRF ☒ PRF	☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ 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 & UNWOMEN & Integrity Watch – Liberia (IWL)
List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO): Ministry of Internal Affairs (County Development Authorities and Peace Building Office), Governance Commission (GC), Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), National Bureau of Concession-NBC, Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP). CSOs - Accountability Lab (ALAB), Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) Institute for Research and Democratic Development, Liberia Initiative for Empowerment, Rural Human Rights Activist Programme, the Peace Huts, and Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL).

Project duration in months[1] [2]: 36 months   **Expected project start date:** July 2023   **Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:** All 15 counties in Liberia

Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below: ☐ Gender promotion initiative[3]   ☐ Youth promotion initiative[4]   ☒ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions   ☐ Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):
 UNDP: $ 2,095,000
 UNWOMEN: $ 1,155,000
 Integrity Watch: $ 250,000
 Total: $3,500,000
      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

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[1] Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 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

account. For payment of second 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):

PBF 1st tranche (_60% – UN agencies, 60% CSO): Recipient: UNDP: $ 1,257,000 UN WOMEN: $ 693,000 I-WATCH: $150,000 Total: $2,100,000	PBF 2nd tranche* (40% - UN agencies: 40% CSO): UNDP: $ 838,000 UN WOMEN: $462,000 I-WATCH: $ 100,000 Total: $1,400,000	

Provide a brief project description (describe the main project goal; do not list outcomes and outputs): The project aims to strengthen the social contract and support social cohesion by enhancing spaces for citizen participation in governance through the deepening of decentralization, bringing citizens closer to their policy-makers and service-providers and simultaneously sharpening public demand for accountability and transparency in order to address the major persistent community grievances and sources of mistrust. In particular, the project supports citizen involvement in governance decisions, budgetary allocations and service delivery through strengthening of the local council structures (County Councils), support to the roll out and implementation of policy and legislation related to accountability and citizen participation, and fostering of dialogue between community members, especially women and youth, with duty bearers for greater inclusion, transparency and accountability. The project will prioritise the implementation of policies and initiatives that are of most relevance to communities, and those which address sources of tensions and enhance peace dividends.

In addition, the project strengthens citizenship participation in public accountability and transparency through various initiatives, including promoting collective action among the LACC, civil society and the media to use an innovative e-platform to collect data on corruption and monitor national responses; developing a forum for engagement (between the LACC and CSOs) to monitor the processing of corruption cases reported, and creating incentives through scorecards while providing capacity to ensure that national institutions are better able to ensure accountability.

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):
On 10 March 2023, the convening agencies held roundtable discussions with the partners including Ministry of Internal Affairs (County Development Authorities and Peace Building Office), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Governance Commission (GC), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Institute for Research Democratic Development, Integrity Watch Liberia, Liberia Initiative for Empowerment, Rural Human Rights Activist Programme, , National Bureau of Concession (NBC), the Peace Huts, and CSOs, Accountability Lab (ALAB), Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL), Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Ministry of Justice and Judiciary of Liberia. The meeting was convened to, a) introduce the idea of the funding opportunity to the partners; b) provide a synopsis of the PBF guiding principles and scope of PBF funding, introduce and provide justification of the strategic area that the funding seeks to cover; c) briefly articulate much more detailed and relevant thematic areas under consideration by the convening agencies so as to have a focused and structured conversation; d) receive feedback, suggestions and analysis from the national partners regarding the underlying evolving context and the possible areas of

engagement; and e) ensure consensus for project content that aligns with national priorities. At the meeting it was agreed that the convening agencies submit a draft concept note on the basis of the ideas discussed. The concept note was distributed, and feedback was received from the national partners.

On 29 March 2023, the convening and national partners held a meeting with PBSO technical mission and the PBF Secretariat wherein the concept note was reviewed to enhance the proposal. This facilitated an in-depth review and rationalization of the project structure. This fed into the development of the project proposal by the convening partners who circulated a zero draft to the national partners followed by a meeting on the 18 April 2023 where detailed feedback was provided on the content. Subsequent revisions were made to the proposal including responses to the PBF Secretariat's initial comments by email, resulting in the updated proposal.

Project Gender Marker score[5]: 2
Specify % and $ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment: $1,524,817.92 representing 43.57% of the budget is committed to gender equality and women's' empowerment.

Briefly **explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment [6]:**

The project mainstreams gender throughout all interventions, ensuring that men and women including young women and men are targeted appropriately. In providing capacity to national institutions, the project will target women beneficiaries both in terms of those trained as well as ensuring that training content is gender sensitive and grounded in the principles of transformative leadership which aims at addressing injustice and unequal power relations based on gender, age and other identities. Support will be provided to CSOs and women's rights organizations to enhance their capacity and skills to participate in local development planning per the Local Government Act (LGA) and Revenue Sharing Act, monitor service delivery, use to use institutions as articulated in the project design. Advocacy for the inclusion of women and youth in town, district and county councils, strengthening -, increasing their access to information about their rights, and entitlements and providing opportunities for engaging with public actors and influence decisions is also a key intervention to strengthen their participation and representation. Youth participation and engagement so crucial in view of the important and positive contribution and the key role of youth in efforts regarding.[7] Initiatives for the empowerment of communities and CSOs to articulate their priorities, negotiate changes and demand increased transparency, inclusivity, and accountability of county planning and service delivery processes will take into consideration the specific position and priorities of women, including marginalized women in rural communities. This will be achieved by working with gender machineries and women's rights organizations including the Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL).

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[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**
[7] See UN Security Council Resolution 2250.

Project Risk Marker score[8]:	**2**

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project *(select ONLY one)* [9]:
Democratic Governance

If applicable, **SDCF/UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes:

UNSDCF Outcome 4 – By 2024, people in Liberia especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged, benefit from strengthened institutions that are more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender-responsive in the delivery of essential services at the national and sub-national levels.

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes: SDG goals 16 & 5; also PBF RSF – Strategic Area II

Type of submission:	**If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:**
☒ **New project** ☐ **Project amendment**	**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.*

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[8] **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes
Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes
Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes
[9] **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)[10]	Representative of National Authorities
Name of Representative:, a.i Louis Kuukpen Signature ██████ Title: Resident Representative a.i Name of Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Date & Seal	Name of Government Counterpart: Hon Varney A. Sirleaf Signature ██████ Title: Minister of Internal Affairs Date & Seal 18/07/23
Recipient Organization(s)[11] Name of Representative: Comfort Lamptey Signature ██████ Title: Country Representative Name of Agency: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Date & Seal	
Recipient Organization(s)[12] Name of Representative: Harold Aidoo Signature ██████ Title: Executive Director 19/07/23 Name of Non-Governmental Agency: Integrity Watch – Liberia (IWL) Date & Seal 19/07	**Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)** Elizabeth Spehar Signature ██████ Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal 24 Aug 2023
Head of UN Country Team Name of Representative: N. Christine Umutoni Signature: ██████ Title: Resident Coordinator Date & Seal	

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[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.
[12] Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)

a) A brief summary of conflict analysis findings

The final report of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), concludes that poverty was one of the major root causes of the war in Liberia. Poverty is a cause and consequence of corruption and the inequalities it produces. According to the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) report of 2021,[13] the episodes of unrests and conflicts these days do not emerge from differences between tribes, religion or political ideology but result mainly from socio-economic inequalities, bad governance, and corruption. Existing vulnerabilities in 2021 demonstrate that Liberia is still a fragile country with many dynamics in place which had led to socioeconomic and political upheaval in the past.[14] According to the SCORE 2021, supporting peace and social cohesion in Liberia depends on measures to promote more accountable governance and stable and transparent institutions, meeting the immediate needs of society, and on addressing the structural roots of vulnerability. Both dimensions of human security – "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want" – should be granted by a society which aims to achieve sustainable peace. This demands democratic and well-governed societies where the social contract is strengthened through people's participation in governance and public accountability and transparency.

In Liberia, the decreasing public trust in institutions and lack of strong community accountability is more than a dimension of governance needing improvement, it is a major risk of instability and potential conflict as communities do not see their needs reflected as positive peace dividends and feel disconnected and left behind by the institutions. In these circumstances, unaddressed historical inequalities and exclusions, combined with high levels of poverty, unemployment, and under-development, pose real threats to sustaining the peace in Liberia. The country's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2021/2022 is 0.481 which puts the country in the low human development category with a ranking of 178 out of 191 countries and territories. The continuing phenomena of endemic and unaddressed corruption is a pivotal cause of Liberia's stunted growth and continued fragility.[15] Liberia's post conflict political compromise contributed to the failure to hold accountable perpetrators of war and economic crimes and continued to provide positions of power to perpetrators and to people who could leverage public resources to maintain patronage networks as a source of political support. Thus, following Liberia's civil wars, the initial peace, security and humanitarian assistance interventions in Liberia were not adequately followed by the systematic rebuilding of core government functions,[16] which resulted in sub-optimal levels of integrity and trust in the public service. This severely undermines Liberia's normative values with the attendant lack of implementation and adherence to fiscal discipline and the norms and behavioral codes that govern a credible public service sector thus undermining public trust in national institutions and fueling public protests.

Consequently, Liberia's corruption perception index keeps deteriorating—from a score in the global Corruption Perception Index (CPI)[17] of 37/100[18] in 2016, 32/100 in 2018, 28/100 in 2019, 28/100 in

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[13] SCORE Report entitled, "Livelihood Resilience and Escaping Poverty in Liberia - Assessing Adversities and Opportunities for Livelihood Security", (July 2021).

[14] Same as above.

[15] "Briefing Note on the Call for A War Crimes Court in Liberia," Amnesty International. Available on https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/05/briefing-note-call-war-crimes-court-liberia

[16] The six core government functions covered being, executive decision making and coordination at the centre of government; public revenue and expenditure management; government employment and public administration; the security sector; local governance; and, aid management.

[17] See annual CPI reports of Transparency International.

[18] The scores represent percentages an therefore a lower numerator indicates a lower perception.

2020 to 26/100 in 2021. Further, reports from the Audit Agency of Liberia continue to show large-scale misuse of public funds. In addition, according to Transparency International's 2019 Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), 47% of Liberians surveyed think the level of corruption increased a lot in the previous 12 months; 53% of public service users paid a bribe in the previous months; while 58% think their government is doing a bad job of tackling corruption. The report further states that a large number of Liberians think their public sector institutions are affected by high levels of corruption. For example, in the health sector, 43% of Liberians surveyed said they paid a bribe over the past 12 months prior to the survey. Meanwhile, more than half (52%) of Liberians surveyed said ordinary citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption.[19] This is corroborated by the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia's (CENTAL) 2022 State of Corruption Report (SCORE) in which 90% of Liberians surveyed believe that the level of corruption is very high in the country, with more women (93%) believing that the country's corruption level is high than men (88%).[20] Recognizing corruption as a major problem in the country, 69% of citizens believe that public services are increasingly prone to corruption, with the Police (69%) and medical services (60%) cited as being among sectors/institutions most prone to corruption in Liberia. Meanwhile, confidence level in the government (executive) to fight corruption is as low as 26%, declining from 30% in the previous year (2021).

A Peace Building Office conflict mapping conducted in 2016 stated that corruption was the second most prominent conflict driver in the country, after contestations over land.[21] At the commencement of the development of this mapping exercise, a senior government expert at the Peace Building Office remarked that, "The government of Liberia and partners have grappled with 8 critical conflict factors, namely: ownership of land; the condition of youth - specifically with regards to employment; mismanagement of natural resources; weak relationships between the state and its citizenry;[22] a weak and dysfunctional justice system; the lack of a shared national vision; poverty and food insecurity; as well as challenges with regional dimensions."[23] Unfortunately, this statement remains quite relevant to this day and underscores the fundamental conflict triggers associated with youth, corruption and accountability and a weak social contract that this project seeks to address. This was corroborated by The Economist magazine, which reported that Liberia's economic crisis and corruption could lead to violence.[24] The high rate of corruption has consequently resulted in a major trust deficit in state institutions, according to the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation index (SCORE) report of 2021.[25] The SCORE identifies high levels of perception of corruption as a long-standing obstacle to social cohesion. It recommends that enhancing confidence in state institutions is a key driver towards peace. It further stresses that improving government related services will not only increase confidence in government institutions but limit violent tendencies and the potential for active violent citizenship behavior.[26]

The combination of public distrust and the underlying developmental challenges continue to widen public discontent and deepen Liberia's fragility. Corruption deprives the Government of funds required to provide basic public services and perpetuates poverty. Entrenched inequality in access to opportunities and services between urban and rural areas, over-centralisation of power in Monrovia,

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[19] Https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/2019_GCB_Africa3.pdf
[20] Https://www.cental.org.lr/index.php/component/edocman/state-of-corruption-report-score-2022?Itemid=0
[21] National Conflict Mapping Exercise, Liberia Peacebuilding Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Liberia, 2016.
[22] Emphasis added to highlight the underlying issues of youth, corruption and a weak social contract.
[23] See "Towards National Conflict Mapping in Liberia", Reliefweb, 23 March 2016, available at, Towards National Conflict Mapping in Liberia - Liberia | ReliefWeb
[24] The Economist, August 2019.
[25] SCORE Report entitled, "Sustaining Peace in Liberia - Assessing opportunities and threats three years after UNMIL's Departure" (July 2021).
[26] Same as above.

widespread infrastructure deficits which constrain the growth potential of individuals, communities, and the country undermines peace, social cohesion, and reconciliation. A recent study by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Liberia Data, Evaluation, Learning, and Technical Assistance (DELTA) highlights that deprivation of access to basic services including electricity, roads, schools, and other infrastructure in counties with entrenched poverty, such as, Bong, Lofa, River Gee, and Maryland heightened conflicts and dissatisfaction.[27]

Meanwhile, public protests against government failure to rein in corruption, chronic poverty and the lack of services and spiraling costs of food have become common place. These protests have also, especially as October 2023 elections approach, resulted in violence as factions of the ruling party and opposition, which had formed themselves into militant groups, have clashed. One of the recent protests was organised by a coalition of opposition parties on the 17 December 2022 dubbed "We taya [are tired of] suffering."[28] Also in February 2023, a senior public official who had been placed on the USA sanctions list for corruption faced protests from students at the University of Liberia, with chants of "rogue" when he entered their campus with his vehicle.

Importantly, over-centralization of governance compounds the problem of corruption and remains one of Liberia's major conflict factors because it excludes, marginalizes, and denies citizens, especially those outside the capital city Monrovia, opportunities for inclusive and meaningful participation in their own development processes. This also contributes to public perception of exclusion, neglect and further entrenches mistrust due to lack of adequate access to information and services. Even though laws and policies on decentralization and public accountability exist,[29] they are not implemented adequately as governance institutions are hardly represented at the county level. In particular, most of the integrity institutions are centralized although the laws establishing them require decentralized service delivery. For example, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Bureau of Concession are centralized and lack any field presence. For the majority of Liberians, this renders these institutions distant, inaccessible or ineffective institutions.

While the government has been making an effort to bring services closer to the people through its 2015 national decentralization policy and the associated legal reforms, much more needs to be done to improve citizens' participation in the governance processes, to improve local service delivery, and to strengthen social cohesion as a glue to hold the Liberian society together for improved economic growth, promoting social cohesion and reconciliation and advancing infrastructure development. The Government established County Service Centres (CSCs) to support more decentralized service delivery in Liberia in 2015. They have had positive impact on service delivery, social cohesion, and domestic resource mobilization across the country despite the challenges they encounter. It is estimated that CSCs have provided services to over 800,000 citizens since their inception.[30] They should be a one-stop center where citizens can access services – particularly documentation services such as birth certificates, wedding licenses and certificates, national identification cards, business registration, building permits, vehicle registration, etc. – key documents which allow citizens to participate in key aspects of citizen life or access other public services and peace dividends - from various ministries,

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[27] Liberia Conflict Assessment (2022) conducted by: Liberia Data, Evaluation, Learning, and Technical Assistance (DELTA).

[28] See Liberians protest living costs as Weah returns from 48-day trip | Protests News | Al Jazeera; see also Thousands protest in Liberia against corruption, economic decline | Reuters; Hundreds protest in Liberia against government corruption - YouTube

[29] Local Government Act of 2018 Ten Year Implementation Plan, Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2020; Revenue Sharing Law of Liberia, 2021; Code of Conduct Act 2014.

[30] "Liberia Bong Service Centre Generates L$6.5M in four months", Daily Observer. Available at https://www.liberianobserver.com/liberia-bong-service-center-generates-l65m-4-months

agencies, commissions. At the same time, they ought to bring about greater institutional accountability and strengthened social contract by increasing accessibility to public services as well as providing a means for citizens to resolve issues related to land, labour, and gender-based violence for example at the local level. However, they are underfunded, with many logistical challenges and with a lack of supplies to print relevant documents. Moreover, personnel at the CSCs are susceptible to rent seeking and bribery. At the same time, demand is still low because people are not aware of services offered - especially those with lower literacy, especially women, and less access to radio/information and/or because citizens do not trust in the timeliness, quality or cost effectiveness of services offered. In addition, there is a lack of participation of women in the designing, planning, and evaluation processes of public services and facilities.[31]

The marginalization of women, especially in governance structures, is even more prevalent as they occupy less than 11% of the 103 seats in the National Legislature. While there is a lack of comprehensive gender-disaggregated data on women's representation at the local level, the most recent statistics show that only about 5% of chiefs and around 4% of town and district commissioners are women and approximately 12.5% of circuit court judges, 11% of specialized court judges, and 3% of magistrates.[32] This situation of political marginalization weakens women's capacity to promote their interests and defend their rights. For instance, this negatively affects women's access to land and natural resources, as well as their ability to make decisions about resource allocation and service provision, especially at the local level.[33] Traditional norms, that are mainly patriarchal, significantly undermine the rights of women and inhibit their participation in local governance. It is vital, therefore, to engage with traditional leaders as custodians of traditions and communities, to secure their support in respect of gender equality.

Age and gender sensitive public service delivery depends on inclusive participation of women and youth in development planning and decision-making. The LGA provides an opportunity for this as it explicitly defines "affirmative action" as "Positive actions taken to increase the representation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups."[34] Nine-person County Councils established by the LGA must include representatives of various county-level organizations and networks, with a composition of at least 33% women and 22% youth. District Advisory Councils, Town Advisory Councils, Chiefdom Advisory Councils, and Clan Advisory Councils should also include women and youth. County Superintendents, District Development Officers, City Mayors, and Commissioners of Townships and Boroughs have, among their duties, the promotion of both women's empowerment and gender equality, and youth empowerment and inclusion. However, implementation of the LGA, since its passage in 2018, has remained a significant challenge and where women and youth do participate, partners consulted during the development of this proposal emphasize that they are largely "tokens" which have been appointed at the behest of local elites and do not represent the interests, nor are seen as legitimate representatives, of these constituencies. This undermines the social contract and public accountability and needs to be addressed to enhance improved service delivery, social cohesion, and sustainable social economic development.

County reconciliation plan highlights inclusive service delivery, increased accountability in the use of public funds, and the need to reduce mismanagement of county social development funds as priorities. These are key aspects this present intervention seeks to address.

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[31] UN Women and Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. 2021. Issue Paper: Gender Equality Profile of Liberia.
[32] UN Women and Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2017.
[33] UNSDCF Liberia (2022) Equal rights for men and women to own land remains a challenge with women owning 38 % of agricultural land and rarely accessing available credit.
[34] Section 1.5 Local Government Act, 2018.

b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**[35], how it ensures **national ownership**.

Following the adoption of the Government of Liberia's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) in 2018, the Government continues to make conscious efforts through policy and legal reforms[36] to address the high level of inequality and bring citizens at the center of governance as well as decentralizing service delivery. The project aligns with Pillar Four of the PAPD which seeks to establish a more capable state, and inclusive and accountable public. In reducing corruption, the PAPD seeks to increase greater transparency and accountability among Government spending entities. Pillar Four of the PAPD also seeks to decentralize services through the County Service Centres (CSCs), the project places emphasis on sustaining service delivery as a key element in enhancing the social contract by strengthening public accountability, access to governance and political participation. Further, Pillar three of the PAPD promotes a more peaceful and unified society that enables economic transformation and sustainable development. [37] Outcome 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Corporation Framework, provides for the strengthening of policies, legal and institutional frameworks and practices that promote transparency, accountability and the rule of law, at national and subnational levels, and supports pillars three and four of the PAPD.[38]

The proposed intervention is also in line with the Peacebuilding Fund Strategic Results Framework 2022-2027 result area II, which focuses on institutional accountability and strengthened social contract. In this vein, the project also fulfills a strategic objective of the PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF). The project's central theme fits neatly with Area II of the SRF which seeks to support communities to demand accountability in fulfillment of a strengthened social contract.

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

Liberia, in the last quarter of 2022, reenacted the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) Act, strengthening the powers of the institution to prosecute cases without reference to the Ministry of Justice. This created impetus for accountability in respect of corruption. Further, the Whistleblower and Protection of Witnesses' legislations were developed, with support from an earlier phase of the UN's Joint Rule of Law Programme (2017-2020), and enacted. Due to delays in enacting the legislation, they were not programmes included in the current phase of the Rule of Law programme. This has created gaps in the facilitation of their dissemination and provision awareness regarding their utility, so as to increase public demand and increased access to national integrity institutions. Further gaps also exist regarding the competencies and adaptation of national institutions required to fully implement these legislations.

The national integrity institutions have demonstrated their willingness to form a coalition with civil society to address corruption. In this regard, key integrity institutions such as the LACC, Public

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

[36] Revenue Sharing Formula bill of 2022, Amendment to the Public Financial Management Law and the Revenue code of Liberia. The Law provides for local economic development through the investment of locally generated revenues, creating employment opportunities and facilitating trade and commerce.

[37] PADP, 2018-2023.

[38] By 2024, people in Liberia especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged, benefit from strengthened institutions that are more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and gender responsive in the delivery of essential services at the national and sub-national levels.

Procurement and Concessions Commission, the Governance Commission, Internal Audit Agency and General Audit Commission among others, have established a National Integrity Forum (NIF) in partnership with CSOs that specialise and play leading roles on corruption and transparency. The NIF aims to strengthen the work of the integrity institutions and promote accountability and transparency. With funding from SIDA, CENTAL plays a coordinating role regarding the regular meetings of the NIF and connecting them with communities through awareness on transparency as well as the coordination of integrity clubs in schools.

UNDP already supports and encourages citizens to report corruption cases in a safe and enabling environment, while enabling selected CSOs to track and monitor such reports. As part of an anti-corruption innovation project, UNDP with its own Trac funding and funding from SIDA, has partnered with a local CSO, Integrity Watch, to assemble an e-platform for anonymous reporting of corruption and tracking of such cases. The e-platform uses the TALKLAY App. As a critical entry point, this new PBF project provides an opportunity to scale up the e-platform project beyond the pilot phase, due to existing gaps related to the lack of LACC presence at the subnational level to ensure the efficiency of the system. As part of popularizing the e-platform, this proposal will support local structures, including CBOs and the CSCs, to create awareness and dialogue around the TALKLAY App and extend the reporting platform by introducing the use of SMS. By these measures, the project will ensure the virtual presence of the LACC in the 15 counties, beyond Monrovia. Talkay is an application built on cloud architecture, prioritizes the safety and security of user data. The application benefits from various safety measures inherent in the cloud architecture. These include physical security measures in the data centers, data encryption to protect sensitive information, access control mechanisms to prevent unauthorized access, and scalability features to handle increasing user demands. The application also utilizes backup and disaster recovery services, network security measures, and compliance with industry-specific regulations. Overall, Talkay ensures the protection of user data and maintains a secure environment for its users. Additionally, it ensures security of the system and protection of individuals through anonymous reporting. By this, only individuals who opt for their identity to be known can do so. Since the system was launched, it has proven to have strong security features and access to the backend is only provided to limited persons to protect the identity of those who will make their identity known.

Significant progress has also been made in the area of decentralization and local governance, which is highlighted in Pillars one, two and four of the PAPD as a key component for an inclusive, more equitable distribution of national wealth and rights-based approach to national development. The LGA was enacted in 2018 followed by the development of a 10-year implementation plan that presents a roadmap for its accomplishment. Through the existing Liberia Decentralization Support Programme (LDSP) – a joint partnership with UNDP, donors (Sweden and Ireland), and the Government to support decentralization – service delivery has been decentralized through the CSCs, capacities of local government staff/officials have been built to enhance local government administration, and citizens have been duly informed about the LGA to take ownership of the decentralization reforms. Citizens have started playing a more active role in improving service delivery and fostering accountability through a Citizens Feedback Mechanism (CFM) platform, which gives them the opportunity to flag issues with service delivery to policy makers and receive feedbacks in real time. The Revenue Sharing Act has also been enacted which gives local government the opportunity of sharing with the central government revenue collected at the sub-national level. Revenues received through this mechanism will enhance the effective administration of local government, sustain service delivery, and promote local economic development.

Yet, the efforts have been localized and not yet adequate and, amid the progress on decentralization, there are still challenges in the areas of strengthening local capacity to fully take charge of devolved responsibilities such as development planning and financial management, promulgation of county

ordinances, rules and regulation for the promotion of peace, unity, reconciliation, maintenance of public order and security and the delivery of basic public goods and services. Chapter 2.2 of the LGA places this responsibility on the County Councils which comprise of representatives from every sector of the society.

The PBF project will fill this gap by complementing the existing intervention of the LDSP through the building of capacity for County Councils to effectively implement their functions as enshrined in the LGA. An effective County Council will enhance social cohesion and accountability for development planning and service delivery. Further, the project seeks a more strategic approach by establishing guidelines for the functioning of the county councils, to avoid elite capture and ensure a truly participatory process that enables women and youth to have real representation. In addition, by infusing CSO, women and youth representations, into the councils the project will provide the opportunity for these sector representatives to be accountable to their constituencies through monitoring mechanisms. CSOs will further monitor the implementation of county development plans and expenditures made under the county development funds. Horizontal dialogues and meetings will foster the dissemination of council decisions as a mechanism for transparency and accountability, thereby empowering citizens to monitor developments themselves.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
Liberia Decentralization Support Programme-Phase II 2020-2024	Irish Aid, Sweden $7,000,000	Decentralizing service delivery, enhancing inclusive participation in decision and strengthening local structures to enhance local government administration	The LDSP complements this project around decentralized service delivery and inclusive citizens' participation in decision making.
Joint Programme – "Strengthening the Rule of Law in Liberia: Justice and Security for the Liberian People – Phase II" 2020-2023	Irish Aid, USINL, UNDP $11,976,000.00	Strengthening the rule of law, human rights and enhancing anti-corruption responses through citizenship participation.	Complements the anti-corruption responses by providing linkages with decentralisation and strengthening the reach of integrity institutions in the counties, relying on local structures and enhancing their functionalities.

II.   **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 overarching aim of the project is to firstly support improved transparency and accountability through interventions at both the supply and demand side of governance, specifically, strengthening institutional accountability within the state on the one hand and

capacity of citizens to demand accountability on the other. Further, it will specifically focus on enhancing decentralized service delivery as the area that is of most tangible importance to Liberia's marginalized communities and to their ability to enjoy peace dividends. This will help strengthen trust in government and enhance the social contract which is particularly crucial to social cohesion and citizens' direct access to service delivery. The project also links decentralization and service delivery with the drive to fight corruption and strengthens the accountability agenda around greater citizen participation in governance and the social contract, with a strong focus on inclusivity of women and young people in these processes.

There are two main approaches to fighting corruption, a top-down approach and a bottom-up approach. The project intends to prioritise the bottom-up approach which requires the mobilization of citizens given that the top-down approach is unlikely to be adequate given deep rooted institutional interests.

By cascading opportunities for communities in the counties to have voices in governance and articulate their grievances through localized democratic structures provided by the LGA, the project will reduce misunderstandings regarding public decisions taken without reference and involvement of local populations whose interests and livelihoods are affected, such as the award of land concession agreements to multinational corporations and the (non) availability of services in the CSCs. These situations often result in violent backlashes from local populations. Unsurprisingly, the exclusion of women and youths from decision making processes have been identified as powerful drivers of conflict.[39] Contradictorily, the most vulnerable groups, including women and youths, bear the brunt of these violent episodes. Consequently, more inclusive societies are the foundations for peace and stability.[40] By affording citizens a voice and enhancing the decentralization of political participation, the project garners impetus to reduce instability, strengthen the social contract, and ensure social cohesion.

b) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'** –

Limited knowledge of laws among duty bearers and citizens undermines institutional ability to implement and enforce same resulting in lack of accountability and public trust. The project seeks to strengthen national anti-corruption and integrity institutions and social accountability frameworks, which subsequently increases inclusive citizens participation and gender and youth responsive public service delivery. Corruption undermines accountability and deprives people of access to basic social services, which exacerbates poverty and human suffering. Anti-corruption and integrity in Liberia are weak and lack adequate support to function effectively and independently to hold corrupt officials and individuals accountable. The LACC, for instance, does not have personnel and logistics in many counties, thus limiting their ability to work with the community to effectively respond to corruption issues in these areas. Moreover, citizens' knowledge of existing frameworks to hold corrupt officials and individuals accountable is limited or totally lacking, which makes it difficult or almost impossible for citizens to actively participate in integrity and anti-corruption processes and contributes to social unrest because citizens have little trust in the system for redress. Training anti-corruption and integrity institutions and providing them with needed technical, human resource logistical support, combined with educating citizens on and having access to social accountability frameworks and tools can allow

[39] Global Thematic Consultation – Conflict and Fragility and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, (UNDP, PBSO, UNICEF, UNISDR report on Liberia, 2012).
[40] Same as above.

anti-corruption and integrity institutions and citizens to hold corrupt officials and individuals accountable. When corrupt individuals and officials are held accountable, corruption can be minimized, and more resources will be available to carry out essential gender and youth responsive public services.

Further, the project seeks to strengthen communities and civil society organizations to demand increased transparency, inclusion and accountability of county planning processes and service delivery. Over-centralization, exclusion, and marginalization deprive citizens of basic social services and inhibit potential for growth and economic development. In Liberia, institutions that dispense almost all public services are centralized and concentrated in Monrovia, which makes it difficult for citizens outside of the capital to access government services. Besides, the limited mechanisms established at the county level such as the County Council and the County Service Centers to allow citizens to have access to basic services and participate in the decision-making processes and development of their counties lack transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and subject to capture. These structures are not subject to public participation and scrutiny and lack adequate capacity to ensure inclusion and gender and youth responsive service delivery. The training of County Councils in gender and youth responsive planning and service delivery and mainstreaming gender and youth in county development agenda can enable the County Council to conduct appropriate gender and youth responsive planning and budgeting and provide adequate oversight of county development interventions. Similarly, training and supporting CSOs and citizens, particularly women and youth led CSOs, women and youth groups county development agendas/mechanisms can allow them to monitor county development planning and development interventions and to demand their rights in this regard. Consequently, citizens will be actively involved in the decision-making processes and development of their county and ensure that transparency, accountability, and inclusion exists.

Diagram of Theory of Change

Enablers
1. Availability of trained, qualified, and dedicated project staff
2. Existence of a strong, efficient organizational system, policies, and procedure.
3. Continuation of a relatively stable political environment

Activities
- Simplify and disseminate existing legislation and frameworks on integrity, and accountability and citizen participation
- Support training of personnel of integrity institutions and the judiciary on legislation and accountability instruments
- Strengthen the presence of integrity institutions to access counties and districts by supporting the deployment of anti-corruption officers to investigate corruption cases and use the e-platform
- Expand and strengthen opportunities for dialogue between national integrity institutions and CSOs (incl. advocacy for sustainability of National Integrity Forum)
- Support civil society including women and youth groups to monitor and report on key national commitments and frameworks related to peace, governance, and transparency
- Train and establish a network of CSOs and media practitioners to monitor and investigate corruption cases and the awarding of public contracts in counties and produce credible and verifiable reporting
- Conduct gender analyses on youth and women meaningful participation in the county councils and on gender and age-related differences and barriers in accessing services at county level
- Support to mainstreaming gender and inclusion in County Development Agendas and County Service Centers
- Provide capacity building for County Councils in the areas developing planning, budget formulation approvals and financial management
- Support citizens to know and claim their rights around county development planning and service delivery and to monitor and report on the extent to which they are gender and youth oriented.
- Support civil society to engage in dialogue and advocacy for accountable governance and gender and youth responsive service provision
- Support civil society and the media to design and implement public awareness and mobilization campaigns on the LGA, Revenue Sharing Act, and County Reconciliation Plans, and County Service Centers

Outputs
- Rollout and implementation of laws and policies for integrity and accountability, responses strengthened
- Capacity of CSOs and citizens improved to engage with national institutions on integrity and accountability
- Social accountability/accountability mechanisms within County Councils and County Service Centers are enhanced
- Citizen participation in decentralized political processes including development planning and service delivery is strengthened

Assumptions
- Critical instruments that promote transparency and accountability exist and will remain available during project implementation
- Government has an interest in fighting corruption and will welcome and support implementation of project interventions
- Government has the desire to fight corruption and will welcome and support implementation of project interventions

Outcomes
- National anti-corruption and integrity institutions and social accountability frameworks and mechanisms enable greater and more inclusive citizen participation and gender and youth-oriented public service delivery.
- Communities and CSOs demand increased transparency, inclusivity and accountability of county planning processes and service delivery.

Impact
- Increased institutional accountability and strengthened social contract

Legend Enablers · Activities · Outputs · Assumptions · Outcomes · Impact

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

Outcome 1: National anti-corruption and integrity institutions and social accountability frameworks and mechanisms are strengthened enabling greater and more inclusive citizen participation and gender and youth-oriented public service delivery

Through the strengthening of institutional capacities on the one hand and strengthening inclusive citizen's participation and demand for action on the other hand, the project seeks to ensure a comprehensive response towards ensuring transparency in the public sphere and reducing corruption, while strengthening the social contract, and enhancing peaceful co-existence between citizens and the State. This outcome complements legislative frameworks with more robust and decentralised citizenship mechanisms to ensure greater accountability and anti-corruption responses in Liberia. While the outcome strengthens traditional monitoring, reporting, and grievance settling mechanisms, it also leverages ICT and innovation, creating opportunities for greater citizen participation in promoting transparency and tackling incidents of corruption.

Output 1.1: Strengthened rollout, and implementation of laws and policies for integrity and accountability

This Output seeks to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to ensure citizen participation in transparency and accountability processes, by ensuring citizen feedback and promoting public awareness of legislative reforms, while adopting a decentralized approach by supporting the presence of integrity institutions in the counties.

Activity 1.1.1: Simplify and disseminate existing legislation and frameworks on integrity, accountability and citizen participation

Liberia has enacted key legislations to introduce reforms aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, accountability and responses to corruption. These legislations seek to among other things, sharpen the prosecutorial powers of the LACC and strengthen local government structures that will build an enabling environment that will enhance the confidence of the public to report corruption. Key legislations passed are the LACC Act, Local Government Act, Revenue Sharing Act, the Whistle Blower Act and the Witness Protection Act. These legislations will be rolled out by printing, dissemination, public awareness and confidence building. Simplified versions of the legislations will also be printed and disseminated to ensure accessibility by ordinary Liberians at national and county level. Further, codes of ethics of conduct of public servants will be disseminated alongside these legislations.

Activity 1.1.2: Support training of personnel of integrity institutions and the judiciary on legislation and accountability instruments

Cases of corruption are often dismissed because of poor prosecutorial strategy and the proffering of wrong charges and seeming lack of preparedness of prosecutors. Personnel from the integrity institutions will be trained in the key provisions of the legislation. This will promote quick and full implementation of the and facilitate the required change in legal practice. The new LACC Act will require the sharpening of the prosecutorial skills of the prosecutors in line with the institution's new prosecutorial powers. This also requires the training of judges and magistrates to ensure increased and specific skills in the adjudication of corruption related cases.

Activity 1.1.3: Strengthen the presence of integrity institutions to counties and districts by supporting the deployment of anti-corruption officers to investigate corruption cases and use the e-platform

The e-platform provides an opportunity to extend the virtual presence of the LACC and other integrity institutions beyond Monrovia. Anti-corruption Reporting Associates have been recruited and trained on information technology and the use of smart phones to report on corruption issues in their various communities across the country. This effort will eventually lead to more prosecution of corruption cases and double the Commission's desire to prevent corruption and ring-fence government projects at all levels including infrastructure and general administration of local government development funding across Liberia. The Reporting Associates will further ensure that reports are uploaded, tracked and feedback provided to complainants. This will reduce the deficit in corruption reporting throughout the country and enhance citizens participation in the fight against corruption. The activity will sustain the deployment of the Reporting Associates and ensure their interrelation with the County Support Centres as a venue of operation.

Output 1.2: Capacity of CSOs and citizens improved to engage with national institutions on integrity and accountability

The output supports capacity building for CSOs and women's rights organizations to engage national institutions and citizens for inclusive citizen participation and hold national institutions to account regarding their mandates regarding transparency and the reduction of corruption. Additionally, it will enhance monitoring of the government's commitment to transparency and accountability which is crucial to ensuring institutional compliance.

Activity 1.2.1: Expand and strengthen opportunities for dialogue between national integrity institutions and CSOs (incl. advocacy for sustainability of National Integrity Forum)

The National Integrity Forum (NIF) will be supported in its ongoing efforts to foster collaboration and partnership among governance and core anti-corruption actors in the Country. The NIF is a multi-stakeholder platform, established to foster collaboration, partnership, and coordination among core governance and anti-corruption actors in Liberia. NIF comprises of the national integrity institutions including the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), General Auditing Commission (GAC), Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), and a CSO, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL). Being a collaborative endeavor of anti-corruption institutions and other related parties, the NIF will intensify coordination and cooperation among integrity institutions in the fight against corruption. It will provide a platform for state and non-state actors concerned with issue of integrity and the fight against corruption to exchange views on building integrity systems and fight corruption in Liberia on a regular basis. The NIF will be supported to recommend effective policy promulgation, coordination and implementation mechanisms to advance good governance and transparency.

Activity 1.2.2: Raise citizen awareness of anti-corruption and accountability frameworks through engagement with CSOs, women's rights organisations and local leaders

The LACC will interface with CSOs and women rights organisations to disseminate information on legislative reforms and ensure access to information targeting women and ensuring that they have a voice. This activity will adopt a bottom-up approach to public awareness. Citizens who are better informed of the corruption within can fight corruption more effectively. CSOs will conduct community education of people about their rights, especially those with limited access to such information. This initiative will target youth, women, women leaders at local level, women peace huts, and traditional leaders who are more likely to be actively involved and have the most at stake.

Activity 1.2.3: Support civil society including women and youth groups to monitor and report on key national commitments and frameworks related to peace, governance, and transparency.
The project will support civil society to monitor commitments made by government through public declarations such as the Farmington Declaration on Peaceful Elections and Judicial Resolutions of Electoral Disputes (2023), County Reconciliation Plans, Compact on Anti-corruption. Further, civil society will track, monitor and provide feedback regarding government's progress and compliance with SCORE report recommendations in a gender responsive manner.

Activity 1.2.4: Strengthen the online citizens feedback and reporting mechanism on corruption and expand to SMS services

This activity will build on the online e-platform established to facilitate anonymous reporting of corruption cases. The initiative places special emphasis on building of the capacity of Liberia Anti-

Corruption Commission (LACC) to track, report and investigate acts of corruption consistent with its legal mandate. The Project will enable the LACC to expand a secure national digital e-platform whereby the public may report suspected acts of corruption. The national e-platform will not only aid in the prevention of corruption by timely reporting but will also contribute towards to gathering of data on incidences of corruption in selected counties thereby expanding the presence of the LACC beyond Monrovia to tackle corruption in the country. To widen public accessibility to the platform, a mobile application was developed for use on phones and a secure SMS system will also be developed.

To ensure that the online reporting system is optimised by citizens and to expand its reporting mechanisms to the counties, the initiative seeks to build a coalition among CSOs to effectively popularise the initiative, support the public to report cases of corruption and access the e-platform especially in remote areas where internet connectivity is sparse, and provide critical, technical feedback regarding the functionality and efficiency of the system by tracking and monitoring the reports made and responses of the LACC and providing periodic public feedback using KoBo Toolbox. CSO tracking provides independent coverage of reports and will strengthen public confidence by creating a two-way feedback system wherein the public receives updates on the progress of cases. Awareness of the system will be strengthened, and quarterly feedback dialogues will be held between CSOs and the LACC. The e-platform will be widely publicised including using social media and billboards.

Activity 1.2.5: CSO development and rollout of advocacy campaign based on periodic feedback from LACC and online platform to seek resolution to cases and reduce incidences of corruption

Prosecuting corruption cases and sanctioning perpetrators often takes long and eventually dissipates without any resolution or action on them. This activity will mobilize a coalition of civil society organizations working on transparency and accountability issues including women led organizations to develop and roll out a robust advocacy campaign based on the periodic feedback from the LACC as well as data from the online platform to engage legislative oversight committees and judiciary to expedite action on cases aimed at reducing incidences of corruption and building public trust.

Activity 1.2.6: Train and establish a network of CSOs and media practitioners to monitor and investigate corruption cases and the awarding of public contracts in counties and produce credible and verifiable reporting

Weak civic and media spaces, and public demand for transparency and accountability has resulted in lack of access to and public trust in national institutions, thereby weakening the social contract. Consequently, open media and civic space will be strengthened to provide a source of demand for public transparency and accountability, as well as a tool in the fight against corruption. Strengthening the capacity of civil society and the media will create social engagement thereby fostering trust building, strengthening the social contract and narrowing the gaps between citizens and their government. This in turn will create opportunities for citizens to have increased oversight roles and responsibilities in the management of a participatory democracy. Thus, refresher training will be conducted for CSOs and media practitioners on investigation, monitoring and publicizing of corruption cases, including the use of creative ICT solution platforms, for example, social media having regard to ethical conditions. Credible and reliable investigative journalism and the exposure of corruption, tends to minimise corrupt practices. This is due to public outcry regarding acts of corruption whenever they are made public. In this regard, a coalition of CSO and media will serve as an anti-corruption watchdog, promote integrity accountability and educate the public on anti-corruption measures and also disseminate information on the patterns of corruption in Liberia and the forms that they take.

CSOs and the media will also monitor local contracts awarded for development and services at county level through engagement with stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Activity 1.2.7: Support CSOs and women's rights organizations to track cases under investigation and development of rewards system through score cards and ranking of institutions

Following the trainings to monitor, investigate and report on issues of corruption, transparency and integrity, CSOs and media watchdogs will establish a network to coordinate their work, ensure regular monitoring and investigative journalism, and develop score cards to rank Government agencies and commissions (MACs) having regard to the number and seriousness of credible reports levied in respect of them, as well as internal measures put in place to respond to accountability gaps.

Outcome 2: Communities and CSOs demand increased transparency, inclusivity and accountability of county planning and budgeting processes and service delivery to strengthen social contract

The Local Government Act of 2018 clearly defines the roles of the County Councils which includes the representation of women and youth around inclusive participatory decision making on issues of development planning, national reconciliation and peacebuilding. The Revenue Sharing Act also provides for citizen participation and gender responsive planning and budgeting. Accordingly, this Outcome will build the capacities of County Councils, CSOs, women's rights organizations and communities to demand transparency, accountability, and inclusive participatory development planning and gender and youth oriented public service delivery which promotes social cohesion. It also strengthens opportunities for citizens to access information about available services and to monitor and provide feedback on the provision of services at the CSCs, increasing the accountability of decentralized service delivery. It also involves the creation of spaces where rightsholders and duty bearers can engage in constructive dialogue and settle grievances peacefully. Through this, women, youth and marginalized citizens will feel more informed and included in governance processes and have access to services thereby strengthening trust in government and upholding the social contract.

Output 2.1: Social accountability/accountability mechanisms within County Councils and County Service Centers are enhanced

Rolling out the LGA and ensuring that it is implemented along with other relevant policies so that they are responsive to the needs of local populations. This will require understanding the needs and capacity gaps of the County Councils to design appropriate interventions that strengthen their ability to respond to participatory needs of citizens and promote local accountability.

Activity 2.1.1: Conduct gender analyses on youth and women meaningful participation in the county councils and on gender and age-related differences and barriers in accessing services in County Services Centers

This activity will provide much-needed information on gender and age differences in relation to participation in county councils. and their access to different services within the CSCs in target counties. It will also identify the types of services which tend to generate the most complaints and drive conflicts between citizens and public service providers. The assessments will incorporate action plans that will be used for evidence-based advocacy purposes to influence ministries, agencies, county councils and service providers to change policies and procedures for gender and youth oriented public service delivery. This activity will be implemented in partnership with the Governance Commission and MGCSP.

Activity 2.1.2: Support to mainstreaming gender and inclusion in County Development Agendas and County Service Centers

This activity will follow a gender analysis (Activity 2.1.1.) which is a crucial step in understanding the different gaps, needs and opportunities women and men, including young people and marginalized communities face in accessing services and decision-making spaces. This activity will support the mainstreaming of gender in the LGA which requires that County Development Agendas (4-year strategic plans) include special programs for youth, women and children, people living with disabilities and minority groups and to promote equity through participation, representation, protection from violence and discrimination, and capacity building for diverse groups. UN Women will support the MGCSP and other relevant local authorities with technical support, participatory stakeholder consultations and technical support and capacity building to mainstream, gender in the CDAs/CSCs.

Activity 2.1.3: Provide capacity building for County Councils in the areas of developing planning, budget formulation approvals and financial management

Chapter Two of LGA-2018 defines the powers and authority of local government and stresses the importance for the establishment of local government structures. Prominent amongst these structures is the county councils which have the mandate by law to approve counties' development plans, budgets, County Social Development Funds allocations as well as levy taxes and fines for local government's operations. Given the important role the County Council has, the need for capacity building and institutional strengthening cannot be overemphasized. Accordingly, this activity will focus on providing the necessary trainings and tools to County Council members to enhance their capacity to effectively execute their mandate and provide social accountability.

Output 2.2 Citizen participation in decentralized political processes, including development planning and budgeting and service delivery, is strengthened

Successful development planning and fiscal decentralization requires a meaningful dialogue between citizens, local and central government. At the same time, involving citizens in governance is likely to contribute to social trust, which has been linked to greater accountability and peaceful co-existence in many countries. To enable meaningful citizen participation, the delivery of this output involves training and workshops for women, youth, CSOs/CBOs, associations and networks, and media as well as their mobilization to advocate for equal participation in local governance and in monitoring and reporting on gender and youth oriented public service delivery.

Activity 2.2.1: Support citizens including women and youth groups and leaders including peace hut women and community influencers to know and claim their rights around county development planning and service delivery and to monitor and report on the extent to which they are representative of the interests of women and youth.

This activity will involve workshops to build knowledge of relevant legal and policy frameworks and strengthen competencies in monitoring, advocacy and influencing for their implementation. This will help to empower citizens to engage with public actors, influence public decisions and demand better, more effective public policies and service delivery, including the delivery of county development plans. It also involves the development of monitoring tools including scorecards to assess the extent to which women and youth meaningfully participate in the County Councils and to which gender and age are considered in the provision of public service delivery. Monitoring tools will be tailored in relation to the findings of the assessment in activity 2.1.1 and the commitments to mainstream gender

and inclusion in the County Development Agendas in 2.1.2. Costs under this activity will also support logistical support to enable citizens to undertake monitoring and reporting on the efficiency of CSCs, County Councils and Development Agendas.

Activity 2.2.2: Support civil society to engage in dialogue and advocacy (meetings, debates, and public hearings) with policy makers, community/district/county leaders, and communities, including young and rural women and men to advocate for accountable governance and gender and youth responsive service provision

This activity is focused on creating opportunities for constructive criticism and meaningful dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers, thereby contributing to a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of both in a democratic, peaceful society. Different strategies of engagement will be employed depending on the specific advocacy objective and target groups whom citizens seek to influence.

Activity 2.2.3: Support civil society, particularly women and youth groups, and the media/community radios to design and implement public awareness and mobilization campaigns on the LGA, Revenue Sharing Act, and County Reconciliation Plans, and County Service Centers

Civil society and the media will be involved in mobilizing effective demand for services, building awareness of community including women and young people, and experimenting with innovative approaches to create awareness about LGA, Revenue Sharing Act, and County Reconciliation Plans, and County Service Centers. This will include the dissemination of simplified information and targeted messages to reach women and marginalized groups that have limited access information or no access to usual methods of information sharing including media and internet etc. By doing this CSOs will increase communities', including women's and young people's, access to information about their rights including their right to essential services. These awareness campaigns will educate citizens about their entitlements, service standards and government performance, as well as publicize user concerns and amplify their demands on service providers. Through media and community radios, government and service providers will be given a space to disclose information and to listen to, consult with, and be responsive to users, which is a critical factor affecting communities, and women and marginalized communities on service delivery. This is expected to help to enhance relationships between citizens and service providers.

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

d) **Project targeting**

The project has a national reach with respect to the intervention's focus on advocacy for the implementation of laws and policies related to accountability including anti-corruption, revenue sharing, and local governance, ensuring that these bring benefits to Liberians, particularly women and youth.

In terms of county-level interventions which target gender and youth oriented public service delivery, the project is targeting eight (8) counties (Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount) based on an analysis of the 2021 SCORE indices.

These counties are geographically located across the five regions[41] of Liberia and are ranked in terms of violent tendencies, low confidence in public institutions, very low delivery of public services and inclusive representation. Additionally, there is very low confidence in County Service Centers, and are low on satisfaction with local service delivery as well as rank among the highest overall in terms of propensity for violence. It is important to note that County Service Centers-CSCs and County Council-CCs are based in urban centers, mostly county capitals, although the coverage of counties is wide, the CCs and CSCs represent all sector of the counties. By the nature of their composition, the entire county is cover since CSCs provide services to all and the composition of the CCs encompasses all (Youth, chiefs, traditional leaders,women, persons with disability and CSOs).

The project will ensure that various structures at the county levels are mobilized to collectively hold government to account through dialogue and citizen feedback. The County Council (CC) will be key in this process given its composition (women, youth, CSOs, PWDs and traditional leaders) and its statutory responsibilities of approving county budgets and development planning. The project will strengthen 15 CCs capacity to effectively approve budgets that reflect a broad spectrum of society -which is key for social cohesion, and thereafter monitor budget execution through effective oversight to enhance transparency and accountability. Targeting all 15 CCs is realistic considering each Council is comprised of just 9 people. In terms of training. Council members can be brought together based on regions and also supported technically and monitored in a relatedly cost-effective manner. With respect to monitoring the transparent and accountable use of public funds, target groups will identify specific public investment/development projects as it will not be possible to monitor all of them. More importantly, are the skills stakeholders are expected to acquire during the course of the project which will go a long way in monitoring development projects and to hold public officials accountable far beyond the life span of the project.

Women and youth organizations as well as individuals will be identified through clear selection criteria following leave no one behind principles including, age, disabilities, rural/urban, ethnicity and other identities. Women and youth groups will be identified through participatory stakeholder mapping at county level. Civil society and the media groups which have already demonstrated some level of engagement and track record in governance and accountability will play a pivotal role in in strengthening other organizations at local level and in monitoring and reporting on corruption and youth and gender responsive service delivery.

National integrity institutions have already been identified, as have key local governance structures, particularly the CCs and the (CSCs). The gender and youth assessment as well as the collection of other data as part of the project's inception period will allow for identifying which of the CSCs will be strengthened by the project. CSCs shown to have the greatest need with respect to improving provision of youth and women, as well as those in which citizens have the least trust and therefore are at the greatest risk of contributing to social unrest due to poor and/or unaccountable service delivery.

National ownership is sought through extensive consultations with national partners including the Ministry of Internal Affairs (County Development Authorities and Peace Building Office), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Governance Commission (GC), Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, National Bureau of Concession (NBC), Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC), Ministry of Justice and Judiciary of Liberia and CSOs. In

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[41] Four major regions of Liberia comprising the 15 counties (Southeast, Northcentral, Northeast South)

addition, the project aligns with national and institutional strategic objectives to ensure buy-in and national ownership.

III. 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
Convening Organization: UNDP Implementing partners: Accountability Lab (ALAB), Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC). CENTAL and ALAB are CSOs with specialised expertise in anti-corruption and transparency responses. The LACC is the national institution tasked with fighting corruption through, prevention, awareness and prosecution	$18 million	UNDP TRAC European Union Germany / GIZ Japan /JICA Sweden, Ireland, UK / DfiD Peace Building Fund	Monrovia	Six staff in Monrovia	Chief Technical Advisor, Civil Society Coordinator, M&E Analyst, Team Leader-Governance, Programme Associate, Justice and Security Officer
UN Women Implementing Partners Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia that has a network of 104 organization in Liberia can be used to reach Counties through members. Additional	$9 million	Government of Sweden, Government of Ireland, European Union, Peacebuilding Fund, UNDP though UN to UN Contribution agreement	Monrovia	Four staff	Programme Specialist & Lead, Governance and Participation, Project Specialist, Programme Specialist, Gender Responsive Budgeting

CSO's will be selected through competitive process to implement this project.					Programme Officer M&E Officer
Recipient Organization: Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL). IWL is national CSO specialized in the development of digital tools for anti-corruption and governance improvement. With UNDP funding support, IWL has developed a digital anti-corruption reporting platform called TALKAY. IWL has also established a Bi-Partisan Legislative Caucus on IFF and Tax within the Liberian legislature and supports them to strengthen oversight through training and technical support. IWL in 2022 led an advocacy campaign for the passage of the Revenue Sharing law. IWL has expertise and experience in policy advocacy and anticorruption reforms.	$294,000	NORAD/TJNA, NED, USAID/DAI, UN WOMEN, UNDP, OHCHR	Monrovia	Four staff	Executive Director, ICT Manager, M&E Officer, Policy Analyst for Fiscal Transparency
Implementing partners:					

b) Project management and coordination

Project management coordination

The project will leverage expertise, technical and operational capacities of UN agencies, as well as government, and CSO partners via joint operations to deliver project interventions and achieve results. It will tap on the comparative advantage of these partners utilizing their available technical and operational capacities. Each of the UN agencies involved (UNDP and UN Women) has specialized comparative advantage on each of the thematic areas of the project, being anti-corruption and transparency, governance, decentralization and gender and women's empowerment. I-Watch has the technical capacity which resulted in the development and deployment of the e-platform for reporting corruption and tracking national responses, which forms an integral part of this project. Moreover, most of the project interventions would be delivered through government institutions, CSO partners, which have some existing human resource, technical and institutional capacities.

UNDP will serve as the managing and convening agency for the project and will ensure coherence and partnership in activity implementation jointly with UN Women and I-Watch across the outcomes, outputs and activities. The UNDP overall management will fall under the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of the Rule of Law and Team Leader of Governance.

The Project Management and team will provide strategic direction for the overall project implementation. It consists of a Project Manager (PM) – who will oversee and supervise the Project, being charged 100% to the PBF project. The 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, reliance will be placed a national UN Volunteer as an M&E Officer to provide project support to ensure value for money.

UN Women will implement its component under the leadership of the Programme Specialist & Lead of Governance and Participation Section. The project will be supported by a Project Specialist, a Programme Specialist on gender responsive budgeting & M&E, and a Knowledge Management Officer. These staff will provide technical and operational support during implementation.

The overall staffing costs is $448,208, representing 12.81% of the total budget. In this regard, UNDP's staff budget is $285,000, UN Women is $115,500, and I-WATCH is $47,708.

The matrix of employees covered by this project is as follows:

Agency	Staff position	Percentage of salary funded by the project
UNDP	Project Manager-NPSA- ICS-109	100%
UNDP	Civil Society Coordinator-NPSA	25%
UNDP	M&E Analyst-NPSA- ICS109	100%
UN Women	Programme Specialist/ Manager - FTA P3	25%
UN Women	Programme Analyst SB4	50%
UN Women	M&E & Knowledge Management Officer SB4	50%
I-WATCH	Executive Director	50%
I-WATCH	ICT Manager	100%
I-WATCH	M&E Officer	100%
I-WATCH	Policy Analyst for Fiscal Transparency	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. However, it could also convene extraordinary meetings if deemed necessary.

The PBF Secretariat will provide direct support to the JSC and ensure its meetings are held and resolutions implemented.

Project Board

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, are addressed. All annual work plans 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 relevant 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

The Technical Committee, chaired by the UNDP CTA/PM, consists of UNDP, UN Women, I-Watch, LACC, PBO, and recipient CSOs. 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 may also be invited. The Committee will serve as a platform for coordination and exchange of information, and will 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 Committee will provide input to the agenda for the Project Board meetings, as well as provide expert input in the Project Board discussions. Sub-committees may be established by the Project Board or Technical Committee, as needed, to further additional coordination and communication around key issues.

The project team, made up of UNDP and UN Women staff and Integrity Watch Liberia, will also meet regularly to ensure timely and efficient implementation of the project. The PBF Secretariat will also be invited too to provide advisory and technical support, as needed. 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 and UN Women regulations, enables easier management and procurement and favours national ownership, but must follow UNDP and UN Women rules and regulations. Where necessary ad-hoc consultancies will be planned at project development level.

PBF Secretariat

As per its mandate, the PBF Secretariat provides oversight management, coordination, monitoring and compliance of PBF Portfolio. 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)
Approaching 2023	Medium	With the leadership of UNDP, the UN is supporting the government to form early

Elections can lead to political instability, including increased tensions, conflicts, or disputes among political parties and supporters which may also create an unfavorable environment for implementing projects effectively.		warning mechanism to ensure incidences violence and disruptions are quickly and effectively addressed. Capacity building is also being provided for law enforcement officials on preventing and mitigation electoral violence. . The Project will continue to advocate for political will and commitment from policy makers and work with lower, middle, and leadership officials in partner institutions to increase the likelihood that interventions withstand political mutations.
Fragmentation and lack of capacity of CSOs to participate in political governance processes may negatively impact results.	Medium	To address weaknesses in civil society's capacity, the project will apply HACT assurance and oversight requirements to, a) maintain awareness of IP's financial management practices and internal controls; b) determine if project funds are used for intended purposes; and c) check the accuracy of IP's reporting on use of funds, to ensure that the presented expenditures are genuine and fair. UN agencies carry out periodic on-site reviews of IP's financial records for cash transfers (i.e. financial spot checks), programmatic monitoring of activities supported by cash transfers (including field monitoring and annual reviews), and scheduled or special audits of internal controls for cash transfer to address specific weaknesses identified.
Participants in the project face a risk of retaliation should they witness and report corruption or malfeasance by Government officials and others involved in such acts.	Medium	The intervention itself includes awareness raising with the LACC on whistleblowing mechanisms. The responsible parties will also make use of the Early Warning, Early Response mechanism in case violence or latent conflict is identified in project communities. In addition, the project will identify and disseminate information about existing UNCT mechanisms to report and provide safeguards for individuals reporting corruption and abuse of power. The existing corruption reporting platform "Talky" will be upgraded to include an option for reporting retaliation, including threats, intimidation, and harassment experienced as a result of their participation in the project.
Lack of responsiveness of the targeted stakeholders and	Medium	The project will collaborate with civil society that are embedded in communities to mobilise and engage with them.

communities to the sensitization activities.		
Limited-service delivery capacity, logistical challenge and corruption and loss of public trust.	Medium	Integrity checks and providing training to County Service Center personnel to increase capacity of service delivery and raising awareness about the consequences of engaging in rent seeking and bribery will be employed to mitigate the challenge. In addition, the project will work to promote transparency in CSC operations, build mechanisms for citizen feedback, and ensure accountability through regular citizen led oversight mechanisms. The project will build and sustain the gains made under the Liberia Decentralization support programme by supporting implementation of the Revenue Sharing Formula Law and strengthening the capacity of the county councils to budget for local investment. Once this is done, these challenges will be addressed.
Susceptibility of county councils to elite capture thereby negating their effectiveness and replicating corruption at county level.	Medium	Greater accountability of public spending through monitoring by CSOs and citizen feedback.
Management provisions around potential spoilers/ affected private interests and any repercussions on project beneficiaries, as well as the safety of the e-Platform, as and an explicit Do No Harm approach.	Medium	As the application developer, we will regularly update the application to further enhance its safety; and to ensure the protection of user data and maintain a secure environment for its users. We will also take advantage of the Whistle Blower Act which protects individuals rights.

d) Monitoring and evaluation

The project will conduct robust M&E activities and use monitoring and other M&E related data/information to adjust, refine and redefine project strategy, as well as guide programmatic decisions for delivery of interventions to ensure the achievement of project results. An M&E plan will be developed at the beginning of the project, and scheduled missions will be conducted in accordance with the plan by the agencies to ensure value for money. The plan will consist of project outcomes and outputs with associated indicators and targets against which timely collection and analysis of data for internal performance assessments and substantive reporting on results will be carried out. The M&E plan will stipulate frequent monitoring activities to support reporting requirement and data collection activities, based on the Results Framework.

The project team, made up of UNDP, UN Women and I-Watch staff, will be responsible for ensuring data collection and reporting from partners from project activities. The M&E Specialists of the implementing organizations will contribute to ensure appropriate M&E of the project. In

addition, the PBF Secretariat will support the project team by providing quality assurance of PBF support, technical advice on peacebuilding issues and methodologies.

UNDP will assume full responsibility and financial accountability for the funds made available for implementing the project with support from UN Women and I-Watch staff assigned to the project. As such, the project will be able to make full use of the services provided by UNDP's operational units.

6.37% ($222,829.61) of the budget is allocated for monitoring and communications activities. This cost is allocated per agency as follows: UNDP 98,957.97, UNW: 57,500 and IWL: 12,000, 40,000 for final project evaluation and 14,371.64 for communication activities. 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 capital, and in the counties. 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 a dedicated M&E and Reporting Officer (national) (in addition to the above-mentioned dedicated M&E budget). Previous surveys have been conducted thereby providing sufficient baseline data in respect of decentralisation and citizens perceptions on access to justice and corruption.

An Independent Evaluation of the Project will be commissioned at the end of the project. A total of 40,000 USD is set aside for that purpose.

e) **Advocacy, visibility and fund raising**

The project has a significant focus on advocacy, specifically to influence the Government to implement laws and policies as mentioned above, including the Revenue Sharing Act which requires Government, through the Executive and Legislative branches to allocate county social development funds appropriately for development projects as determined by people in those counties. The use of existing coalitions and structures like the Decentralization Technical Working Group, pillar working groups under the PAPD, and the National Integrity Forum to national integrity forum to enhance advocacy on governance, decentralization and integrity related issues. As part of capacity building of women and youth groups for advocacy, they will be trained in transformative leadership which aims to build coalitions and movements for social justice. Technical assistance will be provided to support the development of advocacy strategies/action plans to influence change in their communities, to be able to use the monitoring reports for advocacy purposes and build public support for their advocacy objectives in the target counties. The intervention has also planned for work with the media including community radios to publicize and support campaign activities to mobilize communities in support of the interventions. CSOs and citizens will also be supported to advocate at the national level, using knowledge products such as monitoring reports to influence that National Legislature to effectively carry out its oversight function of relevant ministries, agencies and commissions, as well as advocate for increased budgetary allocation for gender and youth-oriented public service delivery.

Increasing visibility of the project is important to inform a wider public about the project, its impact and to mobilize resources - especially with international donors. The project plans to create opportunities for partner recognition (e.g partner recognition week Campaign, field visit) as a tool to leverage national resource mobilization.

f) Project exit strategy/ sustainability –

The concept of sustainability is enshrined in the principles that guide all interventions envisaged under the project. Aside from interventions to be implemented to build the trust of the people in integrity and governance institutions, the project will look at longer term interventions that ensure sustainable the strengthening of the social contract. The project will also ensure that the identified project activities are in line with the country's strategic priorities.

The successful implementation of the project will generate a change in perception, credibility and trust in national institutions through establishing and enabling an environment for participating in governance through local level infrastructure and the increase in the responsive national of national institutions. These changes will be sustained beyond the period of the project. They will contribute to the development of a society that is more involved and participatory in issues of governance and accountability and increasingly able to hold government to account for public expenditure and delivery of services. Regarding sustainability and scaling up, the project plans to institute the following:

Enabling environment level: The project will engage stake holders within integrity institutions and local government, implementing and executing policies and legislations to foster qualitative improvements in the enabling environment for both duty-bearers and rights-holders. The scale of the project and the realistic targets envisioned within the results framework are aligned with the strategic plans of these law institutions and the needs of civil society actors. As the project begins to achieve initial results, it is hoped that duty-bearers will continue to pursue and implement policies, legislations and institutional reforms in line with international standards. The priorities given to capacity development of national partners will serve to entrench the gains registered in the implementation of the project. The project, through its capacity building initiatives, will focus on developing and strengthening relevant institutions' systems and procedures that are sustainable beyond the life of the project. Technical staff including the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor, Rule of Law, will work closely with Government counterparts to transfer skills and knowledge. This transfer of knowledge to staff will in turn help sustain the institutions' systems and procedures established. These staff will continuously coach, mentor and transfer skills and knowledge to other personnel and provide technical and policy advisory support to further reinforce sustainability at institutional levels. The project will work with the leadership of the institutions to secure commitments on deployment strategies and continued capacity development opportunities for officials trained by the project to increase the likelihood of success for project initiatives.

On the institutional level: The sustainability and effectiveness of the project depends on the political will and commitment of national authorities to gradually take control of the project both administratively and financially. In institutional terms, the project will be implemented through existing integrity and local government institutions and CSOs which will remain in place after the end of the project. Sustainability is guaranteed by aligning project support with the policy and strategic priorities owned by the national institutions indicated in their institutional strategies. The focus is on capacity building. The sustainability of the Country Service Centers is hinged on the implementation of the Revenue Sharing Formula Law which provides that 40% of all revenue collected at local level to be retained for the sustainability of the County Service Centers. The establishment of the County Councils will ensure that the law is implemented which will oversee county development and allocation of resources for the county development as well as the development of the Revenue Sharing Law regulation which should guide the implementation of the Revenue Sharing Law.

Even though the Revenue Sharing Law provides a safeguard for sustaining County Service Centers, the need for its implementation cannot be overemphasized. This is why the project will utilize existing structures like the Decentralization Technical Working Group, pillar working groups under the PAPD, National Integrity Forum amongst others to enhance advocacy intervention around the implementation of the Revenue Sharing Act (RSA). There is also a current ongoing engagement with Civil Society Organizations on bottom-up advocacy and awareness engagements with the government and citizens alike, on the importance of the RSA and how its implementation will enhance service delivery and promote social economic development at the sub-national level. This approach has proven to be helpful given that citizens are now calling on their legislators and local government authorities to ensure that the RSA is implemented. The inclusion of CSOs is extremely significant due to the role they have played in demanding government to implement laws it has enacted. For example, a CSO took the government to court in 2021 for its failure to establish County Councils whose responsibilities are very cardinal in the functioning of local government administration as per the LGA. As a result of the legitimation, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has now established these structures have begun exercising their mandate.

On the individual and societal levels: Rights-holders are expected to witness tangible improvements in the performance of State institutions, thereby creating confidence in these institutions and strengthening the social contract. It is anticipated that increase political participation by citizens and their ability to hold public institutions accountable, will create a snowball effect lasting beyond the project wherein rights-holders demand and expect responsiveness from State institutions on an ever more regular basis. Once society sees a benefit in accessing State institutions, public confidence in these institutions will increase, thereby fostering an enabling climate for social cohesion and sustainable peace. This may give momentum to society-wide efforts to create institutions and platforms for dialogue in addition to those already existing that aggregate pressure on duty-bearers to maintain high standards in the provision and execution of services.

Sustainability efforts will commence from the inception of implementation to the closure of the project. This requires Government commitments where necessary. In this regard, the LACC has committed to take over the payment of salaries of Anti-Corruption Reporting Officers after six months of project contribution under the UNDP and Swedish Global Anti-corruption Project. This arrangement was aimed at securing Government contribution to the project and ensuring the sustainability of its interventions once the life of the project comes to an end.

IV.   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. Proposed budget for all projects must include sufficient funds for an independent evaluation. 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 project budget totals USD$ 3,500,000 for a period of 36 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. Funds in respect of non-UN agencies will be released in three tranches. Second and third tranches will be released upon demonstration that performance benchmarks have been met.

Project staff costs amounts to $313,208 representing 8.9% of the project budget. This combines new recruitments with support of existing staff. A Project Analyst specially dedicated to supporting the project will be recruited while the Chief Technical Advisor/Programme Manager, Rule of Law – UNDP will have oversight over the project. The M&E budget amounts to $222,829.61, representing 6.37% of the budget. The budget includes standard indirect costs and personnel travel as well as GMS charged to UN agencies.

Fill out two tables in the Excel budget **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	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	X		CENTAL, ALAB, LACC
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	X		
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	X		15 counties in Liberia
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		10 March 2023
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		Studies on Factors that Fuel Corruption in Liberia and the Forms that it Takes
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.		X	Within first three months of project implementation
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	X		County Support Centres will be used to support decentralisation drive, community participation in decision making and sensitisation on corruption. Government will pay salaries of Anti Corruption Reporters six months into the project.
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	X		This will be done through a mixed method of low value grants, advance and Direct Implementation by UN agencies in terms of their rules and procedures.
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 poin or UN Women colleague provided input)?	X		UN Women (programme specialist and projects specialist) were fully

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	Yes	No	Project Comment
			engaged during project development process with the leadership of UNDP.
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	X		Consultation has been conducted with MGCSP, and CSOs and women rights organizations including WONGOSO and LIFE. An effort was made to ensure gender parity during consultation, representation was around 40% for women.
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	This represents 43.57% of the budget GEWE allocations?

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		
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		

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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 staffing, reasonable operational costs, including travel and direct operational costs) unless well justified in narrative section?	X	
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.		
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	The project builds in some parts on the UNDP Anti-Corruption Innovation Project, Rule of Law Programme and the Decentralisation Project.

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 the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially closed 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)
Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure	

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 been 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)
Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure	

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250 at the closure of the project would have to been 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.[42]
> ➤ 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.

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[42] 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)

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: National anti-corruption and integrity institutions and social accountability frameworks and mechanisms enable greater and more inclusive citizen participation and gender and youth-oriented public service delivery.		Outcome indicator 1a # of corruption cases prosecuted by LACC Baseline: 14 (2022) Target: 20 cases	LACC report; court records	24 cases by 2025 34 cases by 2027
		Outcome Indicator 1c: Disposal rate of corruption cases indicted by LACC Baseline:0% Target:50%	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document review and key informant interviews annually using court records, LACC, monitoring and project progress reports, etc.	20% by 2025 50% by 2027
(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to)		Outcome Indicator 1d. Liberia Corruption Perception Index Score Baseline: 26 (2022) Target: 36 (2027)	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document review and key informant interviews annually	30 by 2025 36 by 2027

SDG 16, Targets 16.5, 16.6 and 16.7[43]		Output Indicator / Baseline / Target	Means of Verification	Targets
			using Transparency International and CENTAL Corruption Index Reports	50 by 2025 100 by 2026
	Output 1.1: Rollout and implementation of laws and policies for integrity and accountability, responses strengthened.	Output Indicator 1.1.2: # of justice actors trained on anti-corruption related legislations provision of the PPCC and the new LACC laws fully implemented or adhered to. Baseline: 0 Target: 100	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document review and key informant interviews quarterly using monitoring and project progress reports, etc.	
	Activity 1.1.1: Simplify and disseminate existing legislation and frameworks on integrity, and accountability and citizen participation.			
	Activity 1.1.2: Support training of personnel of integrity institutions and the judiciary on legislation and accountability instruments	Output Indicator 1.1.3: % of corruption cases reported through the Talky platform and investigated disaggregated by type and charge. Baseline: 16 cases reported 2023 0 investigated% Target:100 50%	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document review and key informant interviews quarterly using court records,	50 by 2025 20% by 2025 100 by 2026 50% by 2026
	Activity 1.1.3: Strengthen the presence of integrity institutions to access counties			

[43] SDG 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

	Indicator	Means of Verification	Target
and districts by supporting the deployment of anti-corruption officers to investigate corruption cases and use the e-platform		monitoring and project progress reports, etc..	
	Output indicator 1.1.4: # of corruption cases reported and tracked in the E-platform. Baseline: 7 Target: 50	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document review and key informant interviews quarterly using LACC and I-Watch reports, project progress and monitoring reports,	20 by 2025 50 by 2026
Output 1.2: Capacity of CSOs and citizens improved to engage with national institutions on integrity and accountability Activity 1.2.1: Expand and strengthen opportunities for dialogue between national integrity institutions and CSOs (incl. advocacy for sustainability of National Integrity Forum)	Output Indicator 1.2.1: # of citizens conscientized by the project involved in engaging national institutions on integrity and accountability disaggregated by sex and age. Baseline:0 Target: 5000	Data will be collected/verified through survey, desk/document review and key informant interviews quarterly using monitoring and project progress reports, etc.	1500 by 2025 5000 y 2026
	Output Indicator 1.2.2: # of advocacy activities on integrity and accountability undertaken by CSOs and citizens disaggregated by themes or issues.	Data will be collected/verified through survey, desk/document	10 by 2025 30 by 2026

	Baseline / Target	Means of verification	Milestone
Activity 1.2.2: Raise citizen awareness of anti-corruption and accountability frameworks through engagement with CSOs, women's rights organizations and local leaders.	Baseline:0 Target:30	review and key informant interviews quarterly using monitoring and project progress reports, etc..	10% by 2025 25% by 2026
Output Indicator 1.2.3: % of the advocacy activities on integrity and accountability undertaken by CSOs and citizens that resulted in the desired change	Baseline:0% Target:25%	Data will be collected/verified through survey, desk/document review and key informant interviews quarterly using monitoring and project progress reports, etc..	
Activity 1.2.3: Support civil society including women and youth groups to monitor and report on key national commitments and frameworks related to peace, governance, and transparency.			
Activity 1.2.4: Strengthen the online citizens feedback and reporting mechanism on corruption and expand to SMS services			
Activity 1.2.5: CSO development and rollout of advocacy campaign based on periodic feedback from LACC and online platform to seek resolution to cases and reduce incidences of corruption.			

Activity 1.2.6: Train and establish a network of CSOs and media practitioners to monitor and investigate corruption cases and the awarding of public contracts in counties and produce credible and verifiable reporting. Activity 1.2.7: Support CSOs and women's rights organizations to track cases under investigation and development of rewards system through score cards and ranking of institutions.		
Outcome 2: Communities and CSOs demand increased transparency, inclusivity and accountability of county planning processes and service delivery.	Outcome Indicator 2a: The percentage of men, women and youth (m/f) on the County Council as prescribed by the Local Government Act. Baseline: 0 Target: 40%	40% by 2024	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document review and key informant interviews annually using MIA, monitoring and project progress reports, etc.
	Outcome Indicator 2b: # of CSO and community led -initiatives demanding inclusivity and accountability related	TBD	Data will be collected/verified through desk/document

	to county planning processes and service delivery (by type of initiative) Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	review and key informant interviews annually using GAC, MIA, monitoring and project progress reports, etc.	
	Outcome Indicator 2c: level of community satisfaction (gender and age disaggregated) with services delivered at the County Service Centers. Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	Data will be collected/verified through rapid survey twice-at the beginning and end of the project.	TBD
Output 2.1: Social accountability/accountability mechanisms within County Councils and County Service Centers enhanced.	Output indicator 2.1.1 Gender responsive planning and budgeting tool kit developed and adopted by county service centers and county councils . Baseline: 0 Target: 15	Data will be collected/ document review and key informant interviews/ assessment annually	5 by 2025 10 by 2026
Activity 2.1.1: Conduct gender analyses on youth and women meaningful participation in the county councils and on gender and age-related differences and	Output indicator 2.1.2: # of county service Centers and County councils with capacities to apply gender responsive planning and budgeting tools in the budget cycle.	monitoring and project progress reports, etc...	5 by 2025 10 by 2026
(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to) SDG 16, Targets 16.5, 16.6 and 16.7[44]			

[44] SDG 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

barriers in accessing services at County Service Centers	Baseline: 0 Target: 15			
Activity 2.1.2: Support to mainstreaming gender and inclusion in County Development Agendas and County Service Centers.				
Activity 2.1.3: Provide capacity building for County Councils in the areas developing planning, budget formulation approvals and financial management				
Output 2.2: Citizen participation in decentralized development planning and service delivery is strengthened	Output Indicator 2.2.1: # of citizens (disaggregated by age and gender) consulted in development of county development plans disaggregated by types. Baseline: 0 Target: 600	Data will be collected/verified through desk/ document review and key informant interviews bi-annually using monitoring and project progress reports, etc.	200 for 2024 400 for 2025	
Activity 2.2.1: Support citizens including women and youth groups and leaders including peace hut women and				

community influencers to know and claim their rights around county development planning and service delivery and to monitor and report on the extent to which they are gender and youth oriented. Activity 2.2.2: Support civil society to engage in dialogue and advocacy (meetings, debates, and public hearings) between policy makers and community/district/county leaderships, young women, men, rural women on debates and dialogues to advocate for accountable governance and gender and youth responsive service provision. Activity 2.2.3: Support civil society, particularly women and youth groups, and the media/community radios to design and implement public awareness and mobilization campaigns on the LGA,	Output Indicator 2.2.2: # persons accessing youth and gender responsive services at the County Service Centers disaggregated by sex and age. Baseline: 125 (2022) [45] Target: 400	Data will be collected/verified through, desk/document review and key informant interviews Bi-annually using monitoring and project progress reports, etc.	TBD

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45 Psychosocial counselling services provided to youth and women

Revenue Sharing Act, and County Reconciliation Plans, and County Service Centers.

		Totals		
	UNDP	**UNWOMEN**	**I-WATCH**	**Totals**
1. Staff and other personnel	$ 285,000.00	$ 115,500.00	$ 47,708.00	$ 448,208.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
4. Contractual services	$ 231,191.96	$ 120,000.00	$ 171,000.00	$ 522,191.96
5. Travel	$ 98,751.97	$ 57,500.00	$ 12,000.00	$ 168,251.97
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	$ 1,291,000.00	$ 742,100.00	$ -	$ 2,033,100.00
7. General Operating and other Costs	$ 52,000.00	$ 44,339.25	$ 2,936.86	$ 99,276.11
Sub-Total	$ **1,957,943.93**	$ **1,079,439.25**	$ **233,644.86**	$ **3,271,028.04**
7% Indirect Costs	$ **137,056.08**	$ **75,560.75**	$ **16,355.14**	$ **228,971.96**
Total	$ **2,095,000.01**	$ **1,155,000.00**	$ **250,000.00**	$ **3,500,000.00**

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown					
	UNDP	**UNWOMEN**	**I-WATCH**	**TOTAL**	**Tranche %**
First Tranche:	$ 1,257,000.00	$ 693,000.00	$ 150,000.00	$ **2,100,000.00**	60%
Second Tranche:	$ 838,000.00	$ 462,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ **1,400,000.00**	40%
Third Tranche:	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
TOTAL	$ **2,095,000.01**	$ **1,155,000.00**	$ **250,000.00**	$ **3,500,000.00**	